

# The Sussex Highlands

published by The Homeland Association Ltd, Covent Garden, London in 1927

**T**HOSE visitors who are using a little car to explore the Sussex Highlands will probably make their way from Mayfield along the pleasant road by Five Ashes and Hadlow Down to Buxted, passing on the left a picturesque farm-house with a notable group of chimney stacks and figured on the Ordnance map as Five Chimneys. Many of the farm houses have, as an appendage, an oast-house for drying hops, but most of the hop grounds in this part of Sussex appear to be grubbed up and put to other uses. We are now getting to a notable district in the days when Sussex iron was the great industry in these parts, and a mile and a half north of Hadlow Down is Huggett's Furnace where the first iron ordnance is said to have been cast.

Huggett's  
Furnace

Master Huggett, and his man John  
They did cast the first cannon,  
so runs the local rhyme. At Howbourne Farm, a mile north of the road, the old hammer post, an oaken trunk nine and a half feet high, remained at the end of a drained hammer-pond until comparatively recently, but our enquiries resulted in finding that it has succumbed to the ravages of time and has now disappeared. This quiet peaceful countryside has changed since the hammer and anvil rang incessantly through the weald. Iron has been worked in Sussex since Roman times.