

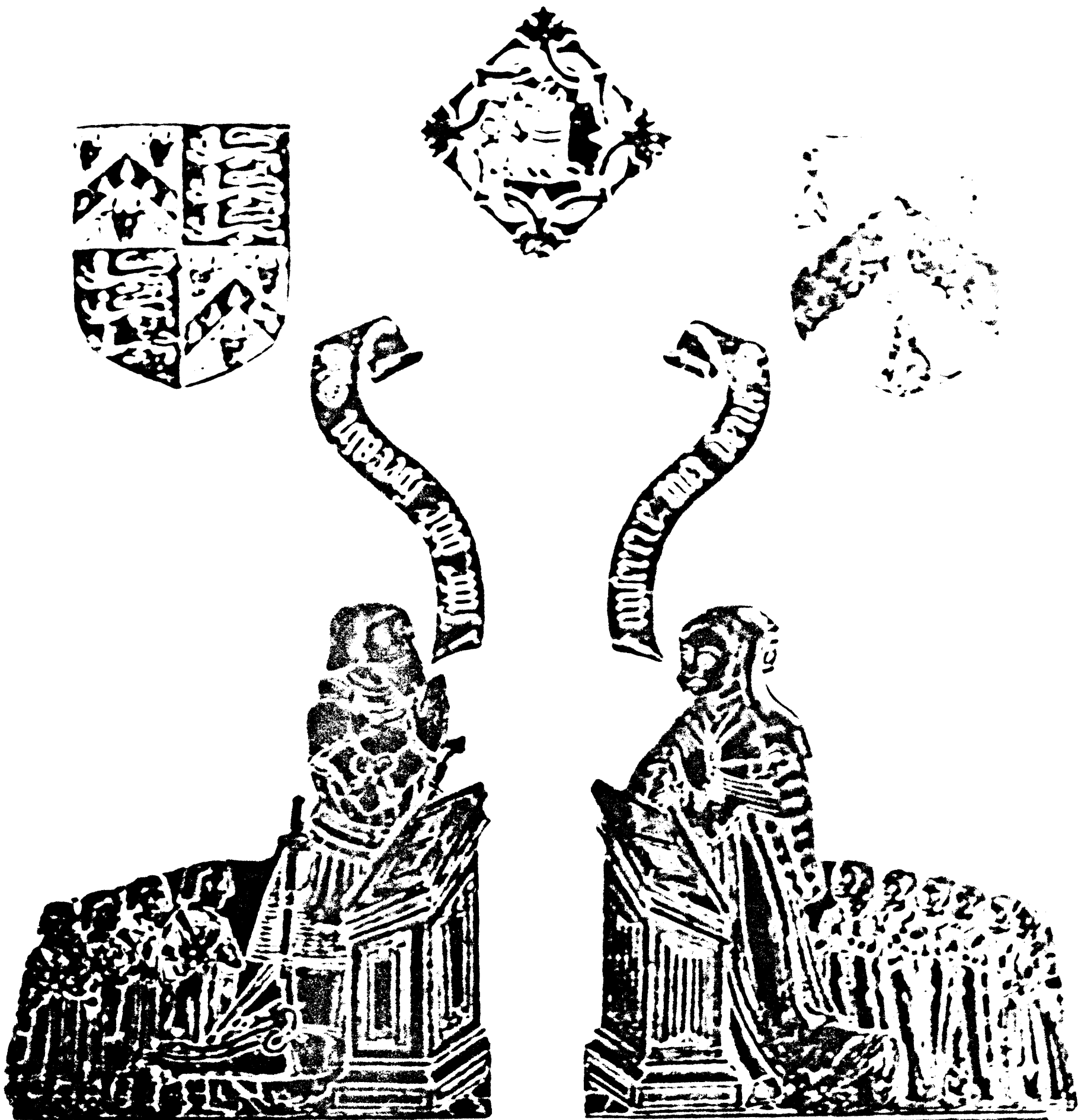
THE SANDARS CENTURIES

A brief history of the Sandars family
with sketches of some notable figures
from the family past

By

J. EDWARD SANDARS

with a chapter kindly contributed
by Elma Stonex



here is depicted Nicholas Semmer: Esquire and also his wife
 daughter of John Semmer of the County of Norfolk Esquire his
 father and mother to Thomas Semmer knight in large reward
 by name of the same. Whiche Nicholas deceased the xxij day of
 August in the first year of the reign of Edward the sixth

"Our ancestors are very good kind
of folks but they are the last
people I should choose to have
a visiting acquaintance with"

R. B. SHERIDAN

The Rivals.

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FOREWORD

It was not difficult as a child to realise at an early age that the recorded history of the family stretches back many centuries. There was the portrait of the Cromwellian Sir Thomas Sanders in the rogues gallery in the hall at home - complete with latin inscription beneath, to instil a due sense of my schoolboy's lack of expertise in that language - and of course we lived not far from the source of it all, Charlwood. However, it was not until my visits to my uncles who lived near Wellington that I became interested to know who were the relations beyond the immediate circle of the five brothers and their sons. I then became aware that the existing family annals were more than a century out of date, but even then it was not until the rigours of learning the law were nearly over that any time could be devoted to updating them.

Once having decided to undertake the task and having been presented with such existing information as there was, I soon became totally absorbed in the past - to such an extent, I confess, that one outstanding law exam suffered a setback. Even knowing that the past had been documented in a limited way before, I was amazed by the detail that could be abstracted from innumerable leads and sources. In all, the work has taken a little over two years, but the majority of the research was completed in an onset of enthusiasm in the first six months of 1969.

Should I here start by justifying the very idea of a family history? It will surely be criticised: it is easy to deride the family historian for, perhaps, bolstering up the present with good connections or inventing influential ancestors in the past, or for bias or name-dropping. I will let

the pages which follow answer that criticism. I hope that they will bear out the opinion of the historian of the Churchill family who says that no history is more truthful than family history: individuals are the real units of history, not arguments about them. The facts of life are more subtle than people's theories about them.

A case could perhaps be made out for the insertion of some degree of fictitious addition, but it has remained my intention to present the family's past as fact. I hope the reader will find the interest of the subject-matter will overcome the stylistic imperfections with which it is presented. If, as Somerset Maugham has said, style is the art of omission, then my excuse is that I have tried to omit nothing.

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I am most grateful for the encouragement and assistance contributed by many members of the family, and for the source materials lent or given by the following people - the late Mrs. M. E. L. Darbyshire, Lt. Col. J. F. Edwards, Mr. Eric Sanders, my four uncles and my father and Mrs. Elma Stonex.

Secondly I acknowledge my debt to two past members of the family in particular who started the record which this volume now continues - Edmund Thomas Sandars and my great-grandfather Samuel Sandars.

J.E.S.
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