

PEDIGREE AND GENEALOGICAL MEMORANDA RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF PELLATT,

OF

STEYNING, BIGNOR, BOLNEY, ARDINGLY, LEWES AND STAPLEFIELD,
Co. SUSSEX; BLETCHINGLY AND CROYDON, Co. SURREY;
AND STAINES, Co. MIDDLESEX.

PART I.

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(NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE).

THE volumes of the "Sussex Archæological Collections" have from time to time contained valuable histories of county families; I venture to hope that the annals of the Pellatt family here presented may not be uninteresting to the Members of the Society. Though never achieving any very great distinction, the Pellatts steadily played their part in the history of the county, and have been landowners in Sussex, almost without intermission, probably from 1296—certainly from 1503—to the present time, and have an honourable record.

Their pedigree and some notices of the family will be found in the county histories; but I now present earlier and fuller particulars of the various members, together with abstracts of, and extracts from numerous wills, some of them in themselves most quaint and interesting.¹

The earliest direct mention of the Pellatts is met with at Steyning, where they appear to have been a large and important family for some centuries. From Steyning they branch off to different parts of Sussex and Surrey,

¹ For those marked with an asterisk (*) I am indebted to Capt. F. W. T. Attree, R.E., a member of the Committee of the Sussex Archæological Society.

the main line, which is clearly traceable to the present day, still being landowners in the former county.

The name in the course of time has been variously spelt; Pelet, Pellett, and Pellatt being the most general; but in early times, when orthography was but little studied, the same document exhibits the name written in several ways.

The derivation of Pellatt is somewhat involved. In the "Patronymica Britannica" we have the following:—"Pellett, said to be a corruption of the baptismal name of Hippolyte. The family of this name are of long standing in Sussex, occurring in the neighbourhood of Steyning in the 13th century."

The late Mr. W. D. Cooper, F.S.A., considered the name to be of Saxon origin,² and as it is not mentioned in Domesday Book it is probable the family was settled in Sussex prior to the Conquest. In a list given by Mr. Cooper, in the paper referred to in the subjoined note of names, considered to be Saxon, not only will Pellatt be found, but it also contains those of Alcock, Cooke, Culpepper, Lewknor, Mickleborne, Mill, and Payne, with all of whom subsequent marriages with the Pellatts occur.

The present Arms borne by the family are—*Argent*, two bars *sable*, on the first a bezant. Crest, a lion, passant, *argent*, guttée, *sable*, in his dexter paw an acorn, slipped, vert, fructed *or*. Motto—"Devant si je puis."

I cannot help thinking that, instead of what is now called a bezant, the original was a *pellet*—a pun upon the name.

The first notice that we have of the arms being recorded at the Heralds' College is at the Visitation of Sussex, in 1634.³

They were again recorded at the Visitation of 1662.

The earliest mention of the name that I have been able to discover is in "Parliamentary Writs and Writs of Military Summons" (F. Palgrave, 1827), where, in

² See his paper, "On the Retention of British and Saxon Names in Sussex" ("S. A. C.," Vol. VII., p. 1-21).

³ See "S. A. C.," Vol. XI., p. 13.

a document referring to military service at Pevensey Castle, in 1278, the name Phillipus le Pelet appears.

In the Subsidy Roll for 1296, part of which has been printed in Vol. V. of these papers,⁴ amongst those who paid a tax of the eleventh of their chattels at Steyning, in the Rape of Bramber, is Reginald le Pelet, who paid ii.iv $\frac{1}{2}$, a very substantial sum compared to the rest of the ratepayers. In the same list William-atte-Mulle is returned as paying xvii $\frac{1}{2}$. The next entry in chronological order is John Pellet of London, whose will bears date 1487. Although I cannot as yet attach him to the pedigree, I insert the following:—

* EXTRACT OF THE WILL OF JOHN PELETT.

(7 Melles, p. 61.)

7 Dec., 1487, 2 Hen. VII. "I John Pelett thelder Citezin and Skynner of London" "to be buried in the churchyerd of Seint Margarete patens of the Cyte of London by the crosse ther in the place wher the bodyes of my Chyldren ther Resten and lyen buried"—to parson and wardens of s^d Church "a convenient sensour of sylū or els a ship^s of sylū of the valor of iii^jii"ⁱⁱ" "to Syr Thomas Arundell monk of Westm̄ iij yerdys and di" (dinudium=half) "of blake alne (? alms) clothe for a cote for hymselfe to pray sowle" "to the fryres preche^s of London so they come to the Church where my body to be p̄sentyd and ther say diriges for my sowle" 6^s/8^d "to my sonne Edmonde Pelett xx marc' to be payde be myn executo^s at the comyng owt of hys terme of ap̄ntysehode" also more at their discretion if ruled by them—obit⁶ to be kept at S^t Margaret Patens for 10 yeres—"Itm I bequeyeth to the ffyrst Chyld that god shall fortune John my sonne to have" "a standing maser⁷ koueryd w^t a knop of sylū to be delyfūd to such chyld so as god shall fortune to be after the deceese of Johan my wyfe" remainder to 2nd child of said John my son—"all my Londys and tenementys callyd Lop dane and all other my Londys at Barce sett and lying in the pōch of Charteh^m" in Kent to be sold to perform will. Rest to wife Johan whom with son John executors.

Proved at Lamehith (Lambeth) 25 March, 1488, by Johan, the relict and executrix, power being reserved to John the son and other executor.

⁴ See "S. A. C.," Vol. V., page 124.

⁵ Ship of silver, or incense boat (see "Lee's Glossary of Liturgical and Ecclesiastical Terms," pp. 159, 367).

⁶ Obiit or obit. An office performed at funerals, when the corpse was in the church, before it was buried; it afterwards came to be performed on the anniversary of the death of a benefactor (see "Hook's Church Dictionary," p. 536).

⁷ Mazer. The mediæval term for a large drinking-bowl or cup, of maple, box-wood, or walnut-wood, used on feasts, both secular and ecclesiastical (see "Lee's Glossary of Liturgical and Ecclesiastical Terms," p. 210, and "Archæologia," Vol. L., pp. 1-129).

I may remark in passing, that the Church of St. Margaret Patens, is in Rood Lane, and is well worthy of a visit.

Of course there was little likelihood of the "Ship or Sensour of Silver," thus bequeathed, being in existence, but the Vicar, the Rev. J. L. Fish, kindly showed me two manuscript inventories of their church plate, the first bearing date 1470, in which "one sensour of silver pcell gilt" is quoted, and in the next (taken in 1511) "two Sensours" are named, from which we may infer that the second "sensour" was that purchased with the gift of John Pellet.⁸

The Vicar also informed me that the mention of the "Crosse" in the churchyard is the earliest that has been found; subsequently it is often referred to.

It will be noticed that the testator leaves lands in Charteham, in the neighbouring county of Kent.

Of the children named, I have at present no trace.

By the kindness of E. H. Draper, Esq., Clerk to the Skinners' Company, I find that John Pellett's name is on their list of Brethren and Sisters in the 22nd year of King Henry VI. (1444). That he appears to have been warden from 1450 to 1454, and that the last entry regarding him is in 1488; the name being variously spelt as Pellet, Pelet, and Paylet.

The next information is of William Pellet, of Steyning, who was probably born there, 1450-60 (as we find one of his sons died in 1507, and makes mention of a wife).

William Pellet died at Steyning in 1503, and left a family of five sons and three daughters, and considerable property in Steyning, as well as lands in Nuthurst, Horsham, Assington, Wassington, Bowngton, Grenested, and Chiltington. We may presume that he inherited some of it from his forefathers, and that he was probably a descendant of Reginald-le-Pelet, who resided at Steyning in 1296.

⁸ For an interesting article upon the ancient plate of this church, see the "Archæological Journal," Vol. XLIII., p. 312.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF WILLIAM PELLET.
(P.C.C. 24 Blamyr.)

“The iij^d day of the moneth of May 1503” “I Wiłm Pellet” “my body to buried in the church of the holy Trinnite of Stenyng before the awf of seynt Mighell tharchangell” to the high Altar⁹ 5/- to Church of Steyning “for brekyng of my grave xl^s (40^s/-)” “Also I bequeth to the Abbasse of Syon mast confessor and couent of the same place vⁱⁱ” —to the mending of the way “betwene the forge and Charleton and Oxonbroke and betwene the forge and the grete Boorⁱ lx carteloods of stone” —to have “a m^l massez” for which iijⁱⁱ iij^s —to various churches 3^s/4^d each —to that of “ffyndon” 10/- “to Anne Charley my god daughter vj^s viij^d” “to Anne Brooke my god daughter vj^s viij^d” —to all other godsons and god daughters except William Brooke 6^d —“Also I bequeth to Ric my sone Jaan my daughter Letice and Margarēt eũyche of them xxⁱⁱ” also “during the tme of x yeres aft^r my decesse James my son shall have £3—6—8 yerely” “to fynd him to scole” “to Thomas and James my sones eũyche of them xⁱⁱ” “to Anne my sũnt (servant) 23^s/4^d” —John Payn 20/- —Isabell boucler 5 quarters of malt William Payn a quarter of wheat and a quarter of malt —“To Willm my sonne xxxⁱⁱ” but to pay my Exors £6 for certain goods “of my bought” “to John my sone xxxⁱⁱ” but to pay exors £15. If any sons or daughters die, his or their portion to be divided among my sons—to William my son a salt of silver—to John my son 4 silver spoons. Rest to wife Jeon.—John Slitter and William Goff executors, John Hider to be “of counsell” with them.

Will 15 May 18 Hen. VII. as to lands wife Johan to have them for life if sole, provided son James have £3—6—8 for school, if she remarry to have but 40/- after her death son William to have lands in Nuthurst, Horsham, Assington, Wassington, Bowngton, Grenested & Chilmington, fourthwth “my place in Stenyng late fflaggers” —to son John lands in Hampton & West Preston with house in Steyning late Stokkers and lands in Findon—to son Richard house that heylman dwellith in—to son James my copyhold lands in Nuthurst. If son William die s.p. then his lands to son John.

Proved 23 Sept 1503 by John Slutter and William Goff.

From this interesting will we find a very early connection with Charlton Court, where the Pellatt family resided for so many years; the “60 cart loads of stones to mend the way between the forge and Charlton” reminds one of the numerous stories told of the bad roads for which Sussex was so long notorious.

In his will the testator desires to be buried in the church of the Holy Trinity at Steyning. The Pellatts subsequently became patrons of the same, and it is often referred to in the wills, &c.

⁹ See “Lee’s Glossary of Liturgical and Ecclesiastical Terms,” p. 21.

There is an interesting old churchwardens' book kept in the church chest at Steyning, and although the particulars of it have already been given in the "Sussex Archæological Collections,"¹⁰ I extract the following:—

It. of Wylem Pellett for a shoppe vi^d

A.D. 1519. The accompte of Jamys Pellett & Willyam Parson, late wardens of the ch. at Steyning, made the yere of our Lorde M.IIIII.XIX the XIII day of the monthe of May before the curett and the churchwardens then beyng, . . . ther remaynythe clerely to the sayd churche xxv^s vi^a. & soo the sayde Jamys & Willyam to be clerely discharged & acquitt.

The same day & yere come Rychard Pellett & Willyam Gardener, lat wardens of the kyng play¹¹ . . . ther remaynythe clerely to the sayd churche IIII^s. VII^s. IIII^a.

A.D. 1520. The syxt day of the monethe of Feb^v M.IIIII.XXⁱⁱ . . . came Jamys Pellett & John Goff & delyvryd the money of the kyng ale¹² in to the churche box xxxiiii^s. vi^a. . . .

A.D. 1521. wylyam pellett one of the two brethren wardens.

A.D. 1545. James Pellett, church-warden.

" " " The saide James Pellett owyth to the church vii bushelles of lyme, & Wylyam Pellett the yonger owyth a carten of horsham stone."

1546. James Pellett & Edward Parson, wardens, . . . hathe brothe clerely into the churche box sayvd by the churche ale xxix^s va.¹³

1548. Wylli^m Pellett, churchwarden, with Richard Farnfold.

1550. Mem., that the same yere Thomas Pellat, the mercer, owethe to the churche a carten of xx great free stone, & XXI bushells of lyme.

1578. Marginal entry:—In leade lent . . . lent to Richard Pellat one peace wayinge xxxii lbs., whereof delyvred of the said 32 lbs. to the prynces use xiiii lbs. . . .

The next person that I have to remark upon is William Pellet, of Steyning, son of the previous William, who only survived his father four years. His will is very short and is in Latin.

¹⁰ Vol. V., p. 121; Vol. VIII., p. 132-140.

¹¹ This "kyng-play" appears to have belonged to the popular sports of the time, and to have been conducted by some leader appointed for the occasion, and honoured for the nonce with the title of king.

¹² The king-ale appears to have been brewed for the Feast of the Epiphany. We see afterwards four torches accounted for by the wardens of the king-ale, on the eve of the Epiphany, which were probably bought for the due celebration of the feast.

¹³ We may here trace the gradual progress of the Reformation. The king-ale is now termed the church-ale. In 1603 the 88th Canon enacts that "the churchwardens or questmen & their assistants shall suffer no plays, feasts, banquets, suppers, *church-ales*, drinkings, temporal courts or leets, lay-juries, or any other profane usage, to be kept in the church, chapel, or church-yard," &c., &c.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF WILLMUS PELLET DE STEYNING.
(P.C.C. 25 Adeane.)

Steyning, Sep. 8, 1507.

Itm. lego Thome, Ricardo et Jacobo fratribus meis, sexaginta libras in manibus Gullifor de London. . . . John Gratwyk 40/- each of the sons of William Goff 20^d. Residuary legatee wife Elenor. Executor Richard Petbone, William Goff overseer. Proved 7 Oct. 1507, by the proctor of Elenor the relict.

It will be seen that the testator leaves a special sum of £60 (equal to £700 or £800 in the present day) in the hands of Guilford, of London, to his three brothers—Thomas, Richard, and James. The mention of this £60 is the key to an interesting incident. It should be explained that the Guilford mentioned here was man of business to the notorious Dudley, one of the creatures of Henry VIII., who in his will, which may be found in "Letters and Papers, Forgⁿ. and Dom^l," Hen. VIII., Vol. I., *inter alia* gives a list of his debts, one clause being the following:—

The Wife of Will Pelett of Steyning in Sussex £60 that I borrowed of her & her husband, but if she enjoy the marriage of young Challoner for her daughter, then I owe her but £20.

At one time Dudley lived at Findon, not far from Steyning, and so the families may have become intimate.

The will of Dudley clearly shows that he arranged marriages for a settled sum.

I fancy the marriage with "young Challoner" never came off, as I cannot find any note of it in the pedigree of either family.

Guilford, as already remarked, was Dudley's man of business, and subsequently guardian to his son John. William Pelett having recently died, would account for Dudley stating that he owed the £60 to the "Wife of Will Pelett."

It is not the only marriage Dudley arranged, but it is the only one that relates to my subject. The career of the ill-fated Dudley family is known to every student of English History, and need not be pursued here.

Thomas Pellet, another son of the founder of the family, died in 1519, at Steyning. I subjoin an abstract of his will.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS PELLETT.
(P.C.C. 5 Bodfelde.)

The yer of our Lord god M^v^eXIX the iiiijth day of the moneth of May I Thomas Pellett of the parish of Stenyng "body to be buried in the church of Stenyng wⁱⁿ the North Dore" "every one of my god-children iiiij^d" "Robert Watkyn a quarter of Barley Elizabeth Napton" do. "Agnes Wower" do. "Margaret Bisshop" do. "prest shall synge for my soule wⁱⁿ the church of Stenyng at the awter of Saint Thomas the terme of one hole yere and he to have for his labour vj^{li} xiijs iiiij^d." Trentall of 30 masses¹⁴ at burial, and as many "at moneths day" "Sir¹⁵ John Pyper prest maister Richard Ffarinfolde my brother Richard Pellet, my brother James Pellet and Thomas Nye shalbe overseers" "every of my daughters shal haue vnto their mariage vj^{li} xiijs iiiij^d to be deliued (delivered) into the hands of Sir John Pyper Richard Pellet and James Pellet that is to say into the hands of Sir John Piper xx m^{fc}s Into the hands of Richard Pellet xx m^{fc}s In the hands of James Pellet vi^{li} xiijs iiiij^d" "yf it happen any of my daughters to dye within age her parte to remayne to Margaret my Wife" "Thomas Nye shalhaue xx m^{fc}s delivered vnto him for John Penfold and Richard Penfold to euery of them vj^{li} xiijs iiiij^d" at eighteen. if either die before, his portion to Wife Margaret Wife Margaret to receive debts and to deliver money to exors or "to be expelled and putt out." "Margaret my wife shalhaue the howse that I dwell in to hir and hir heires or assignes foreuer" "also my house that John Mitton dwellith in terme of hir life, and after the said house to Remayne to Richard Pellet my brother & to his heirs and assignes foreuer paying therfor x^{li} to be paid to ij of my daughters when they shalbe mariable" "Overseers shalhave viij^{li} to make the Selinge over the quere as farre as vj^{li} will extende and the other xx^s for their labour." "I will that my picture and my Wifes and my children shalbe paynted in the bacsyde of the wall behinde the Rode"¹⁶ "Margaretmy Wife shalhaue the occupying of the personage of Steyning that I farme the terme of iij yeres by the consent of my brother

¹⁴ Trental. A service of thirty masses for the dead, usually celebrated on as many different days ("Hook's Church Dictionary," p. 750).

¹⁵ Sir. A title of honour, equivalent to the Latin "Dominus" anciently given to priests, who were in England commonly called "Sir Johns." This title is found on certain monumental brasses and other inscriptions of an early date, though the term Magister is also very often and more commonly applied to the clergy in the century immediately preceding the Reformation ("Lee's Glossary of Liturgical and Ecclesiastical Terms," p. 373).

¹⁶ Rood Screen. A screen separating the chancel from the nave, on which was formerly the rood loft, or at least the rood.

Rood Loft. A gallery running along the top of the rood screen, which in parish churches usually crossed the chancel arch, on which the rood (*i.e.*, the figure of the Saviour on the cross) was placed, and on either side the Virgin Mary and St. John. In large cross churches the rood loft with its screen was usually of stone, and sometimes contained a chapel and altar within it. These more substantial rood lofts have in many cases been converted into organ lofts ("Hook's Church Dictionary," p. 661).

Altar of the Rood. That altar which in England anciently stood westward of the rood screen in large churches, and at which ordinarily the parish mass was sung ("Lee's Glossary of Liturgical and Ecclesiastical Terms," p. 22).

Richard, she contynuyng a Widowe and paying yerely x^{li} vj^s viij^d” also “ffarme of Wykebarne terme of hir life And yf she fortune to dye within my yeres John Penfolde to have it during the terme of my yeres” “Residue” “to Margaret my Wife whome I make my sole executrice”

Witness John Godfrey, John Brownsbery, and Thomas Nyman.

“Probatum” “xvij die mensis Aprilis Anno Dñi Millimo quingentesimo xxij^o Jurament^o Margarete Relicte ꝛ executricis.”

From this will it would appear that the monastery was dissolved, and the church patronage had passed into private hands, as the testator leaves to his wife “the occupying of the parsonage of Stenynne that I farme.” His overseers were to spend £7 (a goodly sum at that time) in repairing the “Selinge over the quire,” also to have the likeness of the deceased, together with that of his wife and children, painted on “the bacsyde of the Rood” screen. I have failed to procure any account of these interesting pictures; but it is worthy of note that the early churchwardens’ account book, which is still carefully preserved, was commenced in this year (1519), and some light may yet be thrown upon the details of the repairs of the ceiling and the painting on the Rood.

1531. The next record that I can obtain is the will of Richard Pellett, yet another son of the founder, from whom the main line descends.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF RICHARD PELLETT.
(P.C.C. Thower, 14.)

“The xij day of October in the yere of our lorde godd m^lv^exxxj I Richard Pellett” “to be buried wⁱⁿ the churche of Stenyng nygh beside the brotherid aluter” high alter 6/8 church works 13/4 “e^{ly} com^{me}”¹⁷ light” 6^d “to the vse of the brothered Aluter a cowe” “to Richard and Thomas my sonnes to e^{ly} of them xx^{li}” “to Joane my doughter xx^{li} and xx Ewes” “to Alice Annys & Elizabeth my doughters to e^{ly}on of them xx mres when they be maryable” each to be others heirs “to William Pellett my cosin xx bussshels of Whete” “Willm Granysin a quarter of Whete” “place of Syon xl wethers” “James Pellett my brother shallhave all the hodelyscū (hodelyscum) whiche he now dothe occupye” for 12 years at 40/- and “half the tything sheef of Stenyng w^h half the barne in Sheping strete” for 12

¹⁷ Lights on the Altar. In 1547 King Edward VI. expressly ordered “that all deans, archdeacons, parsons, vicars, and other ecclesiastical persons, shall suffer from henceforth, no torches nor candles, nor images of wax, to be set before any image or picture. But only two lights upon the high altar, before the Sacrament, which, for the signification that Christ is the very true Light of the world, they shall suffer to remain there still” (“Staunton’s Ecclesiastical Dictionary,” p. 431).

years at £6 "John Hesword half a quarter of whete" "S^r Will^m larke to pray for my soule x^s" "e^uy one of my s^unts (servants) shalhave an ewe" "to Joane my wife xl^{li} of money and c.c.c. of sheepe and x quarters of whete and x quarters of barley and meate and drinke as long as she is widowe and half my howsehold stuff except my cobbard in the plour (parlour) my silver goblett and my siluer spones whiche Withm my sonne shall have Item I will that Willyam Pellett my cowsin shalhave the howse that he now dwellith in for the space of xx yeres paying therefore e^uy yere xiiij^s iiiij^d" "Withm my sonne shalhave the lease of my Mill the whiche is called the Nuest Mill in Stenyng" Priest to sing for soul. "Robert Dunstall x quarters of barley and xx bushells off whete every yere" for 5 years paying "for e^uy quarter of Barley iiij^s iiiij^d & for e^uye bussell of Whete x^d and to have xij moneths day of payment" "Willyam Pellett my cowsin shalhave v quarters of whete e^uy yere" for 5 yrs paying 6/8 a quarter when delivered 26/8 to poor at month's mynd "Withm my sonne shall have my ferme for the space of xiiij years to pforme my will" "Residew" "to Willyam my sonne" whom I "make myn executour w^t Thomas Bennett and the saide Thomas Bennett to have for his labour xl^s and Richard farnefold the yonger, James Pellett and William Granysin o^usears of this my last will" to each of whom 13/4 "M^r Moryce whom my special trust is in shall have a dowble ducate to give counsell to myn executours and o^usears" "Sy^r Richard Shirle shall have xl^s to be good to my Wife and to my children" Witnesses Sy^r William Larke, Richard ffarnefold, James Pellett and William Granysin. "Thys ys the Intent of my last will beside my testament" "Joanne my Wyfe shalhave my house at churche style for terme of her life and after her decease then I will that Withm my sonne shalhave the foresaid howse w^t all my lands in Stenyng and Whappingthorne whiche ys called gorys lands and my barne in Sheping strete w^t the app^ten^ances" unless he die before 22 "w^towte heirs" when to "my sonnes whiche then shalbe alive" equally. "Richard my sonne shalhave my howse in stenyng that now Shipman dwellith in w^t all my lands in Wassington" providing 13/4 for an obbyt for 20 years. "Thomas my sonne shalhave my howse which that Withm Pellett my cosyn now dwellith in and my howse which is called gyllys w^t the appurten^ances" same provisions if he die under 22 "I will that the hows that my brother Thomas willid to me, I will the saide howse that Thomas Pellet the sonne of the foresaid Thomas my brother shalhave y^t to hym & to his heirs for ever so that Margaret Pellett the widowe of the foresaid Thomas my brother do paye and discharge me and myn executours of the money whiche I shold pay for the foresaid howse."

"Probatum" "Apud. Lamethith x^{mo} die mensis Maij Anno Dni m^ll^o quingentesimo xxxij^o iuramento executoris.

The tenor of this will indicates that the family were still members of the Church of Rome.

The mill which is "the nuest mill" in Steyning would be interesting to trace.

The testator frequently names "my cosen William Pellett," whom I have failed to identify; but we must bear in mind that "cousin" at this date meant any relation not a brother or sister.¹⁸

In 1555 we find a record of the death of James, probably the last surviving son of the original William.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF JAMES PELLET.

(Chichester, Vol. VIII., fo. 212^b.)

24 May 1555. James Pellet of Stenyngge "to be buried in the parish Church of Stenyngge in the North Ile" "Mother Church of Chichester 4^d."—to the poor at my burial 6^s/8^d—"James Broke my godson £6—13—4" to Elizabeth Broke £6—13—4 at marriage or 21—to James Broke "fetherbedd" 2 quarters of barley &c. at feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary next ensuing after my deceasē—to Richard Gater, Alice G, Judith G & Elizabeth G one quarter of barley each at feast of P.B.V.M. to Elizabeth Goffe my servant 4 bushels of barlĕy—to James Broke aforesaid "my house and garden late hiders w^{ch} Thomas Osebo'ne now dwellith in and iij acres and a roodde of Arrable lande in Steanyngge fildē to haue them to him and to his heires for eū save that I will that Johane my doughter shall have thoccupinge and pfyttts (profits)" "vntyll he come to thage of xvij yerēs" "All the Residewe" "to Thomas Gater and my doughter Johⁿ his wife" whom exor & exix: Overseers "Will^m Pellet my cosyn John Gratwyke of Cowefolde and Thomas Goffe of Stenyngge" to S^d W^m P "for his Diligence my syl^l salte w^t the cover peell gilt" to J G & T G. 6/8 each.

Witnēsses S^r Robte Hedde Curat of Steyning, Harbarde Herde, Thomas Pellet, John Thorpe.

Proved in Chichester Cathedral 29 Dec. 1556

Apparently he left no sons, as his property went to his daughter, "Johan the wife of Thomas Gater."

The next will is that of William Pellet, of Charlton, made in 1558:—

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF WILLYAM PELLET OF CHARLETON.

(P.C.C. 46 Noodes.)

"The two and Twentye daye of Auguste" 1558 "I Willyam Pellet of Charleton in the parryshe of Steninge" "Tobe buried in my parryshe Church of Stenyngge by my ffather Graundffather and other my elders or ells for as muche as I am Patron of the Church I woulde be buried in the Chauncell" "I make my eldyste sonne Rychard Pellet my whole and sole executor" "To my sonne John Pellet" £40 at 21 and "my Terme of yeres of & in the parsonadge of Stenyngge w^t the portons of wappingethornē, wicka, bedinge and porteslayde Thervnto belonginge" at 21 "and in the meane space my sonne

¹⁸ See "S. A. C.," Vol. XXXV., p. 70.

Rychard *Hellet* shall have" the parsonage "and my brother Thomas Pellet" shall have the portions paying "yerelye unto Rychard my sonne" 20^s/- and if brother Thomas die before John is 21 then son Richard shall have the portions during son John's minority & if John die before 21 then brother Thomas shall have them for life and afterwards son Richard

Daür "Margarett Pellet" £46—13—4—Daur Agnes £46—13—4—Daur "Catheryne" £46—13—4—Daur "Marye" £46—13—4 Daur Elizabeth £46—13—4—Daur Anne—£46—13—4 and if any one die before marriage or 24, the portion of every one so dying to son Richard. "To Jane my Daughter" £30 (£10 at Purification of our Ladye 1560 & £10 each 2 subsequent years at same festival) "yf my wyffe be now w^t childe I gyve to that same my childe" £20 at 21, remainder to son Richard "to my systers Daughter Alyce Lambold" 4 marcs "Resydewe" to son & executer Rychard Pellet "I make my cosyn John Gratwyck of Cowfoulde, Richard Pellet, Thom^s Pellet my Brethren my Overseers." Witnesses "Stephen Grene Clerke Vicar of Stenyng, Richard Cocke of Stenyng Will^m Hodes, Alyce Lambold and other more. Per me Stephanum Grene."

"Probatum" "decimo quinto die mensis Septembris Anno Dñi Millesimo quingen^{mo} quinquage^{mo} octauo Juramento Richi Pellet executoris."

The testator names "my Cosyn John Gratwyck of Cowfoulde." It will be noted that he is also named in the will of James Pellatt of Steyning (1555), and in the will of William Pellatt of Steyning (1507). The very interesting extracts from the old accounts of the churchwardens of Cowfold (1460 to 1485), given in "S. A. C.," Vol. II., p. 316, show that the family of Gratwick held a prominent position in Cowfold, and that the farm "Gratwick" remains in the parish to the present day.

The request "to be buried by my father, grandfather & other my elders," it may be observed, confirms the previous wills.

From Add. MS. 5685, Brit. Mus., fol. 42, we gather that this William Pellet purchased from the Crown (about 13 May, 1557), the Manor of Charlton, together with the Vicarage of Steyning, for £1,219. 4s., the same being confirmed by his will. He appears to have been M.P. for Steyning in 1555.

"Cartwright," Vol. II., part ii., p. 159, says:—"The Abbess and Convent of Sion in 30th of Henry VIII. granted William Pellat a lease of these premises (except as to the advowson) for ninety-nine years at an annual rent

of £34. 5s. 8d. Three years afterwards, on the dissolution of the greater monasteries, this manor and demesne were valued at £46. 6s. 2d. per annum and sold to William Pellat, the lessee, at twenty-six years' purchase, to which one year's purchase of the Vicarage, £15, was added. In 1557, William Pellat devised his property to Thomas Pellat, by whom it was sold to Dorothy Lewknor of Kingston Bowsey, by whose sons, Edward and Thomas, it was alienated to Sir Thomas Shirley of Wiston." The Thomas Pellatt here mentioned was most probably his brother Thomas, of Petworth, who, by the provisions of the will, was left in some position of authority.¹⁹

In 1566, Richard Pellatt (brother of William of Charlton) died at Offam, in South Stoke.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF RICHARD PELLETT.

(Chichester, Vol. X., fo. 334^b.)

"In the yeare" "1566" "The xxiiiijth daye of March I Richard Pellett of Offh^m in the pyschē of Southstoke" "tobe buried w^hin the pyshe Church of Southstoke" "hygh church of Chichester ij^d" "to the maintayning of the Church of Southstoke xx^s" "releyfe of the poore wher most nede is x^s" "eūy on of my godchildren xij^d a peece" "to Robeart Pellet my sonne xx^{li} To my sonne Thō Pellet thelder xxv^{li} To my sonne Richard Pellet xxv^{li} to be paid to eūye on of them w^hin three yeers next after my decease at three equal payments" "to my sonne Edward Pellet xx^{li}" "at thage of xxijth yeers. Tho Pellet the yonger my sonne twenty poundēs Item to my sonne Xpofer Pellet x^{li} to my sonne John Pellet xx^{li}" "at "their full ages of xxjth yeers Item to my Daughts Jane Pellet Marye Pellet and Elizabeth Pellet to eūye on of them x^{li}" "at 21 or marriage. If any of the sons die his or their portion among surviving sons and same with daughters, if all daughters die then to surviving children. If wife marry before son John P is 21 "then I will that my brother Thō Pellet shall have the custody of my said son John Pellet and also the portion" "to Xpofer my sonne my joyned bedsted that standeth in my bed chamber of the seller and the settle there the table in the Haule wth the frame that he standeth upon and also the settle in the Haule that they may remaine as standers of the House to his vse and to be deluyed to him after my wiues decease" "to Agnes Austen ijij^{li} vj^s viij^d" "within 2 yeers of my decease "Agnes my wyfe shall have thoccupaton of my fearme in Offh^m so long as she Lyuet sole and vnmarried and afterwarde also duringe such yeers as ar yet to come in the same yf she

¹⁹ "S. A. C.," Vol. XXV., p. 1. W. D. Cooper, F.S.A., V.A., in an account of Parham, says:—"One acre and a half of land in the parish was given for the maintenance of a lamp before the high altar in the church. This land had been in the tenure of the rector, and was granted on 1 July, 1557, to William Pellatt, of Steyning, gentleman."

can obtaine a Lycene for that purpose of my lord Lumlye" but if she can not then farm "to my next heyre according to the purport" "of my lease" wife Agnes residuary legatee and executrix Overseers "my Coson Rychard Pellet of Steninge my brother Thō Pellet my neyghbours Withm *Stayker* & Thō Sowton" to each of whom 13^s/4^d. Wife to give bonds to overseers before taking executorship for the due performance of will. Witnesses Henry Grey mynist of Southstoke Withm *Stakyer*, Tho Sowton Willm Peter and John Vmfrey with other." Proved in Chichester Cathedral 6 Dec 1567.

The will which follows I take to be that of his widow Agnes:—

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF ANNYS PELLAT.

(Chichester, Vol. XII., fo. 107.)

8 June 1579 "I Annys Pellat of Steyninge in the Countey of Sussex wydowe" "to be buried in the Churchyarde" "highe churche of Chichester iiij^d" "reparacons of my paryshe Church of Steyninge iij^s iiij^d" poor of S 10^s/- "vnto Edwarde Pellett my sonne and to his heyres for ever all that my parcell of lands lienge in Steyninge w^{ch} I late boughte of John Smyth of Pepercome nowe in the teno^r & occupacon of the sayde Edwarde" "vnto Annys Pellett my sonne Edwards daughter one fine sheete of lokaram the w^{ch} hath a blake seame in the mydeste" canvas table cloth, brass "posnatt" "a payer of silver eyes and a siliuer pine" "vnto Jone Baker my daughters daughter one lytell cofer a payer of canvas sheets" &c. at marriage "or at aney tyme before" as overseers determine, more unto "Edward my sonne one longe cheste one great chayer the bench in the hale" &c & 20/- to William Hillman 10/- "vnto Roberte Pellett my sonne one cove of the couller red gored or ells xxx^s" "one great cawdron of brasse" "table clothe of locaram" bedstead &c. &c. bed & bedstead in custody "of James Smythe my sone in lawe" Residuary legatee & executor "John Pellett my sonne" Overseers Thomas Penfoulde and Thos Belson.

Witnesses W^m Hillman, John Byshoppe Thos Penfolde & Thomas Belson

Proved 4 July 1579 by the Executor.

The will of Christopher, son of Richard and Agnes, comes next.

* EXTRACT OF THE WILL OF XPOFER PELLETT.

(Vol. XII., fo. 194^b.)

13 Dec. 1580 "Xpofer Pellett of the boroughe of Arrundell" to be buried in churchyard—high Church of Chichester 2^d—"to my brother Roberte Pellett of Petwoth one quarter of wheate and one quarter of barley. Item I geue to my brother Edwarde Austen of Lewys haulf a quarter of wheate and half a quarter of barley"—cosen Barnan—to Betes of warehouse 12^d—Styants widowe xij^d—to "Carter of Offam" xij^d Rowse of Ram 7^d—Alice James 4 bushels of barley—Alice West ditto—Androwe Weste do—Henrie Smith do—

Residuary legatee and executrix Agnes Pellat "my wief"—W^m Peter Adam Sheparde overseers. Witnesses John Page, Rob^t Henynge, John Moke.

Proved 18 Feb 1580 by William Peter proctor of Agnes Pellat the executrix.

This is the earliest note that we have of the family being at Arundel; afterwards the name often occurs there.

Richard, another son of Richard and Agnes, is next in order.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF RICHARD PELLAT, OF NORTH STOKE.
(Chichester, Vol. XIV., fo. 111.)

Richard Pellat of North Stoke—tobe buried in churchyard—all goods &c "to my two children William Pellet and Thomas Pellet whom I make my Executors" I owe John Wulvin the yonger and Joane Wulvin his sister their legacies which is £22—6—4, I owe Richard Wulvine part of his legacies which is £7—Dorothy Scott wid £5—John Buckman 6 quarters of barley—John Pellet 8 quarters of barley &c—Overseers "my unkle Thomas Pellet and Thomas Harwarde" Witnesses Thomas Heare, Robert Searle, John Pellett, John Harwarde, Isacke Banyster, Thomas Harwarde. Proved 7 March by Thomas Pellet Supervisor during the minority of William Pellet & Thomas Pellet

(No year, but evidently from next wills 1588.)

In 1604 we find the will of Thomas Pellett, of Petworth, younger brother of William of Charlton, and Richard of Offam. He leaves his "cosin" (evidently nephew), Thomas Pellett of Bignor, residuary legatee and exor.

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS PELLETT, OF PETTORTH.
(Chichester, Vol. XV., fo. 233.)

24 Dec. 1604 Thomas Pellett of Pettworth gent—"to my sister Edmunds xx^s and xx^s a yeere duringe her life" "to Robert Pellett of Petworth £10" "to Richard Pellet his sonne £10" "to every of Robert Pellets daughters xx^s a peece" "to Thomas Pellet my kinsman the sonne of Richard Pellet late of North Stoke deceased a fether bed with a fether boulder w^{ch} my cossin Heath of Petworth late had" also "another fether bed w^{ch} my cossin Belchamber hath" poor of Petworth 20/- and of Steyning 20/-to John Barnard my godson the household stuff I have at his fathers "to John Pellet my brother Richards sonne £3" and forgive him his debts "to his daughter my goddaughter 20/-" my Cossin Thomas Pellett of Bignor shall have the vse of Thomas Pellets stocke my Cossine Richard Pellets sonne late of North Stoke deceased which is lx^{li} with his father guifte and that that befell him by his brothers death vntill he come to age according to his fathers will" "to Thomas Pellett my cossin Richards sonne late of Stoke"

2 pair of sheets, coverlet at William Forders and a blanket. to John Barnard's wife 10/.—to "Henry Smithes wife my daughters in lawe x^s a peece"—"to Richard Pellett Robert Pelletts sonne the lowest ffetherbed I lye one and the worst boulster" "to Barbery Clymsfolde of Arundell m (?my) daughter in lawe xx^s" "to my Cossin Robert Pelletts wife of Pettworth for her paynes vⁱⁱ"

"Mr Doctor Bounde of Pettworth overseer" Residuary legatee and executor "my cossin Thomas Pellett of Bignor" Witnesses Robt Withm. Withm Waters. Proved by Thomas Pellett 11 Sep 1605.

From "State Papers," Forgn. and Dom., 1581-1590, we get the following:—

1583. Dec. 12. Examinations of John Mychell (servant of Edward Caryll, Esq) Edward Caryll, Esq, Tho. Pellet, and Tho. Barnard,²⁰ as to any knowledge of the conveying away of Lord Paget and Charles Arundel beyond seas.

Saying of Chr. Haynes, that Mr Shelley had better have spent £500 than that this matter should come in question.

The Thomas Pellatt here mentioned was probably Thomas of Petworth, and the examination may have been in connection with the Throgmorton conspiracy.

In "State Papers" of the following year (1584, Jan.?) among the persons mentioned in "Extracts of the chief points contained in the examinations of sundry persons committed for religion and other causes," the name of Tho. Pellet will be found.

John Pellett of Offam died in 1607, another son of Richard and Agnes.

* EXTRACT OF THE WILL OF JOHN PELLETT OF OFFAM.
(Chichester, Vol. XV., fo. 248.)

20 Jan 1607 "John Pellett of Offam within the parrish of Southstoke husbanman" to be buried in churchyard—high Church of Chichester 4^d—parish Church 6^d—"to Elizabeth my daughter fortie shillings and the twentie shillings besides that her uncle Thomas Pellett gave her" within one month after my decease—"to my sonne John five pounds" at 21—son Thomas do at do—son Robert do and "my great brasse pottle" at 21—"to Jone my daughter" £5 at 18, each to be the others heir and if all 4 die then to "Elizabeth my wife and Elizabeth my daughter." Residuary legatee and Executrix wife Elizabeth. Overseers Richard Clares and Tho Sowton the younger. Witnesses Maurice Rowland, Jeffrey Haukyns. William Wilshare.

²⁰ It will be noted that there was a close connection between the Pellatts and Barnards. In the will of Thomas Pellatt, of Petworth, 1604, he leaves "to John Barnard my Godson the household stuff I have at his fathers," and "to John Barnards wife 10/." One of the witnesses to the will of Thos. Pellatt of Petworth, 1625, was Thomas Barnard, Jr.

In the appendix to this paper will be found the will of Richard Pellet of Steyning, the elder, 1608; also of Richard Pellet of Steyning, 1609, as I cannot place either of these upon the pedigree.

In 1625, we find the will of Thomas Pellett of Petworth, son of Richard Pellet of North Stoke:—

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS PELLETT OF PETWORTH.
(Chichester, Vol. XVII., p. 167.)

15 Jan 1625. Thomas Pellett of Petworth yeoman—my eldest son Thomas P £40 at 21—to Richard P, Joseph P & Edward P three other of my sons £60 a piece at 21—Joane my now wife shall have the house I dwell in for life afterwards to son Thomas.

Overseers to sell meadow called Hoebrook for debts—to my brother Richard Woulven 20/- Residuary legatee and executrix “now wife Joane” Overseers my cosin William Pellett of Bignor and brother Richard Wolven.

Witnesses Rob^t Sadler, James Pellett Thomas Barnard jun^r
Proved 27 Ap 1627 by Joane P the relict.

With this will, closes my information of these branches of the family.

We now return to Richard of Charlton Court (son of William who purchased it of the Crown).²¹ He was the eldest son and was to have the use of the Parsonage until his brother John was 21.

In Cartwright's “Rape of Bramber,” p. 165, he is named as M.P. for Steyning in 1572. In 1584 we are informed that he purchased Bignor Park.²²

Unfortunately Richard Pellet did not leave a will. *On 16 Jan., 1587 administration was granted in P.C.C.

²¹ See *ante*, p. 110.

²² Bignor-parke was so leased for 40 years, for £10 per ann., “to finde the said Erle and his heyres, one habell man on horseback well & sufficiently horsed, harnessed, arrayed, & weaponed, to serve the Queene's Majestie;” and it is styled “all that our parke & lodge of Bignore.” In the 26th of Eliz. (1584), “Bignore parke, sive terra inclusa sic vocat. in parochiâ de Bygnore, scilicet, un' messuag', un' horreum, un. gardin', 100 acr. terræ, 40 prati, 200 pasturæ infra pal' parci Bignore per Thomam Cooke, alien' Richardo Pellatt.” Inq. p. mort. Thomæ Pellatt ob. seizat. of the manor of Bignore park, held in capite of the Crown by the hundredth part of a knight's fee.”

In 1584 John, Lord Lumley, sold it to William Tyrwhit, Esq., of whose representatives it was purchased by Richard Pellatt, of Steyning, soon afterwards, and who built the mansion house in the style of that age. “The situation of the house was singularly well chosen. It stood on an eminence sheltered from the north-east, and commanding a magnificent view of the whole surrounding country.” To the present day it carries out all that the historian says about it. A more charming spot it would be difficult to find.

to his wife, who is described as "Mary relict of Richard Pellet Esq late of Maldon, Essex, in the person of Thomas Wheler notary public."

"Add. MS. Brit. Mus.," 5685, p. 91, is as follows:—
 "The Manor of Charlton Cum Ashehurst in Steyning held by William Pellett 3 & 4 Philip & Mary (apparently bought by him 13 May 1557). 29 Eliz. 21 June (1587) Richard Pellett died seized of this manor leaving his son & successor, Benjamin. Value £40. 6. 8. Enfeoffed by Richard Pellett to John Apsley & others 8 May 29 Eliz. (1587). Alienated 2 March 35 Eliz. (1593) by Benjamin Pellett Esq. to Sir Thomas Shirley."

The "Calendar's Proceedings in Chancery," Eliz. 1, 2 & 3, Vol. III., p. 13, gives the following:—"Plaintiff Richard Snellinge. Def^t. Anthony Pepper & Wife & Richard Pellett. For the recovery of title deeds a messuage & land in Beding alias Seale (*i.e.*, Sele) & one mesg^e & other land in Porteslade devised to plaintiff under will of Peter Snellinge his father."

Richard Pellett being named as of Maldon, Essex, seems strange, but it is supported by other circumstances. His son Thomas married Mary, daughter of Richard Joselyn, of Hide Hall, Co. Essex, and left property at Highrooding, in that county. His daughter Jane married Richard Jeffrey, of Little Bursted, Co. Essex. Richard appears to have left three children—Benjamin, Thomas, and Jane, whom we shall now consider.

Benjamin (probably born 1565-70) was first of Steyning. He subsequently acquired the Manor of Bolney, from an old family of that name, the residence there being Bolney Place. In 1588 he subscribed £25 to the loan raised by Queen Elizabeth at the time of the expected invasion by the Spanish Armada.

Benjamin Pellett married for his first wife Dorothy, daughter of Edward Lewknor, of Kingston-Bowsey, who was at one time Groom-porter to Edward VI., and was subsequently condemned for high treason, but died in the Tower June 25, 1556, before the sentence could be carried out. All his four sons and six daughters

(of whom Dorothy was the youngest) were restored in blood by Act of Parliament, 1588. Benjamin's second marriage was in 1590, as entered in Steyning Register, * "1590 Aug. 24 Benjamin Pellet genosus and Alice Farnfold Genosa."

The children of each marriage will be seen upon the pedigree.

In 1603, at the coronation of James I., Benjamin Pellett received the honour of knighthood. He appears to have had some difference with the Vicar of Bolney, as "State Papers," 1603-10, p. 185, says "Note of Sir Benjn. Pellet's fraudulent dealings towards the minister of Bolney, Sussex, in suborning witnesses to accuse him of theft."

In Subsidy Roll, 1621, we find—"Bolney. Sir Benjamin Pellett Knight in lands £20. 53. 4."²³ Jane, only daughter of the above, married July 13, 1626, at Bolney, Sir William Culpepper, of Wakehurst, in Ardingly, Sussex.

In consequence of this marriage Ardingly affords many records of the Pelletts.

At the Heralds' Visitation, in 1634, the family and arms were duly recorded.

At Ardingly an interesting old half-timbered house is still pointed out as the residence of Sir Benjamin Pellatt; it is also called "Bolney Place." The present building is much reduced from its original size.

In 1636 Sir Benjamin died at Ardingly, and was buried in the church there. By the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. J. Bowden, I was enabled to copy the original entry from the register:—

1636 Jan'y 31 S^r Benjamin Pellat an ancient Knight was buried in y^e chancell 7 foot from y^e South window.

His will is made shortly before his death; in it he describes himself "of Wakehurst."

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF BENJAMIN PELLATT.

(Lewes Will Office.)

The twenty second day of Jan'y 1636

I Benjamin Pellatt Knight of Wakehurst in the Co. of Sussex, &c.

²³ "S. A. C.," Vol. IX., p. 84.

Item I bequeath to Alice my beloved Wife two featherbeds for her use during the terme of her natural life.

Item I bequeath to my daughter Dorothy xx^s

I give to my grand-children Ann Katherine, & Rose Pellatt xx^s a piece.

I give to my servant Edward Pepper £5

I give to my mayde servant Joane Gallop x^s

I give to the preacher that shall preach at my funeral xx^s

I give to Sir William Culpepper my sonne-in-law all my lands lying in the parish of Ffindon near Worthing in the Co. of Sussex now in use & occupation of one Widow Gravette to him & his heirs for ever, in consideration that hee the sayd Sir William Culpeper shall allow £5 yearly unto my sister Ffarnefould during her life. The rest of all my goods & chattells I give unto my godsonne Benjamin Culpeper sonne & heire of Sir William Culpeper whom I make & ordayne executor of this my last will & testament.

And I do nominate & appoint my well-beloved son-in-law Sir William Culpeper and my very loving friend M^r Richard Teynton, Parson of Ardingly, the overseers of the same.

In presence of Thomas Norris

Barbara Cleeve.

It will be seen that he leaves to his son-in-law, Sir William Culpepper, his lands in Findon, the rest of his goods to his godson, Benjamin Culpepper (his only son John having died previously, and his grand-daughters being provided with the manor of Truleigh, in Edburton, of which more anon).

At an Inquisition, taken at East Grinstead 30 Mar., 13 Car. I. (1638),²⁴

*The jury found that Sir Benjamin Pellat Knt. died 26 Jan'y 1636 seized of the Manor of Trewly in Ebberton als Edburton Beeding Woodmanecote & Henfield, that John Pellat his son died in the Life of said Benjamin leaving three daughters his Coheirs, Viz. Anne aged 18. (2) Catharine aged 16. (3) Rose aged 13 years & 4 months

Sir Benjamin's wife, Alice (*née* Farnfold), survived him 22 years, and was also buried at Ardingly, thus—

1657 Nov. 30 Ladie Alice Pellatt wife of S^r Benjamin Pellatt was buried.

We cannot pass on without a note upon the house of Culpepper—"Among the noble and knightly houses of England few ranked higher than that of Culpepper."²⁵

Upon a recent visit to Ardingly I was much interested in the brasses still extant in the chancel of the church.

²⁴ Add. MS., 5686, p. 238.

²⁵ "S. A. C.," Vol. XI., p. 37.

A slab has the figure of Elizabeth Culpepper, and bears the following inscription:—

Jacii hic sub hoc tumulo Elizabetha Culpeper uxor dilectissima (sic)
 Eduardi Culpeper de Wakehurst in Comitatu Sussex militis quae
 quidem Elizabetha fuit filia Gulielmi Farnefeld armi geri de Stening
 in Comitatu prae dicto quae Obiit decimo die Septembr

Anno Dñi. 1633.

Above is a shield displaying the following:²⁶—

1. *Argent* a bend engrailed *gules* (a crescent for difference).—
 CULPEPER.

2. *Argent* a chevron *sable* between 10 martlets six in chief and 4 in
 base *gules*.—HARDRESHALL.

3. *Argent* a chevron between 3 birds *gules*.—WAKEHURST.

4. *Argent* on a bend *sable* 3 eagles displayed *or*.—ERNELEY.

Escutcheon of pretense.

Argent 2 bars *sable* on the first a bezant.—PELLATT.

Impalement.

Sable a chevron engrailed between 3 bucks' heads *argent* attired *or*.
 —FARNFOLD.

I was puzzled to find a reason for the arms of Pellatt being placed here, as at the date of this inscription I was not aware of any marriage between Culpepper and Pellatt. I can only venture the suggestion that this brass was placed by Sir William Culpepper (who married Jane Pellatt), in memory of his mother, and that unthinkingly he had put his own arms upon the tomb instead of those of his father.

Another tomb has the figure of a girl, surmounted by a lozenge-shaped shield bearing the Culpepper arms, on an escutcheon of pretense *argent* two bars *sable* on the first a bezant (Pellatt), with the following inscription below:—

Here lyeth interred y^e body of Elizabeth Culpeper eldest daughter
 of S^r William Culpeper of Wakehurs in this County Barronett, and
 of Jane (née Pellatt) his wife, shee was aged 7 yeeres & changed this
 life for a better on y^e 6th day of December A^o

Dñi 1634

²⁶ "Horsfield's Sussex," Vol. VI., p. 258; "S. A. C.," Vol. X., p. 156.

NOTE.—The Plate on the next page is presented by Maberly Phillips, Esq., from a Rubbing taken by T. C. Woodman, Esq., of Brighton.

In these days of "Church restoration," which causes such heartburnings to those seeking the tombs of their ancestors, it is most cheering to find the admirable manner in which these brasses at Ardingly have been preserved.

From the quaint diary of the Rev. Giles Moore, of Horsted Keynes, we have note of the burial of Lady Culpepper (*née* Pellatt)—

1660-1. On the 16 of April being Palm Sunday Madam Culpepper was buried in the Chancell in the afternoon at Ardingly. I went there to hear M^r Rotherham preach leaving my own church unserved but I both preached & gave the sacrament that day.²⁷

The only son of Sir Benjamin that attained manhood was John, who was born in 1584. In 1608 he married Ann West, daughter of Thomas West, Lord de la Warr. The marriage licence is thus recorded:—

* 1608 Aug 30 John Pellatt Esq of the City of London Batch 24 son of Sir Benjamin Pellatt K^t. of Boney (Bolney) Sussex who consents & Anne West of S^t. Catherine Coleman Maiden dau. of Thomas Lord La Warr of Wherwell Southampton who died 6 years ago S^d Anne now dwelleth with her mother The Lady Ann La Warr of S^t Catherine Coleman who consents at S^t Catherine Cree Church—"Marriage Licences of the Bishop of London," published by the Harleian Society, Vol. XXV., p. 307).

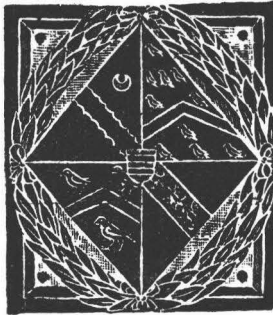
Some interesting particulars of the lady's family will be found in "Burke's Peerage," page 377.

Thomas, 2nd Lord La Warr, who succeeded his father in 1595, married Ann, daughter of Sir Francis Knowles. The daughter of this marriage, Ann, became the wife of John Pellatt. They appear to have resided at Bolney, from the register of which church I am able to give the particulars of his family, as shown upon the pedigree. He died in the lifetime of his father. A small brass is still to be found in the chancel-floor of Bolney Church recording the same.

Here lyeth the bodye of John Pellatt Esqvior sonn and heire apparant of Benjamin Pellatt knight he deceased the tow and twentie day of October Anno Domini 1625. etatis sue 41.

²⁷ "S. A. C.," Vol. I., page 81.

MEMORIAL BRASS IN ARDINGLY CHURCH.

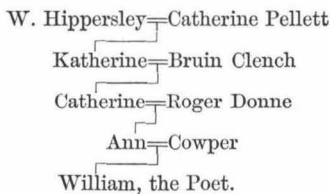


HERE LYETH INTERRED ^EY BODY OF ELIZABETH
CVLPEPER ELDEST DAUGHTER OF S^R WILLIAM
CVLPEPER OF WAKEHVRS IN THIS COVNTY
BARRONETT, AND OF IANE HIS WIFE, SHEE
WAS AGED 7 YEERES & CHANGED THIS LIFE
FOR A BETTER ON ^EY 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER A^O

DÑI 1634.

From the Bur. MS. Brit. Mus., I gather that originally the tomb had also the Coat of Arms, but that is not there now.²⁸

Three daughters of this marriage—Ann, Catherine and Rose—were left co-heirs of their father, and inherited the manor of Truleigh, in Edburton. Catherine, the second daughter, married William Hippersley, and from notes in two recent volumes of the Collections,²⁹ we gather the fact that the Poet Cowper was descended from this family, as shown below:—



So that Cowper's mother, the receipt of whose picture called forth one of the immortal poems of the English language was the great-grand-daughter of Catherine Pellett.

As already noticed, his mother was Anne, daughter of Roger Donne, of Ludham Hall, Norfolk. Regarding this lady, one of her biographers remarks that "the highest blood in the realm flowed in the veins of the modest and unassuming Cowper, his mother having descended through the families of Hippersley, of Throughley, in Sussex, and Pellet of Bolney, in the same county, and from the several noble houses of West, Knollys, Carey, Bullen, Howard, and Mowbray, and by four different lines, from Henry the Third, King of England."

It is a curious coincidence that Dr. Cotton, in whose care Cowper was placed, and to whose humanity and skill he pays so high a tribute in his poem on "Hope," had for his assistant a Stephen Pellet, M.D., who, at the

²⁸ Admon. (P.C.C. Laud 41.) "14 March 1633. Admon. was granted to Anne Swale alias Pellatt relict of John Pellatt late of Bolney in Co. Sussex deceased." This admon. was not granted until eight years after John's death. It appears that the widow had remarried.

²⁹ "S. A. C.," Vol. XXXII., p. 230; "S. A. C.," Vol. XXXIV., p. 261.

decease of the proprietor, Aug. 2, 1782 (aged 90), took the institution at St. Albans into his own hands. I believe him to have been a member of the family of whom we are treating, though at present I fail to place him upon the pedigree. What little information I have gathered will be found in the Appendix.

We now return to Thomas, the second son of Richard, and brother of Sir Benjamin. He appears to have inherited Bignor Park. Whether this was on account of his elder brother being amply provided for, or is an example of "Boro' English" is difficult to determine.

Thomas Pellatt married Mary, daughter of Richard Joselyn, of Hide Hall, Co. Essex. She died at Bignor, May 20, 1626 (Bignor Reg.), and had a mural inscription in the church (Bur. MS.); the same is not now to be found. He died at Bignor, and was buried there Dec. 21, 1616. His will is here given:—

* ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS PELLETT OF BIGNOR.
(P.C.C. 50 Weldon.)

3 Oct 1616 Thomas Pellett of Bygnor gent—to be buried in Church.—to William P. my son £10 (?yearly) "out of my Parke of Bygnor duringe the naturall lyfe of Mary Pellett my wife," also to W^m £30 yearly out of my lease of the Manor of Higheroodedingbury in High-riding Essex also gold ring or signet and books—to Hester P. my daur. £400—Residuary legatee & executrix wife Mary P—. Overseers "John Pellett of Boney (Bolney) in the County of Sussex Esquire my cosen and Kinsman and James Pellett of Madehurst in the said County Clerke my Cosen"

Proved 16 May 1617 by Mary the relict and executrix.

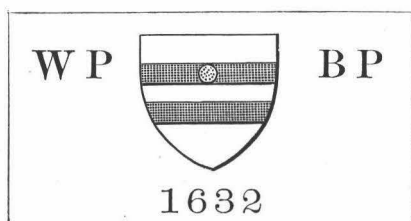
He names as overseers "John Pellet of Boney (Bolney) Co. Sussex my cosen and kinsman and James Pellet of Madehurst in the same county Clerke my Cosen." James Pellet was Incumbent of Madehurst, 1592 (probably the same who graduated at Oxford, 1584; admitted B.A. 23 April, 1588, det. 1588 $\frac{2}{3}$). At present I cannot identify his parentage.

Two children were the issue of this marriage, viz., Hester, who married John Cooke, of West Burton, Co. Sussex (a member of a family long resident there), and William, who was bapt. at Bignor as "William Son of Thomas Pellatt & Mary his Wife Feb. 1593." He

inherited the estate from his father, and married, first, Bridget, one of the thirteen children of William Mille, of Greatham, Co. Sussex. (William att Mulle we previously noted at Steyning in Subsidy Roll of 1296.) The introduction of the christian name of Mill in the Pellatt Family is evidently from this marriage, and has been kept up to the present day.

They were married at Greatham, May 5, 1627. A few years afterwards they erected a new house at Bignor (1632). This in time gave place to the present mansion, built 1826, by the then owner, — Hawkins, Esq.

Inserted in a side wall of the house a stone may still be seen marked thus :—



WP. BP. 1632, with the coat of arms in the centre, evidently for William and Bridget Pellatt.

Mrs. Pellatt died at Bignor, and was buried in the church there, Nov. 2, 1636.

In the same year, owing to the death of his uncle, Sir Benjamin, without male heir, William became the head of the family. In 1632 he seems to have had some difference with the Rector of Bolney, as we gather from "State Papers, Domestic," 1637-8.

"Calendar of State Papers, Domestic," 1637-8,

1637?

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93. Petition of Edward Hastler, Rector of Bignor, in diocese of Chichester, to the Council. Upon the petition annexed, the Lords gave direction to Mr. Nicholas to declare to Lord Chief Justice Finch that no further proceedings should be taken in the said cause, till his Majesty and the Lords were further informed. In regard the cause concerns the church in point of tithes withheld, and that his Majesty is patron of the rectory, petitioner prays appointment for a hearing. [$\frac{2}{3}$ p.] Annexed.

93. 1. Petition of the same to the same. William Pellet stands seised of 200 acres in Bignor, which heretofore was a park, but for 40 years has been arable and coppice, and by that means has become titheable. Petitioner being forced to sue in the Ecclesiastical Court for the tithe, Pellet procured a rule in the Common Pleas for a prohibition. Petitioner by his counsel gave satisfaction, and it was ordered in the absence of the Lord Chief Justice, that no prohibition should be granted, yet shortly after petitioner was again warned to appear in

the Common Pleas, and there being persuaded by his Lordship consented to a trial at Common Law, but upon better advice, finding the church (in his Majesty's gift) like to suffer by going to such a trial, petitioner prays the Lords to take a course for stay of the trial and relief of petitioner. [1 p.]

William Pellatt's second wife was Jone, daughter of William Grey, of Wolbeding.³⁰ We find him styled as "Cap^t. William Pellatt," but have no information as to what the title referred. He died at Bignor, and was buried in the church there Jan'y. 14, 1659. At present I have failed to find any will or admon.

The children of William Pellatt by his first wife were: 1, Thomas; 2, Mary; 3, William; 4, Joseph; 5, Elizabeth; 6, John.

1, Thomas. Bap. at Greatham, July 24, 1628 (Bur. MS.) Married at All Saints, Lewes, March 6, 1659, Hannah (or Susannah), daughter and co-heir of William Alcock, of The Friars, Lewes, as "Thomas Pellatt of Bignor Gent., and Hannah, daughter of William Alcock of Lewes Gent."

"The Friars," Lewes. By the marriage this fine estate came into the Pellatt family, and remained with them until 1805.

Lewes at the time we speak of was a very different place from the Lewes of to-day.

Defoe says of it, "Lewes is the most romantic situation I ever saw. It consists of six parishes in which gentlemen's seats joining to meet another, with their gardens uphill and downhill compose the town." Of these seats "The Friars" was one of the finest. It was situated in the centre of the town, and comprised a family mansion, with gardens, orchards, fish pond, &c., the boundary walls enclosing an area of eighteen acres. Subsequently the house was pulled down to make way for the railway; the present station is reported to stand upon the site of the house. Some of the old red brick walling of the garden is still standing. Originally it was occupied by the Grey Friars or Friars Minors. "In 1542 the site was leased to Sir John Gage. On the 12th

³⁰ "Berry's Sussex," p. 208.

of March 1544 (35 Hen. VIII.) George Haydon Gent & Hugh Stukeley Esq requested to purchase or lease the property of the then lately dissolved house. On 14 June following (36 Hen. VIII.) a grant of 5^d was made to George Haydon & Hugh Stukeley & from them it passed to John Keyme who died seized 15 April 1585, leaving his niece Joan daughter of his brother Richard & wife of George Powlet, his heiress. In the time of Chas. I. the estate was the property of Sir John Shurley of Isfield, who died here 25 April 1631 having married Dorothy daughter of George Goring of Danny & widow of Sir Henry Bowyer of Cuckfield Knight. The Alcocks were afterwards the owners."

Thomas Pellatt administered to the will of Matthew Taylor, 27 March, 1678 (P.C.C. 58 Reeve). He died 11 June, 1680, and was buried at All Saints, Lewes. Burrell, in his account of the monuments in this church, says—

On a gravestone at the end of the North Aisle.

Arms.

Pellatt impaling Alcock.

Inscription.

Here lyeth the body of Thomas Pellatt Esq of this Parish who departed this life the 11th day of June Ann. Dom. 1680.

Also the body of Grace the Wife of W^m Pellatt son of the said Thomas Pellatt Esq she was the only daughter of Apsley Newton of Southover Esq who departed this life the 13th day of Jany 1710 Ætatis 46 years.

William Pellatt Esq died the 18 day of May 1725 Ætatis suæ 60.

No trace of this stone is now to be found, the church having been "restored."

His will is as follows:—

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS PELLATT OF LEWES.

(P.C.C. 153 Bath.)

To poor of All Saints, Lewes 40/-

Do Bignor 40/-

Servants at time of death 20/- To my Aunt Mille my brother Pellatt sister Eliz. Pellatt & Mary now the wife of Thomas Palmer "20/- to buy a ring to ware in remembrance of me." To my oldest daughter Susannah £600 £300 being part legacy given her by her Grandfather William Alcock gent. Dec^d. To my youngest Daughter Mary £400 £100 being left by her Grandfather William Alcock gent. Dec^d. to be paid at 18 or day of marriage either survivor to take all. Wife to take int. until due.

To Son William Pellatt household furniture, plate, Lynen, Pewter, brass furniture now in house after death of Wife. All the rest to Wife Susannah, Sole Extrix.

Makes loving brother William Pellatt Gent. and my very loving friend Henry Shelley Esq & my kinsman Ralph Mille Esq overseers. To whom £5 each. Real estate to Daughter Susannah, her heirs & assigns Copyhold mess^e Barns buildgs &c holden of Manor of Isfield To Mary (D) W. in s^d county To Susannah & Mary Manor of Sutton Hall & lands in Sutton now in occupⁿ of Thomas Legatt to Sus^h & Mary my moiety in Mess^e Tenet^s Warehouses Buildings Wharfs Docks lands &c in Thames St London known as Sabo Key & Sabo Dock lately purch^d by self and said brother of one Thomas Payne Gent.

Wife to receive all benefit till girls of age or married if Son William die no issue then to nephew William Pellatt son of my brother All property at Bignor Park.

Signed Tho^s. Pellatt.

Witnesses

Richard Jsfod Ben White Samuel Postlethwaite. William Boolton. "Codicell" Appts son William Pellatt of Lewes Merchant one of the Overseers in place of Ralph Mille & gives £5 to him instead of Mille. to my sister Pellatt 20/ to buy a ring

Proved 17 August 1680

He appears to have been patron of the church of West Grinstead, jointly with Ralph Mille, of Greatham, and Thomas Beard, of Hurst. In 1662, at the restoration of King Charles II., they reinstated the Rector, George Heath, who had been ejected from the living in 1637. In the robing-room at Chichester Cathedral is a tablet containing the names of the donors to the fund for the repair of the sacred edifice in 1664. Thomas Pellatt is stated to have given £10, a sum equal to nearly £100 in the present day.

Mrs. Pellatt's will was proved at Lewes, and is here given:—

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF MRS. HANNAH PELLATT.

(Lewes Probate Court.)

In the fourth year of William and Mary, 1693.

To the poor of the psh of All Saints in which I dwell 40/- to Son W^m Pellatt 20 broad pieces of gold 1 mo after death to Son W^m. dwelling House commonly called Fryers, out-houses Orcthard Ponds & house in occupation of Ambrose Galloway Tythes great & small psh of St. Mary, St. Ann, St. John ffalmer Plumpton & Barcomb during natural life to heirs male (eldest son) failing to second son or next son then daughters then drs Susannah Wife of Rich^d. Shelley & Mary wife of Richard Payne equally. In case Apsley Newton, father of Grace the now wife of my son William shall in 2 years pay £1500 portion for

his D^r pay to Henry Pelham of Lewes & Henry Board of Hurstpoint & Wm. Pellatt the Y^r. of E. Grinstead, invest in lands &c for the use of son William Pellatt for natural life, after death to use of first second & all other Sons in default of all issue to Daughters Hannah & Mary. Itm to my sister Eliz. Payne Sister Mary Pellet Sister Eliz. Pellatt 20/- each to servants at death 20/. Itm to my cozen Jane Maulld £5 Richard

Household stuff in doors & without Money Gold Silver & plate which I brought & came to me since my husband died & not devised by him I leave to two daughters whom I make joint Ex. of this will

Hannah Pellatt.

Witnesses—Henry Shelley Ambrose Galloway⁸¹ John Card

2, Mary (daughter of William and Bridget). Bap. at Bignor, June 3, 1630. Marr. at Bignor, Feb. 14, 1650, Thomas, son of William Palmer⁸² (Angmering Line). "Mis. Gen. et Her.," Vol. I., Quarty. Series, p. 113.

3, William, of whom more afterwards, as he leaves a large family.

4, Joseph. Bap. at Bignor, Dec. 20, 1633.

5, Elizabeth. Bap. at Bignor, thus:—

1634. Elizabeth, the daughter of William Pellatt Gent. & Bridgett his wife baptised Feb. 10. 1634. Monday the Feast Day of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin.

Godfathers Mr. Thomas Everfield

Mr. Richard Mill

Godmothers M^{rs}. Eliz. Goring

M^{rs}. „ Mill.

Edward Hastler, Rector Ecclesiae.

She appears to have resided at Lewes, and died there 7 Jany., 1698.

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF ELIZABETH PELLATT.

(Lewes Probate Court.)

I Elizabeth Pellatt of Lewes

Wearing app^l, plate, rings to two nieces Mary wife of Rich^d Payn & Hannah Wife of Rich^d Shelley. All personal Est. to children of Brother William Pellatt of London Ironmonger & children of late brother Thomas Pellatt of Lewes Gent. Two nieces sole Exors. desire them to bury me at Bignor & to give rings to such of my relacons as they shall think fit.

Dated Jan^y 4. 1698.

Witnesses—Ann Pellatt

Mary Davis.

Tho^s. Barrett.

⁸¹ It will be noticed that one of the witnesses to this will is Ambrose Galloway, who at the time was tenant of the Friars. ⁸² See "S. A. C.," Vol. V., p. 17.

By her will she desires to be buried at Bignor. Upon a visit there in 1889 her tombstone was pointed out to me; it was partially broken, and was placed face inwards against a mound of earth opposite the church door. From the clearness of the letters it appeared to have been originally within the church, but probably at some "restoration" had been cast adrift. The portion of the inscription remaining was as follows:—

lies interred Elizōr Pellat
 hter of Cap^t. William Pellat
 64 Years & 11 Months. Who
 d this life 7^o Janỹ An^o Dn^o.
 1698.

6, John. Bap. at Bignor, thus:—

1636. John the sonne of William Pellatt & Bridgett his wife
 baptised 23^d Oct. 1636

Mr John Goodman,	} Suxceptors.
Mr John Stanley	
Mrs Katherine Mill	

I have no further information of John or his brother Joseph, and from the fact that they are not referred to in the wills of Thomas, William, and Elizabeth, and from the tenor of the said wills, it seems probable that they were both dead prior to 1680.

(To be concluded.)
