

NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Editor will be glad to receive short Notes on Discoveries and Matters of Interest relating to the Antiquities and History of the County, for insertion in the "Collections," such communications to be addressed to him at The Castle, Lewes.

No. 1.

CORRIGENDA TO "CHURCH PLATE OF SUSSEX."

NORTHIAM (Vol. LV., p. 202).

The description of the arms of Frewen is not very happily expressed. These arms are very similar to those which belonged to a family of de Freyne. This family becoming extinct the arms were granted, with a slight variation of tincture, by the College of Heralds to the family of Frewen, certainly before 1664, as they were used by Archbishop Frewen. In the description in Vol. LV. the statement that they were appropriated by the family of Frewen bears an interpretation which was not intended.

EAST GRINSTEAD. S. SWITHUN.

This list of the plate of this church has been sent to me by Mr. W. H. Hills.

- A COMMUNION CUP OF SILVER. Height 11 inches; weight 23-oz. 5-dwts.; hall marks for the year 1618; maker's mark S over W (see Jackson, p. 117). A large tall cup, with round stem, knop and foot. Inscribed, "The Gift of Edward Drewe to the paryshe of Greensted in February 1618."
- A COMMUNION CUP OF SILVER. Height 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; weight 9-oz. 10-dwts.; hall marks for the year 1722. A straight sided bowl, with round stem and foot. Inscribed, "East Grinstead 1723."
- TWO CHALICES OF SILVER, GILT. Height 8 inches; weight of each 15-oz. 15-dwts.; hall marks for the year 1908. These have hexagonal stems, knops and feet; they were given in memory of the Rev. Charles Hubert Payne Crawford.
- A PATEN COVER ON A FOOT, OF SILVER. Diameter 5 inches; weight 5-oz.; hall marks for year 1660; maker's mark R M between mullets and pellets (see Jackson, p. 127).
- A PATEN OF SILVER. Diameter 11 inches; hall marks for the year 1702. Inscribed, "Ex dono Johannis Payne Gen. Anno Dom. 1702."
- A PATEN ON A FOOT, OF SILVER. Diameter 10 inches; height 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; weight 18-oz.; hall marks for the year 1720; maker's mark illegible. Inscribed, "The gift of Mrs. Barbery Cole widow to

ye Parish of East Grinstead 1748," and a coat of arms: *arg.* a bull passant; impaling, *erm.* a lion rampant ducally crowned. A crest, a demi dragon holding in its paws an arrow.

The Coles were for a long time owners of property at East Grinstead. The Rev. George Cole was some time Vicar of Godstone, and is buried with Barbara, his wife, near the organ in East Grinstead Church, he in 1730 and she in 1747.

A PATEN OF SILVER. Diameter 10 inches; weight 20-oz. 5-dwts.; hall marks for the year 1825. A dished plate, with bastard gadroon edge, inscribed underneath, "The Parish Church of East Grinstead 1825."

A PATEN OF SILVER. Diameter 10 inches; hall marks for the year 1819. Inscribed, "This plate bequeathed to the Parish Church of East Grinstead by Mrs. Sarah Burt a native of the place: in the year 1819."

TWO PATENS OF SILVER, GILT. Diameter 7 inches; weight of each 6-oz. 5-dwts.; hall marks for the year 1908. Inscribed underneath to the memory of the Rev. Charles Hubert Payne Crawfurd.

A FLAGON OF SILVER. Height $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches; weight 44-oz.; hall marks for the year 1703. This is a nearly parallel sided vessel, with a wide spreading pot, scroll handle, hinged lid and thumb piece. Inscribed, "Ex dono Johannis Toke 1704."

Mr. John Toke, of Godington, Kent, was M.P. for East Grinstead from 1702 to 1708.

A LARGE SILVER-GILT ALMS DISH. Hall marks for the year 1909; weight about 60-oz. It has a floral border 4 inches wide, and is inscribed, "To the Glory of God and as a thank-offering for many mercies received, this alms dish the Gift of Harriet Hastie was dedicated for use in the Parish Church of St. Swithin on Easter Day 1910."

A GLASS EWER-SHAPED FLAGON, with silver-gilt foot and mounts, presented in memory of the Rev. C. H. P. Crawfurd.

A GLASS CRUET, with silver-gilt mounts.

J. E. COUCHMAN.

No. 2.

A ROMAN WELL AT HASSOCKS.

The main road from Hassocks Station to Hurst-Pierpoint lies on a sand ridge and runs almost East and West; about a quarter of a mile from the Station is the Ham Farmhouse, and immediately at its side is the Buttinghill, from which the hundred takes its name. In front of the Farmhouse is a 21 acre field sloping to the South; the upper part of the field has only two to three feet of soil, which increases to about six feet at the bottom of the lower half.

It is in the upper half of this field, running parallel with the road, where we find not only evidence of early human occupation, but a considerable amount of pottery of the late Celtic, Roman and Saxon periods, which suggests that this site was used as a burial ground and probably as a settlement.

The sand below the soil is clean and red, the depth reaches to as much as 22 feet before it is mixed with clay or other substances which make it unsuitable for building purposes. As this sand has been removed it has disclosed a Roman well of a total depth of 38 feet; the first 24 feet was round and lined with blue clay about 18 inches in thickness (the clay is found at the bottom of the field), the lower 14 feet was lined with oak planks and was 2-ft. 7-in. square, both ends of each plank were halved for about three inches, each ear interlocking in the angles for the purpose of taking the thrust of the sand outside: some of the planks were six inches thick and 14 inches wide; on the outside, for about an inch in thickness, the wood resembled putty, the inside was sound, hard and black, the latter caused by the ironstone which abounds in the sand; the position of the well was 405 feet from the centre of the road in front of the Ham Farmhouse and due South-West.

Evidently this well was abandoned at an early date, probably before the end of the second century, as it was full of clay and soil, and in the middle, about half way down, was a first century vase. The trouble seems to have been the weakness of the clay to support the sides; benefitting by this experience, another well, some 20 or 30 yards to the N.W. of the first, was dug and lined with large flint stones; this cannot be opened for some time to come.

The animal and vegetable remains found in some of the original mud at the bottom of the well are interesting by reason of the centuries they have survived. Mr. A. H. Lyell, F.S.A., kindly identified the specimens as follows:—

Woods: Maple, elder, oak, hazel, alder, hawthorn, rose
(with thorns), wheat straw.

Seeds of elder.

Bones of a dog.

The elytra, thorax and legs of beetles, still holding their dark iridescent blue colouring, are described by Mr. Arrow, of South Kensington Natural History Museum, as "fragments of three genera, *i.e.*, *Gestrupes stercovarius*, *Carabus nemoralis*, and either *Pterosticus* or *Harpalus*. It is most probable that these fragments represent the remains from the larder of some small animal, such as a field mouse."

From the N.E. corner of the field, near the four crossways, which is the highest point of the field, a ditch ran diagonally till it met the well, the ditch probably served a spring which runs slightly for many months of the year even now, and would have been much greater before the roads were cut out of the crown of the hill in this corner. It is possible that this ditch was made at the time the disused well was turned into a latrine.

J. E. COUCHMAN.

No. 3.

PLUMPTON AND THE SPRINGETT FAMILY.

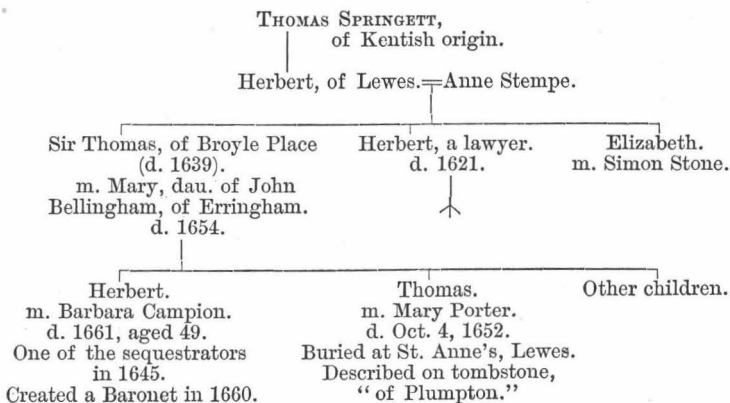
Horsfield, writing in 1834 of the Manor of Plumpton, states, "In 3rd Charles, 1627, Sir Henry Delves held Plumpton, *jure uxoris*; and in 1663 Anthony Springett, Esq: in whose family it appears to have continued till 4 George III., 1763." Lower makes the same statement in his *History of Sussex* (1870), having probably derived it from Horsfield.

Amongst some old deeds recently lent to the writer for perusal are two which hardly seem to agree with the above, as they show that the Springetts were intimately connected with Plumpton long before 1663.

The earlier deed is a recovery by "Harbertus Springett, *generosus*" against Thomas Springett, and is dated 12th February, 18th James I. (161 $\frac{9}{10}$). This apparently shews that before the said date Herbert Springett held the Plumpton Estate and then sold it to Thomas.

The later deed is an "Indenture made the first daye of Aprill Anno dñi 1640 Betweene Harbert Springett of the Broyle place in the parish of Ringmere 'Esquier' and Thomas Springett of the Middle Temple, London, gent, Brother of the said Harbert Springett," by which the latter made an absolute sale to his brother Thomas of the "capital messuage and mansion dwelling house of the Manor or farm of Plumpton called Plumpton House with the appurtenances thereof wherein John Amooore now dwelleth," "and also all that capital messuage and mansion dwelling house with the appurtenances wherein Dame Mary Springett now dwelleth and inhabiteth," and also a small messuage and tenement in the parish of St. Michael, Lewes, in the occupation of Edward Colman. These three properties changed owners for the sum of £615 "to be paid before the feast of the annuntiation of our Ladie Marye the Virgin in 1650."

To better understand who the several parties to the above deeds were, the following genealogical table is drawn up from the late M. A. Lower's paper on the Springett family in Vol. XX. *S.A.C.*



The Harbert of the first deed 161 $\frac{9}{20}$ is most probably the father of Thomas, afterwards known as Sir Thomas, of Broyle Place, by it demising the Plumpton Estate to his son Thomas.

The Harbert and Thomas of the second deed dated 1640, are the sons of the above Sir Thomas, and the dame Mary Springett their mother.

E. F. SALMON.

No. 4.

HARTFIELD CHURCH BELL.

The following letter, preserved in the church chest at Hartfield, seems to me of sufficient interest to be printed.

L. F. S.

Copy of a Letter to the Bell Founders concerning the Fifth Bell being broke.

Hartfield, Sussex, Feby. 6th 1783.

Gentlemen

The Fifth Bell, one of the new Peal lately sent from your Foundry to this Place is now on the Road in her way to you to be recast. The manner and necessity of the Case stands as follows, when the above Bells were hung, and even before, she was observed to have a worse Sound than any of the rest; but had she continued in that State and not to have altered the Parish might have been satisfied; but in the Frost about Christmas she was observed to alter for the worse a great deal, and then in the open Weather she was something better, and so she kept changeable agreeable to the alteration of the Weather till Wednesday the 29th Day of Jan^{ry} last in the Evening, when in the middle of a steady Peal the Ringers observed a very sudden alteration in one of the Bells, and immediately the Man that was Ringing the 3rd Bell cry'd out, the 5th Bell is broke, from which Notice the Treble Man said stand. After which they turned the 5th Bell and found her Tongue too Fatal to think any other than that of being broke. Notice was (as soon as convenient) conveyed to Robert Gilbert, who the Sunday following was at this Place, and on Monday thought proper to take her Down and immediately send her to you to be recast; which the Parish expect you'll put in Execution as soon as convenient, and at the same time will be glad to know by a line in return when or how long you may think it will be. She will arrive in London on Tuesday next per Kenward. The Tenor is Keyed in (A). The above relation I can safely attest being mostly concerned in Ringing during the time the Bells have been Hung, and was Ringing the Second Bell when the 5th made her last and great alteration.

I am, Gentlemen, for the aforesaid Parish,

Your Hum^b Serv^t

WM. MORPHEW.

Robert Gilbert declares the whole Peal to be much over clappered ; if that be the Case the 5th Bell has done her part ; for as she was never sound and having too great a force in proportion to her weight ; it is very reasonable that she was obliged to give up her Breath. The weight of the Clapper is under your consideration. Therefore

No. 5.

*EXPLORATION OF THE "CASTLE" MOUND AT
HARTFIELD.*

On sheet vi. S.W. of the 6-in. Ordnance Maps for Sussex, just above Hartfield Station, is marked an "ancient earthwork," lying in "The Castle Fields." These "Castle Fields" are referred to by Horsfield in 1835 as "probably the scite of an ancient fortification," and the name is certainly of considerable antiquity. The "earthwork" at the present time consists of a circular, or oval, mound, about 180 feet in diameter from north to south and 200 feet from east to west, and rising some seven or eight feet above the general surface level of the field, which is rather irregular and undulating. Its appearance is suggestive of a small motte, the more so as there is a ditch running round its base on the south-east, but this ditch is quite modern and was made for drainage purposes. The undulations of the surface of the field are in places vaguely suggestive of outworks, and the whole place was sufficiently like a small "motte and bailey castle" to make its exploration desirable. Accordingly, in November, 1912, having obtained permission from the tenant and subscriptions from a few local antiquaries, three trenches were cut into the mound under the supervision of the Rev. Arthur Meyrick and myself.

The first trench, 93-ft. in length, was driven northwards to the extreme limit of the mound. In the centre the mound proved to be constructed mainly of sandstone rubble. After removing the surface mould, about a foot in depth, we found 3-ft. 7-in. of this sandstone rubble, mostly small, but containing some fairly large pieces. Towards the bottom of this layer many of the stones showed signs of burning and below the rubble was a thick layer of black earth containing a great deal of ash to a depth of some 14-in.; this was found to be resting on the undisturbed sandstone which underlies the field and must at this point have formed a slight knoll before the mound was raised on it. The layer of ash extended, thinning out, about 23-ft. from the centre northwards, the rubble dying out about 47-ft. from the centre. There was no trace whatever of any ditch at the base of the mound.

A second trench was driven from the centre north-west, and a third, in continuation of the first, southwards. Both of these trenches showed the same features as the first, and in view of the paucity of results it was felt that the expenditure of further money upon the exploration would not be justified. The objects found during the excavation of the three trenches amounted to no more than a couple

of handfuls of potsherds, none of which could be assigned with certainty to any date earlier than the sixteenth century at earliest, most being fragments of the crude pottery common to all centuries from the fourteenth to the seventeenth. The only object of iron, beyond two or three nails, was a horseshoe of rather unusual type, being very light and thin, quite unlike early medieval shoes and probably not earlier than the seventeenth century; as this was in the black earth below the rubble, it would point to the comparatively late date of the mound. One small worked flint was also found.

The absence of any ditch round the mound and the complete lack of any trace of any structural remains clearly negative the suggestion that this mound was ever the site of any building, and the extreme paucity of remains such as potsherds also point to its never having been occupied. The only solution that I have been able to formulate—and I believe Mr. Meyrick is inclined to agree with me—is that when the quarry, which is now separated from the Castle Field by the road down to the station, was opened the surface was first cleared of all brushwood, &c., which was piled up on this spot and burnt, and that afterwards the “ridding” or rubbish from the quarry was heaped over it by some unusually methodical foreman—possibly with the idea of making a site for a windmill or for some other purpose. The solution is not very satisfactory, but I have none other to offer, nor can I explain the existence of the name Castle Fields.

L. F. SALZMANN.

No. 6.

*SAMUEL KNIGHT, THE YOUNGER, BELLFOUNDER OF
READING, BERKS., SETTLES AT ARUNDEL IN 1712.*

In the admirable monograph on “The Church Bells of Sussex,” by Mr. Amherst Daniel-Tyssen, printed in Vol. XVI. of the Society’s *Collections*¹, will be found several references to the Knight family of Reading, Berks, members of which were for several generations bellfounders there. Mr. Daniel-Tyssen states that Samuel Knight was established at Reading, as a bellfounder, from 1689 to 1708, and that he removed to *London* about 1710², also that his “will dated Nov. 15 proved Dec. 19, 1639 [*sic.* ? 1739], tells us nothing more about him than that he was of the parish of St. Andrew Holborn, bellfounder.”³ Samuel Knight cast the 3rd and other bells at Broadwater in 1712.⁴ The period covered by Samuel Knight’s work, as given by Mr. Daniel-Tyssen, viz., from 1689 to 1739, seems a long one. The document, printed below, shows that there were two members of the family named Samuel, probably father and son. It therefore seems not unlikely the bells by Samuel Knight, 1689 to 1739, were the work of *two* founders of that name. Moreover it is clear that Samuel Knight, the younger, did not remove direct from Reading to London, but settled first at Arundel, somewhere about the middle of 1712, where probably he carried on his business before he

¹ Vol. XVI., 1864, pp. 138 to 232.

² *Ibid.* p. 177.

³ *Ibid.* p. 178.

⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 192, 202.

became of St. Andrew, Holborn; this will account for the Broad-water bells having been cast by him in that year, doubtless at Arundel.

During last autumn I cleaned, pressed, repaired, classified, generally arranged and calendared "Certain Parochial Records of Arundel," 1,136 documents in all, which were formerly in a chest at the Church, subsequently at the Vicarage, but now handed over by the Vicar and Churchwardens to the Corporation of Arundel, and deposited for secure custody in a safe at the Town Hall.⁵ Among these documents are 157 Certificates of Settlement, dating from 1674 to 1822. It was amongst these papers that I came across the Certificate of Samuel Knight, the younger, of the parish of St. Lawrence, Reading, on his removal to Arundel. The document is a printed form filled up in MS., the latter represented here by italics.⁶

[Print of Royal Arms].

*The Borough of
Reading in the
County of Berks.*

We Moses Gill and Mathew Terry and Thomas Bushnell, Edward Plummer and Thomas Biddle Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of St. Lawrence in Reading in the County of Berks aforesaid, do hereby own and acknowledge Samuel Knight the younger, of our said Parish, Bellfounder, having his wife and three children, to be all Inhabitants legally settled in the Parish of St. Lawrence in Reading aforesaid. In Witness wherof we have hereunto set our Hands and Seals, the Eighth Day of July in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne by the Grace of God, of Great Britaine,⁷ France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Dom. 1712.

Attested by

<i>John Denton</i> <i>Fracis Knight</i>	} Church-Wardens	{	<i>Moses Gill</i>	(L.S.)
			<i>Matthew Terry</i>	(L.S.)
	} Overseers	{	<i>Tho: Bushnell</i>	(L.S.)
			<i>Edward Plommer</i>	(L.S.)
			<i>Tho: Biddell</i>	(L.S.)

To the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of *Arundell* in the County of *Sussex* or to any or either of them.

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed, Justices of the Peace of the *Borough of Reading* aforesaid do allow of the Certificate abovewritten. Dated the *Eighth* day of *July* Ann. Dom. 1712.

Sam: Watlington, Mayor.
Rob: Blake.

Printed for R. Vincent, in Clifford's-Inn-Lane, Fleetstreet.

⁵ See *West Sussex Gazette*, Feb. 12th, 1914, No. 3,086, p. 5, column 4.

⁶ The reference to the document is *Arundel Parochial Records*, Bundle A, No. 32.

⁷ The words "England, Scotland," ruled out, and "Great Britaine" put in in MS.

Original endorsement:—*Samuel Knighte. Certificate from Reading, 1712, No. 38. More modern endorsement Certificate, Reading to Arundel, Saml. Knight, 8 July, 1712, No. 32.*

In reference to above, it may be mentioned that Certificates of Settlement were sometimes given before the time of William III. to persons removing from one parish to another, but it was not until the latter part of the seventeenth century that they were regulated by Statute. They were dealt with by 3 and 4 William and Mary, Cap. 11, and by 8 and 9 William III., Cap. 30, it was enacted, in effect, that where a person removed from one parish to settle in another, and did not pay £10 annual rental, or purchase a freehold of £30 value, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish to which the stranger came, could demand from him a Certificate of Settlement, given by the like officers of his parish of origin, agreeing to indemnify the former parish from any charge which might arise in the event of the settler becoming chargeable to the parish of his adoption. In this connection it must be borne in mind that an annual rental of £10, early in the eighteenth century would, in consequence of the greater purchasing power of money in years gone by, be equivalent to a rental of £30 per annum, or more at the present day. Documents of this description, as that of Samuel Knight proves, are particularly valuable for the identification of persons who removed from one place to another, and consequently are calculated to be of great service in genealogical research.⁸

R. GARRAWAY RICE, F.S.A.

⁸ From the Preface to a MS. Calendar of "Certain Parochial Records of Arundel," compiled by the writer, and now deposited with the documents.

No. 7.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Since the publication of the last volume of *Collections* the foundations of the ancient Norman church of Exceit, near the mouth of the Cuckmere, have been uncovered; it is hoped to report more fully on this in the next volume. The sixteenth century house north of the old church at Eastbourne has been presented to the parish by the Duke of Devonshire, and is being put into repair, several interesting features being discovered during the process. On the other hand, the stone house of similar date and style at Marshfoot in Hailsham, which had been unoccupied for some years, has been pulled down, with the intention, as we understand, of its being re-erected elsewhere. The removal of the fittings and panelling from a house in East Grinstead known as "Cromwell House" resulted in the discovery of a fragment of wall-painting representing a hunting scene, of about 1600; by the generosity of Mr. J. Godwin King tracings of the paintings have been made and a reduced copy has been presented to the Society, and may be seen at Barbican House.

Mr. Heron-Allen reports the find of a hitherto undescribed coin of Tincommius at Selsey, and the Vicar of Harting reports the discovery of a denarius of Hadrian at Foxcombe in that parish. At Lywood House in Ardingly Mr. Forrester Scott has found a quantity of slag and a floor of rough sandstone, apparently the remains of an ancient iron foundry.
