

in that they, taken together with Drummond's account, suggest that there were many other finds made in 1848 which are now lost. It seems unlikely that any more drawings will turn up, except by a similar chance; nor does there seem to be any sign of further stones in the fabric of St. Nicholas' church. It is a humbling exercise to question, as we must, how many of the present assumptions about Anglo-Saxon inscriptions would remain valid if all 19th century finds had been preserved.

ELISABETH OKASHA, PH.D.

*Heraldic Carvings in Yaxley Church.* On a visit to this church my attention was drawn by the organist, Mr. William Cornelious, to three wooden carvings stored in the room over the north porch. The largest, 3 ft. 3 ins. wide by 1 ft. 9 ins. high by 3½ ins. thick, contains in its centre a shield, 14 ins. by 11 ins., showing the arms of Yaxley, quarterly of six, impaling Bedingfield, quarterly of twelve (Plate IX). There are signs that there was once a fitting on top, presumably a crest. The other two carvings, 1 ft. 9 ins. wide by 1 ft. 7 ins. high by 2½ ins. thick, each have an oval medallion, 9 ins. by 7 ins. in the centre, one showing the Yaxley quarterings only (Plate X, a), the other those of Bedingfield (Plate X, b).

The paint has disintegrated in places and some of the tinctures are unrecognisable. The Yaxley quarterings on both shield and medallions have the appearance of greater age than those of Bedingfield but this may be due to separate painters for each family arms using different materials. The carved surroundings are coated with a rough silicate type of covering, effectively simulating stone, but this may not be original as in one or two places there are indications of gold underneath.

I have only been able to find three references to them. The *East Anglian Notes & Queries*, 1st ser., 1, March 1863, p. 313, states that the three shields were on an altar tomb in the south aisle and mentions the Yaxley and Bedingfield crests but not their positions. A photograph taken in 1867 and reproduced in Munro Cautley's *Suffolk Churches* shows two of the carvings on top of a large canopied memorial. It is not sufficiently clear to say whether the fitting on the large shield comprises the Yaxley crest of a bull's head and the Bedingfield crest of a demi-eagle. The memorial was dismantled in 1868 but parts of the canopy and pillars were used to make cupboards in a new south porch and are still there. The third reference is a pamphlet about the church dated 1928, now in the possession of Mr. Cornelious, which mentions the presence of the carvings by a window at the east end of the south aisle with a painted Yaxley pedigree on wood. We found this pedigree re-erected under the window and now hidden by an altar.

PLATE VII



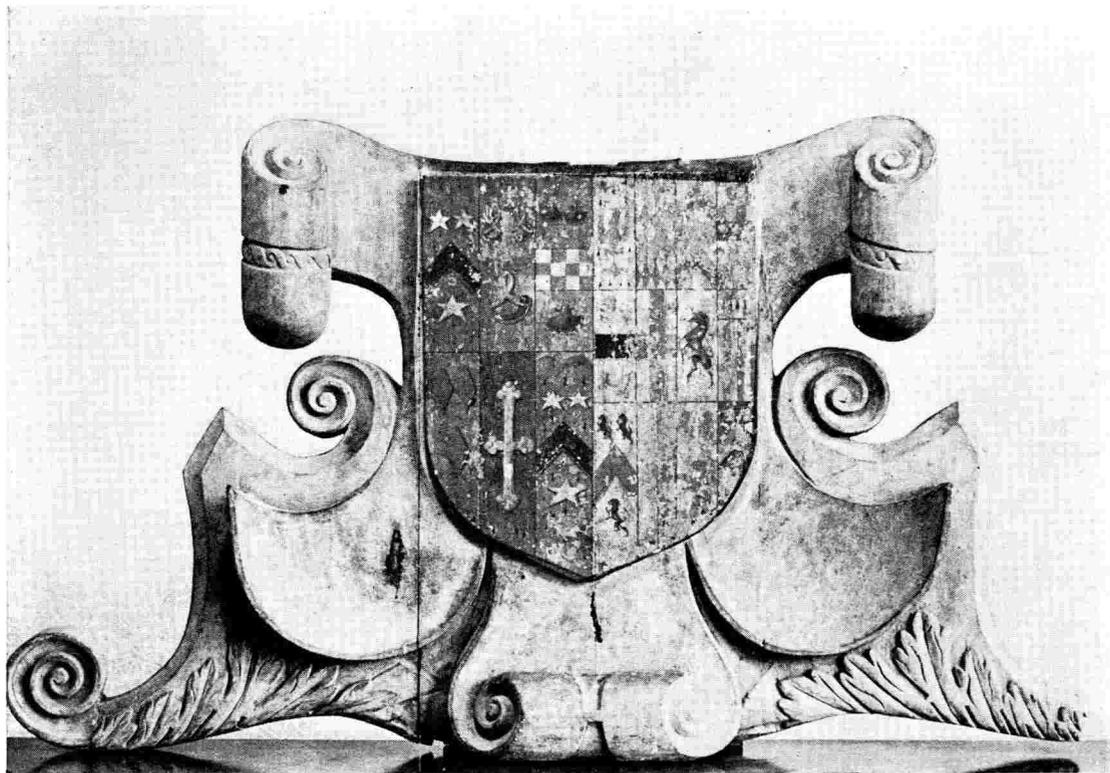
Drawings of stones from St. Nicholas' church, Ipswich, and Coddendam church.

PLATE VIII



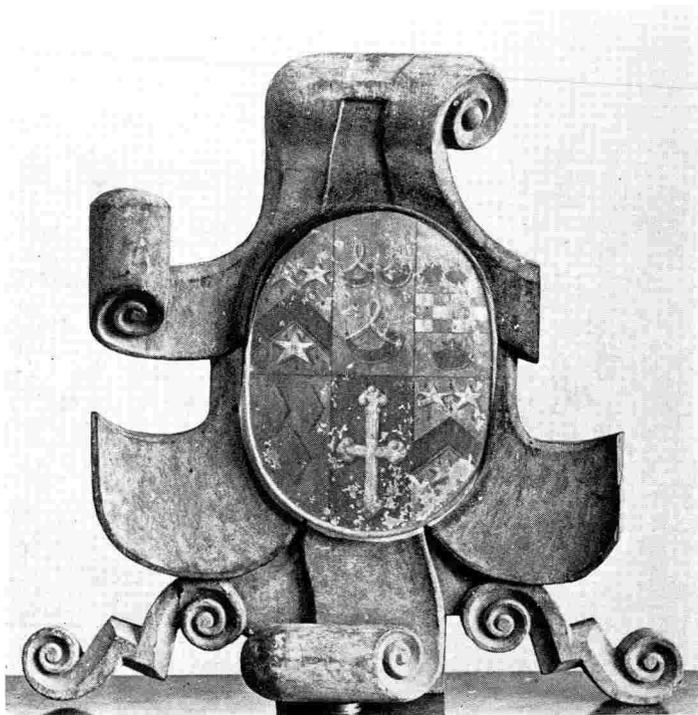
Drawings of stones and a pottery jug from St. Nicholas' church, Ipswich.

PLATE IX

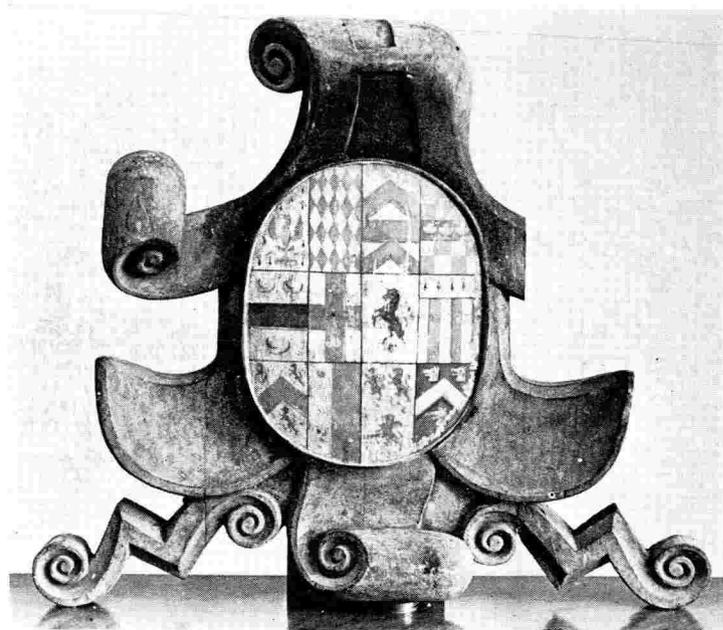


Yaxley Arms impaling Bedingfield.

PLATE X



Yaxley Arms.



Bedingfield Arms.

The memorial commemorated William Yaxlee, buried in the church on 29 July 1588, his will being proved in 1590 (PCC 41 Drury). He was M.P. for Orford in 1559 and in 1565, and was recorded as a recusant in 1584. He married Eva, the daughter of Sir Henry Bedingfield of Oxburgh in Norfolk, and her will, dated 25 July 1627, was proved 12 May 1631 (Dashwood's Visitation of Norfolk 1563). William's father, Richard, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Robert Stokes of Bickerton, Yorks. (Visitation of Suffolk 1561 and Visitation of York 1563-4).

The following blazons of the arms on the carvings are derived partly from Farrer's description of shields in the windows of Yaxley Hall (*Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xvi (1916), pp. 13f.), partly from the March 1863 issue of *East Anglian Notes & Queries* and partly from Miss Joan Corder, F.S.A., who has kindly provided corrections and additions to the former sources.

*YAXLEY*, quarterly of six,

- 1 & 6. *Ermine, a chevron Sable between 3 pierced mullets Or . . .* for Yaxley.
2. *Argent, 3 bugle horns Sable, garnished Or . . .* for Blodgett.
3. *Argent, a fess chequy Or and Gules, between 3 escallops Azure. . .* for Stokes.
4. *Argent, 3 lozenges Gules . . .* for Gramary. } Quarterings
5. *Azure, a cross flory Or . . .* for Ward. } of Stokes.

*Impaling BEDINGFIELD*, quarterly of twelve,

1. *Ermine, an eagle displayed Gules, armed Or . . .* for Bedingfield.
2. *Lozengy Gules and Argent . . .* for Todenham.
3. *Argent, a fess between 2 chevrons Gules . . .* for Peche.
4. *Chequy Argent and Gules, on a fess Azure 3 escallops Or . . .* for Rochester. (Chequy painted Gules and Argent.)
5. *Argent, a fess Sable between 3 crescent Gules . . .* for Pateshall.
6. *Argent, on a cross Gules 5 escallops Or . . .* for Weyland.
7. *Argent, a unicorn salient Sable . . .* for Herling.
8. *Paly of six Or and Gules, a chief Ermine . . .* for Jenny.
9. *Argent, a chevron Gules between 3 lions rampant Sable . . .* for Bourn.
10. *Per pale Argent and Gules . . .* for Waldegrave.
11. *Per chevron crenelle Gules and Or, 3 lions rampant counter changed . . .* for Wyfold. (The shield shows per chevron crenulated, with the whole field Or, and all lions Gules.)
12. *Azure, a chevron between 3 wolf's heads couped Or . . .* for Chedworth.

After nearly 400 years the shields are not now very colourful but in view of their interest and the lack of any other Yaxley

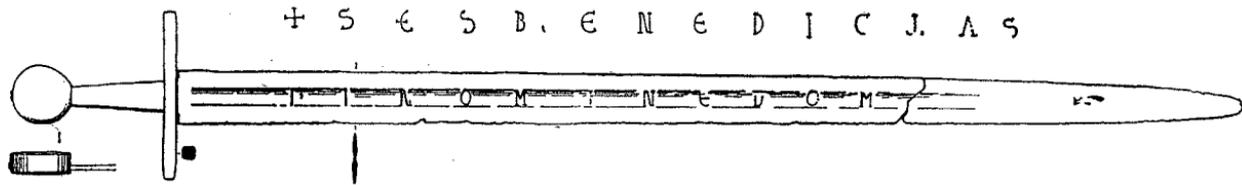


FIG. 23—Iron sword from Fornham St. Genevieve (†)