

## The tombstone in St. Edmund's Chapel St. Mary's Church in Lenham

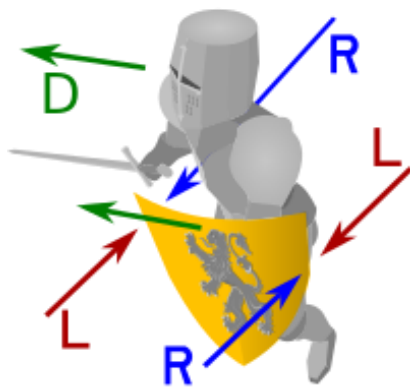
*by Henny Shotter*



One of the 'conundrums' in Lenham church is the 'altar' in St. Edmund's chapel which was originally not an altar but a chest tomb.

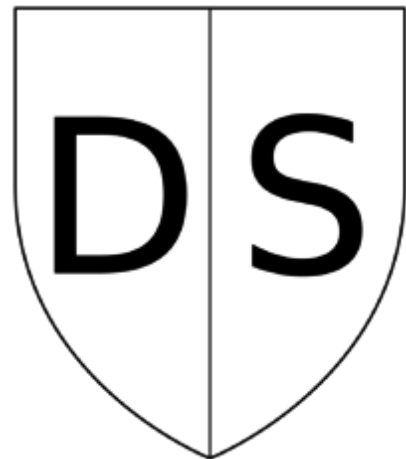
Although we don't think that our research is necessarily conclusive, we want to share the results of our investigations on the central heraldic badge.

Heraldic badges<sup>1</sup> were worn on clothing ( sometimes in combat or



tournament) and need to be viewed from the perspective of the wearer. This means that the "right side" to the onlooker is the left side to the wearer. In Latin 'right' is called 'dexter' and the left is called 'sinister'. The dexter side is the side of greater honour and is most often reserved for the male.

Based on this explanation of the makeup of a heraldic shield we can interpret the shield on the tomb.

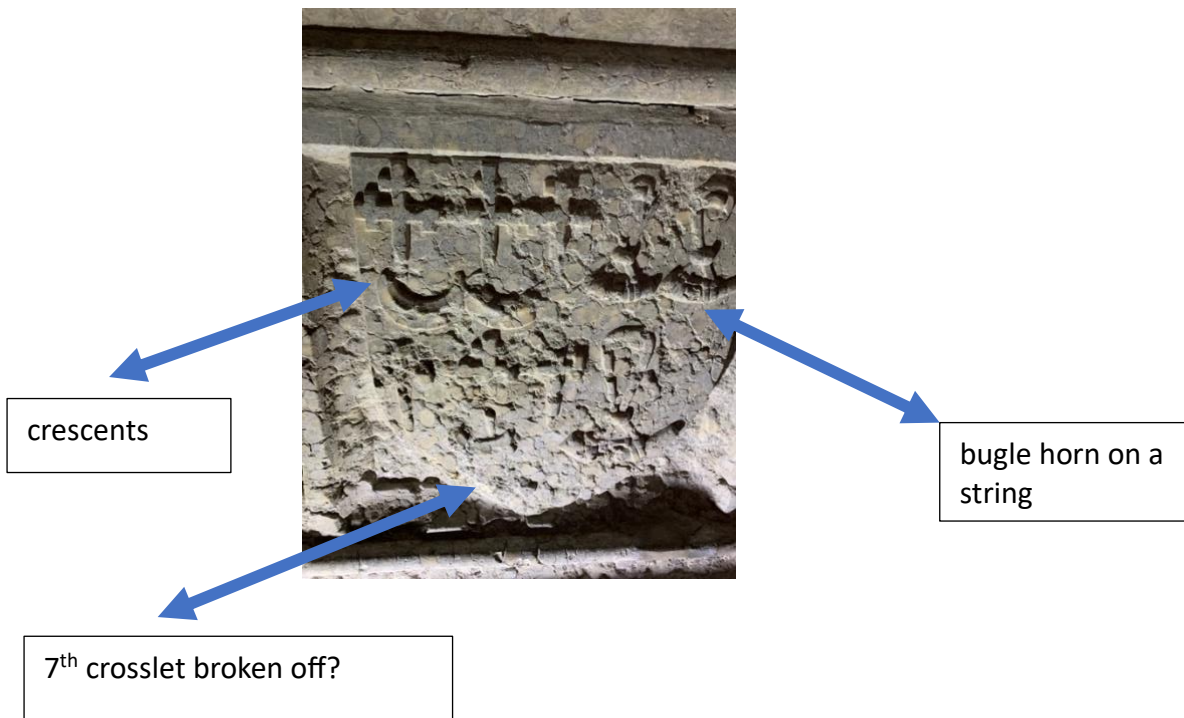


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<sup>1</sup> The information on heraldic badges and images are taken from Wikipedia.

Looking at the shield we can see on the sinister side, normally reserved for the female dynastic heritage, three bugle horns on a cord, depicting the coat of arms of the Horne Family who are known from the Manor of East Lenham.<sup>2</sup>

The dexter side shows 6 clear crosslets (and perhaps a broken-off crosslet at the point of the shield) and 3 crescents.



The dexter side of the badge was more difficult to read, but we think, we have found the answer in a book<sup>3</sup> which can be digitally accessed in the British Library. The author describes several coats of arms which were once depicted in a window in Lenham Church. There were the coat of arms of the Apuldrefield Family and the Peyforer Family<sup>4</sup> of Syndale which was at some time part of Lenham. One coat of arms is described as three crescents between seven cross-crosslets and is attributed to Simon Handlo, whose seat was also on East Lenham in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Edward III (1332). For our chest tomb which is in

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<sup>2</sup> See Hasted. The coat of arms is known from several sources but is beautifully illustrated on panel six of the Dering Roll which you can find also in Wikipedia under "Dering Roll".

<sup>3</sup> P. 29 in: Some account of the manor of Apuldrefield in the parish of Cudham, Kent. From the "Topographer and genealogist" vol. III, George Steinman Steinman, London, 1851

<sup>4</sup> The Manor of Lenham was very large and Syndale, near Faversham seems to have been part of it. The presence of these Coats of Arms in the church could be an indication that some of the manorial land was tenanted to these families.

the style of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century this means that it was erected for members of the Handlo Family who had married a female from the Horne family.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century <sup>5</sup> the Manor of East Lenham was in the hands of the Horne Family. It would be extremely unusual if a male member of the Horne family had chosen the coat of arms of another family (the Handlo) to form part of his own shield and give it the place of greater honour.

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<sup>5</sup> See: Edward Hasted ...<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol5/pp415-445>