

ANCESTRY

Among the few families in England who steadfastly preserved the faith throughout the long, dark period following upon the so-called "Reformation" were the Eldridge's of Sussex County. For centuries they had owned a large estate in the vicinity of the Southdown Mountains, where members of the family have continued to reside down to our day, though long since despoiled of their early possessions. In the glorious days of Merrie England, the name was associated with a rare success in the manufacture of church-bells, the world being indebted to this distinguished firm for the first use of silver in the process. The *Sussex Daily News* of November 13th, 1907, supplies the following information: "It will be remembered that nine years ago, after the fire in the old church at Preston, one of the bells there was found engraved with the ancient name of Eldridge. This family were famous all over the country, as far back as the fifteenth century, for the sweet tones of their church bells, of which, it is believed, as many as ninety in Sussex alone yet remain."