

Sir Nicholas Pelham monument, St Michael's church, Lewes



My 12th Great-Grandfather – by David Arthur

Sir Nicholas Pelham (1515-1559) of Laughton was son of Sir William Pelham and Mary (Carew). In 1537 he married Anne Sackville, they had issue 6 sons, including John and Thomas, and 4 daughters including Anne Pelham who married Thomas Sherley. Thomas and Anne were the Great-Grand Parents of Nicholas Overbury who immigrated to Virginia in 1654.

Sir Nicholas wears semi-armor; he is bareheaded and bearded. The women's clothes are considerably later in style - more typical of the 1590s than the 1560s. Anne Sackville wears a ruff, stomacher, farthingale, mantle, bonnet with rear lappet folded forwards, the hair forced up in front.

In 1549 he was made Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex, and Knighted. He had also been a J.P. At one point he was held in the tower for conspiracy, and his brother was involved in the Wyatt rebellion. He was involved in the defense of Seaford against a French force which had previously burnt the village of Brighthelmstone.

The inscription on his memorial contains an amusing pun:

"What time ye French sought to have sackt Sea-Foord,
This Pelham did repel them back aboard."

Sir Nicholas Pelham (by 1513 - 15 September 1560) of Laughton, Sussex was an English politician. He was the eldest son of Sir William Pelham of Laughton, Sussex and half-brother of the judge Edmund Pelham. He sat on the Sussex bench as a Justice of the Peace from 1544 to his death and was appointed High Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex for 1549-50. He was knighted on 17 November 1549.

He was a Member of Parliament (MP) for Arundel in 1547 and Sussex in 1558.

He married Anne, the daughter of John Sackville of Withyham and Chiddingly, Sussex, with whom he had 6 sons and 4 daughters. His son Thomas was created a baronet.

See the Line to Boleyn which includes Sir Nicholas Pelham's wife Anne Sackville.

<http://www.edavidarthur.net/LineToBoleyn.pdf>

<http://www.edavidarthur.net/NicholasOverbyImmigrant.pdf>