

INVENTORIES OF PAROCHIAL DOCUMENTS.

[In Volume XLIX. of the Society's *Collections* there was printed an "Inventory of the Contents of Hailsham Parish Chest," with the suggestion that members should make similar inventories for other parishes and send them to the Editor. This suggestion met with no response, but, as a result of personal appeals, inventories have been drawn up for the parishes of Bexhill, East Dean, Friston, Jevington, Ringmer and Waldron. For Westham the Vicar, the Rev. H. H. Hopley, writes that the churchwardens during the nineteenth century made a bonfire of all the old parish documents, and the same appears to have been the case at Pevensey. It is hoped that the compilation of these inventories will tend to lessen the risk of such wanton destruction, while it is also felt that a knowledge of what materials exist in different parishes will be of value to students of archæology. The Editor, therefore, will be very glad to have further complete inventories for those parishes which have not yet been published.]

INVENTORY OF THE CONTENTS OF PARISH CHEST AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEXHILL.

COMPILED BY JOHN E. RAY, OCTOBER, 1905.

PART I.

Books and Documents belonging to the Overseers.

1. Poor Book.

Commencing rate made 26th April, 1736. } Thick foolscap book,
Ending rate made 6th April, 1754. } without cover.

Contains particulars of rate made, followed by overseers' expenditure, headed as follows:—

"Bexhill *ℒ*."

"The Accounts of Thomas Duke and Thomas Benskin and Richard Goodwine Overseers of the Poor of the Parish afore Said Taken one Ester Monday being the 26th day of

April 1736 by the Inhabitation of the Parish afore said whose hands are hereunto subscribed as followeth viz.,” &c.

The totals of the first rate are—

The Receipts	159 10 07
The Disbursements .	155 15 03
	3 15 04

At the end of the book are sundry records of relief given and other memoranda, which at a later date were separately recorded in the Vestry Book.

2. Poor Book.
 Commencing 9th May, 1754. } Foolscap, parchment
 Ending 29th January, 1779. } cover.
 In same form as No. 1. Also contains at each end various certificates, agreements and notes.

3. Poor Book.
 Commencing 30th May, 1779. } Foolscap, parchment
 Ending 12th January, 1800. } cover.
 In same form as Nos. 1 and 2.
 [Note.—The book covering the years 1800 to 1810 appears to be missing.]

4. Poor Book.
 Commencing 23rd April, 1810. } Foolscap, parchment
 Ending 8th January, 1815. } cover.
 In same form as Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

5. Poor Book.
 Commencing 2nd April, 1815. } Demy, parchment
 Ending 1st January, 1820. } cover.
 Same form as Nos. 1—4.

6. Poor Book.
 Commencing 13th April, 1820. } Foolscap, thick.
 Ending 25th March, 1821. }
 This book is only partly filled, and contains a quantity of blank pages at the end.
 This series ends with this book.

7. Poor Book.
 Commencing 19th April, 1821. } Large thick book,
 Ending 21st February, 1825. } bound in calf.
 Contains particulars of rates made and overseers' expenditure of same. The rates were made quarterly, the four rates in 1822 being 4s., 4s., 3s. and 4s. in the £ respectively!

8. Rate Book.
Commencing 25th April, 1825. } Large thick book,
Ending 25th March, 1834. } bound in calf.
9. Overseers' Account Book.
Commencing 1825 } Foolscap book, belonging to the
Ending 182 . . } same series as Nos. 7 and 8.
The years are not recorded.
Begins "Bexhill Parish in account with James Russell,
overseer."
10. Overseers' Account Book.
Commencing 24th April, 1834. } Foolscap size,
Ending 31st March, 1854. } bound in calf.
And labelled "BEXHILL, 1834."
This book is only partly filled.
[Note.—After the passing of the Poor Law Act of 1834
the Parish became part of the "Union of Battle," and the
overseers no longer maintained their own Poor in the Parish
Workhouse, which was then abolished.]
11. Rate Bookfor years 1835-1838. Parchment cover.
12. " " 1838-1839. Cloth cover.
13. " " 1840-1841. "
14. Poor Rate Book " 1842-1844. "
15. Rate Book " 1848. "
16. " " 1849-1850. "
17. " " 1851-1853. "
18. " " 1854. Paper cover.
19. " " 1855. "
20. " " 1856. Cloth cover.
21. " " 1858. Paper cover.
22. Collecting & Deposit Book " 1848-1851. Foolscap calf.
23. " " " 1851-1855. "
24. Collector's Book " 1855-1856. Foolscap cloth.
25. " " " 1856-1859. "
26. Vestry Book, 1796-1813. Parchment cover, small 4to.
Contains records of grants by way of poor relief.
27. Vestry Book.
From 25th March, 1821, } Large 4to.
To 29th December, 1848. }
28. Book labelled "Select Vestry Minutes, Bexhill, 1821."
From 30th January, 1821,
To 24th March, 1828.

Bundles of Papers, as follows:—

Bundle, Orders of Removal.

„ 1828-1834.

„ 1857.

„ 1858.

Envelope marked, “Alterations in Rating made by Mr. Christmas, 1853.”

Bundle endorsed, “This paper was taken for Mr. Wedds accts. by Mr. Bellingham.”

Bundle, Letters respecting Parish Business, 1853-54-55.

Envelope marked, „ „ 1858.

„ Letters from Poor Law Board, 1859.

Copy Return, 1858.

Copy Rate Book.

Nine Bundles of Bills, 1853-1860.

PART II.

Books and Documents belonging to the Vicar and Churchwardens.

1. Tithe Account Book,

From Michaelmas, 1726,
To Lady-day, 1757.

} Demy size,
parchment cover.

Begins: “The account of half a year’s tithes due at Michaelmas 1726 to the Reverend Mr. John Henry Ott Vicar of Bexhill from those that live in the said Parish.” Gives names of tenants, particulars of lands and amount of half-yearly payment, with date of payment—followed each half-year by list of tithes from those that live out of the parish, and a separate list for lands within the Liberty of the Sluice.

2. Register of Banns, 1847-1876. Thin demy book, parchment cover.

3. Rev. F. H. Morgan’s licence as Assistant Stipendiary Curate of Bexhill. 19th May, 1856.

4. Altar Service Book, marked “BEXHILL CHURCH, 1855.”

5. Another exactly similar.

6. Holy Bible, marked “BEXHILL CHURCH, 1860.”

7. Common Prayer, marked “BEXHILL CHURCH, 1860.”

8. Bundle endorsed “Feby. 3, 1853. Mr. Simpson’s Instructions for Ass^{mt}, 1853.”

CONTENTS OF PARISH CHEST OF EAST DEAN
(NEAR EASTBOURNE).

COMPILED BY REV. E. E. EVANS, APRIL, 1909.

- A copy of Terrier, dated July 31st, 1635. Signed by "Marke Harry, Vicar ibid instant tempore." Thomas Holland, Will Hermitage, Churchwardens.
- A Memorandum, signed by the Rev. William Miller (Vicar, 1808-1817), stating that, with the consent of the Bishop of Chichester, three pieces of Glebe were sold to redeem the Land Tax on the Vicarial Tithes. Also a note about "Missing Glebe."
- An Overseers' Account Book, 1800-1867.
- An Assessment taken 1800.
- " " " 1822.
- " " " 1841.
- " " " 1845.
- A List of the Inhabitants of East Dean, taken May 28th, 1821. (The total population, 297; six only are over 70; none 80 or more.)
1831. Census of Population, 69 households, total population, 342.
- Minutes of Vestry, 1846-1881.
- A Banns' Book, beginning 1828.
- Surveyors of Highway Account Book, 1858-1880.
- Copy of Trust Deed of East Dean Elementary School.
- Churchwardens' Account Book, 1869-1894.
- Account of an "Agricultural School" opened at East Dean 1840, teaching reading, writing, accounts and Dr. Watts' hymns in the morning, and three hours' agricultural training for boys in the afternoon.
- Several bundles of Church and Overseers' Accounts, Correspondence, Maintenance Orders, Receipts, Exemption from Poor Rate, &c., 1800-1880.
- Twelve Folio Books, "the gift of the Rev. Mr. James Leyland, to the succeeding Vicars of East Dean and Friston for ever," consisting of:
- "Pearson on the Creed," 1710.
- "The Religion of Protestants," Dr. Chillingworth, 1684.
- "A Preservative against Popery," by "Eminent Divines," 1738, 2 vols.
- The Bible in Hebrew and Greek, 1719.

- “A Paraphrase of the New Testament,” Dr. Whitbey,
1744, 3 vols.
- “A Commentary on Historical Books of Old Testament,”
Bishop Kirkpatrick, 1727.
- “A Commentary on the Larger and Lesser Prophets,”
Bishop Kirkpatrick, 1727.
- A Volume of Sermons.

CONTENTS OF THE PARISH CHEST OF FRISTON.

COMPILED BY REV. E. E. EVANS, APRIL, 1909.

- A copy of Terrier, dated June 22nd, 1677. Signed by Dr. Urquhart, Vicar. Nicholas Selwyn and Robert Wickeson, Churchwardens.
- A copy of letter, dated May 3rd, 1844, from Christopher Gardner, Vicar, to the Bishop of Chichester, stating that the Friston Vicarage House and a croft, containing half an acre of land, had been sold to redeem the Land Tax charged on the Vicarial Tithes of Friston.
- Folio Bible, 1739. Oxford Press.
1765. A bundle of papers, Pauper Maintenance and Settlement.
1797. Notices of Ballot for Militia.
- 1767-1800. A bundle of Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts.
- 1814-1826. Assessment Book for Relief of Poor.
- 1817-1826. “Ox Team Book,” Assessment of Lands.
- 1826-1836. } Churchwarden and Overseers' Account Books for Relief
1836-1846. } of the Poor.
1840. A Valuation of the Parish for Parochial Assessment (gross estimated rental, £1,198).
- 1827-1860. “Church Book,” Church Rates and Disbursements.
- 1861-1899. Minutes of Vestry.
1834. A Book containing the number and names of families living in Friston Parish (total population, 132).
1804. A permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Rev. H. Coppard, Vicar Friston, East Dean and Westfield, to go abroad for two years on account of bodily infirmity.
1828. A bundle of Accounts relating to the repairs of the Friston Church Steeple and Gallery.
- 1800-1890. Several bundles of papers containing payments for Church Accounts.

INVENTORY OF CONTENTS OF JEVINGTON PARISH CHEST.

COMPILED BY REV. E. E. CRAKE, JULY, 1909.

- 1 book. "Highway Accounts," 1773 to 1811. Folio, in good order, vellum cover.
- 1 book. "Poor Book," 1766-1781. Folio, good condition, vellum cover.
- 1 book. "The New Register containing all the Marriages, Christenings Burialls within the Parish of Jevington," 1661-1783. Bound in leather, torn.
Also a Register from 1783 to 1812, bound in leather.
- 1 book. "Burials," 1813 to 1909. Good condition.
- 1 book. "Marriages," 1756-1812. Bound in leather, sound.
- Bundle of Accounts between Jevington Parish and Eastbourne Union, 1836.
- 1 book. Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts, 1675 to 1779.
- 1 book. "Baptisms," 1813 to 1882. Vellum, good condition.
- Also a document, entitled "Jevington Living, Manningham's warning, 1754." It runs as follows—*Verbatim et literatim* :—
- "August, 1754. Look out Sharp O my Successor for your Parishioners will cheat you where-ever they can. Neither provoke 'em to be Angry nor invite 'em to be Intimate. My Successor if he will not suffer himself to be cheated (as I poor I have done) will make of this living above an hundred and fifty Pounds a year.
- "S. MANNINGHAM."

CONTENTS OF RINGMER PARISH CHEST.

COMPILED BY W. HENEAGE LEGGE.

"The documents and papers in the parish chest" are of no great antiquity, and "date from early in the seventeenth century. They consist of all sorts of printed and written matter, from the ubiquitous Burns' *Justice of the Peace* to innumerable bundles of bills; parchment and paper documents, yellow with age, 'Spinning-books,' inventories of parochial property . . . Highway and other Acts." (From a

paper which I contributed to *The Reliquary*, October, 1899," on "The Parish Documents of Ringmer," including also the Registers, eighteenth century MS. "Tithe Books," &c.) The oldest document is an "Apprenticeship Indenture," dated 1633, the paper having a "Pot" water-mark. Another, dated 1683, has as water-mark a crown surmounting a shield charged with the so-called Templars' badge, the "Lamb and Banner." Other water-marks are the "Foolscap," the "Cap of Liberty," "Lion of the Netherlands" and the "Britannia" of Molineux, of Isfield Paper Mills. The interesting account of the founding of a bell for the Parish Church in 1682 I transcribed, with notes, in *The Reliquary* of January, 1899.

INVENTORY.

Documents.	Title.	Date.
Paper..	Apprenticeship Indentures (about 50)	From 1633 onwards
" ..	Churchwardens' Account <i>re</i> the Bell	1682
" ..	Domicile or Settlement Forms	Various dates
" ..	Perambulation of Parish Bounds (copy?)..	1702
" ..	Inventories and Distraints	Various dates
" ..	Hay's Charity Deed Poll, full copy	1797
" ..	Militia Substitutes	Various dates
" ..	Affiliation Orders	"
" ..	Various Bonds	"
" ..	Various Copies of Acts of Parliament	"
" ..	Rules referred to in Hay's Deed Poll (<i>supra</i>)	1797
" ..	Various Papers <i>re</i> Poor Law enactments ..	Various dates
" ..	Various Bonds	"
" ..	Tradesmen's Accounts, 33 bundles	19th century
" ..	Petition against Licence of Canteen	1820
" ..	Parochial Charities (abridged description), 3	No date
" ..	Report of Committee <i>re</i> Churchyard Enlargement	1852
" ..	Tracing of Plan of Enlargement	1853
" ..	List of Subscribers to Enlargement	1852
Parchment	Copy of Grant to Lucas Shadwell in Trust	1841
"	" Admission of Lucas Shadwell and others	1807
"	" Grant to J. Hillman in Trust	1846
"	Charge upon Poor Rates	1846
"	Copy of Hay's Charity	1733

BOOKS PRINTED.

Calf 8vo.	Burns' "Justice of the Peace," 4 vols.	1793
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MS. BOOKS BOUND.

Parchment folio	Ringmer Parish Book	1756
" "	Book for Poor's Tax	1786
" "	Account of Spinning	1787
" "	Ringmer Account Book	1810
Calf 4to	Hay's Charity Account (2)	1814 and 1848

Documents.	Title.	Date.
Parchment folio	Ringmer Book of Taxation	1816
" "	Ringmer Poor Book	1823
" 4to	Ringmer Weekly Payments	1824
" "	Ringmer Parish Account Book	1826
" "	" " " " " "	1828
" "	" " " " " "	1832
Cloth	" " " " " "	1835
" "	Ringmer Rate Book	1841
" "	" " " " " "	1844
Calf	Hays' Charity Accounts	1814
" "	" " " " " "	1848
Paper cover	Ringmer Account Book	1817
" "	Surveyor's Account Book	1840
Cloth	Johnson's Rate Book	1837
Paper cover	Assessment Book	1835
" "	Account Book (2)	1833-34
" "	Valuation List	1867
" "	Overseers' Account Book	1856
" "	Surveyor's Expenditure	1837
" "	Valuation List	1863
Cloth	Collector's Monthly Statement	1862
" "	Account Book	1818
" "	Voluntary School Subscription List	1874

A Parish Minute Book, 18 . . to 19 . . white parchment 4to, has been lately lost or stolen.

There is also a folio volume, containing a list of personal and place names found in documents relating to Ringmer from the twelfth to the seventeenth centuries, compiled by W. Heneage Legge.

CONTENTS OF WALDRON PARISH CHEST.

COMPILED BY REV. W. J. HUMBLE CROFTS.

The Parish Registers are fourteen in number, as follows:—

1. A mixed Register (of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials), dating from April 9th, 1564, to March 26th, 1648 (bound in calf).
2. A mixed Register, from Lady Day, 1649 (first entry dated April 1st), to November 14th, 1688 (calf), deficient from 1688 to 1695.
3. A mixed Register (calf), commencing April 15th, 1695, and ending November 11th, 1792. It contains, also, two Tables

of Fees, a List of Collections for various Churches from 1712 to 1722, and of Affidavits from 1714 to 1722. Several pages are cut out at the end and bound into the next volume.

4. A Register, containing Marriages only from April 18th, 1754, to June 11th, 1795, and Banns from March 10th, 1754, to November 7th, 1802 (calf).
5. A well-preserved Register (bound in calf), containing Baptisms from 1793 to 1840, and Burials from 1793 to 1812.
6. A Register of Marriages only from June 14th, 1795, to July 12th, 1812.
7. A Marriage Register (bound in vellum), dating from November 13th, 1813, to May 27th, 1837.
8. A Baptismal Register (vellum), dating from November 22nd, 1840, to September 24th, 1865.
9. A Burial Register (vellum), from February, 1813, to July, 1857.
10. A Burial Register, from 1857 to present date (vellum).
11. A Baptismal Register (vellum), from October, 1865, to May, 1886.
12. A Register of Baptisms (calf), from 1886 to 1898.
13. A Marriage Register, with duplicate, from 1837 to present date.
14. A Baptismal Register (vellum), from April, 1898, to present date.

In addition, there are two old Vestry Minute Books and Churchwardens' accounts, containing some curious information as to the antecedents of the parish. There has also been an addition made to the collection in the shape of a kind of duplicate Register made by the Parish Clerks, and containing mixed entries of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from 1712 to 1829. It is incomplete, some of the earlier pages being deficient and the edges much worn. I purchased this from the then Parish Clerk. There are two Banns Books, dating from 1823.

The Parish Chest was so damp, and, kept in the vestry, so liable to be damaged, that years ago I removed the whole of the contents to the Rectory, when they are kept in an iron safe near to a stove in the winter.

The whole of the Registers to 1812 have been copied, either by myself (the first 100 years), or others (my daughter, or Mr. W. Cowland, of Sharelands).

