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SOME ACCOUNT OF BRASSES FORMERLY IN THE CHURCH OF SEVINGTON.

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SEVEN large gravestones, denuded of their brasses, still form a portion of the once enriched pavement of the little church of Sevington, near Ashford. These stones tantalize the antiquary by exhibiting the matrices and outlines of the metal plates they once retained, but which have been, long since, removed and lost. Of effigy or inscription not a fragment remains, nor does local register or tradition tell to whose memory they were consecrated. Yet, thanks to the indefatigable diligence of the learned antiquary, Sir Edward Dering, we are enabled to give some elucidation of what they once were; and we have the gratification of enriching our volume with four plates of these brasses, as they presented themselves to the eyes of the inquiring baronet on the 9th of May, 1628, when, with note-book in hand, he entered the little village church, and copied all that was then extant of brasses, arms, and inscriptions.

The plates we give are carefully lithographed in facsimile, from his book of Church Notes, the same source from which we have in our previous volumes furnished other illustrations and information of Church remains long since passed away, and irrevocably lost but for this valuable record.

Sevington appears to have been the inheritance of an ancient Saxon family, until it merged, by marriage with the heiress of Sir John de Sevington, into the possession of Sir John Barry, a son or grandson of Audrian Barry, of Barre, in Normandy, who, coming to England in the suite of Richard I., settled in the North of England. The above Sir John was probably one of the gallant gentlemen who, under the generalship of Prince Edward, overthrew the London contingent of Leicester and his party at the battle of Lewes: on which occasion he was knighted. From about this time the moated house of Sevington and its manor were occupied by this Sir John Barry and his descendants.

Dering writes:—"There lyeth under the arch, in the chancel, this figure, thus inscribed:"—

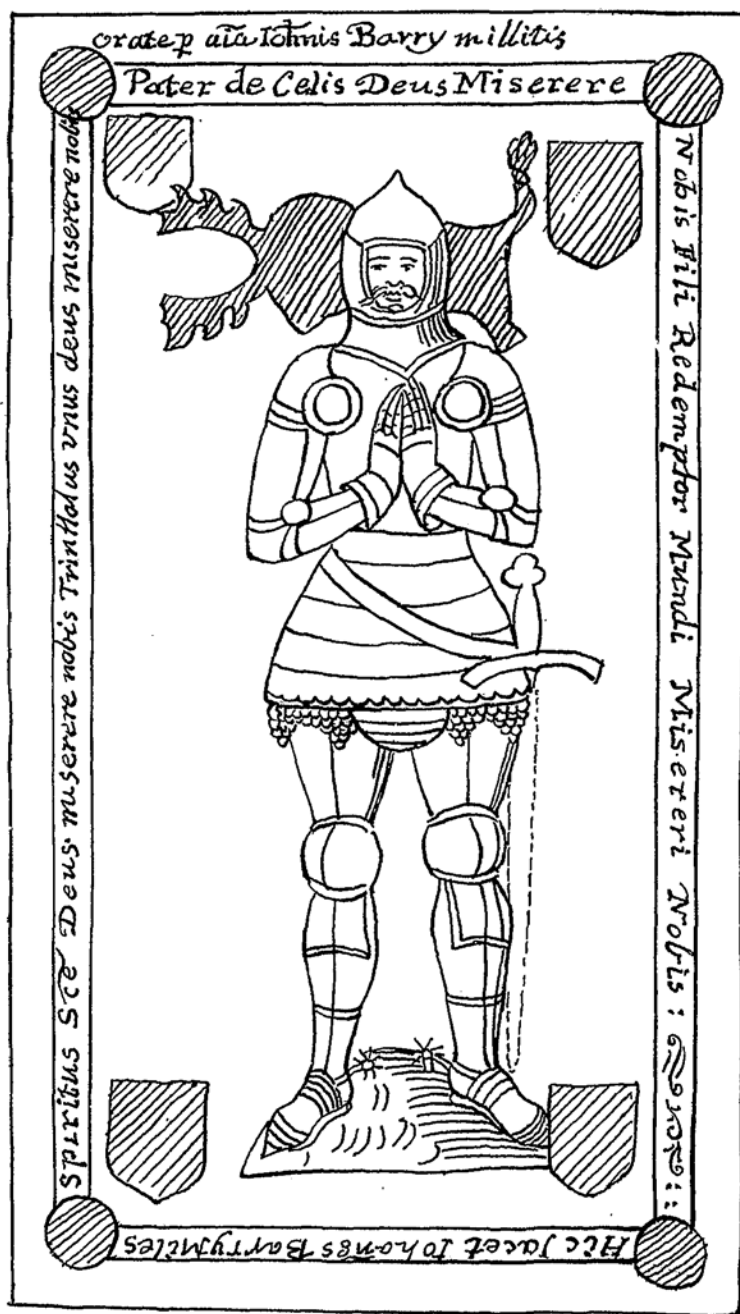
"Hic jacet Johānes Barry miles.

Pater de cœlis Deus miserere nobis,
Fili Redemptor mundi miserere nobis,
Spiritus Sœ Deus miserere nobis,
Trinitatus unus Deus miserere nobis.

Orate p̄ āia Joānis Barry millitis."

Unfortunately, both date and shields of arms are wanting, and the costume will scarcely justify the conclusion that this is the effigy of the hero of Lewes. But it may represent Sir John Barry, the son or grandson, who, about the year 1347, paid, with his wife and others, knights'-fees towards the expenses of conferring the honour of knighthood upon the young Black Prince. He was appointed one of the Conservators of the Peace 1361, Knight of the Shire 1364, and Sheriff in 1374; which offices, of course, indicate a person of the highest consideration.

Next in order and time, lie in the chancel four other stones, side by side,—three females and a man; of the



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man, only the lower portion remained in Dering's time. Weaver coincides with him in opinion that it once formed part of the effigy of Sir William Barry, son of the above Sir John. He was Sheriff in 1393, and again in Henry IV.'s reign. Beside this was the brass of a female, thus inscribed :—

“Orate pro añi Isabella qđ ũx W^m Barry millitis.

Pater de coelis Deus miserere nobis,
Fili Redemptor mundi miserere nobis,
Spiritus S^ce Deus miserere nobis,
Trinitatus unus Deus miserere nobis.”

The first shield is that of Barry, the third Barry impaling Dering.

Another brass, in similar costume, is thus inscribed :—

“Hic jacet Johanne quondam ũx : W^m Barry millitis.
Orate p^r ãia Johanne quondã ũx : W^m Barry millitis ;”

then follows the same litany as on the other brasses. The symbols of the four evangelists occupied the corners, and two shields of Barry—the fess or bar is wanting : perhaps this is only an omission of Dering's.

These two females represent the two wives of the above Sir William Barry.

The fourth brass, that of another female, was in Dering's time nearly complete. The costume is that usually attributed to the end of the fifteenth century, but the date of this lady's decease is distinctly 1400, confirmed by Weaver. The brass was probably the work of some years after the lady's death. The inscription runs thus :—

“Hic jacet Margareta Barry quondam uxoris
Edwardi Barry armigeri, que quidem
Margareta obitt — die mensis — a^o
Domⁱ 1400 — — — — — cujus ãia p^r pitietar Deus
Amen.”

This lady appears to have been an heiress of the Oxenbridge family, of Eastry Court, Sussex; the first and fourth shields contain her arms, quarterly, with a coat, called that of "*Ore*" by Philipot; the second shield is that of Barry; the third, Barry impaling Oxenbridge. Edward Barry was probably son of Sir William.

One other brass to this family remains to be noticed. Dering says, "This last lyeth att y^e lower end of y^e church, neere y^e bellfreee." It is that of a gentleman in armour, thus inscribed:—

"Hic jacet Umfridus Barre Armiger: quondum
Dūs istius Ville et patronus istius Eccie: qui
Obijt in die Sçe Marie Magdalene anno Dñi
1431, Cujus āia propitietur Deus. Amen."

This Umfridus Barry was son of the above Edward Barry.

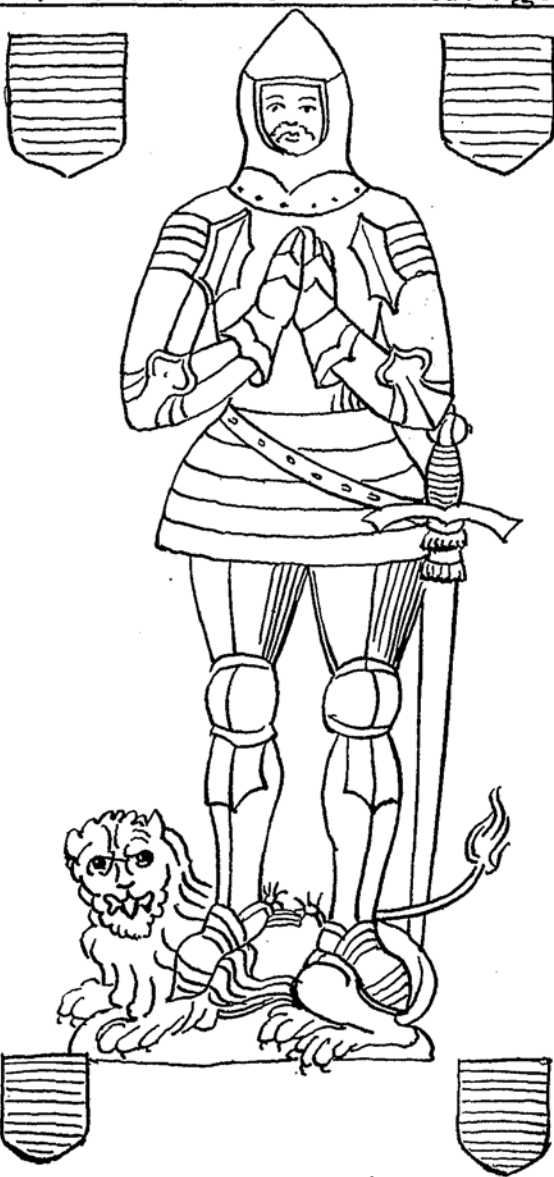
In the College of Heraldry there exists an evidently very imperfect pedigree of a portion of the Barry family, by Philipot, in which occur most of the above names, but not affording any further information respecting this "ancient and honourable family," as the old chronicler, Weaver, designates them. One branch of which, he informs us, having joined the expedition of Gaveston or Edward II. for the "winning" of Ireland, being wounded and hurt, settled on an island near Cork, called Barry Court. "This Robert Barry," says Weaver, "was the first in that land who manned the Hawke, and brought it to hand." When afterwards the wealth of the family was greatly increased, they were called Barre More, or the Great, created Baron Barry, and Viscount Butiphont.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, the house and estates of Barry merged, by marriage, into the possession of Thomas Boys, of the adjoining parish of Wil-

Hic Jacet Vmfridus Barre Armiger

Quandū Dns estius Ville of Patro nus istius Eccle: ani obijt in die Scē

Mare Magdalene Anno Dni 1431



Cuius aīo Propitietur Deus Amen

This last byeth all of lower end of church
neere of belltree /

lisborough, who pulled down Sevington in 1659, and conveyed the materials away for the enlarging of his manor-house at Willisborough, in the windows of the church of which place were several other memorials of the Barres, probably as benefactors:—Thomas Barre and his two wives, Juliane and Alice; Robert and William, their children; Richard Barre, and Juliane his wife, and a small gravestone to the memory of William Barre, son of Edward Barre, “the which William deceased the 18th day of June, 1533,” etc.

In the body of Sevington church lay another stone, with the figure of a gentleman in all respects resembling that in memory of Umfridus Barry, including the lion at his feet, with this inscription:—

“Johannes Fynche Armiger
Qui obiit 19 die mensis Maij ano
Dñi: 1442 cujus

What branch of the Finches, or Herberts, this might be I am not prepared to say, but probably one of those settled at Eastwell. They were generally descended from Herbert, Chamberlain to Henry I.; the name of Finch being assumed about the end of Henry III.'s reign. The Herberts of Pembroke and of Ireland, and the Finches of Eastwell, being kinsmen.

In the east window of the chancel was a coat inscribed by Dering as “Penshurst vel Cobham,” gules, on a cross argent.

In conclusion, we present a copy from the pedigree before noticed, in p. 120; in this we have marked with an asterisk the members of the family whose memorials we have copied from Dering, and added, in italics, the names of the two wives of Sir William Barre, and the wife of Edward Barre. The last William Barre marked is probably he whose name was recorded upon the small flat stone at Willisborough, as noticed above.

