

GREAT WENHAM, SUFFOLK.  
MEMORIALS OF THE EAST FAMILY.

BY CHARLES GANZ.

H. Davy's engraving of Great Wenham Church has a foot-note that, "on the north wall are banners with the arms, also a helmet and sword of East and Gough, ancestors of the present Sir George East, Bart., of Hall Place, Berks."

In the course of a search for another mortuary helmet with a crest in Suffolk, my attention was drawn by Mr. E. J. Cook, of Woodbridge, to a helmet in Great Wenham Church, which he remembered seeing when a boy; his father was parish clerk at that church.

Communications with the Rev. R. W. J. Kembell, the rector, have resulted in all these objects being happily traced. The shield was in a cupboard at the rectory; the crest, a horse, was on the top of the cupboard in the vestry; and while writing these notes the Rector has written to say he has discovered the helmet in an out of the way place.

It seems that during restorations in the church these articles were dispersed.

The ornamental shield "sable," bears a chevron, between three horses heads, erased argent. The crest, a horse passant sa. (for East). Shield 19 by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ins.; sword  $25\frac{3}{4}$  in.; horse 13 by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in.; and helmet 13 by 11 in.



MEMORIALS OF EAST FAMILY, GREAT WENHAM.



MORTUARY HELMET, WITH CREST OF EAST FAMILY,  
GREAT WENHAM.

In this example of a helmet, the breathing holes of the vizor will be noticed. It consists only of a skull-piece, chin-piece and vizor, all riveted together.

Considering how rare and valuable these old helmets are, the vicissitudes of the Great Wenham helmet may well encourage archæologists to seek some safeguard against the disappearance of other helmets and relics preserved in churches.

Books on armour, &c., were kindly lent to me for reference by Mr. H. C. Casley, Mr. Frank Brangwyn, A.R.A., Mr. Edwards, bookseller, High Street, Marylebone, W., and Messrs. Read and Barrett, Ipswich, namely:—

Treatise on Ancient Armour. F. Grosse. 1785.

Armour in England. J. Starkie Gardiner. Seeley & Co., London. 1898.

Spanish Armour. A. F. Calvert. 1907.

Arms and Armour. Charles Boutell, M.A. 1902.

Armour, &c. S. R. Meyrick. 1842. 3 Vols.

Armour, &c. J. Hewitt. 1860. 3 Vols.

Wallace Collection Catalogue. (Guy F. Laking, Esq., F.S.A.)