

## HENHAM FAMILY.

THE Henham family, anciently written De Hengham, derived their name from Hean=high, and Ham, the settlement or home. They are said to have been of Saxon origin, and seated in pre-Norman times at Henham in Suffolk. At the beginning of the thirteenth century they held the manor of St. Andrew's in Hingham, Norfolk, formerly written Hengham and Henham. They remained in possession of this manor until 1303, when they became scattered throughout East Anglia, and some were resident in London. Thus, among the wills of Hustings of London in 1278, Geoffrey de Henham is noted as a testator, and in 1314 Simon de Henham held the manor of Robtofts in Bumstede and Stoke, co. Essex, held of Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford; and another of the family came into Kent, marrying the heiress of the Coddested family, and settling in the Stockbury Valley, so continued in that possession until Agnes de Hengham, only daughter of Odomer de Hengham, carried the property to the Petyt family. This Odomer died in 1411 and was buried in Christ Church, Canterbury, and is there styled Armiger (Weever). He assumed the arms of the Coddested family, viz., Gules, three leopards' heads argent. The Henhams of East Peckham claim descent from this Kentish settlement, and occupied in later times the position of yeomen and extensive hop growers, giving their name to one variety of the latter. There seems never to have been any other family of this name. The only other one with whom they might be confused were the Enghams, otherwise Edingham, and sometimes spelt in old records Hengham. Their pedigree can be traced to the time of King John, and then they were resident in Woodchurch. Hasted has suggested a common origin of the two families, and certainly in the shield of arms assigned in the brass to Ralph de Hengham in Old St. Paul's there is a resemblance to the coat armour of the Enghams, both having a lion passant in chief. There is also a Close Roll of 17 John mentioning William de Engham as Constable of Framlingham Castle, which would most probably refer to the Hengham family of East Anglia, so that in very early periods the names seem to be interchangeable. Although crests were used at much later periods than coat armour, yet it is worthy of note that the Engham crest was a fire-ball held in two lions' jamba, whereas the Hengham crest was an orb in splendour among the clouds, probably used in relation to their name as indicating residence upon a hill, or expressing the idea of height.

The following are some records of family evidence met with:—

Bloomfield's "Norfolk" refers to the family seated at Hingham, from which may be deduced the following:—

