

CATALOGUE OF PRE-INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IRON GRAVESLABS IN ENGLAND

compiled by

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First published in microfiche in
Sussex Archaeological Collections, **125** (1987)
and subsequently in print in
Wealden Iron,
Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group,
2nd ser., **8** (1988), 12-47.

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Editorial notes

1. The date of the slab is given as the date of death of the person or last person commemorated; dates are given in Old Style.
2. Dimensions are given width first, length second; where it is possible to measure, the thickness is given last.
3. Grid references are given for all churches.
4. All letters and decoration are embossed unless stated; 'flush' and 'recessed' relate to the general surface of the slab; 'planklines' indicates the vertical lines formed by planks used to create a flat casting bed.

There are 122 known pre-Industrial revolution iron graveslabs in England and Wales. Of these, 93 (76%) have their origin in the Weald of south-east England, and 29 (24%) are to be found elsewhere.

EARLY IRON GRAVESLABS CAST IN THE WEALD

ESSEX

RIVENHALL TL/8316¹

1. 1706/7, THOMAS WESTERN, 90 x 210cm

HERE LYETH INTERRED THE/BODY OF THOMAS WESTERN/
ESQVIRE, YOVNGEST SON/OF WILLIAM WESTERN OF/
LONDON GROCER, WHO/MARRIED MARTHA THE/
YOVNGEST DAUGHTER OF/SAMUEL GOTT OF LONDON/
IRONMONGER, BY WHOME/HE HAD ELEVEN CHILDREN/
FIVE SONS AND SIX/DAUGHTERS, ·ELIZABETH/
SAMVEL·MARTHA/THOMAS·ELIZABETH/
MAXIMILIAN·MARY/WILLIAM·SARAH/
ROBERT·FRANCES/AGED 83 YEARS ⊗OBIT⊗/
THE XI IAN 1706⊗

Roman capitals of 7cm and 4.5cm; moulded edge; full achievement: Western - Sable, on a chevron between two crescents in chief and a trefoil slipped in base or, a crescent for cadency; inscription centred. From the casting it is evident that the wooden pattern for this memorial was prepared in advance of Thomas Western's death. The numerals for his age and the text, ⊗OBIT⊗, on the penultimate line, and the date of his death (with the exception of the initial word, THE) on the bottom line, were inserted as separate blocks into spaces left for the purpose before casting.²

This Thomas Western, known as 'The Great Ironmonger' and controller of seven ironworks in the Weald, was the father of Martha, wife of Peter Gott, whose slab is at Streat (No. 2). Martha and Peter's children recorded on the slab at Streat all bear the same names as Thomas Western's children. The slab is the furthest of any from an ironworking area.

¹ Willetts, R. M., 1989, 'Addition to the Catalogue of Early Iron Graveslabs in the Weald', *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., 9, 9.

² Rodwell, W. J. & Rodwell, K. A., 1993, *Rivenhall: Investigations of a Villa, Church and Village 1950-77*, Vol. 2, (York, Council for British Archaeology Research Report 55), 24; their assertion that the date of death (he died on 11th January 1707) was an error is incorrect as the Julian Calendar was in use at the time. They also state that the armorial was modelled by trowelwork, when it was clearly moulded from a carved panel.

KENT

CHIDDINGSTONE TQ/5045

1. 1601, RICHARD STREATFEILDE, middle aisle against south pews; 53 x 153cm.

**LOE·HERE·THE·CO'PES·OF·RICHARD/STREATFEILDE·GREENE·IN·YERES/
BVT·RIPE·IN·FAITH·5·FRVTES·YET/SEENE GOD·HATH·HIS·SOVLE-/
THIS·TOWNE·HIS·FAME·THE·POOR^e/A PORTION·LARGE·OF·ALL·HIS-/
WORDLY·STOORE·VIVIT·POST-/[F]VNERA·VIRTVS·OBIIT·15·DIE·SE/
PTEMBRIS·ANNO·1601·æTATIS·SVE/40**

Inscription in recessed panel 49 x 22cm with 1.9cm flush letters; an extension has been made for the final '40' below the panel. High beaded rim 2cm wide round slab.

This is the first of many memorials to the Streatfeild family which continue until 1966. On the south wall is a monument to Henry Streatfeild who died 2 March 1709, aged 71 "and is buried under the Iron plate in the Middle Ile of this church". The Latin motto, *Vivit Post Funera Virtus*, means 'virtue outlives death'. The probate inventory accompanying Richard Streatfeild's will includes Pilbeam's Forge at Ashurst and the furnace at Chiddingstone where this graveslab is likely to have been cast.³

2. 1714/15, THOMAS BASET, south aisle; 88 x 183cm.

**HERE·LYETH·BVREIED/THE·BODY·OF THOM/AS·BASET·OF·COWDEN/
THE·SON·OF·MICHEL/BASET·OF·CHIDDING/STOEN·WHO·DEPERTED/
THIS·LIFE·ON·THE·13/DAY·OF·IANVARY·ANO /
DOMINI·1714¹⁵· IN·THE/71·YEAR·OF·HIS·AGE**

5cm *incised* letters of 1cm wide lines. L of Michael reversed; each A has top bar; each I has cross bar. Mud crazing and planklines.

3. 1714/15, ANN BASSET *née* CRONCK, south aisle; 88 x 183cm.

**HERE◆LIEH◆BVRIED·THE/BODY·OF·ANN·THE/
WIFE·OF·IOHN· BASSET/OF·EATONBRIDG·AND/
DAEFTER·OF·RICHARD/CRONCK·OF· TVNBRIDG/
WHO·DEPRTE·THIS/LIFE· ON· THE·19·DAY/
OF·IANVARY·ANNO/DOMNI·1714·AND IN/
THE·55·YEAR·OF·HER/AGE·LEAVING· FIVE·CH/
ILDREN·VIZ·3 DAVGHT/ERS·AND·2 SONS·ACCO/
RDING· TO·TERE·AGES/AS·FOLLOWETH·SARAH/
ANN·AND KATHERIN /MICHAEL·AND·IOHN**

Slab similar to no.2 to THOMAS BASET. 5cm *incised* letters with lines 1cm wide. One G reversed; N reversed; each I with cross bar; each A with top bar; one A with cross bar omitted. Mud crazing and planklines.

COWDEN TQ/4640

1. 1622, JOHN BOTTINGE, nave, partly under front north pew; 60.5cm wide, lower 80cm exposed.

**HERE LIETH/IOHN·BOT·TI/NGE·OF·THE/BOWERWH/O·DIED·THE/
SECONDDA/Y·OF·IVNEAN/ODO1622**

Inscription in recessed panel 38cm wide with rounded corners; 5cm flush letters; central crossbar to each I. Blister holes to lower slab. There was a 'clearing of the church throughout' in 1884 followed by the provision of new pews which left the slab partially covered. The inscription has been completed from an earlier transcription by John Thorpe.⁴

³ Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone, U908/T303/3.

⁴ Thorpe, J., 1769, *Registrum Roffense* (London, privately printed), 911.

2. 1726, RICHARD STILL, *churchyard* northeast of chancel; 79 x 183cm.

Low brick altar tomb covered by thick cast-iron slab having overhanging ovolo moulded edges.

**HERE.LYETH.THE/BODY.OF/RICHARD.STILL/WHO.DEPARTED.THIS/
LIFE.NOVEMBER /THE.19th 1726 /AGED 66**

3. 1730 MARY STILL, *churchyard* northeast of chancel; 79 x 183cm.

Low brick altar tomb covered by thick cast-iron slab having overhanging ovolo moulded edges.

**HERE.LYETH.THE/BODY.OF/MARY.STILL/WHO.DEPARTED.THIS/
LIFE.JUNE/THE.6th 1730 /AGED 72**

Adjacent tombs. Finely formed and cast letters 0.7cm proud; large capitals 4.7cm, small capitals 3.3, centred lines. To allow for the hollow form of these two graveslabs they would have been cast in a closed, loam mould rather than in an open, sand mould, making them unique among the graveslabs of the Weald.

The Stills were of Waystrode, in Cowden.

EAST PECKHAM St. Michael's TQ/6652⁵

1. n.d., WILLIAM BANSOR, nave, 64.5 cm x 117.3 cm. Incised gothic inscription on *brass plate*, 15.4 x 7.1 cm.

[...]lyth Williamus/Bansor [... ...]/[... ...]

Plain uneven slab with stepped cross (23 x 85.6 cm), with inscription plate below, indecipherable apart from the name.

The cross is formed of five strips/bars, all c.2-3 cm wide, making up the three steps, the main vertical and horizontal elements. The horizontal cross bar was impressed after the others. This iron memorial may have replaced an earlier, memorial brass, perhaps removed during the Reformation, with only the inscription being retained. William Bansor, was noted as incumbent in the parish before 1420;⁶ the use of the cross is consistent with him being in holy orders.

FOOTS CRAY TQ/4771⁷

1. 1665, MARTIN MANNING and BARBARA MANNING, *churchyard*, 1 metre south of chancel; 65-68 cm wide x 181 cm long x 3 cm thick. Loose, formerly on brick plinth.

**HERE LYETH INTERRED THE BODIE/
OF MARTIN MANING YEOMAN WHO/
DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE /
10 [?] DAY OF OCTOBER 1656/
AGED 63 YEARS//
AS ALSO BARBARA THE WIFE OF/
MARTIN MANNING WHO DEPARTED/
THIS LIFE ON THE 5 DAY OF/
APRIL 1665 AGED 67 YEARS//
IN SPEM RESURRECTIONIS**

Incised 3 cm letters in straight, well-spaced lines. Each line starts c.5 cm from the left edge of the plate but continues almost to opposite edge. Above the inscription is a pair of incised, crossed bones, each bone c.28 cm long. The slab lies face down adjacent to its former plinth and had to be turned over to read the

⁵ Hodgkinson, J. S., 2002, 'More Additions to the Catalogue of Early Wealden Iron Graveslabs', *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., 22, 22; 2014, 'The iron memorial in St Michael's Church, East Peckham, Kent - a correction', *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., 34, 50-2.

⁶ Cook, A. R., 1938, *A Manor through Four Centuries* (Oxford University Press), 31.

⁷ Hodgkinson, 'More Additions...', 22; Torr, V. J. B., 1931, 'Notes on an iron grave slab and the church fittings of Foots Cray', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 43, 215-9.

inscription. Although most of the lettering is just decipherable, an earlier, published notice of this slab has been used to confirm the inscription.

HORSMONDEN TQ/7038

1. 1644, MARTHA BROWNE *née* TYLDEN, base of chancel step, head to south; 59 x 159cm. Incised inscription on *brass plate*, 38 x 17cm.

**VNDER THIS PLATE LIES BVRIED/
Y^E BODY OF MARTHA BROWNE/
THE BELOVED WIFE OF IOHN/
BROWNE ESQ SHE DECEASED/
IULY Y^E 28.1644.**

1.6cm engraved Roman capitals. Plain edged slab. John Browne (died 1651), of Shirrenden, worked the furnace on the border between Brenchley and Horsmonden parishes, 3km north of the church. He made guns for James I, Charles I, the Commonwealth, and the United Provinces (Netherlands).

SURREY

BERMONDSEY (London) St. Mary Magdalen, TQ/3379

1. 1718, WILLIAM and ELIZABETH MERCER, north aisle, head to north; 89 x 177cm.
**HERE·LYETH·INTERR'D/THE·BODY·OF·WILLIAM/
 MERCER TANNER·OF/
 THIS·PARISH·AND/ELIZABETH·HIS·WIFE/
 HE·DIED·IVNE·THE 30TH/1718·AGED·28·YEARS/
 AND·WAS·SON·OF/WILLIAM MERCER/
 OF·HORSMANDEN·IN/KENT**

Fine thin 5cm letters with serifs; well spaced words filling each line. Raised beaded rim.

CROWHURST TQ/3947

1. 1591/2, ANNE FORSTER (Foster) *née* GAINSFORD, under altar; 54 x 136cm.
**HER:LIETH:ANE:FORST/R:DAVGHTER:AND:/
 HEYR:TO:THOMAS:/GAYNSFORD:ESQUIER/
 DECEASED:XVIII:OF:/IANVARI:1591:LEAVYNG/
 BEHIND:HER-II:SONES:/AND:V:DAVGHTERS**

Inscription on a block 64 x 41.5cm placed sideways at top. Inscription cast from a single carved wooden pattern, which subsequent castings reveal was formed of two boards battened together; each letter is different: S and Y reversed, F inverted. Below on the slab to right of inscription is a 36cm relief figure in a closed knotted shroud representing Anne. On either side are shields on oblong blocks (12.5 x 17cm) showing her children: on her right two sons semi-kneeling with the letters W and R above; on her left the daughters kneeling (only the front two are clear, the other three are faintly shown behind).⁸ In the lower corners are heraldic shields, one showing a chevron between three running hounds for Gainsford. The other is of Foster (of Little Baddow, Essex) quartering Tendring and Gainsford.⁹ There are rope edges on all four sides around a border of large bunches of grapes. The only slab with effigial representation.

Anne Gainsford (b. c1539) married William Foster, whose mother had been Margaret Tendring, in about 1560 and became her late father's heir on the death of her brother, John, in 1559. Her eldest son, William, was knighted in 1603.

The inscription block was subsequently used to decorate firebacks.¹⁰ Examples, all different to a greater or lesser extent, can be seen (inappropriately) in the churches at Ardingly and East Grinstead, in Anne of Cleves Museum at Lewes (four examples) and in The Six Bells public house at Billingshurst; at least four others are known in private hands. The chancel was restored in 1886.

⁸ Holgate, M. S., 1913, 'The Anne Forster Grave Slab', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, **59**, 130-1.

⁹ D'Elboux, R. H., 1950, 'Ann Forster Fireback', *Sussex Notes and Queries*, **13**, 5, 66; Slyfield, G. N., 1952, 'Arms of Foster in Crowhurst Church,' *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, **52**, 92.

¹⁰ Hodgkinson, J. S., 2018, 'The Anne Forster Firebacks', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, **101**, 99-114.

EAST SUSSEX

BRIGHTLING TQ/6820

Six similar upright headslabs cast from same mould; 57.5 x 73cm, plus 17cm above for pediment, plus 36cm below to be sunk into ground, x 3cm thick.

1. 1744, NICHOLAS RUSSEL, *churchyard* northeast of chancel.

**HERE Lyeth/the Body of/NICHOLAS RUSSEL/
Who dyed April y^e/ ...th 1744 Aged 57**

Incised inscription, lines curved upwards.

2. 1757, ELIZABETH PIPER, *churchyard*, northwest of tower.

**In Memory of/ELIZ PIPER/Wife of JESSE
PIPER/of this parish Who/departed this life/ ... 175../. .**

Incised inscription, lines curved upwards.

Elizabeth Piper was servant to John Fuller, father and son, of Rose Hill (now Brightling Park), who died in 1745 and 1755 respectively.

3. 17??, [...] PIPER

In Memory of/ ... PIPER/// ... this Parish .../

Incised inscription, lines curved upwards.

4. Headslab adjacent to No.2; indecipherable *incised* inscription.

5. & 6. Two slabs in south porch upright against west wall; no visible inscription, apparently unused.

All six slabs with main face having a border of festoons tumbling from eye sockets of skulls at top corners; cornice with egg and dart moulding; shaped pediment with foliage, *patera*, and scrolls bearing embossed letters *NOVOMVS MORIAR*. The inscriptions were *incised*; parts of only two inscriptions remain but are rapidly becoming indecipherable.

The furnace at Socknersh was in the parish and the church contains many marble memorials to the Collins family who owned it. There are no iron slabs inside.

BURWASH TQ/6724

1. c.1537, JOHN COLLINS, mural, south aisle chapel; 47.5 and 46.5 x 168 and 167.5cm.

ORATE P ANNEMA/JHONE COLINE

(*orate pro anima* - pray for the soul of) 2.5cm Lombardic letters.

The use of lombardics is an anachronism; they were in use in the 13th and 14th centuries. Because of the use of this style of lettering early writers on iron casting in the Weald placed the making of this slab in this early period, this incorrect ascription being perpetuated by later writers. However, as iron casting was not introduced into England until c.1490, this slab cannot date from before then.

A very narrow slab with plain borderless edges. Above inscription is a floriated cross 30 x 7.5cm on a tall oblong base 5.7 x 11cm. The earliest English cast iron graveslab.

John Collins, who worked Burwash Forge, and Socknersh Furnace in Brightling parish, died in 1537.

CHAILEY TQ/3919¹¹

1. 1762, RICHARD PORTER, under tower; 90.5 x 182cm.

**Here lieth the Body/of Richard Porter AM./
Who was eight Years/Rector of this Parish./
He Died the third day/of February Anno Domini/
1762/Aged 46 Years.**

Plain, borderless slab; very even Roman letters in centred lines 26cm, from top edge and 94cm from bottom edge; caps 4.5 - 4.9cm; lower case 3 - 3.5cm.

Noted by Horsfield as being in the aisle.¹² Richard Porter was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, and was Rector of East Hoathly from 1741, resigning the living in 1752 in favour of his brother, Thomas, to become Vicar of Mayfield. In addition he became Rector of Chailey the following year, there succeeding his uncle, also Richard. The graveslab of another member of the Porter family - Frances, *née* Colpepyr, the wife of another Thomas Porter - is in Wadhurst church. Despite the Wadhurst slab being older by 45 years, the similarity of the size and style of the lettering with the example in Chailey suggests that both graveslabs may have come from the same source.

CROWHURST TQ/7512

1. No date, chancel, under boards of organ platform; 80 x 204 x 2.5cm. Plain slab, only about 15cm protrudes from under the organ platform installed 1930. When the boards were lifted in May 1983, the slab was found to be totally plain. The church was restored in 1856 by S. Teulon.

FRANT TQ/5939¹³

1. 1631/2, S F [SYBIL FOWLE *formerly* GRAYE], central aisle west; 65 x 189.5 x 2cm.

S F/1631

No inscription; five shields 18 x 14cm each showing the Fowle crest (out of a coronet an arm holding a battleaxe) above the initials SF and the date 1631 below, all within a rectangle. Sybil, widow of Thomas Graye of Horsted Keynes, was the third wife of William Fowle of Riverhall, whom he married at Frant on 12 Jun 1614. She was buried on 22 Jan 1631/2.

2. Undated, c.1606, E F [ELIZABETH FOWLE *née* PANKHURST], centre aisle west; c. 66.5 x 189cm.

E F

Four shields, one in each corner, each on a square block with the Fowle arms (gules, a leopard passant between three roses or), and two shields placed down the central axis each bearing a square with the Fowle crest (out of a coronet an arm holding a battleaxe) above the letters EF. Elizabeth, *née* Pankhurst, was the first wife of William Fowle, whom he married at Mayfield on 8 Feb 1590/1. She was buried on 26 Oct 1606. The arrangement is the same as on the slab in Wadhurst church (No. 3), and the armorial shield is from the same block used there and on a number of firebacks.¹⁴

3. Undated, c.1612, M F [MARY FOWLE *formerly* WHITTON *née* FINCH], centre aisle west; 67 x 188cm.

M F

A large shield top centre shows the Fowle arms impaling quartered arms: 1st and 4th, Whitton (argent, five plates on a chevron sable) differenced with a mullet, a mark of cadency (Thomas Whitton, Mary's first husband was a third son); 2nd, Gaynsford (gules, a lion passant guardant argent between three

¹¹ Hodgkinson, J. S., 2010, 'Addition to the catalogue of early iron graveslabs', *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., **30**, 34-5.

¹² Horsfield, T. W., 1835, *The History, Antiquities and Topography of the County of Sussex* vol. 1 (Lewes), 227.

¹³ Eeles, H. S., 1947, *Frant - A Parish History* (Tunbridge Wells, Courier), 253-4.

¹⁴ Hodgkinson, J. S., 2010, *British Cast-Iron Firebacks* (Crawley, HodgersBooks), 94, 128.

buckles or); 3rd, unidentified (on a fess between six crosses crosslet, three mullets).¹⁵ Below the shield are the letters MF. Mary, formerly Whitton, of Lamberhurst, was the second wife of William Fowle, whom he married at Frant on 13 Jan 1606/7. She was buried on 31 Aug 1612.

All three Frant slabs lie hidden under a carpet in the nave beneath the west gallery. The church was rebuilt from 1819 to 1822: the piers supporting the west gallery are of cast iron. The Fowle family held the Riverhall Furnace on the boundary of Frant with Wadhurst.

In Maidstone Museum is a plain slab with two shields of the Fowle family identical to those on a slab in Frant (No. 2) and Wadhurst (No. 3).¹⁶ At the lower end of the slab is a small rectangular stamp showing the crest of the Fowle family beneath which are initials which appear to be NF. The stamp is similar, but not identical, to the rectangular stamps on the slab in Frant (No. 2) and Wadhurst (No. 3). From its dimensions, this graveslab could have been for a child, or probably a pair of children. It is not known from whence it came to the museum.

HARTFIELD TQ/4735

1. 1702, JOHN MILLS, south arcade in front of easternmost pier; 53.5 x 150.5cm.

**Heare ly^es the body of/Muster John Milles [...]/of Cotchford in Hartfield/Suxsix he died 25 [...]
of/October: [...] a domany 1702**

Incised letters; plain borderless slab. Poorly formed uneven lower case letters. Parts of the inscription are now difficult to decipher. The church was restored in 1867.

LAUGHTON TQ/5012¹⁷

1. 1689, L B (LUCY BENGE), mural, under tower; 45.6 x 87 x 2.5cm.

L·B/1689/L·B

Individual 8.5cm Roman upper case letters; plain borderless slab. Lettering is 18.5cm from top and 34.5cm from bottom.

2. 1691, ANN BENGE, mural, under tower; 42 x 101 x 1cm.

ANN/BENG/1691

7.5cm Roman upper case letters on a block, A with top bar, and middle horizontal of E sloping upwards. Plain borderless slab with inscription 49.5cm from top and 27.5cm from bottom.

Lucy and Ann were the daughters of William and Dinah Benge of Wadhurst. Their mother, born Chauntler, from Laughton, was sister-in-law to John Barham of Shoemiths, Wadhurst; their father cast shot for the government from 1686 and, ten years later, built Gloucester Furnace at Lamberhurst.

MARESFIELD TQ/4724

1. 1667, ROBERT BROOKS, loose under tower; 55.5 x 170.5 x 1-2.7cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF M ROBE/RT BROOKS WHO/
DEPARTED THIS/LIFE THE 12/DAY OF IVNE/
AEATIS SVÆ 1667**

4cm letters in recessed bands across the middle of the slab; each A with top bar and v cross bar. A recessed 2.5cm line down each side of slab.

¹⁵ Lambarde, F., 1926, 'Coats of Arms in Sussex Churches', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, **67**, 178; the arms of Gaynsford are not those of the Crowhurst (Surrey) branch of the family.

¹⁶ Hodgkinson, J. S., 2008, 'Two Additions to the Catalogue of Early Cast-Iron Graveslabs', *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., **28**, 21.

¹⁷ Hodgkinson, J. S., 1994, 'Further Additions to the Catalogue of Early Wealden Iron Graveslabs', *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., **14**, 28-9.

One of the AETATIS SVÆ series; the date of death has been given instead of the age. The T has been omitted from 'aetatis'. Planklines.

In 1852 Hussey recorded three iron slabs in the chancel, for only one of which he gives a date.¹⁸ The other two were presumably removed when the church was restored in 1879, being unattributed. They are buried in the churchyard about 2.1m south of the SW buttress of the tower

MAYFIELD TQ/5827

1. 1668, THOMAS SANDS, centre aisle against south pews; 59-60 x 169-171.5cm.

HEAR·LYETH/THE·BODY·OF/THOMAS.SANDS///

WHO· WAS/BVRYED.IVLY/THE·20·1668///

AGED·72/YEARS

Letters from 3.8-10cm; N, S and 7 reversed, planklines. Uneven cast surface. A crude, poorly executed slab with neither lines nor letters straight.

2. 1669, JOHN BAKER aged 3 months, chancel under south stalls; 59.3-59.7cm x 127cm.

IOHANNES·FILIVS/QUARTVS·IOHANN/IS·ET DOROTHEÆ·/BAKER·HIC·IACET·/IN·

TERTIO·MENSE·/ÆTATIS·OBIVIT·AN/NOQVE·DOMINI 1669/[shield]/VITA BREVIS

(Here lies John, fourth son of John and Dorothea Baker, died in the third month of his age and in the year of Our Lord 1669 – Life is short)

Plain borderless edge, *incised* 5cm Roman capitals, 4cm from top edge, across full width of slab. Below the main text is incised a straight sided shield of the arms of Baker (a castle between three keys palewise). One longitudinal plankline.

3. 1671, JOHN BAKER aged 15 months, chancel under south stalls; 59.2-59.5cm x 121cm.

IOHANNES·FILIVS/QUINTVS·IOHANN/IS·ET DOROTHEÆ·/BAKER·HIC·JACET·/

IN·QVINDECĪ·MENSE/ÆTATIS·OBIVIT·AN/NOQVE·DOMINI·1671/[shield]/VITA BREVIS

(Here lies John, fifth son of John and Dorothea Baker, died in the fifteenth month of his age and in the year of Our Lord 1671 – Life is short)

Plain borderless edge, *incised* 5cm Roman capitals, 4cm from top edge, across full width of slab. Below each is incised a straight sided shield of the arms of Baker (a castle between three keys palewise). One longitudinal plankline.

A mural monument in the chancel to John Baker (died 1688) records that he had 13 children of whom five are buried near their father, including John (2) and (3). These two are under iron slabs beneath the choir stalls.

A iron memorial in private hands commemorates the father of the John Bakers noted above (nos. 2 & 3):
1688, JOHN BAKER, 76 x 167cm

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF/JOHN BAKER LATE OF/

STONELANDS ESQ TO WHOSE/ MEMORY THIS MONUMENT OF/

... ..WAS ERECTED/.....11[?]TH 1688 IN/

... ..HIS AGE &/... .. SEVEN/... ..

Rectangular plate with bevelled edges; *incised* Roman capitals; above is a shield bearing the arms of Baker cast in low relief within a recessed circle.¹⁹

It seems likely that this graveslab was intended to be placed on an altar tomb in Mayfield church. Catharine Pullein mentions a graveslab inscribed 'Here lieth the body of John Baker' used as a fireback in the mid-19th century at Hamsell, near Eridge station, home of another branch of the Baker family, and close to the furnace of the same name where it may have been cast.²⁰ It is probable that this is a reference

¹⁸ Hussey, A., 1852, *Notes on the Churches in the Counties of Kent, Sussex and Surrey* (London, John Russell Smith), 256.

¹⁹ Hodgkinson, 2008, 'Two Additions...', 21-2.

²⁰ Pullein, C., 1928, *Rotherfield: The story of some Wealden Manors* (Tunbridge Wells, Courier Publishing), 281.

to the same graveslab, the poor quality of the inscription on the casting perhaps causing it to have been rejected for its intended purpose and relegated to use as a fireback instead.

4. 1669, T H (THOMAS HOUGHTON) chancel north; 57.5-58.5 x 153cm.

T H

Plain borderless edge; Roman capitals in centre of slab arranged sideways, T 5cm and H 4.5cm. Two longitudinal planklines.

5. 1670, H W (WALSINGHAM HOUGHTON *née* THEOBALD) chancel north; 59.7-62 x 151cm.

H W

Plain borderless edge; Roman capitals in centre of slab arranged sideways, H 4.5cm and W 5cm. Two longitudinal planklines.

6. 1666, I H (JOHN HOUGHTON) chancel north; 59-60 x 151.3cm.

I H

Plain borderless edge; Roman capitals in centre of slab arranged sideways, I (with central stud) 6.5cm and H 4.5cm. Two longitudinal planklines.

The three slabs are laid side to side with no. 5 orientated the opposite way to the other two. On the north chancel wall is a slate monument inscribed:

Nere this place under three iron plates/marked T. H. W. H. I. H. / ly the Bodies of THOMAS HOUGHTON late of this parish ESQ / And Principall of CLIFFORDS INN / LONDON / Who deceased on the 30 day of July 1669 / Aged 75 yeares / And of / WALSINGHAM his Wife who departed this life / the 30 day of January following / Aged 65 / And of / IOHN their youngest son, who dyed on the / 8 day of December 1666 / Aged 36

7. 1678, JOHN EDWARDS, nave

Here lyeth interred the body of John Edwards Gen. who departed this life the 23 of June, Anno Dom 1678, and of his age 71.

This slab is no longer visible so neither dimensions nor details of the characters are available; the inscription is as transcribed by Bell-Irvine.²¹

More iron plate can be felt under the stalls; in 1979 a small part of yet another could be seen.

8. 1708, THOMAS SANDS, centre aisle against south pews partly under heating pipe; 74-75 x 180cm.

**Thomas Sands/Citizen And Wine/Cooper Of London /
Who Died Dec^{br} y^e 11th/Ano Domini 1708/
in y^e 33th year of his/Age**

Incised shallow lines 1cm wide. Well formed letters using lower case and well-spaced words. The 8 of the date has a flat top. The 'g' of age looks like '8'. Below is some floral decoration and around the whole edge is a simple geometric border both in the same incised lines. Above the inscription, cast in high relief from an impressed large block (63cm wide x 5gcm high, with curved top and lower corners cut off) is the full achievement of the Coopers' Company to which Thomas Sands was admitted in 1698: gyronny of eight gules and sable on a chevron between three annulets or, a royne (a cooper's groove cutter) between two broad axes azure, a chief vert thereon three lilies argent. Crest - on a wreath or and azure, a demi heathcock with body azure semee of annulets gold, the wings argent semee of annulets sable holding in the beak a lily argent slipped and leafed vert. Two supporters, on either side a camel gules semee of annulets and bridled or; the Motto - Love as Brethren.

²¹ Bell-Irvine, E. M., 1903, *Mayfield - The Story of an Old Wealden Village* (London, William Clowes & Sons), 77.

PENHURST TQ/6916

1. 1703, PETER GOWER, centre chancel; 43 x 152cm.

**[Here] lies the body /[of P]ETER GOWER/
[who] died August /[...] 1703/[A]ged 73 years**

Incised well formed letters. Plain borderless edges.

Some of the left hand side is illegible. Planklines. Peter Gower was tenant of Great Sprays Farm in the parish. The church lies 1km from the site of Ashburnham forge and 1km from the site of Ashburnham Furnace.

The slab was restored to the chancel in 1960 when the church was de-Victorianised. It had been taken up and left loose under the tower after the restoration of 1878-81.²² When in 1960 the Victorian tiles were removed, 18cm 17th-century floor tiles were found (now repositioned in the south porch), and beneath them the remains of a coffin whose handles were dated by the British Museum to the time of Queen Anne. The slab is now hidden under a carpet.

ROTHERFIELD TQ/5529

1. Probably pre-1547, an ecclesiastic, north aisle west of north door; 70-73 x 188.5cm.

A large slab with neither border nor inscription. Decoration is in the form of a double cross (45 x 92cm) in relief having simple decorated arms and an incised six-pointed star at each crossing. The cross was impressed twice into the sand casting-bed, first at the top slightly askew, secondly superimposed lower down, but straight.

SALEHURST TQ/7424

1. 1661/2, MARY PECKHAM, vestry to south of tower; 55-56 x 168cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF MARY W/IFE.OF.WILLIAM/
PECKHAM WHO DY/ED·MARCH 12/1661/
AE^TATIS SVÆ 34**

One of AETATIS SVÆ series; 4cm letters within recessed bands; inscription starts partway down slab. 2cm wide recessed lines down sides. The omitted T of *aetatis* is inserted. The C is reversed, M and A of Mary are linked. Each A has a top bar and 'v' cross bar.

2. 1662, THOMAS PECKHAM, vestry to south of tower; 55-56 x 168cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF THOMAS PECKH/
AM WHO DYED/MAY THE 31/1662/
AE^TATIS SVIE 54/ T C**

Slab in the AETATIS SVÆ series. The slab is as that of Mary Peckham, 1661, but for the words of the inscription. The C is reversed, the omitted T of *aetatis* has been inserted. Below are the letters T C (also with C reversed) which also appear on the slab to the Holland children, 1664, at Wadhurst, No.17.

3. 1679, WILLIAM PECKHAM, under tower; 62 x 173.5cm.

**HERE·LYETH·THE/BODY·OF·WILLIA/M·PECKHAM·WH/
O·DIED·APRIL·THE/5·1679·AGED·75 YE/ARS·AND·11·MONT**

Fine 5.5cm letters in recessed bands. A with 'v' cross bar but no top bar; H and E linked; round stops. Inscription starts 42cm. down the slab. Planklines.

²² Whistler, R. F., 1888, 'Penhurst: being some account of its iron works, manor house, church etc.', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, **36**, 11-12.

4. 1689, MARY PECKHAM, under tower; 63 x 169cm.

**[HER]E·LYETH·THE
B/ODY·OF·MARY·PEC/KHAM·DAVGHTE/R·OF·WILL·BY·MA/RTHA·PECKHAM/WHO·DIED·APRI/L
L·21·1689·AGED/1·YEARE·&·5·MONT^S**

The top right corner has been covered by masonry. The S of MONT^S extends further to the right than any of the bands above. Fine 6cm letters in recessed bands 7cm wide and 0.8cm apart. Each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar. Flat top to figure 8. Plain edges. 'Mud crazing'.

5. 1712, LUCY STEVENS, under tower to south of west door; 35.5 x 75.5cm.

**HERE·LYETH·BV/RIED·THE·BODY·OF/LUCY·THE·DAVGH/
TER·OF·JONATHAN/STEVENS·AND·A/BIGARLL·HIS·WIFE/
WHO·DECEASED/OVEMBER·THE/16·1711·AGED·/27·WEEKS**

A very small slab. Very neat 3.2cm letters in recessed 4.1cm bands. Diamond stops. Well shaped numerals. Each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar. N reversed, T and H linked. Planklines. Lucy's sister Ann died 14 months later (aged 3 years 10 months) and is buried nearby under stone.

6. 1712/3, SILVESTER PECKHAM, under tower; 55 x 170 x 2cm.

**HERE·LYETH·/BVRIED·THE·BO/DY·OF·SILVESTE/PECKHAM·WHO/DEPARTED·THIS/LIFE·THE·17D
AY/OV·MARCH·IN·Y^E/YEARE·OF·OVR/LORD·1712·AG/ED·65·YEARES/AND·6·MONTH/S·AND·3·
WEEKS**

Fine well formed letters in 5.9cm recessed bands 1.3cm apart. Each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar; each N reversed; a small capital E within the cup of Y for YE; diamond stops. Recessed 1.3cm side lines. A very fine slab.

7. 1713/4, ELEANER PECKHAM. under tower; 60 x 169cm.

**HERE/LIE^TH·THE·BODY·OF·ELE/ANER·PECKHAM·WH/O·DIED·IANVARY·THE/24·IN·THE·YEAR·17
13·/AGED·72·YEARS·AND/10·MONTHS**

Fine well formed 5.5cm letters in recessed bands of 7cm, 1.2cm apart. Each with top bar and 'v' cross bar. R with curved tail. Linked letters H and E. The T in 'LIETH' is omitted and inserted above. There is no room for the final upright of H in 'WHO'. First and last lines centred.

The Peckham family commemorated in six of the seven slabs at Salehurst held the Iridge Furnace from the late 17th century. They were related by marriage to the Braban family of Wadhurst. All the Salehurst slabs were formerly in the nave but were removed at the 1861 restoration and placed at the west door under the tower. The graveslab of a member of the Braban family in Wadhurst church (No. 23) is stylistically very similar to Nos. 3 and 4 in Salehurst.

SEDLSCOMBE TQ/7718

1. 1669, WILLIAM BISSHOP, ELIZABETH (wife) *née* HAUSE and SARAH (great grandchild), north aisle against north pews; c.59 x 158cm.

**HERE LYETH THE BO/DY OF WILLIAM SONN/
OF IOHN BISSHOPP G/ENT BVRYED NOVEM/
THE 14 ANNO/DOM 1664//
ALSO ELIZABETH HIS/
WIFE DAVGHTER OF/EDWARD HAVSE GEN/
T BVRYED MAY THE/21: 39//
AND SARAH THE/
DAVGHTER OF WIL/LIAM THEIR GRA/
NDSONN BVRYED/DECEN THE 20:69**

Inscription in 3 parts. 4cm letters; each N reversed; dates of burial, not death, given. Planklines; raised moulded edge. The slab lies to one side of the aisle with one edge under the present pews; it would appear to be close to where the Bishops had a family pew (a copy of the 17th century pew allocations is kept in the church). The church was restored and rebuilt between 1866 and 1874, re-pewed and the floor retiled.

The slab would seem to have remained in situ despite the Victorian rebuilding.

STREAT TQ/3515

1. 1731/2, SARAH SAUNDERS, nave; 53 x 148cm.

**HERE/LYETHEBO/DYOF SARAH/SAUNDERS/
DAUGHTER OF/THO: SAUND/ERS OF WAD/
HURSTGEN^T/WHODEPART/ED THIS LIFE/
THE 8 DAY OF/FEBRUARY/1731/AGED: 56**

Unevenly arranged 5.5cm letters; no spaces or stops between words. 3 reversed; the 'v' cross bar of the A is asymmetrical. Raised beaded edge. The clean cast letters have been individually impressed into the sand casting-mould.

Sarah Saunders was the servant of Martha Gott (see 2 below) and would have been a beneficiary of her will had she not predeceased her mistress.²³

2. 1754, MARTHA GOTT *née* WESTERN, THOMAS, ROBERT AND ELIZABETH GOTT, east nave; 108 x 212cm.

**SACRED/TO THE MEMORY OF MARTHA,/
RELICT OF PETER GOTT /
ESQ. AND ELDEST DAUGHTER/
OF THO: WESTERN ESQ. SHE-/
DIED FEB: THE 11th 1732,/AGED 78 YEARS./
AND/OF THO: GOTT ESQ. 3^d SON/
OF THE SAID PETER AND/
MARTHA GOTT, WHO/DIED MARCH THE 19th 1733,/
AGED 49 YEARS./AND/ALSO OF ROB: THEIR 6th SON,/
WHO DIED JAN: THE 14th 1714,/AGED 21 YEARS. /
THEIR SURVIVING ISSUE ARE/MAXIMILIAN, W^m. MARTHA,/
WIFE OF W^m. HUGESSEN ESQ./
ELIZABETH, MARY AND SARAH,/UNMARRIED./
ELIZABETH DIED AUG: THE/
27th 1754, AGED 75 YEARS.**

The largest slab in Sussex; virtually the same size as the contemporary slabs of 1745 and 1754 at Burrington, Herefordshire, (102 x 211cm). Well executed in good Roman capitals of two sizes, 6.5 and 4.8cm. Each line centred.

The pattern for this slab would have been prepared in 1734, following the death of Thomas Gott. Of the children of Martha and Peter Gott said to be surviving, all but Mary and Sarah had died before Elizabeth, whose death prompted the laying of the slab: Martha and Maximilian in 1735 and William in 1741.

From 1702 to 1795 the Gotts and their descendants owned the Gloucester Furnace at Lamberhurst, Conster or Beckley Furnace, Brede, and Crowham Forge, Westfield. Many of the names are the same as those on the graveslab of Martha Gott's father, Thomas Western, in Rivenhall, Essex.

TICEHURST TQ/6830

1. Undated, member of the MAY family, south-east corner of Pashley chapel to south of chancel; 63.5 x 186cm.

A plain slab with neither border nor inscription. A round headed block (23 x 42cm high) showing the May achievement: shield, a fess between eight billets; crest, a griffin's head from a coronet; two tassels for mantling. The same block was used on a fireback for Susannah May, dated 1722, in Pashley

²³ TNA, PROB 11/657/293.

manor house. The May family lived at Pashley, an estate with ironworks that they acquired in 1543 from the Boleyns.

UCKFIELD TQ/4721

1. 1707, GABRIEL EGLES, mural, south wall; 75 x 176 x 4cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF GABRIEL/EGLES ESQR WHO/
DEPARTED THIS/LIFE THE 7 DAY OF/AVGVST 1707 AND/
IN THE 65 YEAR/OF HIS AGE**

5.5cm letters in recessed bands of 6.5cm, 2cm apart. A with 'v' cross bar; the Q of ESQR is reversed to look like a 9. Below is a large shield (35.5 x 47.5cm) with a scalloped top having a depressed orle 2.5cm wide, of the arms of Egles: sable, six lions rampant argent. One of the two Wealden slabs with a rope edge (the other is at Crowhurst, Surrey 1591/2). The Egles were related to the Barhams of Wadhurst.

The church was rebuilt in 1839, monuments from the previous building being retained. Prior to 1846 the church was a chapel of ease for Buxted.

WADHURST TQ/6431

There were many ironworks in this extensive parish. Over a quarter of the country's iron slabs of the pre-Industrial Revolution are at Wadhurst, 30 in the church, one in the porch and two in the churchyard.

1. 1617, W.B. (?WILLIAM BARHAM), south aisle, 57 x 183.5cm.

1617/WB/***

Six shields 12 x 17.5cm, each with 1617 /WB above three mullets (five-pointed stars); 3.5cm. letters and numerals.

2. 1625, I.D. (JOHN DUNMOLL²⁴), chancel, north side, 63.5 x 199cm.

1625/ID/N

Six shields 16 x 20cm., each with raised rim and **1625/ID**. One shield askew. 6.5cm. letters. At the base is a large (9cm.) **N**.

John Dunmoll leased Bedgebury Furnace from Anthony Culpeper c.1590.

3. c.1600, ?N F (?NICHOLAS FOWLE)²⁵ under screen between lectern and south chapel, 66 x 188.5cm. Inscription indistinct. Same arrangement and form of shields as on the slab for Elizabeth Fowle (Frant no. 2), first wife of Nicholas Fowle's son, William: four corner shields with Fowle arms: a lion passant between three roses; in the centre two small shields each with square containing Fowle crest and (indistinct) initials beneath. The shields and crests are also seen on some firebacks.²⁶ In his will, having originally asked to be buried at Rotherfield, Nicholas Fowle directed his son to have him buried at Wadhurst.²⁷

4. 1634, A.B. (?BURGIS²⁸), south aisle by font; 65 x 187cm.

1634/A B/o

No inscription. Six blocks 13.5 x 19cm, one askew, each bearing in 1.9cm-high relief a shield having a scalloped base on which is 1634/A B/o

Incised on the slab: **AB 1716; JB 1764** (Jane Burgess); **LB 1789**; *incised* side-ways: **RWB 1771** (Richard Walter Burgess); *incised* sideways in an incised oblong: **ML 1735**.

²⁴ Wace, A. A., 1923, *The Story of Wadhurst* (Tunbridge Wells, Courier Publishing Co.), 47.

²⁵ Burder, E. R., 1950, 'Wadhurst Church', *Sussex Notes and Queries*, 13, 3, 66.

²⁶ Hodgkinson, *British Cast-Iron Firebacks*, 94, 128.

²⁷ The National Archives, Kew (hereafter TNA), PROB 11/96/312.

²⁸ Wace, *The Story of Wadhurst*, 47.

5. 1638, ALICE BUCHER, chancel, north side; 63 x 183.5cm.

**·HEERE·/LYETH·INT/ERDE·ALICE·/THE·WYFE·/OF·THO·BVC/HER·WHOE·D/
EPARTED·TH/IS·LYFE·TH/E·23·OF·OC/TOBER·ANNO/DOMINI·1638**

4cm. letters. Inscription panel under an arch having decorated spandrels and castellated flat top. A well proportioned slab with even lettering.

6. 1639, JOAN BUCHER, nave, under lectern; 63cm wide.

**·HEERE·/LIETH·/BVRVED/IOAN·BVCHER/THE·WIFE·OF/
ALEXANDER/BVCHER/DECEASED/WHO·DEPARTED/
...[F]E·ON/...HE...**

Remainder of inscription hidden under the lectern stand. 4cm letters. A slab of the same design, same style of lettering, and near identical decoration as no.5 ALICE BUCHER 1638. The Wadhurst parish register records the burial of 'Joane widdow to Alexander Butcher' on 23 April 1639.

7. 1640, JOHN BUCHER, south aisle chapel, head to south; 63 x 182cm.

**HEERE/LIETH/BVRVED/JOHN·BVCHER/GEN·WHO/DEPARTED/
THIS·LIFE·ON/WEDNESDAY·THE/19TH·OF·AVGVST·1640**

4cm. letters. The day of death in the week is given. Planklines. Inscription on a depressed panel leaving a 10cm. border; there is a decorated semi-circular arch within the panel with plain shields in the spandrels; the arch is unlike that on the other Bucher slabs of 1638.

Incised below are: EB/1750; AB/1752.

The style of the lettering and numerals on the three Bucher graveslabs is identical to that seen on several firebacks dating from the period 1641-52, some of which bear the initials, IM, probably those of the pattern maker.²⁹

8. 1643/4, DAVID BARHAM, south aisle; 61 x 182cm.

**HEARE/LYETH THE/BODY OF DAVID/BARHAM GENT/
WHICHDESESED/THIS LIFE/THE 18 DAY/OF FEBRVARY/
ANNO DOM 1643**

Letters in relief in recessed bands, having upright relief bars between each word. Each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar; I with serif to the left at the top, to the right at the bottom; 8 with straight-sided triangle for upper part. The inscription lies within a recessed panel with near identical style of decorated arch head as on the Bucher slabs of 1638.

Below the inscription within the recessed panel are two lozenges on which are *incised* in incised rectangles **A B** and **1688**; between the lozenges at the top is a shield with the Courthope arms (argent, a fess azure between three estoiles), between them below is a raised large inverted heart. At the bottom are the letters, **WB**, in a recessed rectangle within an oblong relief inside oblong relief bars. David Barham built Snape in 1617; the Courthope arms relate to his mother, Mary, daughter of George Courthope of Whiligh. The incised initials belong to his daughter-in-law, Anne, the wife of his son, David.³⁰

9. 1647, T.B. (THOMAS BAKER),³¹ north aisle, part under pier; 63 x 183cm.

TB/1647/TB

8.5cm letters; 8-12cm numerals in high relief.

In her will of 1678 Jane Darby of Sedlescombe directed her executors to 'lay upon my grave an iron plate' next to that of her first husband, Thomas Baker, in Wadhurst church, a direction that clearly was not carried out.³²

²⁹ Hodgkinson, *British Cast-Iron Firebacks*, 44, 175-9.

³⁰ Fitzgerald-Uniacke, R. G., 1914, 'The Barhams of Shoemiths in Wadhurst', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, **56**, 127.

³¹ Wace (*The Story of Wadhurst*, 46) suggests TB was Thomas Barham but no man of that name was buried at Wadhurst in 1647.

³² TNA, PROB 11/363/95.

10. 1648, JOHN BARHAM, chancel, south side; 57.5 x 185.5cm.

**HEER·LYETH·THE/BODYE·OF·IOHN/BARHAM·OF·SH=/OOSMITHES·GE=/
NT·WHO·DIED/THE·FIFT DAY·OF/DECEMBAR·1648/TC**

Poorly shaped 4.5cm letters; I with a dot. Below is an irregular block (38 and 39.5 x 49cm with a curved side) bearing an armorial of Barham: argent, on a fess gules between three bears passant sable, muzzled or, a fleur de lys between two martlets of the fourth; crest, a stork among bulrushes all proper; mantling and helm in high relief.

11. 1651/2, HELLEN DUNMOLL *née* BARHAM, south aisle; 57.5 x 170.5cm.

**HEER·LYETH·THE/BODYE·OF HELL=/EN·THE·WIFE·OF/
IOSEPH·DVNMOLL/GENT·WHO·WAS·DAFTAR·OF·DAV=/
ID·BARHAM·GENT/WHICH·DIED/THE·SIXTH·DAY/OF·FEBRVARY/1651**

The same poorly designed and crudely placed letters as on the slab to John Barham (No.10, 1648) as V for Y, I with a dot. Mud crazing. Plain borderless slab. Hellen lies close to her father (No.8, 1643).

12. 1653, ANN BENGGE *née* SAUNDERS, cross aisle, south; 55 x 139.5 x 3cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF AN WIFE OF WILLIAM/
BENGGE WHO DY/ED OCTOBER 12/1653/AE^TATIS SVÆ 17**

Flush letters in recessed bands; omitted T of *aetatis* inserted; A with top bar and 'v' cross bar. Inscription starts 53cm down. The earliest of the slabs in the AETATIS SVÆ series, all of which have letters in recessed bands (the first and last lines being from a pattern block), recessed lines down the sides, and the inscription starting part-way down the slab.

13. 1657, I.B. (JOHN BARHAM³³), south aisle; 60 x 177cm.

IB 1657

A borderless slab with 5 shields 15 x 22cm, each having inward curving sides with raised rim within which are three 8-pointed mullets or spur-rowels. **IB** and **1657** in 4cm letters on relief fillet 6 x 31.5cm.

14. 1658, M.B. (MARY BARHAM³⁴), chancel, north side; 60 x 177cm.

MB 1658

A slab identical to No.13, IB (1657), but for the initials and date, MB 1658.

15. 1660/1, NICHOLAS SAUNDERS, cross aisle, south; 55 x >130cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF NICHOLAS SAVNDERS/
OF PELL WHO DY/ED IANVARY 30/1660/AE^TATIS SVÆ 65**

Flush letters in recessed bands; omitted T of *aetatis* inserted; inscription starts 68cm down. End of slab broken. One of the AETATIS SVÆ series. 2cm recessed side lines.

16. 1664, ANN HOLLAND, cross aisle by south doorway; 55 x 170cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF AN W/IFE·OF·DAVID/
HOLLAN WHO DY/ED NOVEMBER 1/1664/AE^TATIS SVÆ 48**

Flush letters in recessed bands. Inscription starts 68cm down. Omitted T of *aetatis* inserted. One of the AETATIS SVÆ series. 2cm. recessed side lines.

17. 1664, ANN and DAVID HOLLAND (children of Ann Holland No.16, 1664) cross aisle by south doorway; 55 x 170cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF AN AND/DAVD HOLLAN CH/
ILDREN OF DAVID/HOLLAND WHO DY/ED NOVEMBER 19/
AEATIS SVÆ 1664/T C**

Letters in recessed bands. T of *aetatis* omitted: C reversed; date instead of age. Planklines. 2cm recessed side lines. One of the AETATIS SVÆ series.

³³ Wace, *The Story of Wadhurst*, 46.

³⁴ *ibid.*

18. 1666, MARY SMITH *née* GOSTWYKE, chancel, south side; 58 x 182cm.

**HERE·LYETH/THE·BODY·OF/MARY·DAVGH/TER·OF·ROGER/
GOSTWYKE·OF/SAMFORD COVR/TNEY·IN·DEVON/WIFE·OF·ZACHA/
[...] SMITH·OF/GLYNDE·IN·SVS/SEX·&·MOTHER·OF·IOHN·SMITH/OF·WADHVRST/
MINSTERS*/SHE·DEPART/ED·THIS·LIFE/SEPTEMBER·XI/1666**

5cm letters in recessed bands; 2cm recessed side lines 5cm from edges. Each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar; a circular motif 4.5cm in diameter with relief petals occurs after MINSTERS. The A of ZACHA extends into the border. Diamond stops.

Roger Gostwyke was Rector of Sampford Courtenay (Devon SS/6201) from 1609 to 1643 and is buried in the chancel there.

19. 1673/4, NICHOLAS DONMOOLLE, cross aisle, south; 55.5 x 154.5-152.5cm, the top is slanted.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF M^R NI/CHOLAS DON/MOOLLE WHO/
DEPARTED TH/IS LIFE THE V/DAY OF MARCH/IN THE YEAR/
OF OVR LORD/MDCLXXIII/AGED LII**

4.5cm flush letters in recessed bands, recessed side lines; each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar. Planklines.

20. 1673, E.C. (EDWARD CHANDLER³⁵), cross aisle, north; 42.5 x 93cm.

EC EC/1673/EC EC

Large letters in 1cm high relief. Mud crazing. Plain slab with faint block marks for initials and date.

21. 1675, JOHN SAUNDERS, cross aisle, north; 36.5 x 69cm.

**HERE·LY/ETH·THE·BODY·OF·IOHN·SON·OF/M^R·NICHOLAS/AND·PHILADEL/PHIA·SAVNDERS/OF·
LONDON.WHO/WAS·BVRVED/MAY·V·1675/M^{RS}·ANN·SAVN/DERS·OF·PELL/GRANDMO/THER/P
OSVIT**

Recessed bands of uneven length, roughly centred. Poorly cast crowded letters; each A with top bar and 'v' cross bar; diamond stops. The smallest slab in the country.

22. 1675, ANN BARHAM, south aisle, north of font; 57 x 182cm.

**HERE·LYETH/THE·BODY·OF/ANN·BARHA/M·THE·DAVGH/
TER·OF·DAVID/BARHAM·OF*/SNAPE·GENT/WHO·DEPART/
ED·THIS·LIFE/THE·18·DAY·OF·MAY·AN /NO·DOMINI*/1675**

5cm flush letters in recessed bands; each A with top bar; inscription starts part-way down the slab. At the end of the sixth and twelfth lines a circle with an *incised* estoile; after the AN of ANNO a plain relief square. Below are two shields, both with stylized mantling, showing on the left the arms of Barham complete with crest, but not from the same blocks as on the Barham slabs in the chancel (Nos. 10 and 27, 1648 and 1701); on the right a shield bearing a chevron between three birds' (?swans', ?eagles') heads erased. Ann Barham was the 20-year-old daughter of David and Anne Barham of Snape, the latter's initials being incised on slab 8.³⁶

23. 1677/8, JOHN BRABAN, centre aisle by tower; 63 x 174cm.

**HERE·LYETH·THE/BODY·OF·IOHN·BR/ABAN·THE·SECO/ND·SON·OF·EDWA/RD·BRABAN·OF·S/AL
EHVRST·WHO/DIED·MARCH·THE/8·1677·AGED·18YE/ERS·AND·3·MONT**

5.2cm letters in recessed bands; A with 'v' cross bar. Inscription starts part-way down slab. Below in *incised* letters within incised rectangles: E L and 1713. No edging. Very similar to, and almost certainly the work of, the same pattern maker as slabs at Salehurst (Nos. 3 and 4).

24. 1677, ANN SAUNDERS, south aisle, south of font; 55 x 172cm.

HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF ANN Y^E/WIDOW OF M^R/

³⁵ Wace, *The Story of Wadhurst*, 47.

³⁶ Fitzgerald-Uniacke, 'The Barhams of Shoesmiths', 128.

**NICHOLAS SAVN/DERS OF PELL SHE/DEPARTED AV/
GVST THE VII/ MDCLXXVII/AGED LXXIII***

4.5cm flush letters in recessed bands; A with top bar and ‘v’ cross bar. Recessed side lines. An *incised* estoile is in a 5cm square after the age.

25. 1678, JAMES ATWELLS cross aisle, south; 55 x 155cm.

**HERE·LYETH/THE·BODY·OF/IAMES·AT/WELLS·THE/SONNE·OF/
IOHN·AT*/WELLS·WHO/DYED·OCTO/BER·THE·1/ANNO·DOMI/NI·1678**

Flush letters in uneven recessed bands. Each A with top bar and ‘v’ cross bar. Diamond stops. At end of the sixth line in a 5cm square an *incised* estoile. Borderless slab.

26. 1688, D.A. (DOROTHY ALCHERNE³⁷), cross aisle, north; 45.5 x 98cm.

D·A/1688 /D·A

7.5cm letters in 1cm high relief; 2.2cm diamond stops; each A with top bar and ‘v’ cross bar. Similarities with slab No. 20 suggest a common source.

Mrs Dorothy Alcherne was buried on 2 March 1688/9. A shorter slab (46 x 71.5cm) with the same date and initials (above the date only) and in the same style, but with no evidence of wear, is in private hands. The D is reversed, suggesting that the slab was rejected and retained by the family, and a replacement casting made, with a second pair of initials, for laying in the church.³⁸

27. 1701, WILLIAM BARHAM, chancel, north side; 83.5 x 204cm.

**HEARE/LYETH·THE·BODY·OF·M^R·WILLIAM·BA/RHAM·OF·SCRAGE/
OAKE·WHO·DYED/NOVEMBER·Y^E·6/1701/AGED 80**

5.5cm letters in roughly centred lines. Reversed N; A with top bar and ‘v’ cross bar; flat topped 8.

Above and below the inscription a shield (43 x 48cm high) with different arms of Barham to those seen on other slabs in Wadhurst church: or, three bears passant sable, muzzled gules; stylistic mantling in high relief giving the appearance of crockets at the sides, and of foliage on a chief at the top.

A large, ostentatious slab with a raised 5cm border.

28. 1709/10, MARY and ELIZABETH LUCK, cross aisle, south; 65 x 148cm.

**HERE·LYE·INTERED/·THE·BODYS·OF·MA:/RY·&·ELIZ·DAVGH:/TERS·OF·EDW·&·EL:/IZ·LVCK·
MARY·AG:/ED·23·YEARS·DEPA:/
RTED·IAN:Y^E 9:1707/ELIZ:AGED·21·YEA:/
RS·DEPARTED·IAN:/THE·13·1709:**

Individual style of letters, each letter impressed individually; T with curved top bar, 7 an inverted L. Round stops; ‘&’ placed sideways. Inscription on lower half of slab; narrow raised edge to whole slab and across the middle above the inscription.

29. 1717, FRANCES PORTER *née* COLEPEPYR *formerly* ALCRON, and MARY ALCRON, chancel south side; 58 x 180.5cm.

**Here Lyeth the Body/of FRANCES Wife of/THOMAS·PORTER/
Gent and Daughter of S^r WILLIAM/COLEPEPYR·BAR^{NT}·/
of Aylsford in/KENT/Who Died October/the·18·1717/Aged·79/
And/MARY·ALCRON/Her Daughter/By a Former/Husband**

5cm upper case and 3cm lower case letters. No edge or border. At the top is a rondel, 48cm across, with a wide strapwork border containing the Colpepyr (Culpeper) arms: argent, a bend engrailed gules, baronet’s badge of a hand.

A well proportioned slab with fine casting of letters and arms. Centred lines with well-placed words. Use of lower case.

Frances Colepepyr had previously married John Alcorne in 1667

³⁷ Wace, *The Story of Wadhurst*, 46.

³⁸ Hodgkinson, J. S., 2019, ‘A duplicate iron graveslab’, *Wealden Iron*, 2nd ser., **39**, 22-4.

30. 1747, I. L. (JUDITH LEGAS *née* SAUNDERS *later* BUTTINGSHAW), nave, west crossing; 91.3 x 197.5cm.

17 47/ I L

11cm *inlaid brass* numerals, 17 to top left, 47 to top right; 15.5cm *inlaid brass* letters; I with central knob. Large plain borderless slab.

Judith Legas was the wife of John Legas who worked the Gloucester Furnace. A marble monument on the west wall gives a detailed location of the slab and records that John "...by his Industry and Diligence in the Iron Works of this County Acquired a Handsome Fortune..."; John aspired to assume arms and the title Gentleman, although only his wife's (Saunders) arms were included on the marble monument.

31. 1771, JOHN WELLS LUCK and ANN LUCK *née* ALLEN, south porch; 91.5 x 185cm.

I W LUCK/1771/A LUCK/1768

6.5cm letters on a plain borderless slab. A stone memorial tablet on the west wall of the porch gives further details and states that the bodies lie "under the iron plate". A tablet on the east wall records their grandson John, 1793, and his sons John, 1805, and George, 1807, all "Interr'd beneath the Iron plate"; the adjacent marble tablet incorporating two Harmer terracottas is to George's daughter, 1817, and wife, 1836.

A fireback of 1776 at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, bears lettering in the same style as on this graveslab.³⁹

32. Date obscured, JOHN KEMP, *churchyard*, north-west of tower; 41cm wide, 2.5cm thick. Upright headslab with semi-circular head having a 0.5cm rim.

X X/HEARE-LY/Y.BODY.OF IO/KEMP.SON.of HENRY.∞ .ELI/DEPARTEd A/...

Lower part of slab buried. *Incised* thin uneven letters up to 3cm. I with cross bar.

33. 1799, ELIZABETH PLAYSTEAD, *churchyard*, c.4 metres south of chancel; 64 x 151 x 2.3cm. Altar tomb, sandstone with iron slab.

**Under this Plate/lie the Remains/of ELIZABETH PLAYSTED/
Spinster/Daughter of/SAM & MARY PLAYSTED of thes Parish/
She died the 16th April 1799/Aged 62**

Very even Roman letters in centred lines; large caps 5cm, small caps 3.5cm, lower case 2.5cm.

WITHYHAM TQ/4935

Withyham church was destroyed by fire in 1663 when many monuments were lost; presumably it was at this time that three slabs, (Nos. 2, 3 and 4), found their way out of the church.

1. 1582/3, RICHARD GRAYE, chancel, under south stalls; 54cm wide.

Only the lower 17cm of the slab, which has a 1.6cm high rim, is exposed. The choir stalls are shaped to fit over it. The inscription is hidden but is recorded by R. W. Sackville-West in his *Historical Notices of the parish of Withyham* of 1857. Richard Graye was parson from 1576 to 1582.

Sutton states that 'replicas of the tomb' existed at Wolvesey Palace, Winchester, and '80 years ago' (i.e. in the 1820s) at Sompting.⁴⁰ The latter, a fireback, has now been donated to Withyham church, and its inscription reads,

**ANNO·DOMINI·1582/THE·27·DAY·OF·/FEBRVARYE·DYED·/
RICHARDE·GRAYE/PARSON·OF·/WYTHIHAM·**

The same width, depth and form of rim as the Graye graveslab are also found on a slab of 1585 now in the Anne of Cleves Museum at Lewes to Robert Bakar of Withyham. (No.2).

³⁹ Hodgkinson, *British Cast-Iron Firebacks*, 45.

⁴⁰ Sutton, C. N., 1902, *Historical Notes of Withyham, Hartfield and Ashdown Forest* (Tunbridge Wells, A. K. Baldwin), 55.

2. 1585, ROBERT BAKAR, Anne of Cleves Museum, Lewes (1944.24.041); broken slab, 54cm wide, lower part broken (70cm remains).

**ROBART·BAKAR·/OF·WYTHIHAM·/YOVMAN·WHOSE·/
BODY·LYETH·.../HEARE·BVRIED/DEPARTED·THIS·/
LIFE·THE·6·OF·/IVNE·AN·DO·1585**

3.5cm letters; three stops after 'lyeth'; stops at the end of lines. This slab was found in use as an ash plate at a bakery in Sevenoaks High Street; it was purchased by J. H. Every, the Lewes iron founder, in 1918 and bequeathed to the Sussex Archaeological Society on his death. Its left hand side is distorted by heat damage leaving the inscription indistinct.

The Baker family were landholders in Withyham in the reign of Henry VII. Robert, who was executor of Richard Graye's (no. 1) will, held Hamsell Furnace (TQ/5334). In the next century the Bakers were prosperous ironmasters at Mayfield.

3. 1593/4, LEWES JONES, Anne of Cleves House, Lewes (LH000.925); broken slab, 53.5cm wide, lower part broken (32cm remains).

**HEARE LYES LEWES JONES / LATE SERVANT TO THE /
RIGHT HONORABLE LORD / BUCKHURST AND HIS / [?]WYFE ...**

Raised block with upper case inscription of which only eight lines survive and barely five are partially legible. Moulded rim.

Lewes Jones of Withyham, yeoman, made his will on 7 February 1593/4 and it was proved on 21 March (TNA PROB 11/83/258). In it he makes specific reference to Robert Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, and to Lady Buckhurst.

4. 1610, WILLIAM ALFREY, inside loose against west wall; 39 x 121, uneven thickness of 1.6-3.2cm.

**HEARE·LIET/H·WIIIIYAM·A/LFREY·LATE·/OF·WYTHIH/
AM·YEOMAN·/WHICH·ENDE/D·HIS·LIFE/THE·15·DAY/
OF·IVNE·AN/NO·DO1610·**

3cm letters; very large diamond stops, they are also used at the beginning of lines before new words. A with 'v' cross bar; I with prominent central knob. Inscription on a raised block 34 x 34cm.

This slab was for long resting against the outside east wall of the church. It was there in 1902 and has subsequently been brought inside. Outside in the churchyard are a number of stone tombs with raised letters in recessed bands - as on the Wadhurst slabs - e.g. to Richard Maynard of Cozleigh (1612) east of the chancel on a low altar tomb.

WEST SUSSEX

It may be significant that the only churches in West Sussex where there are iron graveslabs are in parishes formerly in East Sussex.

EAST GRINSTEAD TQ/3938

1. 1570, ANNE BARCLEY, nave, in front of rood screen; 149 x 59.5cm.

**HERE·LYETH·ANNE·BARCLEY·SOMETYME·/
WIFE·VNTO·HENRY·BARCLEY·DOCTOR·OF/
LAWE·DECEASED·THE·12·OF·MAY·1570·**

5cm letters; each letter pressed individually into the sand casting bed; some letters joined, as H and E, T and H, and N and E.

The earliest dated slab. The inscription is on the long axis in three lines separated by thin diagonal lines. Plain borderless edges.

Anne was the first wife of Henry Barcley who was later M.P. for East Grinstead. In 1875 the slab was found upside down in use as the scullery step in the adjacent Vicarage. It was returned to the church in 1881. The church had been destroyed by the collapse of the tower in 1785 and later rebuilt.

2. 1616, FRANCES HASELDEN *née* COVERT, nave south, in front of lectern; 134.5 x 46cm.

**HERE·LYETH·BVRYED·FRANCIS·HASELDEN·LATE·WYFE/
VNTO·IOHN·HASELDEN·OF·HALY·DAFTER·VNTO·HVMFRY/
[C]OVERT·ESQVYRE·WHO·DYED·AVGVST·26·ANNO·16[16]**

4cm letters. Many linked letters as A and V, H and A. A plain borderless slab with inscription along the main axis.

The slab was returned to the church after the adjacent Vicarage was burnt down in 1908. Having been used as a hearthstone there it shows severe heat damage. The lower corners have been cut off to make the slab fit a fireplace. The missing inscription and date have been cut into the surrounding pavement, ascertained from parish records. Haly is Hurley, 3.5km southwest of the church (TQ/3636).

3. 1714, THOMAS WICKERSHAM, mural, west wall of north aisle; 53.5 x 15.5cm 1.8cm thick at top and 2.2cm at base.

**HERE LYETH THE BODY/OF THOMAS WICKERSHAM/
WHO DIED MAY THE 15/15 AGED 75 YEARS/
A DOMINE 1713**

Thin *incised* letters with serifs, 3-3.5cm high. Plain borderless slab. The slab was unearthed from the churchyard in November 1931, and brought inside. Thomas was churchwarden 1683-86 and was buried 15 May 1714, according to parish records.

WEST HOATHLY TQ/3632

There are four slabs in the church. Hussey stated that the two Richard Infeld slabs were used as stepping stones to the tower.⁴¹ In July 1907 the two slabs above were removed from the west and south doorways of the church 'for their preservation', suggesting that they may have been brought in from the churchyard; the design of the slabs, with longitudinal inscriptions, suggests they might have been intended for placing on altar tombs. In 1940, *Victoria County History, Sussex, 9*, mentions three slabs affixed to the wall in the vestry.

1. 1619, RICHARD INFELD, *mural* south wall; 153.5cm wide x 57cm, uneven thickness with corner measurements of 3.2 and 3.0cm top, 4.1 and 2.7cm bottom.

•HERE·LYETH·BVRED/

⁴¹ Hussey, *Notes on the Churches...*, 239.

**THE·BODIE·OF·RICHARD·INFELD·GENTLEMAN·WHO·DEPAR/
TED·HIS·LIFE·THE·/
·11·DAY·OF·SEPTEMBER·ANO·DOM·1619·AGED·51·YEERES**

3.8cm letters; T and H linked; diamond stops. The inscription is on a raised 5.8cm fillet around the edge; the only slab in the country with a marginal inscription. The sand bed on which it was cast was not level, hence the differing thickness.

2. 1624/5, RICHARD INFELD, *mural*, south wall: 151 x 56.5cm, uneven thickness with corner measurements of 3.0 and 2.5cm top, 3.0 and 3.7cm bottom.

**HERE·LYETH·THE·BODY·OF·RICHARD·INFELD·GENT/
WHO·DEPARTED·HIS·LIFE·THE·11·OF·MARCH/
ANO·DO·1624**

4cm letters; A with top bar; diamond stops. The slab has some blister holes, one 12cm across. There is a trefoil decoration at the end of the first line and some scrollwork at the end of the second. The inscription is along the long axis on three raised fillets having moulded sides. There is a raised border with ovolo moulding.

Richard was the son of Richard (d.1619, No.1) and died aged 25. He held the furnace at Mill Place as had his father. He married Katherine, one of the 12 children of Sir Edward Culpepper of Wakehurst in Ardingly, the next parish. She died in 1623 and was buried under stone at West Hoathly.

3. 1635, AGNES FAULCONER *née* INFELD, chancel, loose against north wall; 75 x 143 x 2.8cm.

**AGNES ELDEST DAUGHTER/TO RICHARD INFELD OF/
GRAVETYE GENT BY KATHARIN/
COMPTON & WIFE TO HENRY/FAVLCONER ESQ^R: AGED 39/YEARES AND 6 MONTHES/
BVRYED SEPTEMB^R: 22TH 1635**

Plain borderless slab with inscribed inscription on *brass plate* 42 x 29cm. 1.8cm Roman capitals with upward curving serifs. The lettering is the same on the inscription plates below the effigial monumental brasses at Ardingly to Elizabeth Culpepper (1633), and her 7-year-old grand-daughter Elizabeth (1634).

Agnes was the sister of Richard Infield (d.1624, No.2) who married Katherine Culpepper, the daughter of Elizabeth (d.1633) who is buried at Ardingly.

4. c.1714, date and name indecipherable, chancel, north of altar; 53 x 151cm.

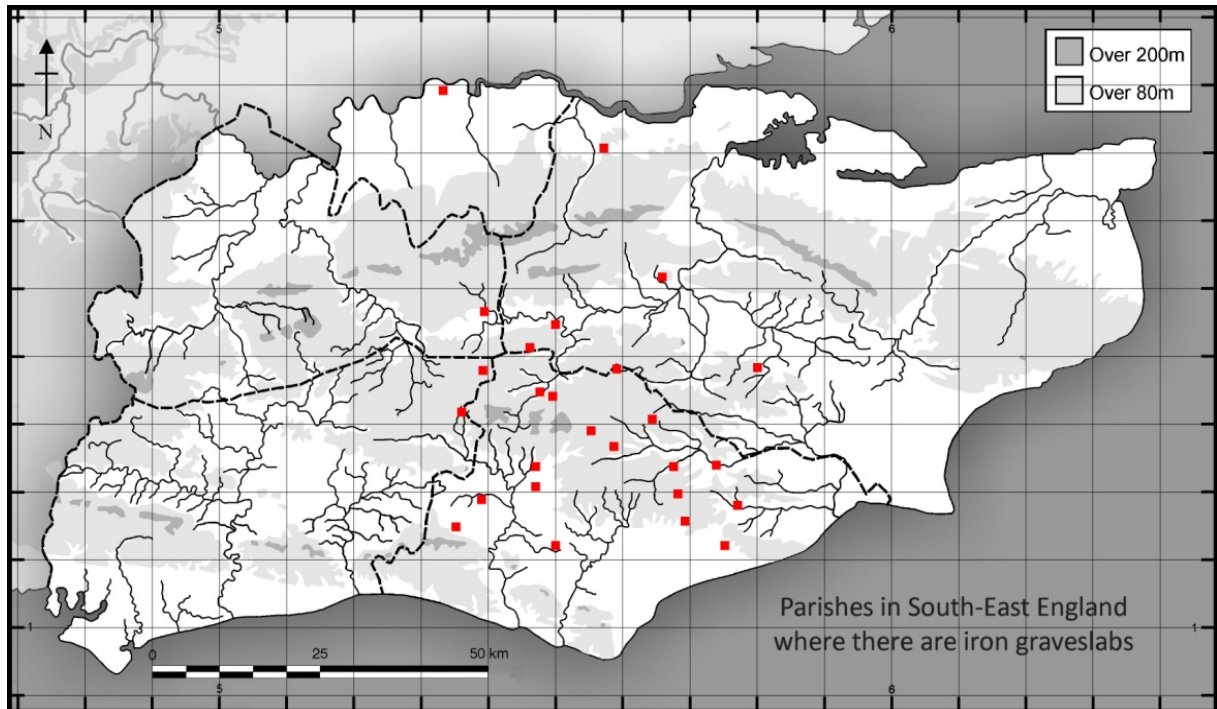
A plain borderless slab. Indecipherable *incised* inscription. It is comparable with the incised slabs at Hartfield (1702) and East Grinstead, (1714, No.3).

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF WEALDEN GRAVESLABS

- n.d. William Bonsor, East Peckham, Kent
- n.d. ? May, Ticehurst, Sussex
- n.d. John Kemp, Wadhurst, Sussex
- c.1537 John Collins, Burwash, Sussex
- 1570 Anne Barclay, East Grinstead, Sussex
- 1583 Richard Graye, Withyham, Sussex
- 1585 Robert Bakar, formerly at Withyham, Sussex
- 1592 Anne Forster, Crowhurst, Surrey
- 1594 Lewes Jones, Withyham, Sussex
- c.1600 ?Nicholas Fowle, Wadhurst, Sussex
- 1601 Richard Streatfeilde, Chiddingstone, Kent
- 1606 Elizabeth Fowle, Frant, Sussex
- 1610 William Alfrey, Withyham, Sussex
- 1612 Mary Fowle, Frant, Sussex
- 1616 Frances Haselsden, East Grinstead, Sussex

- 1617 ?William Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1619 Richard Infeld, West Hoathly, Sussex
 1622 John Bottinge, Cowden, Kent
 1625 Richard Infeld, West Hoathly, Sussex
 1625 John Dunmoll, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1631 Sybil Fowle, Frant, Sussex
 1634 A ?Burgis, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1635 Agnes Faulconer, West Hoathly, Sussex
 1638 Alice Bucher, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1639 Joan Bucher, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1640 John Bucher, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1644 David Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1644 Martha Browne, Horsmonden, Kent
 1647 Thomas Baker, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1648 John Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1652 Helen Dunmoll, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1653 Ann Benge, Wadhurst, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1657 John Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1658 Mary Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1661 Nicholas Saunders, Wadhurst, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1662 Mary Peckham, Salehurst, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1662 Thomas Peckham, Salehurst, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1664 Ann Holland, Wadhurst, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1664 Ann and David Holland, Wadhurst, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1665 William and Margaret Manning, Foots Cray, Kent
 1666 Mary Smith, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1666 John Houghton, Mayfield, Sussex
 1667 Robert Brooks, Maresfield, Sussex (Æ/S)
 1668 Thomas Sands, Mayfield, Sussex
 1669 John Baker, Mayfield, Sussex
 1669 William, Elizabeth and Sarah Bisshop, Sedlescombe, Sussex
 1669 Thomas Houghton, Mayfield, Sussex
 1670 Walsingham Houghton, Mayfield, Sussex
 1671 John Baker, Mayfield, Sussex
 1673 Edward Chandler, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1674 Nicholas Donmoolle, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1675 John Saunders, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1675 Ann Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1677 Ann Saunders, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1678 John Braban, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1678 John Atwells, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1678 John Edwards, Mayfield, Sussex
 1679 William Peckham, Salehurst, Sussex
 1688 Dorothy Alcherne, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1688 John Baker, formerly at Mayfield, Sussex
 1689 Mary Peckham, Salehurst, Sussex
 1689 Lucy Benge, Laughton, Sussex
 1691 Ann Benge, Laughton, Sussex
 1701 William Barham, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1702 John Mills, Hartfield, Sussex
 1703 Peter Gower, Penhurst, Sussex
 1707 Thomas Western, Rivenhall, Essex
 1707 Gabriel Egles, Uckfield, Sussex
 1709 Thomas Sands, Mayfield, Sussex
 1710 Mary and Elizabeth Luck, Wadhurst, Sussex

- 1712 Lucy Stevens, Salehurst, Sussex
 1713 Silvester Peckham, Salehurst, Sussex
 1714 Eleanor Peckham, Salehurst, Sussex
 1714 Thomas Wickersham, East Grinstead, Sussex
 1715 Thomas Baset, Chiddingstone, Kent
 1715 Ann Baset, Chiddingstone, Kent
 1717 Frances Porter and Mary Alcron, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1718 William and Elizabeth Mercer, Bermondsey, Surrey
 1726 Richard Still, Cowden, Kent
 1730 Mary Still, Cowden, Kent
 1732 Sarah Saunders, Streat, Sussex
 1744 Nicholas Russel, Brightling, Sussex
 1747 Judith Legas, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1752? Elizabeth Piper, Brightling, Sussex
 1754 Martha, Thomas, Robert and Elizabeth Gott, Streat, Sussex
 1762 Richard Porter, Chailey, Sussex
 1771 John Wells Luck and Ann Luck, Wadhurst, Sussex
 1799 Elizabeth Playstead, Wadhurst, Sussex



EARLY IRON GRAVESLABS OUTSIDE THE WEALD

HEREFORDSHIRE

BRILLEY SO/2059

1. 1669/70, GUILBERT and MARGARET HARE, mural, west end of nave, 75 x 189cm.

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF GVIL/BERT HARE/WHO DECEASED/
THE 13TH DAY OF/FEBRVARY ANŌ/DOMI 1669 / /
HERE LIETH ALSO/THE BODY OF MAR/GARET HARE DAV/
GHTER OF GVILBER^T/HARE WHO DECEA/SED THE 22TH OF/MARCH 1669**

Upper-case, left justified inscriptions above and below arms of Hare (gules, two bars and a chief indented or), on a rectangular block also seen on the slab of Maria Hare at Burrington (no. 3), with a moulded border. TH ligature. The slab has split and is displayed with the two parts next to each other.⁴²

BURRINGTON SO/4472

1. 1619/20, ROBERT STEWARD, churchyard, 74 x 166cm

HEERE LIETH RO/BERT STEWARD/WHOE DECESED/THE 17 OF IANVARY/1619/ETATIS SVÆ 52

Plain borderless slab. Arms and year on a raised rectangular block, with centred, upper-case inscription on separate, raised linear blocks.

2. 1658/9, JOYCE WALKER, churchyard, 78 x 181.5cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF M^{rs} JOYCE/WALKER WHO DE/CEASED THE 6TH DAY/OF MARCH ANO
DN/ 1658**

Upper-case inscription at top end of slab, within a scalloped fillet border.

3. 1674, MARIA HARE, churchyard, 69 x 132cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF MARIA/HARE WHO DECE^A/SED THE FIRST/DAY OF IVNE/ANO
DOMI/1674**

Upper case, left justified, sans serif lettering in top half of slab within a moulded border. Armorial of Hare in lower half. The form of the plate is very similar to that of the Hare family at Brilley and the armorial has been cast from the same stamp.

4. 1676, WILLIAM WALKER, churchyard, 74 x 189cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF WILLI/AM WALKER/GENT WHO DE/CEASED THE 19TH/DAY OF
SEPTEM/BER ANNO DOM/1676**

Upper case, left justified, sans serif lettering in top half of slab within a moulded border. Armorial of Walker (gules, a cross ragulée between four lions' head erased argent crowned or; granted 1660) on an irregular octagonal block.

5. 1678, JANE HARE *née* WALKER, churchyard, 74 x 188cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF IANE/HARE WHO/DECEASED THE/31TH DAY OF/IVLY
ANNO/DOM-1678**

Upper case, left justified, sans serif lettering in top half of slab within a moulded border. Arms of Walker. Jane Hare was the daughter of William Walker (see No. 4 above) and wife of Guilbert Hare (see Brilley).

⁴² Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and Wales, 1934, *Inventory of Herefordshire, III, North West* (HMSO), 23 and pl. 67, where the fragments are described as two separate slabs.

6. 1705, JANE and BARBARA KNIGHT, churchyard, 67 x 120cm

**HERE LYE IA/NE & BARBARA/DAUGHTERS/OF RICHARD &/ELIZABETH/KNIGHT IANE/DIED IAN
11TH/1701 AGED 1 M^O/BAR DIED NO/10 1705 AGED**

Upper case, left justified, sans serif lettering within a moulded border. Above the text are two shields, each bearing three molets superimposed by a child's head.

7. 1745/6, RICHARD KNIGHT, churchyard, 92 x 211cm

RICHARD KNIGHT/ESQVIRE DYED FEB^Y 3^D/MDCCXLV AGED LXXXVI

Border of counterposed undulating lines between double fillets. Arms of Knight (argent, three palets gules within a bordure engrailed azure, on a canton of the second a spur or) on an oval border, inscription within a rectangle with double fillet edging.

8. 1754/5, RALPH KNIGHT, churchyard, 102 x 212cm

RALPH KNIGHT/ESQVIRE DIED FEB^Y 27/MDCCCLV AGED L

Border of counterposed undulating lines between double fillets. Arms of Knight (see No. 7 above), inscription within a rectangle with double fillet edging.

Slabs laid down inside church but now in churchyard; the chancel was rebuilt and diminished in the 19th century leaving the slabs unmoved outside. All are likely to have been cast at Bringewood Forge, which was operated by the Walker family from 1584 until about 1698, and then by the Knight family.

SHROPSHIRE

BRIDGNORTH, St. Leonard's SO/7193

1. 1692, THOMAS and MARY SHEPPERD, ROBERT, MARTHA and MARY SHEPPERD, south aisle, 92 x 275cm.

**HEARE LIETH/THE BODY OF/THOMAS SHEP/PERD GENT WHO/DEPARTED THIS/LIFE AVGVST
19/1679/HEARE ALSO LY/ETH NEARE TH/IS PLACE THE/BODYES OF ROBA/RT MARTHA
AND/MARY SONE AND/DAVGHTARES OF/THE SAID THO/SHEPPERD/HEARE ALSO LY/ETH THE
BODY OF/MARY HIS WIFE/WHO DEPARTED/THIS LIFE IVLY/THE 19 DAY 1692**

Fillet edging. Evenly spaced justified upper case letters. The largest slab in the country.

2. 1701, CORNELIUS ACTON and THOMAS ACTON, south aisle, 86 x 202cm.

**IN EXPECTATION // OF THE SECOND COMING/OF OVR SAVIOVR IESUS∞/CHRIST HERE
LYETH∞/THE BODY OF: MR: CORNE∞/LVS ACTON LATE APO∞/THECARY IN THIS TO∞/WN
WHO DEPARTED TH/IS LIFE APIL THE:9:1701/IN THE:40: YEARE OF HIS/AGE: ∞: HERE ALSO
LYETH/THE BODY OF THOMAS HIS/SVN HEE DEPARTED IAN/VARY THE :15: 1695: IN/THE 2
YEARE OF HIS AGE**

Plain fillet edging. Centrally, beneath the inscription is a plain square plate fixed to the graveslab; to each side of the square plate is an arched stamp, the right one of which bears a branched design; a further arched stamp lies below the square.

3. 1701, DOROTHY STEDMAN, south aisle, 76 x 172cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF DORO-/THY THE WIF;E/OF THOMAS */
STEDMAN. WHO/DYED THE:X: OF/IVNE: M.DCCI. */AGED: LXX:III.**

Rope edging. Left-justified upper-case letters. At the bottom of the plate a skull and crossed bones in relief.

4. 1707/8, THOMAS STEDMAN, south aisle, 72 x 170cm.

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF THOMAS/STEDMAN GENT:/LATE OF BRIDGE:/NORTH WHO
DE:/PARTED THIS LIFE/FEB: 29th 1707/AGED 82 YEARS**

Overlapping scale edging. Evenly spaced upper case letters, with the same characters as in no. 1. At the centre of the bottom half of the plate, a shield with the arms of Stedman (argent, a chevron gules between three boars heads coupé sable).

CLUNGUNFORD SO/3978⁴³

1. 1663/4, FRANCIS WALKER, churchyard, by chancel wall, 75 x 189cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF FRAN/CIS WALKER-/WHO DECEASED/THE 9TH DAY OF/IANVARY
AN^O/DOM 1663**

Armorial of Walker from the same stamp as at Burrington (no. 4).

DIDDLEBURY SO/5085

1. 1659, MARY BAWDEWIN, 76 x 170cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODYOF MARY THE/WIFE OF JOHN BAW/DEWIN OF MIDLEHOP/GEN. WHO
DYED NOV/EMBER 1659**

Armorial of 11 quarterings with elaborate mantling. Description based on a drawing in the Shropshire Archives. Recorded by William Mytton in the 18th century as within the communion rails, this slab is no longer in the church and could not be located in the churchyard; the text of the inscription is taken from a published transcription by Vaughan.⁴⁴

DITTON PRIORS SO/6089

1. 1707, ANN and THOMAS HASSALL, choir, partially under stalls, 85 x 164.5cm

**HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF ANN.../HASSALL WIFE TO/THO: HASSALL DEPAR:/TED MAY THE
13:/1688/HERE LYETH THE/BODY OF THO: .../HASSALL DEPARTED/MAY THE 31:.../1707**

Plain, borderless slab with regularly spaced capital letters. The characters for the years are larger than the others.

HOPTON CASTLE SO/3678

1. 1686, RICHARD PEAKE, churchyard, by chancel wall, 68 x 81cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF RICHARD/PEAKE BEING MIN/ISTER OF THIS PL/ACE 33 YEARES/WHO
DECEASED/THE 29TH DAY OF/IVLY ANO1686**

Small slab with moulded border. Fully justified, unspaced capital letters. Date has a 'TH' ligature. Church totally rebuilt late 19th century.

LEIGHTON SJ/6105

1. 1677, [inscription panels removed], nave, 122 x 76cm (width greater than height).

⁴³ Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury, X7381/61/324A, 18th century drawing by William Mytton of a monumental inscription and coat of arms of Francis Walker (d. 1664) on a cast iron slab at Clungunford.

⁴⁴ Vaughan, H. F. J., 1886, 'Diddlebury', *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, 9, 291; Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury, X7381/74/382D, 18th century drawing by William Mytton (with measurements) of iron grave slab with coat of arms and monumental inscription of Mary Bawdewin (d. 1659), wife of John Bawdewin (etc.). http://search.shropshirehistory.org.uk/collections/getrecord/CCA_X7381_74_382D/.

1677

Centred date between void recesses for missing brass? inscription plates, the left recess larger than the right. Moulded edging. H. M. Auden concluded that the slab commemorated Jane and Thomas Gaynam (bur. 30 Jun 1677 and 11 Feb 1677/8 respectively), both of Eaton Constantine.⁴⁵

At least three post-Industrial Revolution iron graveslabs lie in the churchyard.

2. 1696, WILLIAM BROWNE, nave, 64.5 x 151cm.

**HERE LYETH/THE BODY OF/WILLIAM BRO/WNE WHOE D/EPARTED THIS/LIFE THE EITH/DAY OF
AVGVST/1696**

Upper case, left-justified lettering with centred date; 'I's and 'l's crossed. Moulded edging. Raised fillets between each line of lettering. William was the son of 'Sammiwell and Kathren Broune', and was buried on 10 Aug 1696.⁴⁶

LITTLE WENLOCK SJ/6406

1. 1611, R. B. F., floor of old chancel (now Lady Chapel); 45 x 85cm.

1611/R^BF // 1611/R^BF

Upper case, sans-serif lettering. The inscription is mirrored at each end of this small slab, which perhaps is for a child or twins. In each instance the date is above the initials, which are in triad, the 'B' being smaller than the 'R' and 'F'.⁴⁷ The earliest slab outside the Weald.

ONIBURY SO/4579

1. 1666/7, RICHARD WALKER, chancel, 74 x 188cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF RICH/ARD WALKER ·/WHO DECEASED/THE 16TH DAY OF/IANVARY
ANO/DOMI 1666**

Armorial of Walker (as at Burrington No. 4)

2. 1673, MARY WALKER, chancel, 74.5 x 189cm

**HERE LIETH THE/BODY OF MARY/THE WIFE · OF/RICHARD WAL/KER WHO DECEA/SED THE
11TH DAY/OF IVNE ANO/DOMNI 1673**

Armorial of Walker (as at Burrington No. 4)

The Herefordshire slabs and those from Clungunford, Hopton Castle and Onibury all emanate from Bringewood Forge on the River Teme 7km west of Ludlow; they are linked stylistically (notably by the use of a TH ligature) and by family connection.

STAFFORDSHIRE**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME St Giles SJ/8446**

1. 1614, JOHN SMITH, churchyard, c.180 x c.60cm

**HERE LYE/ETH THE BO/DYE OF IOHN/SMITH SEC/OND SONNE/OF IOHN SM/ITH ALDER/MAN
WHO/DYED AN^O/DNĪ 1614/ÆTATIS/SVE XX**

⁴⁵ Fletcher, W. G. D., 1921, *Shropshire Parish Registers, Diocese of Lichfield Vol. XIV* (Shropshire Parish Register Society), xi, 9.

⁴⁶ op. cit, 20.

⁴⁷ ex inf. P. & S. Crew.

Raised fillet edging all round. Left justified Roman capitals. The text occupies only the upper half of the slab. John Smith was baptised in November 1592 and was buried in July 1614, so the age given on the slab is incorrect. John Smith's father owned the nearby furnace and forge at Knutton, where it is probable the slab was cast. The slab originally lay in the church but was removed to the churchyard when the church was rebuilt in the 1720s. In 1874 it was sold for scrap, but restored to the churchyard in 1911.⁴⁸

WORCESTERSHIRE

HIMBLETON SO/9458

1. 1709, PHILIP and JOAN FINCHER, and JOHN and ELISABETH FINCHER, Shell Chapel (south transept), east wall.

In memory of mr/Philip ffincher who/was here Interred/lune: 3: 1660: aged 38 // And of Ioan his/wife who was here/Interred luly y^e 7/1690 Aged 70: // And of John Fincher/their eldest Son who/was here Interred/march the 4th 1705/And of Elisabeth Fincher/his Wife Who Was here/Interred October/31st 1709

Incised inscription, upper and lower case letters. The Finchers lived at Shell Manor.⁴⁹

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

DARTON SE/3009⁵⁰

1. 1703, WILLIAM COTTON, choir, 55.5 x 65cm⁵¹

Here Lyeth the Body of/William Cotton of Haigh/Gent; Who married to his/second Wife Anna y^e Daugh^r/of George Westby of Ravens/field Esq;^{re} by whom he had/Issue 9 Sonns & 6 Daughters/He dyed upon the 6th day/of May Anno Dom. 1703/in the 55th Year of his Age

Flush upper and lower case justified lettering within a recessed rectangular plate, with a squared arch (19 x 11cm) at the top enclosing an armorial of Cotton impaling Westby, all within a broad fillet.

William Cotton, in partnership with Denis Heyford, was owner of ironworks in Yorkshire, Denbighshire and Cheshire.

2. 1713, SARAH, JANE *née* MILNER and GERTRUDE BEAUMONT *née* BAGSHAW, north aisle Lady Chapel, concealed beneath raised wooden flooring, 76 x 198cm

Sarah the wife of George Beaumont was buried here Oct. 15th, 1646. Jane the wife of Mr William Beaumont and/Daughter of Mr W^m/Milner of Burton Ab /by in the same Grave/May^y 29 1713 in y^e 69/Year of her Age/Gertrude y^e wife of/Mr Geo Beaumont/jun and Daughter of/Jno Bagshaw of Great/Hucklow Esquire in Derbyshire at their feet Sept 1713

Centred upper and lower case letters in relief.

3. 1713, GEORGE BEAUMONT, GEORGE and WILLIAM BEAUMONT, north aisle Lady Chapel, concealed beneath raised wooden flooring, 76 x 198cm

George Beaumont of Darton G^t was buried here April 29, 1664. His grandson George/Beaumont of Cha /pel thorp Gt: in the same/Grave lune 4th, 1712, in y^e 49th y^r of his Age/W^m Beaumont of Darton G^t Son of y^e/former and Father of/y^e later G B was buri/ed at their Feet Dec^r/ye 18 1713 in the 76th/year of his Age

⁴⁸ Pape, T., 1938, *Newcastle-under-Lyme in Tudor and Early Stuart Times* (Manchester University Press), 120-1.

⁴⁹ Noake, J. 1868, *Noake's Guide to Worcestershire* (London, Longman), 200.

⁵⁰ ex. inf. E. Beaumont.

⁵¹ ex. inf. Fr. J. MacGillivray.

Centred upper and lower case letters in relief.

Both of the Beaumont slabs in Darton may have been commissioned by Thomas Beaumont, the brother of William, the last to be buried. There were financial connections between the Beaumonts and some of the iron-making business in south Yorkshire of the period. Although the inscriptions on the Beaumont slabs were recorded by R. H. Beaumont in 1805, and photographs exist from when the floorboards were raised, information about the exact details and spacing of parts of the inscriptions is not available.

WEST YORKSHIRE

SANDAL MAGNA SE/3418

1. 1695, WILLIAM and JOHN BEAUMONT, mural, south aisle, 83 x 176cm
In Memory of/WILLIAM BEAUMONT/who departed this life Sep 28:/1695 /also of/IOHN BEAUMONT/who departed July the 26:/1695./Sons of/M^r GEORGE BEAUMONT /of Chapelthorp/who lies Interred/in the North Isle of/DARTON CHURCH.

Centred upper and lower case lettering in relief below shield, crest and motto of Beaumont between floral sprays and swags all suspended by ribbons. A repeated elliptical pattern all round between parallel beaded borders.

2. 1710, SARAH, FRANCES and ANN BEAUMONT, mural, south aisle, 83 x 176cm
Here lies the Body of/SARAH BEAUMONT/who departed this life July 14th/1695 /also the Body of/FRANCES BEAUMONT/who departed January 31th/1705 /also the Body of/ANN BEAUMONT/who departed August 14th/1710 /Daughters of/M^r GEORGE BEAUMONT/of Chapelthorp.

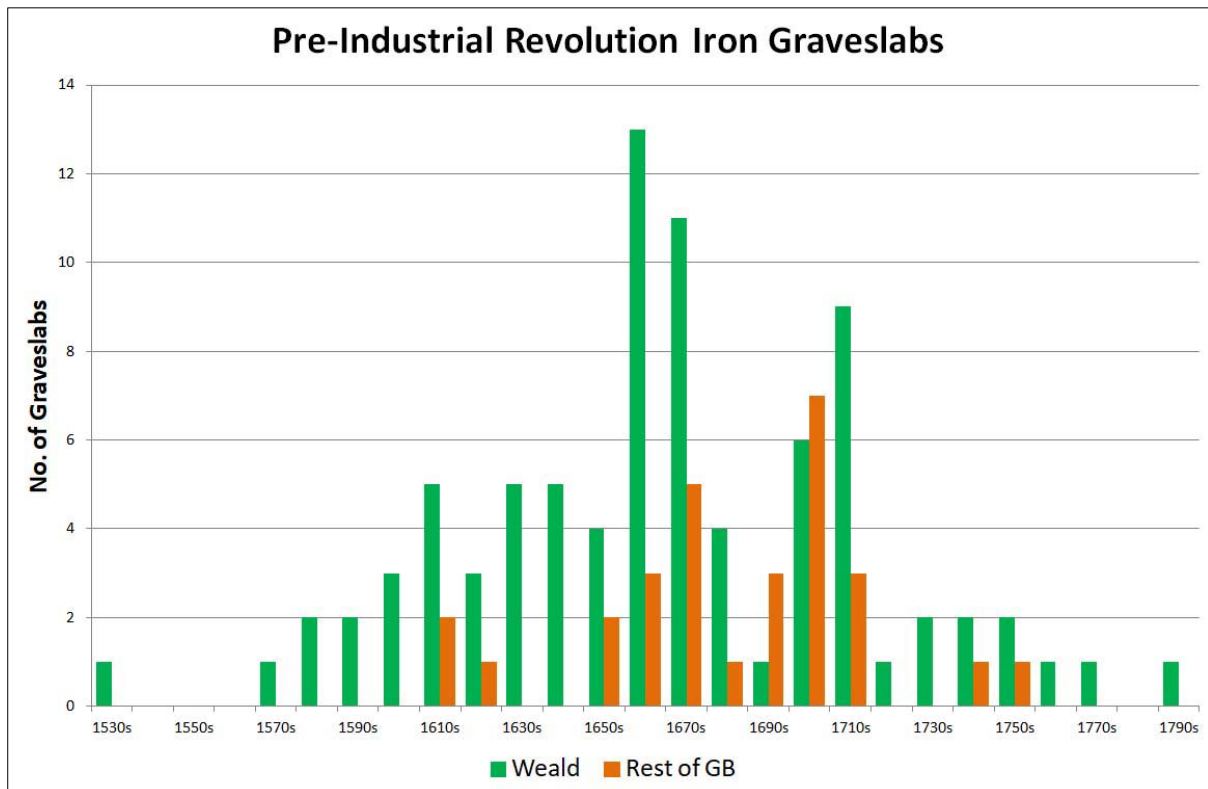
Design identical to no. 1.

Both of these graveslabs were probably cast sometime after 1717, and may have been commissioned by George Beaumont, of Chapelthorp, brother of those commemorated on these two plates.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF NON-WEALDEN GRAVESLABS

- 1611 RBF, Little Wenlock, Shropshire
 1614 John Smith, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire
 1620 Robert Steward, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1659 Joyce Walker, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1659 Mary Bawdewin, Diddlebury, Shropshire
 1664 Francis Walker, Clungunford, Shropshire
 1667 Richard Walker, Onibury, Shropshire
 1669 Guilbert and Margaret Hare, Brilley, Herefordshire
 1673 Mary Walker, Onibury, Shropshire
 1674 Maria Hare, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1676 William Walker, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1677 Jane and Thomas Gaynam?, Leighton, Shropshire
 1678 Jane Hare, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1686 Richard Peake, Hopton Castle, Shropshire
 1692 Thomas, Mary, Robert, Martha and Mary Shepperd, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
 1695 William and John Beaumont, Sandal Magna, Yorkshire
 1696 William Browne, Leighton, Shropshire

- 1701 Cornelius and Thomas Acton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
 1701 Dorothy Stedman, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
 1703 William Cotton, Darton, Yorkshire
 1705 Jane and Barbara Knight, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1707 Ann and Thomas Hassall, Ditton Priors, Shropshire
 1708 Thomas Stedman, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
 1709 John, Joan, John and Elisabeth Fincher, Himbleton, Worcestershire
 1710 Sarah, Frances and Ann Beaumont, Sandal Magna, Yorkshire
 1713 Sarah, Jane and Gertrude Beaumont, Darton, Yorkshire
 1713 George, George and William Beaumont, Darton, Yorkshire
 1746 Richard Knight, Burrington, Herefordshire
 1755 Ralph Knight, Burrington, Herefordshire



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