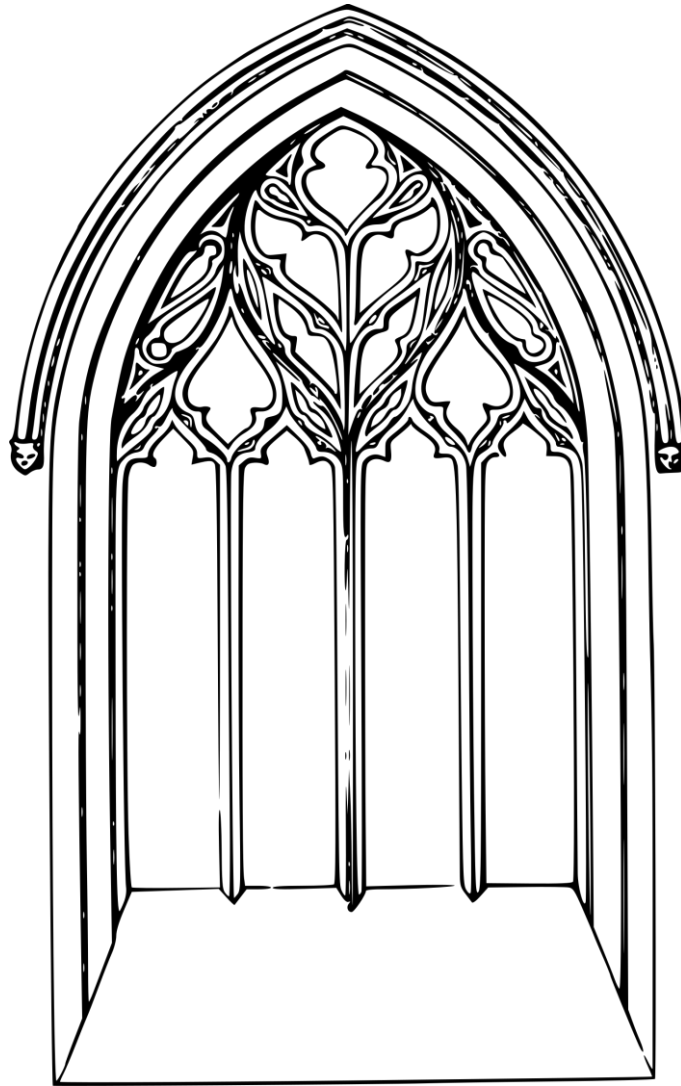


# WORSLEY WORTHIES

- volume 1 -



The funerals, obituaries and lives of  
some buried in the churchyard  
of St. Mark, Worsley

Paul R. Speakman 2017

## RICHARD KENNEDY BIRLEY (1845 - 1914)

**Richard Kennedy Birley** was born on 16 March 1845 in Pendleton, Manchester. The son of Richard Birley, a manufacturer, he was baptised on 11 Jun 1845 at St Saviour, Chorlton on Medlock, Lancashire. His mother was Amelie Garforth (née Kennedy).

He studied at Winchester College, and after leaving school, went into business in Manchester. The census of 1861 shows that Richard K. was the fifth child (and only son) of Richard, who, by that time, was a widower. This gentleman was a cotton manufacturer, magistrate of the county and Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire. Richard married Jane Garden Blaikie at Lewisham, Kent, on the 15th September 1870.

By 1881, he was living at Birch Mount, Bolton Road, Pendleton, with his wife Jane (aged 36) and two children, Sybil (9) and Richard (7). Richard Kennedy was also 36 and was an India Rubber Manager. Ten years later, in 1891, he was living at 94 Eccles Old Road, aged 46, still a manufacturer of India Rubber. Sybil was 19 and a second son, Stephen Archibald Yvon, was 7.

By 1901, he was living at 'Rivington', on Claremont Road in Pendleton. In 1911, he was a visitor with his wife, at the Windsor Hotel, Victoria Street, Westminster.

Records also show that he left Liverpool on 13 June 1913 bound for Quebec on the ship Empress of Ireland, of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, with a Miss Birley, aged 31. He arrived back at the port of Liverpool on 3 July 1913, having voyaged from Quebec, though travelling alone. Although the passenger list stated Miss Birley, aged 31, (she would have been 42!), it seems more plausible that it was his son Stephen Archibald, who became a member of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1913. (He would have been 30). Stephen took a BSc (Engineering) at Manchester University. After his naval service, he settled in Duncan B. C. He married Erica Pressey (daughter of Arthur Pressey) on 3 November 1914. Lieutenant Y. Birley (RCN) served from 13 May 1918 to 14 October 1919, and was at one time Officer Commanding HMCS Rainbow.

His wife Jane Garden died on 30 January 1925 at 3 Cranley Mansions, Gloucester Road, Kensington, and her effects (in excess of £14,000) were left to Sybil Garden Mitchell (daughter, and wife of Hugh Parker Mitchell) and Edward William Hornby Birley, solicitor.

He joined the 19th Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Corps in Manchester as a Captain in 1866. This appointment was promulgated in the London Gazette of 23 November 1866, but was dated from 14 November. In fact, he had commenced his connection with the Volunteer movement with the Winchester College Rifle Corps. Then, on 18 May 1869, the Gazette announced that he was to be a Lieutenant (Supernumerary) in the Artillery Regiment of the Royal Lancashire Militia. Just over a year later, on 23 August 1870, the following memorandum appeared:

*Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the resignation of the Commission held by Lieutenant Richard Kennedy Birley in the Artillery Regiment of Royal Lancashire Militia*

with effect from 6 February 1872. In fact, he was shortly to become Captain. Then, on 8 January 1875, it appeared that a further resignation of 15 December 1874 had been cancelled and, instead, he was promoted to the rank of Major in the 19th Lancashire Royal Garrison Artillery.

The Gazette published news, not only of Military Announcements, but also of Business. And so, on 9 February 1883, the following bulletin appeared:

*NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Thomas Hornby Birley, Hugh Birley, Herbert Birley, Arthur Birley,*

*Richard Kennedy Birley, Hugh Arthur Birley, and Hugh Cecil Birley, in the trade or business of India Rubber Manufacturers and Merchants, carried on in Cambridge-street, in the city of Manchester, and also in Saint Bride's-street, in the city of London, under the style or firm of Chas. Macintosh and Co., was dissolved, by effluxion of time, on the 81st day of March, 1882. And that all debts owing to or by us in respect of the said partnership will be received and paid by the said Thomas-Hornby Birley, Herbert Birley, Arthur Birley, Richard Kennedy Birley, Hugh Arthur Birley, and Hugh Cecil Birley, by whom the said business has, from the said 31st day of March, 1882, been carried on and will in future be carried on in Cambridge-street, Manchester aforesaid, and Saint Bride's-street, London aforesaid, respectively, under the same style or firm.—As witness our hands this 1st day of February, 1883.*

*Thomas Hornby Birley.*

*Hugh Birley.*

*Herbert Birley.*

*Arthur Birley.*

*Richard Kennedy Birley..*

*Hugh Arthur Birley.*

*Hugh Cecil Birley.*

On 13 December 1892, the Volunteer Officers' Decoration, (V. D.) conferred by the Queen, was awarded to R. K. Birley by Royal Warrant, whilst with the 7th Lancashire.

At the annual prize distribution of 1896, Gen. Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., G. C. B., G. C. M. G., Adjutant-General to the Forces, said of the Manchester Regiment: "*The Corps is thoroughly efficient, in excellent order, well drilled and well commanded,*" and the General's report for 1896 says: "*The General Officer Commanding considers this an exceedingly satisfactory report, and compliments Colonel Birley, V. D., on the state of the Corps.*" Furthermore, he was a nephew of the late Hugh Birley, Esq., who represented Manchester in Parliament for many years. He was Conservative in politics, and also a member of the Athenaeum Club in London.

On the 3 November 1908, his name re-appeared in the Gazette, when it announced that he was to be Lieutenant-Colonel with the honorary rank of Colonel, in the 2nd East Lancashire Brigade, with precedence as in the Volunteer Force. He moved from being Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Colonel from the 7th Lancashire Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers). The promotion was with effect from the 1st April 1908. Five weeks later, on 11 December 1908, Richard Kennedy Birley, of Gordon Lodge, Southport, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant Colonel Richard Kennedy Birley, of the County Palatine of Lancaster. And finally, on 6 April 1909, he was appointed Colonel and Honorary Colonel (Retired List), of the 2nd East Lancashire Brigade.

DEATH OF COLONEL R. K. BIRLEY, C. B.  
An Old Manchester Artillery Volunteer

*We hear with regret of the death of Colonel R. K. Birley, C.B., V. D., D. L.. honorary colonel of the Manchester Artillery, which took place yesterday at this home, Seedley Lawn, Pendleton.*

*One of the oldest volunteers in the country, Colonel Birley commanded the Manchester Artillery Brigade for very many years, and it was to a great extent through his exertions that shortly after the South African War the Brigade was armed with modern guns. At the same time the name of the Brigade was changed from Position Artillery to Field Artillery, and in the work of reorganisation which these changes involved Colonel Birley took an active interest.*

*When in 1901 he retired from the command - which he had held for a longer period than an officer is entitled to hold a command today - the Brigade was one of the most*

*efficient volunteer units in the country, and Colonel Birley received the decoration of the Companionship of the Bath.*

*Colonel Birley, who was 69 years old, was head of the firm Charles Macintosh and Co., manufacturers of rubber goods, Cambridge Street, Chorlton on Medlock, and a member of the distinguished Manchester family whose name he bore.*

*The funeral will take place at St. Mark's Church, Worsley, on Saturday at 12 noon. It will be a military funeral, and Colonel Magnus is arranging the details.*

[Local newspaper]

He died on 9 December 1914, at the age of 69, in Pendleton, Manchester, and was buried in the churchyard on 12 December. The grave reference number is 861.



**BIRLEY** Richard Kennedy of Cambridge-street **Manchester** and Seedley Lawn Pendleton **Lancashire** died 9 December 1914 at Seedley Lawn Probate **London** 26 January to Sybil Garden Birley spinster and Thomas Henry Davies Colley solicitor. Effects £58054 18s. 8d.

His death was announced in **The Times** of Thursday 10 December 1914, as follows:

*BIRLEY - on the 9th inst., at Seedley Lawn, Pendleton, Manchester, COLONEL R. K. BIRLEY, C. B., V. D., D. L., aged 69, elder son of the late Richard Birley, J. P., D., L., of Manchester. Inquiries regarding the funeral to John Bye and Co., 46 King Street West, Manchester.*

The funeral took place at church on Saturday 12 December at 12 noon. The funeral was a military one; and instead of the coffin being carried to the burial place on a gun carriage, the coffin was conveyed to the church on a Darley car, covered with the Union Jack. The funeral procession consisted of the band and escort and trumpeters of the Manchester Artillery, together with a detachment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Brigade. The six pall bearers were all officers of the same rank. The NCO's escorted the coffin from the roadway to the church between two files of men, with their arms reversed. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Knox), the Rev. C. B. Hulton (Vicar), accompanied by the Revs. H. E. Alderson and J. H. Smith.

SGT. RICHARD HALL WILLIAMS (1819 - 1910)

**Richard Hall Williams** was born to Richard and Elizabeth Williams, of Abbey Street, Bath, and baptised at Bath, St. James, on 17 October 1819. His father was a tailor. Richard Hall enlisted in the 17th Lancers in London in November 1843, aged 22 years. He served in Ireland during the Famine Riots (1846 - 1847) and advanced to the rank of Corporal in June 1848, and then to Sergeant in September 1851. He rode in the *Charge of the Light Brigade* at Balaclava, on 25 October 1854, in addition to being present at Alma (20 Sept. 1854), Inkermann (5 Nov. 1854), and in the operations before Sebastopol (1854-55). During the charge, referred to above, he was suffering from a painful boil on his nose, a fact to which he later referred:

*'... My visage was so fearsome that the Russians even held their fire. But the pain was so great that on the following day I had to report to the Regimental Surgeon - a step not to be lightly taken then ... Two orderlies held me and I received a smart buffet on the nose, which dispersed the fluid ...'*

Curiously, his name is not on the appropriate roll for the 'Balaclava' clasp, but research undertaken by E. J. Boys and A. Sewell confirms that *'from all the evidence ... there can be no doubt that he did ride,'* a view with which Lummis and Wynn entirely agree in *Honour the Light Brigade*. Williams gained promotion to Troop Sergeant-Major in February 1855, embarked for India aboard the S.S. Great Britain in October 1857 and saw action in the Mutiny, albeit in the latter stages of the conflict between December 1858 and January 1859, when he was present at the engagements at Zeerapore and Baroda. He was subsequently awarded the Medal without a clasp.

Williams was discharged at Brighton in November 1867, having been awarded his Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medals earlier in the same year. Afterwards he became a Troop Sergeant-Major in the Worsley Troop of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry and in 1870 he became sub-postmaster in Worsley. He retired from the Yeomanry in 1877, having been given permission to carry on his duties for eight years beyond regulation time. He was presented with a sword of honour which is inscribed "A token of esteem and respect for his uniform conduct as a soldier and a gentleman." He also taught drill to the school children on the Ellesmere estate until 1893. He became a well respected member of the village community and he and his wife Jane worshipped at the local church. In the Worsley Parish Church magazine of the time, there is a note that he often recited Tennyson's poem at tea parties and events with feeling and emotion. A keen mason, and a member of the Balaclava Commemoration Society from 1879, Williams signed the Loyal Address in 1887 and attended the Annual Dinners in 1892, 1894, 1895, 1899 and 1908. Awarded his Meritorious Silver Medal (M.S.M.) in April 1884, he would have "forfeited" his original L.S. & G.C. Medals at that time, but just when he received his later impressed issue remains unknown.

Williams died at Eccles on 7 July 1910, aged 91 years, and was buried in the churchyard at Worsley, where he had been a sides-man for over 20 years. There was a large presence of Freemason and military personnel and a wreath was received from T. H. Roberts. he left a widow and five children. Remarkably, as late as the 1970s, one of Williams' sons, Clement, was still living in Worsley. He died on 10 April 1974, aged 100 years, and was buried in the same plot as his father.

[reproduced from **FORGOTTEN HEROES: The Charge of the Light Brigade** - by Roy Dutton(eBook:books,google.co.uk) - with amendments]

His medals eventually went to auction:

Date of Auction: 29th September 2008  
Sold for £12,000  
Estimate: £6,000 - £7,000

**Five: Troop Sergeant-Major R. Williams, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, late 17th Lancers, who rode in the famous charge with a painful boil on his nose and wore a scarf round his face**

**for protection: nonetheless, his 'visage was so fearsome that the Russians even held their fire'**

CRIMEA 1854-56, 4 clasps, Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann, Sebastopol (Troop Sgt.-Mjr., 17th Lancers), officially impressed naming; INDIAN MUTINY 1857-59, no clasp (Troop Sergt., 17th Lancers); ARMY L.S. & G.C., V.R., 3rd issue, small letter reverse (750 T. Serjt.-Maj., 17th Lancers), later officially impressed naming; ARMY MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, V.R. (Tp. Sergt. Major, (Late) 17th Lancers), officially engraved naming; TURKISH CRIMEA 1855, Sardinian die, unnamed, *the first with several unofficial rivets and the fourth with minor official correction to rank, contact marks and edge bruising, generally about very fine and a rare group (5) £6000-7000*

The following information is from the *Eccles and District Masons* group:

It could be said that the Lodge had its beginnings by an order issued from the Colonel-in-Chief of the 17th Lancers stationed in India in 1867. Sgt. Major Williams, a Crimean war veteran and survivor of the 'Valley of Death' charge at Balaclava, requested to be discharged in that country with his family, but the Colonel insisted that his friend, the Earl of Ellesmere, required an experienced soldier as an instructor to take charge of the Duke of Lancaster's own yeomanry in Worsley.

Sgt. Major Williams, together with his family, duly took up residence at 61 Barton Road in Worsley Village, opposite the old limekiln, to drill the pupils of St. Mark's school and also became the Post Master, a position he held for thirty years.

Already a Freemason, Williams joined Bridgewater Lodge No. 1213, subsequently becoming Worshipful Master and eventually, together with Bro. William Bowden decided to form a new Lodge nearer home. The idea of having Lord Ellesmere as the first Worshipful Master, so giving the new Lodge a high status, was put into action and Williams approached the Vicar of Worsley, the Earl of Musgrave, Lord Ellesmere's brother-in-law, to make the request. His Lordship agreed, but there was a snag, he was not in the Craft but was subsequently Initiated into United Lodge No. 1629, a special Lodge in London for the gentry, where he served a brief spell as Warden and Master so qualifying him for the position as Worshipful Master of the New Lodge.

So, on 17th February 1880, a bitterly cold day of fog, frost and snow at the Court House in Worsley, the Lodge was consecrated. The ceremony was carried out by a relative of Lord Ellesmere, the Provincial Grand Master Bro. Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie and the Earl was installed as Worshipful Master. Among the congratulations sent was a telegram from no less a person than the Prince of Wales.

W. Bro. Richard Hall Williams subsequently became the second Worshipful Master with William Bowden becoming the seventh. Two of Williams' sons G.C. Williams and C.H. Williams followed in their father's footsteps becoming the thirty-second and fortieth Worshipful Masters, an outstanding service given by one family to the Lodge. one family to the Lodge.

A tradition formed by Clem Williams in 1953, on his Golden Jubilee in the Craft, was the presentation of a silver-drinking goblet, which had been given to his father by his military comrades when he retired, to the Lodge. The goblet is used by the reigning Master during his year in the Chair and is handsomely engraved and includes the skull and crossbones 'Death or Glory' motto of the 17th Lancers.

Meetings continued to be held at the Court House for some sixty-six years, an envied venue with a sprung floor and a huge fireplace, essential for the winters in those days. The hostelry across the road, nicknamed 'The Grapes', provided the Social Board up until 1903 when it was demolished to make way for a new gateway to the Earl's residence.

In 1946, however, the Lodge voted to leave the Court House along with Walkden Lodge, who by then had also taken up residence there, and move to Eccles Masonic Hall where we have been very

comfortable to this day.

The foregoing is just a brief account of the early days of Worsley Lodge. For a full and very interesting history, there is a book by Bro. Harry W. Charlton, *'The First Hundred.'*

Richard Hall Williams, late Sgt. Major 17th Lancers, died on 7 July, 1910, aged 91 years. A Crimean Balaclava & Indian Mutiny Veteran, he was buried in the churchyard on 11 July 1910 by the Rev. J. Charles Catlin, Curate (1907 - 1911).

He and his wife Fanny Jane had 8 children.

Laura F. c1858. Born Ireland.

Elizabeth Clarissa. Born 20 March 1861. Baptised Secunderabad, Madras, India. 3 April 1861.

Emma Marian. Born 9 September 1862. Baptised Secnderebad, Madras, India. 25 Sept 1862.

Charles Henry. c1865. Born India.

Harriett E. Born Aldershot. c1867.

Richard James. Baptised St. Mark's, 19 July 1868.

Florence Mabel. Baptised St. Mark's, 27 November 1870.

Maude Evelyn. Baptised St. Mark's, 17 November 1872.

George Clement. Baptised St. Mark's, 30 June 1874.



In loving memory of **RICHARD HALL WILLIAMS**, late Sergt. Major, 17th Lancers, died July 7th 1910, aged 91 yrs, Crimean, B a l a c l a v a & Indian M u t i n y V e t e r a n Also **FANNY JANE** wife of the above who died December 27 t h 1912 aged 81 yrs

**RICHARD JAMES** son of R.H. & F.J.WILLIAMS of Worsley who died January 10th 1885 aged 16 yrs & 6 mths Also, **CHARLES H. WILLIAMS** son of above born 19th May 1864 died 30th December 1951

Also, **GEORGE CLEMENT WILLIAMS** son of R.H. and F.J. Williams who died 10th April 1974 in his 100th year Also, of **MARIAN GREENE** who died January 27th 1890 aged 80 yrs. (Z2360)

#### **Manchester Evening News - 21 October 2004**

The great-grandson of a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade attended a memorial service yesterday after a successful M.E.N. appeal to trace him.

The service, at St. Mark's Church, Worsley, celebrated the life of Troop Sgt. Major Richard Hall Williams.

The infamous charge came during the 1854 Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War.

Immortalised in the poem by Lord Alfred Tennyson, 673 men rode into the Valley of Death. The manoeuvre resulted in 272 men killed or wounded.

Troop Sgt. Major Williams went on to serve in India before moving to Worsley before taking up a post as drill sergeant in the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.

He was also postmaster at Worsley for 30 years and a sidesman at St. Mark's Church for 35 years. He died in 1910 aged 91, a respected and influential member of the community.

Although his two sons went on to become leading members of Worsley Masonic Lodge, which he founded, the family moved away from the area some years ago....

Members of the 17th Lancers in 1850's uniform and representatives of the Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry attended the service.

The church bell tolled in memory of all those who died and a trumpeter from the Greater Manchester Police band sounded the Last Post.

## Charge of a Mason

### Richard Williams, a Lancashire Mason, took part in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade, as John Jackson discovered

This year sees the 150th anniversary of one of the most famous incidents in the history of the British army - the Charge of the Light Brigade near Balaclava in the Crimea on 25th October 1854.

Immortalised in the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson it is also seen as one of the most foolhardy ventures in British military history, that led to the Light Brigade wrongly charging the Russian guns.

One of those who took part in the Charge and lived to tell the tale was Troop Sergeant-Major Richard Hall Williams of the 17th Lancers, an ardent Freemason.

During the Charge Williams was suffering from a boil on his face, around which he had wound a muffler. He originated from Bath, where his father was the proprietor of a tailoring business providing finery for the gentry.

His Masonic beginnings have not been discovered, although it is known that he was initiated in Kent into a military Lodge, as was common practice among soldiers at the time.

However, Worsley Lodge No. 1814 in the Province of West Lancashire, of which the old soldier was a founder member, has recently discovered the whereabouts of his ceremonial sword.

The sword is on loan from the Salford Museum to the Museum of Lancashire in Preston. Salford Museum is holding an exhibition of the battle during the year.

The Masonic career of Richard Williams is largely tied up with Worsley Lodge, where he remained a member for 30 years, followed by both his sons to maintain a family connection of 144 years, including all three being Master.

Williams, who left the army on pension in 1867 after 24 years of service, had a colourful military career which saw him involved in many historical events.

He served in Ireland during the potato famine riots, was two years in the Crimea, seeing action at Alma, Inkerman, Sebastopol and Balaclava. He later went to India where he was involved in the Indian Mutiny.

On the long sea journey to India he had made a study of the Hindustani language from books he had purchased, and on arrival was appointed as quartermaster as a result.

When he was discharged, a silver goblet was presented to him by the non-commissioned officers of his regiment. The goblet inscription was later updated by his sons, who added a list of his Masonic achievements.

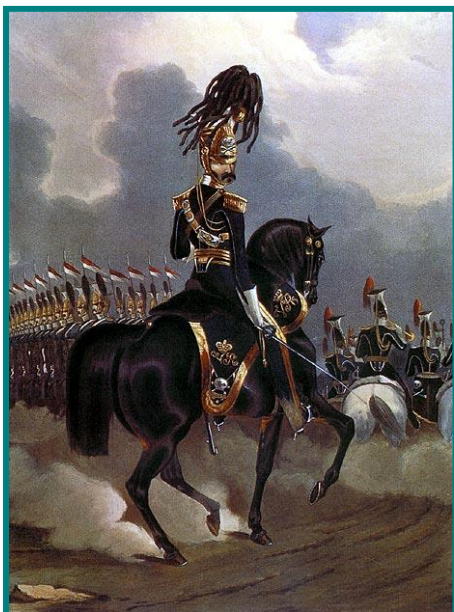
Sergeant-Major Williams wanted to be discharged in India as he wished to stay in that country, but this request was refused. However, his colonel, the Duke of Cambridge, recommended him to the Earl of Ellesmere for the job of instructor to the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeoman Cavalry, which he commenced, taking up residence in Worsley in October 1867.

In doing so he took over from another army veteran, Sergeant-Major Will Adams, who had fought at the Battle of Waterloo.

Then Williams was offered another job in addition to instructor - that of Worsley postmaster, a role he was to undertake for 36 years, eventually handing over to his youngest son, George.

Retirement was not for Richard Williams, who initiated his youngest son George in December 1903, conducted his ceremony of passing in January 1904 and raised him to a Master Mason at the Installation meeting the following month.

[mqmagazine.co.uk - issue 8 January 2004]



(left: a 17th Lancer. Below, the charge of the 17th lancers.)





## JOSEPH EVANS - Botanist (1803 - 1874)



This striking pink polished granite memorial stands at the south west corner of the Church, near to the path leading to the west door. It is immediately visible to the congregation as they leave the Church, just to their left. It was bought by public subscription and was erected over the grave of **Mr. Joseph Evans**, Botanist, of Boothstown.

Three announcements had appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* in the summer of 1874, in which it was reported:

*THE JOSEPH EVANS MEMORIAL FUND. At a public meeting, held on Saturday, June 27, at Worsley, it was resolved to erect by public subscription a lasting MONUMENT over the Grave of the late Mr. JOSEPH EVANS, Botanist, of Boothstown, Worsley.*

*Subscriptions will be thankfully received by Edward Kirk, Advertiser Office, Eccles, chairman; S. Partington, Leigh and Tyldesley Journal Offices, vice-chairman; C. C. Barker, Boothstown, treasurer; Thomas Cockshout, Boothstown, Honorary Secretary; and by any of the members of the Memorial Committee.*

*Joseph Evans was born into a working-class family in 1808. He acquired an interest in plants from his father, William, who was a keen botanist and herbal doctor. Joseph worked as a handloom weaver, and moved to Boothstown, near Worsley, after his marriage in 1827. He had a deep interest in botany and was an active member in a number of local botanical societies. He also continued his father's work as a herbal doctor, and 'Doctor Evans,' instantly recognisable in his top hat, became known for treating ordinary working people. His reputation as a herbalist eventually reached beyond Boothstown. Following his funeral in June 1874, a public subscription was organised to provide the 'Doctor' with a suitable memorial.*

[copied from **Public Sculpture of Greater Manchester** by Terry Wyke and Harry Cocks]

On the left hand side of the pedestal are inscribed the words: *Plants I love and cherish. In them the wisdom and goodness of the creator are manifest.* On the right hand side, are the words: *This memorial was erected by public subscription as a tribute of respect and esteem;* and to the rear: *He bringeth forth grass for the battle, and green here for the service of men. Psalm LIV.*

The memorial was erected on 12 June 1875 and measures 2.74 metres in height, by 86cm. square.

Joseph Evans was, in fact, born on 5 July 1803, to William and Mary of Tyldesley, and was baptised at St. Stephen's, Astley, on 30 July 1803. He first married Martha Smith at St. Mary's, Eccles, on 26 February 1826. Their one and only child, a daughter Ellen, was baptised on 28 April 1827 at St Stephen's, Astley, and Joseph's occupation was given as surgeon. Then, on 22 April 1839, he again married at St. Mary's, Eccles, this time to Jane Aldred. Joseph was again given as a surgeon but also a widower - his first wife Martha having been buried at St. Stephen's, Astley, on 18 April 1834, aged 28.

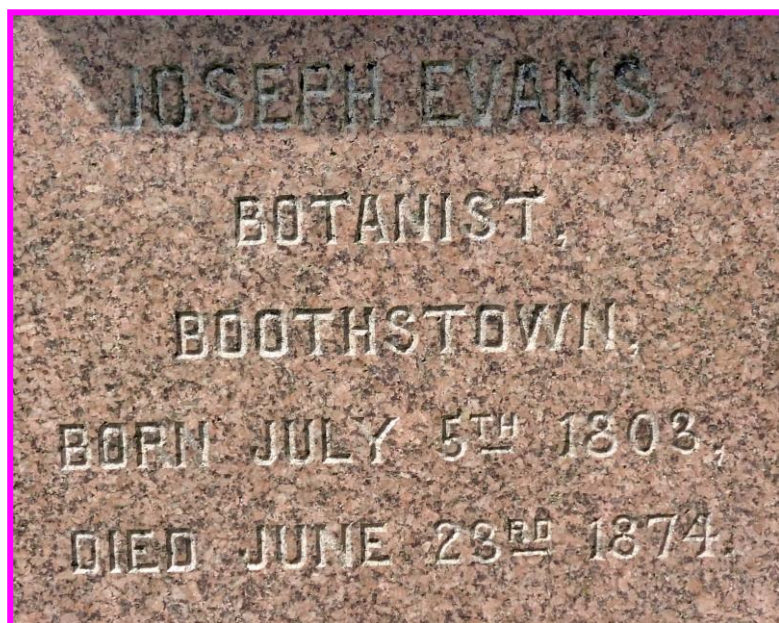
His profession/job title is of interest. At the time of both marriages, he was listed as a surgeon. In the census of 1841, he was shown to be a surgeon (aged 35+), living with his wife, Jane (25+), daughter Ellen (14) and Mary (75+), presumably his mother. Then, in 1851, he was aged 47, with his wife Jane (38) and daughter Ellen (24). However, he was now said to be a silk weaver, just like his daughter. By 1861, now 57, he was a botanical instructor! Jane was shown to come from Bedford, though a resident

in Eccles at the time of her marriage in 1839. In the census of 1871, the last one before his death, he was a botanical instructor-cum-professor!! His wife Jane was still with him.

As a young boy, he would be taken to the local botanical meetings by his father, *'walking every inch of the way, there and back.'* His father William was known as a renowned botanist who travelled thousands of miles in the quest for plants. Joseph was *'his father's constant companion in the fields.'* Joseph Evans *'was taught, when no more than ten years old, how to contemplate the immortal beauty of nature.'*

It has been said that he knew the contents of every wood and pond within twenty miles of his home. The number of plants once counted in his neat, small garden exceeded three hundred. Evans died on 23 June 1874 and he was followed to his grave in the churchyard by more than a thousand people, including one hundred and seventy young children. It was written that *'the cottage itself wherein he resided was clean and bright as a sea-shell just washed by the waves.'* In stature, he was *'tall and thin, a lofty forehead conferring a dignity upon his appearance which invariably attracted strangers.'*

Manchester had a Botanical Society as early as 1830 and Joseph Evans undertook quite extensive tours of parts of the country. He went twice to Westmorland where it is believed he addressed a gathering of over a thousand people. Because of his wide interest in botany he became known as a herbal dealer, and he drew crowds of ordinary people to his cottage on Sundays, some of whom had walked several miles for treatment. He too would frequently walk a number of miles to see a patient. He believed absolutely in natural cures. Indeed, at about this time, there were many men in Lancashire acclaimed as botanists or entomologists.



(A portrait of a 19th century botanist, possibly thought to be Joseph Evans)

A very interesting piece of research entitled **SCIENCE IN THE PUB: ARTISAN BOTANISTS IN EARLY NINETEENTH-CENTURY LANCASHIRE** gives an insight into the study of working-class science. *"Historians have noted the involvement of artisans and operatives in natural history as it became increasingly popular in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. That manual workers could participate in this area has been attributed to the accessibility of nature and natural productions; the gathering of specimens, it seems to be assumed, required little expertise. Amusing accounts of working men using Latin names while speaking in broad dialect are quoted, but little attention has been paid to how or why these men acquired this terminology in the first place.... This essay sets out to investigate the practice of science from a working-class point of view. The artisan botanists of Lancashire provide an unusually rich source for such a study."*

Writers in the mid-nineteenth century "*associated the working-men naturalists with the pastoral and the home in order to promote, through exemplary biography, the moral benefits of natural history and its suitability for one's hours of leisure.*" It was felt that pursuits such as natural history might tempt the working classes away from the pub. The Sunday pub meetings were a feature of the associations and this conflicted with the strong temperance and Sabbatarian movements. This conflict clearly troubled the Earl of Mulgrave, vicar of the parish.

The Manchester Guardian of 28 June 1875 wrote:

#### THE WORSLEY BOTANISTS AND THE EARL OF MULGRAVE

*At the annual meeting of the Boothstown, Tyldesley, and Atherton Botanical Societies, held on Saturday, the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave's caricature of a botanist as one who collected plants on Sunday mornings to make it the occasion for a debauch in the evening at some public-house, recently delivered at Worsley Church on the inauguration of the memorial to the celebrated botanist Joseph Evans, was warmly combated. Mr. Hampson said he thought their Sunday meetings smacked less of debauchery than the aristocratic weekday dinners, which did not break up until four or five in the morning. - Mr. Caldwell remarked that botanists found pleasure in looking for plants which the aristocracy were too ignorant to notice. A society like theirs, which had a library of 160 volumes on entomology and botany, purchased from the subscriptions of working men, ought not to be branded as debauchees. - Mr. Burton held that Lord Mulgrave's remarks were kindly meant, the caricature being as permissible as the one which branded parsons as fox hunters. - Another speaker said the Earl's ignorance of Lancashire working men might be an excuse for him. Botanists could worship God in nature quite as effectually as His Lordship could in church.*

A week later, 2 July 1875, Correspondence in the same paper sought to support the Earl's view. A letter, dated 30 June, from Benjamin Carrington, M.D., F.R.S.E. was published.

This letter sought to redress the balance of the argument in favour of Lord Mulgrave. The writer pointed out (1) that the address was "one of the most earnest and touching tributes ever offered to the memory of a working man." (2) In his address, Mulgrave said he had heard of men who "desecrated the pure science of botany by their unworthy conduct - men who devoted the earlier part of the Sabbath to the collection of wild flowers, and met in the evening at some public-house, often making botany the pretext for debauchery." (3) He called upon the speakers to denounce those who besmirched the good name of botanists, and to say that those men "deserved all that was said by the Earl." (4) Since working men had more free time on Saturdays, "no earnest botanist need complain of want of time for the pursuit of his hobby." (5) Finally, he joined the Earl in wondering why "those who, professing to know more than their fellows of the wonderful works of God, [cannot] find time to devote at least some portion of His holy day to the worship He has ordained, " the argument being that it is not impossible for a man to be a good Christian and a good botanist also.

As a dénouement to the whole episode, on 11 September 1876, the paper printed an article under the headline ABOLITION OF SUNDAY MEETINGS OF BOTANISTS. It reported that, following the events of the previous summer, the botanists had converted themselves into a joint-stock company, to be called the Atherton and Tyldesley Botanical Association. They had since bought a piece of land, about two acres, with a small cottage on the periphery. This was to become the residence of one of the members, with a library (about 190 volumes) and a meeting room. No meetings would be held on a Sunday.

## JOHN NEWBERY BOSCHETTI (1802 - 1880)

As you enter the churchyard from the church hall via the gate, look immediately to your left and the first gravestone, which lies flat, bears the name of **John Newbery Boschetti**. Also in the grave are his widow, Agnes Freeland Boschetti (1816 - 1890), and his sister-in-law, Catherine Waddell Boyd Synge (1832 - 1892), widow of Major Robert Follett Synge. Some of these names are a little unusual and have prompted some research.

John Maria Boschetti Newbery Boschetti, of Orchard House, Ellesmere Park, Eccles, was buried in the churchyard on 27 September 1880, aged 78. His widow, Agnes Freeland Newbery Boschetti, was buried at St. Mark's on 13 March 1890, aged 73. They had, in total, 9 children - 1 son and 8 daughters. They were:

William Muter N Boschetti 1846 - ? (St.Lucia)

Fanny F Newbery Boschetti 1847 - 1931(M 'cr. Cath.) m. **Leadley Brown on 27/9/1870 at Eccles.**

Mary Boschetti 1848 - (Broughton) m. **Frank Birch on 27/11/1873 at Eccles.**

Catherine Freeland Newbury Boschetti 1850 - (Eccles) m. **Henry Birch on 21/8/1872 at Eccles.**

Emily Marsden Newbury Boschetti 1851 - 1924 (Eccles) d. **30/7/1924 at Paris. Spinster, aged 73.**

Anna Hulme Newbury Boschetti 1853 -1941 (Eccles) d. **2/4 1941 at Brentford, Spinster, aged 87.**

Jane Newbury Boschetti 1855 - 1932 (Eccles) d. **1/4/1932 at Cheltenham. Spinster, aged 87.**

Isabel Laura 1857 - 1941 (Eccles) m. **Francis Arthur Stanley Ffolkes on 27/9/1893 at West Ken.**

Ida N Boschetti 1860 - (Eccles) m. **Philip Birch on 16/2/1881 at Eccles.**

The latter 6 daughters were all baptised at St. Mary's, Eccles.

The early life of John Newbery has proved to be very interesting, though he has proved to be a little elusive at times. He was born in Gibraltar in 1802. His full name was John Maria Boschetti Newbery Boschetti, and at each of his daughters baptisms and marriages he signed his name that way. He was, in fact, the godson of Giovanni Maria Boschetti, (1758?-1834) of Gibraltar, who arrived there from Lombardy, via Genoa, and became a wealthy businessman. It is believed that Giovanni never married, though it was thought that he may have had an illegitimate daughter, Juana. In his will, there was the proviso that should this lady die without issue, the trust which he had set up for her would pass on to his godson, John Maria Boschetti Newbery. In due course, at his death in 1834, all his wealth passed to his godson, John Newbery. A truly fascinating account of Giovanni and the Boschetti inheritance can be found on [www.gibraltar-intro.blogspot.com/2012/03/chapter-3-1784-giovanni-maria-boschetti.html](http://www.gibraltar-intro.blogspot.com/2012/03/chapter-3-1784-giovanni-maria-boschetti.html).

John Newbery next appeared in St. Lucia, where, on 3 February 1845, he married, by special license, Miss Agnes Freeland Miller at the residence of her uncle, the Hon. Wm. Muter. They were married by the Rev. Dr. Goldstien. Their first child, a son William Muter, was born on the island the following year. By the time their first daughter was born (Fanny Newbery on 14 February 1847)), they were clearly back in the U. K., since she was then baptised at Manchester Cathedral on 22 May 1847.

In the *London Gazette* of 5 July 1859, the following notice appeared:

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, James Whitehead and John Maria Boschetti Newbery Boschetti, as Merchants, under the firm of Whitehead and Boschetti, or otherwise, has expired by effluxion of time.—Witness the hands of the parties this 30th day of June. 1859.

*James Whitehead.*

*John M. B. N. Boschetti. Gazette 5 July 1859*

As for Agnes Freeland Miller, she was the daughter of David (Barrister) and Henrietta Laura Millar, and was born on 27 May 1816, in Kirkcudbright. Her uncle, the Hon. William Muter, was a major

merchant and slave-owner on St Lucia. He appeared in London in 1837, but was apparently resident on St. Lucia again in the 1840s. William Muter and at least three of his brothers (Peter, Basil and James), were sons of Rev. Robert Muter and Agnes Freeland, of Kirkcudbright, and were all active in St Lucia prior to Emancipation.

Curiously, there is no trace of the family in the census of 1851, even though they had 2 daughters born here close to that year. However, in 1861, some of them were living at Orchard House, half Edge Lane, Eccles. Agnes (40) was the wife of a Drysalter. William (15, born St. Lucia) was a clerk in a shipping office. Mary (12), Emily (8), Jeanie (5), Laura (3) and Ida (10mo.) were also there. Fanny Fraser (14) was at Hanley Castle, Worcs., with her aunt, Catherine Waddell B. Synge (28), a widow.

In 1871, John has reappeared (69) as a Retired Merchant, living at Prioory Terrace, Lower Allithwaite, Lancs., with Agnes (55, b. Kirkcudbright), Catherine (21, b. Eccles), Laura (14, b. Eccles), Ida (11, b. Eccles), Fanny Fraser Brown (23, b. Broughton, and m. to Leadley 25). Emily (19) and Anna (17) were scholars at Wellington House, in Great Malvern, Worcs.

By the census of 1881, John had died and was buried in the churchyard. Agnes had moved to Helsby Hall, New Road, Helsby, and was now 64. With her were Emily (29), Anna (27), Agnes (3) a granddaughter, and Catherine Synge (48), a visitor, who was also her sister.

In 1901, Mary (née Boschetti, 48) Birch was living at 18 St. John Street, Lichfield, now a widow. With her were her 2 sisters, Anna (46) and Jane (40), together with 2 sons.

In 1911, Anna (57) and Jane (55) were living (both single) with 3 domestic staff at 2 The Grove, Woodchurch Road, Oxton, Birkenhead.

Emily (aged 61) left Liverpool on 11 June 1913 bound for Lisbon, Portugal. With her was Mr. Leadley Brown (57, former husband of Fanny). His occupation was an estate agent.

A quick glance at the names of the 9 children and some of their brief details will show that 3 daughters (Mary, Catherine and Ida) married into the same Birch family, and that each marriage was held at St. Mary, Eccles. The father of the 3 boys (Frank in '73, Henry in '72 and Philip in '81) was George Birch, a solicitor. Each one of the boys had a professional qualification.

Isabel married Sir Francis Arthur Stanley ffolkes, 5th Bt., son of Reverend Henry Edward Browne ffolkes and Sophia Louisa Everard, on 27 September 1893, at St. Andrew, West Kensington. His occupation then was Clerk in Holy Orders. She died on 16 April 1941. From 27 September 1893, her married name became ffolkes. Their son, Sir Edward John Patrick Boschetti ffolkes, 6th Bt., usually went by his middle name of Patrick. He was educated at Gresham;s School, Letchworth, and then at Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Berkshire. He succeeded to the title of 6th Baronet ffolkes, of Hillington, Norfolk on 19 October 1938.

Isabel's husband, Francis, was Honorary Chaplain to H.M. Queen Victoria between 1900 and 1901. He was Honorary Chaplain to H.M. King Edward VII between 1901 and 1903. He was Chaplain-in-Ordinary to H.M. King Edward VII between 1903 and 1910. He was invested as a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (M.V.O.) in 1908. He was the Rector at Hillington, Norfolk, England. He became Chaplain-in-Ordinary to H.M. King George V between 1910 and 1936. He fought in the First World War, where he was mentioned in despatches. He held the office of Justice of the Peace (J.P.) He succeeded to the title of 5th Baronet ffolkes, of Hillington, Norfolk on 15 December 1930. He was Chaplain-in-Ordinary to H.M. King Edward VIII in 1936. He was Chaplain-in-Ordinary to H.M. King George VI in 1937.

Catherine Waddell Boyd Synge was a sister of Agnes Freeland (née Miller) and was married to Major Robert Follett Synge. In the census of 1861, she was a widow (28), living at Hanley Castle, Upton-

upon- Severn, Worcs., with her son Robert Follett Foster Synge, born Eccles, and aged 4. Also with her was her niece, Fanny Fraser Newbery *Barebette [sic]* (14). Fanny herself married Leadley Brown at St. Mary, Eccles, on 27 September 1870.

Briefly, it is possible that she had married Robert Follett Synge on 12 March 1855.

Major Robert Follett Synge served in India. In his report of 17 December 1858, Brigadier MacDuff, writing from Camp Answar, wrote of his prompt arrival the day before, in pursuit of a large rebel force. Late that afternoon, he encountered that force and reported the encounter, which contained the following:

Her Majesty's 43d Light Infantry, led by Major Synge, crossed the river supported by the 19th Regiment Madras Native Infantry under Colonel Nott, and pursued the enemy, killing and wounding several, till night prevented any further advance. The force returned to camp at 10 o'clock P.M., without loss, having marched during the day above thirty miles.

Nothing could exceed the good conduct and willingness with which the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 43d Light Infantry, as well as the native officers, non-commissioned officers and sepoy's of the 19th Regiment Madras Native Infantry, performed so long and arduous a march.

I beg to return my best thanks to Colonel Nott, commanding 19th Madras Native Infantry, and to Major Synge, commanding detachment 43d Light Infantry, as also to the officers mentioned in the margin, who rendered me every assistance in their power.

I have, &c

J. MACDUFF, Brigadier

Commanding 2d Brigade, S. F. Division

In a further report, dated 7 April 1859 (published 25 July), Major-General G. C. WHITLOCK stated:

The Brigadier speaks highly of the conduct of the troops, and mentions the names of Captain Clifton, Commanding Detachment 12th Lancers; Captain Mayne, Commanding Detachment 3rd Irregular Cavalry; Major Synge, Commanding Detachment Her Majesty's 43rd; Captain Disbrowe, Her Majesty's 43rd Regiment; Captain Gully, Major of Brigade, and Lieutenant Hatchell, Her Majesty's 43rd Regiment, Orderly Officer.

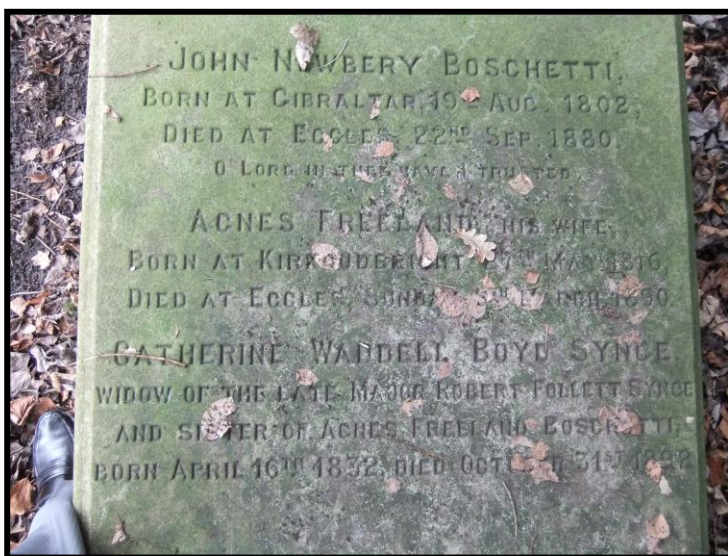
May I beg to respectfully recommend these Officers to Lord Clyde.

23 October 1860

*1st West India Regiment*, Captain James Shortall Macaulay to be Major, by purchase, vice Robert Follett Synge, who retires. Dated 23rd October, 1860. (He actually died on 22 September 1860, aged 39, at St. George, Hanover Square. He had enlisted in the 67th Regt. of Foot as Ensign on 20 October 1840).

Boschetti, John Maria Boschetti Newbery

*2 November. The Will with a Codicil of John Maria Boschetti Newbery Boschetti, late of Orchard House, Ellesmere Park, Eccles, in the County of Lancaster, Esquire; who died 22 September 1880, at Orchard House, domiciled in England, was proved at Manchester by Otho Hulme of 68A Mosley Street in the City of Manchester and John William Smith of 2 Parsonage, Blackfriars Street, Manchester, Merchants, the Executors. Personal Estate under £140,000 in the United Kingdom. (Equivalent to about £6m. today).*



## HENRY BLACKLOCK (1819 - 1871)



This striking memorial stone is distinguished by a broken anchor in stone on top of the plinth. The reason becomes clearer after reading the words at the base of the rocks.

*Also of THOMAS HENRY eldest and much loved son of Henry and Ellen Blacklock, who died on his homeward voyage from Australia, June 18th 1872, aged 23 years. 'When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee.'*

In fact, he died on his 23rd birthday.

Buried in this vault were Henry Blacklock (aged 52, on 23 Aug 1871, of

Didsbury), his son Frederick (aged 25, on 13 May 1882), Ellen (wife of Henry, aged 69, on 1 April 1893) and Charles William (aged 63, on 18 Jun 1914, of Barnes).

**Henry Blacklock** was baptised at the collegiate church in Manchester on 20 June 1819, one of 48 baptisms held that day! And all conducted by J. Brookes, Chaplain! His parents were John and Mary Blacklock, John being a printer. And here perhaps lies the clue to who Henry Blacklock became.

Henry married Ellen Jane Deane at Manchester Cathedral by licence on 14 September 1848. Ellen was the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Deane of Prestwich. Henry was 29 and Ellen was 25. Henry's father, John, was recorded as a calico printer and Ellen's father, Thomas, was now a merchant. On the marriage certificate, Ellen (no doubt in her excitement) gave her name as Ellen Blacklock and had to cross out her new surname for her maiden name! The certificate was signed by six witnesses! Thomas Deane was a manufacturer and printer on the baptism register.

Ellen, in turn, was born on 27 May 1873 and baptised at St. Mary, Prestwich, on 3 December 1824. Thomas, her father, was a manufacturer and printer on the baptism register.

In the census of 1851, Henry was living (aged 30+) at 8 Addison Terrace, Rusholme, with his wife, Ellen (24) and their first son Thomas (2), plus domestics. Henry at this time was a publisher. By 1861, the family was still at 8 Addison Terrace, Victoria Park, Rusholme, but now there were four children - Thomas Henry (11), Charles William (9), Edith Mary (7) and Frederick (4), plus domestics. Henry was now 39 and Ellen 33, and his occupation was printer and publisher.

Ten years later, in the census of 1871, the family was living at Orchard House, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury. Henry, a printer and publisher, was 52 and was with his full family - Ellen (42), Thomas Henry (21), Charles William (19), Edith Mary (17) and Frederic (14). This census was taken just over a year before the death of his eldest son.

With Henry having died later in 1871, the census of 1881 only showed his widow living at Wilmslow Road, (aged 60), with her youngest son, Frederick (24). Ellen had a share in the publishing business, and Frederick was also a printer and publisher. By 1891, Frederick had died (in 1882) and Ellen (67) was now on her own, though her daughter Edith Mary Bryer (34) was with her as a visitor.

Edith Mary had married, at St. James, Piccadilly, Richard Keown-Boyd, by licence, on 30 October 1880. The marriage allegation was granted to him on 27 October 1880. Sadly for her, the marriage did

not last very long. Richard was a widower, and between the date of their marriage and 25 April 1884 he had committed adultery on several occasions and with divers persons. They had initially moved to Ballydugan, County Down, and had lived at sundry other places. They had had one child - a son still-born. Edith Mary filed for divorce on 9 May 1883, and after a bitter court hearing, she was granted a divorce for reasons of adultery and cruelty. Later, and certainly before 1891, she married Henry Farnsby Bulwer, of 128 Boulevard Sainte-Beuve, Boulogne, France. Henry died on 14 April 1903 and was buried on 18 April 1903, aged 64, in the Blacklock vault. Edith Mary Bulwer, then of Courtlands, Blundellsands, died on 18 May 1918, aged 65, and was buried on 23 May 1918 in the family vault.

It would appear that Charles William, the second son, married a certain lady, Mary Ellen, about 1881. This is because in the census of 1911, it was stated that they had been married for 30 years, but with no children. By 1881, he had moved to London and was a boarder at an address in Covent Garden. He was unmarried and was 29. In 1891, they were living at 19 St. John's Wood Road, St. Marylebone. Mary came from Leeds and Charles was a printer. In 1901, they were still living at 19 St. John's Wood Road, St. Marylebone, though Mary Ellen was now said to have come from Hull! In 1911, he was living at North Hall, Kilburn, London, but Mary Ellen was now seen to be from Leeds! They did not have any children. Charles William died on 14 June 1914 at North House, 37 Lonsdale Road, Barnes, London, aged 63. In the *Manchester Guardian* of 29 Jun 1914, his wife, expressed her thanks for all the expressions of sympathy and for the many floral tributes received.

Certainly by early 1841, there was a publishing company at 27 Brown Street, Manchester, named Bradshaw's and Blacklock's. On a map dated 1886, the business was operating from a building on Albert Square, facing the town hall, and situated between Queen Street and Lloyd Street. One of the publications famously associated with Henry Blacklock & Co. was *Bradshaw's Railway Guides* from about 1900. George Bradshaw was a Salfordian who set up his own publishing company in Manchester, and publicised the concept of rail travel for enjoyment and pleasure. His timetables remained essential works of reference for many years, until 1961, covering rail travel in the U. K. and continental Europe.

Then, on 9 April 1885, the partnership between Ellen Blacklock, George McCorquodale and Henry Fairbrother, under the name of Henry Blacklock & Co., was dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to and from the late firm were received and paid by his son, Charles William Blacklock, to whom the business had been transferred.

During the visit of Queen Victoria in 1851, Messrs. Bradshaw and Blacklock were instructed to prepare a map of the railway line from Patricroft to Crewe, along which Her Majesty travelled on her return to London. This map was to delineate the seats of the nobility and gentry, and interesting features of the country. *Two copies of this map, printed on white satin and handsomely bound, one in crimson and the other in pale blue satin, richly figured with gold and embossed with the royal arms, with two copies of 'Bradshaw's Railway Guide', handsomely bound and embossed with the royal arms, were placed by Captain Huish upon the table of the royal carriage.*

(Manchester Guardian 15 October 1851)

A table detailing the relevant dates of this family would show:

Henry	b. unknown	bp. 20 June 1819; d. 19 August 1871; bur. 23 August 1871.
Ellen	b. 27 May 1823; bp. 3 Dec. 1824; d. 28 March 1893; bur. 1 April 1893.	
Thomas H.	b. 18 June 1849; bp. 16 July 1849; d. at sea 18 June 1872, aged 23.	
Charles W.	b. 21 May 1851; bp. 13 July 1853; d. 15 June 1914; bur. 18 June 1914.	
Edith M.	b. 14 May 1853; bp. 13 July 1853; d. 18 May 1918; bur. 23 May 1918.	
Frederick	b. 19 June 1856; bp. 18 July 1856; d. May 1882; bur. 13 May 1882.	

The will of HENRY BLACKLOCK, with three codicils, late of Park House, Didsbury, in the County of Lancaster, Printer and Publisher, who died 19 August 1871, at Park House, was proved at Manchester by Ellen Blacklock of Park House, Widow the Relict, George McCorquodale of Newton-



le-Willows in the said county, Printer, and Henry Fairbrother of Albert Square in the city of Manchester, Printer, the Executors. Effects were under £140,000.

Under the provisions of his will, he left £100 each to the Church Missionary Society, the Foreign Bible Society and the Manchester City Mission - all legacies to be free of duty. To the wardens of the parish church of Didsbury he donated £10 for the poor. His sons were to become partners at the age of 21, each receiving one sixth of the profits. He also bequeathed amounts of money to all his staff.

When Ellen, his wife, died on 28 March 1893, administration of her will was granted to Charles William Blacklock, (her son), gentleman. Effects were £34,000+

NOTICE is hereby given, that all creditors and persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of Henry Blacklock, late of Park House, Didsbury, in the county of Lancaster, carrying on business at Albert Aquare, in the city of Manchester, and at Allen-street, Clerkenwell, in the county of Middlesex, under the style of Bradshaw and. Blacklock, and afterwards of Henry Blacklock and Co., Printer and Publisher, deceased (who died on or about the 19th day of August, 1871, and whose will and codicils were proved by Ellen Blacklock, Widow, George McCorquodale, and Henry Fairbrother, the executrix and executors therein named, on the 21st day of September, 1871, in the District Registry at Manchester of Her Majesty's Court of Probate), are hereby required to send in the particulars of their claims and demands to the undersigned, Messrs. Allen, Prestage, and Halkyard, on or before the 30th day of April next; and notice is hereby also given, that after .that day the said executrix and executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which the said executrix and, executors shall then have notice, and that they will not be liable for the assets, or any part thereof, so distributed to any person of whose debt or claim they shall not then have had notice.—Dated this 1st day of March, 1883.

ALLEN, PRESTAGE, and HALKYARD, 65,

Princess-street, Manchester ;

FARRAR and HALL, 79, Fountain-street, Manchester

Joint Solicitors for the said Executrix and Executors.



The broken anchor which stands above the memorial to the Blacklock family.

## WILLIAM THOMAS BLACKLOCK (1816 - 1870)



**William Thomas Blacklock** was also a son of John and Mary Blacklock of Salford, a calico printer. He was baptised on Wednesday 25 September 1816 at the Collegiate Church, three years before Henry (q.v., and one of eight baptisms that day). William married firstly Mary Maria Davies (alias Wood) at the parish church of St. Peter, Bolton-le-Moors, on 2 January 1840. She died in November 1842, aged 21, and was buried at St. Stephen, Salford. He then married Mary Anne Lord in 1846. He was now an engraver and printer.

In the census of 1851, he (34) and his wife (25) were visitors at the house of William Hinners, with their daughter Emily (1mo.), at Greenfield House, Church Lane, Kearsley. By 1861, they were living at Hopefield, Pendleton, (William 44 and Marianne 35) with Mary (12), Emily (10), Joseph Herbert (5) and William James Sinclair (5mo.). William was a paper manufacturer. All four children were baptised at Christ Church, Salford - a chapelry in Acton Square, Eccles.

1870: THE WILL of William Thomas Blacklock, late of the city of Manchester, and of Hopefield, Pendleton, in the Parish of Eccles, in the County of Lancaster, Esquire, deceased, who died 29 June 1870 at Hopefield aforesaid, was proved at Manchester by the oaths of Henry Blacklock of Albert Square in the City aforesaid, Printer and Publisher, the Brother, and Mary Ann Blacklock of Hopefield, aforesaid Widow, the Relict, two of the Executors. His effects were under £250,000.

His death occurred on the day of his daughter Emily's marriage at St. Mary's, Eccles. She married Francis Henry Cheetham, of full age, Gentleman, Bachelor, of Woodlands, Staley Bridge. When she died on 4 March 1916 at Triscombe House, Somerset, she left her effects to her husband. His father was John Cheetham, Manufacturer, and the marriage was by licence. Their elder daughter, Mary Lord, had already married Haden Corser, a Barrister, of Pimlico on 15 June 1870, at St. Luke's, Weaste, at the age of 21. Her husband had a highly successful career in the law and she died on 26 June 1942, her husband having predeceased her in 1906.

William James Sinclair, the younger son, married Kate McCorquodale at St. Peter, Newton-in-Makerfield, on 28 August 1883. Her father and new husband were partners in the old-established printing firm of McCorquodale & Co. In Kelly's Directory, he was residing at Newnham Hall, (near Daventry), Northants., '*pleasantly situated on a slope commanding a view of the village and surrounding country.*' In 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Blacklock undertook a round-the-world tour, during which they passed through India. There they were met by Captain Henry Sinclair Horne (later to be a general on the Western Front), who showed them the delights of the Raj. On 29 November 1894, William J. S. Blacklock died, aged 34, as a result of injuries sustained in a tragic hunting accident. Then, on 1 July 1897, the widow Kate agreed to marry Horne.

The elder son, Joseph Herbert, was educated at Harrow and admitted as Pensioner to Jesus College, Cambridge, in October 1873 and migrated to Magdalen on 4 February 1874. He became a Lieutenant in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion, N. Staffs. Regt. He was also a J.P. for Northants. He and his family variously lived at Overthorpe House, Banbury, Oxfordshire, and also at 3, York House, Kensington, London. He died on 24 January 1935, aged 79, at 3, York House. (*Harrow Sch. Reg.*; *The Times*, Jan. 28, 1935). He had married Julia Corser (sister of Haden Corser, above) at St. George, Hanover Square, in 1876. He was buried at St. Mary's, Banbury, on 29 January 1935.

## 1871 Obituary

Mr. WILLIAM THOMAS BLACKLOCK, son of John Blacklock, calico-printer, of Kersal, was born in July, 1815.

At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to the late Mr. George Bradshaw, of Manchester, engraver and letterpress-printer, to learn the art of engraving. Before he had completed his apprenticeship he was offered a share in the business by Mr. Bradshaw, and from that period, about forty years ago, the well-known firm of Bradshaw and Blacklock dates its existence.

Taking advantage of the opportunity offered by the introduction and extension of the railway system, they laid themselves out for and secured so much of the work required by the railway companies as to become popularly known as the railway printers. The merits of their 'Railway Guide and Shareholder's Manual' are so well known to the members of the engineering profession, that no mention need here be made of the labour and exactitude with which it has always been prepared.

In 1850 Mr. Blacklock was elected a director of the East Lancashire Railway Company, and in 1859, on the amalgamation of that company with the Lancashire and Yorkshire, a director of the latter, at the board of which he held a seat until his death. Upon assuming the responsibilities connected with an efficient discharge of his duties as a railway director, he retired from the firm in which he was the active partner, but soon after, finding that his energy demanded further occupation, he entered into partnership with Mr. George M'Corquodale, of Newton-le-Willows.

He was also a county magistrate, a borough magistrate, a commissioner of taxes, treasurer to the Manchester and Salford branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, treasurer to the Religious Tract Society, trustee of several churches, savings' banks, &C., and energetically exerted himself in the advancement of the education and social condition of the working classes. His death was very sudden, he being seized with apoplexy on the occasion of his youngest daughter's marriage, on the 29th of June, 1870.

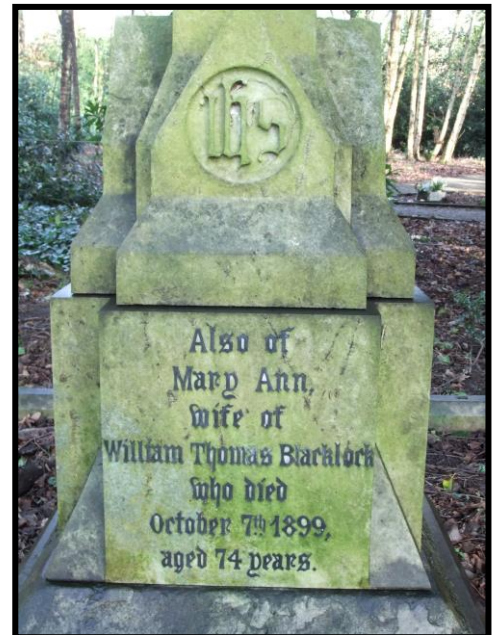
Mr. Blacklock was twice married, on the second occasion to Miss Lord, of Farnworth, by whom he left two sons and two daughters.

He was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 7th of April, 1868.

[Grace's Guide; also, Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers]

In 1871, Mary Anne (45) was visiting William Hinners and his family, who now resided at Cleveland, West Cliff Road, Birkdale, and was with her son William J. S. (10). William Hinners, formerly a general carrier, was now a magistrate. In 1881, eleven years after the death of her husband, William, Mary Anne was this time staying with her daughter Mary Lord, now married to Haden Corser, a Barrister, and living at Penkridge, Staffs.

In 1891, Mary Anne (now 65) was living at 'Sea View', Lord Street, Southport, with several domestics. According to the National Probate Calendar, she died on 7 October 1899 at Southport. Probate was granted on 24 January 1900 to Joseph Henry Blacklock, esquire, Haden Corser, esquire, barrister-at-law, Francis Henry Cheetham, esquire. Her effects were in excess of £48,000.



## CANON ST. VINCENT BEECHEY (1806 - 1899)

The Reverend Canon St. Vincent Beechey, (rector 1851-1872), died on 19 August 1899 at Hilgay, Norfolk, aged 93. He was said to be the '*oldest clergyman in England.*' (*Huddersfield Daily Chronicle*). This obituary reprinted below appeared in *The Manchester Guardian* on 21 August 1899.

### CANON ST. VINCENT BEECHEY

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, M.A., rector of Hilgay, Downham Market, Norfolk, honorary canon of Manchester and vicar for 22 years of St. Mark's, Worsley. Canon Beechey was not only one of a remarkable family, but was a remarkable man himself. He was a son of Sir William Beechey, R.A., the celebrated portrait painter; his eldest brother was Rear Admiral Frederick William Beechey, F.R.S., president of the Royal Geographical Society, who was associated with Sir Edward Parry in Arctic exploration. A younger brother was Vice Admiral Richard Brydges Beechey, who served at the blockade of Algiers in 1823 and was subsequently engaged in the polar expeditions in search of Parry and Franklin. Another brother, George D. Beechey, followed his father's profession as a portrait painter, and was for several years an exhibitor at the Royal Academy. His youngest sister, Charlotte Earle Beechey, was married in 1825 to Fletcher, third Baron Grantley, an officer in the Grenadier Guards, who served with considerable distinction at Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

Canon St. Vincent Beechey (named after his god-father, the naval hero Earl St. Vincent) was born in London on 7 August 1806. He was educated at private schools in England and France. At a very early age (16), he entered Caius College, Cambridge, where he obtained a scholarship of £40 per annum. He passed in the first class in the Previous Examination, and at nineteen graduated as second senior optime. But for a fall from his horse on the second day of examination he would probably have obtained a higher class. He was ordained in 1829, and soon after his ordination he had the sole charge of Aylesford, near Maidstone. During his stay at Aylesford he was instrumental in establishing the first elementary school in the parish and in restoring a fine charity of almshouses which had been long diverted from its original purpose. On leaving Aylesford Mr. Beechey was appointed to the curacy of Hilgay, Norfolk, his rector being the Rev. John Hewlett, a former famous preacher at the Foundling Hospital, London. Here also he had sole charge during nine years - "never once," as he was wont facetiously to remark, "during that time having heard his eloquent rector preach." Here also he gave his people their first National school.

It was during his charge of Hilgay that (in 1831-2) the terrible attack of Asiatic cholera visited England. Whilst at the university he devoted much attention to the study of medicine, and thus on the outbreak of the terrible epidemic he was able to render useful service in visiting the victims of the malady. During the last two years of his residence he was inspector of schools for the diocese of Norwich. Leaving Hilgay in 1840, he came to Lancashire, having been presented by Sir P. Hesketh Fleetwood, M.P., to the perpetual curacy of St. Peter's, Fleetwood, to which was added, about the same time, by the resignation of the Rev. Edward Huntell, the adjoining benefice of Christ Church, Thornton. It was during the ten years he laboured in Fleetwood and the neighbourhood that he entered so vigorously into those educational schemes with which his name will always be associated in the diocese of Manchester. Among his earliest work at Fleetwood was the establishment of the "Fleetwood Testimonial National Schools" for 200 scholars. Inheriting as he did in no ordinary degree the scientific bent of mind of other members of his family, he did admirable service in delivering popular lectures on scientific subjects in the neighbouring towns and villages. At that period, as well as during the greater part of his subsequent life, nothing, indeed, was more congenial to him than the self-imposed task of imparting his stores of scientific knowledge - especially to the young and working people. He was no less energetic in the discharge of his pastoral duties, which in the then young seaport at the mouth of the Wyre were of a very exciting and onerous character.

But Canon Beechey's great work in the Fylde was undoubtedly the foundation, in 1844, of Rossall School. The origin of the scheme was, in one way, singular. In formulating his scheme he availed himself of a project set on foot by M. Zenoni Vantini, the then proprietor of the Euston and Victoria Hotel, London, and of the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood. Vantini, who was a cousin of Napoleon I, had conceived the idea of educating all the boys and girls in England on the principle of "Life or Educational Insurance." The plan, in the estimation of Canon Beechey, was too vast and visionary to succeed, but, having presided over a large meeting convened by Vantini at Fleetwood, and availing himself of all Vantini's statistics (which were very carefully prepared), the Canon resolved to attempt the foundation in Lancashire of a school for the sons of clergymen and gentlemen similar to that at Marlborough, which had only been established the previous year. In January 1844, a provisional committee for furthering the scheme was formed, the committee including the late Vicar of Preston (Canon T. Owen Parr) as chairman, Mr Charles Hesketh, rector of North Meols; the late Mr. William Hornby, vicar of St. Michael's-on-Wyre; Rev. John Hull, vicar of Poulton; Mr. R. B. Robinson, incumbent of Lytham; Messrs. Thomas Clifton, of Lytham Hall; Daniel Elletson, of Parrox Hall; T. R. Wilson-France, of Rawcliffe Hall; with originator (Canon Beechey) as honorary secretary *pro tem*. At that meeting it was proposed that the "Northern Church of England School" (the name by which it was first known) should consist of about 200 scholars, the mode of admission being "either by annual payments, nomination, or insurance." It was further decided that the management of the school should be placed in the

hands of a committee of twenty-four of the principal clergy and laity in the neighbourhood, and that the system of education should resemble that followed in the school connected with King's College, London, and in Marlborough School, consisting of systematic religious instruction, sacred literature, classics, mathematics, modern languages, drawing, music, &c. It should be stated that Canon Beechey was much assisted in the development of his scheme by the Preston and Wyre Railway Company, who not only made a grant of £200 towards the undertaking, but gave him, in order to facilitate his labours, a free pass over their line. The clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood gave him every support, and Bishop Sumner (afterwards Primate) consented to become visitor and to preside at the first meeting of the friends and promoters of the school, in June 1844. Then on the first councils he was supported by such influential men as Canon Brandreth, Archdeacon Durnford (afterwards Bishop of Chichester), Canon Girdlestone, Rev. Sir H.J. Gunning, Archdeacon Hornby, Archdeacon Master, Canon Parkinson, Canon Slade, Canon E.J.G. Hornby, Canon Hussey, Archdeacon Thicknesse, Sir J. Bourne, M.P., Sir H. Mainwaring, with the Cliftons, Farringtons, Feildens, Hornbys, Jacsons, Swainsons, Birleys, Garnetts, and other prominent country gentlemen, all of whom rendered valuable service to the project. Further, it may be stated that the Duke of Devonshire, the Earls of Derby, Sefton, Ellesmere, and Crawford and Balcarres, with Lords Stanley and Skelmersdale, were liberal subscribers to and patrons of the scheme. Just about the time when £5,000 had been subscribed Dr. George Hull Bowers, one of the founders of Marlborough, was appointed to the Deanery of Manchester, and in 1851 became chairman of the Council of Rossall. Such an accession of influence and experience to Canon Beechey's scheme was of considerable value. At the same time Canon Beechey then entered into an arrangement with Sir Hesketh Fleetwood to lease the site of Rossall Hall to the Council for £200 a year, with power to purchase it at any time within the next ten years for £5,000. The hall and grounds secured on these terms (the purchase, for the sum of £8,279 8s. 9d., being effected in 1851), the school was opened on 22 August 1844, with 72 scholars, under the mastership of the Rev. John Wolley, D.C.L., Fellow of University College, Oxford, subsequently principal of Sydney University, Australia. In the second half year the number of scholars was 120; but a terrible attack of scarlatina, under which five of the pupils died, dispersed the school at Easter, and was a severe trial to the institution. The excellent principles of the scheme, however, carried it through the crisis, and, after the erection of a sanatorium and other improvements, the school reopened the next half year with 150 scholars. Dr. Wolley, feeling unequal to the management after two years, resigned, and in 1849 was succeeded by the Rev. W. A. Osborne, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. Under Mr. Osborne's admirable administration (which extended over some 21 years) the scholars soon rose to between 300 and 400; a new dining hall, dormitory, studies, masters' rooms, &c. were erected (in 1852-3) at a cost of about £6,000: a preparatory school was established at Angersholme, subsequently followed by the acquisition of Beachfield, the mansion of Mr. George Swainson; a new chapel was erected at a cost of about £7,000, and opened on 24 June 1862, with an inauguration sermon by Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity; the foundation stone of a "convalescent house" was laid by the Marquis of Hartington in 1867; cricket grounds were laid out, racquet courts, gymnasium, &c. established and a capital library formed. During all this period Canon Beechey, as honorary secretary, was the "life and soul" of the school. As long as he remained at Fleetwood he undertook the responsible duties of local manager of the funds of the establishment, superintending the admission of pupils and representing the Council in the business affairs of the school. He had the gratification of seeing scholarships established - one "The Beechey" named after himself, of the value of £50 per annum, tenable for three years at any college in Oxford or Cambridge; a long list of University and other honours obtained by pupils of the school; and the institution itself justly recognised and included among the "Great Public Schools of England." He resigned his position as secretary to the Council and ceased active connection with the school in 1873, when he was elected a vice-president of the Council.

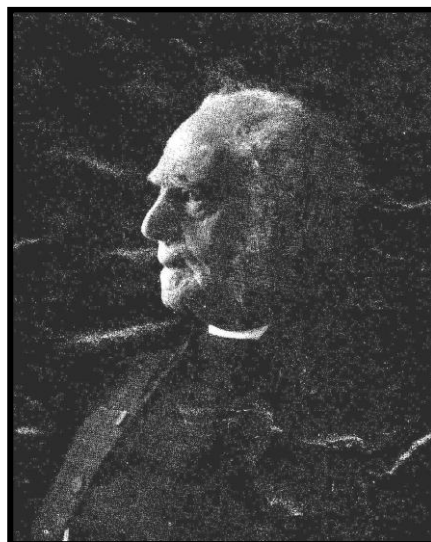
One other interesting incident in connection with his Fleetwood life may be fittingly mentioned here. On 20 September 1847, the Queen, Prince Consort, Prince of Wales, and Princess Royal arrived in the Victoria and Albert yacht (piloted by the Canon's eldest brother, Captain F. W. Beechey) at Fleetwood, on their way from Scotland to London. Canon Beechey was entrusted with the duty of drafting and presenting (with Sir Hesketh Fleetwood and others) an address to the Queen, signed by himself "on behalf of the inhabitants."

An address, written in Latin, by the boys of Rossall, was likewise presented to Her Majesty on the same occasion. It was, too, towards the end of his incumbency of Fleetwood (early in 1850) that he first delivered his celebrated lecture on "The Sabaeen character of the Winged Lion and the Bull of Nineveh," founded on Mr. Layard's collection of Nimrodian antiquities. In 1850 the first Lord Ellesmere conferred upon him the benefice of Worsley, at the same time doubling the stipend of the cure. His lordship then built a vicarage-house, and appointed the new incumbent his domestic chaplain. Subsequently Lord Ellesmere added to the benefice of Worsley the donative chaplaincy of St. Mary the Virgin, Ellenbrook. We cannot quote a better authority on the rise and progress of the religious and moral condition of Worsley and its neighbourhood than the Canon himself. "In 1836," he writes, "*the moral and religious condition of this community was truly deplorable. Every evil attendant upon a neglected district here flourished. Drunkenness, profaneness, swearing and licentiousness - Sabbath-breaking, cock-fighting, pigeon-flying, quarrelling, gambling, and improvidence formed its prominent features! The coke-ovens were drawn and the swift packets ran regularly on Sunday, and the few religious people went either to distant churches or to Dissenting chapels. The great mass were wholly uneducated, and, to use a provincial expression, there were*

*few "rougher" neighbourhoods. My own experience enables me to affirm that there are not many districts of a similar class where more civility, good order, neatness, and general propriety prevail, and the Sabbath-day at Worsley is one of the most pleasing features which this neat and cleanly village presents. The churches of Worsley and Walkden are well filled; the day schools contain 800 to 900 children, and the Sunday schools nearly 1,000 scholars and 160 teachers; and Worsley Literary Institution has 300 members."* Though the foregoing was written in illustration of the devotion of the first Lord Ellesmere to his home at Worsley and its surroundings, no small share of the progress indicated must be attributed to the hearty vigour of its devoted Vicar. In this respect no two men ever worked better together than Lord Ellesmere and Canon Beechey. It was in Worsley Courthouse that Canon Beechey initiated a series of lectures, some of which were delivered by the most famous men of the day.

The Canon's lectures at Worsley (several of which were also delivered at the Manchester Royal Institution and at most of the institutes in the large towns of Lancashire) were marked not only by profound study but by considerable attractiveness to general audiences - especially of working people. Among his subjects were "Ancient Astronomy," "The Moon a Sanitary Commissioner," "The Planets: are they inhabited?" "Ancient Egypt," "The Dragon-fly" (suggested by the late Bishop Lee), and "The Cherubim." Apart from these pursuits, he was actively engaged in diocesan and parochial work. In recognition of this work, Bishop Lee, in 1868, collated him to an honorary canonry in the Manchester Cathedral. During his incumbency at Worsley it became his lot, among others, to welcome Her Majesty and the Prince Consort on their first visits to Manchester in 1851 and 1857, and on the occasion of the Queen's visit to Worsley on 11 October 1851, Mr. Beechey marshalled some 1,440 children of the working population of the parish, with their parents and 200 teachers, on the lawn and slopes in front of Worsley Hall. Here the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Wellington and other distinguished visitors, received, with many expressions of pleasure, an address from the children, subscribed and presented by the worthy incumbent. It was a very touching sight - one often alluded to with pardonable pride and pleasure by the late Canon. In the pulpit Canon Beechey was an exceedingly earnest and effective preacher. His studious disposition, however, sometimes led him into amusing eccentricities. On one occasion he asked a now well-known dignitary in the diocese to preach for him. To this the clergyman acceded, but much to his surprise, at the conclusion of the table prayer in the Communion Office he saw the Canon mount the pulpit, say the usual prayer, and give out a text. After preaching a few minutes he happened to look in the direction of his reverend brother. He realised the situation at once, and, descending from the pulpit, sent a message to the clergyman, who was subsequently conducted to his proper place. On the death of the Rev. William J. Parkes, M.A., the rector and patron of Hilgay (his old curacy), that valuable living was offered to him and accepted in 1872. During the remainder of his life, though in years a very old man, he was an active and energetic parish priest - preaching often two or three sermons on Sundays, and lecturing for literary and scientific institutions during the week. When on a visit to his former parishioners at Worsley in February 1896, he remarked, "I have now been rector of Hilgay twenty-three years - exactly one year longer than I spent at Worsley. I am now in my 90th year, in perfect health, in possession of all my faculties, taking two or three services every Sunday." He preached morning and evening, the church being crowded; and in addition he visited in the afternoon a large number of the aged, sick, and poor of Worsley. Six weeks ago, while on a visit to Mr. R. F. Coules, F.R.C.O., Worsley, his grandson-in-law, he preached in St. Mark's, Worsley. ....

Canon Beechey married Mrs. Ommanney (formerly Miss Mary Anne Jones, sister of the late Mr. W. L. Jones, of Woodhall, Norfolk), widow of Mr. Francis Ommanney, son of the late Sir Francis Molyneux Ommanney, M.P., and brother of Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, C.B. F.R.S., the Arctic explorer. By this lady he had a numerous family, one son, the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, M.A., late scholar and prizeman of Caius College, Cambridge, a former distinguished "Old Rossallian," being the present rector of Newton Heath.



## HARRIET CATHERINE GREVILLE (1803 - 1866)

Born Harriet Catherine Greville in Bucks. in 1802 and baptised on 28 November 1803, she married Francis Leveson-Gower in 1822. In 1833, he changed his name to Egerton under the terms of the will of his great-uncle the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater. In 1846, he was elevated to the peerage as First Earl of Ellesmere. Lady Harriet became the Dowager Countess on the death of her husband on 18 February 1857. She died on 17 April 1866 at Bridgewater House, Cleveland Square, London. The report on her funeral reprinted below appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* on 25 April 1866.

### FUNERAL OF THE DOWAGER COUNTESS OF ELLESMERE

Yesterday the mortal remains Harriet Catherine first and Dowager Countess of Ellesmere were consigned to their last resting place in the family vault in St. Mark's Church, Worsley, amidst the universal sorrow of the inhabitants of the district. The deceased, who was 63 years of age, was, 44 years ago, married to him who was then, and for eleven years afterwards, so well-known as Lord Francis Egerton, and who was in 1833 created Earl of Ellesmere. To that truly noble man she had been in the fullest sense of the word a helpmeet; and how well they had joined in promoting the good of the inhabitants of the district is evidenced by the numerous educational and other institutions which, during a period of more than 20 years, were established by them in the parish of Worsley, and in the adjoining chapelries of Walkden and Ellenbrook. The success which has attended those institutions, and the sorrow which the inhabitants have shown at the removal by death of the Earl and Countess, will permanently record the value which attached to their labours. The building and endowment of the parish church, in which their remains now rest, was a deed the liberality of which was only exceeded when, four years afterwards, they built the parsonage and doubled the amount of their former endowment. In that parish church, which was as free to everyone who entered its gates as it was to its founders, they were, when residing at the Hall, constant worshippers. Many years previously they had built the juvenile schools in that parish, which were licensed for divine service. In the same parish they had established an infant school, a reading-room, and a library, and a domestic school. The affectionate manner in which they cared for the children on their estate was most strikingly shown when Her Majesty visited Worsley Hall in 1851, on which occasion nearly 2,000 children were assembled on the slopes of the Hall gardens to present an address to their Queen. For 35 years the first Earl and Countess were associated in every useful work and benevolent purpose, and now after a separation of nine years, their remains rest together within that vault wherein also were interred, in 1862, the remains of their first-born son, the second Earl.

The wishes which the deceased lady had expressed, in accordance with that unostentatious mode in which she and her husband had always lived, were most faithfully carried out, and the funeral was, so far as the family were concerned, strictly private. The corpse, which was enclosed in a shell, a leaden coffin, and an outer coffin of polished oak was removed from London on Monday night. Leaving London by the nine o'clock train, it arrived in Manchester about three o'clock yesterday morning, and was thence taken in a hearse to Worsley Hall. At half past twelve o'clock the bell of the parish church began to toll, and a few minutes afterwards the funeral procession started. The hearse which was plumed, was followed on foot, by Captain the Hon. Francis Egerton, R.N., the chief mourner and eldest surviving son of the deceased; Viscount and Lady Enfield, son-in-law and daughter; the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, son-in-law and daughter; the Earl of Ellesmere, grandson; the Countess of Ellesmere, daughter-in-law; the Hon. A. F. Egerton and Mrs. Egerton, son and daughter-in-law of the deceased. Besides these members of the family, there also followed Lord George Cavendish; Mr. Rasbotham, who was private secretary to the first Earl; Mr. Fereday Smith, the chief agent to the Bridgewater Trust; and several gentlemen who held official positions as heads of the Worsley departments. To these the formal invitations to be present at the funeral had been confined; but the universal esteem in which the Countess was held led to a much larger display by the inhabitants of Worsley and the surrounding district. By noon several hundred persons were present in the churchyard, and all wore mourning. All along the hedge which skirts the churchyard and faces the park, the villagers and tenants congregated to witness the passing of the funeral procession. From the west door of the church to the lych-gate there were drawn up in rows on each side of the path a large number of the Sunday school scholars, many of the elder of whom were dressed in deep mourning. The procession passed through the Hall grounds and the principal gate of the park, to the church gate, where the coffin was removed from the hearse and carried along the path. At the gate the procession was met by Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, incumbent of Worsley, the Rev. J. Herbert, incumbent of Walkden Moor, and the Rev. G. C. Dickenson, curate of Worsley. During the reading of the first portion of the burial service by Mr. Beechey, the coffin rested in the chancel, where the mourners only were assembled, and in view of the handsome monument which was erected in memory of the deceased's husband. The Sunday school children also lined the way through the churchyard, from the south porch to the vault, along which the coffin was subsequently borne. The remainder of the service at the vault was read by Mr. Beechey. During these proceedings, the conduct of the large assemblage was very reverential. When the service was concluded, the mourners took their farewell glance at the coffin of her who was so dear to them, and then in the same unpretending manner in which they

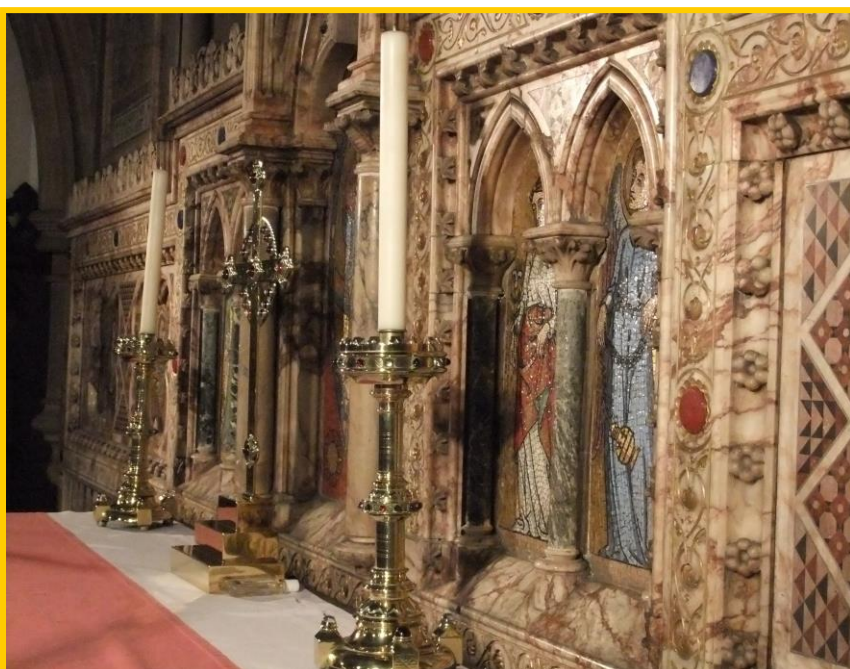
had walked to the church they returned to the Hall. Almost all the persons who had assembled remained to look into the vault, and then quietly departed.

Not only will those thousands of adults and children who inhabit the parishes on the Bridgewater property miss and lament her who had so greatly cared for them; but she will be missed also by those other thousands who knew her chiefly by name, and in whose remembrance she is endeared by the memory of those pleasant visits to the Park, to which during the coming Whitsuntide they cannot, in consequence of her death, be admitted.

### Memorial

The memorial was unveiled on 26 July 1869 and originally stood at the crossroads in the centre of Walkden. Then, in 1968, it was moved to the grounds of St. Paul's Church nearby.

On the day of Lady Ellesmere's funeral, the "principal tenants" of the Worsley estate met in the court house to form a memorial committee. The Rev. St. Vincent Beechey presided. Despite the patronage of the church and local gentlemen, the subscription was recalled as a "*spontaneous effort of the villagers in and around Walkden Moor,*" by whom the duchess was "*greatly revered and beloved.*" Designs were solicited from leading architects and were exhibited at Worsley Courthouse. At the inauguration, which was attended by around two thousand people, "*for the most part workpeople,*" the munificence and charity of Lady Ellesmere was recalled and honoured. Fereday Smith declared that when she and her husband had arrived in Worsley, it was a "*comparative moral wilderness.*" Blasphemy, drunkenness and crime had flourished, but through Lady Ellesmere's efforts "*all had been quite reversed.*" The monument, he said, should remind rising generations of her example. Canon Beechey praised the manner of her charity, which was never indiscriminate, and always "*followed the path where calm deliberate judgement pointed the way.*"  
(Public Monuments and Sculpture Association)



### Reredos

There was no **Reredos** in the Sanctuary when the Church was first built, only an oak altar. The Dowager Countess of Ellesmere (wife of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Francis) died on 17 April 1866. The alabaster **Reredos** behind the high altar was erected to her memory by members of her family. It is believed to have come from Italy or to have been made by Italian craftsmen working in London.

The inscription reads:



*In memory of Harriet Catherine, Countess of Ellesmere – Born October 27 1803 + Died April 17 1866.  
Erected by her children.*

### GEORGE GRANVILLE FRANCIS EGERTON (1823 - 1862)

George Granville Francis Egerton, the son of the first Earl, Francis, and the eldest of his eight children, was born on 15 June 1823. On the occasion of his 21st birthday, he laid the foundation stone of St. Mark's. He died whilst on a visit to Scotland on 19 September 1862. He married Lady Mary Louisa Campbell in April 1846. The report of his death below is reprinted from *The Manchester Guardian* of 22 September 1862.

The Earl of Ellesmere died on Friday, at Balbirnie, in Fifeshire, where, with the Countess, he was on a visit to Mr. John and Lady Georgiana Balfour. The deceased, George Granville Francis Egerton, Earl of Ellesmere, of Ellesmere, county Salop, and Viscount Brackley, of Brackley, county Northampton, in the peerage of the United Kingdom, was the eldest of the eight children of Francis, the first earl, and Harriet, the present countess dowager. He was born 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1823, so that had only recently entered his fortieth year. The late peer married, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1846, Lady Mary Louisa Campbell, fourth and youngest daughter of the late Earl Cawdor, by whom the deceased earl leaves issue two sons, Francis Charles Granville Viscount Brackley, born April 5, 1847, and the Hon. Alfred John Francis, born Feb. 6, 1854. On the death of his father in Feb. 1857, the late nobleman succeeded to the earldom and extensive family estates in Lancashire and Surrey. In 1847, he entered the House of Commons as one of the representatives for the northern division of Staffordshire. During the few years he was in the Lower House of Parliament he professed a strong attachment to our National Church establishment, and gave his independent support to Lord John Russell's administration, although a Liberal Conservative in politics, for he publicly avowed that he would give a fair trial to free trade. He was strongly opposed to the endowment of the Roman Catholic clergy. On the opening of the session of 1851 he resigned his seat from inability, consequent on ill-health, to pay that attention to his parliamentary duties required in such a position. Since his accession to the peerage, the noble Earl continued to take a warm interest in the political topics of the day, and went to the House when any important debates were expected to come on. The state of his health, however, never admitted of his addressing the House. In 1857 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Militia.

The late Earl took a great interest in his Worsley tenantry, and in the welfare of the numerous colliers on the estate, for whom cottage accommodation and education facilities are provided on a liberal and extensive scale. On the occasion of the meeting of the British Association in this city last year, his Lordship entertained a brilliant company at Worsley New Hall, and evinced his sympathy with the labours of the Association by opening the park and gardens to the members and other guests. A visit to the Worsley coal mines was amongst the most profitable and agreeable excursions in which the members of the Association engaged, and few will forget the pleasure afforded by the descent of the Edgefold and Coppice Field Pits. On the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1861, His Lordship turned the first sod of the Eccles, Tyldesley, and Wigan Branch of the London and North-Western Railway, which passes through a portion of the Worsley Estate. His Lordship on that occasion, in responding to the toast of his health, said that he felt the responsibility of the position which he held, and he should always try to fulfil the duties of that position as well as he could. The state of his health, however, prevented him from doing so much as he was willing to do. If he failed it was not, he said, from want of good intention - a sentiment in which all who knew him will concur. One of the latest acts of his benevolence was the gift of £1,000 at the meeting presided over by the Earl of Derby, held at his residence, Bridgewater House, in St. James's, for the relief of the prevailing distress in Lancashire and Cheshire. It will also be remembered that he recently undertook the position of chairman of the Executive Relief Committee, which holds its meetings in this city. His Lordship was rarely able to be present at the weekly meetings of the Committee, but the influence of his name, and the judicious advice which was always available gave much public confidence in the deliberations of the Committee. His Lordship left Lancashire for Scotland on Tuesday week, being then in a very feeble state of health. Viscount Brackley, who succeeds to the title as the third earl, left London on Friday evening, to join his bereaved mother in Scotland. The late Earl will not only be regretted by his sorrowing relations, but by many of the poor on the large family estates, to whom he was a generous and considerate benefactor. Immediately on the arrival of the news of the noble Earl's death, the flags at Worsley Hall and at the Bridgewater warehouses were paced half mast high.

Eight days after the death of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl, his funeral took place at St. Mark's. *The Manchester Guardian* carried the following report of the funeral in its edition of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

#### THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE EARL OF ELESMERE

On Saturday, the remains of the late Earl of Ellesmere were conveyed to the tomb, amid the fervent grief of his family and friends, and the silent and respectful homage of a numerous body of tenantry and dependents,

who felt that they had lost a considerate landlord and a benevolent patron. The obsequies were conducted as privately and unostentatiously as was possible in the case of a man of high position and influence. But many thousands of persons residing in the locality assembled in and around the church at Worsley, where the ceremony was appointed to take place. The body was brought from Scotland to Worsley New Hall on Wednesday, and was placed in the room which had been ordinarily used by the late Earl as his breakfast room, to await the ceremony of sepulture. There was, however, no lying in state. The tenantry on the Worsley estates, to the number of 90, assembled shortly after 10 o'clock, at the Court House, Worsley, and they were there supplied with gloves and hatbands. Many of the tenantry had seen more than four score years, and had spent the whole of their long lives on the estate. They went up with tottering limbs and feeble gait to show a last mark of respect to the deceased. The clerks and officers employed under the Bridgewater trust assembled at the Hall, and numbered between 70 and 80. They wore scarves and hatbands. A number of workmen from the Bridgewater collieries, under Mr. Anderson, formed a double line from the Lodge gates to the western entrance to the Church, and from the south door to the vault. The vault is underneath the altar, and is approached from the exterior of the Church, near the beautiful east window. It is a spacious apartment, and is built of solid masonry, three feet thick. On Saturday, it was lighted with gas. In one corner is the coffin of the first Earl, and a brass plate inserted in the wall contains the following inscription - "Immediately beneath this, the first stone of St. Mark's Church, which was laid June 15, 1844, by George Granville Francis, afterwards the second Earl of Ellesmere, by whom this church was built and endowed." The George Granville Francis referred to in the above inscription was the nobleman who was buried on Saturday. He laid the foundation stone of the elegant church at Worsley on the occasion of his coming of age. Above the vault, and by the side of the altar in the church, is a beautiful reclining statue, by Noble, of the first Earl. The interior of the church on Saturday was hung with black cloth. The ladies of the congregation ordinarily attending the church were admitted in the morning, and occupied the side aisles. They were attired in deep mourning.

Shortly after eleven o'clock, the tolling of the muffled bell announced the preparation for the ceremony; and about noon the funeral procession left the Hall in the following order -

Two mutes, carrying on their staves the armorial bearings of the deceased, with the motto "Sic Donec," emblazoned on rich satin. The tenantry, the agents, and the gentlemen engaged in the carrying department of the Bridgewater works, walking two abreast. Two other mutes, preceding the clergy of the district, of whom there were present:- The Revs. St. Vincent Beechey, Worsley; T. A. Morley, Booths Hall, Boothstown; J. Herbert, Walkden Moor; C. J. Steward, Farnworth; P. H. Thicknesse, Dean Vicarage, near Bolton; J. P. Pitcairn, Eccles; W. T. Vale, Patricroft; and H. M. Birch, Prestwich. The churchwardens present were Messrs. P. Nightingale, Samuel Fletcher, R. Lansdale, Nichols and Higson. The solicitor of the deceased, Mr. Richard Du Cane, and Dr. Kingsley, the medical attendant of the family were also present, as well as the following gentlemen:- Messrs. Harrison Blair, Peel Hall; J. P. K. Grover, Landsley House; H. Neald, the Grange; Major Langshaw, Hollins, near Bolton; John Stevens, Pemberton, near Wigan; and L. Smith, Hope Farm, Boothstown. The coronet of the deceased Earl was carried by Mr. Gillivray, the house steward, upon a black velvet cushion. The body, in a coffin of polished oak, pannelled, was borne by six men. The inscription on the coffin plate was surmounted by the Earl's coronet, and was as follows - "George Francis Granville Egerton, Earl of Ellesmere, born 15th June, 1823, died 19th September, 1862." The pall bearers were the Earl of Cawdor, Rev. Lord J. Thynne, D.D., Earl Grosvenor, M.P., Viscount Enfield, M.P., Rev. Archibald Campbell, the Hon. Colonel Duncombe, Mr. J. Balfour, and Mr. George Loch. The youthful successor to the title and the estates, and his still more youthful brother, the Hon. Alfred John Francis Egerton, R.N., the Hon. Algernon Egerton, M.P., and Colonel the Hon. Arthur Egerton, were the chief mourners. The sons of the deceased especially excited the interest and sympathy of the crowded assembly in the church. Among the household retainers who followed were Mr. Peter Rasbotham, the deceased Earl's secretary; Mr. Farr, surgeon to the household; Messrs. Robson, Cliffe, Stone, Baldwyn Granger, Elwood, Sergeant Major Adams, Berry and Evans. As the procession entered the church, the organ pealed forth Dr. Callcott's beautiful trio:

"Forgive, blest shade, the tributary tear,

Which mourns thy exit from a world like this:

Forgive the wish which would have kept thee here,

And stayed thy progress to the realms of bliss."

The solemn and impressive service of the Church of England was read by the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, and the scene was a very affecting one, the whole congregation being moved to tears. As the body was conveyed from the church, the 'Dead March' in 'Saul' was played by Mr. Whittington, who officiated as organist. The churchyard throughout the whole of the ceremony was crowded, but a most decorous silence was maintained. The coffin, on the head of which was placed the Earl's coronet, was deposited on a marble slab immediately adjoining that on which the body of his illustrious father rests. After the ceremony, the family retired to the Hall, accompanied by the tenantry and servants. The widow of the deceased and the Dowager Countess were at the Hall. The present Earl, who is 10 years of age, was at Eton when he received the intelligence of his father's death. It was stated that he would return again to his studies, and it is expected that during his minority the establishment at Worsley Hall will be broken up. The younger brother is only eight years of age. A muffled peal was rung on the bells of the Manchester Cathedral on the occasion of the

funeral. The arrangements in connection with the funeral were entrusted to the firm of Messrs. John Satterfield and Co. of St. Ann's Square, Manchester.