

THE SUSSEX ELECTION POLL-BOOK OF 1734.

BY HUGH WYATT, ESQRE., LL.D. (RECORDER OF SEAFORD).

There is, in the possession of the Revd. H. Ingram, of Steyning, a moderately-sized pamphlet, of the title page of which the following is an exact copy :—

“ A Poll, taken by Henry Montague, Esquire, Sheriff of the County of Sussex, at the City of Chichester, on Thursday and Friday, the ninth and tenth days of May, 1734, for the election of two Knights of the Shire, for the said County, in the present Parliament, each parish alphabetically described. Candidates :—

The Right Honorable Henry Pelham, Esquire.

James Butler, Esquire.

Sir Cecil Bisshopp, Bart.

John Fuller, Esquire.

London : Printed by John Cole, Stationer, near Temple Bar, Fleet-st.

N.B.—Where there is no addition to a name, the person dwelleth in the parish where the freehold lies.”

This pamphlet having been placed at my disposal, it occurred to me that the Sussex gentry of the year 1871 might be interested in learning which side was taken by their forefathers in a hotly contested county election nearly 140 years ago. As the limits of our volume will not admit of the poll being printed *in extenso*, I am necessarily confined to giving extracts only from it. In the selection which I have made, I have generally taken the names of the principal landowners in each parish. I have confined myself to the notice of those

voters who appear to have representatives living in the county at the present day; and to those who seem to have any other claims to be specially noticed.

But before I proceed to give extracts from the Poll-book itself, I may, perhaps, be permitted to say a few words on the then existing state of parties in England generally, as well as in our own county of Sussex. In the year 1734, the great champion of the House of Hanover and of the Protestant succession to the throne, Sir Robert Walpole, had been Prime Minister for 14 years; and whatever question there may be as to some of the means by which he contrived to retain the Whig Government in power, and himself at the head of it, during the lengthened space of 22 years, there can be but little doubt that, upon the whole, his rule was beneficial to the country, securing to it as he did, by his judicious policy, the blessings of a long peace during a somewhat turbulent period of European history. There had been some sharp conflicts in Parliament in the spring of the year above-named; and notably one in the Commons on March 17th, upon the proposed Repeal of the Septennial Act. "But," says Lord Stanhope, in his "History of England" (Vol. II., p. 177), "these Parliamentary struggles were the precursors of the great electoral battle. It was fought a little more than a month afterwards, with the utmost acrimony on both sides. . . . Neither party succeeded to their wish—a majority was obtained for the Minister; but by no means so large as at the last election."

With regard to county politics, the Whig party seems to have been greatly in the ascendant at the time in question. It is possible that the residence in East Sussex of the active and energetic Duke of Newcastle—who was a strenuous supporter of Sir R. Walpole—may have, to a certain extent, contributed to this ascendancy. The Duke, in a letter to Horace Walpole, thus speaks of the election:—"We returned from Sussex very victorious; and you may imagine, not a little pleased with it, considering the violent and strong opposition we met with."

The names of the candidates in this memorable and costly contest have been already given; I will, therefore, only add a few particulars concerning them. Mr. Pelham was the younger son of Thomas, Duke of Newcastle. He served the

office of Secretary at War and Paymaster of the Forces. From 1744 to 1754 he was First Lord of the Treasury. Mr. Butler was the head of a good county family residing at Warminghurst. These two were the Whig candidates. Sir Cecil Bisshopp lived at Parham, and is now represented by his descendant, Lord Zouche. Mr. Fuller, of Rose Hill, Brightling, had been elected for Sussex in 1713; and two other members of his family have represented the County in Parliament. These two last were the champions of the Tory party. The final result of the poll was as follows:—Pelham, 2,271; Butler, 2,053; Bisshopp, 1,704; Fuller, 1,581. The number of freeholders polled was 3,817, of which Hastings contributed 166; Chichester, 129; Lewes, 104; and Brighton 204 voters. I have contributed an additional column to the Poll-book, giving the present representatives of such of the voters' families as I have been able to ascertain:—

PELHAM.	BUTLER.	BISSHOPP.	FULLER.	PARISHES AND NAMES OF VOTERS.	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES.
—	—	—	—	ANGMERING. James Colebrook, London William Gratwick	Sir T. E. Colebrook, Bart. The Heasmans, Jupps, and others
—	—	—	—	Richard Penfold John Ingram	
—	—	—	—	BATTEL. Sir Thomas Webster, Bart.	Sir A. F. Webster, Bart.
—	—	—	—	BILLINGSHURST. Lee Stere, Hackney, Middlesex.	Lee Steere, Esq., M.P., Jayes, Ockley
—	—	—	—	BRAMBER. Thomas Lidbeter	Leonard Lidbetter
—	—	—	—	BROADWATER. Jeremiah Dodson, Clerk	J. G. Dodson, Esq., M.P., Coneyborough Park
—	—	—	—	John Penfold	H. C. Penfold, Esq., Rustington
—	—	—	—	BURPHAM. Richard Holmes, senr.	E. C. Holmes, Esq., Brookfield
—	—	—	—	BURWASH. William Shadwell	W. D. Lucas-Shadwell, Esq., Fairlight
—	—	—	—	BURY. Clement Upperton	R. Upperton, Esq., Brighton
—	—	—	—	CHAYLEY. William Poole	Col. H. Poole Hepburn, and R. W. Blencowe, Esq., the Hook, Chailey
—	—	—	—	CHICHESTER. Sir John Miller, Bart., East Lavant	Sir C. S. Miller, Bart., of Froyle Place, Hants
—	—	—	—	Dr. Thomas Hayley John Page	

PELHAM.	BUTLER.	BISSHOPP.	FULLER.	PARISHES AND NAMES OF VOTERS.	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES.
		—	—	Henry Peckham	Charles Smith Peckham, Esq., Niton
—			—	CHILGROVE (WESTDEAN). John Woods	J. W. Woods, Esq., Chilgrove
—			—	CLAPHAM. William Oliver, Kingston	G. Oliver, Esq., Kingston
—	—		—	Sir John Shelley, Bart., Michelgrove	Sir John Shelley, Bart., son of the late Rev. Sir F. Shelley, Bart.
—	—		—	CLIFF. Richard Godlee	B. Godlee, Esq., Lewes
—	—		—	John Plumer, Lewes	
—		—	—	John Whitfield	G. Whitfield, Esq., Hamsey
—	—		—	CROWHURST. Colonel James Pelham	Earl of Chichester
—		—	—	CUCKFIELD. Thomas Sergison	} Capt. Warden Sergison
—	—		—	Francis Warden	
—		—	—	EASEBOURN. Anthony Capron	Hasler Hollist, Esq., Lods- worth
—	—		—	EAST GUILFORD. Edward Curtis, Tenterden	H. M. Curteis, Esq., Wind- mill Hill
—		—	—	EAST HOATHLY. Robert Fagg, Steyning	Rev. John Goring, Wiston
—	—		—	EARTHAM. Thomas Lear, Angmering	G. Lear, Esq., Arundel
—	—		—	EAST MARDEN. William Batten	William Battine, LL.D.
—		—	—	EAST PRESTON. William Richardson	W. W. Richardson, Esq., Brighton (the late).
—		—	—	FELPHAM. Thomas Doyley, Oxford	} Rev. H. M. Ingram, Steyn- ing
—	—		—	John Ingram	
—		—	—	William Wyatt	Hugh Wyatt, Esq., Cissbury
—	—		—	FINDON. John Cheale	Rev. John Green, Little Leighs, Essex
—	—	—	—	William Cripps	Hugh Wyatt, Esq., Cissbury
—	—		—	William French, Westmin- ster	Rev. James Liptrott, Findon
—	—		—	John Middleton	
—	—		—	FLETCHING. Sir Thomas Wilson, Bart., Uckfield	Sir John M. Wilson, Bart., of Charlton in Kent, and Searles in Sussex
—		—	—	FOLKINGTON. William Dobell	
—	—		—	FUNTINGTON. John Page	Charles Crosbie, Esq.
—	—		—	GLYNDE. William Hay	
—	—		—	GREEN (WISBOROUGH). John King	John King, Esq., Loxwood
—	—		—	Denzell Onslow	Lord Onslow
—	—		—	Hon. Arthur Onslow	W. Peachey, Esq., Ebernoe
—	—		—	James Peachey	
—	—		—	GUESTLING. Sir Wm. Ashburnam	Sir Anchtel Ashburnham
—	—		—	HAMSEY. John Bridger	Rev. Sir Geo. Croxton Shiff- ner, Bart.

FELHAM	BUTLER.	BISSHOPP.	FULLER.	PARISHES AND NAMES OF VOTERS.	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES.
—			—	HARTFIELD. Robert Streatfield, Brasted, Kent	R. J. Streatfeild, Esq., The Rocks, Uckfield
—	—			HAYLSHAM. Thomas Ellman	Capt. S. Ellman, R.N.
		—	—	HOLLINGTON. Chas. Eversfield, jun.	C. Eversfield, Esq., Denne Park, Horsham
—	—			HORSHAM. William Borrer	W. Borrer, Esq., Cowfold
—	—			C. Eversfield	Chas. Eversfield, Esq., Denne Park
—	—			Robert Hurst	R. H. Hurst, Esq., M.P., Horsham Park
—	—			Hon. Henry Ingram	Marquis of Hertford
—	—			Bernard Lintot	
—	—			James Pilfold	Sir Percy Shelley, Bart.
—	—			Edward Tredcroft	E. Tredcroft, Esq.
—	—			HORSTED KEYNES. Richard Wyatt, Cheam, Surrey	R. Wyatt Edgell, Esq.
—	—			HOUGHTON. John Butler, Junr., War- minghurst	
—	—			HURSTPIERPOINT. Henry Bury, Sompting	John Pullen Burry, of Somp- ting
		—	—	Ralph Beard	
		—	—	William Champion	H. Champion, Esq., Danny
		—	—	KEYMER. Richard Turner	Thos. Turner, Esq.
		—	—	LAUGHTON. Henry Manning, Lewes	Rev. H. Manning Ingram, Steyning
—	—			LANCING. Walter Barttelot, Stopham	G. Barttelot, Esq., Stopham
—	—			James Lloyd	Col. G. Carr Lloyd, Lancing
—	—			LEOMINSTER. John Hollist, Lodsworth	Hasler Hollist, Esq., Lods- worth
—	—			LEWES. John Turle	
—	—		—	Richard Verrall	
—	—			LINDFIELD. John Bord	
—	—			Benjamin Comber, Lewes	
—	—			John Tanner, Brighton	W. Tanner, Esq., Patcham
—	—			LITTLEHAMPTON. William Tribe, W. Tarring	W. Tribe, Esq., Worthing
—	—	—	—	LURGASHALL. William Yalden, Haslemere	
—	—			MARESFIELD. William Newnham	} Miss Shelley, Maresfield Park
—	—			John Newnham	
—	—			MAYFIELD. John Arkoll	T. Arkoll, Esq., Hurst- monceux
—	—	—	—	John Streatfield, Hever, Kent	R. J. Streatfeild, Esq., The Rocks
—	—			MEECHING. Edward Gibbon, Putney, Surrey	
—	—			MIDHURST. Richard Cobden	
—	—	—	—	George Stent	
—	—			William Whitter	W. W. Whitter, Esq.

PELHAM.	BUTLER	BISSHOPP.	FULLER.	PARISHES AND NAMES OF VOTERS.	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES.
—	—			NINFIELD. Richard Sampson	G. King Sampson, Esq.
—	—			NEWICK. William Mitford, Petworth	W. T. Mitford, Esq., M.P., Pitts Hill
		—	—	NORTHIAM. Thomas Frewen	Thos. Frewen, Esq., lately deceased
—				NORTH STOKE. John Joliff, Petersfield	Lord Hylton
—	—			OVING. Thomas W. Brereton, West- dean	
—	—			William Guy, sen.	
—	—			James Ingram, Clerk	James Ingram, Esq., Chailey
		—	—	PATCHAM. Henry Farncomb	
—		—		PATCHING. Robert Drewett	
—	—			Robert French	R. French, Esq., Little Hampton
—	—			PETWORTH. Samuel Ayling	
—	—			Jeffrey Dawtrey	
—	—			Gawen Nash	
—	—			Sir Henry Peachey, Kt.	Mrs. Vernon Harcourt
—	—			Thomas Sherwin	
—	—			William Sandham	General Sandham, Rowdell
		—	—	PEVENSEY. John Fuller, jun., Brightling	O. S. A. Fuller Meyrick, Esq., Rose Hill
—	—			PIDDINGHOE. Israel Paine, Patcham	Col. Paine, Patcham
—	—			PLUMPTON. William Blunt, Horsham	F. S. Blunt, Esq., Crabbetts
—	—			PORTSLADE. Edward Greenfield Comber	
—	—			PULBOROUGH. Joseph Hammond, Thakeham	
		—	—	ROGATE. T. Betsworth Bilson	
—	—			RUDGWICK. John Napper, Wisborough Green	John Napper, Esq., Ifold
		—	—	George Naldrett	
		—	—	RUSPER. Thomas Mutton	W. S. Mutton, of Rusper
—	—			RYE. Richard Lamb	
—	—			SEAFORD. James Chambers	
—	—			Thomas Chambers	
—	—			Thomas Hurdis, Clerk	
—	—			Charles Harrison	Heir of late Major Harrison, Sutton
—	—			William Simmons	Thomas Simmons
—	—			SIDDLESHAM. John Freeland, Binstead	H. W. Freeland, Esq., Chichester
—	—			SHERMANBURY. John Mitchell, sen., Lewes	
—	—			SHIPLEY. John Jupp	
—	—			SLINDON. William Groom, Clerk	
—	—			SOMPTING. Richard Sturgeon	

PELHAM.	BUTLER.	BISSHOPP.	FULLER.	PARISHES AND NAMES OF VOTERS.	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES.
		—	—	SOUTHOVER. John Verrall	W. Verrall, Esq.
		—	—	SOUTHWICK. Harry Bridger	H. Bridger, Esq., Bucking- ham
—	—			STANMER. Thomas Pelham	Earl of Chichester
—	—			STEDHAM. Richard Ayling	
—	—	—	—	STEYNING. Charles Groom	
—	—	—	—	Thomas Groom	
—	—			STORRINGTON. John Leeves, Arundel	
—	—			Henry Shelley, London	
—	—			STOUGHTON. Richard Hasler	W. W. Hasler, Esq., Alding- bourn
—	—			SALVINGTON. Thomas Hamper	The daughters of the late W. Hamper, Esq., of Birmingham
		—	—	SUSSEX. Hutchinson Turk, Exegeant of the County of Sussex	
—	—			WEST TARRING. John Crofts, London	H. P. Crofts, Esq., Somp- ting Abbots
—	—			THAKEHAM. John Apsley, Lewes	
—	—			John Tribe	
—	—	—	—	TILLINGTON. John Hampton, Petworth	
—	—			TICEHURST. John Newington	The Newington family, of Ticehurst
—	—	—	—	TORTINGTON. Richard Leeves	The representatives of the late Major Leeves
—	—	—	—	TROTTON. Richard Ayling	
—	—	—	—	John Alcock, Clerk	
—	—	—	—	Peter Betsworth	
—	—	—	—	John Brampton, London	
—	—	—	—	Thomas Ridge	T. Ridge, Esq., Fyning
—	—	—	—	Francis Whitcomb	
—	—	—	—	UCKFIELD. William Day	
—	—	—	—	John Eagles	R J. Streatfeild, Esq.
—	—	—	—	John Comber	
—	—	—	—	WADHURST. William Baldock	W. Baldock, Esq.
—	—	—	—	George Eagles	
—	—	—	—	John Newington	
—	—	—	—	Richard Stapley, Frant	
—	—	—	—	WARNHAM. John Mitchell	
—	—	—	—	Edward Shelley	Sir Percy F. Shelley, Bart.
—	—	—	—	WARTLING. George Luxford	
—	—	—	—	WASHINGTON. Sir Charles Goring, Bart.	Sir Charles Goring, Bart., Highden
—	—	—	—	WESTDEAN. John Humphrey	
—	—	—	—	Thomas Leland, Clerk	
—	—	—	—	Bulstrode Peachey, Knight	Mrs. Vernon Harcourt
—	—	—	—	W. Tregoose	

PELHAM.	BUTLER.	BISSHOFF.	FULLER.	PARISHES AND NAMES OF VOTERS.	PRESENT REPRESENTATIVES.
—	—			WEST FIRLE. Sir W. Gage, Bart.	Viscount Gage, Firle
		—	—	WESTHAM. John Meres Fagg	Sir John Fagg, Bart., Mystole
		—	—	WILLINGDON. Sir Walter Parker, Bart.	
		—	—	Nicholas Willard, Ovingdean	
		—	—	WOODMANCOTE. John Dennett	J. W. Dennett, Esq., Wood- mancote
—	—			WOOLAVINGTON. Garton Orme	Bishop of Winchester, Woolavington
—	—			WOOLBEEDING. Sir Edward Mill, Bart.	

Mr. Wyatt has told us that the electioneering influence of the Duke of Newcastle was very strong in the Eastern Division of the county; and, as Editor, I now venture, with this gentleman's permission, to add, that equally strong was the territorial influence of another Duke resident in Western Sussex; I allude to the Duke of Somerset, of Petworth House, who held the same political opinions as the ducal house of Newcastle. Both knew the way to an Englishman's heart, and pursued it. Bramstone, the Rector of Harting, and one of our West Sussex poets, in speaking of this influence in his "Art of Politics," which he wrote in imitation of Horace's "Art of Poetry," says—

"When the duke's grandson for the county stood,
His beef was fat, and his October good.
His lordship took each ploughman by the fist,
Drank to their sons, their wives and daughters kissed;
But when strong beer their free-born hearts inflames,
They sell him bargains, and they call him names.
Thus it is deem'd in English nobles wise
To stoop to no one reason but to rise."

And Turner, the Easttholy tradesman of a hundred years ago, speaking in his diary—Vol. xi. p. 199—of the quality of the contents of the Halland beer cellars in the Dukes of Newcastle's time—and by his own confession he was no mean judge—testifies in humble prose to the same fact.

"The ale," he says, "was strong at Halland House, and it flowed as freely there as it did in other old halls, in what are called the days of the 'Fine Old English gentleman.'" Many a bout had he of it. "I may safely assert," he says, "that

when we have met in the hall upon any occasion, political or otherwise, not one of us has returned home thoroughly sober."

In the election under consideration, the Duke of Somerset espoused the cause of Mr. Butler, the West Sussex Whig candidate, and doubtless of Mr. Pelham. In a quaintly amusing diary kept by a Mr. Marchant, of Hurstpierpoint, who was at the time the Duke's land steward, and some extracts from which I hope to be able to give in a future volume—I find the following entries referring to this duke and the election:—

"Monday, at Petworth—Was sent for into my Lord Duke's rooms, when he said to me, 'Have you canvassed for Mr. Butler?' I replied, 'No, my Lord Duke.' Then he said, 'You must do so. You and Mr. Ede go round the town tomorrow morning and canvass for him.'"

"Tuesday—We went to every freeholder in Petworth and asked for his vote for Mr. Butler, and all promised but one."

"Wednesday—Went with his Grace to North Chapel, on his way to London. He still expressed himself anxious about the result of the election, as far as Mr. Butler was concerned."

"Thursday and Friday—At Chichester, at the election, when, much to his Grace's satisfaction, Mr. Pelham and Mr. Butler were successful."

One of David Garrick's most beautiful odes was written by him on the occasion of the death of Mr. Pelham, a few years after this election. He was decidedly the most popular man of his day. The Ode is headed, "An honest man's the noblest work of God." It speaks of him in terms of the highest commendation. Addressing him in the two last stanzas, the author says:—

"To hear no lawless passions call,
To serve the king, yet feel for all,
Such was thy glorious plan!
Wisdom with generous love took part,
Together work thy head and heart—
The minister and man,

Unite ye kindred sons of earth,
Strangle bold faction in its birth;
Be Britain's weal your view!
For this great end let all combine,
Let virtue link each fair design,
And Pelham live in you."