

## George Granville Francis Egerton

15 June 1823 to 19 September 1862

2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Ellesmere

**George Granville Francis Egerton**, eldest son of the 1st Earl, was to hold the title of Earl of Ellesmere for only 5 years before his death in 1862.

Born on 15 June **1823**, George Granville was the eldest son of Francis **Egerton**, 1st Earl of Ellesmere, and Harriet Catherine **Greville**. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford and Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating on 27 April 1843. George was granted the honour of laying the Foundation Stone to the Church of St. Mark on 15 June 1844, to mark his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. In July 1841, he was appointed Cornet in the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, then Captain on 10 April 1846. On 29 April 1846 he married Lady Mary **Campbell**, 4th and youngest daughter of John Frederick Campbell, the 1st Earl Cawdor, and assumed the title of Viscount **Brackley**. In 1847 he became a MP as one of the representatives for North Staffordshire and held the seat until 1851, when he removed to the House of Lords. Although a Liberal Conservative in politics, he was a follower of Free Trade. During the few years he was in the lower House of Parliament, he warmly supported Lord John Russell's administration and was strongly opposed to the endowment of the Roman Catholic clergy. He retired from politics in February 1851 on the grounds of ill health and accepted the office of Steward of Her Majesty's Chiltern Hundreds. George became the second President of the cricket club (1858-1862).

In February 1857, George Egerton inherited his father's titles and the extensive estates in Lancashire and Surrey. On 25 September 1857, he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Militia. One of his latest acts was the gift of £1,000 for the relief of the prevailing distress in Lancashire and Cheshire, owing to the 'cotton famine.' He died suddenly at the age of 39, on 19 September **1862**, whilst visiting Mr. John and Lady Georgina Balfour at Balbirnie, Scotland. He was known as a generous benefactor to the families on his estates. He was survived by his two sons, Francis Charles Granville (1847–1914), later 3rd Earl of Ellesmere, and Alfred John Francis (1854–1890), who served as MP for Eccles. He is buried in the vault alongside his father at the south-east corner of the Church and the memorial tomb now stands in the Ellesmere Chapel.



Around the memorial tomb are the inscriptions:

**In memory of George Granville Francis 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Ellesmere born June 15<sup>th</sup> 1823 died Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 1862 + Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them. Thy will be done.**

And below:

Also of Mary Louisa wife of the above (and daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Cawdor) born Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1825 Died Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1916 + In sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection