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HANGLETON PLACE.  
(From the N.E.)

HANNAH T. JAMES

# HANGLETON AND ITS HISTORY.

BY CHARLES E. CLAYTON, Esq.

LYING about two miles from the coast on the Roman road which led<sup>1</sup> from Portus Adurni away inland towards the Devil's Dyke, this secluded parish might well begin its history—were any records available—with the building of the Roman Villa whose site (on what authority I know not) is marked upon the Ordnance maps a few hundred yards from the Churchyard, and just over the parish boundary of West Blatchington; or, perhaps, with the early ownership of those small silver coins of Germanicus and Valerianus, found near the seven human skeletons under a mound “on the open down forming the sheep-walk and north part of the farm occupied by Mr. Hardwick at Hangleton,” as recorded<sup>2</sup> in an early volume of these Collections.

It is not, however, until we come to the Conquest and to the Domesday Survey (1086 A.D.) that the first reliable records of the history of the place are reached; but it may be well before reaching this stage of our inquiry to notice the etymology of the name and the various forms of spelling. Of variations, I have met with fourteen, as follows:—

Hangetone	...	...	...	“Domesday,” 1086.
Hangleton	...	...	...	{ “Tax. P. Nichs.,” 1291. “Test de Nev.,” 1327.
Hangelton	...	...	...	{ “Inq. Non.,” 1340. “Inq. P. M.,” 1447.
Hangeston	...	...	...	“Tow. Rec.,” 1376.
Hangilton	...	...	...	“Inq. P. M.,” 1483.
Hangylton	...	..	...	“Val. Eccl.,” Hen. VIII.
Hengiston	...	...	...	“Rymer Fed.,” 1517.
Hengilton	...	...	...	“Pat. Roll,” 1541.
Hangulton	...	...	...	“Reg. Wills, Lewes,” 1543.
Hangeleton	}	...	...	“Ministers' Accts.,” 1549.
Hengleton		...	...	

<sup>1</sup> “S. A. C.,” Vol. XV., p. 177.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, Vol. IX., p. 124.

Hegleton	...	...	...	"Minist. Accts.," Eliz., 1563.
Hangletonne	...	...	...	"State Papers," Dom., 1583,
Hangellton	...	...	...	Terrier of 1635.
Angleton	...	...	...	Speed's Map, 1646.

The Rev. W. D. Parish suggests, as the derivation, Angle-tun, the Angle's village, and compares it with Anglesey, the Angle's Island, and Angle<sup>3</sup> in Pembrokeshire; but it will be noticed as curious that the only variation in which the initial "H" is dropped is the latest in the list, while the present accepted form, "Hangleton," appears in the valuation of Pope Nicholas, six hundred years ago. Mr. Lower speaks of "Cardo de Angleton," but I cannot find his authority for this.

In Domesday it is recorded that :—

"William de Wateville holds Hangetone of William. Azor held it of King Edward. It then vouched for 14 hides and 1 rod. Now for 8 hides and a half. There is land for 8 ploughs. In demesne are 2 ploughs and 31 villeins, and 13 bordars<sup>4</sup> with 5 ploughs. This land lay at Chingestune a Manor of Wm. de Braiose. In the time of King Edward, and now, worth £10. When received £8."

The latter part of this description is somewhat puzzling, as "Chingestune" (Kingston) lies some three miles to the west of Hangleton, with Portslade and Southwick intervening. The present parish boundaries include the manor of "Benfields," and of this Domesday Book has a separate description, as follows :—

"Scolland holds Benefelle of William. Turgod held it of Cola and Cola of King Edward. It then vouched for 2 hides. Now for nothing. There is land for 3 ploughs. In demesne are 2 ploughs and 5 villeins with 8 bordars have two ploughs. In the time of King Edward it was worth 60 shillings and afterwards likewise. Now £6. Alfred holds one hide and one rod in Benefelle of William and vouched for so much in the time of King Edward. Now for nothing. Lewin held it in parage. There is land for one plough and there it is in demesne, and four villeins with half a plough. There are 4 acres of meadow and wood for 3 hogs. In the time of King Edward and afterwards it was worth 10 shillings. Now 40 shillings."

It is interesting to compare the total area of the

<sup>3</sup> The following extract from Taylor's "Words and Places," sent me by Mr. Parish, may be quoted : "No less than 24 of the headlands on the Pembrokeshire coast are occupied by camps, which we may regard as the first beginning of a Scandinavian occupation of the soil; round the shores of Milford Haven a little colony of permanent settlers was established in the villages of . . . Angle, Tenby, &c."

<sup>4</sup> Cottagers.

present parish with the area of these two manors as given in Domesday, although in this instance we do not obtain any very useful result. Taking the normal "hide" as 120 acres (Seebohm), we find the acreage of the two manors a little over 2,000 acres, while in the Tithe Map of 1841 it stands as about 1,150, so that the boundaries are not identical, while the "wood for three hogs" (10½ acres. Seebohm) has entirely disappeared from the manor of Benefelle. William de Wateville, who held the manor of Hangleton in succession to "the ubiquitous Azor," figures in Domesday as holder also of "Bristelmetune," one of the three Brighton manors, and as succeeding Azor in possession of "Percinges, Chemere and Bercham," while his wife had "Claitune," where Azor again preceded. After Domesday there is a gap of about 200 years in the history, when we find Charles de Hangleton and Ralph de Meyners holding the manor of the honour of De Warenne in 1298.<sup>5</sup> It afterwards vested in the great family of Poynings, and in 1369 Michael de Poynings died seized of the manor<sup>6</sup>; his son Thomas dying six years later, left his brother, Richard de Poynings, then 17, his heir. This Richard was the 5th Baron Poynings. He died at Leon in 1387, on his second visit to Spain, whither he had first gone with the Black Prince to assist in restoring to his throne the deposed King of Castille; and an abstract of his will, with other interesting information concerning him, will be found in Vol. XV. of our Collections.<sup>7</sup> In 1412, when his poor Commons granted to Henry IV. a subsidy of 6s. 8d. from every man or woman having in lands or rent £20 a year, we find in the Roll of the Subsidy<sup>8</sup> that "Robert Lord de Ponygg" had manors and lands worth £143 13s. 3d., of which the manor of "Hangilton" was one. By descent from Robert Lord Poynings,<sup>9</sup> Eleanor, Countess of Northumberland, his daughter, who had married Henry Percy, had Hangleton with other manors, and it soon afterwards vested (at what exact period it passed to them I cannot trace) in the Bellingham family.

<sup>5</sup> "Test. de Nevill," p. 222.

<sup>6</sup> "Burrell MSS.," 5683, f. 331.

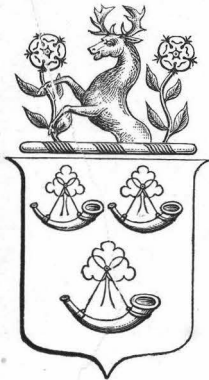
<sup>7</sup> "S. A. C.," Vol. XV., p. 9.

<sup>8</sup> "S. A. C.," Vol. X., p. 140.

<sup>9</sup> "Pat. R.," 13, Hen. VI.

We now come to the 16th century, at some time in which we may assume that the existing manor-house was built; and although it is somewhat disappointing that a considerable structure like Hangleton Place, well-situated in its secluded valley for intrigue and escapade, should afford so little scope for historical record, and should even lack the distinction conferred by saintly, royal, or unhallowed occupation or adventure, we will follow its history as a residence. It would certainly add to the interest of the manor-house if we could suppose that Sir Philip Sidney, whom Queen Elizabeth called "the jewel of her Dominions," was the builder; but this would be difficult to establish, although he died seized of the manor<sup>10</sup> (from his wound at Zutphen) in 1586, his daughter Elizabeth, afterwards wife of Roger, Earl of Rutland, being his heir.

But whoever may be credited with the original erection, the Bellinghams have left their marks upon it, and this old and somewhat distinguished family first claims our attention. Their pedigree,<sup>11</sup> running back to Alan de Bellingham, a contemporary of William of Normandy, may perhaps be taken further, to the Billings, the royal race of the Varini, from whom thirteen places (Bellingham, Bellinghurst, &c.) are named,<sup>12</sup> the suffixes "ham" and "ton" probably marking the filial colonies sent out by the parent settlement.<sup>13</sup> The great grandson of Alan, Endo de Bellingham, was in 1197 Sheriff of Westmoreland, and five generations later we find a Richard Bellingham, of Bellingham, Lord of Maunton, in Lincolnshire, whose brother Thomas settled near Arundel. Richard, the third son of this Thomas Bellingham, became owner



<sup>10</sup> "Burrell MSS."

<sup>11</sup> "Berry's Pedigrees," p. 190.

<sup>12</sup> Taylor, "Words and Places," p. 85.

<sup>13</sup> Mr. F. E. Sawyer, F.S.A., sends me the following note: "In Domesday we have under Havockesberie Hundred (Sussex) Belingeham Manor, also spelt Belingham. I identify it with the modern Billingham, which is in Udimore or Brede."

of Hangleton and Newtimber Place; he was Sheriff of Sussex in 1535, and his son Edward, Sheriff in 1567. It was this Edward Bellingham before whom, in company with "George Gooringe, Esquire," the Inquisition was taken at Steyning in 1561 for the "execucion of y<sup>e</sup> Statute of apparell for mens wifes,"<sup>14</sup> this had reference to the silk and velvet dresses of the dames, which were only permissible if their husbands kept a certain number of horses to be available, probably, for military purposes. In 1588 Queen Elizabeth required contributions from her loving subjects by way of loan for the defence of the country against Spain, and in the list of payments we find Richard Bellingham, of Newtimber, a contributor of £25.<sup>15</sup> He was also patron of Hangleton.<sup>16</sup> In the Newtimber parish registers there are the dates of baptism of the ten children of Edward Bellingham (1567 to 1603), and the burials of "Mr. Edward Bellingham" in 1607 and of "Sir Edward Bellingham" in 1640 are also recorded, but I find no Bellinghams in the Hangleton parish registers, which, for reasons given below, only date from 1666, when the family had left Hangleton Place.

To return to the house itself, I have seen no early plans or particulars by which to judge more accurately of its original appearance, although in a little Catholic novelette, published in 1846<sup>17</sup> (kindly lent me by the Rev. Thomas Holland, M.A.), there is a frontispiece showing an arched gateway, and other, not now existing, features, with a brief description to the effect that "the house had been built in the time of wicked King Henry VIII., and formed three sides of a square. In the middle of the front was a wide arched gateway . . . the offices to your left-hand, and a low stone wall on the right . . . the roof was covered with Horsham stone, and the chimneys curiously twisted and twined together. . . ." As now seen, although a good deal of the original work remains, yet the early chimney shafts have disappeared. Of the

<sup>14</sup> "S. A. C.," Vol. XXXIII., p. 271.

<sup>15</sup> "S. A. C.," Vol. I., p. 37.

<sup>16</sup> "Bishop's Reg.," 48b.

<sup>17</sup> "Poynings," p. 29.

stone-mullioned windows many are left, but between the window tax which closed them up, and later or earlier adaptations which opened others in unsymmetrical positions, the beauty of the fronts has suffered. The present kitchen was probably the hall at one time, and has on one side a panelled oaken screen, with fluted pilasters and carved capitals supporting a range of three long panels, upon which in early characters are carved the Ten Commandments, with variations which perhaps warrant their introduction here.<sup>18</sup>

AND GOD SPAKE AL THESE WORDES AN SAID I AM Y LORD THI GOD WHICH HAV  
 BROUGHT THE OUT OF THE HOVSE OF BONDAGETHOV SHALT HAVE NONE  
 OTHER GODDS IN MI SIGHT THOV SHALT MAKE THENO GRAVEN IMAGE  
 NETHER ANY SEMILTUD THAT IS IN HEAVN ABOVE EPTHER IN THEERTH BENETHE  
 OR IN THE WATER THAT IS BENETHE THE ERTH SE THAT THOV NETHER  
 BOVE THI SILF VNTO THEM NETHER SERVE FOR I THE LORD THI GOD  
 AM A GELOUS GOD AN VISET THE SINE OF THE FATHERS VPON THE CHILDREN  
 VNTO THE THIRD AND FOVRTH GENERACION OF THEM THAT HATE ME  
 AND IET SHEWE MARCI VNTO THOUSANDES AMONGE THEM THAT LOVE ME  
 AND KEPE MI COMMANDMENTES THOV SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF  
 THE LORDE THI GOD IN VAIN FOR THE LORDE WIL NOT HOLDE HIM GILTLESSE  
 THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN REMEMBER THE SABBATH DIE THAT THOV  
 SANCTIFIE IT SIKE DAIES MAIST THOU LABOURE AN DO AL THAT THOV  
 HAST TO DOE BUT THE SEVENTH DAIE IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORDE  
 THI GOD IN IT THOV SHALT DO NO MANER WORKE NETHER THOV NOR  
 THI SONNE NOR THI DOUGHTER NETHER THI MAN SERVANTE NOR THI  
 MAIDE SERVANTE NETHER THI CATEL NETHER IT THE STRANGER  
 THAT IS WITHIN THI GATES FOR IN SIXE DAIES THE LORDE MADE BOTH  
 HEAVEN AN ERTHE AND THE SEE AN AL THAT IN THEM IS AN RESTED  
 THE SEVETH DAIE WHER FOR THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAIE AN  
 HALOWED IT HONOURE THI FATHER AN THI MOTHER THAT THI DAIES MA  
 BE LONGE IN THE LANDE WHICH THE LORD THI GOD GEVETH THE THOV  
 SHALT NOT KIL THOV SHALT NOT BRAKE WEDLOKE THOV SHALT NOT STEALE  
 THOV SHALT BERE NO FALSE WITNESS AGENST THI NEGHBOURE THOV  
 SHALT NOT COVET THI NEGHBOURS HOSE NETHER SHALT COVET  
 THI NEGHBOURS WIFE HIS MAN SERVANTE HIS MAIDE HIS  
 OXE HIS ASSE OR OVGHTE THAT IS HIS

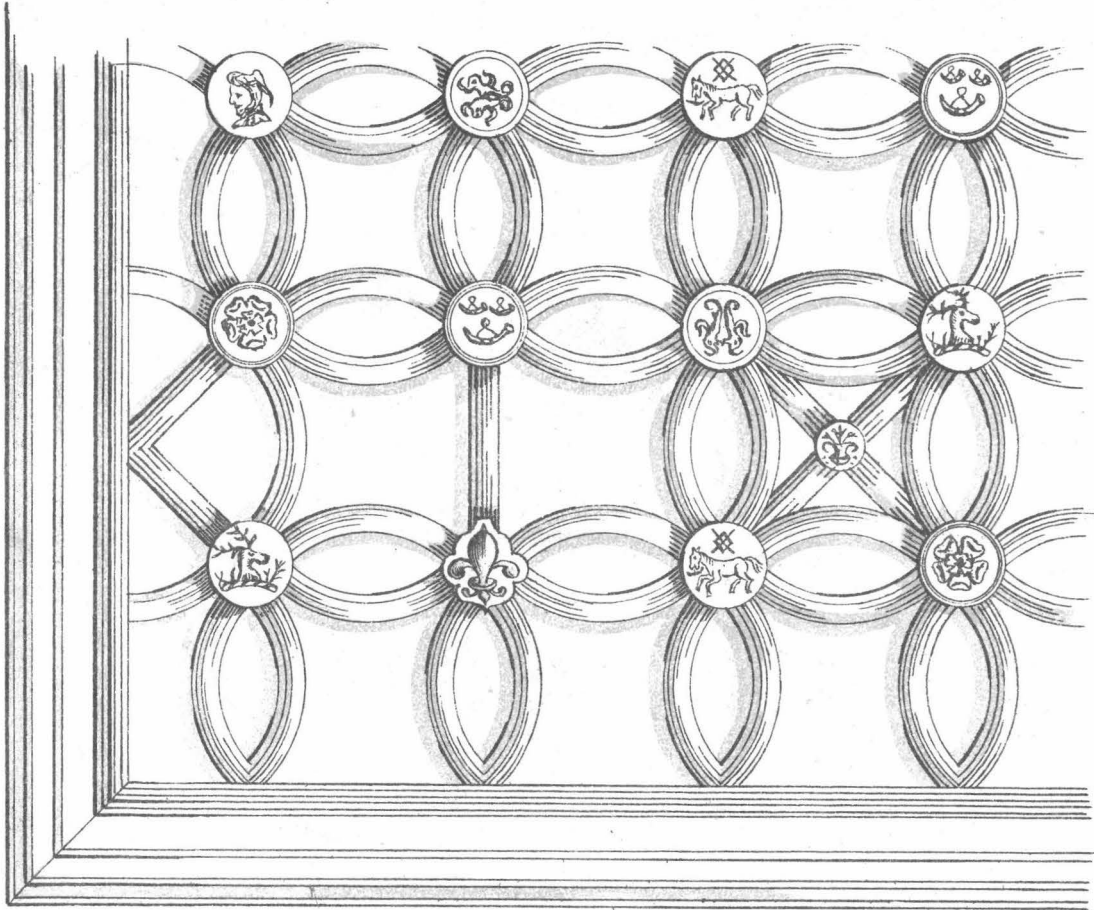
In a paper in Vol. XVI.<sup>19</sup> it is stated that beneath the Commandments is a curious distich,

“ Persevere ye perfect men,  
 Ever keep these precepts ten,”

in which it will be observed that “e” is the only vowel, but there is now no place for this, neither can I hear of its existence. The staircase is quaint, but narrow, and here, as in many other parts of the house, the solid oak has been covered with paint. In several of the rooms on the upper floor the thick oak-panelled partitions remain, and there are three of the original stone chimney pieces, which, excepting that their Tudor

<sup>18</sup> I shall be glad if any member can identify the version from which these verses are copied. The most curious variation will be observed in v. 14, somewhat resembling the German “ERBRECHEN” in Luther’s Bible.

<sup>19</sup> “S. A. C.,” Vol. XVI., p. 292.

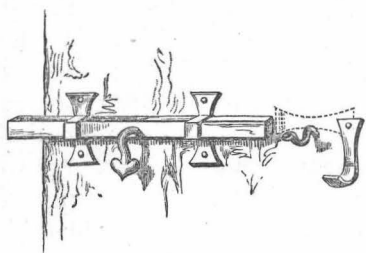


CEILING AT  
HANGLETON.

*shewing =*  
*The demi-stag and the*  
*bugle horns of the Bel-*  
*-lingham family;*  
*The dolphins of the*  
*Scrasce family;*  
*The horse, and the*  
*Saracens head,*  
*(this is the crest of*  
*the Shirleys' and of*  
*other Sussex families).*



ornament and mouldings of the period are somewhat concealed by successive coats of paint, are in good preservation. Some of the internal partition walls are of enormous thickness, and across one of the bedroom passages is a large Gothic-headed iron-studded oak door which must have come from some outer entrance or possibly from the church. This has a rude wrought-iron bolt of rather clever construction. Some of the bed-



rooms, placed at intermediate levels, and entered only through other apartments, give the idea of concealed chambers, made accessible by later alterations. The richly-moulded plaster ceiling to a room on the ground-floor (now intersected by a par-

tition and forming two apartments) is in perfect condition (see Plate), and displays upon the bosses at the intersections of the curves a variety of heraldic emblems, including the bugle horns and the demi-stag of the Bellinghams and apparently the dolphin of the Scrase family. This family (descended out

of Denmark, and who held lands in Sussex before and at the time of the Conquest, 1066)<sup>20</sup> were at some time resident at Hangleton, either as tenants or proprietors, and a small brass, preserved by the late Mr. Edward Blaker from the ruins of West Blatchington Church, and afterwards fixed in the east wall of the south aisle of Portslade Church, has the following inscription:—



“Here lyeth buried Richard Scrase late of Hangleton, gentlemā whiche died in the yeare of our lord god one. 1499.

“Here lyeth buried Richard Scrase of Bletchington gentlemā whiche died in ye yeare of our lord god one 1519. Here lyeth buried Edward Scrase of bletchington gentlemā who died in ye yeare of or lord. 1579.”

<sup>20</sup> “Berry’s Pedigrees,” p. 366.

Richard Scrasce (the first on this memorial brass) was valet to the Crown, and we may presume that he is referred to in a curious entry (temp. Ed. IV.) in the Cowfold churchwardens' accounts.<sup>21</sup> "It. a remembrans that Water Dunstall yowthe to my Master Scrasse of Hangleton ffor iiij bochell whete pris of viijd. a bochell. Item pris. a bochell of barlyche iiijd. It. for a bochell of malte vjd. The same Scras. yowthe me for a lode of talle wode pris of ijs." Some of his descendants in the 17th century were vigorous Nonconformists, as the names of Henry, Richard, Walter and John Scrase very frequently occur with other well-known Sussex names in the "Abstract of the sufferings of the People called Quakers,"<sup>22</sup> while one of the earliest church meetings of that body in this county was "a general meeting of Friends of Truth in Sussex held at the Widow Scrase's in Blatchington y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 1662." It is also recorded<sup>23</sup> that on "the 19<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> mo. 1663" for not paying tithes there were taken from Joane Scrase, widow, for a demand of £90, 28 beasts worth £123, from which we may assume that in spite of persecution "the Widow Scrase" was still a person of substance. The only Scrase in the parish registers is a Joseph Scrase buried in 1726. The manor of Hangleton now belongs to the Sackville family, and in "the accounts of Edward Lindsey, Esq., Steward to the Lord Treasurer,"<sup>24</sup> is an entry dated 1601: "This manor appears to belong to Lord Treasurer Buckhurst, to be leased to Barnard Whitstanes Esq. at £260 per annum." I do not trace how the manor passed from the Bellinghams, but in the proceedings in Chancery in the reign of Queen Elizabeth<sup>25</sup> I find a notice of a suit in which Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, Knight of the Garter, was the plaintiff and Edward Bellingham and others the defendants, the premises referred to being "the manor,

<sup>21</sup> "S. A. C." Vol. II., p. 322.

<sup>22</sup> 1st Ed. pub. 1733.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 2nd Ed., p. 83, Vol. III.

<sup>24</sup> "Burrell MSS." 5,683, p. 339. Quoted from MS. in the possession of Mr. Wm. Shadwell, of Ringmer.

<sup>25</sup> "Col. of the Proceedings," &c., 2 Eliz., p. 135, Vol. XIII., B. b. 29, No. 55.

capital message or mansion house of Hangleton and lands in Hangleton and East Aldrington ;” the Bellinghams appear to have retained the last-named property according to the following, dated 1621<sup>26</sup> :—“The common fine of the Burrowe is 2<sup>s</sup> every half-year whereof the farmer at Hangleton payeth at Lady day 2<sup>s</sup> and the farmer of Sir Edward Bellingham’s lands in East Aldrington the other 2/ at michaelmas.” This payment of the common fine appears before this to have been a matter in dispute, for in the “Burrell MSS.” there is this quotation<sup>27</sup> : “Sir Barnard Whitston ats Whetston Kt.<sup>28</sup> farmer of Hangleton did not contribute 1/3 with Hangleton farm towards payment of the common fine and thereupon at a Law day holden for y<sup>e</sup> said hundred 8 apr. 44 Eliz. (1602) the Jury (amongst whom were many aged men) did present that time out of mind the owners farmers of the Demesne or manor of Hangleton had paid the common fine alone for that Burrowe ; Benfiles never charged with payment of any penny thereof, and John Ampleford the elder, George Fayre-foot, Richard Fowler and other aged men of the jury did then testify on oath that they knew Benfiles occupied alone many years together (before Mr. Bellingham took the same in farm) and the occupiers farmers thereof were never charged with payment of one penny towards the common fine.”

The manor of Benfields, of which the description from Domesday has already been given, was the estate of the family of De Benefeld in 1325,<sup>29</sup> and according to the Subsidy Roll of 13th of Henry IV. (1411) John Benyfeld<sup>30</sup> paid £22 for his manor at Hangleton. In 1449 there is the following (I quote from the “Burrell MSS.”), which is not very clear, and I do not, therefore, attempt to translate, but this appears to be the first mention of the Coverts, and also indicates the existence of an important house at that date :—“Johes Norton cond Robert filio Roberti Ponynges nup Dm̄ de Ponynges

<sup>26</sup> “Burrell MSS.,” p. 339, 5683.

<sup>27</sup> From “Rowe’s MSS.,” p. 93.

<sup>28</sup> Barnard Whitstanes. See *ante*.

<sup>29</sup> “Burrell MSS.”

<sup>30</sup> “S. A. C.,” Vol. X., p. 140.

& her suis 1 mess vo<sup>d</sup> Benfeldes Place cum gardins adjacenti que nuper fuerunt Simonis Benfiled in Shorham. Walterus Covert Miles pro manerio de Benfiled in Hangleton nuper Georgii Covert et Johis Benfiled" ("Rowe's MSS." p. 142). The property passed into the hands of the Coverts of Slaugham, the great Sussex ironmasters, and described as "among the greatest landed properties in the S. of England, tradition says that they could travel over their own manors from Southwark to the English Channel." In 1503 John Covert died seized of the manor, leaving<sup>31</sup> "his three daughters his next heirs, Anne, aged 6, Elizabeth aged 3, Dorothy aged 2 years," the manor being then "worth £5 above reprises and held of George Nevill Lord Bergavenny but by what services is unknown." In 1640<sup>32</sup> Thomas Covert settled the manor in jointure upon Diana his wife, who was the youngest daughter of George, Lord Goring (Sir George<sup>33</sup> Goring, Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen, created Baron Goring of Hurstpierpoint in 1626). In "Mr. Trafford's Account, 1784," quoted in the "Burrell MSS.,"<sup>34</sup> the following imperfect entry brings us down to the present ownership:—  
 ". . . Nordcliff purchased Benfeldes of . . . and left it by will to his widow . . . who devised it to Henry Southwell Esq. . . . who bequeathed it to his Brother . . . Southwell of Wisbech in the Isle of Ely the proprietor in 1784. Mr. Southwell's sister married Sir — Trafford K<sup>t</sup>. by whom she has one son . . . and one daur. . . ." The present owner is Mr. Trafford Southwell. The house, dating from the 16th century, and often described was completely destroyed in 1871 (to the regret of antiquarians), to make way for a row of labourers cottages. It is described by Mr. Blaauw,<sup>35</sup> and is supposed to have been a hunting seat of the Coverts. The principal front was 66 feet long, and was noticeable for the 16 shields of the family in stone displayed over the carved stone porch. These shields were preserved

<sup>31</sup> "Burrell Add. MSS.," 3683, p. 331.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> "Berry's Pedigrees."

<sup>34</sup> "Add. MSS.," 3683.

<sup>35</sup> "S. A. C.," Vol. X., p. 164.

by the late Mr. Edward Blaker, and, with some other portions of carved stone work from Benfields, have been built into a wall at "Easthill," Portslade. There is a well known view by Lambert, and an etching by Nibbs, showing the front of the house, upon which these shields are conspicuous.

We may now give some attention to the parish church, which is dedicated to S. Helen, and stands on the bare hillside, about 300 yards above Hangleton Place. Mr. Lower<sup>36</sup> describes it as originally Norman, but I doubt whether there are any remains of Norman work, and it may be described as Early English with later additions. The building, which Mr. Hussey describes in 1850 as "in melancholy condition,"<sup>37</sup> consists of tower (formerly open to the sky *vide* Lower), nave, and chancel only, the greatest width being  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the extreme length 62 feet; the walls are of large unbroken flints, a good proportion being laid in a curious herring-bone fashion, with stone dressings, some of the work to the doorways, &c., being in hard grey chalk. In the upper part of the south wall of the tower two carved heads are built in at odd intervals, and a round-headed doorway on the north has been built up; a small part only of the original Horsham stone roofing remains. The interior is severely plain, the floor, paved with brick, rising considerably from the west end to the chancel; the roof is plastered, concealing all the timbers except the five stout oak, much worn, tie beams. The earliest dated tombstone is in the floor of the aisle, and records that:—

HERE LIETH INTERRD YE BODY OF ANN NORTON (DAUGHTER OF JOHN NORTON OF PORTSLADE AND ANN HIS WIFE) 1749.

In the south wall, and within the sanctuary, is a monument, until lately buried in the plaster. Upon the central space is a kneeling row of figures, on one side the father and five girls, and facing them the mother and four boys, all with scrolls rising from their mouths,

<sup>36</sup> "Hist. of Sussex," Vol. I., p. 209.

<sup>37</sup> "Hussey's Churches," p. 233.

upon which may once have been the customary "Jesu mercy," but time and careless use have long obliterated both these and any other words. Beneath the eleven kneeling figures are three recumbent forms, but the marble shafts which should fill the spaces between the stone caps and bases are gone, and there is nothing to help to establish the date or identity of the memorial, unless the style, a debased classic, points to early 18th century workmanship. A curious niche remains on the north of, and just below, the east window, probably an aumbry, but so plastered up that no trace of any door or fittings remains. The font is modern, and for the old high-backed seats modern open benches have been substituted. In the churchyard, the altar tombs of the Hardwicks, for some generations tenants of the manor-house, are most conspicuous, a grassy mound being the only indication of the last resting place of the late Dr. Kenealy, noted in connection with the Tichborne trial, and formerly member for Stoke.

No mention is made of a church in Domesday, but "Hangleton Church"<sup>38</sup> is named amongst others in a Charter to the monastery of S. Pancras, Lewes, from Siffrid II., who was Bishop of Chichester from 1180 to 1204, and in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas<sup>39</sup> the value of the church is given as £10; in the *Inquisitiones nonarum*<sup>40</sup> made in the 10th of Edward III. (1369), there is an interesting passage, part of which may be quoted. . . . "By the testimony on oath of John at Holte, Robert Thomas, Thomas Hankyn, and William Blood of the Parish Church of Hangleton who say upon their oath that a tithe of sheaves is worth at the same place this year seven marks, and a tithe of wool and lambs 13/4 and not more. The amount of the whole tithe aforesaid eight marks is all the aforesaid church can be valued at for tithes. And they say that the tithe aforesaid does not correspond nor reach to the valuation of the aforesaid church inasmuch as the rector has a house and garden and curtilage to the value of

<sup>38</sup> "Hussey's Churches," p. 252.

<sup>39</sup> "Tax. Eccl.," P. Nich.

<sup>40</sup> "Non. Inq.," p. 385.

10/-. Also the tithe of doves is worth 6<sup>d</sup> also the tithe of flax and hemp is worth 5/<sup>41</sup> also the tithe of cows and calves with the dairy is worth 15/-. Also the tithe of sucking pigs . . . and of bees<sup>42</sup> is worth x<sup>s</sup>. Also they say that the fees are worth 11/-. Also they say that several lands in the aforesaid parish were barren and had been uncultivated in this year the tithe of which was wont to be worth 13/- per annum. . . . Also they say that the parish of Lewes takes tithes at the same place to the value of 20/-. And they say that there are not any persons in the aforesaid parish having chattels beyond the value of 10/- nor such as live by their lands and holdings." In the "Valor Ecclesiasticus"<sup>43</sup> (1535) there is a reference showing the value of the church property on the very eve of the Reformation, which states that "Henry Horneby rector there (at Hangleton) is worth clearly by the year with all profits, (besides 1.10.4 yearly payable to the Prior of Lewes for a yearly pension . . .) 11.14.1."

The patronage which had been with the Prior and Convent of S. Pancras, Lewes, until somewhere about 1537 (?), was then granted to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex. He was beheaded in 1540, and, by reason of his attainder, the patronage reverted to the Crown, there<sup>44</sup> is a grant in 1541 to Anne of Cleves for life, she died at Chelsea in 1557, and members of the Bellingham family appear to have had the patronage until 1600, or a little later, when it passed to the Sackville family. In 1582 there was some trouble with the incumbent, for in the "State Papers Domestic"<sup>45</sup> there is an entry of "articles exhibited by William Jackson master of artes against Henry Shales, parson of Hangletonne the 8th of March 1582." Amongst other charges set forth are these—"charged him with being professed or appointed to one of the seminaries of Rome or Fraunce within these

<sup>41</sup> This, as indicative of the extensive growth of these, is interesting, and especially as 200 years anterior to the attempted compulsory growth of these crops in the 24 of Henry VII.

<sup>42</sup> One of the fields is still known as "Honeycroft."

<sup>43</sup> "Val. Eccl.," Vol. I, p. 326.

<sup>44</sup> "Pat. Roll.," Hen. VIII., p. 52.

<sup>45</sup> "State P. Domest.," 1583, No. 14. (communicated by Mr. F. E. Sawyer, F.S.A.)

four five or six yeares. That he had said mass or helped the priest. That he maintained dangerous heresies viz. that there are two justifications before God, 'the former and the latter and after we be sanctified ye works y<sup>t</sup> then we doe be meritorious. . . .'  
 Heretical sermon preached at S. Michaels Lewes on 26th Feb. . . . In that sermon he did . . . report divers of y<sup>e</sup> Godlie ministers of ye diocesse whome he often called—'The new brotherhood the brotherhood of separation, the separated brethren, private spirits &c. . . .'  
 This is signed by the following as witnesses, "Thomas Underdonne, John Lecke," and others. Mr. Shales seems to have met this attack with a counter-charge, in which he says<sup>46</sup> "That Mr. Underdonne preached in S. Mychael's Church in Lewis that there was no cause why the people should fere any dainger to fall upon them for hearing such doctrine from a man not outwardly called for y<sup>t</sup> was not a few collects or imposition of hands that maketh a preacher but if he had an inwarde assurance and persuasion that he was called by God, he moaght lawfully prech, and this he proved by the . . . examples of Orogen . . . and of William Holcott of Wellsfield who without outward calling preached at William Jewells funeral." Eventually it appears that Mr. Shales was "excluded out of y<sup>e</sup> nombre of preachers," and that something was done with both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Underdonne, whose names are bracketted together, but without any explanatory comment. In 1585, Henry Shales resigned the living of Hangleton.<sup>47</sup> In 1603, in the answers to the inquiry made by the Bishop of Chichester as to the condition of the parish, the incumbent states that<sup>48</sup> "in this parish of Hangleton whereof I am parson the whole parish consisteth of but one house and there are about 16 communicants." Later, in 1724, dissent had made great havoc in the flock, probably owing to the influence of the Scrases as before recited, for the reply then is "the number of families are (sic) five the biggest of which

<sup>46</sup> "State P. Domest.," No. 15.

<sup>47</sup> "Reg. Ab. p. Whitgift," fo. 358 b.

<sup>48</sup> "S. A. C.," Vol. IV, p. 265.



are Quakers," that there had been no communion within the memory of man, and that the parsonage had been destroyed by lightning many years before. Of this parsonage we find an earlier record in the "Inquisitiones Nonarum" of 1369, already quoted, "The rector has a house and garden;" and again in 1635,<sup>49</sup> in "a Terrier of Gleabe Lands and Buildings belongenge unto the parsonag of Hangellton taken the 21<sup>s</sup> day of marche.in the eleventh yeere of the Raigne of o<sup>r</sup> Sovaigne Lord Charles . . ." there is a description worth partial quotation, "We have . . . a Parsonag Howse, a Barne, a cloase and parcell of Land adjoining to the Howse contayinge on Rood of grounde having the Church on the South, the high way on the East and the Right Honorable the Earle of Dorsete Lande on the northe and west." There is further this passage: "And more over it hath byn well knowne to have had one acre of arable Land lyeing among the Land late Sr Water Courte deceased for wch he hath oftentimes paid Rent but of laett yeers he hath detayned."

The destruction of the parsonage above mentioned is more particularly described in the oddly-worded first entry in the Portslade Parish Registers. "Through the sacred Providence of Almighty God the old Church Register of Portslade was burnt by Lightening together with y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage House of Hangleton on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> of may between 4 and 6 morning 1666 John Temple, clerke being y<sup>e</sup> Rector thereof." At the present time neither Parsonage, tithe barn, "the cloase," nor the garden are any longer to be found.

There are no entries of much interest in the existing Parish Register, unless we except the following:—"1677. Oct. 2. Bur. John Jacob of Flushing set sick on shore at West Aldrington by a Brighthelmstone boat." Before concluding, some notice may be taken of the present isolated position of the parish church, especially in connection with one or two other facts relating to the population. By the census of 1881 the parish of Hangleton contained 11 houses (all of these

<sup>49</sup> "Terrier," &c., orig. prob. at Chichester, copy at Portslade Vicarage.

except Hangleton Place being new cottages) and 79 inhabitants, an increase of 18 persons since the previous census. In 1724, as we have noticed, there were only five families, in 1603 only *one* house (this is puzzling, as both "Benfields" and Hangleton Place must have then existed), and 15 communicants. In 1367 there were no persons having chattels beyond the value of 10s., but the population is not recorded. In Domesday 57 persons are mentioned, besides the lord, and it therefore seems as if at no time within record was the parish a populous one. But upon the Ordnance Maps, on the south-west slope of the hillside beyond the church, and quite away from the part of the parish which is now inhabited, is marked "the site of the ancient village of Hangleton," this being, to some extent, confirmed by the extent of the brick and flint foundations which, I am informed, are always noticed here when the land is ploughed, and amongst the old field-names this is given as "Stony Croft."<sup>50</sup> The sexton also tells me that he finds it quite impossible to dig in any part of the churchyard (not a very small one) without disturbing previous interments, and that the whole ground is "full of bones up to the top." This hardly seems accounted for by an average population of 30 or 40 souls. It may possibly be that the Black Death (1348-9) or some similar pestilence nearly exterminated the parish, but no reference appears to show this.

In conclusion I have to express my indebtedness to several members of the Society for information and assistance, to the Rev. C. A. Stevens, M.A., of Portslade, the Rev. A. P. Gordon, M.A., of Newtimber, and especially to Mr. F. E. Sawyer, F.S.A., for many valuable memoranda, and to Miss Hardwick, of Hangleton Place, for a list of the field names, etc. A list of the incumbents of Hangleton is appended.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup> It is currently reported that a tunnelled passage exists running from this point in the direction of West Blatchington.

<sup>51</sup> Most of the particulars in this list have been kindly supplied from the MSS. collections of the late J. B. Freeland, Esq., by his son, H. W. Freeland, Esq., formerly M.P. for Chichester, except where other authorities are mentioned.

- Simon Ingolf.  
 1403. William Newton, on the resignation of Simon Ingolf,  
 Jan. 15. who had exchanged for Cowfold.  
 1407. John Lokyngton, on resignation of William Newton.  
 Ap. 28.
- William Worthe,  
 1442. John Gerveys, on the death of William Worthe.  
 June 25.
1444. Thomas Whyte, on the resignation of John Gerveys.  
 Mar. 15.
1478. Walter Cove, (? Walter Covert. A Walter Covert is  
 mentioned in "Rowe's MSS.," 27  
 Hen. VI.)  
 on resignation of Walter Cove.
1484. John Hugh,  
 Mar. 30.
1511. Henry Prior.
- Jan. 3. Henry Hornely, on the death of Henry Prior.  
 1523. Feb. 16.
- The Prior and Convent of Saint Pancras, Lewes, were the Patrons up  
 to this date, and also of West Blatchington.  
 John Wilson.
1568. Edward Cracknelle, on the death of John Wilson, and  
 Feb. 16. presentation of Edward Belling-  
 ham.
- "On June 9, 1585, the churches of Blatchington and Hangleton united  
 by Archbishop Whitgift, the see of Chichester being vacant."—"Reg.  
 Arbp. Whitgift," fol. 358, b.)
1582. Henry Shales, on resignation of Edward Cracknelle.  
 1585. Thomas Wilsha, on resignation of Henry Shales.  
 June 9. Richard Bellingham of Hangleton  
 patron.—("Reg. Arbp. Whit-  
 gift.")
1589. Richard May, A.M. on resignation of Thomas Wilsha.  
 Jan. 10. Richard Mann (qy. ?)
- The patronage was henceforward with the Sackville family.
1609. Joseph Bonne, on death of Richard Mann; in a  
 Jan. 17. roll of the several armors and furni-  
 ture with the names of the clergy  
 within the Archdeaconry of Lewes,  
 1612, there appears "Hangleton,  
 Glynde, Mr. Boone (double bene-  
 ficed), 'a musquet furnished.'" "S. A. C.," Vol. XI., p. 225.)
1613. John Bridge, on death of Joseph Boone (see  
 Sept. 1. Terrier of Glebe Land, &c., already  
 quoted).  
 In a list of the "contribution  
 of the clergy within the diocese of

		Chichester 1634 towards the repair- inge of S. Pauls church in Lon- don," appears "John Bridge par- son of Hangleton and vicar of
		£ s. d.
		Portslade 00 10 00." ("Suss. Daily News," 7 Oct., 1876.)
1669. Jan. 26.	John Temple.	"John Temple, Clerk Licentiate Preacher was inducted into ye Parish Church by Mr. Peter Wynne Rector of Southweeke." (Portslade Parish Register, 2nd entry.)
1709. Ap. 13.	John Tattersall, A.M.	on death of John Temple.
1741. Jan. 31.	Edward Raynes, A.B.,	on death of John Tattersall.
1755. Oct. 6.	Robert Norton, A.M.,	on death of Edward Raynes.
1757. Feb. 25.	John Clutton, A.B.,	on death of Robert Norton.
1815. Feb. 24.	Henry Hoper, A.M.,	on death of John Clutton.

Blatchington was in the 18th century united to Brighton, and Hangleton is now united to Portslade under an order in Council dated 28 July, 1864.

The list of the Field names may perhaps be useful, and is herewith given :—

Cowdren, or Cowdens.  
Pigeon House Field.  
North Lain.  
White House Piece.  
Skeleton Hovel.  
Upper Dencher.  
East Bottom Croft.  
Honey Croft.  
Stone Croft  
High Dole.  
Dean.  
Upper Lain.  
Benfields House Piece.  
Fern Closes.  
Breaches.  
The Gibbets.<sup>52</sup>

} These are on the same estate, but just  
over the Aldrington boundary.

<sup>52</sup> Some men hanged here for robbing the mail, according to local tradition.