

NOTES ON THE RIDGE FAMILY,
BEING SOME EXTRACTS FROM "A BOOK OF
MEMORANDOMS KEPT BY WILLIAM RIDGE."

1715-1785.

By JOHN SAWYER.

WILLIAM RIDGE, the writer of the entries in the memorandum book to which attention is invited in the following pages, was a member of a very old Sussex family¹ connected with Lewes, but now extinct. Mr. James Berry Morris, of Eastbourne (to whom I am indebted for permission to publish the extracts here given), informs me that "the Ridges attended the Bull Meeting House, at Lewes, and when the diary was written were Presbyterians, but at the close of the last century became Unitarians." The Dr. Doddridge mentioned in the memorandum-book was the celebrated author of "The Rise and Progress."

The memorandum-book, a small, brown-paper covered one, very roughly made, has had several leaves cut out of it. In the remaining pages are some curious items that I am not without hope may prove of interest to some members, at least, of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

The entries made by William Ridge are not in chronological order, nor are they confined to any particular class of event. The personal element does not sufficiently enter into it to entitle it to rank as a diary. The writer simply recorded, either in the briefest fashion or more in detail, as the case might be, anything he considered worthy of notice, or that he particularly wished to remember. It is, as he himself describes it on the last remaining page, "A Book of Memorandoms kept by William Ridge." Under this title, as but for its position

¹ See "Horsfield's History of Lewes," Vol. II., page 139, where a pedigree is given.

one would call it, there is this note:—"Observe always before December ye 25: 1763 I Signed My Name thus William Ridge ever Since thus Wm Ridge." This is followed by the following description of the way in which he marked his money-bags. The minuteness of detail when describing these bags is worthy of the particularity of Samuel Pepys himself:—

March: 1774 I had 4 white Bags Made and I mark all within Side and wrote from the Seam as follows and numb. Wm Ridge, March 1774 set under 4 number of Bag. I had also 2 yellow Bags marked as before Different Date which was Janry 1772

Another page in the memorandum-book is devoted to a description of some other money-bags, which runs as follows:—

August 27: 1782 I had 4 Yellow Mony Bags Made Marked thus Wm Ridge Marked Within Side All one Size

82

Observe the W began at the Seam and the 8 right under the g the 82 for the Date

Some White Bags before markd Wm Ridge
1776

Observe the 1 Just under Last tip of W and top of 6 Just under Last Stroke of R

December y^e 8: 1785 I had 6 Mony Bags 3 White and 3 Yellow all Marked within Side thus Wm Ridge
1785

1 under first tip of W. 7 under last & 5 under first tip of R.

A similar entry was also made in 1776.

Much less precise are two items of personal interest which are written on an earlier page of the memorandum-book, in the following quaint and laconic style:—

January y^e 6: 1721, I Broke my Leg

March ye 12: 173 $\frac{3}{4}$ I Cut my foot

William Ridge.

It would almost appear as if the writer cared considerably more about his belongings than about himself, since immediately under these brief notices of accidents is an elaborate description of a watch. The minuteness of particulars in this entry can hardly be conveyed, however, without the aid of an engraving in *fac simile*.

May 20: 1732 I Bought a Watch of Mr Thomas Barret that Cost me five pound. of Mr James Chaters Make Number 897 the name and number as tis Set Down. Within Side Counterfeited as Near as

I could January ye 2nd 174^o as follows :—Jam^s Chater v 897. LONDON.

Observe the Crotchet between Chater and 897 is Caused by fyling of Something.

Apparently the copy William Ridge had made of the maker's name, was not quite satisfactory, since just under the above there is the following :—

Counterfeited again August y^e 22: 1745

Jam^s Chater v 897
London

with this addendum :—

Within Side of Iner Case wrote with A fork Hamsey April y^e 23: 1748, W. Ridge.

The greater portion of the space in the memorandum-book is about equally divided between a record of events relating to what I may perhaps call Sussex Meteorology, a report of some religious services held in the Lewes Meeting House, and a register of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths occurring in connection with the Ridge family. There are also, as will be noticed, some miscellaneous entries, which can hardly be classed under any specific heading.

1. SUSSEX METEOROLOGY.

Quite a sensational list is given on the first two pages, where a storm of wind, an earthquake, two total eclipses of the sun, and a flood, are all set down in the following order and terms :—

January 8: 173⁴ there was a terrible high wind from 10 a Clock in the forenoon till about 8 at night but about noon there was a Gust of wind that did a great deal of damage twas computed it blowed down 100 barns and 4 mills and a great many Chimneys hoveuels and Trees within 12 Miles of Lewes it blowed down 2 barns of Benjamins Ridges at Iford with between 20 and 30 Beast in them and but 1 was Killed but Several hurt it blowed down a barn at the Goat Farm that was builded but about 5 years before and the News Papers gave an account of a great deal of mischife done all over England it was computed to be as high or higher than the november wind about 31 years before

William Ridge no doubt refers to the terrible storm, one of a series, which commenced at midnight on the 27th of November, 1703. It is described by Erredge in

his "History of Brighthelmstone," page 73. This storm wrought such terrible havoc, that we are told that afterwards

The town presented the ruinous appearance of a place severely bombarded.

Returning to the memorandum-book we find the following:—

October y^e 25: 1734 An Earthquake was felt by Several about Lewes but did no damage it was felt between 3 and 4 a Clock in the morning.

Then we have:—

In the year 1715 in April in the morning I saw Total Eclipst of the Sun

In 1724 in May in the Evening I Saw Another total Eclipst of the Sun

In connection with the first eclipse of the sun recorded here, I find Mr. John Wade² has the following note under date April 22, 1715:—

A total eclipse of the sun about nine in the morning: the darkness was so great for three minutes and thirteen seconds that the stars appeared.

William Ridge next records that on:—

January y^e 2: 172⁵/₆ Clift Bridge was drove away being Sunday in the morning.

The inference is that this catastrophe was due to a flood, but whether induced by rain or sudden thaw, there is nothing here to indicate.

Some entries relating to the appearance of comets come next, and these are illustrated by small pen and ink diagrams, which are scarcely worth reproducing. The language is most curiously unscientific, as will be noticed:—

September y^e 2: 1769 I See a Comet about 3 o Clock in the Morning about $\frac{1}{2}$ as far South of Bulls Eye as Bulls Eye is from the Pleides appearing thus. (Here, of course, a diagram is inserted.) Tail about as long as tis between Pleides and Bull Eye.

September 4 Saw him again and then he was much more East than before being as far and half as far from Bulls Eye as Bulls Eye is from the Pleides appearing thus. (Another diagram occurs here.)

² "British History Chronologically Arranged," page 34. London, 1839.

He appeared about as Big as Brightest of the Pleides and Colour redish like Mars.

The following account of a great frost is interesting for its graphic and minute particulars:—

ACCOUNT OF A FROST THAT BEGAN ON MONDAY DECEMBER γ° 24: 1739

On which day there was a Little Scaul Frost next day much the Same not enough to Make it Clean there having been a great deal of Rain Sometime before but a wenesday it was harder a Thursday too hard to Plow but Saturday Sunday & Munday the wind very high from North East was Vast Cold especially Sunday was thought to be the Coldest day ever was known in these Clymits it freest almost every thing there was a Little Snow a Tuesday Jann. γ° 1 and Wenesday and Thursday it Thawed So as to Thaw the Snow, but afterward it Freest for the most part night and day till Candlemus and then the days being pritty Long it Thawed A days but Freest as much A nights till the 17th of Febuary when it Thawed night and day till a Tuesday night when it Freest again A nights till Munday the — not So much as it Thawed a days we began Plow a Saturday Last being 23 of Febuary. Some People a day or two before but could Plow no depth there was a vast many Plows broke 4 or 5 days first Plowing there was but a very Little Snow all the frost hear abouts but a great deal in Some Places especially in Kent after the Cold Sunday a Snow knee deep the Frost was very bad at London the Thames was Freest up So that people and horses went acrost. Lewes River was Freest by the Cold Sunday the people walk acrost by the bridge a monday but the Little Thaw a wenesday and Thursday following opened it and it freest no more after. The wind continued Northwardly all the Frost And the Thaw till the 27 of Febuary and then in the South but Soon Got round to the North again and Continued So for the Most Part till the 21st of April and very little Rain and very Cold which causes the Corn and Grass to Grow but very Little but upon 21th of April there was a Great deal of Snow and wind blowed very hard from North west it Snowed from 10 a Clock in Morn till three a Clock in afternoon as fast as almost I ever See it but it Thawed very much as it fell that the Ground was but little more than Covered but if it had all lain I think it must have been More than Shoe deep the next day was pritty bright in forenoon which Thaw'd it all to some drifts there was a frost in the Morning and Ise and wind blowed very Cold from North West. May 6. The wind has Continued Northwardly for the most part till now and frequently frost a mornings So' that the Grass and Corn is very backward and few people has turn out to Grass but Such as fodder goes Short with to day morning was a Snow full deep enough to track a hare very well at Six a Clock when I see it but Some Said it was Shoe deep at three or four a Clock it Thaw'd apace and water run pretty much at Six a Clock which Showed that there was a deal fell a Keeler run over with water at the Spout the Frost in the winter twas thought Caused wheat to be very Ordinary So that it rise to be 15th or 16th the Load before Harvest and Continud to

Almost as Much ever Since to this time January ye 2 174 $\frac{1}{2}$ but A Little before Harvest it fell to Near five pound the Load and it as Continued to be very Low ever Since. It tis but four pound ten the Load January y^e 1: 174 $\frac{3}{4}$.

This very exact account of a memorable frost is followed by a description of a comet, and of a drought.

ACCOUNT OF A BLAZING STAR

About January y^e 7: 174 $\frac{3}{4}$ I See A Star about as big as one of the Stars of the yard and Blazed A Little but not enough to be Discerned by My Father and other Ancient people he was about two hours before the Seven Stars and Set about half an hour after ten his tail pointed Directly to the Seven Stars. Jan 21 being A Clear Night and Moon not up he Shewed Vastly plain his tail Shewed to be half an hour Long that is might be Seen Near half An hour after he went down. February the 9 being A Clear Night I See the Star again and he was Vastly incresed in bigness appearing to be as big as Jupiter but red Like Mars And his Blaze Something More then Jan. 21 Last he had gained of the fixed Stars about an hour and Seemed A Little bearing to the South of them and his tail seemed to bear round to the North Star More. that is from the Sun he went down Febr. 9 about half An hour after Seven. Next Morning I see him about Six A Clock Seeming about half A hour high being first time that I had Seen him in A Morning So that As he Set at half An hour after Seven and rised half An hour after five in the Morning he was were the Sun is on April y^e 8 Some people talk they See him at first five or Six days before me

William Ridge

February y^e 24 174 $\frac{3}{4}$ being very Clear in the Morning I did not See the Blazing Star nor had not Seen him Since the 18th in the Morning when about Six A Clock I Saw him prety Near right before the Sun about an hour before her So that his Corse Since my Last Seeing him had gone very Much to South and gained nothing of fixed Stars he was as plain at Last as at all and his tail Seem to be all along to turn Directly from the Sun a little Rain bowing wise towards the uper end to the North the glar of his tail about as broad as the wheeles of the crooked cart is apart, it has been subject to be very Cloudy all the time the Star has been Seen and yet there is no Rain Nor has been none to Make much water for this twelvemonth past the wells and Several ponnds be now as Low as ever was known Brother Ridge at Stoneham forced to drive his Oxen down to Lower Stoneham Spring dick and I have drawed water for the Oxen in Tullys well Close all this winter there being no water in the ponds fitting for them to Drink and the well has but Just enough water for 8 oxen I draw him dry every day almost and we Lacked water to brew about A week ago forced to drive the oxen down to Malters gill to water having not water enough to brew and thay too. The well is about 23 foot Deep from the top of the Cub to his bottom and Water Millers and others Complain very Much for Lack of water the Last

Sumer was prety plentiful Sumer and Rain enough Since Michelmus to Make the Ground plow and work as never better but the oldest man living never in the Sumer knew the Springs Lower than Now. May y^e 1: 1744 there was a great deal of Rain about Ladytide Last So as to Make Large floods So water as been plenty Since and Spring much as Common

This local meteorological record may be brought to a close with the following extracts, which will specially interest Lewes folks:—

The year 1768 was very wet later part of Havest So wet as to Spoil the Corn the Most as I ever new And on September the 21 there was a large Flood as flowed up to the Corner of Bridge Coffe Coach House and So Continued large Floods till the 3^d of December when there was A Flood that flowed in every lower room of the Bear and about half way up the Iron Ring that hangs on the warehouse on the North east Corner of the Bridge Suppose to be almost as high as at any time Novem^{br} 12: 1773 A Flood flowed over Ring & Staple of North East Corner of Clift Bridge and up to 10th Brick below Copping Brick of Corner of Bear House the Bear being new Built and Raised Since 1768.

December 4th 1779 Flood Flowed up half way up 15th Brick as above.

2. REPORTS OF SOME RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD IN LEWES.

The three services recorded by William Ridge in his memorandum book are briefly described, but brevity can scarcely be said to have characterized the gatherings themselves, which lasted four hours, three hours and a quarter, and four hours and a half respectively. It would not be easy to secure the attention of a modern congregation throughout such protracted proceedings.

A PUBLIC FAST.

January y^e 9: 173⁹/₀ A Fast kept on Account of war with Spain kept at Lewis in the uper Meeting house³ in following manner Mr Beach prayed a Short prayer then he read a Psalm and Chapter and then prayed again then he phreach A Sermon on Revelations 3: 2 then Sung a Psalm and then Mr Olive prayed and then he preach a Sermon on Jeremiah 14: 8 and then Mr Force went up and preach on the 3 chapter of Jonah and then he prayed and then sung another Psalm and then made a Short exhortation for A Collection for the Poor the Service began about Eleven A Clock and Continued till about 3.

ANOTHER PUBLIC FAST.

A Fast at Lewes at uper place November y^e 10: 1742 Mr Beach prayed A Short prayer and read A Chapter A Psalm and Chapter and

³ Bull Meeting House, now Unitarian Chapel.

then Sung A Psalm and prayed and Mr Watkins preach on Jonah 3 : 7. 8. 9 and prayed and then Sung A Psalm and Mr Johnston prayed and preach on Exodus 15 : 3 and then Sung a Psalm and then prayed and made a Short Exhortation for A Collection for the poor. Began About a Quarter of An hour after Eleven and ended about three.

The most important religious event recorded in the memorandum-book is an Ordination Service, that took place at Lewes in 1742; in which we get not only an account of the public proceedings, that may be accepted, no doubt, as approximately correct, but some particulars connected with the dinner which followed the service. I presume that when in this and in the preceding accounts the various ministers are spoken of as singing certain Psalms and hymns, it is to be understood that they gave them out to be sung by the congregation in the usual way, led, we may be sure, if so, by the choir, which was as important an institution in William Ridge's time as now, if not more so.

AN ORDINATION SERVICE.

Something of the way and maner that Mr Ebenezer Johnston was Ordained at Lewes July y^e 21 : 1742 Viz Mr Mason of Darking began with A Short prayer and read the 34th of Ezekiel the 10 first Vearses of the third Chap of y^e first of Timothy And 2th of Titus and then Said Something in A way of Preface then read the Churches invitation which was Signed by Richard Ridge Tho Barret⁴ William Attersol Tho Davy Crutt Weller⁵ and I Believe William English and after reading he Asked them for they with Some others of the Church Sat together wether they did not allow of the Invitation if thay did they Should make Some Sighn as by holding up their hands the which they did and then he asked Mr Johnston wether he excepted of the invitation the which he Declared he did then we Sung the 10th hymn of y^e 1th Book and then Mr Johnston of Wisbich Brother to the ordained went in the pulpit and prayed and then Mr Jinnings of London Preached A Sermon on the 2 Corinthians 4 : 5 and then Mr Sammuel Snashal of Newington went in the pulpit and Asked Mr Johnston to read his beleif and after he ask him his Resolutions to Keep to his beleif the which also Mr Johnston Read and then Mr Snashel came down to the Seat where the following Ministers were to wit Mr Jinnings Docter Dodridge Mr Johnston of Wisbich

⁴ A watchmaker. See page 117 *ante*.

⁵ By a reference to the "Calendar of Deeds, &c., in the Possession of the Sussex Archaeological Society," page 77 *ante*, it will be seen that Cruttenden Weller, of Lewes, was (in 1738) a tallow chandler. He is described as the "only son and heir of Stephen Weller, tallow chandler, deceased." His mother's name was Hannah, and she held property in St. Michael's, Lewes

Mr Dear of Burwash Mr Duke of Brighthelmstone⁶ Mr Whatkins of Lewis Mr Mason of Darking Mr Wittle of Battle Mr Chantler of Turner Hill and there Mr Snashal with most of the rest Layed there hands on the head of Mr Johnston as he Kneeled and Mr Snashal prayed over him And then Docter Dodridge of Northampton went in the pulpit and gave the charge and then Sung the 1st and two Last Verses of the 128 hymn of y^e 1st Book and then Mr Dear went in pulpit and concluded with A prayer. Whole service was about four hours and A half began about A Quarter before Eeleven and ended about A Quarter after three. The Aforewriting is as near as I could call to mind after I came home the Same day at Night.

William Ridge.

After the Ordination was over there was A Dinner provided for the Ministers at Crutenden Wellars by the Joynt Charge of Several and Dyned the 11 Ministers before Mentioned and Mr Butten of Rye Mr Beach of Lewes Mr Marshall who came with Dr Dodridge and Docter Avery and Thomas Davy Apothecary.

3. SOME NOTICES OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS CONNECTED WITH THE RIDGE FAMILY.

These entries are copied *verbatim* in the hope that they may be of use to any who are interested in tracing the history of the Ridge family. The first account gives a very good idea of an eighteenth century funeral:—

SOMETHING OF THE MANNER AND CHARGE OF THE BURYAL OF MY BROTHER THOMAS who dyed y^e 9th Febuary 173⁸ and buried y^e 13 being Fryday Viz: gave Gloves & favours to 6 young men that caryed him from the hearse to the ground Viz: William Crawley: William Boys: William Peckham: Joseph Attersoll: Richard Read: Crutenden Weller his Father and Mother Brothers and Sisters had Cloaths and Gloves & hatbands

None of his Aunts were here his Unkels that were here had Gloves and hatbands & Servants and workmen had Gloves bought one Gallon of Red wine at 6^s 6^d p^r. gallon & a galon and a half of White at 5^s. 6^d

⁶ It may be mentioned here that the Rev. John Duke was the first regular minister who officiated in connection with Union Street Congregational Church, Brighton. He occupied the pulpit there from 1698 till 1745. In the "Churches of Brighton," Part III., p. 256, the name of "John Duke of Brighthelmstone, Clerke" occurs in a list of the trustees of that church, in an extract from the original Trust Deed made "the Fifteenth day of March in the Eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord William the Third . . . 1688-9." At page 261 of the same work there is the following remark:—"All that appears to be known of the long period of 47 years during which the ministry of the Rev. John Duke extended, is its extent, and that the first baptism registered by him in the book of baptisms was on 17th April, 1700; the last, on August 19th 1745." It may be remarked that a "Thomas Ridge of Brighthelmstone Grocer" is also mentioned among the original trustees of Union Street. A Second Trust Deed was executed in 1731, and a third in 1766, wherein it was stated that all the trustees "where then departed to their rest except James Ridge." On December 31st, 1838, a fourth Trust Deed was executed by the then three surviving trustees, one of whom was Joseph Ridge.

gallon and that was about half drank: The Coffin linded within and without but no plate cost 30^s The hearse Cost one Guinea had him of Thomas Frind, Sergeant Hamans horses John Read Searve the Funeral

The description of a coffin "linded within and without" is exceedingly rich. The undertaker's charges contrast curiously with those of the present day. The next entries are somewhat oddly worded:—

November y^e 4: 1742 My Unkle John Peckham Was Buryed at Framfeild Church He was aged 54 on the Coffen He dyed the first of November Last about Noon. Desember y^e 27: 1742 Unkle William Peckham was Buryed Same Age as other he dyed y^e 23th Last they being twins

The following extracts are given just as they occur in different pages in the memorandum-book:—

THE BIRTHS AND BAPTIZINGS OF THE CHILDREN OF RICHARD RIDGE OF STONEHAM AND ANN HIS WIFE ⁷

A Son Born Desember y^e 25 1708⁸ Baptiz^d by the Name of *William* March y^e 15: 170⁸₉

A Son Born Febuary y^e 18: 170⁹₁₀ *Baptiz^d* John March y^e 27: 1710

A Son Born June y^e 21: 1711 Bapte by the Name of Thomas July 30: 1711 dyed Febuary y^e 9: 1735

A Daughter Born January y^e 31: 171²₃ *Babtized* Jane March y^e 17th 1712

A Daughter Born May y^e 23: 1714 *Babtized* Ann June y^e 7: 1714

A Daughter Born May y^e 18: 1717 *Babtized* Mary June y^e 19: 1717 Aforesaid John Ridge was Married to Elizabeth Cockle October y^e 29: 1735

had A Son Born November y^e 22: 1736 *Babtized* by the Name of John Desem y^e 7: 1736

had A Daughter Born November y^e 19: 1737 *Babtized* Elizabeth Desember y^e 13 1737

A Boy Still Born by Which She *dyed* October y^e 8: 1739

November y^e 2: 1738 Ann Ridge Daughter to Richard Ridge Was Maryed to Cruttend Weller of Lewes A Son Born Jannuary y^e 12: 174⁰₁ Baptized Stephen Febuary 2: 174⁰₁ A Daughter Born June the 31th (*Sic*) 1743 Baptizd Jane on July y^e 18th

November y^e 24 1743 Mary Ridge Daughter to Richard Ridge and Ann his Wife was Married to Ebenezer Johnston Minister

This, of course, partly accounts for the great interest exhibited by William Ridge, in the Ordination Service, already described, since Mr. Johnston was the husband of his niece.

⁷ After these extracts were in print Mr. Morris was good enough to send me a small note-book originally belonging to Richard Ridge (father of William Ridge), containing details of his marriage, the birth of his children, &c. A copy of the entries will be found appended to these notes.

⁸ See page 130 *post*.

September y^e 25: 1744 A Son Born to Eben Johnston and Mary his Wife October y^e 19: 1744 I Saw him Christened by Mr Watkins named him William

July y^e 30: 1745 Born to Crutt Weller and Ann his Wife A Daughter Baptized August y^e 21 by Mr Johnston named Mary. November y^e 19 1745 Ann the wife of Crutt Weller dyed aged 31 years 5 months 12 days

August y^e 8: 1746 Mary Weller Daughter to Crutt Weller dyed Aged 1 year 9 days

February y^e 2: 1747⁷/₈ A Son Born to Mr Johnston and Mary his wife Baptized by Mr Watkins on the 22th by the Name of Ebenezar

October y^e 17: 1749 Jane Ridge Daughter to Rich Ridge and Ann his wife was married to Thomas Cruttenden

Jan y^e 25: 174⁹/₃₀ A Daughter Born to Mr Johnston Baptized by Mr Watkins on the 12th of Febru by y^e name of Mary

July 18: 1750 A Daughter Born to Thomas Cruttenden and Jane his Wife named Phebe

Septem 11: 1751 Jane Daughter to Crutt Weller & Ann his wife dyed aged 8 years 1 month 24 days

Novem 26: 1751 Mary Daughter to Eben: Johnston and Mary his wife dyed aged 1 year 10 months 1 day

January 19: 175¹/₂ John Son of John Ridge dyed of the Small pox at
years mon days
 London Aged 15 - 1 - 27

Decem 5: 1751 Phebe Daughter to Thomas Cruttenden and Jane his wife dyed aged 1 year 4 months 18 days

Febru 28: 1754 Sister Jane Cruteenden Dyed aged 41 years 17 days

William Ridge was evidently not a little puzzled in working out the exact age at which his relations died so as to bring the dates into conformity with the Act passed in 1751, for the "Reform of the Calendar," since at the end of the entries just quoted there are some elaborate calculations scribbled over, and the following explanatory note appended: "Old Stile outset."

July y^e 30: 1756 A Son Born to Mr Johnston and Mary his wife Bapitized by Mr Johnston August 6th named John Ridge

Novem y^e 28: 1755 being Fryday Richard Ridge dyed aged
years months days
 74 - 8 - 17

Decem 3 on Wednesday was Buryed in the Vault at St Michaels

December y^e 6: 1757 William Ridge Son of Richard Ridge was Maryed to Sarah Ridge being Tuesday

She was Born January y^e 3: 172⁷/₈ O.S.

November 16: 1754 A Daughter Born to Eben Johnston & Mary his wife baptizid by Mr Will Johnston Decem 5 And named Mary Dyed July 5: 1755 June 4 O.S. 1752 A Daughter born to Mr Johnston Bapitized Ann by Mr Will Johnston

Novem 19: 1758 A Daughter Born to William Ridge and Sarah his Wife December y^e 11: 1758 Baptiz^d by Mr Johnston and named Sarah

Decem 7: 1746 Sister Johnston Brought A Bed of A Boy who Dyed the 14 following

August 7: 1758 Sister Johnston Brought A Bed of Son August 30
Mr Will Johnston Baptized him and named him Thomas

Ann Peckham who Maryed Richard Ridge was Born October y^e 13: 1681

March y^e 25: 1762 A Son Born to William Ridge and Sarah his wife April y^e 16 Babtized by Mr Johnston and named Richard

April y^e 21: 1763 A Son Born to William Ridge & Sarah his wife

May y^e 10 above Child dyed and May 14 was put in the Vault in St Michaels

April y^e 21: 1764 Ann Wife of Richard Ridge dyed Aged 82 years 5 months 27 days dyed about 7 in even And Buryed y^e 26 in the Vault at St Michaels

August y^e 29: 1764 A Son Born to W^m Ridge & Sarah his Wife

September y^e 26: 1764 Mr Johnston Baptized him and Named him Benjamin

Febry 26: 1767 A Son Born to W^m Ridge & his wife Sarah and Named Luke Mr Johnston Babtized him March 20th following

May y^e 1: 1769 Luke Ridge Son of Will^m Ridge and Sarah dyed Buryed May 5 in Vault in St Michaels Aged 2 years 2 months and 5 days

December y^e 25: 1770 Ann Johnston Daughter of Eben Johnston and Mary his wife dyed and Decembr y^e 31 was Buryed in the Vault in St Michaels. She was born June 23: 1752 aged 18 - 5 - 21

December 26: 1773 Sister Ridge (she was maryed July 21: 17—?) of Kingston Dyed Jany 3 put in the Vault in St Michaels aged 54

July 30: 1756 Mr Johnston A Son Born August 16 Babtized by Will^m Johnston and named John Ridge

November 29: 1778 John Ridge Son of Richard Ridge dyed at Greenwich and put in the Vault at St. Michaels Decem 8: 1778

Aged 68 years 8 months 28 Days

Born February 18th 170 ^{$\frac{9}{10}$}

4. MISCELLANEOUS.

The remaining entries in William Ridge's memorandum-book are few in number, and of no particular value, so far as I can judge. They include nearly a dozen of those "Puzzling Questions" with which our ancestors were so fond of diverting themselves. A specimen of this style of exercise, it will be remembered, is given in "S. A. C.," Vol. XXXVI., page 81, *note*, by Mr. C. E. Clayton, in his admirable paper on John Grover, of Brighthelmstone. There is a record of the amount of Land Tax per pound for a series of years; a suggestion as to "A true pitch for Rafters of an house;" a record

of the result of the Lewes and Sussex Elections in 1774;⁹ a note upon the date of the invention of guns and of printing, and several other notes besides. I will give one specimen of a "Puzzling Question," and conclude this transcript with one or two miscellaneous extracts :

A Butcher went to wey A pound of Meat and he had Lost all his weights except A Stone which weyed Just 40 pound he had A fansy wether he could not break off Just A pound off from him and in doing of it he broke it in 4 pieces but So Nisely that with them he could wey any number of pounds from 1lb to 40lb I Desire to know what weights them 4 peices must be.

Answer 1lb - 3lb - 9lb - and 27lb.

The following tabular statement of the variations in the amount of Land Tax during a period of 43 years is perhaps worth preserving :—

ACCOUNT OF LAND TAX PR. POUND

				s					s
1743	...	...	...	4	1765	...	...	...	4
1744	...	...	...	4	66	...	...	...	4
45	...	...	...	4	67	...	...	...	3
46	...	...	..	4	68	...	...	...	3
47	...	...	...	4	69	...	...	...	3
48	...	...	...	4	1770	...	...	...	3
49	...	...	...	4	71	...	...	...	4
1750	...	...	...	3	72	...	...	...	3
51	...	...	...	3	73	...	...	...	3
52	...	...	...	3	74	...	...	...	3
53	...	...	..	2	75	...	...	...	3
54	...	...	...	2	76	...	...	...	4
55	...	...	...	2	77	...	...	...	4
56	...	...	...	4	78	...	...	...	4
57	...	...	...	4	79	...	...	...	4
58	...	...	...	4	1780	...	...	...	4
59	...	...	...	4	81	...	...	...	4
1760	...	...	...	4	82	...	...	...	4
61	...	...	...	4	83	...	...	...	4
62	...	...	...	4	84	...	...	...	4
63	...	...	...	4	85	...	...	...	4
64	...	...	...	4					

REMOVAL OF THE RIDGE FAMILY FROM STONEHAM.

In the year 1733 was there a barn pulled down at Old Tullys Wells Oachard and another at Carlys Banks and Set up together at New Tullys well.

⁹ Full particulars of these are preserved in the Society's Library. See Sussex Polls (No. 427), and Lewes Polls (No. 428).

And in the year 1735 was the House Called new Tullys well Built it twas Reared Agust 1 The Healing of it was Finish. September y^e 20: 1735 we Removed from Stoneham into it Desember y^e 2: 1735

A MEMORANDUM.

May 3: 1753 I paced and timed from were the ways part to go to Doctor Russels Bridge And the Clift. A top of Malling Hill to Lewes Market House

By Doctors Bridge	{	26 minutes
		2240 paces
By the Clift	{	21 minutes
		1840 paces

the Difference is about 5.5 to 4.5

Lying in the memorandum-book were several loose papers, and one of these is a bill for grocery supplied by one Samuel Ollive, to the Rev. Mr. Watkins, who, it will be remembered, took part more than once in the services in the Bull Meeting House. The bill is transcribed to show the prices current in 1759. On the back of this bill is a rough draft of a letter, evidently a copy of one that was addressed by William Ridge to a son, who for some unexplained reason, was at enmity with his father, and who is in most pathetic terms entreated to be reconciled to him, before his father should be driven to disinherit him. The letter, which is dated "Lewes, Feby 27, 1786," is pervaded by a spirit of piety as well as of deep affection. The scrawled writing, so different to that in the memorandum-book, bears evident traces of the agitation of the writer.

THE REV^d. MR WATKINSBO^T OF SAM^L OLLIVE viz^t

1759. Aug ^t 7.	1 ^{lb} Sugar	0 - 0 - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
9.	1 ^{oz} Green Tea	0 - 0 - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1 ^{oz} Bohea Tea	0 - 0 - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1 Sugar	0 - 0 - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
17.	1 ^{oz} Tea	0 - 0 - 9
	$\frac{1}{2}$ ^{lb} Sugar	0 - 0 - 4
	$\frac{1}{2}$ Lump Sugar	0 - 0 - 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
	$\frac{1}{4}$ Drops	0 - 0 - 6
23.	1 ^{lb} Sugar	0 - 0 - 7
	1 ^{lb} Cheese	0 - 0 - 4

Aug^t 27 - 1759Rec^d the full ContentsH. SAM^L OLLIVE

 0 - 5 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES RELATING TO THE RIDGE FAMILY,
1707-1843.

A VERY small, hand-made note-book, covered with vellum, referred to in a note at page 125 *ante*, contains a number of entries relating to the Ridge family. On the first page is inscribed:—

“Richard Ridge of Southmaling 15th desember 1708.”

The later entries are made, as will be seen, by William Ridge, and others.

The following is a literal copy:—

November y^e 19th : 1707.

I Was Married to Ann Packham of franfile desember y^e 25th 1708 (*sic*) in the forenoon At nine o Clock. God was pleased to Give my Son William by her the 15th of March 1708. he was Baptized by M^r. Starr of Lewes.

In another hand, of course, is written—

He died 11th Ap^l. 1802 Aged 93. Buried Saint Michaels 16 Apl 1802.

18th february 1709 God was pleased to Give me my Sone John Ridge by Her about Seven A Cloack in the forenoon ho (*who?*) was Baptized the 27th of March by M^r. Olive Att Lewes.

in June y^e 21th 1711 God was pleased to Give me My Sone Thomas by Her he was bornd About Eight A Clock in the forenoone he was Baptized the 30th of July 1711 by M^r. Olive att Lewes.

1712.

January 31 God was pleased too Give me my Daughter Jane Ridge by Her. She was Bornd About Nine A Clock att night and She was Baptized the 17th of March 1712 by M^r. Barnard att Lewes.

May 23th 1714 God wass Plesed to Give me my Daughter Ann Ridge by her hou (*who?*) was Baptized the 7th of June folowing by Mr. Barnard of Lewes. She dyed. She was bornd n^r. about Three a Clock in the morning.

Accounted 1717.

18 May 1717 God was pleased to Give me my Daughter Mary Ridge by her Bornd about Six a Clock in the Evening ho (*who?*) was Baptized the 19th of June folowing by M^r. Olive Att Lewes. She Dyed November 16 : 1787 Aged 70 years 5 months 18 Days Married to The Rev^d. M^r. Johnston.

this is Account^d. 1736.

feby 9 173 $\frac{5}{8}$ My Son Thomas Dyed About five A Clock in the Morn-
ing aged 24 year 7 months 18 Days. Born June 21st 1711. Buryed in
S^t. Johns.

November y^o 19 : 1745 Aforesaid Ann Ridge Daughter of Richard
Ridge Dyed aged 31 years 5 months 12 days.

Buryed in S^t. Michaels with the Wellers.

February y^o 28 : 1754 Jane Daughter of Aforesaid Richard Ridge
dyed aged 41 years 17 days. Buryed in S^t. Johns.

November y^o 28 : 1755. Aforesaid Richard Ridge dyed aged 74 year
8 months 17 days.

April y^o 21 : 1764 Ann wife of above Richard Ridge dyed ag^d 82 years
5 Months 27 days. Both Buryed in Vault in S^t. Michaels.

December y^o 6 : 1757 William Ridge Son of aforesaid Richard Ridge
Was Maryed to Sarah Ridge of Iford Daughter of Benjamin Ridge of
Iford. She was Born January y^o 3 : 172 $\frac{7}{8}$ O S.

William Ridge.

November y^o 19 : 1758 I hope of Gods Goodness towards me my Wife
Sarah was delivered of a Daughter about a Quarter after one a Clock in
the Afternoon being Sunday December y^o 11 : 1758 aforesaid Daughter
was Babtized by M^r. Johnston and named Sarah.

Written by William Ridge.

In the margin of that entry the following notes are
added :—

Obt. March 21st 1843.

Dyed March 21st 1843 Age 84.

Observe always before December y^o 25 : 1763 I Signed My Name thus
William Ridge ever Since thus W^m Ridge.¹⁰

March y^o 25 : 1762 God was Pleased to give my Son Richard who
was Babtized by M^r. Johnston April y^o 16 following he was born between
1 and 2 a Clock of aforesaid day in y^o Afternoon being Thursday William
Ridge

Buried at Fletching	} of Age
Dyed March 20 th 1826	
	Days of 64
	year

April y^o 21 : 1763 God was Pleased to Give A Son by Sarah my Wife
about 10 Minits before 7 a Clock in the Morning being Thursday May
y^o 10 the above dyed about 11 a Clock at Night aged 19 days 16 hours.

William Ridge

Buryed in Vault in S^t. Michaels.

August y^o 29 : 1764 God was pleased to Give Me A Son by my Wife
Sarah about 6 Minits after 8 of the Clock in the Morning being Wednes-
day September y^o 26 : 1764 above Son was Baptized by M^r. Johnston
and Named Benjamin.

Wrote by W^m. Ridge.

¹⁰ See page 117 *ante*.

Feburary y^e 26 : 1767 God was Pleased to give me another Son about half an hour after twelve a Clock at Noon being Thursday March y^e 20 following above Babtized by M^r. Johnston and named Luke.

Wrote by W^m. Ridge.

Dyed May 1st 1769 Age 2 years 2 M^o. 5 Days.

May y^e 1 : 1769 My Son Luke dyed about half an hour after 3 a Clock in the afternoon aged 2 years 2 Months 5 Days. May 5 put in Vault in S^t. Michals.
