



GREAT WAR 100

WESTENDER

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FROM OUR ARCHIVE



THE NEW INN AT WEST END

This photograph of the "New Inn" pub at West End, one of the Strong & Co Brewery of Romsey establishments, comes from a postcard in the Society's collection and is dated 1919. The card was published by Rood Bros a local Southampton firm who produced excellent quality images. Note the large open area in front of the pub which formed part of the original village green, where village events such as small travelling fairs were held. The pub building was replaced in the late 1920's by a mock Tudor style pub which was later renamed the "The Lamp & Mantle" before being demolished in 2004 to make way for the apartment complex we know as "Rosemount Court" today.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



CHARLES SPENCER - THE PARISH CLERK

By Barry Topp

Member Barry writes.....

On Saturday when I was doing my bit at the museum I was scrolling through the Westend Parish Magazines and came across two articles referring to my Great Great Uncle Charles. He was the Parish Clerk for the West End for 31 years until 1899. I have therefore written a piece about him using the articles in the church magazines.I have also attached a photo of Uncle Charles, he is the white bearded man holding a small child which is my father the other child is his sister and the couple standing are his parents, my grandparents. I don't know who the lady is kneeling.

Charles Spencer was born in 1829 on a farm at Netley, where the Netley Hospital was eventually built. He was my father's great uncle and as my father was 10 years old when he died in 1925 at the age of 96, my father remembered stories that he had told him.

One story was that as a young boy his job was to stand on the quay and look out for the fishing fleet coming up the Solent. He then would run to the farm so that they could get the wagons out so that the fish could be rushed to Billingsgate, the horses being changed at staging points on the way.

Then as a young man of 21 Charles worked at the Ordnance Survey Office in Southampton then at the bottom of the Avenue. It was there that he developed chest troubles and he was advised by his doctor to get an open air job. He bought a smallholding in Moorgreen on land that runs from the recreation ground down to the bend in Moorgreen Road. This was in 1850.

Here he established an apple orchard and also one of the first commercial asparagus beds, hither to it had only been grown in gentlemen's gardens. It was said that he kept the holding very clean and tidy and at any time all the weeds he could find would go in one waistcoat pocket.



Some when in 1868 he became the Parish Clerk. Little has been recorded of his duties as Clerk but in May 1899 he decided to resign his position due to advancing age, he would then be in his 70th year.

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The report in the Westend Parish Magazine for May 1899 states that “For 31 years Mr Spencer has carried out the duties of his office with unflinching regularity and in a manner which has gained him the respect and regards of the whole Parish. His numerous friends will wish Mr Spencer many years of health and happiness in which to enjoy his freedom from the responsibilities of a post which he has so well filled.”

In the Westend Parish Magazine for July 1899 it was reported that “On June 10th a present which took the form of a silver teapot with a suitable inscription was given to Mr Spencer on his resigning the post of Parish Clerk, by some members of the congregation of St James’ Church, chiefly friends of many years standing. The Vicar gave expression to the appreciation of the Parish of Mr Spencer’s 31 years service as Clerk and to their regret at his retirement, and Mrs Haselfoot, adding some kindly words of reference to the past and good wishes for the future, made the presentation on behalf of the subscribers.

A general present of a cheque amounting to £8 4s 6d has also been given to Mr Spencer “as a mark of recognition from friends and well wishers” A list of subscribers was enclosed with the cheque.”

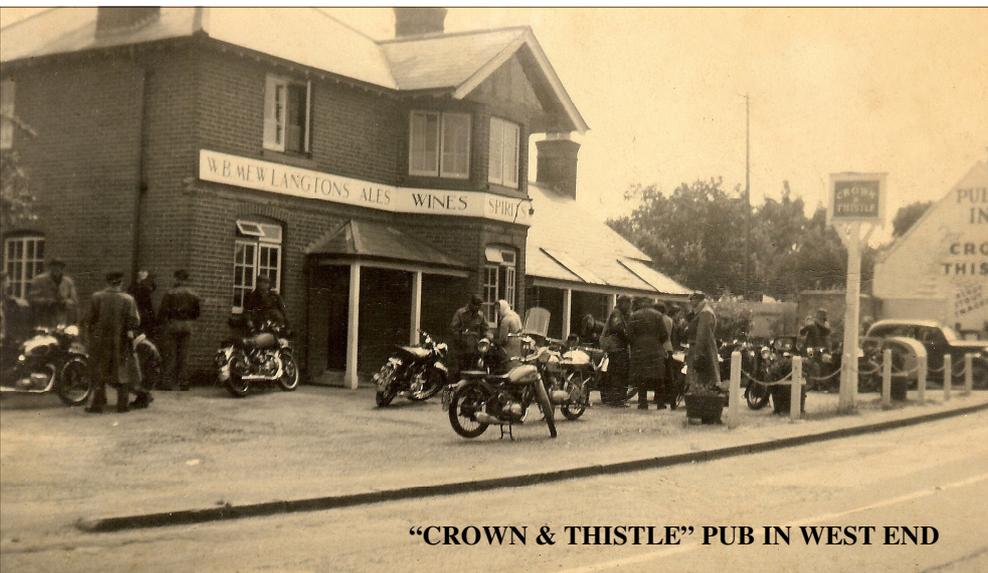
In 1892 my Grandmother who was his niece and came from Watford decided to become Charles Spencer’s housekeeper. Mr Spencer had never married. I had been told that he had as a young man been engaged and that his fiancée had been killed in an early train crash, but this would need further researching.

In 1913 my Grandmother married my Grandfather in St James’ Church and in 1914 it was decided that they purchase Myrtle Cottage in Moorgreen Road as the little cottage that they lived in was quite small. Charles Spencer came and lived with my grandparents in Myrtle Cottage which would be later known as Moorgreen Poultry Farm. He died on 31st December 1925 and is buried in the old cemetery in West End. The silver teapot is still in the possession of a member of the family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the year January to December 2017 are now due - if you haven’t already paid, see Delphine at the meeting - we have kept the rate the same for several years at £12 per person per year . Good value for money and 10 excellent speakers per year covering a variety of subjects plus a Christmas Social and an August Social Get Together at the Museum. Ed

FROM OUR ARCHIVE



“CROWN & THISTLE” PUB IN WEST END

This image from our archive came to us from Mr & Mrs Wheeler who were one time landlord & landlady of the “Crown and Thistle” public house in the Swaythling Road. Taken in the 1950’s the photo shows a bikers meet outside the “Crown & Thistle” pub. The building has over the years had quite a number of alterations made to it as well as being renamed “The Master Builder” and it still thrives today as one of West End’s few remaining pubs.

THE FIRS, BEACON ROAD, WEST END

By Alec Samuels

This article was written at the end of 2016 and unfortunately missed the Christmas issue of Westender...

The Firs in Beacon Road, West End was built in 1880 for John St. Barbe Baker, a horticulturalist and lay minister. Additions were made in 1893, including a revolving summer house. The symmetrical house has two front bays with traditional sash windows, and stained glass in the front door. Though late Victorian, the house has a touch of Regency elegance about it, with a pleasing white and grey appearance. The house was built by Haines Brothers, local builders.

The interior has retained much of the original work such as wood panelling, and some of the ironwork derives from the original gas fittings in St James' Church. The garden of now 0.29 acres, at one time a tree nursery, is smaller than before, though well laid out.

John St. Barbe Baker was a well-known and well respected person, visited by William Booth of the Salvation Army and Melville Churchill, a cousin of Sir Winston.

The house was inherited from his father by Richard St. Barbe Baker 1889-1982. Richard was the famous tree man, founder of the Men of the Trees Society, now the International Tree Foundation. After working as a lumberjack in Canada, he studied forestry at Cambridge and became a conservationist, travelling the world, urging the need for re-forestation. He wrote some twenty-five books; he received the OBE in 1978. In 1959 he sold The Firs.

The house is on the market for £690,000 (November 2016). The Zoopla valuation is £731,000, within the range £716,000-£745,000.



“The Firs”, Beacon Road, West End from a postcard circa 1900

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

By Veronica Selby

THE SOUTHAMPTON OBSERVER AND WINCHESTER NEWS.

Saturday 17th August 1878.

“REMOVAL OF ANOTHER LANDMARK”

The removal of the handsome mansion so well known for so many years as “Miss Ogle's” is another significant proof of how different the Southampton of today is from the pleasant little country town of which “Miss Ogle's” was once one of the most aristocratic mansions. To the best of our belief, the fine old house now in course of removal is the last of those residences that stood “in” the town. Some – such as the College and the Mansions in the Polygon – are still left, but they, of course, were quite in the country when “Miss Ogle's” house had fields behind it.

The change of habits which prevents mansions of this class from securing tenants now-a-days, affects all county towns as well as Southampton. The gentle folks who used to be content to live in provincial towns now either flock to London or else – if they reside in the country at all – take care to keep clear of the towns and *their rates*. But it is not only the municipal burdens that prevent our having such neighbours. Railways and police and better roads have altered habits and destroyed the necessity for people being so gregarious. The general unsecurity (*sic*) of life and property were among the reasons that caused the gentle-folk to live in small towns of these days. Also and likewise, butchers and grocers hardly ventured so far afield as they do now, Doctors too were more accessible in the town and society was easily obtainable.

Doubtless the street which will be driven over the space that the old mansion occupied, will be more profitable to the community than a single family could ever have been but the aspect of our town will certainly not gain by the change. For ourselves, we regret that the old house and its old trees could not have lasted as they were a generation longer. The garden – as all gardens in towns – was a charming relief from the dull uniformity of bricks and mortar. Fortunately, in Southampton, we have the parks growing every year more attractive as the trees and shrubs grow older and that is some compensation for the sea of houses that now exists on every hand.

THE CHRISTMAS MEETING

A Review by Roy Andrews

Over fifty of our members gathered together for the annual Christmas Soiree to partake of a small libation, courtesy of the society, and enjoy the spread of the usual delicious food provided by the members. Not too much was left over which indicated that each had their fill, we hope.

The various quizzes provided with thanks to Peter Wallace, Paula Downer and Enid Plowman, were not of the usual kind and enabled those of us with little grey matter to spend the evening tearing our hair out, what little there is, as to what the questions meant. By the end of the evening, the best team, they told me to say that, had won which left just the raffle draw for the multitude of prizes, again kindly gifted by our members.

Over £100 was raised, thanks to the generosity of those present to help top up the Society coffers. By the end of the evening, our erstwhile chairman Neville had to cajole those still yet enjoying the socialising, in his best chairman manner, to leave the hall as our time was up.

PIRATES, PRIVATEERS AND A WEDGE OF GOLD

A review by Roy Andrews

The first meeting of the New Year and we had an old favourite of a speaker in the person of Dr. Cheryl Butler to give our January talk. As we have heard in previous talks, Southampton was in decline by the beginning of the 16th century when much of its trade transferred to London and this Cheryl reiterated at the start of her talk. Many ship owners looked for other ways to make money and pirating and smuggling were obvious routes to take. The high seas were a lawless place and pirates could take advantage of this when seizing other people's property and ships although as ever the French were considered good pickings particularly during the many wars we had with them. This made the Isle of Wight a popular place for pirates to operate from, particularly Osborne Bay.

The authorities on both sides of the English Channel, in attempts to dissuade pirates, would execute those caught and display the bodies as a deterrent; here in 1556, a John Jones and three others were hung from gibbets at the shore line and left to rot.

Any goods seized became the property of the Mayor of Southampton and, when sold, the money came to Southampton, although the Lord High Admiral claimed the proceeds belonged to him. Edward IV eventually granted Southampton a Charter for the trade.

In 1581, a Commission into Piracy was created and came to investigate Southampton's involvement. This resulted in innocent merchants having their goods and ships seized. Even Queen Elizabeth's cousin had a ship seized and Lord Howard of Effingham started a court case against his ship being taken that lasted for 10 years. Many other court cases resulted.

Realising there as a lot of money being made out of pirating, Queen Elizabeth legalised the action by granting licences to what became Privateers, thus getting a cut of the profits. This allowed ships belonging to whatever country England happened to be at war with at any one time to be looted. Mistakes were made as ships away from these shores for months on end could not always be sure who the current friend or foe was; many court cases resulted, oh to be a lawyer even then, including two privateers who attacked the same ship at the same time and argued over who should have the wedge of the spoils. Spanish and Portuguese ships were very popular as they sailed from the New World heavily laden with spoils.

All of Southampton's merchants became Privateers and in the City records is the Book of Instruments giving details of all those who invested, by buying shares, in the ships setting off in search of loot. The best known Privateers, Drake, Gilbert, Raleigh and Frobisher, all used Southampton and the earliest known reference to potatoes, from the Americas, was at Southampton in 1594. The Earl of Cumberland as a Privateer used Southampton as his main port, having hired The Wool House as his warehouse.

By 1603 James I, having made peace with the Spanish and annoyed that even our older allies the Italians were having their ships attacked, made a proclamation banning Privateering and naming several Southampton merchants in particular.

Some Privateers became respected members of the establishment holding high office and being knighted. Some kept to their old way and moved to Tunis whence they continued to operate as Barbary Pirates and not averse to raiding Southampton for wretches to man their ships and known as 'Turkey Slaves'. It took another hundred years before the pirates were eradicated mainly by the Royal Navy.



WHEN ROMILL CLOSE WAS ALLINGTON LANE (Pt.1)

By Pauline Berry

This is a summary of a transcript of the conversation held between George Rowe and Mrs Laura Morant in 1993, who lived at No.6 Romill Close, West End at that time. They discussed her life in the Gater's Mill area during the period 1915-1928, when Romill Close used to be the southern end of Allington Lane, adjoining Swaythling Road, before being cut off by the construction of the M27 motorway. Romill Close was designated part of the Gater's Mill Conservation area in 1991.

Mrs Morant was born Laura Skilton in Newbury in 1905 and came to live at No.4 Allington Lane (as it was then) in 1915, because her father, David Skilton, acquired work as a 'rollerman' at Gater's Mill close by. He could not afford the £16 to transport their furniture from Newbury, but Mr John Gater Snr. Generously sent his Foden (open steam) lorry to transport the family's possessions to their new home at No.4.

The Skilton family arrived at Swaythling Station in 1915, and had to walk along the dusty narrow lanes, past the River Itchen whose banks were bolstered up by still visible sacks of concrete. Then up past the mill, up the steep hill to Allington Lane, where Black House and the Forge stood on each corner. Mr and Mrs Skilton were initially shocked by the small size of No.4, which had low ceilings causing tall visitors to stoop in the kitchen, two bedrooms and no electricity or running water. It had, however, a large garden with lots of apple trees and space for Mrs Skilton to enjoy her gardening skills.

The ten cottages were then surrounded by fields with watercress growing in the ditches, cowslips on the banks and wild flowers and dragonflies down by the River Itchen. *"It was beautiful, we were in seventh heaven. The whole area was called Romill Park then, but we didn't know why"*, stated Mrs Morant. (Do you?). The first two cottages were thatched with big oak beams and leaded windows, probably 18th century. Numbers 3 & 4 were not quite as old as those, and numbers 5-10 were built later in the 19th century possibly. *"They were warm in winter and cool in summer"*. All had metal latticed windows and decorated chimney pots.

Although there were seven children in the Skilton family, only the youngest three ever lived in this cottage, since the older siblings had either emigrated or were fighting in the Great War then. Apparently there was a water tap on the opposite side of the road *"in the sheep yard where we children ran free. We did have a deep reserve well in our garden, but no-one liked it because of the dead frogs and slugs we found in it. It ran low in summer but would fill up again in February, it was hard going"*. One of Mr Gater's ancestors had dug a deep well into the hill and *"lovely"* water was pumped up and into the tanks of Mill House, Black House and Black Farm cottages. So the Skilton family used to fill their copper (wash boiler) on Sunday nights ready for wash-day on Mondays, as was usual.

In 1922, all the occupants of the ten cottages worked at Gater's Mill for Mr Gater, *"it was a friendly community"* recalled Mrs Morant. They were: No.1 - Billy Morris; No.2 - W.G. Debnam; No.3 - Dennis Taylor; No.4 - David Skilton (Rollerman); No.5 - Albert Green (Foden lorry driver); No.6 - John Swoffield, No.7 - George Williams (Clerk's Office); No.8 - Mr Coster (Carpenter); No.9 - George Hyde (Mill Foreman) and No.10 - John Pearce (Estate Bailiff).

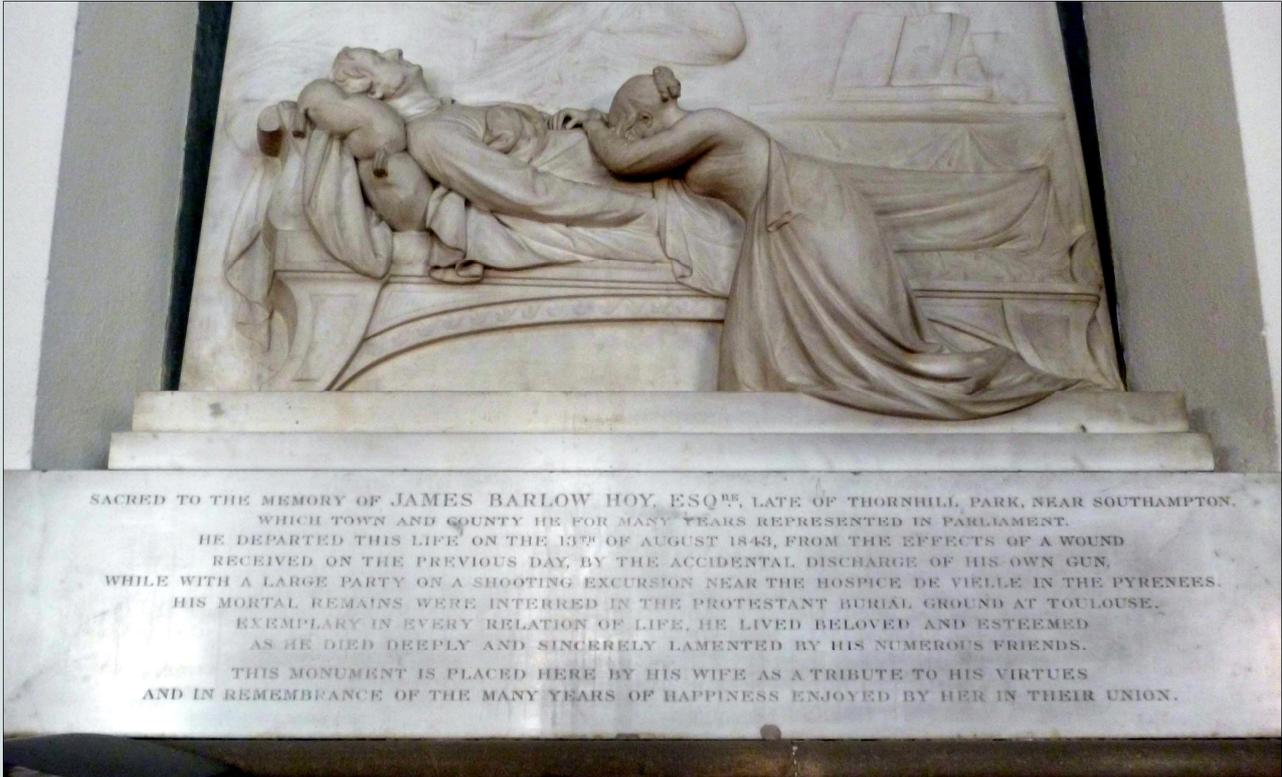
Her father, David Skilton, took up work as a 'rollerman' at the Mill (a 5 sack mill compared to the 22 sack mill at Rank's Flour mill at Southampton Docks). He was in charge of the steel rollers through which the coarse flour was sifted repeatedly to remove the dust and bran. *If anything went wrong with the rollers, they stopped and the stuff used to spew out onto the floor ... it was more fun when it was going right!"* his daughter remembered.

Laura Skilton, as she was, went to school in the centre of West End village, now the Community Centre,
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THE RISE & DEMISE OF JAMES BARLOW HOY

By Sue Ballard, PhD.

On the wall inside St James's Church there is a rather grand memorial in a style typical of early Victorian Romanticism. It has a lengthy inscription to the memory of James Barlow Hoy, late of Thornhill Park, which tells us two important facts: that he represented Southampton in Parliament and that he died from the accidental discharge of his own gun while on a shooting expedition in the Pyrenees.



JAMES BARLOW HOY MEMORIAL, St. JAMES' CHURCH, WEST END

(Photo courtesy of Paula Downer)

What the inscription does not tell us is that Barlow was his surname, rather than a middle name. After inheriting a fortune, James adopted the surname Hoy by royal licence on 26 January 1829 out of respect for his benefactor, his father's cousin, Michael Hoy of Bishopsgate, London, who had made a fortune from trading with Russia. As Michael Hoy's chief beneficiary, James inherited around £88,000 (calculated at £6.9 million in today's money) and extensive estates in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, including properties in Midanbury, Thornhill and Arreton. The 1845 South Stoneham tithe map shows that the executors of the late James Barlow Hoy owned a cottage and garden, pasture land and several plots of arable within West End parish.

James Barlow was born in Dublin around late 1793 or early 1794. He was the eldest child of Anne & John Barlow, a Dublin printer. John Barlow was alcoholic and his mother brought up James, his three sisters – Maria Sophia, Isabella Catherine & Anne (“Nanny”) – and younger brother, Robert Joseph Barlow. Despite financial difficulties, Anne was able to ensure her sons received a classical education and Robert attended Trinity College, Dublin and went into the Church. James, meanwhile, had been apprenticed to an apothecary and went on to train as a surgeon. Once he had qualified, lacking the capital to set up in private practice, James joined the Royal Artillery in 1813 and was posted to India as a 2nd Assistant Surgeon in the Ordnance Medical Department. He sent money home to his family as often as he could. He was promoted to 1st Assistant Surgeon in 1827 but in 1828 at the age of around thirty-four, James retired from the Army when he inherited Michael Hoy's estate. His medical career had lasted some fifteen years.

There are few official records for James Barlow, one of the earliest being the last will and testament of

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Michael Hoy, proved on 9th July 1828. Much of the rest of James's life must be gleaned from newspaper reports and his brother Robert's autobiographical novel. With his new-found wealth he decided to enter Parliament, setting himself up as an independent candidate in the January 1830 by-election following the death of a Southampton MP. His path was smoothed by the prestige surrounding his late kinsman Michael Hoy, who had been a burgess of Southampton since 1824 and it secured James the votes of wealthy tradesmen in the town. In his first campaign speech, from his home in Midanbury, he declared himself to be "perfectly independent in principles and in politics". In his victory speech he expressed his gratitude to his benefactor Michael Hoy and his "family pride at being elevated to my present status by the mercantile and trading interests". James was clearly making a point in a period when trade was despised by the social elite. Less than six months later, the death of King George IV on 26 June 1830 necessitated a general election and James was forced to campaign again to retain his seat, entailing more expense.

In 1830, among other issues, he presented petitions against slavery, lobbied for an upgrade in Southampton's port status, presented an Isle of Wight petition against the proposed duty on steamboat passengers and attended a meeting in support of a planned London & Southampton Railway. The London & Southampton Railway opened in stages between 1838 and 1840 and became the London & South Western Railway in June 1839 when it was extended to serve Portsmouth. James's support of the railway is significant if one remembers that the very first passenger railway (the Manchester and Liverpool) had

623 James Barlow Hoy a Bachelor of this Parish and Marian D'Oyley Bird a Spinster a Minor of the District of St. Mary St. Mary le bone were married in this Church by Licence by and with the Consent of Louisa Bird Widow the natural and Lawful Mother of the said Minor this tenth day of September in the Year 1831
 by me R. Barlow Rector Minister
 This Marriage was solemnized between
 In the Presence of — Sir J. Newbolt —
 Louisa Bird —
 Hannah Newbolt — George Colvard

PARISH REGISTER ENTRY FOR THE MARRIAGE OF JAMES BARLOW HOY & MARIAN D'OYLEY BIRD 10th September 1831

only opened in 1830. James was helping to herald in the new Victorian age before it had begun.

James lost the general election in 1831 but on 10th September of that year he married a seventeen year old heiress twenty years his junior, Marian D'Oyley Bird with James's younger brother Reverend Robert Joseph Barlow as the officiating minister. Marian was the only daughter of Shearman Bird & Louisa Cotes Blenkinsop of Harold's Park, Essex and niece to Lady Newbolt, the wife of Sir John Henry Newbolt, Recorder of Winchester and MP for Bramber (Sussex). James was moving up in the social order. Having been made an Honorary Burgess of Southampton in 1830, he was made Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire in 1831, but the following year declined the invitation to become Sheriff of Hampshire.

Although James won his seat by a narrow margin in 1832 as a Conservative candidate, he lost it after accusations of voter impersonation, for which he offered no defence other than to say he had no personal knowledge of it or involvement in it. Perhaps Party supporters had arranged it without his knowledge, but as a defence it was ineffective and he was forced to stand down. He won by a majority in 1835 after a vastly expensive campaign in which he put himself forward as an upholder of ancient English rights. One of the major issues on which his campaign was based was the abolition of the secret ballot and he personally paid for lawyers to attend the polls in order to uphold the rights of those entitled to vote.

James did not stand for election in 1841 or 1842. However, he was not altogether inactive politically. In 1839, when the debate over the Corn Laws was at its height, he published "Manufacturers and Corn-growers; a Letter to the Public", which ran to three editions. The issue was the Importation Act 1815

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which imposed restrictions and import duties on imported grain in order to favour British producers by making imported grain too expensive. The result was to force up the price of bread, which was the staple food of the working classes. Politically, this became a dispute between the landed gentry and the urban industrialists: the landowners had a vested interest in making profit from the grain, while the industrialists resented having to pay a living wage to labourers who could not afford bread. Despite being a landowner himself, in March 1831 James had expressed concern that the Whig reform scheme would make future reform of the Corn Laws impossible through perpetuating the influence of landowners. His 1839 publication supported the corn tax.

In total, James Barlow Hoy served as a Member of Parliament for three terms: 1830-31, 1832-33 and 1835-1837. He declined to stand for election in 1837 on the grounds of his wife's ill health and took her to live at Naples, Italy. After 7 years of marriage, James & Marian's only child, Louisa Barlow Hoy, was born in Naples in 1838. It would seem that the family had a particular affinity with Naples as the couple adopted an Italian girl, Eleanor Maria Pera (anglicised to Ellen Mary) and Louisa later married a Tuscan aristocrat, the Marquis Guadagno Guadagni, there. However, it would appear from the state of his finances when his will was proved, that James also had financial reasons for living on the Continent. Politics was a costly business; his first election campaign had cost around £9,000 (around £0.75 million in today's terms) and James had fought and paid for five campaigns in five years at increasing cost, the 1835 campaign being particularly expensive. He seems also to have been a generous patron; he made annual allowances to his mother and all his siblings and in 1831 made a gift of books to the Southampton Mechanics Institution. At this time, most clergymen were appointed to livings by private benefactors and not having the right of patronage in any church which he could bestow on his brother, James was expected to buy a living for Robert. Robert chose to move away from Dublin, where he might have expected support from friends and college connections, and moved to Yorkshire where he was unknown. James bought the living for him. In 1835 he donated the land for the new district church of St James, West End. The original church (replaced in 1889) was built in the Victorian Gothic style with seats for 640, of which 390 were to be free. James's wife Marian laid the first stone on 18 April 1836. The inscription read: "The first stone of this church, built by subscription, on ground presented by J. Barlow Hoy esq., M.P. was laid on the 18th of April 1836. W.D. Harrison, Vicar, R. Scott and J. Gale, Churchwardens, J.W. Wild, Architect."

James Barlow Hoy's obituary in *The Gentleman's Magazine* consisted largely of a list of his votes, with just a short paragraph detailing his fatal accident, but the *Hampshire Advertiser* offers more detail. We are told that James was a keen ornithologist and was in the Pyrenees with his friend Captain Richard Meredith of the Royal Navy and four French gentlemen shooting birds for taxidermy specimens when he slipped in a ravine and his gun discharged, lacerating the major blood vessels in his left arm. Captain Meredith, a veteran of Trafalgar and experienced in dressing battle wounds, applied a tourniquet and James was carried down the cliff to the road. He felt strong enough to ride the three miles to the Hospice de Vieilles but the doctor did not arrive to dress the wound properly until the next morning. James died on Sunday 13th August 1843 within 5 hours of the dressing of his wound. He was around forty-nine years of age.

After his death the contents of his houses, leaseholds, stocks and shares were valued at probate to £18,000 gross (the equivalent of around £1.6 million in today's money), much of his estates were mortgaged to the value of £58,500 (around £5.2 million today) and had to be sold to pay his debts and were entered in the death duty register as "insolvent". His will had provided for his wife to choose either Thornhill Park or The Medina Hermitage on the Isle of Wight, their summer residence, commanding views from Newport to Niton. His mother was to live rent-free at Firgrove House (part of the Telegraph Lands, South Stoneham – more recently the Grosvenor Gardens development), with an annuity of £130 per year and his brother and three unmarried sisters were each to have an annual annuity of £100 (equivalent to £8,854 today). His adopted daughter was to receive the income from £5,000 capital upon reaching twenty-one or receive the

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whole sum upon mar-

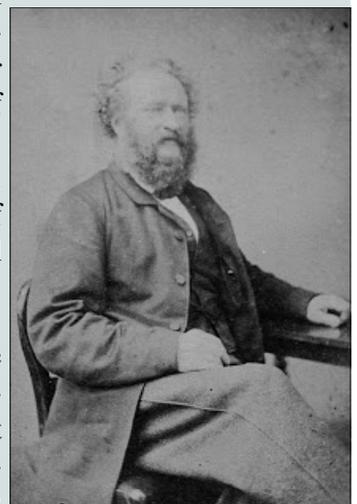
“MEDINA HERMITAGE, THE SEAT OF JAMES BARLOW HOY, ESQ” (An illustration from “Picture of the Isle of Wight” by George Brannon 1855)

der of his estate went to his daughter Louisa. The list of estates included that at Midanbury and several properties on the Isle of Wight including Cliff House at Blackgang, a house and lands at Milbrook (Carisbrooke) and three farms.

rying. The remain-

It is unclear whether any or all of his bequests were carried out, although it seems that Louisa did eventually inherit The Hermitage. Some properties proved hard to sell – Thornhill Park was put up for auction more than once – and in March 1845 Captain Meredith and Marian Hoy took out a Chancery Court case in an attempt to balance the claims of the various beneficiaries and safeguard Louisa’s portion. James’s brother Reverend Robert Joseph Barlow, one of the executors and trustees of his estate, lifelong remained bitter that the annuities for himself and his sisters had stopped and they did not receive the bequests for which they had hoped. Robert’s bitterness may have been exasperated by the fact that he was having a substantial new parsonage being built in the style that befits a gentleman and was alarmed that he was not coming into the money he had expected. His autobiographical novel, “Remarkable But Still True” published as late as 1872 under the pseudonym W. Fitzallen, places the blame on Marian and even alleges that she conspired with Richard Meredith, who murdered him by pushing him into the ravine. However, Marian had brought her own substantial income to the marriage and with three trustees (Robert himself among them) it seems unlikely that she could have mishandled James’s fortune. Other sources suggest that a rift had already developed between the brothers, possibly due to jealousy and the fiercely Protestant Robert’s disapproval of James’s choice of friends – Robert Burleigh Sewell belonged to High Church and John Richard Digby Beste was Roman Catholic.

At the age of twenty-nine, Marian was left a widow with two daughters to care for, a host of legal and financial problems and facing hostility from her husband’s disappointed and embittered siblings. It is not surprising that she sought security in marrying her husband’s trusted friend and Louise’s godfather, Richard Meredith at Leamington Priors, Warwickshire in 1844, even though he was around twenty-five years older than Marian. Following Richard’s death just three years later, Marian married another of James’s old friends, the poet and novelist John Richard Digby Beste (1806-1885) of Botleigh Grange, Hampshire at Marylebone in 1850. Marian died on 30th March 1885 in Firenze, Tuscany, a few months before her third husband.



**JAMES BARLOW HOY’S
BROTHER, REVEREND
ROBERT JOSEPH BARLOW
c.1865**

Courtesy of
(northyorkshirehistory.blogspot.co.uk)

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and passed the Labour Exam in 1918 at the age of twelve, then left school. The following year the Government changed the law and the school leaving age was raised to fourteen years. Thereafter she went into “service” with the Gater family from the age of thirteen for many years.

To be continued in the next edition of Westender....

SIR RICHARD CAYLEY, 14th CHIEF JUSTICE OF CEYLON

By Paula Downer

In the Old Burial Ground of St.James Church in West End lies the grave of Sir Richard Cayley, formerly Chief Justice of Ceylon and his wife Sophia Margaret Cayley. Who was Sir Richard Cayley and how did an eminent man from Lincolnshire end up being buried in West End ?



Richard Cayley, born 22nd April 1833, was the third son of Edward Cayley and Frances Twopenny of Stamford in Lincolnshire. His father Edward was Justice of the Peace of Stamford. Richard was educated locally then went on to St.John’s College in Cambridge where he became a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in 1855 then a Master of Arts (MA) in 1858.

In 1859 Richard Cayley was admitted to Lincoln’s Inn of Court in London, from here he was ‘Called to the Bar’ as a Barrister-in-Law.

By 1863, Richard Cayley was in Colombo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka since 1972), he was now Advocate of the Supreme Court. He met Sophia Margaret Wilson who was the daughter of the Honourable David Wilson. Sophia was born in Ceylon in 1844. David Wilson held a post in the Government of Ceylon as a Member of the Legislative Council (M.L.C.). In 1866 Richard and Sophia were married. They had five daughters and one son, born either in England or Ceylon :-

Gertrude Stephanie, born 1867 in Cobham, Surrey, England

Frances Sophia Henrietta, born c.1868 in Colombo, Ceylon

Hugh Charles born 1869 in Colombo, Ceylon

Adeline Matilda, born 1872 in Richmond, Surrey, England

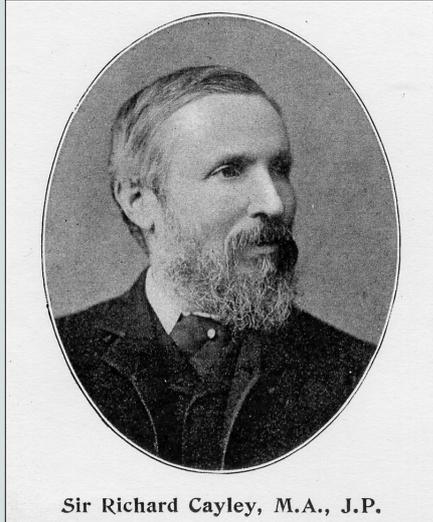
Dorothy Mary, born 1875 in Colombo, Ceylon

Gladys Eva, born 1877 in Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon

Richard Cayley climbed up the ranks of the Judiciary in Ceylon, becoming Deputy Queen’s Advocate in 1867, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court in 1873, 14th Queen’s Advocate in 1876 to then become Ceylon’s most important Judge as the 14th Chief Justice in 1879, thereby officially addressed as ‘My Lord’.

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Sir Richard Cayley, M.A., J.P.

Extracted from a large book of contemporary biographies
'Hampshire at the opening of the Twentieth Century'
by W.H. Jacob / W.T. Pike
Courtesy of Hampshire Record Office Ref. 62M91/1

Ferguson's Ceylon Directory 1883-84 lists Richard Cayley as the proprietor of 'Underbank' Cottage in the picturesque hills in the district of Nuwara Eliya, to the east of Colombo. Here he owned 28 acres of land, 15 of which was used to cultivate Cinchona. At this time, Cinchona and Tea were fairly new products for Ceylon due to the failure of Coffee production in recent years. Quinine, a drug used to combat malaria, was extracted from the bark of the Cinchona.

Richard Cayley was President of the Friend-in-Need Society in Colombo, a Society established in 1838 which still exists today (motto '*They shalt not suffer*'). The Society offered help to those in need such as shelter, education or assistance to pay marriage dowries.

The Friend-in-Need Society Working Society made clothing, such as men's shirts (with or without collar), white coats, night shirts, pajamas (sic), ladies' dresses, petticoats, bodices, chemises, nightgowns and baby linen. *Information regarding the Working Party shall be given by the ladies who have sent in their names as interested in the society and are ready to render assistance (sic)* - Mrs Cayley was one of these ladies.

Unfortunately, Richard Cayley had to retire from his duties in Ceylon due to ill health. To quote from Ferguson's Ceylon Directory 1883-84 :-

March 1882 - Chief Justice Cayley retires from Ceylon on long leave, in ill health.

June 1882 - Honourable Richard Cayley knighted by the Queen while at home on sick leave.

(i.e. Queen Victoria)

Windsor Castle, June 29, 1882.

THE Queen was this day pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on Richard Cayley, Esq., Chief Justice of the Island of Ceylon.

Extract from the 'London Gazette'

Sir Richard Cayley, Chief Justice, officially retired 16th January 1883 on a pension of 7031.25 rupees. For 11 years Sir Richard Cayley, lived with his family at Ryhall Hall in Rutland. Throughout his retirement he took on a number of roles as Justice of the Peace within the diocese of Northamptonshire, Rutland and Liberty (Soke) of Peterborough.

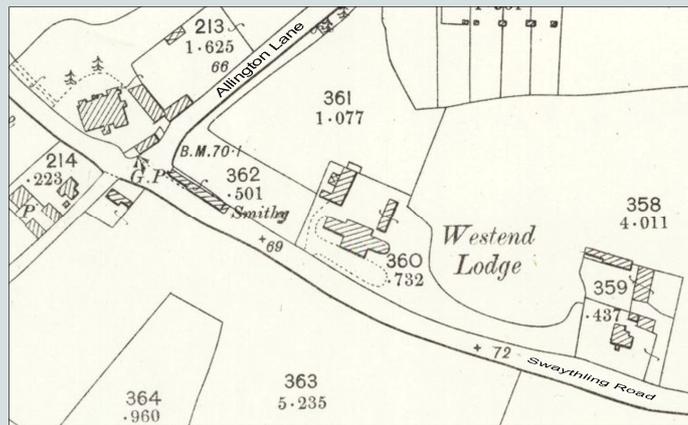
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Sir Richard Cayley was also a founder member of the Old Stamfordian Club which formed in 1889. The club still exists today, its aim to provide friendship and support for ex-pupils (Old Boys Club).

According to the 1901 Census for England, Sir Richard Cayley, his wife Sophia and two of their daughters, Dorothy and Gladys were living at 62, Clarendon Road in Kensington, London. Sir Richard is described as 'Retired Colonial Chief Justice'. Their servants included a Domestic Parlour maid and a Housemaid (both female, Norfolk born).

Sir Richard Cayley and his wife Sophia came to West End in 1904, they lived at Westend Lodge in Swaythling Road. Sir Richard Cayley died 5th April 1908, he is buried in the Old Burial Ground of St. James Church, West End. His wife Sophia Cayley moved away from West End, ending her days in Epsom, Surrey in June 1921.



Extract from a 1897 map showing Westend Lodge in Swaythling Road

A collateral descendant of Sir Richard Cayley's family, Michael Cayley, maintains a very informative web-site devoted to the Cayley family :-

<http://cayleyfamilyhistory.moonfruit.com/a-bankers-family/4561677416>

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE.....

March 1
ANGLO SAXON ART
Kay Ainsworth

April 5
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Plus
SOUTHAMPTON'S LAMMAS LANDS
Geoff Watts

May 3
THE MILLIONTH YANK
Jake Simpkin

June 7
FROM SILK TO SOAP - the trade & infrastructure of medieval Southampton
Dr. Andy Russel