

EXTRACTS FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF THE PARISH OF SOUTHOVER.

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THESE extracts are taken from the oldest book in the possession of the Churchwardens of the parish of Southover. In this parish was situated the influential Priory of St. Pancras, usually known as Lewes Priory. Though no mention of the Priory is made in this book, yet its previous existence in the parish had, no doubt, been the origin of the unusual (though not by any means unique) administration of local affairs here revealed.

As a systematic record the book begins in 1574 and runs to 1725. But at the reverse end, together with some isolated entries, is an interesting account rendered by the outgoing Churchwardens at Easter, 1561 (2 Elizabeth), which contains the sale of many vestments and Church goods that had been in use during the brief revival of pre-Reformation ritual in the reign of Queen Mary.

The book itself is of paper, in a loose parchment cover, formerly furnished with a strap and buckle. It now contains 106 folios. In the middle at least 20 have been cut away with a knife. The watermark, a hand and star, is very similar to that of the Pevensey Rate Book of slightly earlier date described in our Volume XLV., p. 149. On this subject see a note at the end of this paper.

In the same volume of our *Collections* (Volume XLV., p. 40) is a paper by Mr. Michell Whitley on the "Churchwardens' Accounts of St. Andrew's and St. Michael's, Lewes, from 1522 to 1601." That book is strictly what its name implies, a record of the receipts

and expenditure of the Churchwardens from year to year. Southover Parish very likely had a book of the same kind, but the one now before us, though a Parish Book, was not a Churchwardens' Account Book. It is rather hard to give it a name. It deals with the business of an ecclesiastical vestry, of a civil township or "borough" and of a Manorial Court Leet. All these three functions are being exercised by the Parishioners amongst themselves, apparently without any sense of incongruity.

The reasons for this unusual mixture of functions in Southover are not far to seek. First, its *ecclesiastical* position was that of an ordinary parish; there is no difficulty on that point.

Secondly, as to its position as a unit of *civil administration*, this book seems to decide a somewhat obscure question. Southover was a "borough." On the meaning of this expression, so common in Kent and Sussex, the present writer may refer to his comments on the "Boroughs of Eastbourne" in *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLII., p. 189, &c. A "borough" (or tithing) was a portion of a Hundred (an administrative division of a County); and in that capacity it had its own responsible organisation for police and fiscal purposes. The question is, to what Hundred did Southover belong? Dunvan (*Hist. of Lewes*, p. 374) says it was a borough of the Hundred of Swanborough, as was also the adjoining parish of St. Mary Westout, Lewes. Horsfield (*Hist. of Lewes*, Vol. I., p. 296) denies that there is any evidence of this. Horsfield is certainly correct. In the Subsidy Rolls Southover contributes with Lewes, not in the Hundred of Swanborough. The earliest Subsidy Roll proves still more. In that document (1296), which may be found in *S.A.C.*, Vol. II., comes (p. 303) "Burgenses de Lewes . . . Summa totalis, £10. 17s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d." Then follows (p. 304) "Southenovere . . . Summa totalis hujus hundredi, 103s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d." Here the title of "hundred" is applied to Southover apart from Lewes. Another Subsidy Roll of 1621, contemporary with our present Parish Book, may be found in *S.A.C.*, Vol. IX. Here we have (p. 71)

“Lewes Borrowe, £46. 19s. 8d.” Then follows “Southover Burrowe, . . . £3. 15s. 8d.”¹ It appears, therefore, that as a “borough” Southover went with Lewes, but was not subordinate to it. It stood, to some extent, by itself.² The Parish Book corroborates this. The interesting entry on fol. 5 (1590) speaks of “the twelve of the parishe,” who at the Law day before the “Steward of the Corte” decided with a certain person what should be his assessment for the King’s Tax. If this stood by itself we should say that these were the Court Leet Jury chosen for the occasion from the parishioners. But in that case they would hardly be called the “Twelve of the Parish.” They would be called “The Jury.” Then further on (fol. 12d) we find them as a body giving their consent to an agreement between one of their number, who was at the time “principal churchwarden,” and another disputant as to the occupation of a certain seat in the church. This was manifestly no business of a Leet Jury. Besides the Twelve we also find constant mention of an influential parishioner called the “Constable.” Now at this time Lewes was administered by two Constables, assisted by a Council of Twelve and another body of Twenty-four. This governing body was similar to that of the Bailiff, Jurats and other select Barons in the Cinque Ports, or the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of many cities and boroughs. That the Southover Constable and Twelve were in a similar position to those at Lewes, so far as civil duties were concerned, there can be little doubt, only the sphere of their operations was much more limited.³

We need not think it strange that a suburban parish like Southover should have an independent position of

¹ The items of the second and third columns of Southover amount to £3. 17s. The first column is the rateable value. The tax on lands is 2s. 8d. in the £. Four persons rated at 40s. are incorrectly entered to pay 5s. 8d. instead of 5s. 4d.

² So Horsfield (*Hist. of Lewes*, Vol. I., p. 296) says, “It has from the earliest periods been regarded in the same light as Lewes, as an independent borough included within no hundred.”

³ Brighthelmstone also had a Constable and a Body of Twelve. That these Twelve were not the Leet Jury is clear, for at the Court Leet, 27th April, 1614, they were chosen “by the unanimous consent of the Jury” (Dunvan, *Hist. of Lewes*, p. 500).

this sort. Horsfield (*Lewes*, Vol. I., p. 297) quotes with approval "the conjecture of Mr. Rowe that Southover formerly formed a part of, or was an appanage to, the borough of Lewes." Probably it was included in the Domesday account of Lewes. But when in course of time Lewes walled itself in under the protection of its Castle, the Prior of St. Pancras, who by that time was almost as influential a Baron as the Lords of the Castle, would prefer to keep Southover Manor and Township, of which he was the Lord, apart from Lewes. Hence the independent burghal organisation. There was some reason in this when, as we see in the Subsidy Roll of 1296 just quoted, Southover, even without any contribution from the Prior, paid £5 to the King's Tax, while all Lewes paid no more than £10.

In the matter of the church seat referred to, the Twelve may have been called in as a sort of local court to assist in adjudging the rights of a dispute, without any special regard to the ecclesiastical character of the disputed object.

There remains the third department of local administration represented in this book, the action of the *Manorial Court Leet*. After the dissolution of Lewes Priory the Manor of Southover was granted by the King to lay lords. When our book begins it was in the hands of Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst and Earl of Dorset. His steward held a Court Leet or View of Frankpledge annually at Michaelmas. The business recorded in this book is the choice of certain officials, a Constable, a Headborough and an Aleconner.

At Easter the Parishioners in the usual way appointed two Churchwardens and, at first, two collectors (for the poor) and two Surveyors of Highways. Afterwards Overseers for the Poor took the place of Collectors.

Having explained the mixed condition of local affairs in Southover during the period covered by this book, I may leave the extracts to speak for themselves. Through the greater part of the book the entries consist of little beyond the names of officials elected, with a bare statement of the amount delivered by the old officials to the new.

After 1675 the book contains solely Church Vestry business. Perhaps one of the most interesting statements to local enquirers will be the full description of the occupants of all the seats in the church when a re-arrangement took place in 1725.

TAXES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.

FOL. MARKED 16; WRITTEN ON DORSE (REVERSED).

Southover.

Año dñi 1559.

Itm the xxth daye of November was a fyvetene^d payd in the furste yere of the Reign of our Sov^aign lady Quene Elysabeth, William Jennys then Constable and John Cobby Churchwarden Some xlviij^s

Año dñi 1560

Itm the xiiijth daye of November was there a fyvetenth and xth payd to our Sov^aign ladye the Quene in the second yer of her Reign payd by David Swyfte in to the hands of John Stemp of lewe; Collector to the Quene

Some xlviij^s

[1564] Itm the xv day off December was ther a fythtent payd to our Sov^aign lady the Quene Elizabeth in the vj yere off her reyn payd by Edmunde Chaunteler Constabyll to the hand of Stephen Borde Collector ffor the fyteyenth to our Sov^ay lady y^e quene. xlviij^s

Reverse of Book. Fol. 1.

To the Constable of Southover

1. The Churchwardens to gather the money for y^e soldiars quarterly and the Constable to paye it att the quarter sessions following and to gather quarterly for hurtt soldiers iiiij^s iiiij^d and to paye at the next assise [at] Mydsomer for halfe a yeare
2. To whip rougues and to see that the pore be releevd (?)
3. To warne the deceners^s and to apynte new if ther do wa[nt]
4. To geet the money for the dischargde of carryinge of co[als] (?)
5. To make a taxe for burrowe Court lete within this [?].

[1621] Churchwardens { Gavinar^o (?) Warwicke
James Plomer

Thomas Henage gent
and John Gill overseers for the p[ore]

⁴ The tax called a Tenth or Fifteenth. After 1334 a fixed sum was settled for each township. That of Southover was 48s.

⁵ Decennarios, tithing men, the Leet Jury.

⁶ In another entry he is called Allen Warwicke.

The 15th Aprill 1623

Sussex. Received of me Barnabie Chambers constable of Southover the sume of ijs. to the use of the [torn away] at Horsame
Barnabye × Chambers marke the orig [torn]

1623 Southover burrough payeth quarterly to the treasurer [for] maimed souldiers only . . . [sum torn away]. [Added above] then is nothing demanded for [?]

And quarterly to the house of correction and charitable uses w^{ch} is quarterly to be paid at each seasiones to him . . . [torn away]

Also toward the reliefe of the prisoners in the gaile quarterly. . . .

CHURCH GOODS IN 1661.

Fol. 2.

The 21th day of Aprill 1661

Southover. The parisher^s of the parish met then together when it appeared [that there] was of the parish goods and utensells belonging to the Chċh and pish [torn off] and cupp [*sic*] a cover whereupon was engrauen the yere of o^r Lord 1568 one pe [torn] marked wth the Ires R.K. and J.W. one napkin marked w[ith the] Ires J.H. one lynnyn table cloth wth a seameing lace in the mi[ddle] one carpet collored greene wth fringe one pulpit cloth and cu[shion] one pewter flaggon a stone potte bottle a great bible the booke of Comon prayer the Articles of the Chċh wth a Beere shovel mattack and other small things.⁷

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT, 1560 AND 1561.

Fol. 5.

Sowthouē Thaccompte of Jhon Cobby and Wyttam Jennys Churchwardens there ffrom the feast of thannunajcō of o^r lady in the second yere of the Reign of o^r Sou²aign lady Elizabeth^s untyll the same feast that is to saye by the space of one hole yere.

Arrerages The Same accomptaunts make aunswer of v^{li} vij^s x^d of tharrerages of the last accompte as appeareth in the fote of the same accompte.

Sm^a v^{li} vij^s x^d

Recepts Also they make aunswere of n¹⁹ for the Rent of the Church house for one hole yere ended at y^e feast of Christemas last past within the date of this accompte. Also they make

⁷ This entry is out of place. See a similar entry under the year 1683.

⁸ 25 March, 1560.

⁹ This seems to be meant for "nil," nothing.

answers of xvij^s ij^d Recevyd of dyūse piſshoners of this piſhe at the feaſt of Eſter wthin the date of this accompte for their foure lowe offering¹⁰ dayes as by a bill therof made more playnly doth appere. Also of iij^s Rec^d of Shitters Wyddo for the Rent and farme of the pſons wyſſhe for one hole yere endyd at the feaſt of Seynt Michaell tharchangell wthin the date of this accompte. Also of xij^d Rec^d of the ſayd wyddowe for the teythe of her orchard this yere. Also of ij^s Rec^d of Wiſſam Newton for the tythe of the neck of y^e ſouthe Rye for one yere ended at the feaſt of Eaſter wthin the date of this accompte. Also Rec^d xx^d of the ſame Wiſſam Newton for the farme of the Churche yarde for one hole yere endyd at the feaſt of Seynt Michaell tharchangell. Also of¹¹ . . . Rec^d of the ſayd Wiſſam for the teythe of the Eaſtham for one hole yere ended at the feaſt of Seynte Michaell within the date of this accompte. Also of Rec^d of John Stemp of Lewes for y^e teythe of the Culuerhouſe Crofte as alſo for the Crofte called Crowdocks hawe this yere. Also of¹² Rec^d of the Occupyers of M^r pkers Brooks for the teythe therof this yere. Also of¹³ iij^s iij^d Rec^d of Robert Lawrens for the ij Childrens Copes of Redd ſatten a bridges¹⁴ to hym ſolde this yere. Also of vi^d Rec^d of John Homewood for the great woodden Croſſe to hym ſolde. Also of v^s viij^d Rec^d of the ſayd Robert Lawrens for the forefront of the high alter of Red and black ſatten a bridges. Also of xij^s iij^d Rec^d of the ſaid Robert for the ſewte of blewe ſylk wth byrds to hym ſolde this yere. Also of ij^s ij^d Rec^d of Robert Saxpes for ij lytell ſylck Cuſhions to hym ſolde this yere. Also of xiiij^d Rec^d of Edmond Chantler for ij lynnyn Rotchetts to hym ſolde this yere. Also of iij^s iij^d Rec^d of Robert Saxpes for a grement¹⁵ for ſertayne gare¹⁶ to hym ſolde this yere. Also of v^s iij^d Rec^d of John Michaell for ſertayne pec^e of lynnyn to hym ſold this yere. Also of xiiij^s Rec^d of Wiſſam Jennys for one grene Cope of damaske to hym ſolde this yere. Also of ij^s vj^d Rec^d of ſame Wiſſam for the lenth Clothe to hym ſolde this yere. Also of viij^d Rec^d of John Michaell for ij Copperys Caſes and ij kerchers in them to hym ſolde this yere. Also of vj^s iij^d Rec^d of Davyd Swyfte for a veſtent [*sic*] of crymſon purple velvett to hym ſolde this yere. Also of xij^d Rec^d for a lytell vvery Boxe ſolde this yere. Also of ij^s Rec^d of Roger Mylles for an apple tre to hym ſolde blowen doune by the wynde in the Church houſe garden this yere.

¹⁰ Four offering days were appointed in the time of Henry VIII. Why they are here called "low" is uncertain.

¹¹ Left blank.

¹² Left blank.

¹³ Some of these items are quoted in Horsfield's *Lewes*, Vol. I., p. 294, *note*.

¹⁴ Satin of Bruges.

¹⁵ ? By agreement.

¹⁶ ? Gear = movable goods, Halliwell.

Also of v^s Rec^d of Robert Saxpes for the stone of the ij alters to hym solde this yere

[In a different hand] Itm Rec^d for ij payre of clapses¹⁷ of sylver solde y^{is} yere ij^s viij^d

Sumē —

Sumē of all y^e hole Receipts wth tharrerages ix^l xix^s ij^d

Expenses Off the whiche the sayd accomptants have payd for a and Comunion booke bought for the use of this Churchē iiiij^s iiiij^d Allow- Itm payd for a Salter Booke an homyle¹⁸ booke a Booke of ances Iniūcyons¹⁹ and a paper Booke bought for the use of this churchē this yere vj^s ii^d Itm payd to the Quenes vysitors att the vysitacion holden att buxstede²⁰ this yere iiij^s ij^d Itm payd for ou^r expenses and charges ther beyng for horsse meate and mans meate and for layeing in of ou^r byll ij^s Itm payd for the charges of ij wrytes²¹ w^{ch} was served uppon the Churchewardens this yere iiij^s Itm payd for ou^r Booke makyng for the awnsweryng to e^vy of the articles of the Inyoncions this yere xij^d Itm payd for the appearaunce and for the answeryng unto the sayd wrytes att London this yere v^s Itm payd for my expenses and charges to London towards horsse meate and mans meate xx^d Itm payd to Kydder the somner for oyle and crysme att Easter this yere iiiij^d Itm payd for ou^r expenses before the Chaunseler for order taken for o^r psonage howse xx^d Itm payd for o^r expenses in goyng to Cuckfyll this yere xij^d Itm payd to ij women for makyng cleane of the Churchē this yere vj^d Itm payd for the makyng cleane of the Churchē gutters by the yere viij^d Itm payd for makyng and mendyng of bawdrycks and for mendyng of the belropes by the yere viij^d Itm payd to the Ropemaker for iij newe belropes bought for the use of the Churchē this yere iiij^s vj^d Itm payd to Harry Dennys stonehealer²² for settyng forth of ij Lode of Horssam stone att the psonage house this yere viij^d Itm payd to Sir Richard of Tarryng at easter in a great²³ to serve the howselyng²⁴ people this yere x^s Itm payd for Bread and wyne at Ester ij^s viij^d

Sme xlviij^s iiiij^d

Repacions. Itm payd for one pece of tymber and for half a hūdreth of borde bought for the use of this churchē this yere iiij^s Itm payd to Roger Milles Carpenter for one dayes workemanshippe for hymself and his boye in bordyng upp of the hygh alter at the hed of the chaunsell xvj^d Itm payd for nayles for the same worke vj^d Itm payd to Robert Stokyll Smyth for takyng downe of the Iron woorke of y^e Clock and for the newe makyng of sertayne gynnes²⁵ therof and for the mendyng of the olde in a great²⁶ xiiij^s iiij^d Itm payd for ij

¹⁷ Clasps.

¹⁸ Homily.

¹⁹ Injunctions.

²⁰ Buxted.

²¹ Writs.

²² Stone-roofer, Halliwell; hele, to roof, West.

²³ In agreement.

²⁴ Communicating.

²⁵ ? Engines or mechanical works.

²⁶ In agreement.

newe lynes for the plometts of the same clock xij^d Itm payd to luke the joyner for ij turnedd tombrells viij^d Itm payd for nayles for the same vj^d Itm payd to Richard Rogers the Carpenter for vj dayes workemanshipp in newe makyng of the frame for the same clock to stand uppō vj^s Itm payd for tymber for the same xij^d Itm payd to a Clerke for makyng wrytyng and castyng of the accompte xxij^d

Sme	xxvij ^s	ij ^d
Sme of the hole allowances and expenses	iiij ⁱⁱ	xvj ^s vj ^d
And so ther is owyng	vj ⁱⁱ	ij ^s viij ^d

Wherof

In the hands of Anne Chamber wydo for the buryall of Thomas a Chamber her late husband. vj^s viij^d

Itm in the hands of Sir John Peveryll clarke late pson of this pische for money lent unto hym out of the Church box xlij^s iiij^d

Itm in the hands of Thomas Gravesend for the buryall of M^r Gressham in the Chaunsell²⁷ x^s

And so the sayd accomptants do owe clerly the Church, all things charged and all allowances allowed, iiijⁱⁱ ij^s viij^d w^{ch} is in the hands of John Cobby.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A LOTTERY.

AGREEMENT TO DEAL FAIRLY (ABOUT THE SAME DATE).

Fol. 8. M^d Layd to y^e lotery the xv day of May of the pisshe of Sowthovor as here after fflowlyth that ys to say

by Willm Newton	x ^s
by Robert Saxpes	x ^s
by John Coby	v ^s
by John Mygthell	v ^s
by Thom's Curtoppe	ij ^s vj ^d
by Robert Larranse	ij ^s vj ^d
by Edward Pellm̄	ij ^s vj ^d
by Edward Jeny	ij ^s vj ^d

Wheras this mony ys iiij lotts whyche goyth in the name off Wyllm Newton yf any thyng ffawyll to eny of thes lots Egoly to be devyded amonge thes menne whose names be ffore wryttyn a Cordyng to y^e Ratts.²⁸

p me Wyllyam Newton.

²⁷ All this is crossed through.

²⁸ The proportionate rate of each person's contribution. Mr. Newton, in his own name, had taken four lots of 10s. each. He here binds himself, if anything falls to any of the lots, to share the money fairly *pro rata*. It is probable that this entry refers to a State Lottery of 1568, said to be the first held in England. It is mentioned in Stowe's *Chronicle*, Haydn's *Dictionary of Dates* and in *Archaeologia*, Vol. XIX., p. 79. Forty thousand lots at 10s. each were offered, the money to go for repair of harbours. Each applicant sent in a motto. The drawing was at the west door of St. Paul's Cathedral. The Lottery was to be kept open from 11th January to 6th May. The time was extended because the money did not come in so readily as was hoped.

VARIOUS PAYMENTS, 1613—1619.

Fol. 9.	The xv th of Aprele 1613		
	Paied to William Keale for the maymed souldiers by me John Knollys Constable	iii ^j ^s	
	Rec ^d of Adams Churchwarden this 4s.		
	Paied for the Quintene	ij ^d	
	Paied the same day to Barnabie Chambers for the gaele by me John Knollys Cōstable	ij ^s	
Maye 8	Paied to the Kings purvier for xiiij b ₃ of Otts at xvj ^d the b ₃ and iii ^j ^d for the quiten ₃	xix ^s	
	Paied the xxj of June 1613 to Master Anthonye Sherlye for the new buildinge of Excete bridge	xv ^s	
	Paied the 17 of Auguste for the Kinges provisione of Coales to M ^r John Shurlye.	xxx ^s	
Fol. 10.			
1614.	Payments for the Borow of Southover for one whole yeare ended At the feast of S ^t Michael 1614 by me Sam: Towres Constable for y ^e same year.		
	Itm pd towards the buildine of Excet bridge being y ^e second seasm ^t ²⁹	ix ^s	ij ^d
	Itm paid for the Kings provision oats ³⁰	xj ^s	vii ^j ^d
	Itm paid for the third seas ^t towards Excet bridg	v ^s	ii ^j ^d
	Itm p ^d for Charitable uses and house of Corecion for a yeare	xiiij ^s	vii ^j ^d
	Itm pd for the Kings coles	xxvj ^s	
	Item pd by Tho: Earle for the Maymed Soldiers	xvj ^s	vii ^j ^d
1619.	Payments for the Borowe of Southover for one whole yeare ended at Michellmas 1619. By me Mathew Parker Constable for the same yeare.		
	Inprimis for the maymed Souldiers.	xvj ^s	vii ^j ^d
	Itm for the repayringe of the Kings Mati his ornantes ³¹	xx ^s	
	Itm for the Kings Mati his Coales	xx ^s	ij ^d
	Itm for y ^e Kings Matie his Oatts	xv ^s	vj ^d
	Itm for powder maych ³² and lead to the Kinge his use	xx ^s	
	Itm for timber to his use	x ^s	
	Itm for Charitable uses and house of Corectione	xiiij ^s	vii ^j ^d
	Payd by Mathewe Wilson [20 ^s for powder &c.]		

On foll. 13-22 are copies of deeds relating to Parish Charities. The remaining entries at this end of the book are of later date and will be noticed in their place.

²⁹ Assessment.

³⁰ These and the coals were vexatious charges made for the King's household.

³¹ Ordnance.

³² ? Matches.

At the commencement of the Book, as finally bound, the first 16 folios are numbered from 1 to 16 in a late hand. None of the other folios are numbered. A good many of the earlier entries are crossed through as though entered in some other book.

Fol. 1. iiiij^{to} die Martii A^o 1574³³

M^d that ther Remaynth in the hands of William Newton
iiiij^{li} viij^s viij^d.

Mathew Wygginus doyth owe the Church xv^s.

M^d that Thomas Saunder and John Fawkenor being Churchwardens hayth made ther a Counte y^e xxvijth daye of October and the sayd Thomas hayth payd for his wyffes beryall xiiij^s iiiij^d and so we doo owe him iiiij^d.

M^d that Robert Saxpes and Edmund Chanteler being Church Wardens³⁴ hayth recevyd Into ther hands of y^e pissheners—xxij^s viij^d.

M^d the Collectors for the pore hayth made ther Acownt the xxvijth day of October and soo doyth Remayn in ther hands—xxxij^s x^d ob.

M^d that y^e pissiners hayth delivered Unto y^e hands of Robert Saxpes and Edmund Chanteler Church Wardens ther of the pisshe of Suthov^y y^e xx day of Apryll in the yere of ou^r Sovay lady Elizabeth by y^e grace of God Que of ynglond France &c. in the xix yer of her Reyne—iiij^{li} xv^s (1577).

Fol. 2. Robert Saxpes and Edmund Chaunteler Churchwardens made theire Accompt unto Robert Lawrence and John Coby Newe Churchwardens and dely^ved in to the hands of Robert Lawrence xxxix^s. And the Communion Cupp Dely^ved into the hands of John Coby. The Daye And yere Abovesaid.

Fol. 4 d.

1 Ap. 1589.

Reseved of John Coby gent our constabell his Re knyng from Myhelmas untyll the xvijth day of June for prests and kepings of sodyers and for the xv and ther of we aknowledge our selevs satesfed.

Fol. 5.

1590 Reseaved of Abraham Umffrey our constable from Mychelmas unt. the xxixth day of October for watchmen at brightemston for the fyftenes and for the provost marshall and for all other re knynges wherof we acknowledg our selves satsfyed.

Fol. 5 d.

1590 M^d at ou^r Lawday houlden after Mychelmas in the yere of ou^r Lord God 1590 yt was agreed betweene the twelve of the

³³ This date is in different writing to the entries.

³⁴ It would seem that a change of churchwardens was taking place at October.

pishe and M^r Pankell and before the Steward of the Corte that the sayed Jhon Pankell should paye always towards ou^r feftenes and tenths ij^s vj^d.

Fol. 5 d. Church Wardens chosen the vth day of Aprell in the yere of our lord 1591. Robert Saxpes John Knowels and ther Remayneth in there hands xxxij^s

Collectors chosen the same day—Abram Umfrye and Nycolas Wilson

Surveyors chosen the same daye Peter Crane Henrye Geyeles.

Church wardens chosen y^e xxjth of Maye Año dñi 1592 Robert Saxpes and Abraham Umfray. Remaying in y^e hands of Robert Saxpes xxxvij^s 05.

Collectors chosen y^e day aforesaid Wyllyham Harwood Richard Swan

Surveyors chosen yt daye Peter Crane Henrye Gyeles.

Churchwardens chosen the xxixth day of Apryll 1593 Abraham Umfery and Henry Sanders and Abraham Humfery being the old Churchwarden gave up the accompte and ther remayneth in his handes ij^s vj^d.

Itm received the account of Peter Crane the old counstable the xxvth day of November and so ther remayneth an other recknyng.

Fol. 9. METHOD OF DEALING WITH POOR CHILDREN.

1595 Itm the xiiijth day of September Thomas Harrod being counstable made his account of such goods as was John Trunnels which commith to xj^s viij^d And a legacy geven to his chyl dren by an Uncle of thers which amounteth to vj^{li} wherof he hath layd out about the plasyng of y^e children and keping and apparelyng of them untill they were plased, iij^{li} xv^s ij^d whereof remaynith in his handes to the use of the children xxxvj^s viij^d wherfore he must allow yerly for eve [? ever] ij^s of y^e pound.⁸⁵

This account was made before John Mascole James Plommer William Storrer Henry Gyles and Nycholas Wylson y^e xiiijth day of September.

1596 Itm reckned with Thomas Harrod y^e xiiijth day of September for trunnils children's money and ther remaynith in his hands to the use of the children xxxvij^s ij^d wherfor he is to pay ij^s of the pound by the yeare.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ From the case of John Donne just below, it appears that these persons while taking charge of a pauper were relieved from local rates.

⁸⁶ The correct balance according to the figures given is £1. 16s. 6d. In September, 1594, Thomas, one of these children, had been committed to Robert Ryckward, who for a grant of 40s. covenanted to discharge the parish of all costs for the boy till he was 21 years of age. His age at the time of the grant is not stated. On November 1st following a girl, Jane, had also been placed with Robert Fordinge for 40s., to be maintained till she was 24 years of age.

Fol. 10. Memorandum that the xxvjth day November 1604 Maurys Evens of the towne of Lewes laborer hath taken on Alce pryse [Alice Price] of the pish of Southover for to disscarge the said pish of Southover for the space of vij yeares and ther for hath Received of John Earle Counstable xiiij^s iiiiij^d. Delyvered in the presents of John Earle Counstable James Plummar Abraham Umfrey Robart Fardne Nycholas Wylson and John Anger.

On a loose folio.

1604 M^d that I John Donne weaver of the pish of Southover haeth taken unto prentisse one Lennard Rogers being one of the poore of the pish of Southover and stand bond for tenn yeres and I the sayd John Donne in consideration of xx^s alredye received do promise the sayd parrishoners to discharg the parrish during the whole terme of tenn yeres and also to instruct and bring up the sayd Lennard in the occupation of weaver in the best manner I can and in the meane whyle during the time to fynd him meat drincke aparell wth all other things belonging to aprentrisse. And wee the sayd parishoners have promised the sayd John Donne to discharge the sayd John Donne of all manner of charges w^{ch} shall rise due in the parish during the terme of tenn yeres yf the boye live so longe or John Donne do remayne dwellinge here so longe.

Wrytten the xviiijth of March 1604.

John Dun.

Witness to this, John Erle Constable, John Cobie, John Saxpes, Thomas Pilbeme, Abraham Umfrey.

Fol. 11 d.

The vith of Aprill 1607.

Survayors for the Hyeways.

M^r Powell Garway³⁷ and James Plomer.

DISPUTE ABOUT A CHURCH SEAT REFERRED TO THE "TWELVE."

Fol. 12 d.

October the third Anno dni 1609.

Memorand that whereas the day and year above-written there was a contention betwixt Thomas Puckle and Thomas Russell for a seate in the churche of Southover w^{ch} belongeth to the house of M^{rs} Plomer: for the endinge of w^{ch} contention it was ordered and agreed by the consent of the whole twelve, Thomas Puckle beinge one of them and principall churchwarden that yeare, that the man that did or should dwell in

³⁷ This gentleman had a daughter, Anne, who by her marriage with Thomas Browne, a mercer of London, became the mother of the well-known physician, Sir Thomas Browne, of Norwich, the author of *Religio Medici*, *Hydriotaphia or Urn Burial* and other works. See *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. XV., pp. 111, 112.

that house should sitt uppmost or highest in that seate wherin John Knowles and the said Thomas Puckle wth others now comonly useth to sitt in, and the wyfe of him w^{ch} then or hereafter shall dwell in the saide house shall sitt in the pue or seate adioyning to the uppende of the said mens seate on the right hand, so as the the [sic] said M^{rs} Plomer would erect at hir owne charges a newe seate for women to sitt in, next beneth the seate where the wives of the said John Knowles and Thomas Puckle wth others now sitt in, by cause some of the twelve then said that hir husband heretofore when he was laste churchwarden of Southover did pull doune in the same place a seate and herewthall did erecte pte of a pue or seate for himselfe to sitt in the w^{ch} accordingly since that tyme shee hath donne. 1609.

Fol. 13d. M^d the first day of M^{ch} 1613 the right ho^r Richard Earle of Dorsett did give to the parish in full peymt and satisfacion of the rent and arrerages of rent due for the hous^e next the free scholle w^{ch} belongeth to the parish ten peces of gould Ceñt xliij^s And from this tyme forthwards is to pay for the same house for Rent ij^s A yeare And gave iiiij^{li} towards reপরations of our church because his land should not be taxed.

Fol. 16 Memorandum that I George Duke have taken of the overseers of this parish of Southov^r the sum of twelve shillings eight pens for which hee is to discharge the parish of his Sister Mary Duke as long as hee lives whereunto hee has set his hand in witnes.

George Duke his marke

From this point the folios are not numbered.

COURT LEET, CONSTABLES, HEADBOROUGHES.

On one or two previous occasions it is stated that a Constable and a Headborough were chosen "at the Lawday." In general the election is assigned to some day "after Michaelmas" or "in October." In 1633 the "Court Leet" is first mentioned.

Southover Att the Courte leete there holden the first day of October, 1633 being Tuesday, 1633 Annoq. Caroli Regis &c. nono

Witfm Lane gent. was then elected Constable and Thomas Pepper his deputy if hee die or remove.

John Auger was then elected Headborough and Richard Holter his deputy if hee die or remove.

Homewood Prior was then elected Aleconner.

Southover At the Courte Leete there holden the third day of October 1637 being Tuesday 1637 Annoq^o Caroli Regis &c. decimo tertio

Daniel Stanninoe gent and Wit^m Carter were then nominated by the Jury to serve the office of Constable wthin the said Borough And the said Daniel Stanninoe was by hee die the Steward then chosen and Wit^m Carter his deputy yf hee die or remove the w^{ch} Daniel Stanninoe was then in open Courte sworne for the due execution of the said office.

Thomas Beardswell and Daniel Curlewes were then nominated by the Jury to serve the office of Headborough⁸⁸ wthin the said Borough and the said Daniel Curlewes was by the said Steward then chosen and sworne and Thomas Beardswell his deputy if hee die or remove

Henry Landman was then nominated and chosen Aleconner⁸⁹ wthin the said Borough

1647. Ad visum Franci plegii ism tent' quinto die Octobris 1647 Annoq^o Caroli Regis xxiiij^o.

Richard Belson and John Titchborne gent were then nominated to serve the office of Constable and Richard was chosen and sworne by the Steward &c.

Thomas Waller and John Sharpe were then nominated to serve the office of Headborough and Waller was chosen and not sworne.

Ellis Wood was then nominated and chosen Aleconner &c.

After 1674 the elections of Constable, Headboroughs and Aleconner are no longer recorded.

1683 M^d the Churchwardens Received of Thomas Ashworth y^e Clarke of this Parish y^e Sirplice one Cushion one green pulpitt cloth one silver cupp and cover to it, one Flagon one table cloth and napkin and one peuter Dish.

Phil Bennett	Ri Baker	} Churchwardens
Nicho: Longley	William Willet	

⁸⁸ A Headborough, more correctly headborh or head pledge, was originally the chief man of a tithing who with at least 11 other chief pledges presented petty offences, breaches of manorial customs, &c., at a Court Leet or View of Frankpledge. After the establishment of local Justices of the Peace in the fourteenth century the tithing system died out, but the Court still met and a jury of residents within the precinct of the Leet was chosen for the occasion. In manorial courts they were still called Headboroughs, but in country places, where the reports were made to the Justices, that title was given to the subordinate official commonly known as the Parish Constable. The "Constable" at Southover, Lewes, and other similarly governed places was a higher official, the [High] Constable of a Hundred, which often included many parishes or townships.

⁸⁹ An Aleconner was an officer whose duty was to see that sellers of ale and probably bread and other articles of food sold nothing unwholesome or short in quantity or above the price fixed annually by the Justices according to the price of wheat.

- 1688 [The first detailed entry of Churchwardens' Accounts]
 The Accounts of Tho: Hard and Tho: Wood Church-
 wardens of the said parish for the yeare 1688.
- | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| Paid for changing the Communion Cup | 00 | 16 | 06 |
| Paid Will: Hill for looking after cleaning the
Clock | 01 | 08 | 00 |
| Paid to the Ringers at twice | 00 | 04 | 06 |
| Paid M ^r Clagett for this years Charitable
Uses | 01 | 13 | 04 |
| [with other items] Total | 11 | 18 | 10 |
- 1697 (at reverse end of book).
 Paid for a wheel for the great Bell and
 hanging of har 2 0 0
 For a Stook for y^e litell bell 0 15 0
 For 203 feet of Slab yoused for ye fence and
 staiers and flowers 0 16 11
 For Communion Win and Bread 1 16 2
1703. N^o 1st 1703 That whereas thear is a Brocke (*sic*)⁴⁰ Called
 by the name of the Wilow Brocke alis Belsons Brocke in the
 Occupation of Christopher Coar: which of Latt the parish of
 Kingston Lay Clayme to: wee the Inhabitance of Southover
 for good Resons and Considerations doe believe It to be in
 Southover and thearfor wee doe hear promise to bear ye sayde
 Christ: Coar harmless from paying any Taxes whatsoe ever to
 the parish of Kingston

John Balcombe	} Churchwardens	Joseph Swane	} Overseers and others.
Christofer Coare			

RESEATING OF THE CHURCH AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE SEATS AMONG THE PARISHIONERS, 1724 AND 1725.

1724. Att a Vestry or parish Meeting this 19th Day of August 1724 held in the parish Church of S^t John Baptist in Southover it is agreed and Consented to by the Majority of the said Vestry That the Seats and pews in y^e s^d Church (being out of repair and irregular) shall be totally taken down and Rebuilt, that the pulpit and Desk shall likewise be removed towards the Belfry in order to make more Convenient Room at the Comunion Table and the Seats near y^e Co^munion Table shall likewise be removed towards y^e Belfry in order to make room as afores^d. That the pavement of the said Church shall be new laid and made good and the Windows new glazed That the Seats and pews shall be all made decent and Uniform Except the Churchwardens Seat w^{ch} shall be allowed to be higher than the others, And in order to have y^e same

⁴⁰ Meadow (Parish, *Sussex Dialect*). See Horsfield, *Lewes*, Vol. I., p. 298.

speedily done and finished the s^d Vestry do further Consent and Agree to Grant a Rate or Tax of three Shillings p pound to be made and Levied by the Churchwardens of y^e s^d parish, to whose Care and managem^t the whole direction and oversight of y^e s^d work and repairs are left, the s^d Rate or Tax to be Equally made according to the Poor Book and to be Charged on All Lands, Houses, &c. within y^e s^d parish w^{ch} are chargeable or Taxable towards the said Seats or repairs.

Witness their hands the day and year above said.

W^m Humphery }
Tho: Bexhill } Churchw^{dens}

Nicho: Longley	Thomas Wood
W ^m Newton	John Verrall
Rich ^d Ayres	John Dunk
Jn ^o Ayres	John Houlter
Tho: Greenfield	Ben Beeke.
John Bennett	

Mem^d this 11th Day of June 1725 At a Vestry held this Day it is agreed that the Seats and Pews in the Parish Church of S^t John Baptist in Southover w^{ch} are now put up and finished by the Churchwardens of y^e s^d parish according to y^e agreement and direction of a former Vestry held y^e 19th of August 1724 shall for Ever hereafter go and belong to the severall houses and estates hereinafter mençoned according as y^e s^d Seats and Pews are Numbered and particularly Described viz^t.

- N^o 1. To Edw^d Trayton Esq, as Lord of the Mannor.
 2. To Nicholas Longley Gent for his house now in his own occupation.
 3. To John Ridge Jun^r for his house (the Town house) now in his Occupaçõn and M^r Sam^l Koane for his house now in y^e Occupaçõn of James Bedoe and Ric^d howell.
 4. To M^r Tho: Beard for y^e house now in his Occupaçõn To M^r W^m Blunt for y^e house now in y^e Occupaçõn of Thomas Bexhill To John Bennett for the house his own Occupaçõn And to William Wood for his house now in y^e Occupaçõn of W^m Peters and Thomas Marten, for Men only.
 5. To Tho: Greenfield for his houses now in the Occupaçõn of Rob^t Balcombe John Wigsell and John Boniface and to the Widow Laws for her houses in y^e Occupaçõn of Henty and herself.
 6. To Rich^d Ayers for his houses late Balcombs now in y^e Occupaçõn of Tho: Verrall and of Widow Ashby To W^m Garston's house now in y^e Occupaçõn of Widow Purser and to another house of Rich^d Ayers now in y^e Occupaçõn of Edw^d Mantle.
 7. To Rich^d Belson and John Chatfield for four tenem^{ts} now in their own occupaçõn.

8. To James Holden for his houses (late M^r Traytons) and now in his own Occupacōn To M^r W^m Blunt for y^e house now in y^e Occupacōn of James Beckett and To Rich^d Verrall for his house now in y^e Occupacōn of William Shelton.
9. To Rich^d Ayers for his house now in his own Occupacōn and to his house called the Chequer now in y^e Occupacōn of Allan Crust and others.
10. To M^r William Newton for y^e houses now in y^e Occupacōn of Rob^t Graves and others, being in 5 tenem^{ts} in Eastport Lane.⁴¹
11. To John Teeling for his houses now in his own Occupacōn and y^e Occupacōn of M^{rs} Hughs and called the Spread Eagle.
12. A Women's Seat. To Rich^d Ayers for his house now in y^e Occupacōn of Widow Ashby Tho: Verralls wife and Allan Crusts his wife.
13. To Mad^m Newton for her Mansion house now in her own Occupacōn.
14. To M^r William Lane for his house now in his own Occupacōn.
15. To M^r William Humphrey for his house now in his own Occupacōn.
16. The Clarks pew.
17. To John Ayers for his house now in his own Occupacōn.
18. To John Davey for his house now in y^e Occupacōn of Edw^d Blackman called y^e Swan for one Mans Sitting only And to William West for his house now in his own Occupacōn.
19. To Thomas Greenfield for his house called y^e Marriners and to John Wood for his house now in his own Occupacōn and to M^r plu^mer for y^e house in y^e Occupacōn of Stephen Kennard.
20. To the Women of the houses mentioned at N^o 4 and to the Women of Thos: Greenfield's house called the Marriners.
21. To the Women of M^r Ridge and M^r Swan's houses at N^o 3 and to y^e Women of John Bennetts house.
22. To the Women of John Woods house, y^e Swan Inn, and Rich^d. Ayres house in his own occupacōn.
23. To the Widow Purser, y^e Widow Asheroft and the Women of John Chatfields two tenem^{ts}.
24. To M^{rs} Eliz: Auger for her house now in y^e Occupacōn of M^{rs} Rochester.
25. To M^r Pridie for his house now in y^e Occupacōn of Ben: Beake.
26. To M^r William Rogers for his house now in his own Occupacōn.
27. To M^r John Trigg for his house (now Empty).
28. To M^r Tho: Stone and others for y^e house now in y^e Occupacōn of John Read.
29. To M^r John Dunk for his house now in his own Occupacōn.
30. To M^r William Newton for his five Tenem^{ts} in Eastport Lane at^s w^{ch} he accepts in Lieu of N^o 10 w^{ch} Seat is agreed shall N^o 10 belong to the house of John Verrall now in his own Occupacōn.

⁴¹ This entry is crossed through and there is substituted "To M^r John Verrall." See No. 30.

31. To y^e hon^{ble} Col^l Tufton for his house now in y^e Occupa^õn of W^m Coats.
32. To Mad^m Newton for her Mansion House in her own Occupa^õn.
33. To M^r Nicholas Longley for his house now in his own Occupa^õn.
34. To M^r Samuel Duke for his house now in y^e Occupa^õn of M^r Sam^l Swane.
35. To M^r Edw^d Trayton for his Servants and the Servants of the Place Farm.
36. To M^r Edw^d Trayton for his house and Place ffarme now in y^e Occupa^õn of William Winton.
37. To James Potter for y^e house now in y^e Occupa^õn of John Wimble To Stephen Read for his house now in his own Occupa^õn and to Joseph Beckett for y^e house of M^r Pridie for Men only.
38. To the Women of y^e same houses as N^o 37.
39. To y^e Servant Maids⁴² of W^m Rogers and one Serv^t of Tho: Bexhill.
40. To Rich^d Bennett for his house now in his own Occupa^õn and to John Best for his houses now in the Occupa^õn of Rich^d Brown and others in Eastport Lane.
41. To M^r John Davey for his house called the Swan Inn now in y^e Occupa^õn of Edw^d Blackman and to his other Tenem^{ts} in his own Occupa^õn.
42. To M^r William Lane for his house now in his own occupa^õn.
43. A Womans Seat for the Wives of William Shelton James Holden and James Beckett as at N^o 8.
44. To the Men Servants of Thomas Bexhill and John Bennett.
45. To M^r Edward Trayton for y^e Pound house in y^e Occupa^õn of John Holter and the Widow Collins and to Mathew Hanter for his house now in his own Occupa^õn.
46. The Vestry.
47. To y^e Women of the two Tenem^{ts} of Rich^d Belson.
48. To M^r William Humphrey and John Dunk for their Servants in right of their houses before menc^õned.
49. To M^r William West John Wood and John Verrall for their Serv^{ts} in right of their houses.
50. To the Women of the houses of Thomas Greenfield and the Widow Lawes as mentioned at N^o 5.

W ^m Humphery	} Churchw ^{dns}	John Bennett
Tho: Bexhill		W ^m West
W ^m Newton		John Wimble
Nicho Longley		John ^{the marke of} Chatfield
Ben: Beake		△
John Wood		Rich ^d Belson
W ^m Rogers		Rich ^d ^{the marke of} Ayres
John Verrall		+ James Bedel

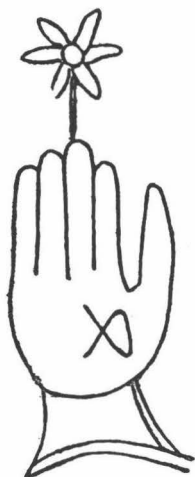
⁴² Altered to "Servants."

LIST OF CONSTABLES OF SOUTHOVER ENTERED IN THIS
BOOK.⁴⁸

1559	Wylliam Jennys	1636	Richard Knight
1560	(?) David Swyfte	1637	Daniel Staninoe
1564	Edmund Chaunteler	1638	William Carter (?)
1589	John Cobey, gent :	1639	Thomas Coombes
1590	Abraham Umfery	1640	William Awcock
1592	Peter Crane	1641	Thomas Russell
1593	William Storrer	1642	Richard Kidder
1594	Thomas Harwod	1643	Isaac Burgess
1598	John Knollys	1644	James Plumer
1600	Nicholas Russell	1645	John Russell
1597	Richard (?) Benton	1646	William Russell
1601	Edward Hart	1647	Richard Belson
1604	John Earle	1648	Robert Standinge
1606	Domynyck Monger	1649	John Gill
1609	William Maunser	1650	Richard Gill
1610	Thomas Russell	1851	John Sharpe
1611	John Augur sen.	1653	William Chittie
1612	John Knollys	1654	Thomas Waller and William Gascoine
1613	Samuell Towres	1655	Thomas Brethen
1614	David Partridge	1656	Edward Cornford
1615	Thomas Plumer	1658	William Russell jun.
1616	William Lane	1659	Thomas Swane
1617	James Plumer	1661	William Hart
1619	William Adams	1662	Robert Holford
1620	Henrie Sparkes	1663	William Gascoine
1621	Jo ⁿ Michell gent :	1664	Thomas Dreaden
1622	Nicholas Russell	1665	M ^r Long, also Edward Cornford
1623	Thomas Russell	1666	M ^r Burdet
1624	Edward Hart	1667	John Dunck
1625	Richard Kydder	1668	Seth Turner
1626	Nicholas Godfery	1669	William Elphick, also Thomas Deane
1627	James Adams	1670	William Pellatt
1628	John Russell	1671	James Carver
1629	William Adames	1673	David Wood
1630	John Gille	1674	Edward Auger
1631	William Quayfe	1675	Henry Howell
1632	William Russell		
1633	William Lane, gent		
1634	Thomas Pepper		
1635	John Michel gent.		

No further entries of Court Leets or election of Constables.

⁴⁸ Some of the years of office are not quite certain.



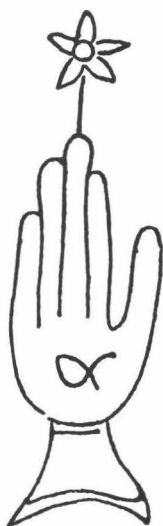
PEVENSEY RATE BOOK,
1518 and 1519 (6 rays).



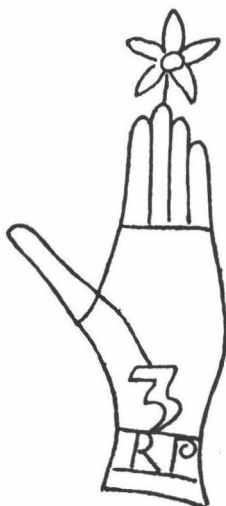
PEVENSEY RATE BOOK,
1518 (6 rays).



PEVENSEY RATE BOOK,
AFTER 1520 (5 rays).



CHURCHWARDENS' BOOK OF ST. MICHAEL
AND ST. ANDREW, LEWES, BEGINNING
1522.



SOUTHOVER PARISH BOOK.
c. 1574. INITIALS R.P.

WATERMARKS.—HANDS AND STARS.

NOTE ON THE PAPER MARKS.—The Paper Marks in this Southover Parish Book, in the Pevensey Rate Book (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XLV., p. 149) and the Churchwardens' Book of St. Michael's, Lewes (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XLV., p. 40) are all of the same character, a hand with outstretched fingers surmounted by a star. But they differ considerably in details, as in the number of rays of the star. All three Books are of the sixteenth century. The Pevensey Book is stated in *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLV., p. 40, to have a six-rayed star. This is correct of the earlier specimens, but on further examination it appears that this mark ceases after 1518 and 1519, and in 1520 and later a five-rayed star is found. A similar watermark is given in a Paper in *Archæologia*, Vol. XII., p. 14, as of the dates of 1512 and 1520, both stars having five rays. The mark is said to be found in some of Caxton's books. In a Collection in the British Museum (Old Catalogue Room) are three such marks, the stars having four or five rays. They are all found in Dutch paper, in books of the fifteenth century. The paper is therefore, doubtless, Dutch. Perhaps the fac-similes here given may help to identify the holder of the initials R.P., found in the Southover Book.
