

THE SOLICITORS OF BATTLE



Unusually for a town of its size, Battle has had a long association with the law, especially given the importance of Lewes (where the assizes met) and of Hastings. It has two long-standing legal practices, as well as independents from time to time, including the present. In considering why this should be so one may refer to the fact that for centuries the Abbey and the town were judicially as well as ecclesiastically largely autonomous, and that after the dissolution of the monasteries the very large estate of the Abbey continued to require considerable legal advice, principally in administering the complex land laws simplified only in 1925. This account ceases shortly after that date, other than to follow up those already at work in the town and to some extent their families.

The two long-standing practices are now named Heringtons and Wykeham-Hurford Sheppard & Son. A third might have joined them – the Martins – but failed to do so. There has been at least one independent.

Heringtons

Over the years firms of solicitors often change their names to accord with those of their partners. The single name Heringtons was adopted only in 1986, after mergers with other Sussex practices, but the firm still occupies the same premises as it did at the beginning of its known history. It had had a variety of names since it first came into the records in about 1735 when it was run by George Tilden (1710-65). He was from Brede, but his family appears to have come from Tenterden, having been established at Brede for about a century by the time of George's birth. George's father John had married at Battle on 18 December 1701, to Elizabeth Parker, which suggests a strong connection with the town. His uncle was also a solicitor but perhaps not in Battle.

Once established in practice at Battle, Tilden acquired public functions and strong associations with local families. He became coroner for the Rape of Hastings in 1737, clerk to the Flimwell to Hastings Turnpike from 1753 and clerk to the Land Tax Commissioners for the Rape. He and his wife Mary Markwick (aunt of the noted naturalist William Markwick of Catsfield), who were married at Ashburnham on 14 July 1736, had a number of children. Their eldest surviving son, John (1741-1810) continued these offices and added to them the stewardship of the Pelham family's large estates and of various manorial courts, thus establishing – or cementing – a strong link with the landed families of the area. He married his cousin Leonora Markwick at Catsfield on 21 August 1783.

Later in the century John Tilden added the name Sampson to his, thereby changing the family name to Tilden-Sampson. This was as a result of the will of Richard Sampson of Ninfield (proved on 19 July 1779) whereby in addition to a single valuable bequest he was to share his estate and his name should Sampson's brother William die without issue. Sampson describes Tilden as a kinsman; this was probably through his mother being of the Markwick family. Tilden-Sampson was buried at Battle on 14 June 1810. His wife Leonora survived him

and benefited from his brief will, in which he also made bequests to his sisters Harriet and Charlotte. Leonora died in 1818.

In September 1806 he had taken Thomas Barton into partnership, so the firm survived his death. Barton (1778-1830) had been baptised at Hellingly on 4 June 1778 and had become a solicitor at Eastbourne. The Barton family were of course well off, his uncle, the vicar of Waldron, being also a landowner. Thomas was to marry Harriet Croft in London on 6 August 1799, who was described at their marriage as being 'of Battle', and was to survive his uncle and inherit most of what must have been substantial wealth in land, money and goods. They had two children, Thomas and Lucy. In 1817 Barton took Thomas Charles Bellingham (born at Ashford on 24 July 1796) into partnership; he was to marry Barton's daughter Lucy at Battle on 12 January 1824. It was this partnership that recovered the lucrative coronership of the Rape of Hastings, lost on John Tilden-Sampson's death in 1810. Barton, however, did not live long; he was buried at Hellingly on 16 November 1830. Nor did Bellingham: he died on 5 April 1838.

One might have thought that this practice was on its last legs, with so many partners dying too soon. This must nearly have been the case. In about 1829 Bellingham had recruited a clerk named Hugh Frederick Ellman, who was only about 17. When Bellingham died in 1838 Ellman took over at the request of Bellingham's widow Lucy, with the approval of the firm's major clients. The profits of the firm at this time are recorded as being £1500, not an inconsiderable sum in those days. But the Hastings coronership went, never to be retrieved. Ellman's contract was for twenty years. On 1 January 1839 he took Henry Whitmarsh into partnership for 25 years, and clearly the firm prospered, largely through its continued cultivation of good relations with major landowners. Whitmarsh had been born at Salisbury on 21 February 1811; in 1842 he married Mary Ann Littler, daughter of the Dean of Battle, who lived to 1899. At least one of their sons became a solicitor. A third partner arrived on 3 April 1848: Charles Eudo Bellingham, the eldest son of Thomas Charles Bellingham and Lucy Barton.

Before 1851 Bellingham's other son Edward, intent on a similar career, moved as articled clerk to the practice of William Freeland at Saffron Walden. Freeland was almost certainly the son of Henry M B Freeland, who was recorded as a solicitor at Battle in 1841 but who thereafter appears to drop out of the records. In 1843 he married Thomas Bellingham's widow Lucy. From this connection it seems likely that Freeland was a short-term partner of Ellman. He also retained some Sussex connection for he was to be an executor of Whitmarsh's will.

The Ellman/Whitmarsh partnership was not to last at Battle, though it remained a joint practice. Whitmarsh left to practise at Rye, where he lived in the (later to be famous) Lamb House. Bellingham left at the end of 1853 for his stepfather's practice at Saffron Walden. It appears that Ellman carried on alone until Whitmarsh returned in April 1864; but Whitmarsh was to die at Rye on 13 October in the next year. This left Ellman alone again until he too died on 15 January 1870, when the business was taken over by his son Hugh Frederick, who had been his articled clerk. The Ellman influence survives, for it was Frederick who built most of St Mary's Villas and demolished two houses in Upper Lake, dying before he could erect what was to be Cleveland House.

Almost immediately Hugh found the man who was to be a major influence on Battle, beyond his ordinary legal practice: William Augustus Raper, who joined him on 20 May 1870. (The name of the practice was adapted as Ellman, Raper and Ellman.) Ellman retired on 20 May 1883, dying less than a year later, and Raper took his son Robert George Raper into partnership on 1 January 1911. Between these two dates he ran the practice as a single owner, though probably with his son Henry for a short time. (Henry died at the age of 25 in 1899.) For some years Ellman's widow, the daughter of a Steyning man 'of independent means', the younger Hugh's widow and elements of the family continued living in the eastern part of what is now a unified building. Records show the older woman dying at Battle in 1892, and by 1901 the family had left. The practice retained the name Raper and Ellman well into the twentieth century.

By 1881 Raper had begun his long residence at 12/13 Upper Lake, with which he incorporated 14 and 15 as his family increased. The whole building was until recently better known as Pyke House, named after a later owner.

It is clear from all the records that William Augustus Raper was held in the highest regard, and rightly so. Much of Battle's development in the early years of self-government was guided by him. He played so large a part in public life, and presumably with his family, that one is led to wonder what time was left for the law.

The Raper family seems to have originated in Yorkshire, and indeed there is a Yorkshire soldier of the same name with a headstone in the same military cemetery as Raper's son Robert (see below).¹ But in our case they had come south. Born in Portsmouth in 1845 where his father was to be Medical Officer of Health,² Augustus married Mary Anna Ellis at Binstead in 1871, and they had eight children. (Mary was four years younger than Augustus but predeceased him by 18 years.)



MR WILLIAM AUGUSTUS RAPER

The then young lawyer made his name in the great Ashdown Forest case of 1876-82, which began when a commoner of the forest ordered his servant to cut bracken and other material from it. An agent of the landowner, Earl de la Warr, asked the man to desist, and he refused. De la Warr therefore brought a case to enforce what he believed were his rights. The commoner, however, was not only a barrister but also Deputy Lieutenant of Sussex, and not a man to be frightened. He engaged Raper, who meticulously assembled copious evidence, both local and legal, to support the rights of the commoners; and after a long time the commoners won the case.³ It was a legal landmark.

Raper was chair of the sanitary authority that preceded the Battle Urban District Council formed under the 1894 Local Government Act; he had first joined it in 1875. He was elected the first chair of the Urban District Council and remained chair until 1919. As the UDC was to be abolished in 1934, he was therefore chairman for more than half its busy and useful life. He was also a county councillor and a churchwarden and a member of the Burial Board. For long periods he was clerk of the Commissioners of Income and Assessed Taxes (this was before PAYE), and clerk and treasurer of the combined Battle charities. For years he contested with Charles Sheppard, no doubt politely, the leadership of the legal community in the town; they shared between them the various offices that were appropriate to the profession. His standing was so high that in January 1915, on his seventieth birthday, the bells of St Mary's rang specially for him.⁴ He was also an active member of the Sussex Archaeological Society.⁵ He was an active Conservative.

But he had misfortunes with three of his four sons. The eldest, William, was a naval surgeon on HMS Vulcan who died on Malta in 1904 (there is a plaque to his memory in St Mary's Church), and the next brother Henry, a solicitor like his father, had died in 1899. Then came Robert, killed in the 1914-18 war. The last, Godfrey, also served in that war, and with some distinction. Their father died in Hastings on the last day of 1940, aged 95.



Robert had joined the territorial battalion of the Royal Sussex in 1896, and had been posted to garrison duty at Shorncliffe during the Boer War; he had been promoted Captain in 1908.⁶ He was therefore subject to immediate call-up in 1914, and he applied for a commission in the Royal Sussex. There then followed a delay, and such was his enthusiasm that he decided to join a regiment with a quicker response, in

Photograph by Neil Clephane-Cameron, 2016

this case 8th Battalion, the South Staffordshire Regiment.⁷ By then he had married, in 1910, and had started his own family. He and his wife were to have three children before he died and one followed posthumously. They lived at Richards Hill, a large Victorian house on the south side of Powdermill Lane, a little west of the entry to the Powder Mills hotel.

Robert died on 2 July 1916, the second day of the battle of the Somme, having led his men into Fricourt then driving north of the village. Robert is now buried in the Bray Road Military Cemetery just outside Fricourt, and the longest road in the village bears his name.

After his death the Dean of Battle gave a tribute to him on Sunday, 9 July, speaking of "a life without reproach crowned by a death of heroic self-sacrifice".⁸ Later it was reported that the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, had proposed special mention not only of Robert Raper but also of his brother, Temporary Captain Godfrey Curzon Raper of the ASC, and he did so again at the end of the war.⁹ It was also reported that at the beginning of the war Godfrey had returned home 'to do his bit for the Empire', having handed over the management of his interests in Colorado to a friend.¹⁰ Godfrey left Battle after the war,

marrying in 1921 and having three children; the family lived in the west country where he died in 1951. His wife Stella died there in 1957.

Robert had been married in London (the marriage was registered in the first quarter of 1911). He and his wife Ida Macadam-Smith had children: William, born in summer/autumn 1911; Pamela, born late in 1912; Robert, born in summer/autumn 1915; and the posthumous Josephine, born in summer/autumn 1916. All were born in Battle except Pamela, who arrived in Elham, in Kent.

After Robert's death Ida married Reginald West Fovargue, the solicitor who joined William Raper as a partner in 1922. (Raper was to withdraw in January 1935). They too lived at Richard's Hill. Reginald had been born at Eastbourne on 3 May 1892, where his father was a solicitor and town clerk, and had served with the Royal Field Artillery in France and Mesopotamia, rising to the rank of Captain. The pair had one child.

Fovargue died at Battle on 5 November 1968; Ida died on 24 June 1979; her address was 21 Upper Lake. There are still Fovargues in Battle.

William Augustus and Mary Anna also had four daughters. There are fewer grandchildren than children, but there are great-grandchildren. The direct Raper connection with Battle seems now to have been lost, though Robert's son William Augustus (1911-1987) served as a partner of Fovargue for some years.

The name of the practice at 1 Upper Lake was changed to Raper and Fovargue, and there were other offices at Eastbourne and Robertsbridge. In 1985 it became Raper Fovargue and Herington. In 1986 a growing alliance of various firms united, to become simply Heringtons.¹¹

Sheppards

The Sheppard practice seems not have quite the same claim to antiquity as Heringtons, though in the absence of full records one cannot be sure.

The 1791 directory for Battle lists two 'attorneys', as they were then often called. One is John Tilden; the other is H M Bishop. Earlier records of witnesses to various documents make frequent reference to Henry Mallory Bishop; a will of 1750 (proved in September 1752) reports a Henry Bishop of Sedlescombe, son of the testator Henry. Henry Mallory was baptised at Sedlescombe on 18 October 1732, so presumably he was reckoned as old enough to sign; the Henry who made the will was his father.¹² The elder Henry owned Great Sanders, the mansion just to the north of Sedlescombe that was to be sold in 1859 following the death of a John Bishop, presumably son of Henry's eldest son William.

On 31 July 1755 Henry Mallory Bishop married Mary Crowhurst at Eastbourne; he had two children at Battle and died in 1814, being buried at Sedlescombe on 7 March 1814. Another record shows a Henry Mallary (sic) Bishop being indentured to George Worge, attorney of Battle, on 15 December 1749. The Worges come in and out of Battle records up to the mid-nineteenth century, though not latterly as lawyers; in the mid-eighteenth they were powerful. We know that by 1749 George Worge was then a solicitor in the town and it looks likely that he was an antecedent of the Sheppard practice. He was described in the mid

eighteenth century as a 'master extraordinary of the High Court of Chancery', which must have been in acknowledgement of his professional prowess. There is also a reference to an indenture of 1738 to John Worge, attorney of Battle. From the Worge family tree it is difficult to be certain who this was; it is unlikely to have been George's younger brother (1712-c1760), who was by then a professional soldier. Nor can it be George's uncle John, who had died in 1703.

There are various references to a Bishop or Bishops in legal practice in the period after 1750. In 1796 and 1819, for example, there are references to Bishop and Thorpe as solicitors in Hastings, in 1816 and later, and in 1790 Henry Bishop was clerk to the parish of Battle. It is not known when the Bishop practice came to an end, but in Battle he was succeeded by Peter Willard, practising at Battle by at least 1811, whose daughter Elizabeth married Nathaniel Polhill Kell on 15 April 1823 and who died in 1821; the other Kells continued elsewhere in the county. There may have been a period of joint partnership, but the younger man was to establish himself quickly.

Kell was from a legal family in Lewes, practising as Langridge and Kell. His father Christopher (1762 to 26 April 1841) had married Mary Polhill in Holborn on 16 May 1789, a union that produced six children. Of these, Frederick was born in about 1799 and died on Madeira on 30 June 1834; his will states that he was of Cheltenham. Thomas (1802-77) went to New South Wales. Sarah did not marry but Eliza became the second wife of the farmer and failed banker Tilden Smith. (The common name Tilden may have originated with the family in Heringtons, above, but if so it was before his grandfather's time.) William was born at Reigate in about 1800 and died at Lewes on 25 October 1862. He inherited his father's practice.

Nathaniel was the eldest, born at Christchurch in Hampshire on 6 April 1792. He was articled to his father on 15 May 1815. He and Elizabeth had no children; he died at Battle on 22 April 1864 and she on 12 May in the next year. In 1838 he had had assigned to him the coronership of the Rape of Hastings, a valuable asset, and in 1863 he had taken into partnership the young Charles Sheppard. The Kells had had no children.

Charles was baptised at Woking on 29 June 1834; his father was William George, who appears with various occupations in the censuses but seems to have been mainly a grocer. The family moved to Guildford when Charles was very young. In the 1861 census he was an articled clerk there.

By 1871 he had moved to Mount Street, Battle, almost certainly to a house called Loxbee, previously owned by Kell, and had married his first wife Sarah Ann (Milton). They had three children, only one of whom survived Sarah's death early in 1877. Charles remarried, to Ella Nora Wallis, daughter of a Bexhill GP, and in due course three more children appeared. There were two daughters and one son – Frederic Charles, born late in 1881. Loxbee was a large house on the eastern side of Mount Street. It was demolished after the Second World War and the area now contains large blocks of flats.

Sheppard built up a healthy practice which involved much conveyancing. He had the coronership of Hastings, inherited from Kell, which would remain in the family until his son Frederic's death in 1960. (Charles was able to leave £33,000 at his death; Kell had left under £2,000.) It appears that while Raper was concentrating on his wealthier and more landed

clients Sheppard tended to look after most of the others. Between them they shared the various offices of the town. Sheppard became a member of the local board of health in 1870, and its chairman in 1874; when he gave up that position he became its clerk, and then clerk to the urban district council when it replaced the board in 1894; he remained clerk until 1908, when his son Frederick Charles succeeded him. He then joined the council as a member, remaining on it until his death on 22 August 1919. Shortly after that his widow Ella replaced him on the council – its first woman member; she died in 1932. He was instrumental in founding and guiding the Mountjoy Institute. He had therefore been connected with local administration for 49 years, but as coroner for last 54 years. He was clearly widely respected: when he went to his funeral his open bier was carried through the town from Mount Street to St Mary's.

Frederick inherited the business. Articled to his father, by 1911 he was a solicitor living at The Gables, at the Battle Hill end of St Mary's Villas, moving to Loxbeech after his father's death. He was a member of the urban council from 1905, resigning when appointed clerk. In 1906 he married Edith Gladys Dickins, daughter of the vicar of All Saints, Warwick. She lived until 1963. They had no children. Perhaps oddly, his half-sister Amy Rosa married Edith's father in 1909, thereby becoming his aunt by marriage as well as his half-sister.

Frederick, born late in 1881, would not be exempt from the conscription introduced in 1916 to ensure sufficient forces in the First World War. Late in 1917, when food supply was particularly short and rationing biting hard, one shopkeeper applicant at Battle who was anxious to avoid conscription pleaded that he had to dispose of rather a large stock of goods brought in for Christmas, at which Sheppard asked in a stage whisper: *Has he any sugar or tea?* Sheppard was an applicant at the same hearing, and in due course he lost his case and went to serve. In January 1918 he joined the RNAS as a Lieutenant, and a year later was to return and resume his work, which included being clerk to the magistrates and to the Urban District Council, of which his father was still a member and his mother shortly to be. When the council was abolished in 1934 he was asked to remain as clerk but to the new town council; he declined. When the coroners' districts of Hastings and Robertsbridge and Rye were combined in 1940 he continued as coroner for the new area. He was also an agent for the Liberal Party and president of the cricket club.

Frederick died at the Royal East Sussex Hospital at Hastings on 6 March 1960.

Martins

As far as we know, this practice lasted for about a century. The first reference is to James Martin being sworn as an articled clerk to John Tilden on 21 October 1779, his father being William. It is possible that William was himself a solicitor, and James's baptism in 1764 was at St Mary's. There are hints in the records of a descent from John Martin, a doctor at Battle in the very early eighteenth century, but nothing definite; but a William Martin was born at Battle in 1725 (dying there in 1799). A Samuel Martin was in practice, presumably with James, in 1803 when he enlisted one Henry Bellingham as an articled clerk but so far no other trace of him has come to light.

No Martin appears in the 1791 directory, though there are two Martens, neither in the law. This is no indication that James was not practising, for he may have been busy elsewhere or simply omitted; he was practising in 1786 and appears in a newspaper report of 1800. James

married Frances Thatcher at Hastings in 1798. She died in 1811 at the age of 34, a year after their son Charles Wardle Martin died at Battle at the age of one.

On 13 October 1816 he had Henry Heathorn sworn to him as an articled clerk. Three others followed: his son Edwin Martin on 25 October in that year, then Henry Thatcher on 4 December 1821 (presumably a nephew) and Rowland James Ticehurst on 9 March 1832. Edwin stayed in Battle; there is no certain trace of Heathorn or Thatcher in any English/Welsh census; Ticehurst, a member of a notable Battle family, was to develop a successful legal career at Cheltenham. In 1835 there is a newspaper reference to Martin, Sons and Hoad as the name of the firm,¹³ though a reliable trace of Hoad is yet to be found.

Edwin Martin was only about 16 when sworn (he had been baptised at St Mary's in December 1799); it is not clear when Horace, born a year later, followed his example. By 1841 they were living and practising in the town centre and their sister Margaret (born about 1805) was with them. Thereafter they did not move from Battle; from at least 1871 their address was what is now (appropriately) Martin's Oak, 36 High Street. Neither man married, nor did their sister. The family simply disappeared. James died in 1846 aged 82, Edwin in 1871, Horace in 1882 (an executor was his nephew Charles Martin, also a solicitor; he was a son of Edwin's and Horace's brother Sidney, a farmer of Westfield who had been baptised at Battle on 20 August 1806). Charles too became a local farmer and does not seem to have tried to keep the family business going; he died at Watch Oak in 1922 and Margaret in 1887. The practice was probably very successful, in that Horace left £34,893.

A partner by 1839 was Robert Young, who was to play a prominent part in the affairs of the local board of health following his support for the petition that brought Edward Cresy to report on the town's health in 1850. The 1843 Law List has him with James, Edwin and Horace Martin. He was from Tewkesbury, baptised there at the beginning of 1817, and married a Worcestershire woman in 1840. They are recorded as living in the High Street at Battle in the census taken on 6 June 1841. At least ten children were born to them in Battle, the last being in the summer/autumn of 1858; by the 1861 census the family was at Paddington, though very recently: ESRO has a letter from Robert Young of Battle dated 1861. Robert died at Kensington in 1867. An 1856 report with ESRO states that he was steward of the manor of Brede; he must have had other posts too.

The 1881 census reports one William Cruttenden as a solicitor in the High Street. Born at Battle in about 1824, he had become a solicitor's clerk by 1851 and was managing clerk in 1871; with Young and others he was one of the petitioners of 1850. He had been articled to Edwin Martin and took over the business on Horace's death but died in 1895. In 1891 he was living at 36 High Street, shortly to be the haunt of doctors. His son, also William, was only 19 and could not then succeed, though he was qualified by 1901. There is no evidence that the business survived the elder William's death. The younger William practised in Hastings until his bankruptcy in 1912.

Others

From time to time – and at present – there have been solicitors in Battle independent of the two large and generally well-documented practices above, or to which no connection has yet been made.

The parish burial records include John Slatter, attorney, buried on 3 February 1764 following his death after falling from a horse at Uckfield.

Charles Nairn is recorded as having sworn Edward Mynard Bristow as an articled clerk at Battle in 1766. This raises the question of his relationship with Richard and Thomas Nairn, Deans of Battle 1731-60 and 1760-76. We know that Richard's daughter Martha married Whistler (later Sir Whistler) Webster, and her will, proved on 5 November 1811, refers to her late brother Charles and his wife Philadelphia. There was a Charles Nairn married to Philadelphia (Balderston), who had died in 1797. He had lands at Cranbrook inherited from the Plumer family; and they came to him from his father, who married the heiress Jane Plumer in 1725. Jane's father had property at Cranbrook and died there in 1769. The lands were to be inherited by his son-in-law Charles.¹⁴

The first Dean Nairne (sic) was born at Sandwich in about 1700 and was Vicar of Westfield by 1725;¹⁵ Charles was first articled to a solicitor in Dover. The east Kent connection strengthens Martha's report that Charles was his son. Charles had a sister Roberta (in his will and according to Martha) or Rebecca (in the marriage records) who married the Vicar of Bodiam but he and his wife Philadelphia had no children.

While there is a residual doubt about precisely which Charles Nairn was articled at Dover in 1755 and which at St Clement Danes in 1760 (and just possibly he was the same man), it is clear that the Cranbrook man was a solicitor. He articled one Stephen Swatland in 1777 and James Bishop in 1779, and left them property in his will. (There is a monument to him in Cranbrook parish church.¹⁶)

We do not know which practice, if any, Nairn joined, though as he was a young man when recorded in Battle it seems unlikely that he would be an independent. He later appears in records as a Master in Chancery Extraordinary, a now discontinued senior role in the Court of Chancery. The fact that a James Bishop benefited from his will does not necessarily point to his being associated with what was to become the Kell/Sheppard practice, though that and a possible Worge connection point in that direction.

Of his two clerks outside Battle, there is no further known reference to Bishop, but later Bishops were in practice at Sedlescombe and it is likely that James was brother to Henry Mallory Bishop; and Swatland went on to practise at Hawkhurst. As to Bristow, according to his family tree written before the Second World War, he was born in 1749, probably at Hastings, of a family with lands at Crowhurst. His subsequent life is unclear but it is thought that he died at Strangford, County Down in 1811; he was Tide Master at Dublin. There are no further records of him at Battle.

The 1861 census lists a solicitor named Arthur L Trotman, born in Northamptonshire and aged 27, living at St Mary's Villas. He appears again with the middle name Laurence in the 1871 and 1881 censuses, but as a curate in the West Country, and in 1891 as a patient at the Brislington asylum in Bristol; he died there in 1917. It is not known which practice he joined, if any, at Battle. His father was a priest and this may have been a factor in his going to St Mary Hall, Oxford, in 1867 and thereafter into Holy Orders.

The 1901 census includes Leonard W Smith, described as an unmarried solicitor aged 29, born at Clapham and living at 3 Abbey Green. There are no further available references to him.

Charles Buckwell practised in Battle for much of the first half of the twentieth century. His father John was a solicitor, though his connections with Battle are hard to define. The 1901 census shows him and his son living at Oak House, Ewhurst, which may suggest a practice at Battle, but in 1911 he is at Northgate House, Brighton, where he was to die on 1 May 1927. He retained substantial property at Ewhurst until at least 1909. His son Charles William is also subject to the vagaries of the records: in 1891 he was recorded as having been born at Brighton, but the births register does not have him there. Instead they record him as having been born in the Steyning area early in 1884.

Charles practised at 34/35 High Street, moving later to the Gildhall; he also had an office at Robertsbridge. In 1911 he married Dora Peirce at Brighton, and they had one child: John Ade Buckwell, born at Battle in 1921. By that time Charles had done his war service. He had been a member of the volunteers/territorial since 1900 and in January 1915 enlisted in the Royal Engineers (signals). He was posted initially to the east coast defences. In April 1915 he was sent to the western front and was invalided out with shell shock in 1918, having been mentioned in despatches and having reached the rank of Major. He returned to his Battle practice at the end of the war. In the Second World War his son John was killed on 6 July 1944. John had trained to be a solicitor but had joined the Royal Artillery in April 1939. He reached the rank of Captain and was mentioned in despatches for his conduct in north Africa. It appears that he died in Tuscany.

Like many of the other solicitors Charles played a civic role in Battle. He was a member of the Guardians from 1923 and also served on the urban district council and then on its successor the rural district council. He died at Battle on 5 January 1945. His widow lived on to 1980. She lived at 6-7 Western Avenue.

Charles lived at Sherrington, Hastings Road, Battle and left considerable property, put up for sale in March 1946.

George Kiloh
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Sources

Much of the information about Herington's comes from ESRO; unless mentioned in the text or in endnotes, the remainder is from www.ancestry.co.uk and the Sussex Family History Group.

Frequent sources

Ancestry.co.uk

Gravestone inscriptions in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin (E J Tyler: BDHS 1978, with additions by Neil Clephane-Cameron 1998)

¹ Information from Neil Clephane-Cameron (and the photograph of the street sign).

² <http://www.theweald.org/N10a.asp?NId=5380394>

³ Brian Short: *The Ashdown Forest Dispute 1876-1882* (Sussex Record Society, 1997)

⁴ Hastings Observer, 16 January 1915.

⁵ http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=179-raf_3&cid=-1#-1

⁶ The London Gazette, 16 October 1908.

⁷ Hastings Observer, 8 July 1916.

⁸ Hastings Observer, 15 July 1916.

⁹ Hastings Observer, 9 August 1919.

¹⁰ Hastings Observer, 13 January 1917.

¹¹ http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=179-raf_3&cid=-1#-1

¹² The evidence from the parish records is so strong that Beryl Lucey, in her *Twenty centuries in Sedlescombe*, must have been mistaken in her identification of Henry Mallory Bishop's parentage, marital status and date of death.

¹³ Sussex Advertiser, 24 August 1835.

¹⁴ www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol7/pp90-113 (accessed 27 October 2016).

¹⁵ John Venn: *Alumni Cantabrigienses: A Biographical List of All Known Students* (CUP 2011).

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Francis_Chenu (accessed 5 November 2016). This source says that the sculpture dates from 1796, another (more likely) says 1797.