

Kelly's Directory 1882, Battle, East Sussex

BATTLE is an ancient parish and market and union town, with a station on the South Eastern railway and is a polling place for the eastern division of the county, giving its name to the hundred : it is in the rape and county court district of Hastings, diocese of Chichester, archdeaconry of Lewes and rural deanery of Hastings first division, 55¼ miles from London by the South Eastern railway, on the road to and 7 miles north-west from Hastings. The town is governed by a Local Board of Health of nine members: it was anciently called Epiton, but takes its name from the battle of Senlac (Sangue lac) or Hastings, fought here in 1066 by Harold II and William the Norman, in which King Harold and his brother Gurth were slain : Battle stands near a range of hills which formed the battle ground. Battle Abbey, now and since 1857 the property and seat of the Duke of Cleveland K.G. was founded by William the Norman on the spot where Harold was slain and his standard overthrown and was dedicated to St. Martin : in the abbey was preserved the celebrated Battle Abbey Roll, which formed a list of those families which came over with William the Norman : the only rooms ordinarily shown to visitors are the great hall, 57 feet in length, the same in height and 31 feet wide, with a fine timber roof and a vaulted apartment adjoining it, supposed to have been the locutorium or reception room; the gate-house which directly fronts the street from the London road, is a tower about 35 feet square and 54 feet high, comprising three stories, with an octagon turret at each angle and was probably erected by Abbot Retlynge, in the time of Edward III. When the abbey was enclosed and fortified and is one of the most perfect specimens of monastic gate-houses in the kingdom : the refectory is 154 feet long and 35 broad and three of its sides are nearly perfect; beneath its whole extent are vaulted rooms of various heights, supported on massive pillars : the west side only of the cloisters is now existing and exhibits a series of nine arches on clustered pillars and enclosing panelled tracery. Eastward of the north end of the refectory is a row of lime trees, near which was discovered in 1817 what was supposed to be the foundation of the chapter house. The spot where Harold fell has been identified by the discovery of the remains of the church, which seems to have extended along the north side of the cloisters, over the present flower garden and several grave stones have been exposed. The abbey was built of local stone, its ornamental portions being of Caen stone; and of the existing portions, the refectory &c. is Early English, the gateway Decorated and the cloisters Perpendicular; the ruins of the abbey cover three sides of a square : the public are permitted to view the abbey on Tuesdays. In the abbey several illustrious persons were buried, including some members of the family of Echyngnam. The church of St. Mary, founded by Ralph, Abbot of Battle from 1107 to 1124, consists of a chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, two chapels and an embattled tower of late date, 70 feet high, with the original Early English west door built in; an octagonal turret gives access to the belfry, which contains 8 bells : the arcades of the nave have pointed arches, supported on Norman piers; but the south aisle is Perpendicular and the chancel and clerestory Early English : the font is a rectangular work, resting on five supports and is of mixed Norman and Early English character : beneath the chancel is a spacious vault, the burial place of the Webster family and on the north side of the chancel, which is 51 feet long and 20 feet wide, is a splendid altar tomb of white marble to the Right Hon. Sir Anthony Browne K.G. Master of the Horse to Henry VIII. and to his wife (1540) : in one of the windows is an effigy of Hamond, the last Abbot of Battle and the letters R.B. in another window, are said to commemorate Abbot Robert de Bello, ob. 1304 : there are brasses with effigies to William Arnold, ob. 1435; Thomas Alfraye and wife; John Wythines D.D. dean of Battle, ob. 1615; Robert Clare, an earlier dean, ob. 1440; John Lowe with effigy in armour, ob. 1426 and monuments to Isaac Myall, ob. 1798, aged 120; and Dr Birch, dean of Battle till 1836. The register dates from 1610. The living is a deanery and vicarage, gross yearly value £738 14s. 10d. with residence and glebe producing £68, in the gift of the Duke of Cleveland and held since 1882 by the Very Rev. Edward Reid Currie M.A. of Wadham College, Oxford. Here is a Baptist Chapel, built in 1820 and Congregational chapel in course of erection and Wesleyan and Unitarian chapels. Battle cemetery, situated to

the east of the Lower Lake and opened in April 1862, comprises 3½ acres, with two chapels. The County Police Court and Station, erected in 1861, and situated at the junction of the London and Lewes roads, at the entrance to the town, contain court room, witnesses' room, guard room for the reception of prisoners and superintendent's office (also used as a retiring room for the magistrates), six cells and an airing yard : there are also residences for the superintendent, one sergeant and one constable. Petty sessions are held here the second and fourth Tuesday in each month. The Battle division of the county police comprises a superintendent, two sergeants and fourteen constables. The Commissioners of Income and Assessed Taxes meet at the George Hotel. The market day is on the second Tuesday in each month and fairs are held on Whit-Monday and 22nd November, much frequented for cattle and pedlery and a sheep fair on 6th September. The Battle charities comprise a Langton's gift of £41 11s. yearly, applied to educational purposes; Wester and Easton's unitedly producing £83 11s. 6d. yearly, which is distributed in bread; Philcox's of £3, distributed in money; and Watts and Packs, of £19 5s. appropriated to the general uses of the poor. Telham Court, the seat of Edward Lambert esq. is delightfully situated on the hill to the south of the town and has beautiful views of the abbey and surrounding country : the adjacent grounds are varied and pleasing. Hemingfold is prettily situated in grounds well laid out. The Duke of Cleveland K.G. is lod of the manor and the principle land-owner. The area is 8,155 acres; rateable value £13,779; the population in 1881 was 3,319.

Parish Clerk, Henry Longley.

NETHERFIELD, which gives its name to a hundred, is a hamlet of Battle, 2½ miles north-west, and was formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1862 from the civil parish of Battle. The church of St John the Baptist, together with the parsonage and schools was built and endowed in 1859 by Sarah, Lady Webster, in memory of her husband, Sir Godfrey Webster bart. of Battle Abbey; the church was designed by S. S. Teulon esq, and is a stone building, consisting of chancel, nave, north aisle and a tower containing a clock and 1 bell : there is a stained memorial window and a carved stone and marble reredos in the chancel. The register dates from the year 1862. The living is a vicarage, net yearly value "2202, with residence, in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester and held since 1868 byt the Rev. Thomas Partington, M.A. of Triinity College, Cambridge. Borings for coal were made by the Subwealden Exploration Association, but after reaching a depth of nearly 2,000 feet, the boring was abandoned, so far as coal was concerned; but a bed of gypsum having been discovered during the boring, the Subwealden Gypsum Co. Limited was formed for the purpose of working it, and they have erected works for the manufacture of plaster of paris and Keene's, Martin's and parian cements, as well as machinery for grinding gypsum for manure : the works have a private siding and tramway, 1½ miles in length from the South Eastern Railway Company, to the mine and shaft (which is 165 feet in depth). There are two stationary engines of 250 horse power, 6 plaster kilns and 1 cement furnace, with necessary engine-rooms : the works employ about 110 hands, and produce 400 tons of blocks in a week : a peculiarity of the Sussex gypsum is that it is in its natural state extremely hard, which causes the plaster made from it to set with proportionate hardness when used : it is also free from the red marl in which most gypsum is embedded and therefore the plaster made from it dries a pleasing cool white. The principle landowners are the Earl of Ashburnham and the Duke of Cleveland. The area is 2,600 acres; the population in 1881 was 501.

Parish Clerk, John Carter.

Official Establishments, Local Institutions &c.

POST, MONEY, ORDER & TELEGRAPH OFFICE, Savings Bank & Government, Annuity & Insurance Office - Thomas Dunn, postmaster. Letters arrive from London and other parts at 3.30 a.m. & (London, day mail) 10.45 a.m.; dispatched at 10.10 a.m. 8 p.m. & 9.45 p.m. A post to

Netherfield, Sidley, Sedlescombe, Westfield, Whatlington, Ashburnham, Crowhurst, Hooe, Ninfield & Catsfield at 6 a.m.

RECEIVING HOUSE, Netherfield - James Mann, receiver. Letter received through Hawkhurst.

LETTER BOX, Lower Lake - Cleared 7.15 p.m. week days & 11.15 a.m. sundays.

LETTER BOX, Telham Hill - Cleared 6.45 p.m.; sundays 10.45 a.m.

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY. George Hotel. Clerk, Charles Arnold, Caldben hill, Battle Medical Officer, R. T. Davison, Battle Inspector of Nuisances & Surveyor, E. Morris, Battle Collector, J. Foord, Mount Street

COUNTY MAGISTRATES FOR BATTLE PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISION:- Adamson William Rushton esq. Rushton park, Hawkhurst Brassey Sir Thomas K.C.B, M.P. Normanhurst court, Battle Brabazon Hercules Brabazon esq. Oaklands, Battle Combe Boyce Harvey esq. Oaklands, Battle Ebdon C.B. esq. Guestling Egerton Charles Augustus esq. Mountfield court, Hawkhurst Hughes Hugh esq. Brightling, Hawkhurst Lamb Capt. Sir Archibald bart, Beauport, Battle Lewes Lieut, - Col. William Rowe, The High Beech, Hollington, Hastings Papillon Philip Oxenden esq. Crowhurst park, Battle Clerk, Charles Sheppard, Loxbeach Petty sessions are held at the Police station on the second & fourth tuesday in every month. The following places are in Battle petty sessional division:- Ashburnham, Battle, Brightling, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Dallington, Ewhurst, Hollington, Hooe, Mountfield, Ninfield, Penhurst, Sedlescombe, Westfield & Whatlington.

INSURANCE AGENTS:- Kent Fire, H. G. F. Wells, 68 High Street Liverpool & London & Globe, W. Nicholas, 7 St Mary's vils Norwich Union Fire, A. Uwins, High Street Phoenix Fire, C. Sheppard Royal Exchange, W. Cruttenden, High Street Royal Farmers & General Fire, Life & Hail, C. Hills, 43 High Street Sun Fire, Raper & Ellman, Upper Lake

PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS Cemetery, Lower Lake, F. G. Ticehurst, clerk to the Burial Board & registrar Cinque Ports (1st.) Rifle Volunteers (B Co.), Orderly room, Lewes road, Capt. B. H. Thorpe, commanding; Frederick Jesson, sergeant instructor County Police Court & Station, London road, James Jenner, superintendent Inland Revenue Office, George Hotel; J. F. Harford Hastings collector Stamp Office, High Street, Miss Ann Burgess, distributor

BATTLE UNION. Board day, alternate fridays at 2 p.m. at the Union. The board consist of fourteen parishes, vis :- Ashburnham, Battle, Bexhill, Brightling, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Dallington, Ewhurst, Hollington, Mountfield, Penhurst, Sedlescombe, Westfield & Whatlington : the population of the Union in 1881 was 14,508; rateable value £74,375 Clerk to the Guardians, Francis William Ticehurst, High street, Battle Collector of the Poor Rates, John Foord, Mount Street Relieving Officers, Battle district, David White, Whatlington; Bexhill district, S. Thomas, Bexhill Vaccination Officer, Francis William Ticehurst, High street, Battle Medical Officers & Public Vaccinators, No. 1 district, ; No. 2 district, R. T. Davison M.B., Battle; No. 3 district, F. M. Wallis, Bexhill; No 4 district, ; No. 5 district ; No. 6 district, R. Duke, Battle; No. 7 district, C. Ashenden, Hastings; No. 8 district, C. Harris M.D. Northiam Superintendent Registrar, Frederick Gorham Ticehurst, The Old house, Battle Registrar of Births & Deaths, Battle sub-district, John Foord, Mount street, Battle; Bexhill sub-district, Stephen Thomas, Bexhill; Ewhurst sub-district, David White, Whatlington Registrar of Marriages, James Catt, 8 St Mary's villas, Battle Workhouse, will contain 400 inmates, in addition to the officers; Charles Hills, master; chaplain, vacant; R. T. Davison M.B. surgeon; Mrs Emma Hills, matron

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY. Clerk, Francis William Ticehurst, High street, Battle Medical Officer, E.F. Fussel M.B. Brighton Inspector of Nuisances & Surveyor, James Catt, Battle **PUBLIC OFFICERS:-** Clerk to the Assessment Committee of Battle Union, Francis William Ticehurst, High street Clerk to the Commissioners of Assessed Taxes for the Rape of Hastings, Hugh F. Ellman,

Upper Lake Clerk to the School Attendance Committee, Francis William Ticehurst, High street Clerk to the Burial Board, F. W. Ticehurst, High Street Inspector of Weights & Measures, John Foord, Mount st Registrar of the Deanery Court of Battle, William Augustus Raper, Upper Lake Steward of the Manor of Battle, Chas. Sheppard, Loxbeach Stewards of the Manors of Wilting, Hollington, Pebsham & Crowhurst, Raper & Ellman, Upper Lake Superintendent of County Police, James Jenner, London rd Vestry Clerk, John Foord, Mount street

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Transcribed by [Mark Collins](#)

Sussex OPC Home