

## The Manor of Lackham Volume IV

The owners of Lackham in the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries and some of their historical connections



by

Tony Pratt

Wiltshire College Lackham

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The current investigation of the history of the manor of Lackham, close to Chippenham and next to Lacock in Wiltshire, started with "*The Bluets ; a baronial family and their historical connections 1066- 1400*"<sup>1</sup> and was continued in "*The Baynards : a county family and their historical connections 1360 - 1650*"<sup>2</sup>. The third volume, "*The Montagus of Lackham: their antecedents and their historical connections 1440-1840*"<sup>3</sup> took the story through the period of the Civil War and the Enlightenment to Canal Mania and on into the early part of the nineteenth century. This final volume covers the period from then until the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century CE

For biographies of the authors involved see the Introduction to "*The Bluets*". All three of the previous publications, and others, are held by Wiltshire Libraries, the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham and online (see below) as well as other publications looking at the history of Lackham

The period covered by this volume was a time when there were extensive changes in the layout of the estate, its access drives and the House itself as well as ancillary buildings and services. Previous versions of the history of this period have included some information on these subjects but it has recently been possible to collect all of this together in a separate volume. For details on the development and history of the infrastructure of Lackham see Pratt, T (2011) *The Manor Houses of Lackham 1050-1949* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, available online at <http://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/about-us/Lackham-house/a-further-history>

2018 Update: With the development of the British Newspaper Archive digital resource much more local information became available for the period from about 1760 onwards. Investigations have resulted in an expanded section about the Caldwell and, to some extent, Palmer ownership of Lackham which is included here. Further work on other periods remains to be completed and evaluated but it was felt appropriate to make the work so far available. Further developments should be forthcoming.

Tony Pratt May 2018

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<sup>1</sup> Tony Pratt & Karen Repko (2008) Lackham Museum of Agriculture and Rural Life Trust

<sup>2</sup> Tony Pratt (2009) Wiltshire College Lackham

<sup>3</sup> Tony Pratt & Karen Repko (2010) Wiltshire College Lackham

## Contents

Section		Page
<u>1</u>	The Tufnells at Lackham	6
<u>2</u>	The Rookes of Lackham	15
<u>3</u>	The Caldwells at Lackham	47
<u>4</u>	Mary Stapleton-Bretherton at Lackham	80
<u>5</u>	Sir George Errington at Lackham	88
<u>6</u>	Brig. Gen George Llewellyn Palmer owns Lackham including <a href="#">Mrs Taylor</a> at Lackham. George Palmer continues <a href="#">here</a>	97 103 108
<u>7</u>	William Tatem (the Lord Glanely) at Lackham	127
<u>8</u>	Maj. Herbert Paton Holt at Lackham	135
<u>9</u>	Lackham owned as a College	152

## Illustrations

<u>1</u>	Tufnell family descent	7
<u>2</u>	Family of Lt Col Tufnell of Lackham	11
<u>3</u>	Early pedigree of the Rooke family	18
<u>4</u>	Order of St Ann 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	20
<u>5</u>	Arms of Capt FW Rooke RN	25
<u>6</u>	Ancestry of Anne Wallace	26
<u>7</u>	Children of Frederick William Rooke and Anne Wallace	27
<u>8</u>	Lackham House 1849 by William Wallace Rooke	34

<u>9</u>	Children of Rev Frederick John Rooke	37
<u>10</u>	Relationship of William Wallace and Julia Rooke	38
<u>11</u>	Poster for the 1856 sale	47
<u>12</u>	Map for the 1856 sale	40
<u>13</u>	Land changes at Notton 1858	52
<u>14</u>	Relationship between Rooke, Caldwell and Marcon families	54
<u>15</u>	Fellowes - Caldwell links	56
<u>16</u>	Burgess & Key reaping machine (1859)	61
<u>17</u>	Caldwell family of Lackham	68
<u>18</u>	Map for the 1864 sale	81
<u>19a</u>	Bretherton of Rainhill arms	84
<u>19b</u>	Arms of Mary Stapleton Bretherton	85
<u>20</u>	Arms of George Errington	89
<u>21</u>	Descent of George Errington	92
<u>22a</u>	Punch cartoon " <i>Our Mr Errington MP - The Uncommercial Traveller</i> "	96
<u>22b</u>	Sir George Errington MP entitled "the Vatican"	97
<u>23</u>	Brig. Gen. George Llewellyn Palmer DL JP	99
<u>24</u>	Ancestors of George Llewellyn Palmer	102
<u>25a</u>	Crest above the door of "The Ornamental Lodge"	111
<u>25b</u>	Griffin and Cockerel comparison	112

<u>26</u>	Grooms at Lackham c1905	116
<u>27</u>	Stable Staff c 1905	117
<u>28</u>	Coat of arms above Stable Yard building	118
<u>29</u>	Hunting Bridge across the River Avon	119
<u>30</u>	Lackham House staff c1905	120
<u>31</u>	Rowden land bought in 1904	122
<u>32</u>	William Tatem, the Lord Glanely	130
<u>33</u>	Arms of William Tatem, Lord Glanely	131
<u>34</u>	Lord Glanely, cigarette card	133
<u>35</u>	Text on the back of the cigarette card	134
<u>36</u>	Arms of Herbert Paton Holt	138
<u>37</u>	War Department areas of Lackham	143
<u>38</u>	Art Nouveau (c 1910-20?) wallpaper first floor Lackham House	146
<u>39</u>	Roll of Honour American Forces who were at Lackham	149-50
<u>40</u>	Students and staff 1952-3, inc the first female students	158
<u>41</u>	Arms of Capt. Richard King	162
<u>42</u>	Naval Service Medal with clasp for Boat Service	172
<u>43</u>	Eastern Mediterranean	173
<u>44</u>	Location of the Galite Islands	174
<u>45</u>	Relationship of Galite Islands to Biserts and Tunis	179

Appendices

<u>1</u>	Military career of Frederick William Rooke RN	160
<u>2</u>	An account of the wreck of HMS <i>Avenger</i> and the actions of Lieut F Rooke RN	172
<u>3</u>	10 <sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Division Reports up to D-Day (USA and Lackham)	184
<u>4</u>	Comparative land values 1835 -1945	186

By the nineteenth century the Wiltshire manor of Lackham, secure in its bend of the River Avon between Chippenham and Lacock, had only known three families since the Norman Conquest, the Bluets, the Baynards and the Wiltshire branch of the Montagu family

The Montagu tenure of Lackham didn't so much end as fizzle out after the death of James Montagu VI, in 1794. Following court cases between James' brother George, and George's son George Courtney Montagu, the estate was held in trust under Chancery rules <sup>4</sup>.

The estate remained in Montagu hands, under the supervising control of the Trustees appointed by the Court, until 1835 when it was sold. However the estate was rented out, from as early as 1817, to Lt Col Tufnell

### The Tufnells at Lackham

This date is suggested by an entry in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in that year - "at Lackham House Hants [sic] the wife of Lieut-Col Tufnell a dau" <sup>5</sup>

The Hants is a mistake, Tufnell's daughter Charlotte Bonella Caroline Tufnell, was baptized at St Cyriac's, Lacock, on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1817 <sup>6</sup>. 1817 is also the year that Tufnell is found renting "Lackham House and park 132 acres 2 rods 21 poles and Lackham Woods 42a Or 38p tenant for £500 per year" <sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> For details of this (complicated) period see Pratt, T (2003) *The Manor of Lackham : Two Georgian Montagus* Wilshire College Lackham online at [2 Georgian Montagus](#)

<sup>5</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol 87 (1818) pt 2 p274 "Births"

<sup>6</sup> Lacock Parish Registers, Baptisms

<sup>7</sup> Wiltshire Archive (held at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham and henceforth WA ) Lacock Archive temp. ref Box 2664 OB2 "Abstract deed of arrangement of 17 September 1817 as to the charges and encumbrances affecting the estates of George Courtney Montagu and Frederick Courtney Montagu"

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

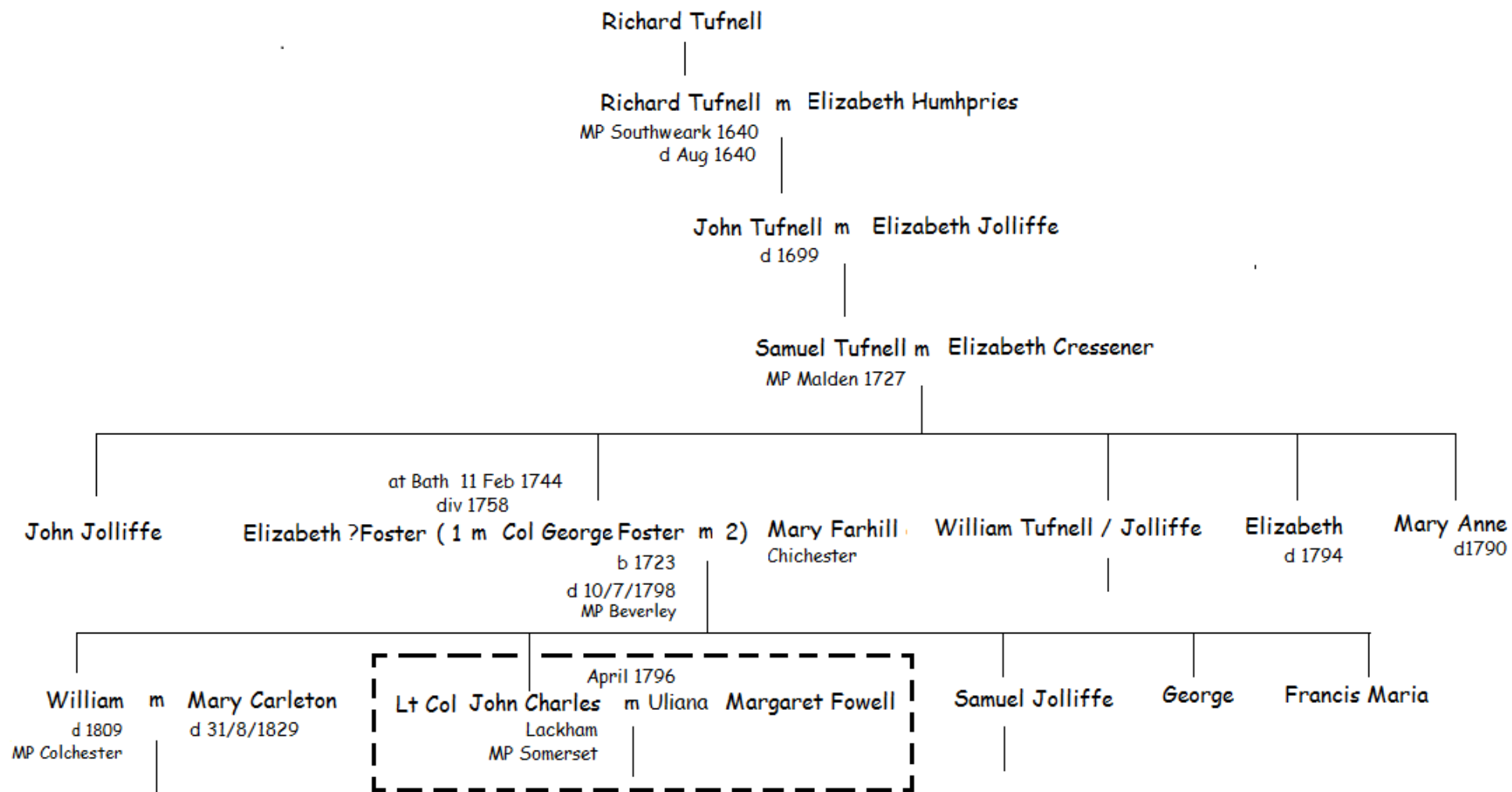


Fig. 1 Tufnell family descent \*



This branch of the Tufnell family has been traced back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (see Fig 1 above). Samuel Tufnell owned Langleys in Essex and this estate passed to his son John Jollife Tufnell. JJ Tufnell also inherited Tufnell Park in London from his brother William<sup>8</sup> which then passed to another brother, George Foster Tufnell.

George Foster Tufnell was born in 1723 and married twice, first to an Elizabeth whom Burke gives as being the daughter of John Foster; this is an error, she was actually Elizabeth Forster<sup>9</sup>. They were divorced in 1758 on the grounds of Elizabeth's adultery with Captain Evans<sup>10</sup> at Bristol and Turnham Green. His second wife was Mary Farhill<sup>11</sup> from Chichester and they had children, including Lt Col John Charles Tufnell of Lackham

Lt Col Tufnell of Lackham was George and Mary's second son. His elder brother William inherited the Tufnell Park estate and married Mary Carelton the very wealthy heiress of Thomas Carelton of South Carleton.. They are both buried in St Mary's Islington and her maiden name is commemorated in two street names in London, N7<sup>12</sup>. It was their son Henry who developed Tufnell Park as a residential area.

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<sup>8</sup> [http://wn.com/Tufnell\\_Park\\_FC](http://wn.com/Tufnell_Park_FC)

<sup>9</sup> *Journal of the House of Lords* volume 29: 1756-1760 dated February 1758 "Tufnell's Divorce Bill" at: [www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=114444](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=114444)

"And called George Elliot, in order to prove the Marriage; who, being sworn, produced a Certificate, signed by Duell Taylor Rector of Bath, "That it appears, by the Register-Book of the Parish of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, in the City of Bath, that George Tufnell Esquire and Elizabeth Forster were married, by License, on the 11th Day of February 1744;" and gave an Account, "That he saw the Rector sign the said Certificate; and that he examined it with the Register-Book."

<sup>10</sup> *Journal of the House of Lords* volume 29 *ibid* Proved in the Consistory Court of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, after a successful action brought by Mr Tufnell against Capt. Evans in the King's Bench Court for "Criminal Conversation with his Wife" ie a consummated affair

<sup>11</sup> Burke (1838) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions Or High Official Rank: But Uninvested with Heritable Honours* pp432-3

<sup>12</sup> [http://wn.com/Tufnell\\_Park\\_FC](http://wn.com/Tufnell_Park_FC)

John Tufnell, was a Major in the Army <sup>13</sup>, a Lt. Col in the Middlesex militia and living in Bath when he married Uliana Ivanova Margaret Fowell in April 1796 at Marylebone in London. He was also a Somerset JP at this time <sup>14</sup>.

Uliana Fowell was the sole heiress of her father, the Rev John Fowell DD, rector of Bishopsbourne in Kent and co-chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury <sup>15</sup> and his wife Susannah Alkin of Canterbury <sup>16</sup>.

John and Uliana had 7 sons and five daughters. Their sons were John Charles Fowell Tufnell <sup>17</sup>, George Edmund Tufnell <sup>18</sup>, William Tufnell <sup>19</sup>, Arthur Bonham

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<sup>13</sup> Burke (1844) *A Genealogical and Heraldic history of the extinct and dormant Baronetries of England* p208

<sup>14</sup> Burke (1838) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions Or High Official Rank: But Uninvested with Heritable Honours* pp432-3

<sup>15</sup> Thomas Secker 1693-1798, Archbishop 1758-1768

<sup>16</sup> Burke (1844) *A Genealogical and Heraldic history of the extinct and dormant Baronetries of England* p208

<sup>17</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* p433 Born at Sand [*sic*, possibly *Seend* ?] Wilts 11 Feb 1797 married 1820 Elizabeth Penfold and had 5 children.

He died 7 October 1866 when there were only four children mentioned - Charles, Edward, Elizabeth and Mary [Will of John Charles Fowell Tufnell, from [http://www.mid-sussex-roots.net/downloads/members/wills/misc-wills/1866\\_will\\_of\\_John\\_Charles\\_Fowel\\_%20Tufnell.doc.](http://www.mid-sussex-roots.net/downloads/members/wills/misc-wills/1866_will_of_John_Charles_Fowel_%20Tufnell.doc.)]

<sup>18</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* died an infant at Bishopbourne 13 April 1799

<sup>19</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* born 20 March 1802 worked for the Audit office of the Army and died in London 12 November 1833

Tufnell <sup>20</sup>, Edward Wyndham Tufnell <sup>21</sup>, Thomas Jolliffe Tufnell <sup>22</sup> and Thomas Robert Tufnell <sup>23</sup>.

Edward Wyndham Tufnell was the first Bishop of Brisbane in Australia, between 1859 and 1874.

Thomas Robert Tufnell was the Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and at one time was "owner of 35 houses and land at St James' Gardens in London <sup>24</sup>". In 1901 he was living at Lackham House, Spring Grove, Heston, Middlesex. Ms. Britten has pointed out that this was one of two New Houses shown in the 1861 census for the area, at which time Thomas was listed as the head of household. It is surmised that Thomas named the property after his childhood home. It is possible that the Robert Hutchinson Campbell Tufnell, who was enrolled into the Lower School at Marlborough College in 1862 aged 10, was his son but this is not certain<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* born 31 March 1812, a banker in Bath died unmarried at age 24 in 1836

<sup>21</sup> Burke (1838) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions Or High Official Rank: But Uninvested with Heritable Honours* born in Bath 3 October 1814 and went to Wadham College Oxford  
He died in 1897 [*Annual Register* 1897 p197]

<sup>22</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* has that he was born 23 May 1819, which accords with the DNB or *vice versa*, but the Lacock Parish Register records that he was "born May 5<sup>th</sup>, baptized June 19", educated at Dr Bayliffes School Salisbury. He died 27 Nov 1885, buried Mt Jerome Cemetery nr Dublin. Married Henrietta, daughter of Crosadile Moony of Granahan, they had 2 daughters, Iva and Florence. [*Dictionary of National Biography* ix p1220] It is presumably he whose birth was reported in the Salisbury & Winchester Journal of 31 May 1819

<sup>23</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* p433 born 2 October 1822,  
Lacock Parish Registers Baptisms 26<sup>th</sup> October 1822

<sup>24</sup> Sue Britten, *Pers. Comm.* 2009. I am much indebted to Ms Britten for freely sharing the results of her research into the Tufnell family and assisting greatly with this section. It was her contribution which spurred me to undertake further research into the family, many thanks.

<sup>25</sup> James, LW (1952) (ed) *Marlborough College Registers* 9<sup>th</sup> edition no 2170 p115

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

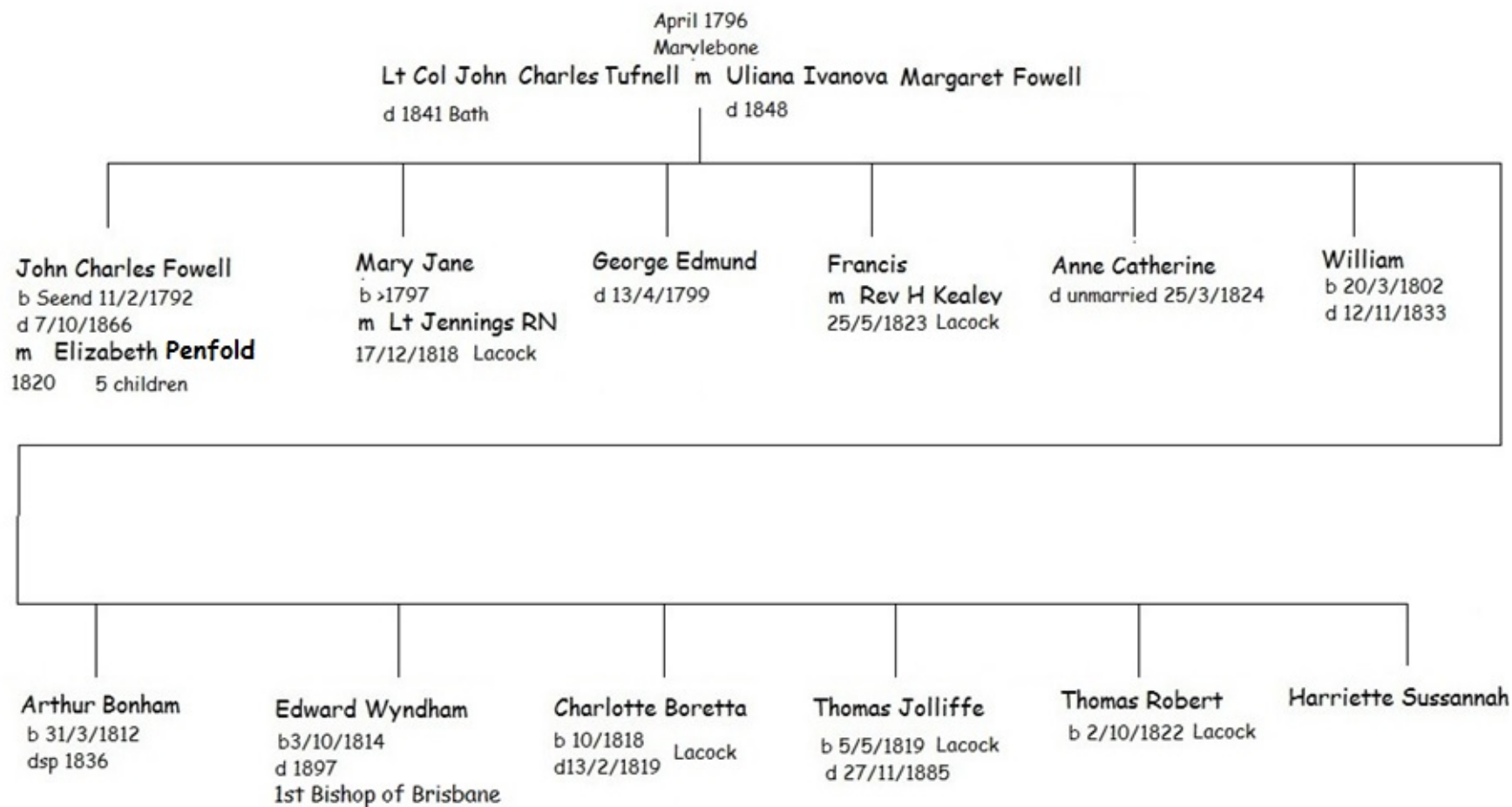


Fig. 2 Family of Lt Col Tufnell of Lackham \*

John and Uliana's daughters were Mary Jane Tufnell, Francis Tufnell, Henrietta Susannah Tufnell, Anne Catherine Tufnell <sup>26</sup> and Charlotte Bonetta Tufnell. The dates of birth for the daughters are often not known but in Fig 2 (above) they are positioned in their likely order of birth, based on internal evidence such as date of marriage etc. The son born in 1819 and noticed in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* <sup>27</sup> was Thomas Jolliffe. He died in November 1885 and was a "distinguished surgeon" in Ireland. The *Irish Times* <sup>28</sup> published a fulsome obituary detailing his career and achievements.

The daughters were most connected with Lackham, three of them were born or married or died while the Tufnells lived there; Mary Jane "a minor" <sup>29</sup> married Lt. Edward Jennings RN <sup>30</sup> "from Walcot, Bath" on December 17<sup>th</sup> 1818 <sup>31</sup>. They had six children who survived. The Parish Registers show that Thomas Robert Jennings was baptised at Lacock but he does not appear in the list of Jennings children in Burke, however no burial record has so far been found either.

The youngest daughter, Charlotte Bonetta, whose birth has already been noticed in 1818, died the next year <sup>32</sup> at only 4 months old.

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<sup>26</sup> Burke (1838) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions Or High Official Rank: But Uninvested with Heritable Honours* died unmarried at Brighton 25 March 1824

<sup>27</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Monday 22 May 1819 p4  
"Births... At Lackham House, in this county, the Lady of Lieut Colonel Tufnell, of a son"

<sup>28</sup> Reported in the *Western Times* Exeter Friday 1 December 1885

<sup>29</sup> Lacock Parish Register Marriages. This would have meant she was under the age of 21 at this time.

<sup>30</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid*

<sup>31</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 24 December 1818 p3 and *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Monday 21 December 1818 p4  
"Thursday was married at Lacock by the Rev James Paley Edw Jennings esq of this city, to Mary Jane, eldest dau. Of Lieut Col Tufnell of Lackham House, Wilts"

<sup>32</sup> Burke (1838) *ibid* 10 February 1819 Parish register entry not located.

Lt Col Tufnell's eldest son married, in 1821, Elizabeth Fenfold<sup>33</sup>. He is given as the Rev Tufnell

A year later the Tufnells had another son, Thomas Robert<sup>34</sup>. An account of the same year, 1822, makes it clear that Lt Col Tufnell didn't hunt with the local pack of hounds, as most of his neighbors would have done<sup>35</sup>.

*Bladud Bank, Bath, 26 Dec, 1837*

*Dear Sir*

*When I lived at Lackham House, although I never hunted nor did any of my family, I never would permit a fox to be killed; any cubs I found there I always sent to Badminton. At length I was so annoyed by foxes that I applied to the Duke of Beaufort to request the favour of his coming and hunting the cover and that I would never apply to him without being able to assure him he would not have a blank day. He said he could not come so far, as his dogs would have to sleep out for a night, which is very inconvenient; and as there were no other hounds whatever (this being before yours were kept) I was at perfect liberty to do what I thought was right with the foxes, and I, the following day, sent an invitation to two keepers and several gentlemen, to come and shoot them, which they did the two following days, when they destroyed the whole, which amounted to even more than I expected - eleven. The third day they did not find one, nor was I ever annoyed afterward*

*I am, your obedient servant*

*JC Tufnell*

This is interesting in its own right but the address of the letter shows that Tufnell was a partner in a bank in Bath; the Bladud Bank was "named after its

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<sup>33</sup> *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* Friday 11 May 1821 p2  
*Married : At Brighton the Rev JCF Tufnell, eldest son of Col Tufnell of Lackham, Wilts, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late J Penfold, Esq of Annington Sussex"*

<sup>34</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 10 October 1822 p3  
*"Births Tuesday at Lackham house, Wilts, the lady of Lieut Col Tufnell, a son"*

<sup>35</sup> Letter from Tufnell to Mr Horlock reported in the *Wiltshire Independent* Thursday Feb 1 1838 p3

*original home in Bladud Buildings before it transferred*<sup>36</sup> to [Old] Bond Street in 1794<sup>37</sup> ". Christies sold a Tufnell bank note in 1999<sup>38</sup>

In 1823 Francis married the Rev. Robert Young Keays<sup>39</sup> at Lacock. Rev Keays was a chaplain in India in the Bombay, now Mumbai, Presidency and they had two sons and one daughter<sup>40</sup>.

It may be that the Tufnells left Lackham just after Francis' marriage - an account of the county of Somerset, dated 1822, places Col. Tufnell living just outside Bath in that year<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>36</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 26 June 1797 p3 "24 June 1794 The PUBLICK are respectfully informed that *BLADUD BANK is REMOVED from BLADUD BUILDINGS to BOND STREET* "

<sup>37</sup> Clews, *S Banking in Bath in the reign of George III* publication unknown, p119 at <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/Media/CHC%20Images/Vol%2005%20-%2005.%20Clews%20-%20Banking%20in%20Bath%20in%20the%20Reign%20of%20George%20III.pdf> accessed 26 September 2015

<sup>38</sup> Christies of London, sale 1205 30 September 1999 Banknotes lot 257, which realised £161.

<sup>39</sup> Lacock Parish Register Marriages Married May 25<sup>th</sup> 1823. The Parish Register shows that Rev Keayes was "of Boughton Gifford" but the newspaper reports indicate he was in Chippenham, or just outside *The Morning Post* Tuesday 27 May 1823 p3, *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 29 May 1823 p3 and *Oxford Journal* Saturday 31 May 1823 p3 all had :

"On the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst., at Lacock, Wilts, by the Rev James Paley, the Rev RY Keays of Pew Hill House near Chippenham, Wilts, to Fanny, second daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Tufnell, of Lackham House, in the same County"

*The Gentleman's Magazine* (1823 vol2 p367) reported "at Lacock Rev Henry Keays of Pewhill House near Chippenham to Fanny daughter Lt Col Tufnell of Lackham House May 22" so agrees with the location but not quite right on the date.

<sup>40</sup> Burke (1838) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions Or High Official Rank: But Uninvested with Heritable Honours* p433

Robert Henry Keayes, Charles Frederick Keayes and Fanny Bate Keays

<sup>41</sup> Greenwood A & C (1822) *Somersetshire Delineated* section on Batheaston p19 *To the south of the village is Bailbrook House the residence of Colonel Tufnell* (this is wrong, Bailbrook is west of Batheaston, I know as, for the first two and a half weeks I spent in Bath when I moved to the area in 1981, I lived at Bailbrook Villa, which

The Tufnells had certainly left Lackham by 1824; in that year "*Henrietta Tufnell, Bath* <sup>42</sup>" was awarded the Silver Palette for a pencil drawing of a landscape in the category of "*Polite Arts : copies in Chalk, Pencil and India Ink*" in a national competition run by the Royal Society for Art.

Exactly when in 1824 they left is unclear but it was after the start of March; Lt Col Tufnell is described as "*removing*" in the notification of the sale of his goods from the House by auction <sup>43</sup>, it would seem that all the fittings were sold.

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is the residence below Bailbrook House; when I was a self-employed gardener about twenty years later one of my contracts was for the gardens at the Villa and finally Bailbrook House was used as a Training venue and in the early years of the current millenium, when I was working as a Trainer-Assessor with Virgin Mobile in Trowbridge, we undertook training there; it's a small local world. Auth.]

<sup>42</sup> *Transactions of the Society established at London for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce* 1824 vol LXIII p xiv [ |this Society became the Royal Society for Art], also reported in *The London Journal of Arts and Sciences* 1825 pp386-7

<sup>43</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 26 February 1824 p1 and the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Monday 1 March 1824 p4

*"Lackham House Wilts.*

*To be Sold by Auction, by Mr Bartrum.*

*On the premises, at Lackham House, in te County od Wilts, (3 miles from Chippenham and four from Melksham) on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March next, and four following days, to commence each day at eleven o'clock*

*The particularly Good and Useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, chimney-glass, 2 mirrors, large capital reflecting telescope, some BOOKS, 8 day Clock, bracket ditto, Oxford Skiff with sail and oars, excessive stoneware dinner service with other china and richly Cut Glass, Shower Bath upon the best construction, Bathing Tub, large quantity of Strong and Table Beer, fashionable GIG on its first wheels, Chariot Harness, 2 sets of Gig and other ditto, strong waggon and 2 carts, field roller, haymaking machine and other agricultural implements, cheese press and vat &c, fine strong Cart Gelding and other effects*

*Of Lieut-Colonel Tufnell, Removing*

*The Goods comprise many superior bedsteads with carved mahognay posts and suitable hangings, a variety of field and servants' ditto, with prime goose feather bed and bedding, well made cabinet articles in library bookcases, dwarf ditto, range of pillar and claw dining tables 12 feet 10 ong, cellaret sideboard, with double brass rail, French stuffed Spanish wood chairs, library table, sofa, card and loo ditto, many chests of*



Henrietta married Thomas Dowell of Dauntsey House, Wiltshire, four years<sup>44</sup> later at Box, Wiltshire<sup>45</sup>

Lt Col Tufnell died in Bath in 1841. Uliana survived him by 7 years, dieing in 1848<sup>46</sup>

Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century the trustees were allowing the Montagus to gradually sell off the outlying parts of the estate. Alderton was sold in 1827 - having

*suffered all the evils of non resident proprietorship. Its noble house had been pulled down and the materials and furnishings sold, its stately timber everywhere felled and fences neglected*<sup>47</sup>

In 1831 George CC Montagu's son Frederick Conway Montagu was given as "of Lackham House" when he sold land at Reybridge to George White<sup>48</sup>. It is unclear when Frederick moved in but he had previously been living in Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, London. George White took out a mortgage of £1000 from

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*drawers, War drobes &c, Grecian sofa, Brussels and other carpets little worn, set of barré-morine French curtains for two windows, tastefully fitted up and fringed, many sets of chints cotton ditto, excellent culinary articles, quantity of empty wine and beer casks, together with all other usual domestic requisites. To be publicly viewed on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> March, when catalogues may be had at the principal inns of Chippenham, Melksham and Devizes, or of the Auctioners, 10 Milsom Street Bath "*

<sup>44</sup> Burke (1838) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions Or High Official Rank: But Uninvested with Heritable Honours* p433 16 November 1830

<sup>45</sup> Although some miles down the road Box is the next village east along the A4 from Batheaston. Henrietta and Thomas had two sons Charles Goddard Dowell and another unnamed [Burke (1838) *ibid*].

<sup>46</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* 1848 p332

Jan 29 At Wilsford, aged 69, Mrs Uliana Magretta Tufnell, widow of Lieut. Col John Charles Tufnell and dau of the late Rev John Fowell DD Rector of Bishopsbourne Kent

<sup>47</sup> Thomson, J (1845) *On the hagioscope and other parts of Alderton Church, Wilts* .

<sup>48</sup> WA 663/27 gives Frederick as being of Lackham 21 March 1831.

James Slade of Devizes <sup>49</sup> in April 1831 to buy the property. The property was described, in the insurance agreement White took out <sup>50</sup>, as being "5 cottages stone and brick built being situate near Reybridge in Lacock" and White himself is given as a baker of Lacock.

In 1832 W J Lysley contracted to buy the Pewsham estate, the lands to the north and east of the river Avon. This would have included Little, Middle and Great Lodge Farms <sup>51</sup> and extended to the A4, where the Lysley Arms public house stands.

Three years later, in 1835, Lackham itself was sold to Captain Rooke.

[To return to the Section index click [here](#)]

### The Rookes of Lackham

The Rookes were, and are, an important family in northern Wiltshire. The Lackham branch are not connected, as far as can be ascertained, to the more numerous Potterne Rookes, however. The earliest member of the family that has so far been located was Thomas Rooke who lived in Kelsick in Cumberland in 1660 and who married Anne Henderson <sup>52</sup>. Ms Susan Rooke has noted that

*The Rookes were situated in Cumberland from the Tudor period and probably before.* <sup>53</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Who subsequently transferred the mortgage to John Deverell 26 April 1832

<sup>50</sup> WA 663/27 Insurance with Royal Exchange Insurance premium of 5s for the assurance of £300

<sup>51</sup> Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (henceforth W&SHC) 137/59-26

<sup>52</sup> Burke (1863) *A genealogical and heraldic history of the landed gentry of Great Britain* p1292

<sup>53</sup> Rooke, S *pers. comm.* 2003 gives the date as 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1835. Letter deposited in WANHS library, Devizes, plus transcript. I was saddened to hear of her death in August 2013, Ms Rooke was a charming lady and her kindness and assistance are very gratefully acknowledged.

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

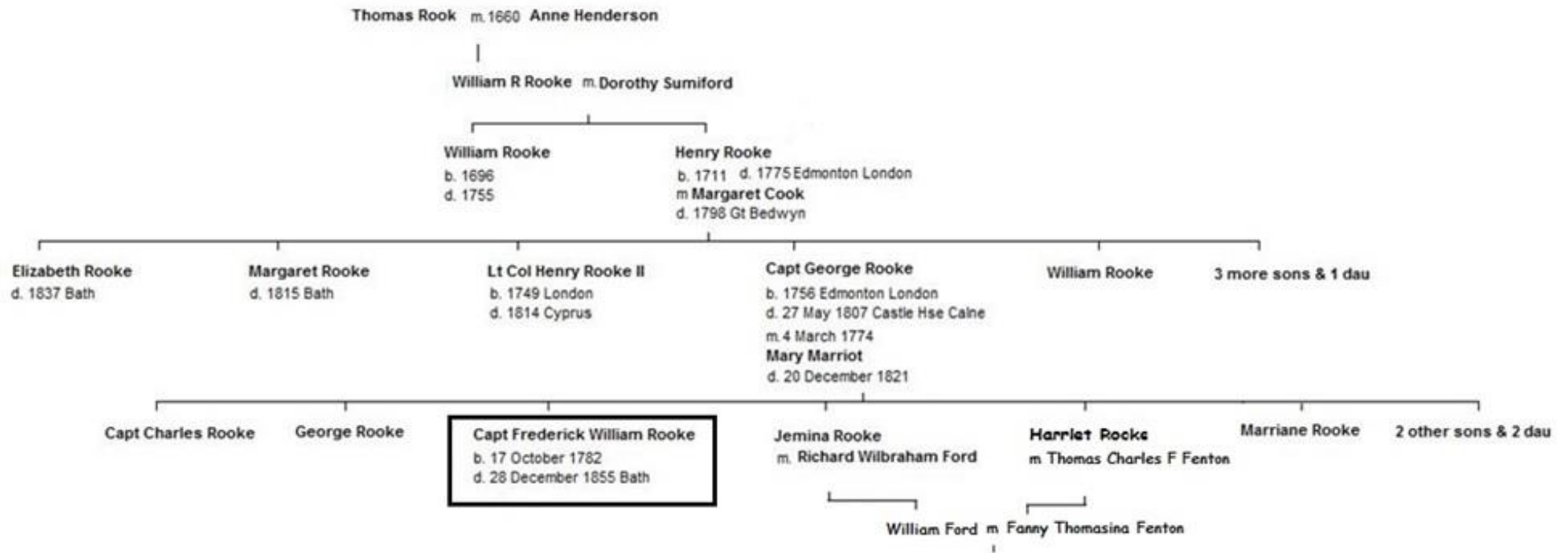


Fig. 3 Early pedigree of the Rooke family associated with Lackham \*

Thomas and Anne's son William Rooke married Dorothy Sumiford and their son Henry Rooke, who was born in 1711, married Margaret Cook.

Henry died in 1775 at Edmonton in London and was buried in the family vault. Margaret survived him by many years, dying in 1798 at "*Harding, near Great Bedwin, Wilts*" <sup>54</sup> and her body was taken to Edmonton to be buried alongside Henry. Her obituary refers to the fact that Henry was Chief Clerk of the Records in the Tower of London, on his death he was succeeded by Thomas Astle (1735 - 1803) <sup>55</sup>

Henry and Margaret had 6 sons and three daughters. Their second son, Henry II., was born in 1749 in London, and educated at Tonbridge Public School, Trinity College, Cambridge and the Inns of Court. He then joined a Dragoons regiment, reaching the rank of major before transferring to the 100th Regiment of Foot.

After leaving the army he travelled widely and was the author of two books. His love of ancient Greek history and mythology drew him to Greece and Cyprus <sup>56</sup>, where he died in 1814 <sup>57</sup> while staying at a Greek Orthodox monastery in the small village of Omodhos <sup>58</sup>. *The Gentleman's Magazine* reported that

*In the island of Cyprus Lt Col Rooke formerly Major in the 100<sup>th</sup> Foot with the brevet rank of Lt Col. For his services at the siege of Ancona in 1799 as a volunteer acting with the Russian Army he*

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<sup>54</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* (1799) vol 69 pt 1 p171  
Feb .... At Harding near Gt. Bedwin Wilts in her 83<sup>rd</sup> year the relic of Henry Rooke esq late keeper of the records in the Rolls; and on the 11<sup>th</sup> her remains were interred with his at Edmonton

<sup>55</sup> [http://www.aim25.ac.uk/cgi-bin/vcdf/detail?coll\\_id=3638&inst\\_id=13](http://www.aim25.ac.uk/cgi-bin/vcdf/detail?coll_id=3638&inst_id=13)

<sup>56</sup> Zavallis L. *pers. comm.*. 2003 Mr Zavallis has made a study of Lt Col Rooke and I gratefully acknowledge his kindness in allowing me to reproduce the results of his research

<sup>57</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* (1814) vol 84 pt 2 p408 (not p407 as shown in the Index of People and Places) July 7<sup>th</sup> 1814

<sup>58</sup> in the foothills of the Troodos mountains in the SE of the island

*had the order of St Anne of the Second Class*<sup>59</sup> *conferred on him by the Emperor of Russia*<sup>60</sup>

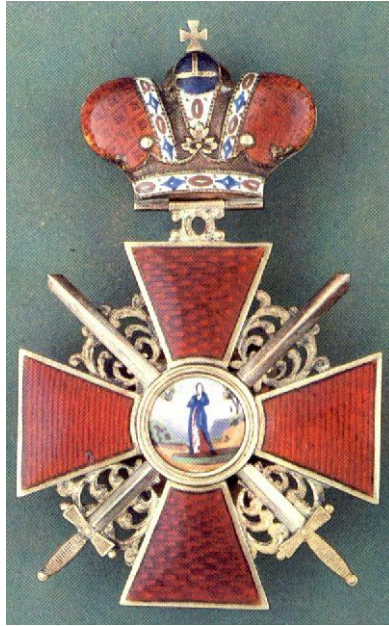


Fig 4 Order of St Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> Class with Crossed Swords<sup>61</sup> \*

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<sup>59</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order\\_of\\_St.\\_Anna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_St._Anna) [accessed 6 April 09]  
Initially, the order had but one class and was named the "Order of Anna". The statutes of the Order promulgated in 1735 established as the principal insigne a gilt and red-enamelled cross, with an image of Saint Ann imposed upon the center of the cross; the reverse bore the initials "A.I.P.F." (for "Anna Imperatoris Petri Filia": "Anna, Emperor Peter's daughter" in Latin). The same letters also abbreviate the Latin motto (as the letter "J" did not exist in Latin, "Iustitiam" was the original spelling of the word now rendered "Justitiam"). In 1742, Karl Peter Ulrich, Duke Karl Friedrich's son, was declared the Russian heir apparent. After arriving in Russia, he presented the Order to several courtiers. On 15 April 1797, his own son, Emperor Paul I of Russia, established the Order as part of the Imperial Russian system of honours and divided it into three classes, renaming it the "Order of Saint Anna". Emperor Alexander I added a fourth class in 1815.

[It would seem likely that it was awarded "with swords" as these were added for military gallantry and that is what is shown in Fig 3. Auth.]

<sup>60</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* (1814) vol 84 pt 2 p408

<sup>61</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order\\_of\\_St.\\_Anna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_St._Anna)

Henry Rooke published an account of this campaign in 1800 <sup>62</sup>.

This announcement may have been used for the memorial inscription that is to be found on his gravestone <sup>63</sup>, which was sent from England by his brother William and can still be seen today <sup>64</sup>.

Capt George Rooke, Henry's other brother, was born in Edmonton in London in 1756 <sup>65</sup>. He married Mary Marriott on 4 March 1774 <sup>66</sup>. Mary Marriott was the daughter of Joshua Marriott and his wife Mary Edge <sup>67</sup>.

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<sup>62</sup> Rooke G (1800) *Account of the Expedition of Ancona Undertaken by a Russian and Turkish armament 1799* British Library Gen. Ref. Coll. 9073.b.10

<sup>63</sup> Papageorgiou, C (1989) *Have you been to O modhos?* Nicosia page not known.

*"Under this marble are deposited/ the remains of Henry Rooke Esq. formerly Major in the/ Hundredth Regiment of Foot with brevet rank of Lieu/ tenant-Colonel in the service of His Britannic Majesty/ King George the Third. After quitting the he travelled/ thro' various parts of Europe, and being in Italy/ in the year 1799, joined the Russian Army before Ancona/ as a volunteer officer and for his services and/ assistance in reducing that fortress his late Imperial/ Majesty of all the Russias Paul conferred upon him the/ Order of S. Anne of Holstein 2nd class. He died in this/ Convent the 7th day of July in the year of our Lord and Saviour/ 1811 and was interred by the Holy Fathers under/ neath this stone with their consent and that of/ the most Reverend the Bishop of the Greek Church in the island of Cyprus. His only surviving brother B./ Rooke as a last tribute of fraternal regard and affection/ hath caused this memorial to be conveyed and/ placed over his grave"*

<sup>64</sup> Zavallis L. pers. comm. 2009

<sup>65</sup> Zavallis L. *ibid*

<sup>66</sup> *The London Magazine or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer* (1774) p155 Marriages

*"March 4 At Manchester Capt Rooke of the Inniskilling regiment of dragoons Miss Marriott daughter of the late Joshua Marriott"*

Notification of this wedding is also to be found in *The Town and country magazine or universal repository of knowledge* 1774

<sup>67</sup> Married in Manchester 1743

Joshua was a successful and important Manchester entrepreneur associated with the cloth industry. He was a Captain in the Enniskillen Dragoons, for how long is unknown. For a time the family lived at Langham Hall in Essex. At least one of their children married while the family was at Langham Hall - their third daughter, Jemina, whose marriage was reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine* <sup>68</sup>. It is strange that George was not referred to as *late* and that the only location given is Langham as he had died four years previously, in 1807, at his home Castle House in Calne, Wiltshire <sup>69</sup>.

Langham Hall is only 5 miles north east of Horkesley, which is the location of Westwood House. In 1808 Charles, George and Mary's eldest son, married Anne Watson, daughter of Lt. Col Watson of Westwood House <sup>70</sup> and Charles and his wife later lived there for a long time - for example Charles is described as being "of Westwood House, Essex" <sup>71</sup> in 1842 in the report of the marriage of his daughter Julia.

Castle House in Calne is approached from the town centre by Castle Street and was said by John Aubrey <sup>72</sup> to have been on the site of a castle, but no trace has ever been found and the debate continues. The current house was probably built in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century for Walter Norborne <sup>73</sup>. The house was extended in 1770 to a design by Robert Adam and it was this U shaped house that the Rookes would have known.

At least two of Henry I and Margaret's daughters also lived in the area; Margaret died in Bath in 1816 and Elizabeth in 1837. Although it has

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<sup>68</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* (1811) vol 81 pt 2 p490 "May 9<sup>th</sup> Rev RW Ford of Rissington Parva co Gloucester to Jemina, third daughter of George Rooke esq formerly of Langham Hall Essex"

<sup>69</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* (1807) vol 77 pt 1 p487 27 May At Castle House Calne co Wilts George Rooke esq formerly Captain 6<sup>th</sup> or Enniskillen Dragoons

<sup>70</sup> *The Monthly Magazine* vol 25 p180 March 1808

<sup>71</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* July 1842 p535

<sup>72</sup> Aubrey, J *Topographical Collections* edited and enlarged by Jackson, JEJ

<sup>73</sup> *VCH Wiltshire* vol 17 pp34-41 "Calne: The town to c. 1800"

previously been said that none of the daughters had children correspondence with Mrs Jane Chapman has revealed that at least two of them did; Jemina married Richard Wilbraham Ford and had a son William Ford who married his first cousin Fanny Thomasina Fenton, the daughter of Jemina's sister Harriet who married Thomas Charles Fenton. This is shown in Fig. 3 <sup>74</sup>

George and Mary's fifth son was Captain Frederick William Rooke<sup>75</sup> RN, (1782 - 1855) who was the owner of Lackham referred to above. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1782 at Castle House in Calne <sup>76</sup>. His education remains to be discovered but he joined the Royal Naval Academy <sup>77</sup> when he was only 13, in May 1796 <sup>78</sup>

Rooke's military career, of course, was during the Napoleonic War, and his career gives insights into the naval side of that vast conflict.

It is interesting that Rooke joined the Academy because

*the Academy did not achieve the objective of becoming the preferred path to becoming a naval officers. The traditional means of a sea going 'apprenticeship' remained the preferred alternative. The vast majority of the officer class was still recruited in this manner based on family ties, and patronage. Family connections, 'interest' and a sincere belief in the superiority of practical experience learnt on the quarterdeck ensured that the officer class favoured the traditional model*

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<sup>74</sup> Jane Chapman *pers.comm* 2016. My sincere thanks to Jane for her willingness to share the results of her investigations into her family, she is the great granddaughter of both Jemina and Harriet, being the granddaughter of Fanny and William Ford

<sup>75</sup> Vernon, T (1969) pamphlet *A short history of the Lords of the Manor of Lackham from Saxon Days* Lackham College,.

<sup>76</sup> Rooke S (2003) *pers.comm.* 17<sup>th</sup> October 1782

<sup>77</sup> Which was at Portsmouth for the first 104 years of its existence (from 1733). [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Naval\\_Academy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Naval_Academy)

<sup>78</sup> O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54



but it may be that the Rookes didn't have the "means and connections to secure a traditional berth as a youngster"<sup>79</sup>.

Frederick Rooke had an interesting naval career which was summarised in his obituary in 1856:

*He entered the Royal Naval Academy in May 1796, and embarked, March 1, 1797, as midshipman on board the Cumberland 74 Capt BS Rowley, lying at Portsmouth. In the following July he removed to the Sirius 36, stationed in the North Sea; from Feb 1798 to March 1799 he was in the Ramillion 74; and then again, for two years, in the Sirius, in which he was present at the capture of the Dédaigneuse frigate. Having next served for fourteen months in the Boaddicea 38 he was in July 1803 appointed Admiralty midshipman of the Clyde 38, in which he served in the North Sea and Baltic until Dec 1803. He then became acting Lieutenant of the Ariadne 24, off Havre de Grace; and in Jan 1805 was nominated Sub-Lieutenant of the Attentive gun-brig in the West Indies. He was confirmed a Lieutenant Nov. 1805; and on the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec was appointed to the Achille 74, attached to the Channel fleet. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1805 re received charge of the signal-station at Swanage, which he retained for six months. In July 1807 he was again appointed to the Achille, employed first in the Channel, next off the coast of Spain, and then at the siege of Flushing where he served on shore, and caught Walcheren fever, from which he suffered for ten months. On 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 1810 he was appointed to the San Juan 74, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore CV Penrose, at Gibraltar; and whilst on the books of that ship he served in the flotilla, and was in frequent action with the enemy during the siege of Cadiz. He also commanded a division of gun-boats at the defence of Tarifa; and for his services at both places he was advanced to the rank of Commander March 21, 1812. He was not afterwards employed, but accepted the rank of a retired Captain, March 25, 1845<sup>80</sup>*

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<sup>79</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Naval\\_Academy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Naval_Academy)

<sup>80</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol Jan 1856 pp188-9

Capt. Rooke's service record is held at the Public Record Office and from this, and other research, a more detailed history of his career has been produced. This can be found as [Appendix 1](#).

He had a coat of arms :



Fig. 5 Arms of Capt. FW Rooke from his memorial in St Cyriac's, Lacock \*

It may be no coincidence that just over a year after he was promoted to Commander and, effectively, retired, in May 1813, Cmdr. Rooke married <sup>81</sup> Anne Wallace, the daughter of the Edinburgh banker Alexander Wallace, at Bath. It is noted that the *Gentleman's Magazine* record of the marriage incorrectly assigns Rooke the rank of Captain, which he didn't achieve until his actual retirement in 1845.

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<sup>81</sup> *The Edinburgh Register for 1813* vol VI p cclv  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 1813 At Bath, Captain Frederick William Rooke, of the Royal Navy, to Miss Wallace daughter of the deceased Alexander Wallace, Esq, banker

Anne Wallace was born in Edinburgh in 1793<sup>82</sup> the daughter of Alexander Wallace, a banker, and Davida Paterson Rollo

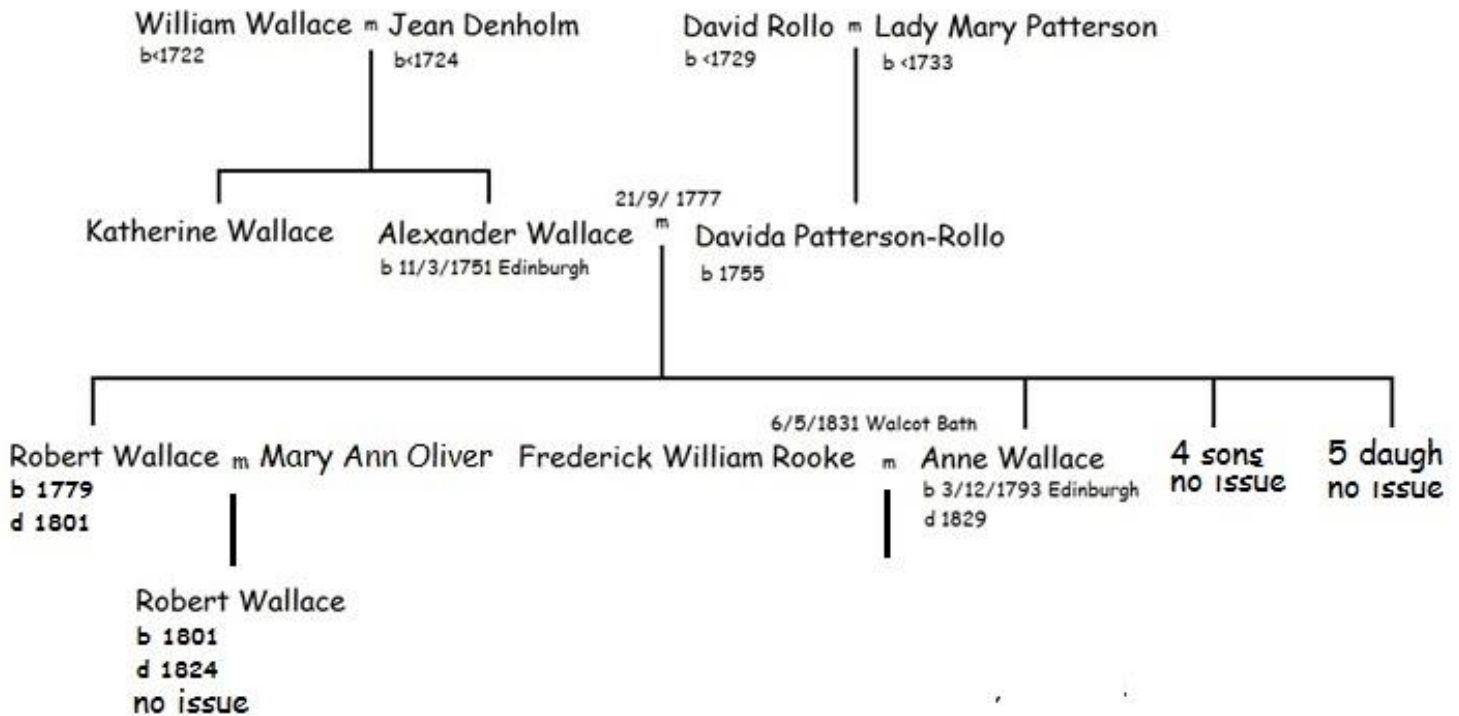


Fig. 6 Ancestry of Anne Wallace \*

*The private banking house of Seton<sup>83</sup>, Wallace & Co. was established in Edinburgh in 1791. It does not seem to have existed for more than fifteen years, as the firm is not mentioned after 1805 ; probably owing to the death of Mr. Alex. Wallace on 12th June 1804<sup>84</sup>*

<sup>82</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> December

<sup>83</sup> It is noted that this partner of Anne Wallace's father probably inspired the first name of one of her sons, Seton Rooke

<sup>84</sup> Kerr, AW (1908) *The History of Banking in Scotland* Chapter XII *The Crisis of 1793 and 1797* at

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/banking/chapter12.htm>

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

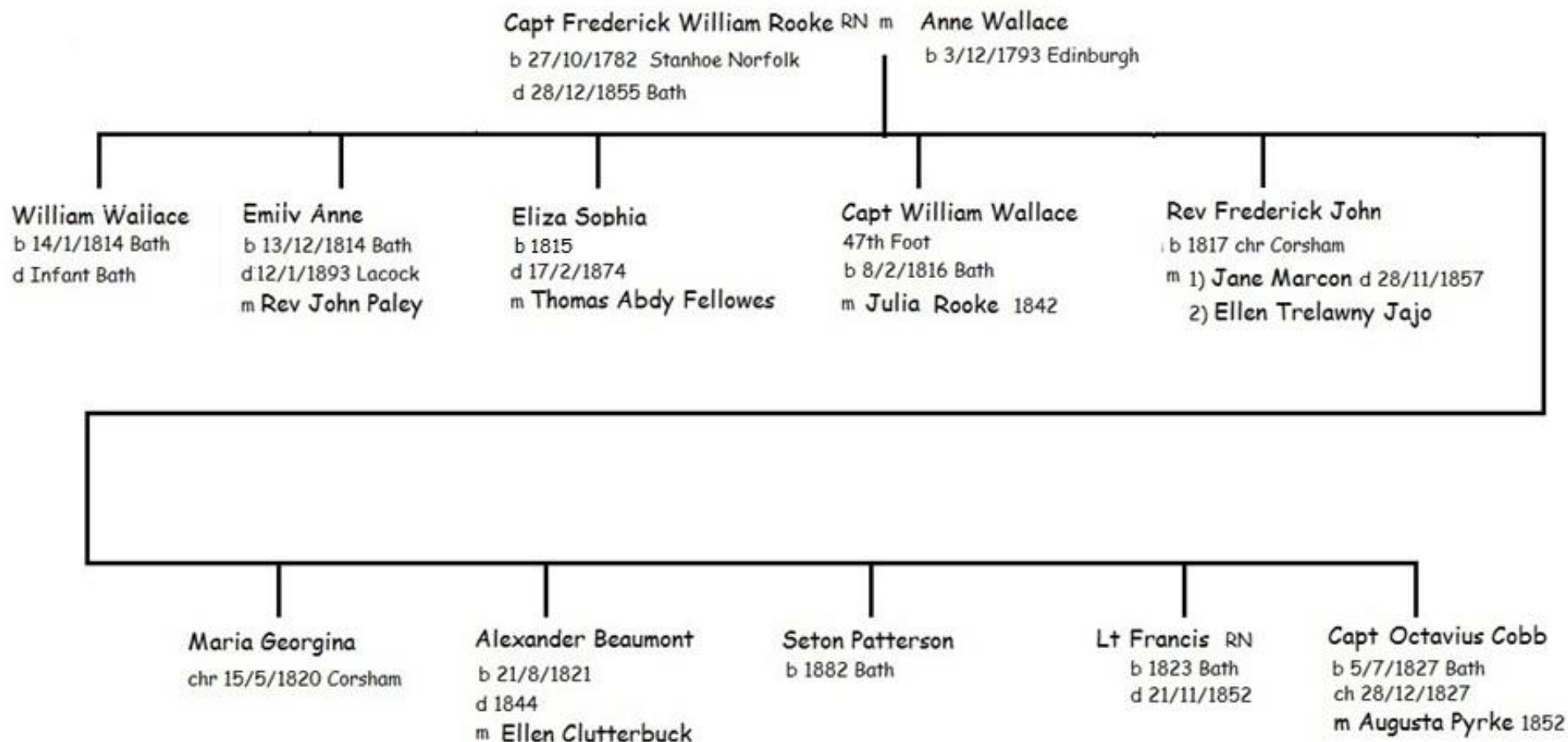


Fig. 7 Children of Frederick William Rooke and Anne Wallace \*

He was also an expert archer; he "gained the Musselburgh arrow at the annual competition of the Royal Society of Archers in the years 1770, 1780, 1788, and 1792." <sup>85</sup>.

Anne Wallace had 5 brothers of whom only two married and only one of them, Robert, had an heir. All her five sisters died young and unmarried, she was the only daughter to produce children <sup>86</sup>. She made up for this, she and Frederick Rook had seven sons and three daughters

Miss Susan Rooke states that

*FW Rooke married Anne Wallace (died 1829), daughter of Alexander Wallace of Edinburgh who was heiress to her elder brother Robert <sup>87</sup>*

The reason for this was that her brother Robert had died in September 1801, a month before the birth of his only son, another Robert, to his wife Mary Anne Oliver. This child was Robert's heir, but he died in 1824, five years before Anne Wallace, and so she inherited. Hence the children of Anne Wallace and Frederick Rooke were the only descendants of Alexander Wallace and Davida Patterson Rollo.

Four years after Anne's death in 1829 Fredrick married Harriet Hyde, the fifth daughter of Nathan Hyde of Ardwick in Lancashire. They were married at Sherborne in Warwickshire in September 1833 <sup>88</sup>. They had no children but it was Harriet who was the Lackham Mrs. Rooke.

The estate was advertised for rental in March 1831, when it was said that "At the west end of the house there is a enclosed Garden leading from the hall, and also an excellent Kitchen Garden aadjoining the

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<sup>85</sup> Rogers, Charles (1889) *The Book of Wallace* vol 1 p148

<sup>86</sup> Rogers, Charles (1889) *ibid*

<sup>87</sup> Rooke, S *pers. comm.* 2003

<sup>88</sup> September 10<sup>th</sup> *The United Service Magazine* 1833 pt 3 p287

woods, through and round which there are beautiful walks and rides formed" <sup>89</sup> and was advertised for sale by auction on 25 May 1831 <sup>90</sup>

The Lackham estate was 590 acres when Capt. Rooke purchased it two years later, in 1835, <sup>91</sup> at a cost of £30,000. Details of the Lackham itself are known from information "Extracted from the survey by Mr Little of Biddestone of the Parish of Lacock in the county of Wilts so far as respects Lackham House and lands agreed to be sold to Capt Rooke " <sup>92</sup> The date of this survey is not known but was presumably

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<sup>89</sup> [Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette](#) Thursday 10 & 17 March 1831, 2 and [Salisbury and Winchester Journal](#) Monday 14 March 1831, 3

<sup>90</sup> [Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette](#) Thursday 5 May 1831, 4

<sup>91</sup> Rooke, Susan *pers. comm.* 2003

<sup>92</sup> WA 44/6

	Acres	Rods	Poles
Fish pond and small wood	3	0	21
Rape Pond	16	1	28
Wood Lye	14	1	8
Green Lye	15	1	20
Old Barton	10	2	4
Rookery	9	0	30
Hermitage	2	0	17
Old garden and lawn	7	1	10
North front	4	3	3
ditto	4	2	6
Bradley	8	0	13
Fifteen acres	15	0	0
Old Orchard	10	3	31
Boltham?	4	1	0
Lackham Woods	52	0	17
Lackham house, garden )			
Coachhouse Stables )	3	0	32
and Pleasure grounds )			
Coach road and )			
Plantations )			
Cuckoo Bush farm is given	8	1	3 and
Notton Farm as	232	0	24

1830/31. Further details are apparent from the indenture made when FW Rooke purchased the estate <sup>93</sup>

*The price will include all timber like trees and under wood fencing and everything connected with the heating apparatus water supply drainage and electric lighting (except the electric light fittings and the batteries which latter the West Wilts Electric Light and Power Company will remove when the Mansion House is connected up to the new electric main) the sundial stone seats and birds bath in the gardens garden lights staging in the greenhouse, acetylene gas fittings or electric light fittings in the stabling outbuildings and cottages harness fittings in the stables and cupboards and shelves which are not loose and belong to the Vendor and all fitted furniture including radiator covers fire backs and dog grates fixed cupboards and shelves (except the Vendor's Desk and two Bookcases in the business room a Maplewood Mantlepiece and the Safe and cover which the Vendor shall be at liberty to remove at any time prior to the date fixed for completion of the purchase the Vendor replacing said Mantlepiece with another similar to the one which was there when he purchased the property.*

Rooke didn't only own Lackham, in the Tithe returns for Lacock in 1837, he is shown as being in receipt of tithes of £50 from 443 acres and rated as owner of 1,697 acres. This must imply he had land other than Lackham in the parish, indeed this was out of a Parish with a total of 3,547 acres of assessed titheable land, so he was given as owner for very nearly half the parish. He also rented land, he is shown as being occupier of 227 acres<sup>94</sup>.

Capt. Rooke set about improving the estate even before he moved in; he was obviously tree planting in 1834, and looking for the "instant" effect at that. In November of that year he wrote to his neighbour at Lacock, William Fox-Talbot

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<sup>93</sup> WA 44/4 Main deeds to the Mansion dated 24 April 1835 FW Rooke is given as being " of The Crescent, Bath captain the Royal Navy

<sup>94</sup> Sandwell, RE (ed) (1975) *Wiltshire Tithe Appointments* Wiltshire Record Society

*Capt<sup>n</sup> Rooke presents his Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Talbot and begs the favor of the loan of his Machine for moving large Trees; which, he is about to do at Lackham - Capt<sup>n</sup> Rooke trusts tho' at present personally unknown to M<sup>r</sup> Talbot, that he is not taking too great a liberty by the above request -.*<sup>95</sup>

The return address for this letter is 28 The Royal Crescent in Bath. It is unknown whether Fox Talbot was able to accommodate his neighbour's request.

It is interesting that Capt. Rooke refers to himself as "unknown" to Fox Talbot, it suggests very strongly that Rooke was not yet resident at Lackham.

A year later, however, Fox-Talbot was writing to his mother to tell her "We have called on the Rookes & they on us " <sup>96</sup>

The estate owned a number of farms as well as the House and associated areas. Although the sale of 1831 didn't happen the catalogue gives a good idea of the extent of these holdings when Capt Rooke bought it <sup>97</sup>

Place	A	R	Po	Pe	Name	Rent £ s d
Cucckoo Bush Farm	81			9	Robert Lay	245 10 0
Notton Farm	79			14	Thomas Bowsher	400 0 0
	69	3		7		
New End Farm	91	3		13	John Frye (10 yr lease from 1831)	250 0 0
Bewley Court	59	2		27	William Milsom (10 yr lease from 1831)	251 0 0
Place	A	R	Po	Pe	Name	Rent £ s d
Arnold's Wood	26	1	13		Robert Mitchell et al yearly tenants	75 13 6

<sup>95</sup> Lacock Abbey Collection Fox Talbot Museum Lacock LA34-044

<sup>96</sup> Fox Talbot to Elizabeth Theresa Fielding dated 26 Nov 1835  
Fox Talbot Museum / Lacock Abbey Collection Lacock LA(H)35-007  
Document Number 03169

<sup>97</sup> WA 137/125/14



Ray Grist Mill *				Edward Barton 'til Michaelmas 1831	250 0 0
Lands at Showel	47	3	12	William Lawe (7 yr lease from 1827)	110 0 0
Several pieces of land in North Mead	24		30	Thomas Bowsher	5 0 0
The Enclosure	19		36	Thomas Knee and William Newmam	45 0 0
Nocketts Hill Farm	129	2	39	John Archard	150 0 0
Great Lodge Farm	366	2	36	George Temple	420 0 0
Middle Lodge farm	238	3	24	Isaac Deane	320 0 0
Little Lodge farm	247	1	38	Stephen Styles	400 0 0
3 meadows	12	1	6	Hancock as yearly tenant	20 0 0
meadow	5		19	Richard Hodgson	5 8 0

- upon which a considerable sum of money has been recently expended three floors ,five pairs of stones, undershot wheel, and flood wheel  
A = Acres R = Rods Po = Poles Per = Perches

In 1836 Capt. Rooke was one of the Wiltshire Land Tax Commissioners, charged with collecting the local taxes <sup>98</sup>.

He was also carefull the keep in with the local gentry, a report on a day's hunting at Lackham by "Mr Horlock's Hounds" on the last day of November 1836 said that

*The meet at Lackham was one of the finest imaginable, and it would be want of courtesy as well as gratitude not the acknowledge the high sense of pleasure every sportsman in the county feels for the peculiar care with which Capt Rooke preserves foxes; and this liberality is more particularly felt from the circumstance of that gentleman not himself participating in the sports of the chase" <sup>99</sup>*

<sup>98</sup> A Collection of the Public and General Statutes passed in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of King William IV (1836) p654

<sup>99</sup> [Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 5 December 1836, 4](#)

During Capt Rooke's time at Lackham a dispute started over what rights Lackham had over the River Avon, this dispute was to run on with the next few owners until the end of the century. <sup>100</sup>

It is said that Capt. Rooke built another storey onto the house, the current top floor, to accommodate his large family however all of the Rooke children were by Frederick's first wife Anne, who had died in 1829 (see above). A water colour dated 1849 <sup>101</sup> (see Fig. 8 below) is one of only two known of the house pre-dating the twentieth century and clarifies this. It clearly shows the third floor in position and it is very unlikely that the last generation of the Montagus to own the estate had the time, the need or the money to engage in such extensive rebuilding.

This picture shows that Capt Rooke also put the colonnade onto the South side of the house. He may also have been responsible for the

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<sup>100</sup>See Pratt, T (2012) *Lackham's rights to the River Avon : A 19<sup>th</sup> century contra-temps* Wiltshire Studies vol 106, 283-298 Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Devizes

<sup>101</sup> Signed with the initials WWR 1849. I am very happy to record my thanks to Mr. and Mrs Johnstone of Exeter for permission to copy and use this image, the original is in their possession. I am also grateful to their cousin Mr N Floyer who first made me aware of this picture and kindly put me in touch with them

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners



Fig. 8 Lackham House 1849 by William Wallace Rooke \*

oval porch replaced by George Palmer in 1900. It is probable that it was Captain Rooke who changed the entrance from the southern side of the house to its current location on the north. It is clear that the entrance is not on the south side of the house from the picture, there is no sign of a carriage drive here.<sup>102</sup>

It is possible to place the Rooke family at Lackham on specific dates. They were there on census night in 1841 and 1851. In 1841 there was Capt. Rooke, his wife Harriet<sup>103</sup>, Frederick John Rooke 20, Elizabeth and Maria, both 20, and 11 servants, (6 male and 5 female), including the Drinkwater family of Thomas (60), Sarah (45) and Julia (8).<sup>104</sup> The ages look rather strange but it should be noted that in the 1841 census (taken

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<sup>102</sup> For an in-depth discussion on the changes the house underwent see Pratt, T (2011) *The Manor Houses of Lackham 1050-1949* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Available online at [Manor Houses](#) Hard copies held at Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Wiltshire College Lackham Library and WANHS Library, Devizes

<sup>103</sup> Hyde

<sup>104</sup> 1841 Census data :Lackham, Lacock (HO107, 1172, 6/11 p14)

Name	M/F	Age	Where born
ROOKE, Fredk	M	55	
ROOKE, Harriet	F	45	
ROOKE, Fredk	M	21	Wiltshire
ROOKE, Eliza	F	20	Wiltshire
ROOKE, Maria	F	20	Wiltshire
SILVEY, Joseph	M	40	
HISSEY, Wm	M	25	Wiltshire
BLENESEVE, Jos	M	20	Wiltshire
HARPER, Thos	M	20	Wiltshire
HORTON, Elizh	F	25	Wiltshire
HILL, Maria	F	20	
SIMMONS, Phoebe	F	25	
BURNETT, Ann	F	20	
WALTERS, Ann	F	40	
LAVINGTON, Hanah	F	25	Wiltshire
DRINKWATER, Thos	M	60	
DRINKWATER, Sarah	F	45	
DRINKWATER, Julia	F	8	
BERRY, Lydia	F	30	
SMITH, Henry	M	25	

on the night of June 6<sup>th</sup> 1841) the ages were rounded down for anyone over 14 years of age, so that people between the ages of 20 and 24 were recorded as 20, between 25 and 29 as 25 and so on. It is not the case that all three of the Rooke children were born in the same year!

In 1841 Rooke was one of those nominated to be High Sherriff the next year <sup>105</sup>, alongside Henry Oliver and George Eyre; he was not appointed

In 1845 William Hessey was apprenticed to one Samuel Barnett, a Carpenter and Wheelwright in Mildenhall. This William Hessey was the thirteen year old son of the Lackham coachman Edmund Hessey. In 1845 the *William Hissey* shown in the 1841 census would have been 29-34 years old, so a thirteen year old son is possible. The signature on the Apprenticeship agreement <sup>106</sup> is Edmund Hussey so presumably whoever filled in the census form made a mistake. Interestingly, although the body text of the Apprenticeship agreement names the boy as William Hessey, his signature reads *William Hissey*....

The only Rooke son present, Frederick John Rooke, was rector of Rampisham in Dorset from 1845, when Capt. Rooke owned Lackham. Rev Rooke had a rather impressive rectory built in Rampisham, designed by the famous architect Pugin <sup>107</sup>, who also restored the Chancel of the Church there. Rev Rooke's grave lies together with those of his wives <sup>108</sup> and children (several seem to have died at young ages) in Rampisham churchyard <sup>109</sup>

Frederick John Rooke married twice, firstly to Jane Elizabeth Marcon and secondly to Ellen Trelawny. He had numerous children by both his wives, several of whom feature in the Lackham history and are mentioned below.

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<sup>105</sup> [Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 22 November 1841, 2](#)

<sup>106</sup> WA 1413/1

<sup>107</sup> See <http://www.pugin.com/pugramp.htm> for pictures of the rectory.

<sup>108</sup> Insert names and dates if poss

<sup>109</sup> Basu, P *pers. comm.*

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

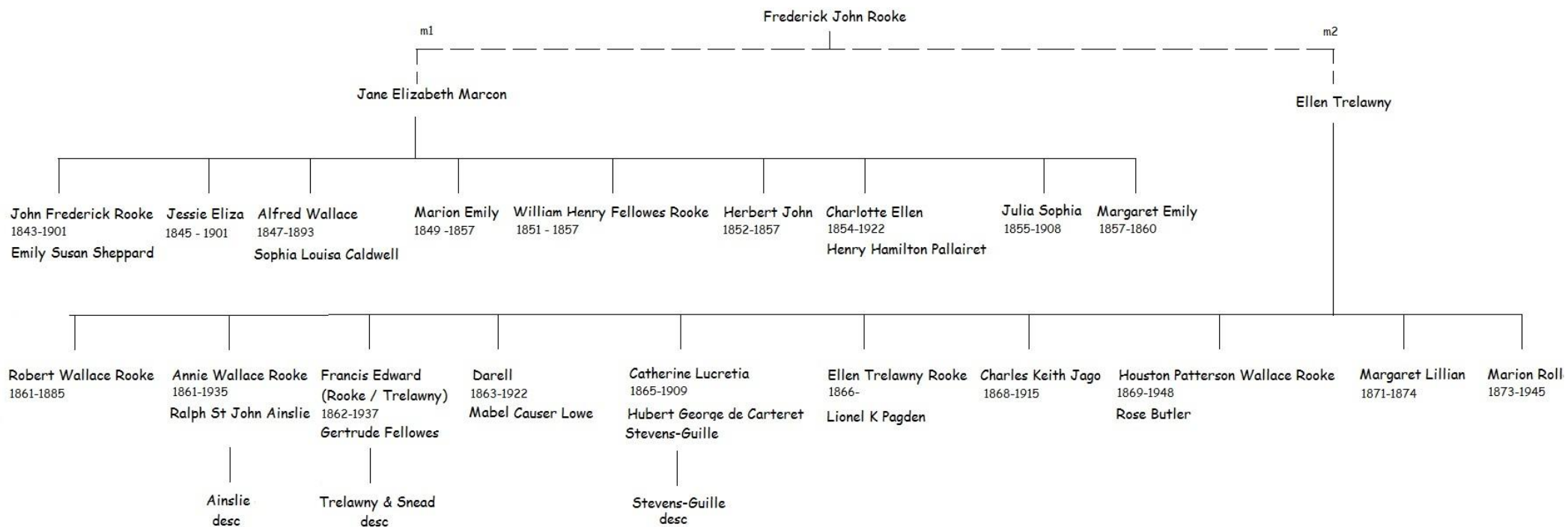


Fig. 9 Children of Rev Frederick John Rooke  
 If visiting from below (Caldwell) use \*\* , to return for the index use \*

The eldest son of Capt Rooke and Anne Wallace, and the painter of Fig. 8 above, was William Wallace Rooke who was born in 1816. He had a military career, in the 47<sup>th</sup> (The Lancashire) Regiment of Foot. He entered as an ensign in 1834 <sup>110</sup>, becoming a Lieutenant four years later <sup>111</sup> and a Captain in 1841 <sup>112</sup>. Both the last two promotions were by purchase. It is interesting to note that his cousin, William Frederick Augustus Rooke (son of William Wallace's uncle Charles Rooke), was in the same regiment; in 1846 he had been an ensign by purchase for two years <sup>113</sup>. They had even closer ties than being cousins and fellow officers - in 1842 William Wallace married Julia Humphreys neé Rooke, his uncle Charles' eldest daughter (see below for chart of the relationship). It was not unusual for first cousins to marry at this time. They were married at St Cyriac's in Lacock in July, 1842 <sup>114</sup>

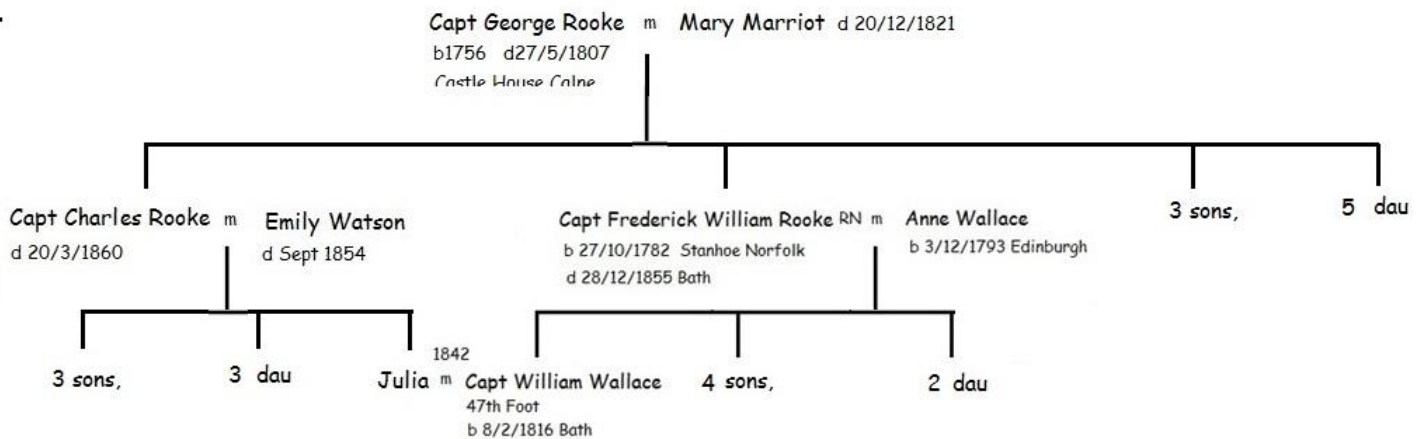


Fig. 10 Relationship of William Wallace and Julia Rooke \*

Another son, who was not present that census day, was Octavius Cobb Rooke, he lived at Dean Hall, in Gloucestershire, family home of his wife Augusta Pyre. Actually it is debatable how much time he spent at Dean

<sup>110</sup> 5/9/1834 *The New Army List* 1846 p98

<sup>111</sup> 10/10/1838 *The New Army List* *ibid*

<sup>112</sup> 13/7/1841 *The New Army List* *ibid*

<sup>113</sup> 23/8/1844 *The New Army List* *ibid*

<sup>114</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* July 1842 p535

hall, he was in the Army and serving all over the world; in 1851, for example, he was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> (East Kent) Foot (The Buffs) in Malta, listed on their manifest as Lieutenant Octavius Cobb Rooke <sup>115</sup>. He had purchased his Lieutenancy from Lt. Smith on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1847 <sup>116</sup> having been an ensign in the same regiment since November 1846 <sup>117</sup>. He was the most junior (ie newest) ensign in the regiment. He was still in the Buffs in 1849 but in April 1852 he sold his commission <sup>118</sup> and joined the Royal South Gloucester Light Infantry Militia regiment, where he was regimental adjutant and was appointed Captain <sup>119</sup>. This was almost certainly connected with his marriage, in September that year <sup>120</sup>, to Augusta, the daughter of Dunscombe Pyre of Dean Hall in Gloucestershire, where they lived for many years.

A third son was Alexander Beaumont Rooke, who lived at The Ridge near Corsham. He served in the 77<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, having joined the regiment in 1839 <sup>121</sup> as an Ensign, without purchasing the position, as a Gentleman Cadet directly from the Royal Military College <sup>122</sup>. He replaced Ensign Molyneux Hyde Nepean who had been promoted to the 41<sup>st</sup> Foot

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<sup>115</sup> *The British Army Garrison in Malta. 1851 - 1880 June 1851* at <http://website.lineone.net/~remosliema/regiments2.htm> dated 20 Nov 1846 [from Boase, F (1853) *Modern English Biography* vol 6 p2116]

<sup>116</sup> Pollock, AWA (1848) *Colburn's United service's Magazine* vol 56 p472 [date from Boase, F (1853)see below]

<sup>117</sup> War Office *A list of officers of the Army and corps of Royal Marines 1847* p159

<sup>118</sup> Boase, F (1853) *Modern English Biography* vol 6 p2116 dated 16 July 1852

<sup>119</sup> Watts, F (1853) *Bulletins and other State Intelligence for the year 1852* p614 *Commissions signed by the Lord lieutenant of Gloucestershire* dated Septmeber 17 1852

<sup>120</sup> Burke, B (1863) *A genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland* p1292. They married on September 1<sup>st</sup>

<sup>121</sup> *The New Army List 1844* p219 gives him as an Ensign 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1839

<sup>122</sup> *The United Service Journal 1839* part 1 p428



as Lieutenant, replacing Lt. Hill, who had died <sup>123</sup>. Alexander Beaumont became a Lieutenant in 1840 <sup>124</sup>. It is unclear when he left the army but was before November 1844. When his marriage, to Ellen Clutterbuck the daughter of Thomas Clutterbuck of Hardenhuish House, Chippenham, was reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine* Alexander was described as being "late of the 77<sup>th</sup> Foot <sup>125</sup>". Alexander next appears twenty years later as a Gloucestershire Justice of the Peace in 1864 <sup>126</sup> when he was living at Avening, near Stroud. The Post Office directory <sup>127</sup> shows him there in 1863 but doesn't say whether he was a JP then. He bought The Ivy in Chippenham in 1869 <sup>128</sup> and was a local JP for many years. - still serving on the Bench nearly 30 years later when Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee <sup>129</sup> in 1897.

The Rooke's other son, Francis was born in 1825. He entered the Royal Naval College in July 1836, when he was 11, and the following year, as a volunteer, joined HMS *Talavera* <sup>130</sup>. He voyaged to the Mediterranean and North America in her <sup>131</sup> and became a midshipman in the early part

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<sup>123</sup> *The United Service Journal* 1839 *ibid*

<sup>124</sup> War Office *A list of officers of the Army and corps of Royal Marines* 1840 p262. One 14<sup>th</sup> June 1842 by purchase [*New Army List ibid*]

<sup>125</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol 177 p540 November 1844

<sup>126</sup> *Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Directory* 1864 p70 *Justices of the Peace*

<sup>127</sup> *Post Office Directory of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and the City of Bristol* 1863 p192

<sup>128</sup> Barnett, G & Jefferies, S (1985) *100 photographs of Chippenham Past* Chippenham Civic Society ISBN 0 948251 05 0 p97 and Rooke, S (2003) *ibid*

<sup>129</sup> see *Wiltshire Gazette* for many reports concerning him as JP in this year, and previous years.

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.pdavis.nl/ShowShip.php?id=2360>

HMS *Talavera* was launched 10 Oct 1815. She had 74 guns, weighed 1718 tons. At the time Rooke served in her she was under the command of Capt William Bowen Mends She was destroyed by fire at Plymouth, on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1840, the year after Rooke left her company.

<sup>131</sup> O'Bryne, W (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* p1002

of 1839, He then joined *HMS Pylades*,<sup>132</sup> under the command of Capt Talavera Vernon Anson. She was despatched to China shortly after Rooke joined her.<sup>133</sup> Whilst in China he also served in, successively, *HMS Wellesley*<sup>134</sup> and *HMS Blenheim*<sup>135</sup>, Whilst in China he was a volunteer in two engagements and "for his gallantry he was awarded two special certificates and was twice mentioned in the Gazette"<sup>136</sup>

This was the conflict known as "The Opium War 1839 - 1843". The Opium War, though named after a single substance, was fought over cultural, diplomatic and trade differences between Britain and China. Simplistically put, British merchants were in a trade deficit in their trade with China because the British bought vast amounts of Chinese spices,

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<sup>132</sup> *HMS Pylades* was the third Naval vessel to bear the name, being launched 29<sup>th</sup> June 1824 at Woolwich dockyard. The NMM has a picture of her at <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/collections/prints/viewRepro.cfm?reproID=PW6105> She carried 18 guns, (2 x 9 pdr, 12 x 32 pdr carronades.) and normally had a crew of 125. She was 110 feet by 30 feet with a draught of 8 feet 2in and weighed just over 431 tons. She was broken up in 1845  
[http://anglochinesewar42.com/index.php?p=1\\_46\\_HMS-PYLADES](http://anglochinesewar42.com/index.php?p=1_46_HMS-PYLADES)

<sup>133</sup> O'Bryne, W (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* p1002

<sup>134</sup> *HMS Wellesley* was a 1746 ton ship launched 24 February 1815 at Chatham dockyards. She carried 74 guns. She was commanded by Captain Thomas Maitland from 1837 and while Rooke was serving in her and she was first the flagship of Rear-Admiral Frederick Lewis Maitland, and then Commodore Sir James John Gordon Bremer, and lastly of Rear-Admiral Sir William Parker all in the East Indies. She served there until late 1842 - she is recorded as being out of commission in Plymouth in January 1843. She was sunk in the Thames by enemy bombs in September 194-0 after being a training ship from 1868 under the name *HMS Cornwall* <http://www.pdavis.nl/ShowShip.php?id=2290>

<sup>135</sup> *HMS Blenheim* was a 187 foot long, 1718 tons ship launched 31<sup>st</sup> May 1813 at Deptford dockyard. She carried 74 guns and a crew of 600. She served in the China area. Between 9 April 1839 and 14 June 1841 she was commanded by Captain Humphry Fleming Senhouse. After his death, and when Rooke was in her, she was under the command of Captain Thomas Herbert until she was paid off 28 March 1843 and fitted with a screw in 1847. She had to return to England for this and did not serve in the east again.  
<http://www.pdavis.nl/ShowShip.php?id=60>

<sup>136</sup> O'Bryne, W (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* p1002 The *London Gazette* entries have not yet been located.

silk and tea but the Chinese didn't want anything like that amount of British goods. British merchants therefore introduced opium from India. The Chinese already had an opium problem, but the Indian material was far more potent and addictive and the merchants "*sold it at great profit to an increasingly addicted Chinese populace*" <sup>137</sup>.

Chinese officials, exactly like the authorities in the UK in modern times, and for exactly the same reasons, became increasingly uncomfortable with problems of crime, fecklessness and social irresponsibility that resulted from opium misuse. An Imperial Commissioner for the Destruction of Opium <sup>138</sup> was appointed. Despite the western merchant's unhappiness with what they saw as interference with trade, he journeyed to the only port where trade with outsiders was allowed <sup>139</sup>, in March 1839, and set about destroying 20,000 chests of opium. Chinese merchants could not henceforth trade in opium on pain of death.

This was seen by Britain as an unwarranted attack on free trade, destruction of British property, and dangerous interference with British subjects. None of which, it was felt, could be tolerated. Troops were sent out from India to reinstate "free trade" and by July 1840, British warships in South China had carried a force of 4,000 men (including an artillery corps, sappers, and engineers as well as 3 regiments of foot), into the country. It is unclear what Rooke's part was in the conflict, his certificates were probably due to his ships being involved in actions, rather than he being cited personally. For a fuller account of the conflict see the website cited previously <sup>140</sup>

Rooke probably joined HMS *Pylades* when she was commissioned in Plymouth in 1839 as she then sailed to Singapore and on to China. Rooke

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<sup>137</sup> "The OpiumWar " at

<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armycampaigns/asia/china/opiumwar.htm> upon which this section is largely based.

<sup>138</sup> Lin Tse-Hsu

<sup>139</sup> Canton

<sup>140</sup>

<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armycampaigns/asia/china/opiumwar.htm>

was in *Wellesley* sometime between 1838 and 1842 and in the *Blenheim* sometime between 1839 and 1843 in the China area in both ships.

Francis Rooke passed his Lieutenant's examination in 1842 and returned to England 7 months later, in 1843. It should be noted that just passing the examination didn't mean promotion, that was very much "dead man's shoes" (often literally) and also involved seniority - positions were allocated on the basis of who had joined the service earliest, hence Rooke only being promoted to Lieutenant seven months after he passed the examination..

Lt Rooke then served two dis-continuous tours of duty <sup>141</sup> aboard HMS *St Vincent* in Portsmouth under the flag of Sir Charles Rowley <sup>142</sup> and then under Sir Charles Ogle<sup>143</sup>. It is likely that he was on leave for the whole of 1845 and, presumably, living at Lackham. Admiral Rowley died during his time away from *St Vincent*

He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1846 and then from then on served steamships, starting with HMS *Devastation*, <sup>144</sup> under the command of

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<sup>141</sup> O'Bryne, W (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* p1002 between June 1844 and January 1845 with Rowley and January 46 to May 18546 with

<sup>142</sup> Admiral Sir Charles Rowley 1<sup>st</sup> Bart.(16/12/1770 - 12/10/1845) was the same Charles Rowley who had been FW Rooke's captain in HMS *Bodicea* over 40 years earlier

<sup>143</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir\\_Charles\\_Ogle,\\_2nd\\_Baronet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Charles_Ogle,_2nd_Baronet)

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles Ogle, 2nd Baronet (24 May 1775 - 16 June 1858) He was the eldest son of Admiral Sir Chaloner Ogle, 1st Bart, and joined the Royal Navy in 1787.

He was appointed acting commander of HMS *Assurance* in 1794.<sup>[1]</sup> Later he commanded HMS *Petrel*, HMS *Minerva*, HMS *Meleager*, HMS *Greyhound*, HMS *Egyptienne*, HMS *Unite*, HMS *Princess Augusta*, HMS *Ramillies*, HMS *Malta* and HMS *Rivoli*.<sup>1</sup>

He became Commander-in-Chief, North American Station in 1827 and Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth in 1845.<sup>[1]</sup>

He lived at Kings Worthy in Hampshire. He is buried at Ponteland in Northumberland

<sup>144</sup> HMS *Devastation* was a 1380 ton steam paddle sloop launched 8 July 1841. and broken up in 1866. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Devastation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Devastation)

Capt. Sir Charles Hotham and HMS <sup>145</sup> *Gorgon* under Capt Edward Crouch <sup>146</sup>. From 9<sup>th</sup> April 1847 he served in HMS *Avenger* under Captains Sidney Colpoys Dacres and Charles George Elers Napier,. Rooke was serving in the Mediterranean at this time, both *Devastation* and *Avenger* were operating there . He was the only surviving officer when HMS *Avenger* was wrecked on the Sorella Rocks

From 1848 he was back in HMS *Blenheim* after her conversion and attachment as the steam guardship at Portsmouth, under the command of ,Captain Thomas Horatio Austin. Francis died in Gosport 5 years later, in 1853 <sup>147</sup>

For a full account of the wreck of HMS *Avenger*, Lt Rookes part in the tragedy and details of the vessel, see [Appendix 2](#)

The second eldest daughter was Elizabeth Sophia, she was born in 1815 and married Thomas Abdy Fellowes in 1844 at Lacock. She converted to Catholicism in 1856 <sup>148</sup> and died in 1874

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<sup>145</sup> HMS *Gorgon* was a wooden steam paddle frigate of 6 guns, launched in 1837. In 1840 she took part in the bombardment of Acre, and in 1843 was part of the Royal Navy squadron stationed in the River Plate during the Uruguayan Civil War . She was converted to a troopship and in 1858 assisted HMS *Agamemnon* in the laying of the first transatlantic telegraph cable. She was sold for breaking in 1864.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Gorgon\\_\(1837\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Gorgon_(1837))

<sup>146</sup> O'Bryne, W (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* p1002  
He was in *Devastation* between May and August 1846 and in *Grogon* between August 1846 and April 1847

<sup>147</sup> *Gentleman's magazine* vol XXXIX p107 Jan - June 1853 *Obituary*

<sup>148</sup> Goman, WH (1910) *Converts to Rome* Sands & Co p102

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

Census Lackham Lacock 1851

Name	Occupation	Sex	Age	Born	Position	Birth place
ROOKE, Frederick W	Head Justice of the Peace, Landed Proprietor Farmer Employing 8 Labs 1 Boy	M	68	1783		Stanhoe, Norfolk
ROOKE, Harriet	Wife	F	60	1791	-	Manchester Lancs
WATKINS, Elizabeth	Servant	F	21	1830	Housemaid	Melverton, Soms
STEPHENS, Ann	Servant	F	34	1817	Cook	Lisson Grove, London
PIERCE, Eliza	Servant	F	28	1823	Housemaid	Stone Easton, Soms
ABRAHAM, Jane	Servant	F	38	1813	Lady's Maid	Devizes, Wilts
COLLINS, Mary	Servant	F	20	1831	Kitchen Maid	Corsham, Wilts
FENWICK, William	Servant	M	36	1815	Butler	Trewsham, Devon
FISHER, Joseph F	Servant	M	30	1821	Coachman	St.Catherine, Soms
GROVES, John	Servant	M	21	1830	Footman	Minehead, Soms
THOMAS, John	Servant	M	34	1817	Gamekeeper	? Norfolk

The Rooke youngsters had either all left home or were not present for the 1851 census,<sup>149</sup> (see above) the only people resident being Capt. Rooke and Harriet, 4 male and 5 female servants<sup>150</sup>.

In June 1853 there was an incident at Lackham

*On Wednesday, the 18th inst, a man named George Jaques, who has been in the employ of Capt. F. W. Rooke, R.N., of Lackahm House, for the last eighteen years is supposed to have committed suicide by drowning himself in that part of the river Avon which flows through the Lackham estate. It would seem that the deceased had of late been in a very low desponding state of mind, and that on the morning of the day above named he was engaged with the under gardener in mowing the lawn, and in answer to several questions put to him he said he felt himself very much better. Shortly, however, afterwards he put his scythe, left his workmate and walked across the park in the direction of the river. On his way thither, he was met by the head gardener, who had some unimportant conversation with him, but the poor fellow was never heard of afterwards, until Wednesday morning, when his body was found in the river close by Capt. Rooke's residence. As soon as the unfortunate deceased was missed from his work the worthy Captain caused diligent search and enquiry to be made and used every endeavour to discover what had become of the poor man. Mr. James Wright, the superintendent of police, was sent for, who, on hearing the suspicions had the river dragged and sluiced, but all was to no avail. On searching the boxes of the deceased, Mr. Wright found upwards of £112 in gold and silver coins, the product of the poor fellows savings and when taken out of the river 12s in silver were found in the pockets of trousers and some halfpence in his smockfrock pockets. He bore an excellent character for sobriety, honesty and industry, and was remarkably attentive to his duties. On Wednesday an inquest was held at Lackham House*

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<sup>149</sup> Census 1841, 1851 microfiche Wiltshire Local Studies Library Trowbridge.

<sup>150</sup> 1851 Census Lacock HO107, 1836, 42, p17

*before W. B. Whitmarsh, esq., coroner, and a respectable Jury, who returned a verdict of "Found drowned" <sup>151</sup>*

Capt. Rooke died in 1855 <sup>152</sup>. The estate was put up for sale by auction in June the following year by three of his sons but didn't sell.

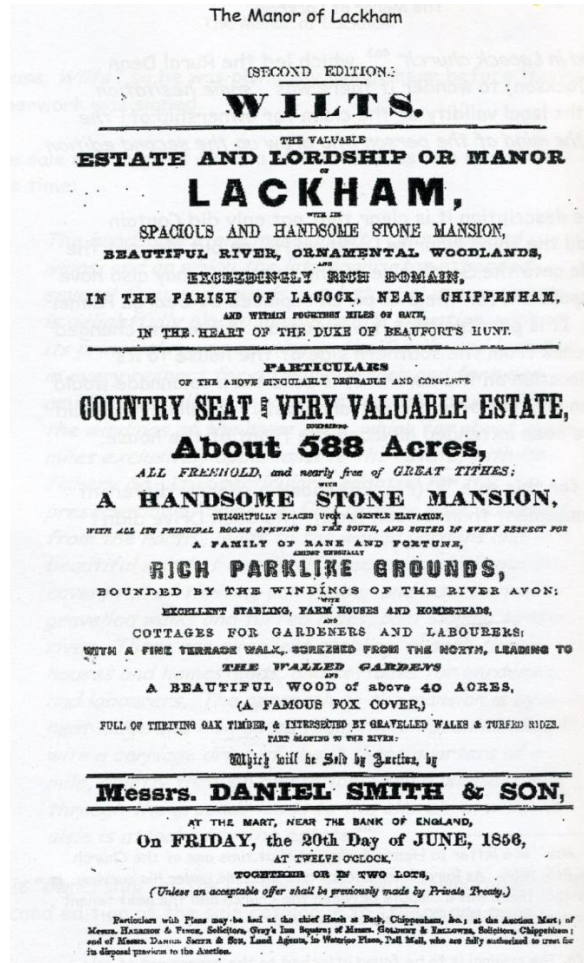


Fig. 11 Poster for the 1856 sale \*

Indeed not only did it not sell but William Wallace Rooke seems to have been adding to the estate after this; in 1857 <sup>153</sup> William's agent, Thomas

<sup>151</sup> [Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 2 June 1853, 3](#) and [Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 4 June 1853, 3](#)

<sup>152</sup> *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1856 December 28<sup>th</sup> at Bath Capt. FW Rooke, RN of Lackham House Wilts aged 73.* From this it can be seen that the date given in Vernon (1856) is actually the date of the report rather than that of death.

<sup>153</sup> WA 109/389 It is noted on the indenture specifically that Fellowes was acting as Agent for William Wallace Rooke



Abdy Fellowes, purchased a pasture at Notton, known as Neale's Leigh <sup>154</sup>, for £205 at an auction held at the Angel in Chippenham, from the executors of John Corbett Neale <sup>155</sup> .

Of course Thomas Abdy Fellowes was more than just William Wallace Rooke's agent, as was seen above he was William Wallace's brother in law, having married Eliza Sophia (again in 1844) at St Cyriac's in Lacock <sup>156</sup> .

The estate was again offered for sale in May and June 1857 <sup>157</sup>

The Caldwelles at Lackham

The estate was finally sold, in 1858, to Henry Berney Caldwell <sup>158</sup> for £40,000 <sup>159</sup> .

The Indenture for this sale is a useful document as it shows where four sons were living, these being William Wallace Rooke <sup>160</sup>, the Rev Frederick John Rooke <sup>161</sup>, Alexander Beaumont Rooke <sup>162</sup> and Octavius Cobb Rooke

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<sup>154</sup> WA 109/389 5 acres 1 rood 14 perches,

<sup>155</sup> William Gale of Horton, Glos, John Arnold of Chipping Sodbury, Glos and David Selm of Dodington, Glos

<sup>156</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> September 1844 *The Annual Register* vol 86 p184

<sup>157</sup> [Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 21 and 28 May, 4 June, 15 and 22 October 1857, Wiltshire Independent 4 and 11 June, 1 and 15 October 1857](#)

<sup>158</sup> WA 44/8 *Indenture of Sale* dated 24 Dec 1858

<sup>159</sup> Equivalent to approx. £3.5m in 2014

[[http://www.measuringworth.com/ukcompare/relativevalue.php?use%5B%5D=CP&use%5B%5D=NOMINALEARN&year\\_early=1858&pound71=40000&shilling71=&pence71=&amount=40000&year\\_source=1858&year\\_result=2014](http://www.measuringworth.com/ukcompare/relativevalue.php?use%5B%5D=CP&use%5B%5D=NOMINALEARN&year_early=1858&pound71=40000&shilling71=&pence71=&amount=40000&year_source=1858&year_result=2014) ]

<sup>160</sup> WA 44/8 In 1858

<sup>161</sup> WA 44/8 of *Frampisham Rectory, Devon*

<sup>162</sup> WA 44/8 of *The Ridge near Corsham*

<sup>163</sup>. The sale indenture <sup>164</sup> was made between the Rookes and Henry Berney Caldwell "now of Lackham House, Wilts" so he was obviously living there before the final paperwork was signed.

The sale notice gives an idea of what the estate was like at this time:

*The handsome stone mansion with colonnade and wings, and on which the late proprietor expended several thousand pounds in substantial improvements, is delightfully placed upon a gentle elevation, with all its principal rooms opening to the South, and is suited in every respect for a family of rank and fortunes, amidst unusually rich park like grounds, bounded by the windings of the river Avon, which for about three miles exclusively appertains to the estate, with its fishery &c. It is particularly adapted for the preservation of game. A fine terrace walk, screened from the north,, leads to the walled gardens and to a beautiful wood of nearly fifty acres (and famous fox cover) full of thriving oak timber and intersected by gravelled walks and turfed rides, part sloping to the river. There are excellent stabling, superb farm-houses and homesteads, and cottages for gardeners and labourers. The approach to the mansion is by a neat lodge and iron gates from the Chippenham Road, with a carriage drive of about three quarters of a mile, chiefly through plantations; and a pleasant walk through the grounds leads to the church, in which an aisle is attached to the estate.<sup>165</sup>*

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<sup>163</sup> WA 44/8 of Dean Hall, Gloucester

<sup>164</sup> WA 44/8 dated 24 Dec 1858

<sup>165</sup> Devizes Gazette May 20th 1856

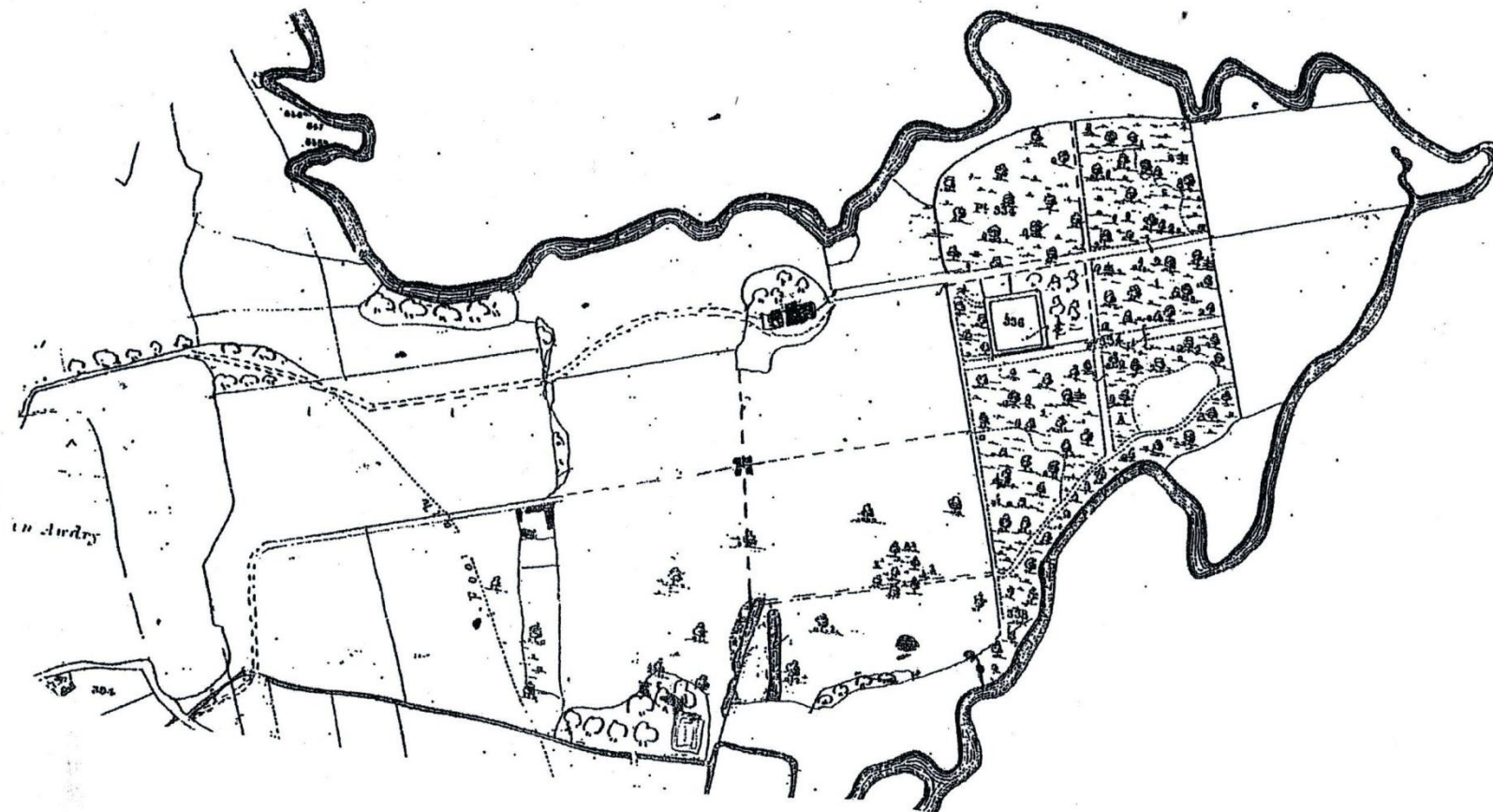


Fig. 12 Map for the 1856 sale \*

This "ownership" of the Lackham Aisle was downgraded in the second edition of the sale catalogue to "*there are pews attached in Lacock church*" <sup>166</sup>, which led the Rural Dean (Canon Jackson) to wonder, somewhat ingeniously, if there was "*some hesitation about [ the legal validity of the claim for ownership of] the aisle in the mind of the person who drew up the second edition*"

Land at Notton was involved in a rationalisation that took place in the early years of Henry Berney Caldwell's ownership. This started in 1858 with an agreement between the Rookes, John Wither Awdry and Henry Berney Caldwell; FW Rooke had leased land at Notton to John Awdry for £47 18s <sup>167</sup> on the understanding that he would return it to Rooke when required. When John Awdry died <sup>168</sup> the lease inherited by John Wither Awdry. and The Rooke executors, John Withers Awdry and Henry Berney Caldwell were all parties to the sale and as Henry Berney Caldwell had recently purchased Lackham John Withers Awdry released the land "*formerly part of the field called Tadcroft situate behind a certain lodge*" <sup>169</sup>. This lodge is now the Front Lodge on the Chippenham - Melksham road

This land rationalisation was complete three years later; in 1861. In 1859 land south of the Notton (now Main) drive close to the Front Lodge had been assigned to Thomas Abdy Fellowes at the discretion of Henry Berney

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<sup>166</sup> Jackson Mss in a letter to Henry Awdry, at that time one of the Church Wardens, in Feb. 1866. As Rural Dean Lacock church came under his purview. It would appear that there was a dispute between the church and the next tenant about "ownership" of the Lackham Aisle at this time

<sup>167</sup> dated 18 May 1836

<sup>168</sup> 29 December 1844

<sup>169</sup> WA 733/22 Plots of land situate at Notton in the parish of Lacock dated 10 Nov 1858

*Indenture between John Wither Awdry and William Wallace Rooke of Guyer's House Corsham, the Rev Frederick John Rooke of Rampisham Rectory in Dorest, Alexander Beaumont Rooke of The Ridge nr Corsham, Octavius Cobb Rooke of Dean Hall in the county of Gloucester and Henry Berney Caldwell of Lackham House*

Frederick John Rooke's signature was witnessed by Joseph Ellis Gardener Rampisham and the other Rooke's by William Wallace's servant James Burton

Caldwell. In the 1861 agreement <sup>170</sup> Caldwell gave Fellowes land elsewhere in Lackham's estate made up the difference in value with cash <sup>171</sup>.

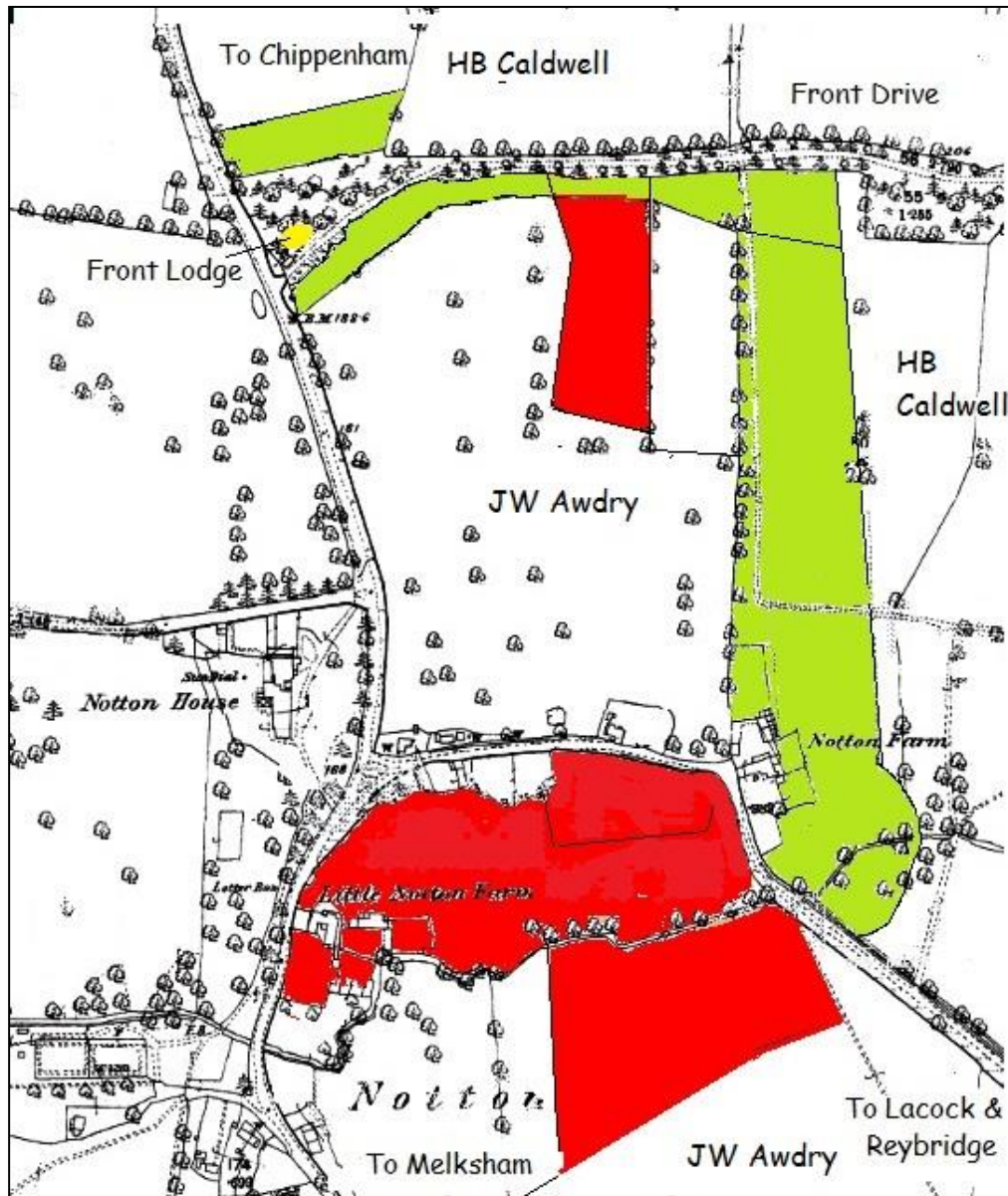


Fig. 13 Land exchanges 1858-1861

<sup>170</sup>WA 733/22 Plots of land situate at Notton in the parish of Lacock  
*Indenture between Henry Berney Caldwell of Lackham House, John Abdy Fellowes of Chippenham Gent and John Withers Awdry of Notton dated 12 April 1861 witnesses were Henry Awdry Wood Melksham and A Marcon, solicitor of Swaffam, Norfolk*

<sup>171</sup> £91 11s

[Land in green transferred from Awdry to Caldwell; land in red transferred from Caldwell to Awdry <sup>172</sup>] \*  
—

The next day the rationalisation was completed; Henry Berney Caldwell sold the land he held on the west side of the large boundary ditch east of the Front Lodge at Notton to John Withers Awdry so that all the land on the western side of the ridge, adjacent to the Chippenham Melksham road, became Awdry's. At the same time Awdry exchanged land to the east of the boundary to Caldwell, so that the land on the Lackham side of the ridge was Caldwell's. The coloured areas in Fig above show the land that was transferred, the result was to make solid blocks of land ownership where previously ownership had been intermingled. The exchanges around the Front Lodge gave Lackham a better entrance; previously the Front Drive ran through Awdry's land until it reached the brow of the hill east of the Lodge

It is noted that one of the witnesses was a Mr A Marcon a solicitor of Swaffham in Norfolk. He was Andrew Marcon, brother in law to the Rev Frederick John Rooke through FJ's wife Elizabeth Marcon.

The Marcon family was related by marriage to the Rookes and the complicated interweaving of the Rookes, Caldwell's and Marcon families, as they relate to Lackham, are shown in the figure below

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<sup>172</sup> Drawn for this work from maps in WA 733/22

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

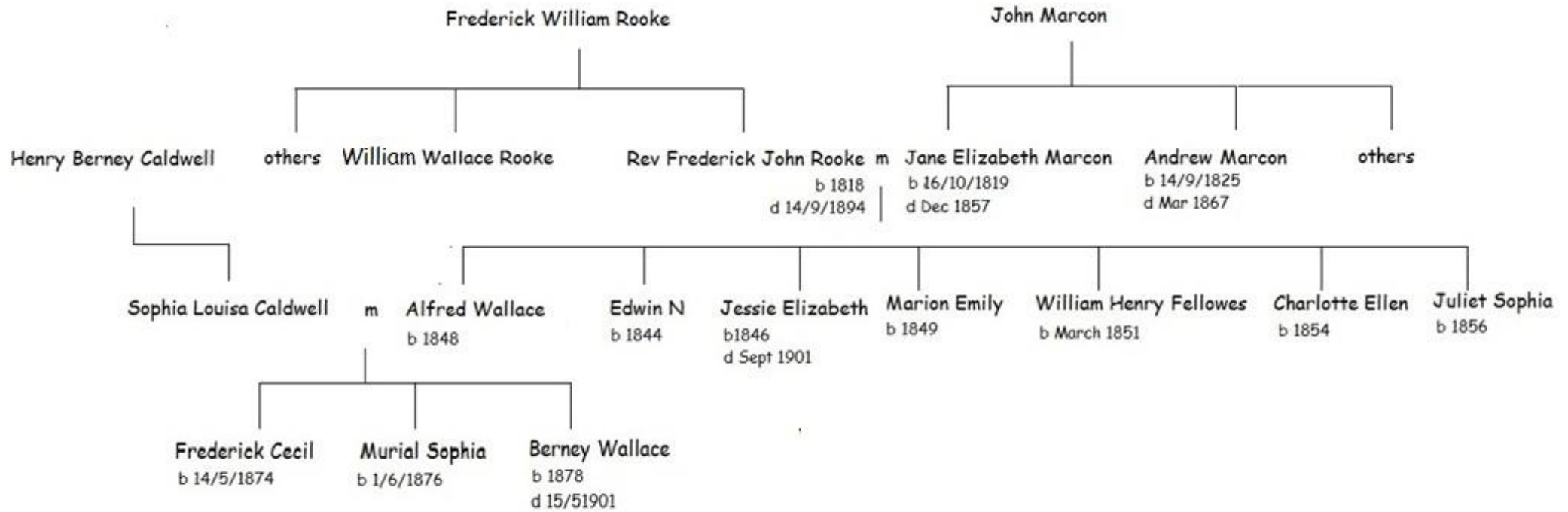


Fig. 14 Relationship between the Rooke, Caldwell and Marcon families \*

Before living at Lackham Henry Berney Caldwell had been at Hillborough Hall in Norfolk <sup>173</sup>. His family had owned the estate since

*About 1765 [when] Ralph Caldwell or Cauldwell, steward of the Earl of Leicester and his tenant at Godwick Hall, purchased from the Nelthorpes. Caldwell reorganised the landscape at Hilborough and built the present Hall and the family remained in possession until Henry Berney Caldwell sold to the Duke of Wellington in 1858.* <sup>174</sup>

The "river rights" issue that had bothered Capt Rooke continued with Henry Caldwell <sup>175</sup>

In 1859 Henry Caldwell bought Neal's Leigh <sup>176</sup>, at Notton, from William Wallace Rooke <sup>177</sup> for £232 19s <sup>178</sup>. By this time William Wallace had left Guyer's House and had purchased Iford Manor instead. Thomas Abdy Fellowes again acted for William Wallace Rooke, and the indenture was witnessed by John Groves "servant to William Wallace Rooke

There is an possible distant connection between Fellowes and Caldwell, both Henry Abdy Fellowes' maternal aunts had married Cawdwells (see below) who were cousins.

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<sup>173</sup> WA 44/8

<sup>174</sup> Norfolk Record Office Catalogue - *Mills of Hillsborough Norfolk*

<sup>175</sup> see Pratt, T (2012) *Lackham's rights to the River Avon : A 19<sup>th</sup> century contra-temps Wiltshire Studies* vol 106 pp 283-298 Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Devizes

<sup>176</sup> See above

<sup>177</sup> WA 109/390 dated 25 March 1859

<sup>178</sup> So William Wallace made £27 19s on the deal



The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

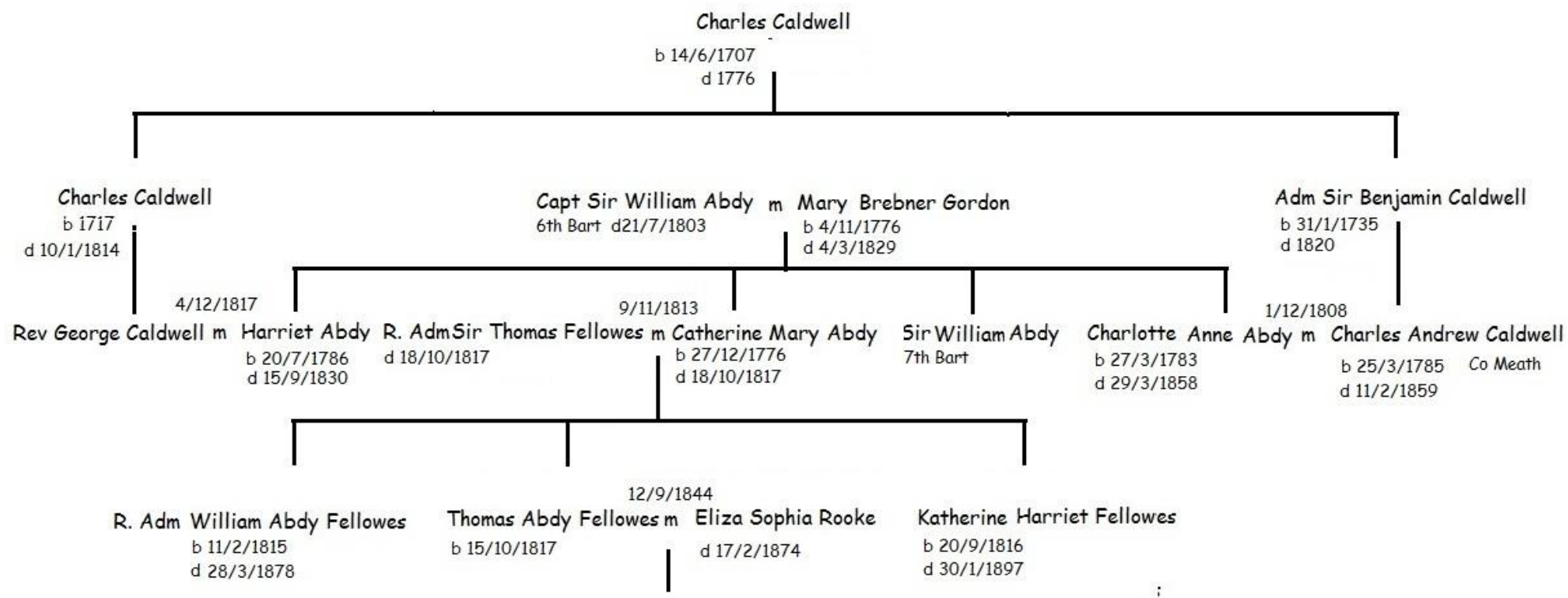


Fig. 15 Fellowes - Caldwell links \*

It is unknown whether these Caldwells were related to Henry Berney Caldwell or not, no link has so far been established despite considerable research. It seems very unlikely that there isn't one

Henry Berney Caldwell didn't just live at Hillborough Hall, it was his inheritance. He was the son of Ralph Caldwell of Hillborough Hall and Louisa Isham, the seventh daughter of Justinian Isham, the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet Isham. She was born in 1774 <sup>179</sup> or 1778 (see below) and married Ralph Caldwell in January 1804 <sup>180</sup>. Louisa was Ralph's second wife; Ralph Caldwell esq of "Hlhorowe" co Norfolk married "Miss Scutt, only daughter of the late Thomas S esq of Brighthelmftone" in 1798 <sup>181</sup>. John Russell the portraitist painted "Mrs Ralph Caldwell nee Mary Scutt 1778-1800 as the Muse Terpsichore" and exhibited it at the Royal Academy in 1799 <sup>182</sup>. Ralph Caldwell was in the West Norfolk Militia and stationed in Kent when he married Louisa, Henry Berney Caldwell was born a year later, still in Kent <sup>183</sup>. Louisa died in 1864 at Lackham. <sup>184</sup> Henry Berney Caldwell and his father both went to Oxford University - Ralph gaining a BA in 1799 and HB matriculating in 1824 <sup>185</sup>. Henry Berney Caldwell was born at Hawkshurst, in Kent in April 1805 <sup>186</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> February W Wilton in post at <http://searches2.rootsweb.com/th/read/ISHAM/2004-03/1079130412>

<sup>180</sup> Wilton, W *ibid*

<sup>181</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> September, *Gentleman's Magazine* vol 68 pt 2 p1149

<sup>182</sup> Jeffore, N *Dictionary of Pastellists before 1800*, online edition p6 at <http://www.pastellists.com/Articles/Russell.pdf>

<sup>183</sup> Eames, T Rootsweb <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/SOG-UK/2004-03/1080028909> from the Hawkhurst Kent Baptism register  
"13 May 1805: Henry CALDWELL, aged 3 weeks, s/o Capt. Ralph CALDWELL of the W. Norfolk Militia & Louisa"

<sup>184</sup> *The Morning Post* Saturday 22 October 1864 p8 / *The Examiner* Saturday 29 October 1864 p13 (doesn't give as much information) / *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 27 October 1864 p5 / *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* Friday 28 October 1864 p5 / *Bury and Norwich Post* Tues 26 October 1864 p6 / *Norfolk Chronicle* Saturday 29 October 1864 p4 / *Norfolk News* Saturday 29 October 1864 p4  
"CALDWELL - On Wednesday the 19 last at Lackham House, Wilts, Louisa, widow of Ralph Caldwell Esq of Hillboro Hall, Norfolk, in her 87 year"

<sup>185</sup> Foster, J (1888) *Alumni Oxienssis 1715-1886* Later series A-D p209

<sup>186</sup> <http://www.halhed.com/t4r/getperson.php?personID=I6674&tree=tree1>

He was a First Class cricketer; he played for Marylebone Cricket Club, the MCC, in 1832 <sup>187</sup> although his statistics weren't very good and he doesn't seem to have played for them after that year. He did, however, play at County level in the 1840's, appearing for Norfolk a total of 12 times between 1844 and 1850. His brother George also played First Class and County cricket <sup>188</sup>, he started three years earlier but was in the same team when HB made his first class debut against "The B's" in June 1832. George seems to have been the better player. His "County" career was for Norfolk and Suffolk in 1829 and 1830 and then for the MCC between 1831 and 1834. He played in a total of 18 matches at this level.

This George is fairly elusive but the notification of his death in the *Gentleman's Magazine* <sup>189</sup> proves that he and Henry were brothers. He may be the George Caldwell 1841 who appears in the 1841 Census living at Woodland Cottage in Brompton, Middlesex, the age is correct and in 1851 he was living in Kensington with his wife Marianne <sup>190</sup>. Marianne's family name was Pynne and she came from

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<sup>187</sup> He played for the MCC in the match against The B's 4-6 July 1832 8 runs; against Oxford University 9 June 1832 scored 1; against Cambridge Town 21-22 August 1832 at Chatteris when he scored 1 and again on 23-24 August 1832 at Cambridge when he didn't score but bowled out T Johnson for 9. He also played for England against Sussex 25-26 June 1832 but didn't score. From details at [http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Players/36/36501/First-Class\\_Matches.html](http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Players/36/36501/First-Class_Matches.html)

<sup>188</sup> He was in the "Married" side against "Singles" at Lords 1-2 June 1827, scored 7 his first class debut; for the MCC against Suffolk 21-22 June 1830; in the team "7 Gentlemen with 4 players" against "6 Gentlemen with 5 players" 21-22 June 1830 scored 30; for the MCC against "The B;'s" with his brother 4-6 June 1832 scored 13; for the MCC against Oxford university, with his brother 9 June 1832 scored 1; for the MCC against Cambridge Town at Lords 2-3 July scored 12; for Sir St Vincent Cotton's XI against Lord Strathavon's XI 16-17 July 1832 scored 5; for the MCC, with his brother again, against Cambridge Town at Chatteris 21-22 August 1832 scored 8 and at Cambridge 23-24 August scored 6 and his final First Class Match was the MCC against the Gentlemen of Kent 17-18 June 1833 scored 4. His "County" career started with matches for Eton College

<sup>189</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol 214, p531 dated April 1863  
*Aged 56 George, second surviving son of the late Ralph Caldwell esq of Hilborowe-hall co Norfolk and grandson of the late Sir Justinian Isham, bart*

<sup>190</sup> Census 1851 HO107. P. 1469 Fol. 273 Pg. 15

33 Thurloe Square, Kensington

Dublin. She had previously been married, rather confusingly, to another Pynne and had at least two children by him. George and Marianne married in Dublin in May, 1843

Henry Berney Caldwell married Esther Buckworth in 1833 when she was only 17 <sup>191</sup>. The witnesses for this marriage includes George Caldwell.

The first record of Henry Berney Caldwell in Wiltshire occurs in the same year as he purchased Lackham, 1858, when he was elected to the Committee of the prestigious and influential Bath & West of England Society <sup>192</sup>.

This association with agriculture was no accident, Henry Caldwell was deeply involved in agricultural societies and improvements. Much of the information about Henry during his time at Lackham relates to his activities with agricultural societies in Wiltshire and elsewhere but also shows some of his social interactions. In November of the same year Caldwell was present at a meeting at The King's Head in Melksham of "*Proprietors and Occupiers of Land and others interested*" in the re-establishment of Melksham

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*George Caldwell Head m 44 M.A. late of Merton College Oxford B. Hilborough, Norfolk  
Marianne Caldwell Wife M 37 B. Ireland*

<sup>191</sup> *Marriage record at London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921 for Saint Mary, Bryanston Square. : MARRIAGES solemnized in Saint Mary's Church, in the Parish of St. Mary-le-bone, in the County of Middlesex, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three. / Henry Berney Caldwell, Esquire of the Parish of Hillborough in the County of Norfolk a Bachelor and Esther Buckworth of the District-Rectorry of St. Mary in the Parish of St. Marylebone, Spinster, a Minor, were married in this Church by Licence the said Minor not having any Father living or Mother living and unmarried nor any Guardian of her person lawfully appointed in whose name consent is required to this Marriage this twentieth Day of June In the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three. / By me Thos. Frognall Dibdin Rector / This Marriage was solemnized between us Henry Berney Caldwell, Esther Buckworth, In the Presence of Charles Phelips, Anne Collyer, Geo Caldwell*

This was on the 20 June 1833, as recorded by an announcement in the *Bury & Norwich Post* 3 July 1833 p5 "*On the 20 ult at St Mary's Maty le Bone, by the Revd Dr Dibdin, Henry Berney Caldwell of Hilborowe to Esher, eldest daughter of TR Buckworth Esq of Cockley Clay Hall both in this county*"

See also *Gentleman's Magazine* June 1833 vol 153 p538

<sup>192</sup> *Sherborne Mercury* Tuesday 8 June 1858 p3

Agricultural Society and Caldwell proposed that a subscription book be opened and an account set up for the society with the Wilts Bank <sup>193</sup>.

The Society didn't waste any time, it held its first show on 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> December that year and followed the example set by the Chippenham Agricultural Society in presenting awards at the AM to deserving labourers. Caldwell appears to have been very interested in the care of his workforce if only for the social good it did; in his speech at the inaugural AGM and Dinner it was reported that he

*had no less than 43 or 43 labourers apply to him for work since harvest but what could he do with them all upon only 100 acres of land? He had employed some of them and... if well looked after he thought they might be made very good labourers . He believed that a great step towards making a good labourer ws to show him that his master took an interest in him: and he ws quite sure that it would pay masters far better to give their men constant employment instead of throwing them upon the rates while they would have the satisfaction of being able to say in their old days "Thank God I have lived not only for myself but I have seen my parish improved by the labourers to whom I have given employment <sup>194</sup> "*

at which point, the report says, there were cheers.

In June 1859 Caldwell was a judge for the first annual ploughing match held by the newly reformed Melksham Agricultural Society and was also present at the Dinner held that evening <sup>195</sup>.

As well as being involved with the nascent Melksham Society Caldwell was also a member of the Chippenham Agricultural Society, indeed in August of the same year he was president when the Annual Dinner when it was held at Lanhill on the property of the Society's Secretary Mr Edward Little <sup>196</sup>. Not only did this meeting have a Dinner, which followed a ploughing match but also a demonstration of a Burgess and Kay mower which

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<sup>193</sup> *Wiltshire Independent* Thursday 4 November 1858 p3 / *Devizes and Wilthshire Gazette* Thursday 4 Novemeber 1858 p1 meeting held on November 1<sup>st</sup>

<sup>194</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 15 December 1858 p2

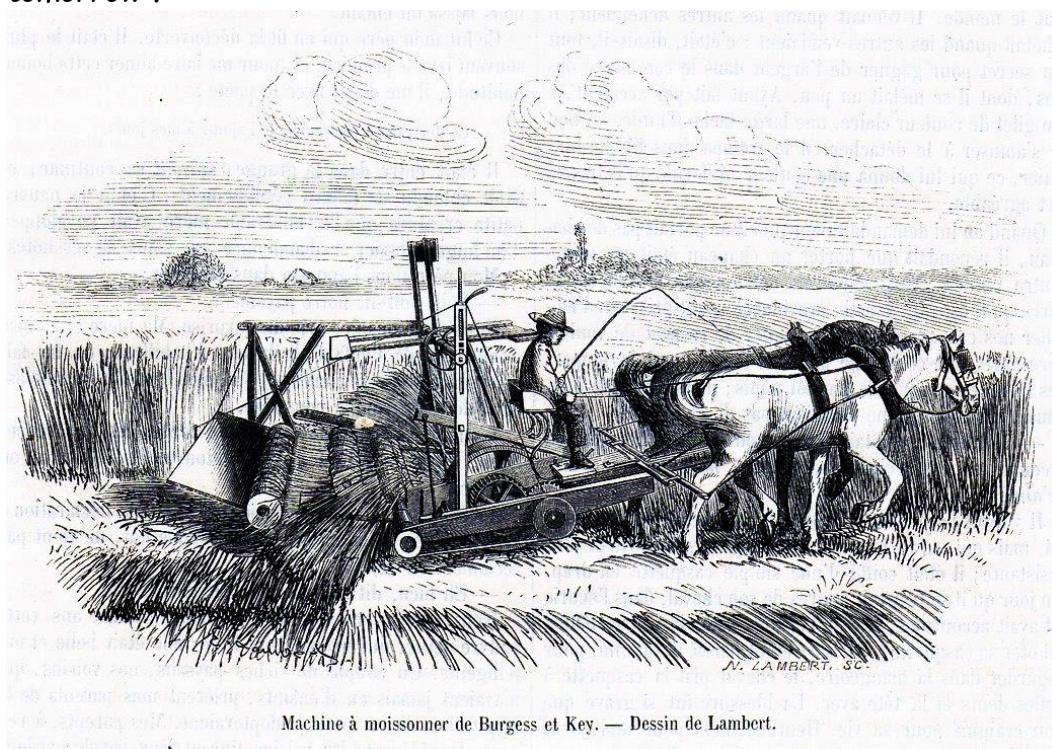
<sup>195</sup> *Bath Chronicle* Thursday July 21 1859 p5. Ploughing match and Dinner held July 20

<sup>196</sup> *The Swindon Advertiser* Monday August 8 1859 p3

seems to have done well and was of great interest to the society members present. This mower was lent by Mr Brown of Hazelbury and Caldwell referred to it in his speech at the dinner that evening. From this speech it is clear that Caldwell was very keen on agricultural mechanisation and had been for some time, he mentioned that

*he had had all sorts of machines when machinery wasn't so in vogue as it was in the present day. He was the first who had introduced a threshing machine into Norfolk, and everybody at the time said "You are a fool!" but ... he fancied there were [now] very few farmers who kept aloof from it*<sup>197</sup>

Further he had just had a Burgess and Key's reaping machine sent to Lackham and invited the members to go visit and see it working "on a field of wheat opposite his Lodge gate tomorrow".<sup>198</sup>



Machine à moissonner de Burgess et Key. — Dessin de Lambert.

Fig 16 Burgess & Key reaping machine (1859)<sup>199</sup> \*

<sup>197</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday August 4 1859 p3

<sup>198</sup> This would not have been the field immediately opposite the Front Lodge as this belonged to Awdry but the one slightly to the north behind what is now the north bound bus stop see field numbered 605 on the 1857 sale map WA 44/1

<sup>199</sup> *Le magasin pittoresque* (1859) "Machina a moissonneurs de Burgess et Key".

From Caldwell's speech at this dinner it is clear that he was a very experienced arable farmer and knew of what he spoke, he alluded to the way in which the ploughing was done in Warwick where he had been a judge, and to farming systems in Norfolk, where he came from. Although new to the county he did not hesitate to give advice to his fellow farmers and landowners on managing grassland and was keen that the Society members would "teach each other and not waste time at Agricultural meetings with nothing but complimentary speeches"<sup>200</sup>. Caldwell had been judging agricultural implements in Norfolk only a few years previously; in 1854, at the annual meeting of the Norfolk Agricultural Society<sup>201</sup> where the "show of implements was unusually large". Caldwell, in his speech at the dinner afterwards, "point[ed] out at great length the practical value of some of the implements exhibited and the circumstances which should guide agriculturalists in their choice"

Caldwell was present at the meeting of the Lacock Agricultural Society a month later<sup>202</sup>. This Society had first been proposed by a Lacock tenant farmer and was "warmly supported by the resident gentry and the greater part of the tradesmen"<sup>203</sup>

In December 1859 Caldwell chaired the AGM of the Chippenham Agricultural Society, just after returning from the Smithfield Show in London<sup>204</sup> and continued his support of mechanisation by discussing steam ploughing in the county and

The Caldwells were actively involved in local social events, for example in the first two months of 1860 Henry and Esther Caldwell attended the Chippenham Ball,

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<sup>200</sup> *Wiltshire Independent* Thursday 4 August 1859 p3

<sup>201</sup> *The Norfolk News* 8 July 1854 p2 meeting held at the Cricket Ground in Norwich on 23 June 1854

<sup>202</sup> *Wiltshire Independent* Thursday 8 September 1859 p3 Meeting held on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion in Lacock

<sup>203</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 17 October 1861 p4

<sup>204</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 15 December 1859. Show and meeting held Thursday and Friday December 7 - 8 1859, AGM and meal on the Friday evening

held in early January, with two of his daughters and his son<sup>205</sup>. Two weeks later Mr and Mrs Caldwell "and party"<sup>206</sup> were present at an amateur concert held in the New Hall to raise money for the newly installed organ in Sutton Benger Church and within a fortnight<sup>207</sup> had been invited to " a Ball on a scale of grand magnificence" at Badminton House by the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort .

In 1860 Henry Caldwell was appointed as a Wiltshire Justice of the Peace<sup>208</sup> and a month later<sup>209</sup> he was a member of the Grand Jury for the Crown Court session held under Mr Baron Martin .

The lives of the inhabitants of the village at Lacock were not totally devoted to labour; there were frequently holidays and days of celebration. One example occurred in June when the festival of the Lacock branch of the Wiltshire Friendly Society took place on Whit Wednesday, the Caldwells being involved. The local paper gave a full account of the event:

*At 9.30 am the benefitted members began to assemble at the school-rooms to receive their tickets and some luncheon. It was plainly to be seen by every face that that they had made up their minds for a day's enjoyment. The luncheon being finished the members formed a procession, and were headed by the gentry, farmers, tradesmen and the Trowbridge splendid brass band; and in this order marched to the beautiful old Church where a most practical and useful sermon was preached by the Rev A Blomfield, and listened to with the attention due to such a discourse . After service the procession wended its way down the avenue to the fine old Abbey, where all parties were kindly received by Mrs*

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<sup>205</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 12 January 1860 p2, Ball held Tuesday 10 January

<sup>206</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 2 February 1860 p3, the concert held Friday 27 January

<sup>207</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 16 February 1860 p3, the Ball was held Friday 10 February

<sup>208</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Saturday 4 February 1860 p8, appointed 2 February 1860

<sup>209</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 19 March 1860 p3, the concert held Friday 27 January



*Talbot and the young ladies. From the Abbey to the National School rooms, where a most beautiful supply of the old English food of roast beef and plum pudding was prepared, The chair was taken by HG Awdry esq, well supported on the right and left by other gentry. When all parties had done their utmost to disfigure the roast beef and plum puddings, the usual toasts were given; "The Queen" responded to by Mr HB Caldwell esq; "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese" by the Rev A Blomfield; "The Army and Navy" by J Awdry esq; "The prosperity of the Wiltshire Friendly Society by Messrs Crisp, Simco <sup>210</sup> and J Fr.y. After singing "God save the Queen" the members and band paid a short visit to their Lacock friends, and then to the field, where dancing and all kinds of sports were entered into with energy and activity in the presence of a most respectable company numbering at least one thousand persons. Returning from the field they called on Mrs Fry to thank her for kindly allowing them the use of one of her fields, and then to the school again to make another onslaught at the beef and puddings; but after several very sharp encounters with blade and fork they were repulsed and sat down to make the best of it by firing such clouds of tobacco smoke from their pipes, that one would have thought that they were trying to fire a royal salute. Having enjoyed themselves to a late hour with songs and glees, they all parted in a very cheerful and sober manner to their homes - causing the policeman to remark "if this takes place very often I shall find but little to do" <sup>211</sup>*

In July 1860 Caldwell travelled to Canterbury to attend the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, where he was one of the stewards <sup>212</sup>, alongside Mr Pope of Great Tolls. Dorset and Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire.

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<sup>210</sup> "Master of the National School" *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 4 October 1860 p3

<sup>211</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*

<sup>212</sup> *Reading Mercury* Saturday 7 July 1860 p5. The meeting was held on Friday, 6 July

Caldwell was not only interested in agriculture, in 1860 he was involved <sup>213</sup>in the formation of the Melksham Company of the Voluntary Rifle Corps. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Rifle Corps and was

*formed at Melksham on 1 March 1860 and joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Admin Battalion. It became "H" company of the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps in 1880* <sup>214</sup>

The Volunteer Corps had, probably, been the idea of the Duke of Wellington who was concerned about the state of the nation's defence and as far back as 1847 had called for the formation of volunteer defence forces. The Government of the day "was not over-keen to see the formation of a part time army..." but eventually sanctioned the formation of Volunteer Corps in May 1859 <sup>215</sup>. The officers were commissioned by the county Lords Lieutenants and the corps could only be called out "in the case of actual invasion or rebellion and whilst under arms members of the Corps should be subject to Military law" <sup>216</sup>. Henry Caldwell chaired the meeting that celebrated the formation of the Melksham Corps on Monday 20 February 1860. This involved a display of drill by the corps and then a dinner in the Town Hall where "many interesting speeches" were made. That this was seen as an important event for the community was made clear in the report

*The whole aspect of the proceedings tends to show how such a social meeting of this kind, presided over and conducted as this was, tends to interest the community in this patriotic movement, as well as to promote good feeling among all who are brought within its influence* <sup>217</sup>

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<sup>213</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Saturday 25 February 1860 p8

<sup>214</sup> Westlake, R (2010) *Tracing the Rifle Volunteers: A guide for Military and Family Historian* p349 ISBN 0978 1 84884 211 3

<sup>215</sup> The enabling legislation for the formation of the Corps was passed as 44 Geo III cap 54, 5 June 1804 "An Act to consolidate & amend the Provisions of the several Acts relating to Corps of Yeomanry & Volunteers. in Great Britain & to make further regulation therein"

<sup>216</sup> Westlake, R (2010) *Tracing the Rifle Volunteers: A guide for Military and Family Historian* p1

<sup>217</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Saturday 25 February 1860 p8

Then, in August 1860, Henry Caldwell, Mrs Caldwell "and a party from Lackham" were among the many local dignitaries who were at Spye Park <sup>218</sup> when the Rifle Corps was invited there for "an entertainment in picnic fashion". It turned into a local event;

*The pleasure of witnessing scene of such rational enjoyment and charming recreation ...induced the inhabitants of the neighbourhood and the townsmen of Melksham to observe the day as a half-holiday, and to close their shops and places of business, in order that they and their assistants might be spectators of the proceedings and partakers of the anticipated pleasures* <sup>219</sup>

It isn't clear whether the good people of Melksham were able to enter Spye Park, itself, but they would have had ample opportunity to take part by lining the route when the Corps

*Which had mustered in full strength* <sup>220</sup> *marched from their parade ground, near the Town Hall, accompanied by an excellent brass band, and proceeding by the Chippenham road through Lacock and thence up Bowden Hill, entered Spye Park by the principal gateway* <sup>221</sup>

Less than two weeks later <sup>222</sup> Caldwell was once again attending the Chippenham Agricultural Society's Annual Ploughing match at Clapcote Farm <sup>223</sup> where a dinner was held afterwards and Caldwell supported the chairman Mr Richard Long MP.

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<sup>218</sup> Owned at this time by Mr Baynton Starky

<sup>219</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 9 August 1860 p3, the event took place on Thursday 2 August

<sup>220</sup> It is not clear whether this would have been classed as an exercise, but if so the members of the Corp would have been required, by the 1804 Act that allowed their formation, to be present unless they had very good and provable reasons for absence.

<sup>221</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* *ibid*

<sup>222</sup> on Wednesday 15 August 1860

<sup>223</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Saturday 18 August 1860 p9,

At the Lacock Agricultural Society Ploughing Match in October <sup>224</sup> Caldwell's carter, Solomon Jenkins came second using a Hornsby's plough and won £1 in prize money

In December 1860 the annual Chippenham Agricultural Society meeting was held and over 50 long service workers from the local area were given rewards for their long and faithful service. A party from Lackham, comprising Henry Caldwell, one of his daughters and Mr WH Hartley and Mr C Boodie, gents, were present and Henry Caldwell replied to the opening speech of the Chairman Southerton Estcourt. In his speech Caldwell again showed himself concerned with the advancement of agriculture and the conditions of the labourers. He said that the conditions labourers lived in was very bad and that in Norfolk

*He had pulled down upwards of 30 cottages, and rebuilt more than enough to satisfy the same population giving three bedrooms and two sitting rooms to each cottage and he had found he was well repaid for the outlay <sup>225</sup>*

and suggested that if the landowners of Wiltshire would only do the same and give their tenant farmers good housing into which their labourers could be placed

*It would not only keep the farmer straight with his men but also have a great effect in raising the morals of the children when they came home at night..... we must bury our poorest cottages; for many of them were worse than pigsties*

Caldwell then went on to advocate steam ploughing and the drainage of land, and went on to observe that "there was some very foul land in that neighbourhood" and to make "several pungent remarks upon the mode of Wiltshire farming as exhibited in that neighbourhood" <sup>226</sup> and concluded by suggesting that the wet weather might be a good thing if it would "encourage Wiltshire farmers to open the good ditches their forefathers had made for them". Not surprisingly this did not go down too well and the next speaker, Mr Lavington from Poulshot suggested that Caldwell's poor opinion of Wiltshire farming might have been different if he

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<sup>224</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 4 October 1860 p1 the match was the previous day

<sup>225</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 132 December 1860 p2

<sup>226</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* *ibid*

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

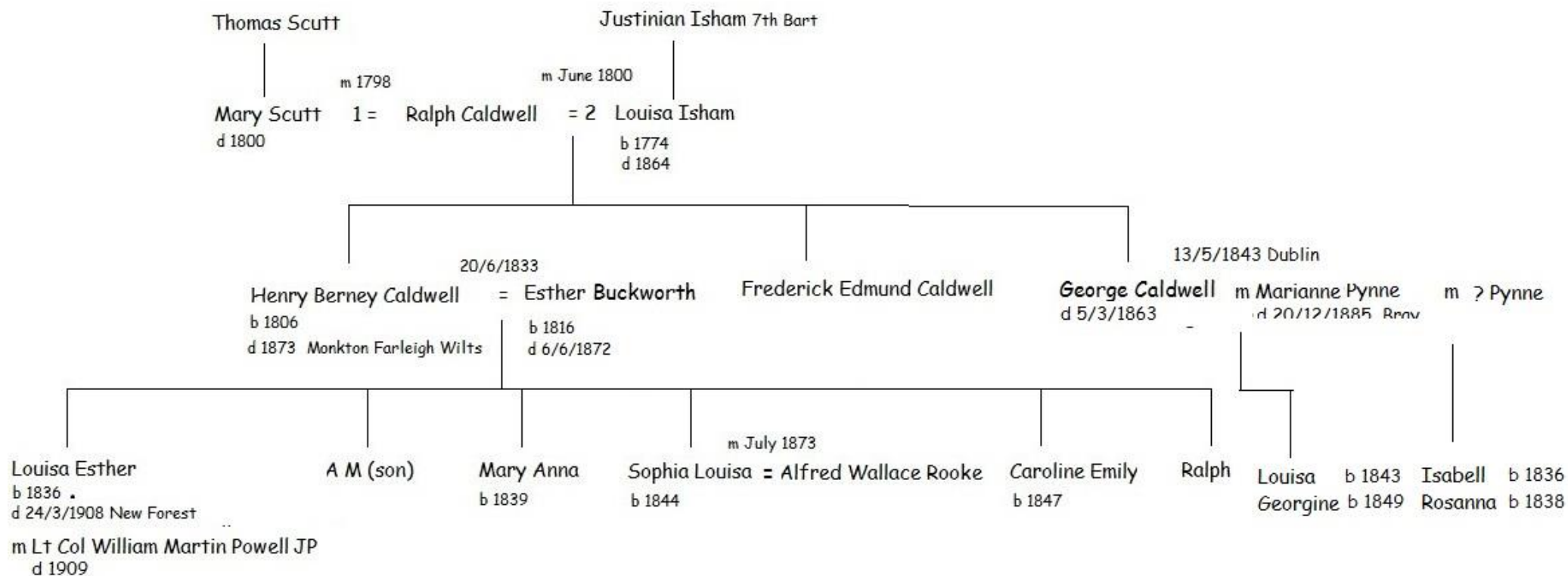


Fig. 17 Caldwell family of Lackham \*

had travelled further into Wiltshire "than he appears to have done", and noted that he had "sold off the place where Mr Caldwell now resides some years ago and if I remember rightly the land was not in very first rate order then"

The extent of the Lackham Caldwell family is first seen in the 1861 census <sup>227</sup>. Those present were Henry (55), his wife Esther (45), his mother Louisa (83), and Henry and Esther's daughters Louisa E[sther], (25), Mary A[nna] (22), Sophia L[ouisa] (17) and Caroline E[mily] (14). Apart from the family Lackham House was also occupied by a Governess, one visitor and 13 servants.

This was the first census in which medical conditions were recorded <sup>228</sup>.

In July 1861 Henry Caldwell bought back the land at Reybridge <sup>229</sup> that Fredrick Montagu had sold to George White 30 years previously (see above

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<sup>227</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> April 1861

<http://www.halhed.com/t4r/getperson.php?personID=I6674&tree=tree1>.

<sup>228</sup> Name	Position	Cond	Age	Rank occupation	Born	Medical
Henry B Caldwell	Head	M	55	Landed Proprietor	Kent Hawkhurst	Blind 1 eye
Esther	" Wife	M	45		London	
Louisa	" Mother	Widow	83		London	
Louisa E	" daughter	Un	25		Norfolk, Hilborough	
Mary A	" daughter	Un	22		Norfolk, Hilborough	
Sophia L	" daughter	Un	17		Norfolk, Hilborough	
Caroline E	" daughter	Un	14		Norfolk, Hilborough	
Elizabeth J Kelly		Un	33	Governess	Kent, Lyd	
James E Knollys	visitor	M	43	Gentleman	Oxon, Harpsdon	
Richard Ridgley	Servant	M	42	Butler	Soms, Shaftsbury	
Phillip Hawkins		"	Un	22	Footman	Hants, Brook
Charles Bull	"	Un	20	Coachman	Soms, Taunton	
Robert Major	"	Un	30	Groom	Wilts, Lacock	
Sarah Walker		Widow	39	Cook	Berks, Longcott	
Catherine ??	"	Un	31	Lady's Maid	Middlesex	
Anne Monwhite?	"	Un	33	" "	Essex, Chelmsford	
Margaret D?	"	Un	30	" "	Salop, Alderbury	
Mary A Lucas	"	Un	30	Laundry Maid	Wilts, Salisbury	
Isabella M Williams	"	Un	29	House Maid	Campbell Town NB	
Matilda Hamblin	"	Un	27	Dairy Maid	Wilts, Hilmarton	
Fanny Thomas	"	Un	19	Housemaid	Wilts, Lacock	
Mary Wheeler	"	Un	20	Kitchen Maid	Wilts,	

<sup>229</sup> WA 663/27

page XX). As was seen earlier the mortgage to the land had been acquired by John Deverell in 1832. In 1850 he had released the mortgage to Thomas Watson and John Hunt who had also gained title to the land. It was from Watson and Hunt (and two others) that Henry Caldwell bought the land, for a total of £370 <sup>230</sup> The land is named as part of Mill Mead and had

*formerly 5 and now 6 tenements belonging formerly to one ancient and decayed messuage and tenement and barn and piece of land of 16 luggs in Reybridge.*

Thomas Abdy Fellowes, who had been Frederick Montagu's attorney was still working for the Lackham estate, and was given the use of the land for the lifetime of Henry Caldwell. He was also connected to the previous owners of Lackham, the Rookes as he was married to Captain Rooke's daughter Eliza Sophia.

In the same month another interest of the Caldwell family led to Lackham hosting the third meeting that year of the Society of Wiltshire Archers at which there were over 30 competitors and over 100 people had dinner - "*Mr and Mrs and the Misses Caldwell did all in their power to make the members and their friends comfortable*" <sup>231</sup>

The public interest in the local Agricultural Societies is difficult to gauge now but a good example of how important they were may be given by the meeting of the Melksham Agricultural Society at Bradford on Avon in August 1861 <sup>232</sup> when

*The principal streets were decorated with flags and streamers and the church bells rang merry peals. There was an exhibition of horses, a ploughing match and a dinner* <sup>233</sup>

Henry Caldwell was president for the dinner but his comments at the Chippenham dinner of 1859 had been forgotten; although some excellent speeches were made

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<sup>230</sup> £200 for the freehold and £170 for the leasehold.

<sup>231</sup> *Wiltshire Independent* Thursday 25 July 1861 p1

<sup>232</sup> Wednesday 14 August 1861

<sup>233</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Saturday 17 August 1861 p6

during the afternoon "*the topics touched upon were chiefly of a general and complimentary character, leading to little practical result*" <sup>234</sup>

This comment might be seen as journalistic carping, but the desire for meaningful and helpful discussion about farming matters was very real. In a letter to the local paper, following the 1861 Lacock Agricultural Society ploughing match, one of those attending sang the praises of the Society, mentioning that in the early part of the previous winter (1860) the Society had established a Farmer's Discussion Club whose meetings were free to members of the Lacock Agricultural Society and others could attend for 2s 6d a year. This was a considerable sum, the equivalent of £48 in today's money <sup>235</sup> so the people who attended these discussion meetings must have valued them greatly. From this letter it is clear that the annual Lacock Ploughing match had other benefits for the community than just improving the skills of the local ploughmen and boys; at the same time as the 1861 match the committee, including Caldwell, had offered a few small prizes for a cottager's vegetable competition which had been very well supported, with over 70 exhibits. The interest was such that the exhibition was kept open for two days and afterwards each exhibitor was given "*a good allowance of bread and cheese and a pint of beer in the national school room*" <sup>236</sup>. The writer of the letter observed how much good the efforts of a small number of "*rightly intentioned people*" could bring about in even a small parish such as Lacock.

In October 1861 the Lacock Agricultural Society held a competition of root crops, which were essential winter food, especially for farm animals and Caldwell won first prize in the swede category, some of which "*exceeded 19lbs in weight*". Other roots exhibited were *globe mangold wurzels* and *Yorkshire paragou turnips* <sup>237</sup>. The report of the competition mentioned that the next meeting the Society would be at the end of the month when Henry Caldwell would talk on "*The best method of wintering stock*"

Throughout the second half of 1861 the parish church of St Cyriac's at Lacock had been undergoing that icon of the Victorian era, a "renovation". Canon Jackson

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<sup>234</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* *ibid*

<sup>235</sup> <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/results.asp#mid>

<sup>236</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal and Advertiser* Saturday 17 August 1861 p6

<sup>237</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 17 October 1861 p2



records, in his notes <sup>238</sup> a statement of accounts for the restoration of the parish church at Lacock dated March 1862 <sup>239</sup>, and this includes a comment that " *The above is exclusive of the Sum expended upon the Lackham Aisle : the entire cost of which was defrayed by B Caldwell Esq of Lackham House*". The dating of these accounts is strange as the church was actually re-opened for worship on 10 December 1861. The reopening service was conducted by the Bishop of Salisbury <sup>240</sup> and "Henry Caldwell, Mrs Caldwell, the misses Caldwell and Mr Caldwell jnr" were all there. The local paper noted that "the South Transept has been restored by HB Caldwell Esq of Lackham House with handsome oak seats and poppy head ends <sup>241</sup>"

This was only a few months before Louisa Esther Caldwell married William Martin Powell there, in April 1862 <sup>242</sup>. It is noted that Henry Powell, William Martin's father, was in the same regiment as Capt. FW Rooke's father, whether the two families knew each other is unknown but it is possible. William and Louisa lived in Lyndhurst in Hampshire for over 20 years and had 2 sons and 2 daughters <sup>243</sup>. Louisa died 24 March 1908 in the New Forest

There is another marital connection between the Rooke family and the Caldwells; in July 1873 Alfred Wallace Rooke, one of the sons of the Rev John Rooke and his wife Jane Marcon and therefore a cousin of William Wallace Rooke, married Sophia Louisa Caldwell of Farleigh Hungerford <sup>244</sup>. This was after the Caldwells had sold Lackham, but shows that there were links between the families.

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<sup>238</sup> Jackson, JEJ Mss *ibid*

<sup>239</sup> By J[ames] Paley, vicar and Henry Godard Awdry / Edward Barton, Churchwardens

<sup>240</sup> *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal and Advertiser* Saturday 14 December 1861 p7

<sup>241</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal and Advertiser* *ibid*

<sup>242</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 1 May 1862 p3 / *The Times* Thursday, 1 May 1862, p.1 / *Reading Mercury* Saturday 3 May 1862 p5

*On Tuesday, the 29th April, at Lacock, by the Rev. Arthur Bloomfield, William Martin Powell, late Captain Inniskillin Dragoons, youngest son of the late Henry Weyland Powell, of Foxlease, Hants, to Louisa Esther, eldest daughter of Henry Berny Caldwell, Esq., of Lackham House, Hants.*

<sup>243</sup> Henry Martin, Edward Wayland Martin, Clarissa and Mary Grace Powell

<sup>244</sup> <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=rodjcraig&id=I7753>

In 1862 Henry Caldwell was once again at judge at the Melksham Agricultural Society Ploughing match, which took place at Bean acre in July 1862 when 33 ploughs took part <sup>245</sup>

A report in the local paper for September 1862 gives an account of another village event in which members of the Caldwell family were involved -

*Lacock - On Thursday September 18 this village was aroused from its usual, quietude by the congregating of number of school children n front of the school room, awaiting the arrival of the Royal Wilts Militia Band which ... was allowed to cheer and enliven the merry youths of Lacock The children, numbering 301, formed a procession and marched to the church... after service the children were conducted to the vicarage orchard where tea and cake and other good things were provided, Numbers of kind ladies soon made themselves very useful in distributing cakes and tea amongst the children, and in a very short space of time great quantities of the cake disappeared. Prizes were given by the ladies to the school girls for needlework and to the boys for good behaviour. Mrs Caldwell of Lackham house, in the kindest manner, told the schoolmaster that as he had been a very good boy she thought he deserved a prize, and therefore she made him a present of a very handsome pencil case. Three hearty cheers having been given.. the children marched into a field very kindly lent by Mrs Banks, of the Red Lion Inn, where swings were erected and other sports carried on to the great delight of the children. The ladies and gentlemen seemed to vie with each other in adding to the amusement of all the parties present. Amongst these in particular may be mentioned Mrs and Misses Caldwell.... There was jumping in sacks, running blindfold, wheelbarrow races, dancing and two balloons started by the Rev Blomfield kept the field in a state of activity until 7 o'clock, when the children dispersed. For two hours after the older portion of the company had a merry dance. At nine o'clock the band (which had given great satisfaction) ceased and all parties returned home perfectly satisfied with their day's*

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<sup>245</sup> Western Daily Press Wednesday 14 July 1862 p3 the matchtook place the previous day

*amusement. It may also be stated after the children had finished their tea 97 old men and women had their tea in the same place, and the ladies and gentlemen.... were invited into the vicarage where refreshments were provided for them* <sup>246</sup>

Just over two years after their wedding Louisa Powell nee Caldwell gave birth to one of her daughters at Lackham <sup>247</sup> but tragedy struck when the baby died less than two weeks later <sup>248</sup>

In July 1863 Henry Caldwell was in Newcastle, judging implements at the Newcastle meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, where trials of steam cultivators took place on 140 acres at Long Benton <sup>249</sup>.

Only a week later death once again visited Lackham, when Caroline, Henry and Louisa's daughter, died <sup>250</sup>

Henry Caldwell didn't just support agricultural improvement and "education" by membership of Societies and judging shows, he was a subscriber to a treatise on farming by a local author, which was announced in the press in September 1863 <sup>251</sup>

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<sup>246</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 25 September 1862 p3

<sup>247</sup> *Dorset County Chronicle* Thursday 24 May 1863 p2

"*POWELL* May 12, at Lackham House, Wilts, the residence of her father, the wife of W Marton Powell, Esq of Lyndhurst Hants of a daughter"

Interestingly the very next announcement in the paper reads

"*Rooke* - May 17 at Rampisaham Rectory, the wife of the Rev Prebendary Rooke, a son." This was, of course, the Rev Frederick John Rooke, son of Capt FW Rooke the previous owner of Lackham (see [Fig 9](#)) This was the birth of Darell Rooke (1863 - 1922) who married Mabel Caser Lowe

<sup>248</sup> *Berkshire Chronicle* Saturday 6 June 1863 p8

May 31, at Lackham House, Wilts Mary, infant daughter of W Martin Powell Esq of Lyndhurst, Hants

<sup>249</sup> *Lincolnshire Chronicle* Friday 21 July 1863 p8

<sup>250</sup> *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* Wednesday 5 August 1863 p4 / *Berkshire Chronicle* Saturday 1 August 1863 p4 / *Reading Mercury* Saturday 1 August 1863 p5  
Deaths - July 28 at Lackham House, Wilts, Caroline, widow of the late Rev Archibald Paris

<sup>251</sup> *Berkshire Chronicle* Saturday 12 September 1863 p2

Hunting continued at Lackham throughout the nineteenth century - for example the Duke of Beaufort's hounds met at Lackham on 2 December 1862

*When a sumptuous feast was spread for the million, only a few of the choicest spirits partaking of the well-known hospitality of the founder of the feast, after qualifying the inward man with jumping powder. The hounds looking magnificently were thrown into covert; but Charley, thinking by the bustle at the house that it would not do to stay in that locality, wisely gave them the slip*<sup>252</sup>

In 1864 the local paper<sup>253</sup> noted that "W Caldwell of Lackham" chaired a meeting of the Lacock Farmers Club on Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> - the speaker was the Mayor of Calne, J D Bishop, who spoke on Potato culture. W Caldwell is otherwise unknown. The only son known for certain is Ralph, who appears in the 1871 census when the Caldwells were living at Monkton Farleigh<sup>254</sup>, and there is also mention of Henry Caldwell's brother Frederick Edmund who was visiting the family on census day in 1851.

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The book, "*Secrets of Farming*" was by John Large and was dedicated to the Duke of Beaufort at Badminton. The major subscribers were all local men, as well as Caldwell of Lackham these included the Marquis of Lansdowne at Bowood, the Earl of Suffolk and Berskhire at Malmesbury, AN Goddard of The Lawn in Swindon, HL Goddard of Cliffe House Cliffe Ppard, James Pratt (no relation to the current author) of Wotton Bassett, the Earl of Clarendon and Sir John Neeld of Grittleton

It is still available or can be found online at

[http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wqNXAAAACAAJ&pg=PR1&source=gbs\\_selected\\_page&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wqNXAAAACAAJ&pg=PR1&source=gbs_selected_page&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false)

<sup>252</sup> [Wiltshire Independent Thursday 18 December 1862, 3](#)

<sup>253</sup> *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* March 31<sup>st</sup> 1864

<sup>254</sup>

When the Caldwells were living at Monkton Farley Henry Caldwell submitted evidence to the Commission on Agricultural employment. *Commission on the employment of Children, Young Persons and Women in Agriculture (1867) Second Report (1869)* p258

In June 1864 Henry Caldwell was trying to sell Lackham<sup>255</sup>. The estate was advertised for sale by auction at the Guildhall Coffee House<sup>256</sup> in Gresham Street London on 5 July 1864. The sale particulars give a good description of the estate. It had 384 acres of land and the house was given as

*A handsome and spacious structure, admirably built of Bath freestone, with strong slated roof, judiciously placed in a delightful situation, the principal or south front overlooking a park of about 60 acres of prolific pasture, studded with ornamental belts and plantations, approached from the road by a carriage drive in good condition with two ornamental entrance lodges &c*<sup>257</sup>.

The interior layout (excluding the measurements which were given in the advertisement) had an "enclosed portico entrance leading to spacious paced hall on either side of which was a capital dining room, an elegant double drawing room, a handsomely decorated library, a magistrate's room, a billiard room, a bath room &c 19 large and lofty sleeping apartments with dressing rooms and spacious offices" and there was also "lawns, pleasure grounds, conservatories and vineries, walled garden, melon pits &c excellent stabling for 9 horses coach houses and out offices." Despite all this it didn't sell<sup>258</sup>.

The estate was eventually offered for sale by auction again in 1866, when Mary Stapleton bought it.

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<sup>255</sup> [Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 4 June, 2 July 1864](#), [Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 9 June 1864 p4](#), [Thursday 23 June 1864 p2](#), [Thursday 30 June 1864 p4](#) / [Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 16 June 1864 p2](#), [7 July](#),

<sup>256</sup> This was no longer, by this time, a Coffee House. It was the Guildhall Coffee House in 1851, & the Guildhall Hotel in 1856, both times at 33 Gresham Street; in 1869 it became the Guildhall Tavern & Auction Rooms, 32 & 33 Gresham Street  
[ <http://pubshistory.com/LondonPubs/StLawrenceJewry/GuildhallTavern.shtml> ]

<sup>257</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 9 June 1864 p4*, *Thursday 23 June 1864 p2*, *Thursday 30 June 1864 p4* / *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 16 June 1864 p2*

<sup>258</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 7 July 1864 p3*  
*The Lackham Estatem which was put up to auction in London, on Tuesday, by messrs Daniel Smith, Son, and Oakley, was bought in, and is now (we are informed) for sale by private treaty.*

At the end of July 1864 Henry Caldwell was once again judging in an agricultural show , this time in Gainsborough for a meeting of the North Lincolnshire Agricultural Society. Again Caldwell was involved in judging a mechanisation area, that dealing with "small occupation steam farming" <sup>259</sup>

In late August Mrs Caldwell was at Bowood, attending the final meeting of the year of the Wiltshire Archers and, in the absence of Lady Lansdowne she presented the Leading Lady Archer, Miss Bella Awdry, with the prize. It is interesting to note that among the attendees was TA Fellowes, the Montagu's solicitor and Land Agent as well as the Caldwells and Alexander Rooke, his wife and daughter <sup>260</sup>. There was success for the younger Caldwells; when the scores for the five meetings during the year were added it was announced that Miss Caldwell was Lady Champion of the year and Ralph Caldwell was Champion of the gentlemen - "so that the championship prizes to be held for one season are now centered at Lackham" <sup>261</sup>

1864 was the year in which Henry Berney Caldwell's mother, Louisa, died at Lackham <sup>262</sup>.

In 1864 Henry Caldwell was Chairman of the Chippenham Agricultural Society and so gave the speech at the Annual Dinner of the Society <sup>263</sup>. In this he made a number of comments for which he was later taken to task in a letter to the *Devizes Gazette* by Mr HP Hanks of Cherhill <sup>264</sup>

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<sup>259</sup> *Lincolnshire Chronicle* Saturday 30 July 1864 p5

<sup>260</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 1 September 1864 p3

<sup>261</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 31 August 1865 p3

<sup>262</sup> *The Morning Post* Saturday 22 October 1864 p8 / *The Examiner* Saturday 29 October 1864 p13 (doesn't give as much information) / *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 27 October 1864 p5 / *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* Friday 28 October 1864 p5 / *Bury and Norwich Post* Tues 26 October 1864 p6 / *Norfolk Chronicle* Saturday 29 October 1864 p4 / *Norfolk News* Saturday 29 October 1864 p4

"CALDWELL - On Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. At Lackham House, Wilts, Louisa, widow of Ralph Caldwell Esq, of Hilborowe Hall, Norfolk, in her eighty-seventh year"

<sup>263</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 4 December 1864 p4

<sup>264</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 18 December 1864 p3

In 1865 Henry Caldwell was involved <sup>265</sup> in the election campaign of Sir George S Jenkinson to become the North Wiltshire MP. Jenkinson had succeeded his uncle as the eleventh baronet. He was not successful in his bid.

In August 1865 the nationwide outbreak of Cattle Plague (Rinderpest) caused enormous concern nationally and locally. It was a highly contagious disease - the Cattle Plague Commission declared that excretions of affected animals, hides, horns and intestines were carriers. "According to Professor James B Simmonds air was contagious to a distance of 500 yards and Earl Cathcart declared that hay and dung remained infected for months" <sup>266</sup>. Initially the Government limited its intervention to giving discretionary powers to local authorities and it wasn't until 11 August 1865 that reporting of infections was made mandatory. A week later the Chippenham the Mayor <sup>267</sup> called a public meeting in the New (Neeld) Hall and it was resolved <sup>268</sup> that

*As a Disease called the "Cattle Plague" is existing in different parts of the country, it becomes the bounden duty of all classes to assist, as far as they are able, to prevent the spreading of this fatal and highly contagious disease, and that, therefore, a Society be formed for this purpose, to be called "The Chippenham Union Mutual Cattle Assurance Society*

and that

*HB Caldwell, esquire, be requested to become the President of the Society and Mr Edward Little to act as honorary secretary pro tem*

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<sup>265</sup> *Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle* Monday 3 July 1865 p4, Monday 10 July 1865 p4, *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 15 June 1865 p1, Thursday 22 June 1865 p1, Thursday 29 June 1865 p1, Thursday 13 July 1865 p1, Thursday 20 July 1865 p4

*"The following Gentlemen have already consented to act on the General Committee now being formed for securing the election of Sir George Jenkinson Bart..... HB Caldwell Lackham House"*

<sup>266</sup> "See Jour RAS 2d Ser II p252: 498 Professor Simmonds has studied Rinderpest in Russia in 1856" in Erickson, AB "The Cattle Plague in England 1865-1867" *Agricultural History* Vol 35 No 2 April 1961, fn4 p94

<sup>267</sup> John Wilsan, MA

<sup>268</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 24 August 1865 p2

and a Committee was elected that seems to have involved most of the local gentry<sup>269</sup>. Caldwell does not seem to have remained active with the Society in any public way for very long. although the epidemic lasted until 1867. Much more could be written on the Cattle Plague<sup>270</sup> but Caldwell doesn't seem to have been actively involved after the early stages

Henry Caldwell, possibly having decided to keep the estate, developed the house as well as repaired the Lackham Aisle in St Cyriac's. He replaced the pipes that carried water from a spring on Nash (now Naish) Hill to the house and these "new Pipes.... cost me a great deal"<sup>271</sup> From this letter it is known the water supply was

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<sup>269</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* *ibid*

HB Caldwell Lackham House, Jacob Philip Chippenham, Thomas Henry Allen Poynder High Sheriff, the Rt Hon Earl Cowley Draycot House, the Rt Hon Lord Methuen Corsham Court, Viscount Dangan Draycot House, Sir John Neeld Bart MP Grittleton, G Poulet Scrope, MP Castle Combe, Gabriel Goldney MP Beechfield, John Bird Fuller Neston Park, John Wilson MA Mayor of Chippenham, Walter Coleman Langley Fitzhurst, Mr W Bridges Cowbridge Farm, Mr WJ Brown Hazelbury, Mr Charles G Brak Bidestone, Mr Issac Belcher Lower Sheldon Farm, Mr James Fry Lacock, Mr Thomas M Ferris Tytherton Lucas, Mr Richard Harding Mauditts Park Farm, Mr John Hayward Boyd Farm, Mr Thomas Hulbert Pickwick, Mr Richard Keevil Lacock, Mr James Miles Stanton St Quinton, Mr Stephen R Perret Little Lodge Farm, Mr Richard P Rich Chippenham, Mr John Rich Christian Malford, Mr Charles Rich Sutton Benger, Mr George Reynolds Christian Malford, Mr Robert Storer Grittleton, Mr John Teagle Seagry, Mr John Tanner Nettleton, Mr Daniel J Taylor Yatton Keynell, Mr William Webb Colerne, Mr Aaron Webb West Kingston

<sup>270</sup> An investigation into the Cattle Plague as seen from Wiltshire has delayed the production of this latest (2016) update, it is hoped this study will see the light of day eventually

<sup>271</sup> Letter from Henry Berney Caldwell to William Fox-Talbot, dated 22 Nov 1865, Lacock Abbey Collection Fox Talbot Museum Lacock Document Number: 09043:

<on mourning paper>

Lackham House

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>/65

.  
My dear Sir/

*I hope you will not consider me intrusive in writing to you, but I am anxious to know if you would object to extending the term of my hire of Water from your Spring on Nash Hill -I believe there is now 20 years unexpired of the term granted to Cap<sup>t</sup> Rooke -I need not of course say to you that it is a great comfort to this place & as new Pipes have cost me a great deal, I think still more of it. I will not trouble you by writing more, nor would I have done so now had I not thought that in these cases - it is always best to apply to Head-quarters.*



on land owned by Fox Talbot and that the lease had been purchased by Captain Rooke in 1844.

Henry Berney Caldwell himself died at Monkton Farleigh in 1873<sup>272</sup>, only a year after *Esther*<sup>273</sup>. The Caldwells had left Lackham years before, however. Henry Berney Caldwell had moved from Lackham to 56 Putney (Poultney?) Street in Bath before he sold Lackham, and an indenture to Mary Stapleton Bretherton was signed<sup>274</sup>, so before March 1866.

### Mary Bretherton at Lackham

In the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre there is a single sheet, dated 1866, written by Ralph Caldwell as it refers to Berney Caldwell as the writer's father<sup>275</sup>. Unfortunately neither the original handwritten version of this document or the "*clients copy*" (typewritten) has the name filled in. This affidavit was directly related to the fact that in the same year Henry Caldwell

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*An answer will greatly oblige  
y<sup>s</sup> very truly  
H: B: Caldwell*

<sup>272</sup> *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* Wednesday 29 January 1873 p5  
"January 17 Henry Berney Caldwell Esq of Monkton Farleigh House, late of Hilborowe Hall, Norfolk, in his 68<sup>th</sup> year"

<sup>273</sup> *The Pall Mall Gazette* (London), Tuesday, 11 June 1872, issue 2285, CALDWELL, Mrs. H. B., of Monckton Farleigh ... Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts, June 6.

<sup>274</sup> WA 44/4 *Main deeds Lackham Mansion House*

<sup>275</sup> WA44/6

Declaration dated 13th June 1866

*I .....Caldwell of Lackham house in the parish of Lacock in the county of Wilts, gent do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that since my father Mr Henry Berney Caldwell purchased the Lackham estate situate in the said parish in December 1858 I have been in the constant habit of pursuing and killing game on such estate and of fishing in the river Avon which partly bounds such estate*

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

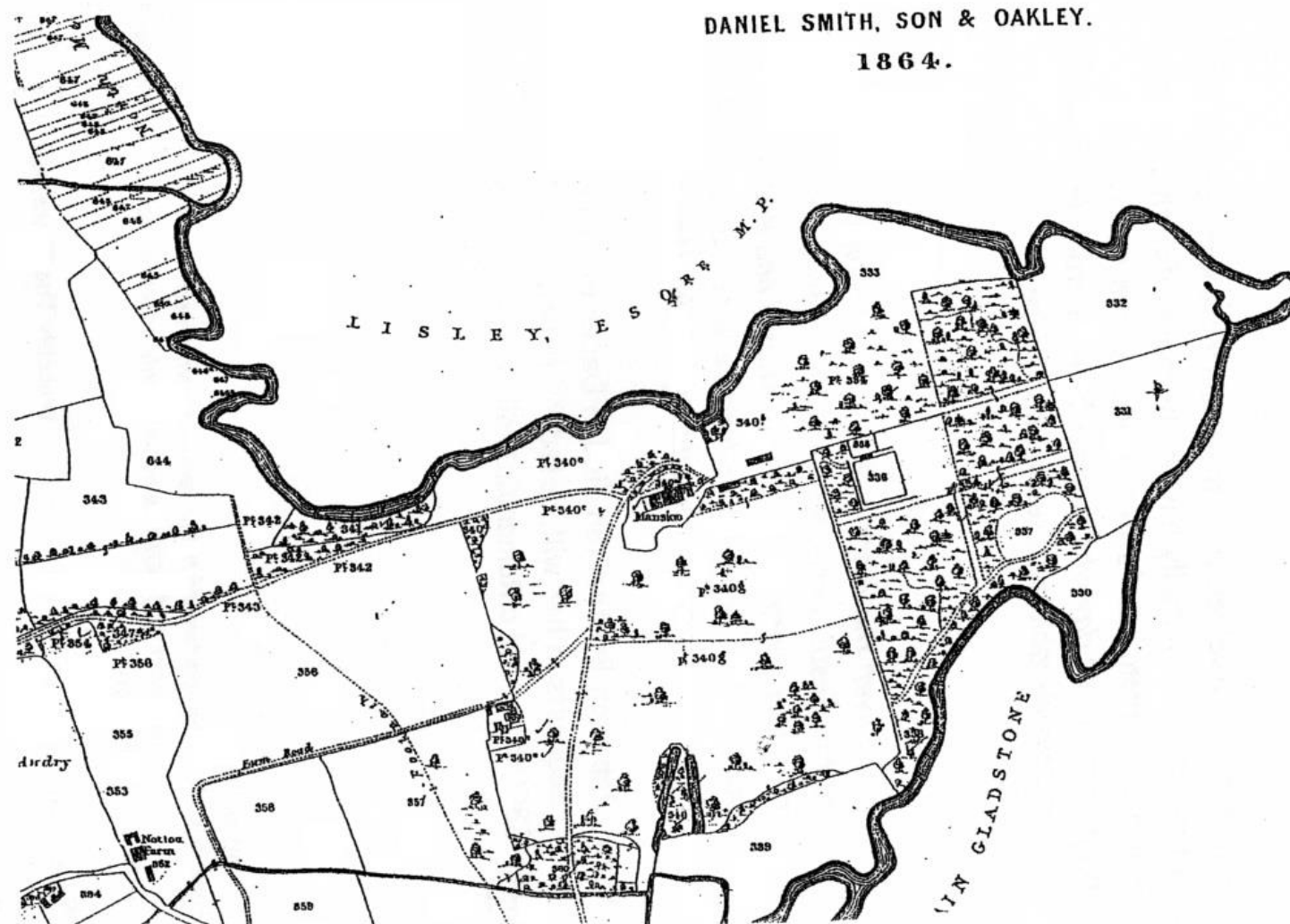


Fig 18 Map for the 1864 sale \*

sold the estate to the Hon Mrs Mary Gilbert Stapleton in 1866 <sup>276</sup> for £46,000 and the ongoing concerns about Lackham's rights to the far bank of the Avon.<sup>277</sup>

The exact date of Mary Stapleton's purchase can be established, as the contract is still preserved in the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

*I Mary Stapleton of Ditton Hall in the county of Lancaster widow do hereby acknowledge that I have this day purchased by [public auction crossed out] private contract the property mentioned in the annexed particulars for the sum of forty six thousand pounds and having paid into the hands of Messrs DANIEL SMITH SON & OAKLEY the sum of four thousand six hundred pounds as a deposit and in part payment of the said purchase money. I hereby bind myself. my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to pay the balance of the said purchase money and to complete said purchase in all other respects agreeably to the above conditions of sale \*[added in writing] "so far as they are applicable to a sale by private contract" witness my hand this second day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty six* <sup>278</sup>

There is a hand written amendment detailing the fixtures to be retained on the estate after the sale, which mentions such things as "brewing plant, iron hurdles, rails and gates"

An indenture in the Wiltshire record office <sup>279</sup> shows that Mary Bretherton borrowed some of the money to complete the purchase.

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<sup>276</sup> Vernon, T (1969) *A Short History of the Lords of the Manor of Lackham from Saxon days* (pamphlet) Wiltshire College of Agriculture

<sup>277</sup> see Pratt, T (2012) *Lackham's rights to the River Avon : A 19<sup>th</sup> century contra-temps* *Wiltshire Studies* (WAM) vol 106 pp 283-298 Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Devizes

<sup>278</sup> WA 44/5

<sup>279</sup> WA 44/4

An indenture, dated 10 Sep 1866, between Mary Stapleton Bretherton and & George Lowe [corn merchant of Glasgow] and John Ashton of War rington in Lancashire, which was where MSB came from and lived much of the time even after she purchased Lackham. She borrowed £5,500, with Lackham as the surety, at 5% interest p.a.

What follows is a very brief depiction of Mary Stapleton - for a very complete and accurate account of the Bretherton family in general and Mary in particular see [The World of Mary Bretherton by Audrey Thomas, 2018](#) <sup>280</sup>.

Mary Bretherton was the only surviving child of Bartholomew Bretherton of Rainhill in Lancashire. The Bretherton family's wealth was relatively new - they originally came from around Stoneyhurst in Lancashire and were a Catholic farming family. Towards the end of the 18th century, the brothers Joseph, Francis, Peter and Bartholomew Bretherton decided to seek their fortune in Liverpool. In 1799 Bartholomew, described as a flour dealer, married Jane Atkinson at St, Nicholas's Church, Liverpool <sup>281</sup>.

In 1800, Bartholomew decided to go into the coaching business in partnership with one or more of his brothers. . By 1820, he had the bulk of the coaching trade of Liverpool. He was running coaches to and from Manchester fourteen times a day from the Saracen's Head in Dale Street, Liverpool. Bartholomew chose Rainhill <sup>282</sup> as his first stage stop and he developed facilities alongside the Ship Inn and on this site he was stabling at least 240 horses, coach horses, as well as having farriers, coach builders and veterinaries. <sup>283</sup>

Bartholomew began to purchase land in Rainhill, and in 1824, he bought the Manor of Rainhill from Dr James Gerrard of Liverpool. By 1830, he owned over 260 acres around Rainhill. In 1824, across the road from the stables (and the Ship Inn, which is still there), he built Rainhill House and laid out beautiful gardens around it <sup>284</sup>. Bartholomew also built the Catholic Church of St.

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<sup>280</sup> My sincere thanks to Mrs Thomas for sending me a copy of her excellent book and allowing me to correct my mistakes regarding Mary. A copy of this work is held at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham.

<sup>281</sup> Thomas, AM (2018) [The World of Mary Bretherton](#) (Victoria, BC, Canada), 2

<sup>282</sup> 9 miles from Liverpool <http://www.rainhill-civic-society.org.uk/html/main.html> and click the "Locomotive Trials" link

<sup>283</sup> <http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/website/openfile.htm?id=3050>

<sup>284</sup> Today, this house is known as Loyola Hall, and has served as a retreat run by the Society of Jesus since 1923. This should not be confused with Mary's gift of Ditton Hall to the same religious order 50 years earlier, see below

Bartholomew in 1838-1840 <sup>285</sup> and he is buried under the altar there, having died in 1857.

It is interesting that Rainhill was the location of the famous "Rainhill Trials" for steam locomotives in October 1829 <sup>286</sup>

The Brethertons of Rainhill had a coat of arms

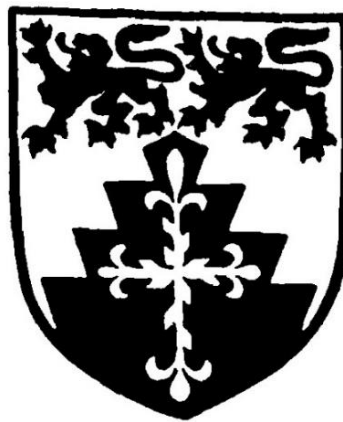


Fig. 19a Bretherton of Rainhill arms <sup>287</sup> \*

But Mary had a separate coat which included her father's arms as an escutcheon

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<sup>285</sup> Thomas, AM (2018) [The World of Mary Bretherton](#) (Victoria, BC, Canada), 9

<sup>286</sup> <http://www.rainhill-civic-society.org.uk/html/main.html>

<sup>287</sup> *Per chevron indented sable and argent, in chief two lions passant and in base a cross raguly flory counterchanged*  
VCH Lancashire Vol 3 (1907) 'Townships: Rainhill', pp. 368-371.



Fig. 19b Arms of Mary Stapleton Bretherton <sup>288</sup> \*

Mary married William Gerard of Newhall Lancaster (who was a brother of Sir Robert Gerard, Bart.) in 1829. William Gerard died in 1844 and in January 1848 she married the Hon Gilbert Stapleton (brother of Miles Thomas, 8th Lord Beaumont) who died without issue in 1848 <sup>289</sup>. She added her family name of Bretherton and was thereafter Mory Stapleton Bretherton. The date when she did so was unclear, 1849 <sup>290</sup>, 1869 <sup>291</sup>, 1884 <sup>292</sup> and 1889 have been given but all are incorrect, she is very clearly given as Stapleton Bretherton in the sale agreement of 1866. She was granted a Royal Licence to "use her paternal surname of Bretherton after that of Stapleton. Mrs Stapleton will for the

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<sup>288</sup> *Argent A lion rampant sable armed and langued gules an escutcheon of pretence per chevron engrailed sable and argent in chief two lions passant and in base a cross molines counterchanged* Blazon after Burke's *General Armoury* vol 3 p964

<sup>289</sup> Thomas, AM (2018) [The World of Mary Bretherton](#) (Victoria, BC, Canada), 15

<sup>290</sup> This was the year she was presented to Queen Victoria (Thomas, AM (2018) [The World of Mary Bretherton](#) (Victoria, BC, Canada), 1

<sup>291</sup> Burke's [Peerage and Baronetage](#) (1999) 106th Edition, 1131. (Reference by kind courtesy of Mrs Thomas)

<sup>292</sup> Confusingly, and incorrectly, her obituary notice (see below) stated that she "took the name Stapleton Bretherton by Royal Licence in 1884."

*future be called and known as Mrs Stapleton-Bretherton," in 1868 although Burkes Peerage gives 1869 <sup>293</sup>."*

Mary Stapleton Bretherton was very involved with the charitable work of the Roman Catholic church, initially having the money for this from an inheritance from her father,

She

*made over the Mansion house and grounds at Ditton to the Jesuit refugees and built them a church where they now carry on their educational and missionary work, after Religious orders were forced out of Germany, following the passing of the May Laws <sup>294</sup>.*

The first building for Roman Catholic care in the area was a school erected in 1860 by Mary Stapleton Bretherton of Ditton Hall, formerly called "The Grove" <sup>295</sup>. Mary followed her father's church building initiative when she financed the construction of St. Michael's Church, Ditton, which was built by the refugees and was opened in 1878. It was designed by Henry Clutton <sup>296</sup> The cost of the

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<sup>293</sup> Official notification was in the *Edinburgh Gazette* 7885, 1137 dated Tuesday September 15, 1868 page 1 at <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/Edinburgh/issue/7885/page/1137> accessed 28 Dec 2018. Mrs Thomas got the date of 1869 from Burke's Peerage and Baronetage (1999) 106th Edition, 1131. The information from the *Edinburgh Gazette* has only recently come to notice and Burke's was the best information available until then.

<sup>294</sup> Obit notice

*Pope Aus IX, in recognition of these services conferred on her the title of Marchiness, an unsought distinction which she only accepted out of respect for the head of her church*

<sup>295</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=41355>

<sup>296</sup> Henry Clutton (1819-1893) was an English architect and designer and a student of Edward Blore and also worked with William Burges. His works also included Battle Abbey, East Sussex, Cliveden, Buckinghamshire, Hatherop Castle, Gloucestershire, The Sandy Lodge Bedfordshire, Minley Manor, Hampshire, and Wrotham Park, Hertfordshire. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=12186732>

church, £16,000 (£1,210,000 in 2011 money <sup>297</sup>) was met by Lady Mary Stapleton-Bretherton. The Jesuits left Ditton in 1895; for a time the church remained in charge of the English Jesuits, but was given up to the secular clergy. The house was later used by the Sisters of Nazareth as a boys' home <sup>298</sup>

From the very start of her ownership the "river rights" issue was again a concern and two of the (very few) records relating to her time owning Lackham are involved with the river; in both 1867 <sup>299</sup> and 1868 <sup>300</sup> FA Bretherton of Lackham was appointed as one of the Board of Conservators for the Avon, Brue and Parrett Fishery District under the Salmon Fishery Act of 1865

There was a tragic accident at Lackham in 1868 when one of the Lackham ostlers was killed

*Inquest held by Mr Whitmarsh - At Chippenham, pn the body of Henry Smith, ostler, 46 years of age. Deceased was clipping a horse at Lackham stables when, the door being open to have more daylight, the horse plunged forward and pushed deceased outside on the pitching stones. He was taken home an died in the evening the same day from concussion of the brain. Verdict accordingly*

<sup>301</sup>

In July, 1875 there was a bad railway accident at Thingley Junction just west of Lackham and on Lackham land; ,

*on Friday evening [July 5] a passenger train... left Chippenham at eight o'clock for Birstol [came] into violent contact with a narrow-gauge goods train from Salisbury which had arrived at*

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<sup>297</sup> UK CPI inflation numbers based on data available from Lawrence H. Officer (2010) "What Were the UK Earnings and Prices Then?" [see <http://measuringworth.com/ukearncpi/>]

<sup>298</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=41355>

<sup>299</sup> *Dorset County Chronicle* Thursday 21 November 1867 p18 / *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* Saturday 23 Novemebr 1867 p1 / *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 29 November 1867 p1

<sup>300</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 12 November 1868 p2

<sup>301</sup> *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* Thursday 3 December 1868 p3



*the Junction and overshot its distance some few yards. The goods train, it appears, was "creeping along" when the engine, named the Iron Duke, of the passenger train, dashed into it causing great damage to both trains and severely injuring Paynter the guard, rice the driver and Cantraiil the fireman of the passenger train. The driver and stoker of the goods train were also injured.*

*... The scene of the disaster was a pitiable one. The "Iron Duke" asplendid and ponderous engine, and the goods engine, No 789, were jammed and locked together, the buffers twusted and broken, axles broken, and the smaller engine had actually penetrated the the breast of the "Iron Duke" " <sup>302</sup>*

*In fact the guard, Harry Paynter, was "removed to the Angel Hotel. He received a severe fracture of the leg besides other injuries , and although every thing that medical skill could suggest was done, and that veery kindness and attention as shown him, the shockto the system was so sveere that he sank undser it and expired the following morning, shortly before ten o'clock"*

*Apart from happening on Lackhams land, or land that had been Lackham's before it was bought by the GWR, there ws another connection to Lackham; "The Marchioness Stapleton Bretherton, of Lackham House, Lacock, on hearing of the accident hrough her medical attendant, Mr Spencervery kindly sent by him a basket of splendid hothouse grapes for the use fo the sufferers" <sup>303</sup>*

*Mary Stapleton-Bretherton died in December 1883 <sup>304</sup>. Among bequests in her will, dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 1882, she left £3000 to fund a Roman Catholic priest in Chippenham <sup>305</sup>. It might be thought that the resolution of the River Avon disputes was because Mary Stapleton Bretherton had died, but the acceptance of the boundaries of the estate happened in May, 7 months before her death.*

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<sup>302</sup> *Western Daily Press Monday July 8 1875 p3*

<sup>303</sup> *Western Daily Press ibid*

<sup>304</sup> *Her Obituary notice (not attributed, but probably The Times) was dated Dec 26 The death is announced of the Hon Mrs 5taleton-Bretherton which took place at Rainhill 22nd inst*

<sup>305</sup> *WA 1047/1 Deed of appointment of a new trustee under the terms of the will of Mary Stapleton Bretherton 1932*

Mary's will set up a group of Trustees to handle her estates. <sup>306</sup>

The next owner of Lackham, or at least the next who was responsible for the estate, was Sir George Errington (Bart)

Sir George Errington at Lackham

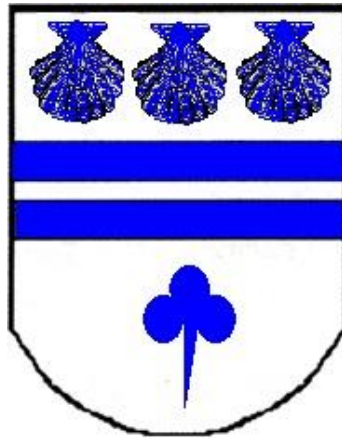


Fig. 20 Arms of George Errington \*

Vernon <sup>307</sup> states that Sir George Errington, was one of the trustees, but there are problems with this; he doesn't appear on the list of Trustees from Mary Stapleton Bretherton's will of 1882. This may be explained if Ms Vernon was using a list of the trustees included in an indenture dated 1893, where he is named <sup>308</sup>. However there are problems with this idea as well; one of the Trustees in the 1893 list <sup>309</sup> was dead before Mary's will was

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<sup>306</sup> WA 1047/1

The trustees at this time were Nungent Cricklade, William Nicholson, and , Edward WH Woods

<sup>307</sup> Vernon, T (1969) *A Short History of the Lords of the Manor of Lackham from Saxon days* (pamphlet) Wiltshire College of Agriculture

<sup>308</sup> WA 44/4 Indenture dated 12 September 1893

Trustees given as Charles Hugh Clifford (Baron Clifford), George Errington, ), William Joseph Petre (Lord Petre) and ), John Gerard Ridell

<sup>309</sup> Charles Hugh Clifford (Baron Clifford) died 14 Aug 1880

made.....<sup>310</sup>. Be that as it may, George Errington was a Trustee for the estate when he inherited and was related to Mary Stapleton Bretherton. [The exact relationship is still unclear](#)

*In her will, George Errington, who was one of her four executors, was the person who inherited the Lackham estate. I assume he was a relative of Gilbert Stapleton as it was an Errington who assumed the Stapleton name and... in Gilbert's will ,, there was a reference to a Michael Errington <sup>311</sup>*

Looking at the list of Trustees from the Indenture of 1893 it is interesting to note that one of them, Lord Petre, was father in law to Mary Stapleton Bretherton's son Frederick. Fredrick Stapleton Bretherton had married Lord Petre's daughter Isabella Mary in 1869 <sup>312</sup>. Sir George Errington was certainly resident in 1886 and active in local affairs <sup>313</sup>.

Sir George Errington, 1<sup>st</sup> Bart (created 18<sup>th</sup> July 1885), was born at Rockfield in Co. Dublin, Ireland, in 1839. He was the eldest son of Michael Errington, of Clintz, Yorkshire ,and his wife Rosanna, the youngest daughter. of Ambrose

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<sup>310</sup> Confusingly, and incorrectly, her obituary notice (see below) stated that she "took the name Stapleton Bretherton by Royal Licence in 1884."

<sup>311</sup> [Thomas, AM \(2018\) The World of Mary Bretherton \(Victoria, BC, Canada\), 21](#)

<sup>312</sup> WA 44/4

<sup>313</sup> In a report on the opening of the Chippenham Free Reading Rooms, (planned for the previous afternoon), the *Wiltshire and Trowbridge Gazette*, of Sat January 30<sup>th</sup> 1886, p5 noted that "Owing to the death of Archbishop Errington Sir George Errington of Lackham was not expected to attend the ceremony"

DNB p816 for details on the Archbishop. He was also named George. Archbishop George Errington (1804-1886) was the second son of Thomas Errington and Catherine, daughter of Walter Dowdall of Dublin. George was born 14th September 1804 at Clintz, in Yorkshire and held many important positions within the Catholic Church in England. In October 1855 he was sent to clear up the financial embarrassments of the diocese of Clifton in Bristol. He was known as "The Iron Archbishop" He died at Prior Park in Bath, which belonged to the Diocese of Clifton, on 19th January 1886 and was buried on the 26th in the *College* church.

*"He was a man of inflexible integrity and profound erudition"*

Sir George Errington of Lackham was his nephew

More-O'Ferrall, of Balyna co. Kildare George Errington was educated at Ushaw College. and at the Catholic University in Dublin <sup>314</sup>. In 1892 <sup>315</sup> he married Frances Helena, the eldest daughter. of Hermann Robert de Ricci, of Molesey House, Surrey, She was the widow of John Shuldham, of Moigh, co. Longford.

George Errington was MP for Co Longford 1874, when "he was elected as a 'Home Ruler' " <sup>316</sup>, until 1885. *The Bath Chronical* noted that "he withdrew his adherence to the Home Rule Party in the interests of his tenants" in 1881 <sup>317</sup>, and JP for

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<sup>314</sup> Walford, E.(1919) *The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland .. Volume .59*

<sup>315</sup> *Hampshire Advertiser* Wednesday 10 August 1892 p2  
They were married 1 August 1892 at the Church of Madeline in Paris.

<sup>316</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday July 1 1886 p7

<sup>317</sup> It is possible the paper got this wrong; Errington did not seek re-election for Longford in the 1883 election; in July that year he published a letter to his constituents saying he "should not be justified in asking my friends to support me when their support could only be given at the price of grievous personal sacrifice" This letter is dated "Lackham, November 13 1883" [*Freeman's Journal* Saturday 14 November 1883 p3]

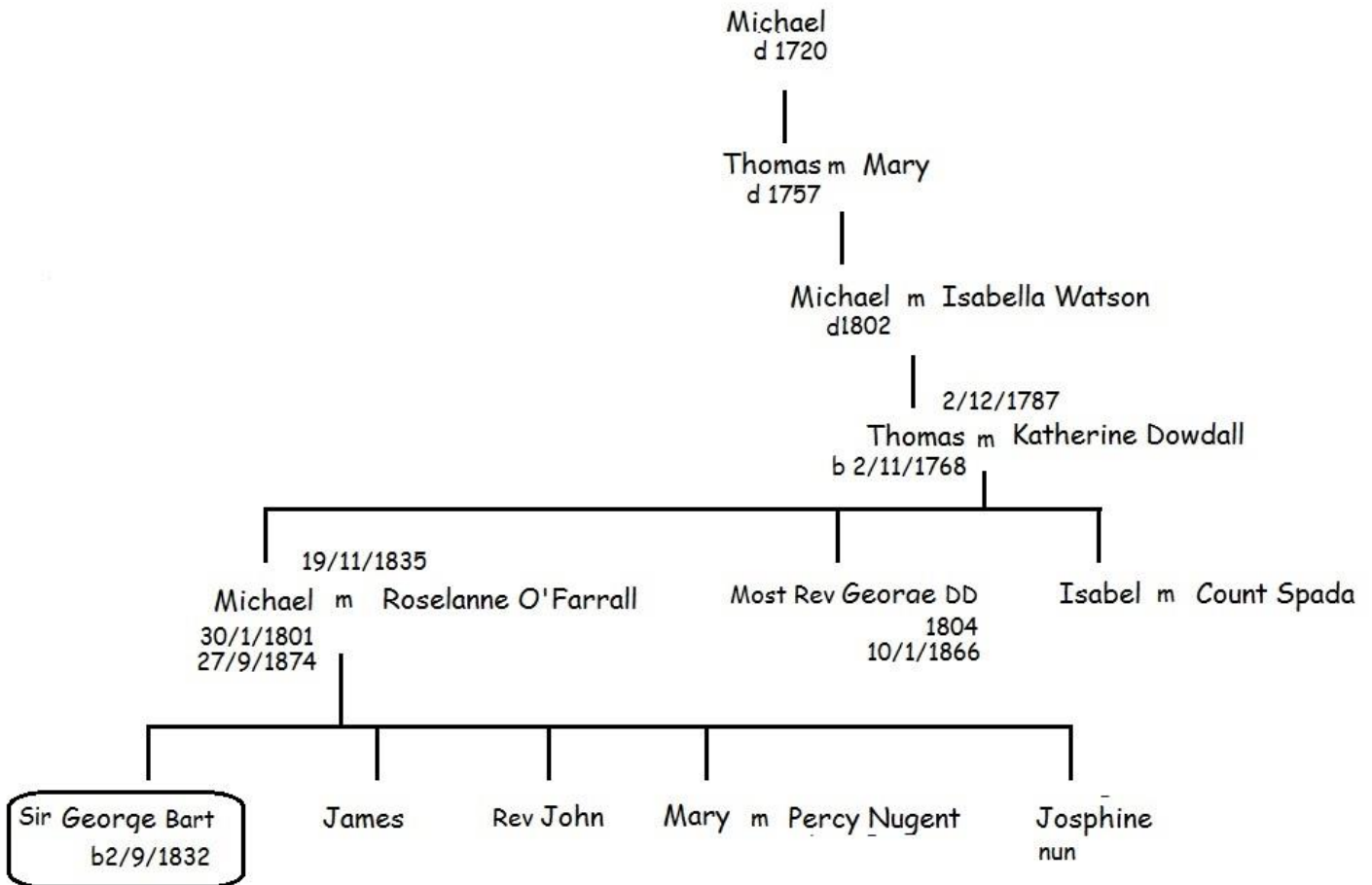


Fig 20 Descent of George Errington \*

Co's Wexford, Tipperary and Longford. He was High Sheriff of Longford in 1888 and of Wexford in 1901<sup>318</sup>. From these dates it can be seen that he certainly wasn't resident at Lackham permanently. Indeed, even though he was a life tenant<sup>319</sup> he wasn't living at Lackham all his life (he died in 1920). He was not, for example, at Lackham on the day of the 1871 census, and only 5 staff were present and he sold the estate in 1883 (see below).<sup>320</sup>

<sup>318</sup> Burke (1911) *Peerage* p244

This is a branch of the ancient Northumberland family of Errington and was long settled in the neighbourhood of Richmond in Yorkshire. Earliest mentioned are Huctretus de Errington, Orm de Errington in Pipe Roll of 1181 and Elias de Errington in 1206.

Sir William de Errington was a Conservator of the Borders in 1249. Arthur William de Errington was High Sheriff of Northumberland 1374.

<sup>319</sup> WA 44/4 extracted from the will of Mary Stapleton Bretherton *George Errington, of Ballynahinck, co Tipperary, MP for Co Longford has use of the [Lackham] estate for his lifetime*

<sup>320</sup>

Name	Age	Position	Born
Margaret Cunliff e	28	Housemaid	Bilinge, Lancs

He was a staunch Roman Catholic and this was one of the reasons he was involved with the British Government's attempts to mitigate the problems in Ireland.

In 1880 the "Irish Question" became even more acute with the development of the Land League, which was supported by many Irish priests and even some bishops. The Foreign Secretary, Lord Glanville, helped by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Earl Spencer,<sup>321</sup> wanted to open communications with the Papal authorities and asked George Errington to help. Errington was willing because,

*I suppose it would be desirable in the interests of government and order in Ireland that the Vatican should do all in its power to keep the clergy from going with or countenancing the Land League*<sup>322</sup>

But Errington felt that this was unlikely to happen and that

*The sympathy of Rome was entirely in favour of the National (we may now call it revolutionary) party*

*This was natural enough for in almost everything concerning England and Ireland information had always come from the most bitterly anti-English sources and through the powerful Irish faction here*

*The Irish College, with dear Old Kirby at its head, was a hot bed of sedition and, to make matters worse, the Katter had a great personal influence on the present Pope*<sup>323</sup>

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Anne Cunliffe	18	Cook	Bilinge, Lans
Elizabeth Cronin	22	Housemaid	Ireland
Francis James	22	Groom	Powick, Worcs
James Smith	36	Bailiff	Much Woollon, Lancs

<sup>321</sup> 1868-74 and 1882-5

<sup>322</sup> Gwynn, SL, Tuckwell, GM (ed) (1917) *The Life of the Rt Hon Charles W Dilke, Bart* vol 1 p372

Letter from Errington to Dilke dated December 1 1880

<sup>323</sup> Letter from Errington to Odo Russell, Lord Amhill and British Ambassador to Germany, dated 5 March 1883. Quoted in McBride, T (1980) *The Breastplate* p6 at

Errington's mission to the papacy was not recognised officially - on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1880 Dilke <sup>324</sup> recorded that

*Errington came to see me in Paris, nominally on behalf of the Vatican, with a view to having negotiations entered upon, and I believe this was the time at which he obtained, at Lord Spencer's request, some sort of private commission from Lord Glanville* <sup>325</sup>

His mission was never publicly acknowledged, although he was allowed to use the British embassy in Rome to send his numerous letters to Glanville. Indeed Dilke recalled that Gladstone was

*bitterly opposed to the notion of reopening relations with the papal Court; and there can be no doubt that he assented most unwilling with....the Errington "Mission". He deceived the House of Commons about it because he always closed his own eyes to the facts* <sup>326</sup>

The fact that Errington's embassy was apparently unofficial did not stop it from being viewed badly. It has been said that this was

*a Baldrick-style cunning plan by the Gladstone government to fool the Vatican. They had [Errington] send a deviously crafted letter to mislead the Vatican about conditions in Ireland, and to exploit them over other aspects of foreign policy* <sup>327</sup>

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[http://www.breastplate.org/main3/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=253%3Ahow-britain-tried-to-mislead-the-vatican&Itemid=34](http://www.breastplate.org/main3/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=253%3Ahow-britain-tried-to-mislead-the-vatican&Itemid=34)

<sup>324</sup> Sir Charles W Dilke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet 1843-1911. He was a Liberal MP and widely expected to become Prime Minister. His political career came to an end in 1885 after a sensational divorce case. At the time that he was involved with Errington he was Under Secretary for Foreign affairs.

<sup>325</sup> Gwynn, SL, Tuckwell, GM (ed) (1917) *ibid*

<sup>326</sup> Gwynn, SL, Tuckwell, GM (ed) (1917) *ibid*  
Dilke was recalling a dinner at Harcourts, Nov 10 1880

<sup>327</sup> <http://punchaday.wordpress.com/category/history/ireland/>

and is an example of " *British Government anti-Irish intrigue at the Vatican.*" <sup>328</sup>. Errington eventually felt that he had some success; in 1883 he claimed that "*we have now completely triumphed and are reaping the fruits.*"<sup>329</sup> However his frequent visits to the Vatican did not endear him to the British public, in a Punch cartoon he is shown on his way to Rome reading a copy of *Gionale*, the official Papal newspaper.



Fig 22a Punch cartoon "Our Mr Errington MP - The Uncommercial Traveller" \*  
330

<sup>328</sup> McBride , T (1980) *The Breastplate* p6 at  
[http://www.breastplate.org/main3/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=253%3Ahow-britain-tried-to-mislead-the-vatican&Itemid=34](http://www.breastplate.org/main3/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=253%3Ahow-britain-tried-to-mislead-the-vatican&Itemid=34)

<sup>329</sup> Letter from Errington to Odo Russell, Lord Amhill and British Ambassador to Germany, dated 5 March 1883. Quoted in McBride , T (1980) *The Breastplate* p6 at  
[http://www.breastplate.org/main3/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=253%3Ahow-britain-tried-to-mislead-the-vatican&Itemid=34](http://www.breastplate.org/main3/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=253%3Ahow-britain-tried-to-mislead-the-vatican&Itemid=34)

<sup>330</sup> Vol. 85, 7 July 1883, p.10 □ cartoon by Linley Sambourne



A slightly more sympathetic cartoon had appeared in 1882, in *Vanity Fair*, but it was entitled "The Vatican"



Fig. 22b Sir George Errington MP <sup>331</sup> entitled "the Vatican" \*

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<sup>331</sup> From *Vanity Fair* 1<sup>st</sup> April 1882

George Errington advertised the house for let in 1886. This was not the entire estate but the House, buildings and some of the park. <sup>332</sup>

In July of the same year George Errington stood as a Parliamentary candidate in South West Lancashire "in support of the views from which at one time he seems to have run away", by context the Home Rule for Ireland one. He was defeated by Sir Richard Cross <sup>333</sup>

In 1887 a Chippenham labourer, Frances J Levens, was fined £1 for trespassing on Lackham land "in search of conies". Poaching was common and had been for a very long time. Mr Levens, along with Frederick Chandler (also of Chippenham) was fined another £1 for poaching at Allington, Chandler being fined 12s <sup>334</sup>.

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<sup>332</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 4 March 1886 p5. Thursday 25 March 1886 p4, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 1886 p4, Thursday 8 April 1886 p4, Thursday 15 April 1886 p5

"Wiltshire To Let, Furnished, Lackham House, three miles from Chippenham Railway Station, in the midst of the Beaufort Hunt, with extensive Walled gardens, vineries, conservatories, pleasure grounds and shrubberies, excellent stabling, coach houses, cowhouses, and outbuildings, two entrance lodges and Gardener's cottage, covering about 12 acres. Also part of the Park, and other Pasture Lands, containing about 48 acres. The House contains handsome entrance-hall, large dining and drawing rooms, library, billiard room, twenty bedrooms, bathroom, kitchens, pantries &c, &c Apply to Messrs Awdry Solicitors, Chippenham"

<sup>333</sup> *The Spectator* 23 November 1889 p3 *The Spectator Archive* at <http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/23rd-november-1889/3/sir-george-errington-who-contested-the-newton-divi> accessed 10 December 2015  
Cross polled 4,302 and Errington 3,486  
[[http://www.connectedhistories.org/Search\\_results.aspx?pc=Errington&sr=bu&st=360&dtf=1875-01-01&dt=1900-12-31](http://www.connectedhistories.org/Search_results.aspx?pc=Errington&sr=bu&st=360&dtf=1875-01-01&dt=1900-12-31) accessed 10 December 2015]

<sup>334</sup> *Western Daily Press* Friday 23 September 1887 p6.

In 1891 James Errington, presumably *George's* brother, died at Lackham, aged 59 <sup>335</sup>

One of *George* Errington's co-Trustees for the estate, Lord Petre, died in May 1893 <sup>336</sup> - it may be coincidental that *George* Errington sold Lackham to its next owner in September of the same year. Presumably the Trustees had to be consulted but his name is on the Indenture <sup>337</sup>.

Brig. Gen. George Llewellyn Palmer

The next owner of the estate, Brig. Gen. George Llewellyn Palmer CB DL, bought Lackham in 1893 for £17,652.

Brig. Gen George Llewellyn Palmer at Lackham



Fig. 23 Mr G LI Palmer DL JP \* <sup>338</sup>

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<sup>335</sup> *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* Thursday 20 August 1891 p5. This would make his birth sometime in 1832, *George* was born in 1839.

<sup>336</sup> WA 44/4 8<sup>th</sup> May 1893

<sup>337</sup> WA 44/4 *Main deeds Mansion House Indenture* dated 12 September 1893 .

<sup>338</sup> *Wiltshire at the turn of the Twentieth century* (1901) Anon. The inscription given here is confusing..... *George* Llewellyn Palmer wasn't Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire in 1901, so this inscription must be later than the given publication date for the book, it must date from 1919 or later.

George Palmer's ancestors were from the far south-west of Wales, they had lived at "Llandigwyett <sup>339</sup>" Farm, in Carew (in Pembrokeshire, about 3 miles east of Pembroke itself) since 1728 at least, when "Margaret Palmer, of this farm, was married... to Richard Hall of Daisybank Farm, Gumfreston". One of their grandsons, or great grandsons, was Benjamin Hall <sup>340</sup> who was later Lord Llanover, after whom "Big Ben" might have been named<sup>341</sup>.

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<sup>339</sup> Jones, KR (1981) *A Family of Farmers and Millers The Pembrokeshire historian : journal of the Pembrokeshire Local History Society* no 7 p61  
<http://cylchgronaucymru.llgc.org.uk/browse/viewpage/llgc-id:1041698/llgc-id:1042250/llgc-id:1042313/get650> . It should be noted that the modern spelling is Landigwinnet, use this if searching online!

<sup>340</sup> Jones, KR (1981) *A Family of Farmers and Millers The Pembrokeshire historian : journal of the Pembrokeshire Local History Society* no 7 p61 dates :1802-67

<sup>341</sup> There appears to be some doubt:

*"The bells of the Great Clock of Westminster rang across London for the first time on 31st May 1859, and Parliament had a special sitting to decide on a suitable name for the great hour bell. During the course of the debate, and amid the many suggestions that were made, Chief Lord of the Woods and Forests, Sir Benjamin Hall, a large and ponderous man known affectionately in the House as "Big Ben", rose and gave an impressively long speech on the subject. When, at the end of this oratorical marathon, Sir Benjamin sank back into his seat, a wag in the chamber shouted out: "Why not call him Big Ben and have done with it?" The house erupted in laughter; Big Ben had been named. This, at least, is the most commonly accepted story. However, according to the booklet written for the old Ministry of Works by Alan Phillips:*

*'Like other nice stories, this has no documentary support; Hansard failed to record the interjection. The Times had been alluding to 'Big Ben of Westminster' since 1856. Probably the derivation must be sought more remotely. The current champion of the prize ring was Benjamin Caunt, who had fought terrific battles with Bendigo, and who in 1857 lasted sixty rounds of a drawn contest in his final appearance at the age of 42. As Caunt at one period scaled 17 stone (238 lbs, or 108 kilogrammes), his nickname was Big Ben, and that was readily bestowed by the populace on any object the heaviest of its class. So the anonymous MP may have snatched at what was already a catchphrase.'*

Whitechapel Bell Foundry *The Story of Big Ben* at  
<http://www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk/bigben.htm>

The earliest George Palmer so far found was George LI Palmer's grandfather.

He was married twice having only a daughter Elizabeth by his first wife (name unknown). It is possible that she died in childbirth; they only had the one child and both the baby and the mother died in 1789....<sup>342</sup>. George Palmer's second wife was Elizabeth Llewellyn, and it is from her that the "Llewellyn" part of the surname used by the Lackham branch, comes.

Fig. 23 below doesn't show all of the George and Elizabeth's children, they had 11 in all.

Allen Palmer, who married Hannah Davies, was living at Llandigwinnet with his mother in 1841<sup>343</sup>.

George Llewellyn Palmer's father, Michael Palmer<sup>344</sup> was co-owner of the Trowbridge woollen firm of Palmer and Mackay . His mother was Mary Ann the daughter of Joshua Bates of Halifax, born in 1820.

By the time George was born<sup>345</sup> the family were living at Berryfield House, Bradford on Avon, a fine mansion on the top of the hill north of the town.

Michael Palmer was a well to do man and he bought and sold several substantial properties that we know of. For example in 1880 he bought Leigh House. He didn't actually want the house -

*when Miss Poynder died ....Michael Palmer of Berryfield House seized his chance to increase the acreage surrounding his own house in a substantial way by purchasing Leigh Park and its lands for £12,000..*

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<sup>342</sup> Jones, KR (1981) *A Family of Farmers and Millers The Pembrokeshire historian : journal of the Pembrokeshire Local History Society* no 7

<sup>343</sup> Jones, KR (1981) *ibid*

<sup>344</sup> Burke (1911) *Peerage* Died 1856

<sup>345</sup> 12 March 1856

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

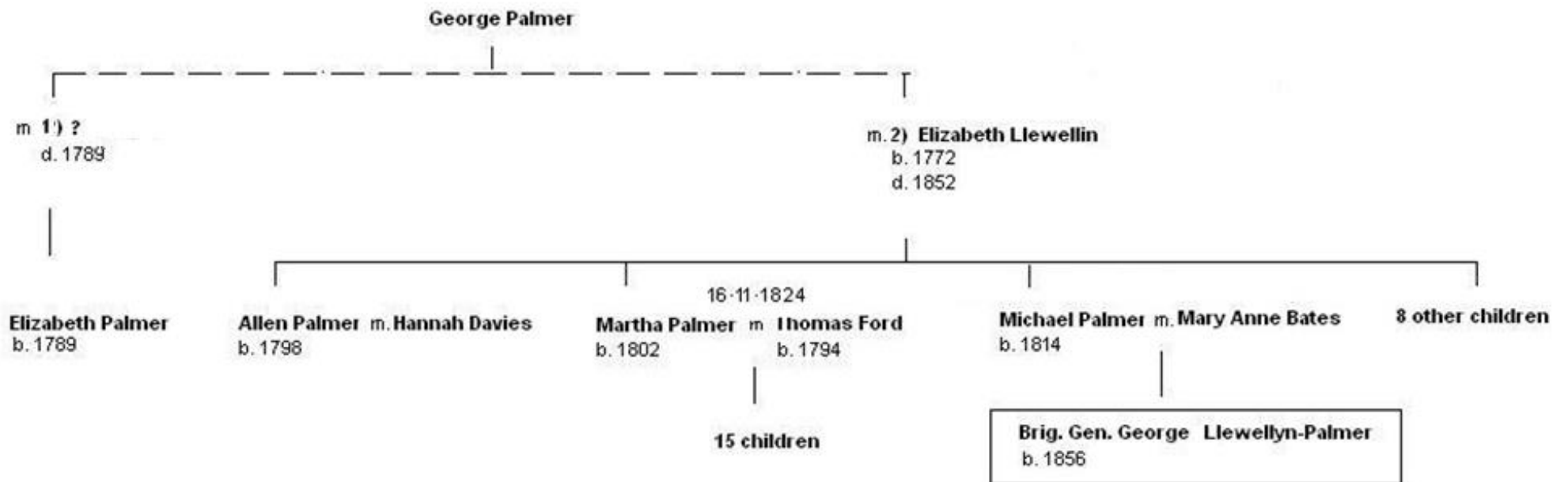


Fig. 24 Ancestors of George Llewellyn Palmer \*

*What he really wanted was the original Sladesbrook Farm land bought by Daniel Clutterbuck over eighty years before. Now these same fields became part of the Berryfield estate*

*Having got what he wanted, Mr. Palmer immediately sold Leigh House, its pleasure grounds and kitchen gardens, now totalling only 19 acres, to Lady Jane Swinburne, mother of Algernon Swinburne <sup>346</sup>.*

It is possible George knew the poet, Swinburne is known to have been there in July 1882 and August 1887, but maybe not.....

*Swinburne, who had repudiated Christianity and whose health had been undermined by heavy drinking and other unmentionable excesses, would not have mingled easily in polite Bradford society. <sup>347</sup>*

More importantly, for George at least, Michael Palmer purchased the Heywood estates <sup>348</sup> from the trustees of the bankrupt Ralph Kekewich Lopes, Bart <sup>349</sup> in 1899. Michael was already a Trustee for the will of Ralph's uncle (Ralph Ludlow Lopes) when Ralph inherited the estate in 1888 <sup>350</sup>. As Ralph Kekewich was a declared bankrupt, the estate had to be sold to help cover his debts.

Michael Palmer didn't retain title to the property for long; early in 1890 he transferred the entire estate to George Llewellyn accompanied by a touching letter, which indicated Michael's poor state of health <sup>351</sup>.

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<sup>346</sup> Dobson, M (2002) *Guardian Angel* no. 37, Spring, at [http://www.freshford.com/leigh\\_park.htm](http://www.freshford.com/leigh_park.htm)

<sup>347</sup> Dobson, M (2002) *Guardian Angel* no. 37, Spring

<sup>348</sup> WA 816/47 (the estate papers in two large bundles)  
In 1889 the estate had property in Westbury, Trowbridge, Steeple Ashton, Keevil, North Bradley, and Melksham

<sup>349</sup> WA 816/47  
bankruptcy declared 29 May 1888

<sup>350</sup> WA 816/47  
"Re Ralph Ludlow Lopes deceased; declaration of Trust of Edward G Porter and Michael Palmer" dated 31 Dec 1888 George Llewellyn Palmer, was one of the witnesses

<sup>351</sup> WA 816/47 bundle 2 Letter from Michael Palmer to George, dated February 17, 1890, Berryfield, Bradford on Avon:

Michael Palmer died between 1890 and 1901. Mary Palmer continued to live at Berryfield until her death in 1901 <sup>352</sup>

George was the only son and he was educated at Harrow.

In his twenties George Llewellyn Palmer worked in the family business and he married Louie Madeline Gouldsmith in 1881. She was the daughter of William Gouldsmith, "woollen manufacturer" <sup>353</sup> and his wife Hannah. Louie Madeline was 19 when she married George <sup>354</sup>.

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*My Dear George,*

*I send you all of the papers in my possession relative to the Heywood estate, which has cost me upwards of £27,300 and which reduces my income for my life about £1200 per year.*

*The cost includes cheques and Foley's fees for purchasing the property, the deeds are in my home box in the bank.*

*I hope that you may live to enjoy this estate and that it will be advantageous to your family after you.*

*I fear my time is fast drawing to a close in this world, my strength is fading very fast and I have nothing to look forward to increase my domestic happiness as I get older. It is a great (trial?) your mother being so very deaf both to her and me also.*

*I remain hereafter your affectionate father*

<sup>352</sup> *Wiltshire Times* Saturday December 14th 1901, Vol XLVIII no 2344, p1 "Deaths: At Berryfield, Bradford on Avon, Mary Ann, widow of Michael Palmer, 81"

<sup>353</sup> 1871 Census for Hilperton Road, Trowbridge, where the family home, Rodwell Hall, was located. The census also mentions that he had "about 300 " workers and also owned 30 acres of land.

<sup>354</sup> 1881 Census for Hilperton Road, Trowbridge. The marriage took place after census day (3 April 1881) as she is shown as unmarried.



They had a son, Allen Llewellyn, the next year and a second son, William Llewellyn the year after that. They also had a daughter, Madeline Llewellyn<sup>355</sup> and a final son, Michael Llewellyn <sup>356</sup>.

In 1886, before he bought Lackham, George bought Forest Farm, Melksham <sup>357</sup>. He rented it to tenant farmers John Gould Sheate and Stephen Adams. He sold it to Wiltshire County Council in 1912.

George was a Trowbridge Town Councillor in 1892 when he was living at "Springfield" in Trowbridge <sup>358</sup> and then in 1899 he stood for Wiltshire County Council <sup>359</sup>, it is uncertain whether he was elected.

George bought Lackham in 1893. The indenture for the sale names him, resident at Springfield House, Sir George Errington and Frederick Stapleton Bretherton <sup>360</sup>. George Llewellyn Palmer didn't live at Lackham straight away, he rented the estate to a Mrs Taylor in the meantime.

Mrs Taylor <sup>361</sup>

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<sup>355</sup> Burke (1937) *Landed Gentry* born 27 September 1883

<sup>356</sup> Wiltshire Times June 15 1932 *Death of Maj. Gen. Palmer* WANHS 14. Not the date of his death, see below

<sup>357</sup> WA F2/2215/49 and F2/2215/50. My thanks to Peter Williams, of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, for drawing these deeds to my attention.

<sup>358</sup> Wiltshire Times (?) undated 1892 *Biographical sketches of Wiltshire County Council* WANHS 1/168

<sup>359</sup> Wiltshire Times (?) Jan 3 1889 *Biographies of Wiltshire Candidates* WANHS 1.299

<sup>360</sup> WRO 44/4 *Main deeds Mansion House*

Indenture dated 12 September 1893 between Sir George Errington Bart (made baronet 14 June 1885) of Lackham, Frederick Stapleton Bretherton of The Hall Rainhill in Lancashire and George Llewellyn Palmer of Springfield in Trowbridge.

<sup>361</sup> To omit the section on Mrs Taylor and continue the account of George Llewellyn Palmer click [here](#)]

It is probable that Mrs Taylor didn't live at Lackham before 1891, she is not there for the 1891 census, for a start nor were her family. The staff present were all local - in comparison with the places of origins for the previous records - and were a "caretaker" force of just three <sup>362</sup>, including the gamekeeper who was living in the Bailiff's house. Although she may not have arrived until after 1891 Mrs Taylor is known to have lived there "for several years" <sup>363</sup> .

Mrs Taylor has, for many years, been a fairly shadowy figure in Lackham's history with very little known about her. She was born, in 1848, in Manchester, her family name was probably Hessletine but nothing definite is known.

Sometime before 1868 she married John Taylor who was born in Liverpool and they lived in the area of Manchester after their marriage (their first four children are recorded as being born in Blackley, Lancs, which is now part of Greater Manchester. The date at which they moved to Wiltshire is uncertain, if was certainly before 1871, as the Census for that year shows Jessie and John Taylor living at Rocks House, Marshfield Gloucestershire with their first son Darcy (born in Blackley in 1869). It is confusing, therefore, that the remainder of their children (Marion<sup>364</sup>, Hellana Jessie <sup>365</sup>, Leonard H <sup>366</sup> and John Edmund<sup>367</sup> ) are all shown as being born in Blackley - maybe Mrs Taylor returned to the family home to give birth? This seems very unlikely but that is what the data seem to indicate.

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<sup>362</sup> 1891 Census

Name	Age	Position	Born
Louise Ferris	41	House Keeper	Chippenham
Mary Slade	21	Maid	Chippenham
Sidney Lane	26	Game Keeper	Hawkrigde
and his wife and daughter			

<sup>363</sup> Brocklebank (1968) *ibid* pp24-25

<sup>364</sup> born 1869 (Census for Marshfield 1881)

<sup>365</sup> born 1872 (Census for Marshfield 1881)

<sup>366</sup> born 1874 (Census for Marshfield 1881)

<sup>367</sup> born 1876 (Census for Marshfield 1881)

That the Taylor's moved to Rocks House from Lancashire seems to be supported by the fact that their Butler in 1871 <sup>368</sup> was born in Preston, it seems likely he moved with his employers to Wiltshire.

John Taylor died between 1876 and 1881 - in the 1881 Jessie Taylor is shown as the widowed head of the household at Rocks House. The Taylors were being visited by friends from their old home area; the Broadhurst family from Manchester were there on census night with children of the same age as the Taylor's.

A reason for Jessie Taylor to rent Lackham may be suggested by the fact that Darcy Taylor attained his majority in 1891. In the Census for that year he is shown as being the head of the household at Rocks House where he was still living in 1901 with his wife and children. Jessie was still at Rocks House on census day in 1891. Darcy had possibly moved to The Rocks sometime after 1893 from the south coast - his eldest child <sup>369</sup> was born in Eastbourne in 1883

Darcy never lived at Lackham,. The family was at The Rocks until at least 1921 - in January 1921 they were present at the Beaufort Hunt Ball. <sup>370</sup> Margaret Taylor, his widow, lived at Guyers House at Pickwick near Corsham at one time, but it is unknown whether Darcy lived there <sup>371</sup>.]

Little has come to light about Jessie Taylor's time at Lackham; she was certainly there by late 1894 when "Mrs Taylor, Lackham" attended the annual meeting of the Chippenham Agricultural Association in the New Hall <sup>372</sup>

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<sup>368</sup> Robert Whiteside (Marshfield Census 1871)

<sup>369</sup> Eileen, born 1883 in Eastbourne (Marshfield Census 1901)

<sup>370</sup> Wiltshire Times Saturday January 15 1921 p3 *Beaufort Hunt Ball A Brilliant Assembly* records  
*The Rocks, Marshfield Mr and Mrs d'Arcy Taylor, Mr Derrick Taylor, Miss Aileen Taylor, Miss Richardson Gardener, Mr Latings*

<sup>371</sup> Much information concerning the Taylor sons kindly produced by Countess Badeni (pers.comm July 99). Leonard Taylor was Commander of Malmesbury Home Guard during WWII, his secretary was June Wilson later Countess Badeni who now lives just outside the town.

<sup>372</sup> *Western Daily Press* Bristol Thursday 30 November 1894 p9

Mrs Taylor lived at Lackham with John and Leonard <sup>373</sup> and although the girls are not mentioned it is possible they also lived there. Certainly one or other of them are seen attending the annual Balls in Chippenham. In 1896 Mrs Taylor (Lackham), Miss Taylor, and Mr LH Taylor, as well as Mr & Mrs Taylor (The Rocks) and Mr & Mrs C Newton Taylor were all there <sup>374</sup>. In 1897 Mrs Taylor, Leonard and Mr and Mrs Charles Taylor attended <sup>375</sup>

In 1896 Marion Taylor was betrothed (and presumably later married) William Heap Kay RA from Heywood, Rochdale Lancashire <sup>376</sup>

Later in 1897 Jessie's gardener, Mr. Mateyard, was involved in the local show -

*Lacock Cottage Garden Improvement Society show was held on Wednesday in the schoolroom plants not for competition were sent by .....Mr Mateyard gardener to Mrs Taylor, Lackham House <sup>377</sup>*

In 1898 the Electoral register<sup>378</sup> shows that Jessie Taylor was the only voter living at Lackham House although four others on the estate could also vote in parish and national elections, but not for the County Council<sup>379</sup>. Interestingly

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<sup>373</sup> *Kelly's Directory of Wiltshire 1896* shows John and Leonard apparently occupying their own suite of rooms, at Lackham House.

<sup>374</sup> *The Bath Chronicle* Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> 1896

<sup>375</sup> *Wiltshire Times* Sat Jan 16 1897 p6 List of attendees County Ball Chippenham Tuesday 12 Jan at the town hall

<sup>376</sup> *The Bath Chronicle* Thursday July 26 1896 p3

<sup>377</sup> *Wiltshire Times* Sat Oct 2 1897 p5. This is confirmed in the School Logs for Lacock School ( WA f8/500/161/1/1) where the headmistress recorded "October 1 The school has been closed for 2 days because of the Cottagers show "

<sup>378</sup> WA A1/355/109

Register of persons entitled to vote at any election of a Member to serve in Parliament for the North Western or Chippenham Division of the County Of Wiltshire during the year commencing on the First day of January 1898 Lacock 1

<sup>379</sup>WA A1/355/109

Sidney Lane had moved out of Lackham Lodge by 1899, John Hillier was still there

Jessie Taylor could only vote for parish and County elections, not for the MP; this was, of course, because women did not have full suffrage in 1898.

In 1899 and 1900 <sup>380</sup> Mary Taylor was renting one bedroom second floor to her son John Edmund Taylor and another to her son Leonard Hesseltine Taylor. One of these two were the "Mr Taylor of Lackham, Chippenham whose mare, *Golden Stream*", was second in the class for mares "15 stone and upwards" at the Royal Agricultural Society's 16<sup>th</sup> annual show, at Mote Park, Maidstone, in 1899 <sup>381</sup>. It was probably Leonard, he gained a reserve place at the Sherborne Horse Show with the same mare in the class for "Hunter - Mares with foal a foot" in August the same year <sup>382</sup>

A month later Mrs Taylor gave a silver tea pot as a wedding present at the marriage of Miss Rhoda Prodggers of Kingston St Michael to Henry Gordon Ley of Epestone Manor, Notts <sup>383</sup>.

The others recorded were John Hillier living at the Front Lodge along with Sidney Lane, Albert Meteyard at in Lackham Gardens and Arthur Waite at Lackham Farm.

Arthur Waite seems to have left fairly soon afterwards but the other three appear in the 1901 census: John Hillier was living at the Front Lodge where he was given as General Labourer aged 60 living with his wife Sarah J 55 and their 12 year old daughter, another Sarah J. <sup>384</sup> Sidney Lane (27) had been resident in Lackham House itself the previous year. He was the Gamekeeper <sup>385</sup>. Albert Meteyard (51) was a Lackham gardener in 1901 and was living there with his wife Ellen (45) <sup>386</sup>

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<sup>380</sup> WA A1/355/109 for January 1s 1899 and 1900 respectively.

<sup>381</sup> *Nottinghamshire Guardian* Saturday 24 June 1899 p4 "The Royal Show - Maidstone Meeting"

<sup>382</sup> *The Western Gazette* Friday August 4 1899 p5

<sup>383</sup> *Nottinghamshire Guardian* Saturday 9 September 1899 p8

<sup>384</sup> Lacock Census 1901 PRO RG12/1593/23/p7

<sup>385</sup> Lacock Census 1901 PRO RG12/1593/23/p9

<sup>386</sup> Lacock Census 1901 PRO RG12/1593/23/p9

Leonard Taylor was Secretary to the Beaufort Hunt

The Taylors had left Lackham by census day the next year, 1901; the census shows Leonard and John both living at Hullavington House Biddestone, Jessie had moved to Eastbourne and was living there <sup>387</sup>

A more probable date for the end of Jessie Taylor's time at Lackham is in early 1900. George Palmer was still living at Springfields in Trowbridge in May of 1900, when he was in contact with Charles Talbot at Lacock; George was planning to put up some new estate houses and Talbot was worried they would affect his views and annoy his tenants. In the middle of the month George wrote to Talbot assuring him that he didn't want to cause problems and that "*the houses will not affect your prospect*" <sup>388</sup>. From another letter, written two days later <sup>389</sup>, it is clear that the buildings were at the entrance and so it is clear these are the estate houses just outside the Back Drive on the Reybridge Road. In this letter George thanks Talbot for mentioning a Griffin which Palmer had found covered in ivy and he said that because Talbot had told him that the Griffin related to the estate he, Palmer, found it much more interesting. It is possible that what Palmer and Talbot were discussing was the crest that can still be seen above the entrance to the Back, or Ornamental Lodge although this is not, actually, a Griffin but something more mundane.....

The date of the building of the Ornamental Lodge at the end of the Back Drive is uncertain. The County Buildings Record shows it as 1833 but this is almost certainly based on architectural style. The Lodge is a typical "picturesque pattern book" lodge with tufa walls and these are common in the third decade of the nineteenth century. The 1864 Estate Sale catalogue described it as being "*of ornamental character built of rough stone with freestone dressings veranda &c containing 4 rooms*" <sup>390</sup>. But the 1833 date is wrong because the

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<sup>387</sup> My thanks to Monica for this information and for many interesting and fruitful discussions on the Taylor family.

<sup>388</sup> WA Lacock Archive Box 61 OB17 (13) letter from Llewellyn Palmer to Charles Talbot dated 14 May 1900

<sup>389</sup> WA Lacock Archive Box 61 OB17 (14) letter from Llewellyn Palmer to Charles Talbot dated 16 May 1900

<sup>390</sup> WA 173/61 Catalogue for the sale of *The Lackham estate in the county of Wilts 1864*

1856 map does not show a building at this location. The map for the 1864 sale however, clearly shows the building. A photograph of the Lodge shows "Elizabeth Spinks and her daughter Elizabeth Simmonds in front of their home at Lackham Lodge c. 1860"<sup>391</sup>

This appears to indicate that the Lodge was constructed, like the Back Drive itself, by Henry Berney Caldwell. It is interesting to note that the painted crest (Fig. 23a) which fits the blazon for the Caldwell family of "Staffs, London and Worcs"<sup>392</sup>. The date of this crest is not known.



Fig. 25a Crest above the door of "The Ornamental Lodge"<sup>393</sup> \*\*

Is it possible that Palmer and Talbot could have mistaken a cockerel's head for that of a griffin?

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<sup>391</sup> Matthew Goodwin "Lacock: The Community behind the Abbey" 2015 at accessed 15 April 2016

<sup>392</sup> Fairburn, revised by Butler, L (1986) *Crests of Families of Great Britain and Ireland* New Orchard ISBN 1 85709 155 4 p92 a cock's head, between wings expanded argent combed and wattled gules in beak a cross formee fitchet or

<sup>393</sup> May 2002, © Tony Pratt



Fig. 25b Griffin and Cock comparison \*\*

It seems unlikely but if not then maybe what they were discussing was something displaying the eagle of the Bluet family, or maybe it was a feature no longer on the estate.

George Llewellyn Palmer moved into Lackham in late 1900, and before this he had a number of alterations carried out

*Mr G L I Palmer intends to remove from Springfields, Trowbridge, to Lackham between Chippenham and Lacock..... In January of this year the house was handed over to builders and so extensive are the alterations that the interior of the building has been almost completely remodelled. The house is lighted throughout by electricity, even in the cellars and outbuildings, and altogether about 330 lamps are provided while hot water pipes are laid throughout.*<sup>394</sup>

The alterations were mainly to the east wing of the house, including service rooms (coatroom, larder, and dairy) on the ground floor and servant bedrooms on the first floor, and a new Servant's Hall<sup>395</sup>. The current Front Porch replaced an earlier oval shaped structure. These were major alterations and it is very unlikely the Taylors would have wanted to remain long in the house at this time. They may only have been there for a short time at the start of 1901,

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<sup>394</sup> Wiltshire Times 20 Dec 1900, cutting in Kite, E (undated A) *ibid* vol II

<sup>395</sup> Plans held in Wiltshire College Library, Lackham,



enough that they appear on the Electoral role for that year.. The plans for these changes are dated 1899.<sup>396</sup>

George Palmer was seen as the owner by late 1900<sup>397</sup>. The family was certainly in residence in 1901; at the census point three members of the family<sup>398</sup> were present as well as 12 servants<sup>399</sup>

After the relief of Mafeking in 1900, the whole country celebrated:

*At an early hour on Saturday morning the 19th ultimo<sup>400</sup> the joyful news of the relief of Mafeking was brought to Lacock. Within a very short time the ringers were assembled and the bells rang a merry peal, and everyone knew the glad tidings. At intervals throughout the day the bells were rung and from almost every house a flag of some description was hung. The employees*

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<sup>396</sup> For more details on the development of the House and grounds at this time see Pratt, T (2011) "The Manor Houses of Lackham 1050-1949" 2<sup>nd</sup> ed online at [Manor Houses](#)

<sup>397</sup> "One of the judges at Lacock Cottage Flower Show on Friday was ....Mr. Lowe, gardener to Mr George L Palmer of Lackham " Wiltshire Times, Saturday September 29th 1900, p8

<sup>398</sup> George Llewellyn (44), Madeline (wife - 37) and Madeline (daughter - 15)

<sup>399</sup> Census 1901 Lackham House (Palmer family members already mentioned above omitted)

Name	Age	Position	Born
James Austen	17	Hall Boy	Lacock
Kate Brown	31	Ladysmaid	Clyrow
Mabel Collins	24	Household Domestic	Paulton, Somerset
Maud Cummings	34	Hospital ?Nurse	West Meath, Ireland
Charlotte A Hawkins	20	Housemaid	Woolhampton, Bucks
John Hislop	22	Toolman	Buckland, Bucks
Louisa Jones	23	Servant	Buckland, Bucks
Mary Jones	40	Housekeeper	Llangefin, Anglesey
Margaret Knapton	29	Cook	Trowbridge, Wales
Eugene M Owen	21	Kitchenman	Over, Glos
Elizabeth A Snow	24	Ladysmaid	South Moulton Devon
Emily E Tibbs	18	Housemaid	Tilehurst, Bucks

<sup>400</sup> ie May, 1900

*of Lackham House soon formed a bicycle procession; their machines were decorated, and they paraded the village, and with commendable forethought made a collection in aid of the Mafeking Seaside Fund.* <sup>401</sup>

Other evidence shows that bicycles were made available to the staff, where necessary, for the performances of their duties. For example the Potboy, William Fell,

*was given the use of a bicycle so that he could take and collect post in Chippenham* <sup>402</sup>

George was nominated for Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1901 <sup>403</sup> but wasn't appointed. He was nominated again in 1902 <sup>404</sup> and this time he was successful, being appointed as the Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1903 <sup>405</sup>

Also in 1901, George Palmer appointed Richard Foley as his land agent. Foley lived at Tower House after 1901 <sup>406</sup>, Reyridge (on the western side of the

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<sup>401</sup> Authors note: Any information about this fund would be gratefully received - possibly it was designed to take children or the deserving poor to the seaside on holiday or for day trips?

<sup>402</sup> Mrs. Hopley *pers.comm*

<sup>403</sup> *London Gazette* November 15<sup>th</sup> 1901 p7367 His opposition was Edmund Schomberg of Seend Lodge and Hugh Morrison of Fonthill, Tisbury.

Edmund Schomberg was appointed Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1902 (*London Gazette* March 7<sup>th</sup> 1902, p1625, by this time he had moved to Clyffe Hall, Market Lavington)

<sup>404</sup> *London Gazette* 1 November 14<sup>th</sup> 1902 p7289 His opposition was again Hugh Morrison and John Stancomb, of Shaw House, Melksham

<sup>405</sup> *London Gazette* March 13<sup>th</sup> 1903 p107

<sup>406</sup> *Lacock Census* 1901 p9 On Census night Tower House was occupied by John Heevens (65) a retired yeoman farmer living on his own means, his wife Matilda (65) and their daughter Alice (29). There was also a visiting widow, Mrs Mary Anne Chapel (79)

Reybridge Road at the Back Lodge). He was George Palmer's land agent until at least 1909 <sup>407</sup>

George Palmer appears on the electoral roll for 1902 . At this time Charles Howell was living at Lackham Lodge Reybridge (ie the Back Lodge) and David Lowe, was at Lackham Gardens <sup>408</sup>

Charles Howell had been living at the Lodge with his wife Helen the previous year. He was one of the stockmen <sup>409</sup>. David Lowe was also present for the 1901 census, living at Lackham Garden with his wife Jessie and their children Annabelle and Frederick. David Lowe is described as a Gardener / Domestic <sup>410</sup>

George Palmer was a keen huntsman, indeed he was a founder of the Avon Vale Hunt, which frequently met at Lackham and it was his hunting interests which lead him to build a completely new, and much enlarged, Stable Yard in 1902. He hunted frequently, his son Allen Llewellyn Palmer records 45 occasions when he was out hunting with his father <sup>411</sup> between October 1904 and December 1907 Allen was only able to attend when he was home on leave.

The Stable staff were photographed early in the century, the date is not known but 1905 has been suggested. Only one person in this photograph has so far been identified; the young man (probably about 17 or 18 years of age) standing

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<sup>407</sup> The dates 1901-1909 come from analysis of the documents held in the Lackham archive at Thrings Solicitors, Bath. Thrings is the current (2011) name for the chambers previously known as Thrings and Townsend My thanks to Lackham College for allowing me access to these papers

<sup>408</sup> WA A1/355/109  
*Register of persons entitled to vote at any election of a Member to serve in Parliament for the North Western or Chippenham Division of the County Of Wiltshire during the year commencing on the First day of January 1902* Lacock

<sup>409</sup> Census Lacock 1901 PRO 13/1919/ folio13/p8

<sup>410</sup> Census Lacock 1901 PRO 13/1919 folio 13/p9

<sup>411</sup> Allen Palmer's *Hunting Diaries 1903-1904* (except they go up to December 1907) at <http://www.colgatefarm.co.uk/pdfs/Allen%20Palmer's%20Diaries%20Beaufort%20Hunt%20%2001%2007%2007.pdf>

third from the left is Charles Henry Maslen.<sup>412</sup> He married in 1908, when he was still at Lackham but was not present on Census night in 1911.



Zzzzzz\Fig. 26 Grooms at Lackham c1905<sup>413</sup> \*  
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Another photograph of the Stable Yard staff, taken at the same time, shows the Stable Yard Bothy in the background, which doesn't look very different from the view today. There have been some changes, the double doors on the east end of the block have been replaced, for example

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<sup>412</sup> My thanks to Mr and Mrs Briggs for their kind permission to use the photograph and for information on Mr. Maslen.

<sup>413</sup> Photograph copyright Mr and Mrs Briggs. Taken by JJ Hunt, the Studio, Calne.

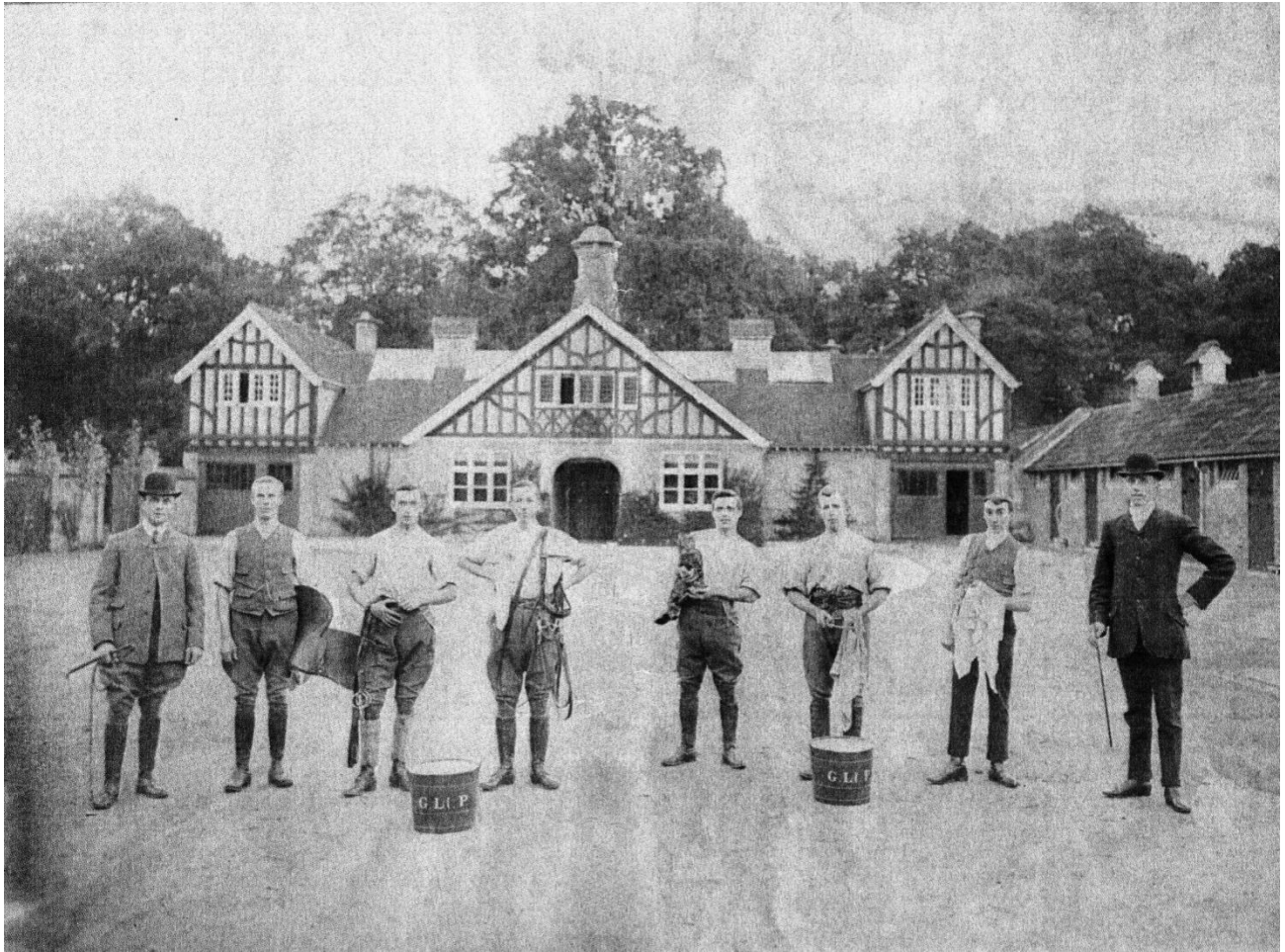


Fig. 27 Stable Staff c 1905 \*

Above the entrance to the main building of the new stable complex a coat of arms can be seen (directly above the seated groom, third from right) in Fig 26. The shield is three Palmer's scrips (satchels) separated by a *fesse bendy* ( a wavy edged bar) with a Palmer's staff There is a Palmer coat of arms that is somewhat similar and has the same motto - "*Palma Virtute*" - that were borne by the Palmers of Wood Court, Devon <sup>414</sup>. They were descended from the ancient house of Palmer at Leigh, in Kent. <sup>415</sup>

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<sup>414</sup> Burke *General Armory* (1844)

<sup>415</sup> At this date they were borne by the Rev. William Palmer, DD, vicar of Yarcombe,. *Alumnii Oxoniensis* gives that he was the son of William of Charstock, Dorset. From the timings and ages it would seem possible that George Palmer was a nephew or cousin, and so not entitled to use the arms. Further investigations of this family and their links, if any, to the Palmers of Lackham, remain to be made.

The crest is a fox, consistent with the purpose for which the Stable Block was built. It is uncertain whether George Palmer was actually entitled to a coat of arms



Fig. 28 Coat of arms above Stable Yard building \*

The "Hunting Bridge" that crossed the River Avon close to the (later) location of the WWII pill boxes (see next page) was almost certainly put in place by George Palmer to allow the Hunt to cross the River; it does not appear on maps predating his time at Lackham. It has been claimed that once the bridge was washed away in a flood in 1954-55 <sup>416</sup>

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<sup>416</sup> Thomas, JO (1984) *History of Agricultural Education in Wiltshire* Lackham College p52, online at [Agricultural Education](#)



Fig. 29 Hunting Bridge across the River Avon (date unknown) \*

*the Hunt was rarely successful - the fox would swim the River and get away, whereas before that the Hunt could follow over the Bridge*<sup>417</sup>

The Household staff were also photographed and it is possible, and even likely, that these pictures were taken at the same time as the Stable staff were imaged, this certainly fits the uniforms seen here

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<sup>417</sup> Anon. *pers. comm.* Reminiscence with a gentleman at one of Lackham's Open Days. He did not want to be identified but said that he "used the Hunting bridge to cross the Avon when he was living at Derry Hill and walking out with one of Maj Holt's servants"



Fig. 30 Lackham House staff c1905 <sup>\*</sup>

It is surmised that some of these staff members are on the 1901 census, but unfortunately only one person has been identified so far. On the far left of the group in Fig. 30 is a young man who is known to be William John Fell. He was born in 1892, son of a farm labourer <sup>418</sup> from Rowington, near Stratford on Avon. If the date suggested for the photograph is correct William would have been 13 at the time. It was not unusual for boys to be in service from the age of 13 at this time. It is thanks to Mrs. Hopley that we have copies of the photograph and information on William at all - he was her father <sup>419</sup>. She told me that

*My father is the youngest man in the photographs standing next to the Butler ..... the other two men are the footmen, my father was the Potboy*

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<sup>418</sup> Henry James Fell, born 1855. His wife's name is unknown, unfortunately she was away from home on Census night 1901 but the record shows Henry was married at the time (1901 census RG13 Piece 2930 folio 76 page 1 schedule 3)

<sup>419</sup> I am indebted to Mrs. Hopley for permission to reproduce the photographs and the information she kindly gave. With her agreement, the original letter and copies of the all the photographs have been deposited in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre



replacing James Austin who held the position in 1901 but who would have been 21 at this time (see fn <sup>213</sup>).

George Palmer had reacquired Bewley House for the Lackham estate in 1902 <sup>420</sup> ("and so once again until modern times the property formed part of Lackham Estate") and, in 1910, he commissioned Harold Brakespeare to draw up a report on the house, which later appeared in print <sup>421</sup>. He donated £5 to WANHS to cover the cost of the illustrations in the article. George Palmer contributed to many Society appeals; for example he gave £20 towards the cost of extending the Museum in 1903 <sup>422</sup> and £5 to the Society appeal to purchase the Brooke Collection <sup>423</sup>

George Llewellyn Palmer and Harold Brakespeare were associated in another local project; George was a member of the committee <sup>424</sup> that organised the

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<sup>420</sup> As has been seen, Bewley had been part of the Lackham lands very early on - it was "in the tithing of Lackham and was presumably developed from a clearing in the forest [assart] with the blessing of Lackham" Harvey B & Harvey R (1987) *Annals of Lacock* p 63

Lands associated with Bewley were part of Lackham before this, however; *Manor of Lackham particulars of the estate 1792* in the Wiltshire County Record Office, lists assets of the estate, including Bewley Farm, rented to Isaac Joyce (who also rented it in 1812) in 1792; it was given as just over 95 acres, in 1812 93 acres. Lackham also had rights on parts of Bewley Common in 1792:

"Bewley Common is divided into thirty one leases, sixteen of which belong to the Lord of the Manor of Lackham and fourteen to the Lord of the Manor of Lacock and one to the Vicar of Lacock.

*Bernard Dickinson Esq, in the year 1792, had a road granted to him over the said common in consideration of his paying yearly to the occupiers of the leases the sum of one guinea*

<sup>421</sup> Brakespeare, H (1912) *Bewley Manor* WAM vol XXXVIII, no CXVII June pp 391 - 399

<sup>422</sup> The Museum Building Fund (1903) WAM vol XXXIII, no XCIX pp 197-198

<sup>423</sup> WAM XXXIX (1916) p476

<sup>424</sup> *Wiltshire Times* April 17 1902 , WANHS 16/250 Proposed memorial to Mr WH Fox-Talbot LID FRS

The members of the committee were George Palmer, the Bishop of Bristol, Miss Awdry (Notton House), Mr CH Talbot, Miss RC Talbot, Mr Charles Awdry, Rev. WG Clark-Maxwell, (Clunbury Vicarage, Salop), Mr JE Gladstone, Mr E Eyre, T Pike and Rev. HW Armstrong (Vicar of Lacock, Hon. Treasurer). To raise the £600 needed the

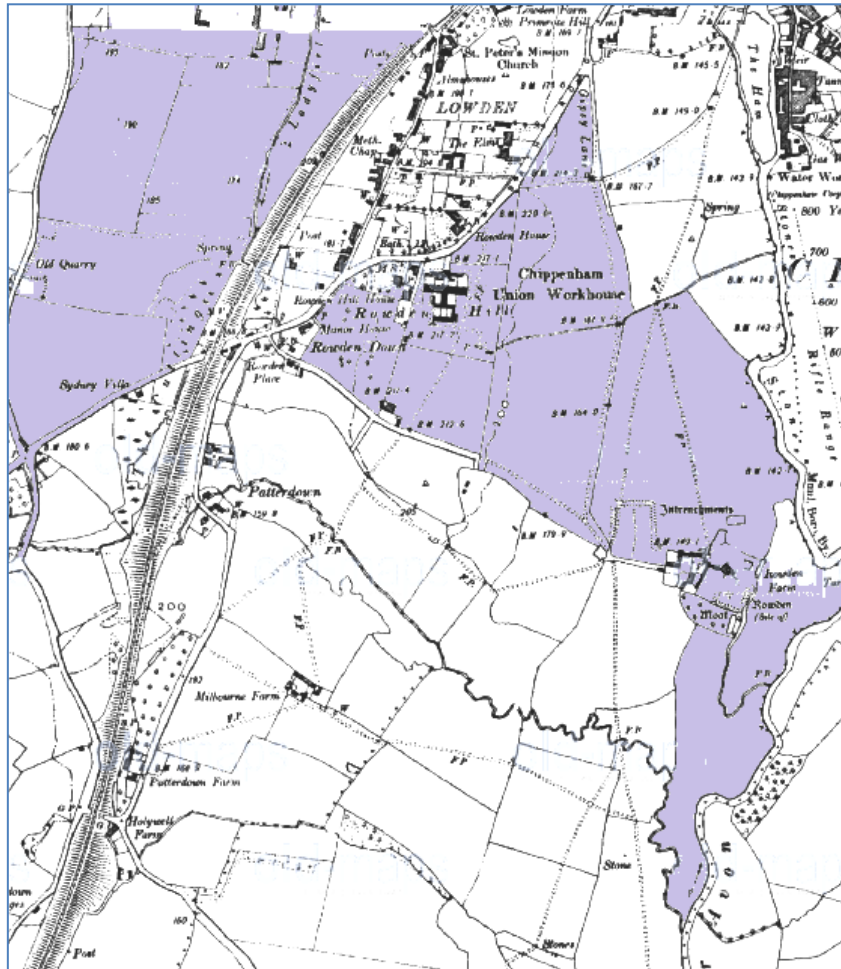


Fig. 31 Rowden land bought in 1904 \*

Fox-Talbot memorial in the chancel of St Cyriac's, and Brakespeare was the architect commissioned to design it. <sup>425</sup>

This was not the only land purchased by George; in 1904 he bought a large amount of land on the western outskirts of Chippenham and Rowden Manor, from Lord William Long. Some he bought at an auction held at the Angel Hotel Chippenham in May 1904 but Rowden itself was not included in that sale and Palmer bought it separately. Both purchases were completed in November 1904,

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committee organised a painting exhibition and sale at the Oddfellows Hall in Lacock; George lent a painting to the exhibition.

<sup>425</sup> Devizes & Wilts Gazette June 18, 1903 *Chancel of Lacock Church*

Palmer paid £3,200 for the 30 acres <sup>426</sup> from the auction but he only paid £1,650 for the 195 acre Rowden Manor and farm.

George Llewellyn Palmer owned a large number of early motor vehicles at different times. He appears to have registered two vehicles in December, 1903 <sup>427</sup>. The first was a "Rex" 4-cylinder motorcycle which had the registration number AM104 and weighed 150 pounds (68 kgs). On the same day he registered a 12 horse-power Napier with a tonneau <sup>428</sup> body in green and yellow, weight 18cwt (914kg).

At this time it was common for an owner to keep the registration number and transfer it to a new vehicle and so, between February 1907 and the end of June 1907 George had AM104 on his 20 hp Rolls-Royce. In July 1907 he transferred the plate to a dark green 11 hp Panhard <sup>429</sup> landaulette <sup>430</sup> which he kept until January 1910.

In 1908 George Llewellyn Palmer was appointed a Major and honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Wiltshire (Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment) <sup>431</sup> which is why he was designated as such when he was awarded the Territorial Medal <sup>432</sup>; in 1909

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<sup>426</sup> WA 44/1/10 sale indentures dated 1 Nov 1904

<sup>427</sup> Hicks, I (2006) (ed) *Wiltshire vehicle registrations 1903 - 1914* WRS vol 58 p14  
Registered first 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1903

<sup>428</sup> A Tonneau was the term for an open rear passenger compartment on an automobile and, by extension, a body style incorporating such a compartment.

<sup>429</sup> A French make

<sup>430</sup> a car with an open driver's seat and an enclosed rear section, with one cross-seat and a collapsible roof

<sup>431</sup> *The London Gazette* September 29 1908 p 7023, appointment dated 1st April, 1908

<sup>432</sup> The Territorial Decoration (TD) is a United Kingdom military medal, also known as the Territorial Efficiency Decoration, which is given to officers for long service in the Territorial Army. The TD is awarded for 12 years' continuous service in the Territorial Army, with War time service counting double. Time spent in the ranks accumulates at half the rate, i.e. 2 years as a soldier or officer cadet counts as one year towards TD.

George took over command of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in 1911, following the Marquess of Bath. He relinquished command in 1914, just before the Great War commenced, to Lt.Col.Ulric Thynne a relative of the Marquess <sup>433</sup>

George and Madeline's eldest son, Allen Llewellyn was in the Army. Lackham held a celebration when he passed his Officer's course:

*Lacock*

*Celebration at Lackham,*

*There were great rejoicings at Lackham House on Tuesday where the many friends of Mr AL Palmer, eldest son of Mr G LL Palmer, attended a dinner and ball to celebrate his entry into the Army as a Lieutenant of the Fourteenth Hussars after having successfully passed the examination at the Military Training School, Sandhurst. The hall and grounds were decorated and illuminated in honour of the occasion. The front of the house was adorned from end to end with the colours of Mr AL Palmers Regiment (a scrap of black and gold ribbon is attached to the page... ), fairy lamps and Chinese lanterns were suspended about the terrace and also surrounded the fountain, and electric light illumined the grounds , and gave to the stately Georgian mansion a brilliant and dazzling appearance The guests, who numbered about sixty, partook of supper about 12 in the dancing hall, the tables set out with lovely flowers. Dancing was enjoyed and continued until a late hour in the ballroom. Amongst those present were Mr and Mrs G LI Palmer, Mr AL*

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The badge of the Decoration consists of an oval oak wreath in silver, tied with gold, and having in the centre the Royal Cypher, surmounted by the crown, both in gold. It is suspended from its ribbon by a silver ring. At the top of the ribbon there is a bar brooch. The ribbon is coloured dark green, with a yellow stripe running down the centre. The decoration goes back to 1892. Its most famous recipient was Winston Churchill, who received it in 1924. After over 100 years of history, the TD was replaced by the VRSM in 2005 by the Blair government. The VRSM is awarded to both Officers and Soldiers. Holders are not entitled to any post-nominal letters. The qualifying period has been reduced to 10 years.

Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_Decoration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_Decoration) and [http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/militia\\_vol\\_territorial/mvt28\\_1.html#](http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/militia_vol_territorial/mvt28_1.html#)

<sup>433</sup> Information posted by "Dave" Nov 2004 on the GreatWar Forum at <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=23077>

*Palmer, Miss Palmer, Mrs Goldsmith, Mr and Mrs Jack Martin, Mr and Mrs Harris, Mr and Mrs HH Smith and Miss Smith, Mr TH Fair, Mr Copland Griffiths, Mr John Johnson (Fourteenth Hussars) , Mr M Caillard, Mr M Clarke, Mr Eric Mackay, Mr Herbert Willis, Mr Hugh Pinkney, Mr T Shorland, Mr and Mrs W Stancomb and party, Mr Jack Awdry and Mr FP Shadwell. Lieutenant Palmer left Lackham on Tuesday to join his troop at the Curragh Camp, amid the congratulations of his parents and friends, and expressions of good wishes that he may have a successful career in the Army.* <sup>434</sup>

He served in South Africa with his regiment during the Boer War, where he was mentioned in despatches and received the Queens Award and two clasps for gallantry <sup>435</sup> he was also in India.

The youngest son, Michael Llewellyn studied at Clare's College, Cambridge. On graduating in 1907 he worked for a brewing company in Notting Hill, London <sup>436</sup>. Tragedy struck in the following year; during the afternoon of Sunday 26 April Lackham received a "telephonic communication" <sup>436</sup> informing them that Michael had been found dead in his bath at his lodgings<sup>437</sup>. The Inquest determined that he had died from the fumes from the gas geyser used to heat the water. His father and two brothers escorted the body home by train and he was buried at Lacock the following Thursday <sup>438</sup>.

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<sup>434</sup> [WA 4205/13 Laverton photograph album.](#)

<sup>435</sup> Burke (1937) *Landed Gentry* p1749 Palmer, George: children

<sup>436</sup> *Wiltshire Times Death of Mr Michael Palmer* Sat 2 May 1908 Vol LIII no 2909 p8

<sup>437</sup> He was renting rooms from "licensed victualer" Henry George Elliot, at 4 Disraeli Rd, Putney. SW15. This may seem a long way from Notting Hill, but Disraeli Road is only a quarter kilometre from the District Line's East Putney Tube Station, which runs directly to Notting Hill; he was staying close to his transport to work. (London AZ Street Atlas [1995] 3rd ed Geographers' A-Z Map Co. Ltd p91 4G)

<sup>438</sup> Parish Magazine Lacock and Bowden Hill May 1908  
*Mr. Michael Llewellyn Palmer was 'called Home and to Higher service' very suddenly on Sunday April 26th. The deepest sympathy was felt by all to the family in their bereavement and grief. He was laid to rest on Thursday April 30th, the Bishop of Bristol kindly conducting the service.*

Allen Llewellen would not have been in the country (he was stationed in India with his Regiment at the time) if he had not returned on leave the previous week in order to attend his sister's wedding the following month. Allen Llewellen had arrived, via France, "only a few days previously" <sup>436</sup>

Almost exactly a month after burying their youngest son the family, and the notables of the County, were once again present at St. Cyriacs, this time for the marriage of Madeline Llewellen. She was the first of the children to be married, to the Hon. Frederick Charles Hubert Hanbury-Tracey. The marriage took place at Lacock, the decorations in the church were partly done by a firm from Bath but also by the Lackham Head Gardener <sup>439</sup>. The Hanbury-Traceys lived in Faulkland in Fife, and they had two sons <sup>440</sup>.

In 1911 Madeline and the two boys (aged 1 and 2 months) were visiting Lackham on Census night <sup>441</sup>

In 1909 George Llewellyn Palmer secured the water supply to Lackham House by signing a new agreement with Fox Talbot for the supply that had been in place since the time of Capt. Rooke <sup>442</sup>

Lackham made an appearance in Country Life during George Palmer's ownership, when an article described the prize herd of Kerry cattle <sup>443</sup>. George Palmer was

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<sup>439</sup> Wiltshire Times *Interesting wedding at Lacock* Sat 13 June 1908 vol LIV no 2915, p6 Head Gardener was J Bannerman

<sup>440</sup> Burke (1937) *Landed Gentry* p1055 Names not given by Burke. Felix was killed in France 12 December 1914. Madeline married again, in 1929, to Capt Caryl Lidell Hargreaves and they had a daughter Mary Rosalie Alice, born 10 June 1931

<sup>441</sup> From the Census they were David, born 1910, and Ninian, born early 1911, both born in Edinburgh .

<sup>442</sup> WA 44/1/4 agreement dated 3 July 1909. See Pratt, T (2011) *the Manor Houses of Lackham 1050-1949* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition for more details on the water supply to Lackham House (online at [Manor Houses](#))

<sup>443</sup>Country Life Aug 17 1907

*The Lackham Estate, comprising some 2,000 acres, has been in the hands of the present owner, Mr George Llewellen Palmer (who purchased it from Sir George Errington) for some fifteen years.*

This article is available on the Lackham History part of the Wiltshire College website at [Kerries](#) ,

active in the agricultural life of the county. He responded to the toast at the Wiltshire Agricultural Society Annual Dinner in 1910 <sup>444</sup>, for example, and at the Calne Show in 1910 he won places in the cattle section with a Reserve for a shorthorn bull between 6-12 months and a Highly Commended for a Shorthorn dairy cow 3 years of age or more in milk. That this was a relatively new venture for him is indicated in his comments in his speech to the Agricultural Society Dinner <sup>445</sup>

The landed gentry were involved in all sorts of local social efforts - in Lackham Library there is a Challenge Shield, given by Mrs G Ll. Palmer in 1911, to "*Lacock Scouts - the best Squad in Miniature Rifle Shooting*" <sup>446</sup>

Their shooting skills may have been in demand very shortly afterwards - three years later was, of course, the start of the Great War.

After the War started local areas were organised to oversee military units within their areas, and it was into this work that George Palmer put a lot of his war effort. In January 1915 he was a Group Commander of the Wiltshire area with the rank of Colonel <sup>447</sup>. By July 1915 he had been promoted to Lt. Colonel <sup>448</sup> and he rose to the rank of Brigadier General in February 1918 <sup>449</sup>.

As with so many other families throughout England, the Palmers lost their eldest son during the conflict. Allen Llewellen died in France in 1916; the *Wiltshire Gazette* <sup>450</sup> reported that he succumbed to peritonitis after

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<sup>444</sup> *Wiltshire and Trowbridge Gazette*, Saturday December 10th 1910

<sup>445</sup> He said "*I don't mind being beaten [he didn't place in this show] I am only a beginner and beginners often get beaten, but eventually they start winning*" *Wiltshire and Trowbridge Gazette* loc. cit.

<sup>446</sup> It only appears to have been awarded in 1911 and 1912

<sup>447</sup> *Army List* January 1915 p2747. He is shown as being co-opted and in the Territorial Reserve, he was n't regular Army.

<sup>448</sup> *Army List* July 1915 p2747

<sup>449</sup> *Army List* February 1918 2747

<sup>450</sup> *Wiltshire Gazette* 23 November 1916 WANHS 15.119

undergoing an operation for appendicitis. He was buried at Amiens <sup>451</sup> and his mother attended the funeral. The address was given by Canon Wylde the Vicar of Melksham. There is a memorial to him in Trowbridge parish church, his sword was initially also hung there and he appears on the Lacock War Memorial

At about this time George Palmer was renting Naish Hill Farm from Talbot and was subletting it Robert Marsh Rowles Naish Hill Farm was just over 110 acres and when the County Council (who had gained it when Lackham was sold to them see below) sold it in 1957 it was still 104 acres in extent <sup>452</sup>

George Palmer was made Deputy Lieutenant (DL) of Wiltshire in 1919. From the announcement of this appointment it is known that he had been made Companion to the Most Royal Order of the Bath (CB) but again the date of this appointment is not known.

In 1920 Madeline Palmer was awarded an OBE for her work during the War, the announcement read "*Palmer, Mrs Louie Madeline worker for prisoners of war and Red Cross funds*" <sup>453</sup>

George Palmer was "*one of the strongest supporters of the Conservative cause in the County*" <sup>454</sup>, and was a candidate for the Westbury division four times before he was elected MP for Westbury between 1918 and 1922. He was one of the founders of the Wiltshire Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society.

As a pillar of the community George Palmer was "*foremost in many... charitable movements*", for example he was a donor to Trowbridge Almshouses, "*a generous benefactor of the Parish Church and Cottage hospital*" and the Palmer Gardens in Trowbridge commemorate his munificence in the area,

The Palmer's sold Lackham in 1919 to William Tatem. It would appear that they had not been resident at Lackham for some time previously; in April of the same year an objection to the inclusion of George's name on the county electors list

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<sup>452</sup> *Agreement between Wilts County Council and DW Dew Esq for the sale of Nash Hill Farm, Lacock dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 1957) Conveyance was on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1957 Thrings papers*

<sup>453</sup> *Wiltshire Times Sat April 10 1920 p2*

<sup>454</sup> *Wilts. Obituary (1932) WAM vol 46 no 157 p110*



was lodged on the grounds of "non residence"<sup>455</sup> and George wrote a letter to the local paper from Taplow in June 1919<sup>456</sup>.

At some stage they moved to "The Prospect" at Hilperton and then returned to the family home, Berryfield House, at Bradford on Avon. It was here that Louie Madeline Palmer died in May 1925<sup>457</sup>; she was buried in Lacock.

In 1927 George Palmer moved to Bexley in Kent. He took over the house previously owned by his son William Palmer and his wife Lady Alexandra (who moved to nearby Rushwood Hall). It was here that George Llewellyn died, on 31 March 1932<sup>457</sup>, leaving an estate worth £45,128. The Wiltshire Times recorded that he bequeathed £108 to his nurse Jane Doel and "£18 per annum and the use of Wood Lane Bungalow to his butler John Kirkam for life"<sup>458</sup>.

As was seen above next owner was Sir William Tatem, who purchased the estate in 1919

To return to the Section list click [here](#)

William Tatem (The Lord Glanely) at Lackham

The Lord Glanley, DL Sir William James Tatem, 1st Baron (created 1918)<sup>459</sup> was born in 1868, the son of Thomas Tatem of Appledore in Devon<sup>460</sup> and his wife Louisa daughter of William Cook<sup>461</sup>.

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<sup>455</sup> *Wiltshire Times* Sat Apr 12<sup>th</sup> 1919 p3

The objection was not sustained on the grounds that the notice had not been served properly and that the caretaker was occupying a portion of the house, which constituted residence.

<sup>456</sup> *Wiltshire Times* Sat June 14 p5, writing from Mill Stream House, Taplow

<sup>457</sup> *Wiltshire Gazette* 7 April 1932

<sup>458</sup> *Wiltshire Times* 25 June 1932 *The will of the late Maj. Gen. George Palmer*

<sup>459</sup> *Who was Who Vol IV 1941 - 1950* (1952) Adam Charles & Black p438, High Sherriff Glamorgan 1911-12.

<sup>460</sup> Burke (1932) *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*

<sup>461</sup> Walford (1919) *Walford's County Families of the United Kingdom* p875

William Tatem apparently had an exciting early life the Tatem Shipping Line maintains that "he ran away to sea, suffered shipwreck and yellow fever" <sup>462</sup> which is not unlikely but has so far not been verified.

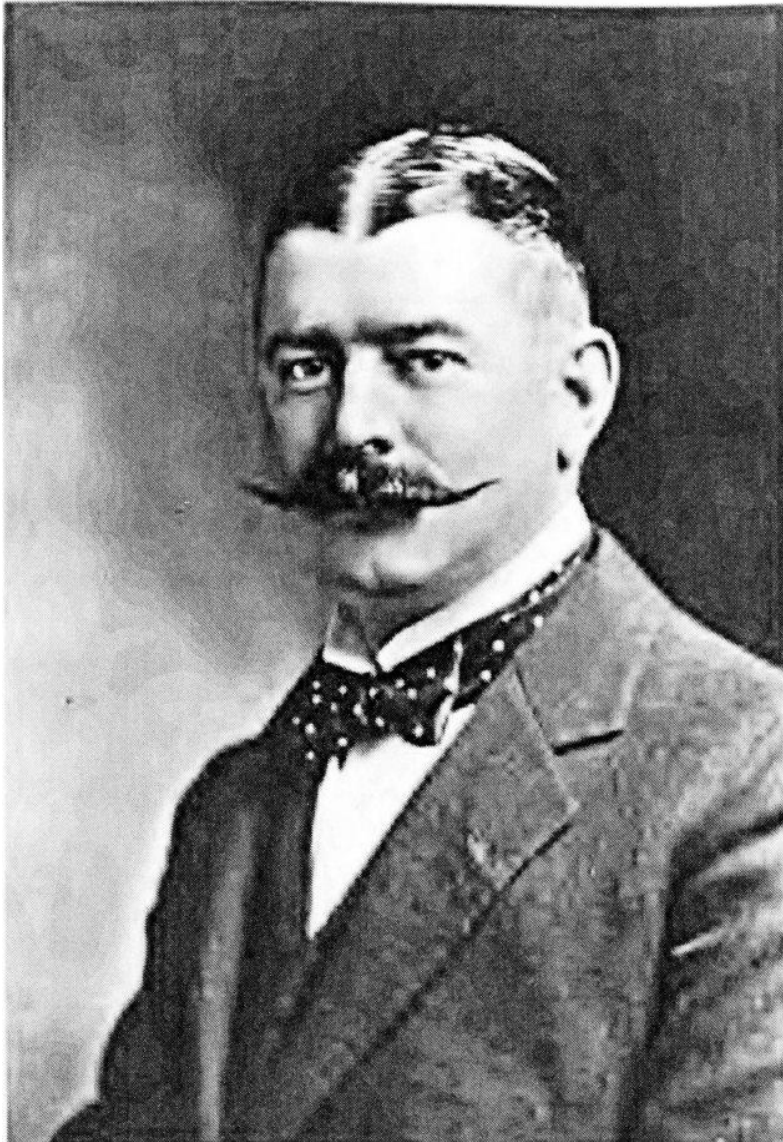


Fig. 32 William James Tatem, the Lord Glanely <sup>463</sup> \*

William Tatem was "one of several Cardiff ship owners who came from Appledore in North Devon" <sup>464</sup>. He first went to sea from his homeport of

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<sup>462</sup> [http://www.benjidog.co.uk/allen/index\\_files/Page5760.htm](http://www.benjidog.co.uk/allen/index_files/Page5760.htm) -"Tatem Line"

<sup>463</sup> Watson, AET (1921) *A Great Year: Lord Glaney's Horses* Frontispiece

<sup>464</sup> <http://www.angelfire.com/ga/BobSanders/SHIPCO.html>

Appledore but moved to Cardiff in 1886 <sup>465</sup> where he was initially employed in the offices of Anning Bros, ship owners <sup>466</sup>. He went with his widowed mother and his sister Georgina Gibson who was also widowed <sup>467</sup>. Here he met, and married Ada Mary <sup>468</sup>, daughter of Thomas Williams of Pengram, Cardiff on September 14, 1857 <sup>469</sup>. The date of their marriage is not known but their first son, Thomas Shandon Tatem, was born in 1898 <sup>470</sup> but died in 1905 <sup>471</sup>

William Tatem set up his first company, the Lady Lewis Steamship Co, only a year after arriving in Cardiff, with just one ship.

*Over succeeding years he built up a substantial fleet which in 1910 became the Tatem Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. By the start of the First World War the company was one of the foremost in Cardiff with 16 modern steamers <sup>472</sup>*

William Tatem didn't forget his birthplace, The bells there were given in 1911,

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My sincere thanks to Mr Sanders for his assistance and for sharing the results of his researches into the Tatem companies and interests. He actually lives "in a house built in the grounds of St.Fagans Court, Lord Glanely's old Cardiff home"!

<sup>465</sup> <http://www.angelfire.com/ga/BobSanders/SHIPCO.html>  
where he was employed in the offices of Anning Bros, ship owners, also from Appledore.

<sup>466</sup> <http://www.angelfire.com/de/BobSanders/SHIPCOS.html>

<sup>467</sup> Appleyard, HS & Hedon, PM (no date) *The Baron Glanely of St. Fagans - WS Tatem World Ship Society Mongraph #2* ISBN 0 905617 14 2

<sup>468</sup> Burke (1932) *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*

<sup>469</sup> Appleyard, HS & Hedon, PM (no date) *ibid* I p6

<sup>470</sup> Burke (1932) *ibid* Born 20 July 1898 died 14 June 1905

<sup>471</sup> Appleyard, HS & Hedon, PM (no date) *ibid* p6

<sup>472</sup> <http://www.angelfire.com/ga/BobSanders/SHIPCO.html>

*in memory of his father, Thomas Tatem, and his son, Thomas Shandon Tatem, and were cast by J Warner of Spitalfields, at a cost of £485-15s-0d.*<sup>473</sup>

Shipping sigils form part of Tate's coat of arms :

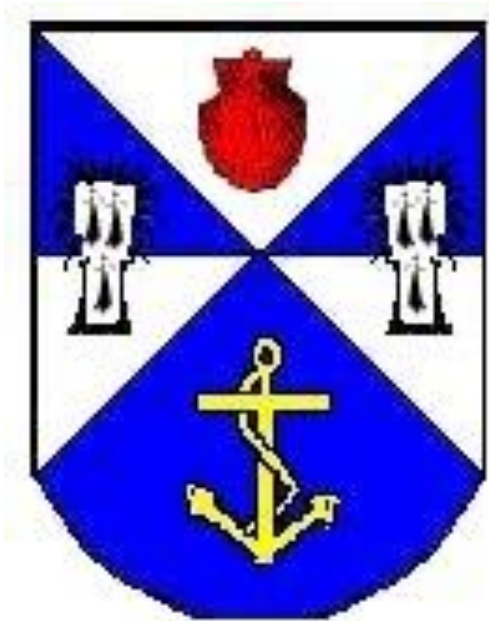


Fig. 33 Arms of William Tatem, Lord Glanely<sup>474</sup> \*

During World War I the shipping company lost 9 ships to enemy in total<sup>475</sup>. In 1916 William Tatem erected a stained glass window in Appledore church in memory of the 76 men connected with the parish who fell in the Great War

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<sup>473</sup> *A short guide to Sat Mary's Church Appledore Devon* at <http://www.appledorestmarys.com/history-guide-more.htm>

<sup>474</sup> Burke (1932) *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*  
*Grynnny of six, azure and argent two garbs [wheat-sheaves] fesse erm between in chief an escalop gules and in base an anchor cabled.*

<sup>475</sup> Appleyard, HS & Hedon, PM (no date) *The Baron Glanely of St. Fagans - WS Tatem*  
World Ship Society Mongraph #2 p4

1914 - 1918"<sup>476</sup> William Tatem was made a baronet in 1916<sup>477</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Glanely of St Fagans co Glamorgan.in 1918<sup>478</sup>

William Tatem was a famous racehorse owner of his time. A resident of Cardiff recorded that

*At that time there was a racecourse (Ely) to which horses from [Lord Glanely's estate] were walked. It was considered by we young urchins to be a great honour to be allowed to carry the horsed blankets to the course. I think we were admitted free!*<sup>479</sup>

He was the subject of a cigarette card from about 1930

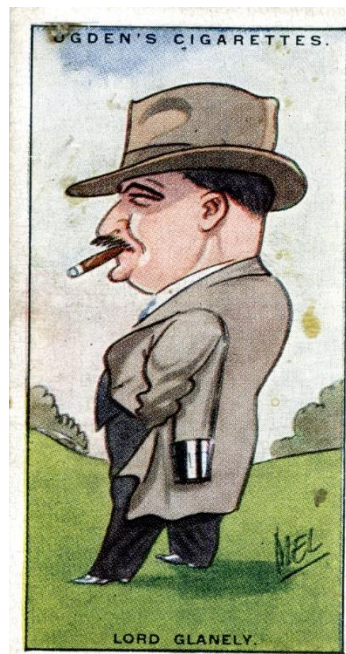


Fig. 34 Lord Glanely<sup>480</sup> \*

<sup>476</sup> Kelly's Directory of Devonshire & Cornwall 1939

<sup>477</sup> Cockayne Complete Peerage volXIII p278 on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1916

<sup>478</sup> Burke Complete Peerage & Baronetage 107<sup>th</sup> 3d vol 1 p112 on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1918

<sup>479</sup> Anon, Pers. Comm.. The gentleman from Chippenham, whose family worked for Lord Glanely and removed from Cardiff with the household, and who very kindly told me of childhood experiences with the Tatems in Cardiff did not wish to be named in this work. I would like to express my sincere appreciation of his kind assistance

<sup>480</sup> Ogden's cigarette card no 22 in the series "Turf Personalities" - author's collection

This card gives a "potted" history of his turf successes

Turf Personalities  
A SERIES OF 50  
22

**Lord Glanely**

Lord Glanely, who was born in 1868, has been an owner of racehorses for over thirty years and as Sir William Tatem won many races before the War. He enjoyed phenomenal luck in 1919 when his colt *Grand Parade* won the Derby, and he created a record as a winning owner by carrying off no fewer than eight races at Ascot. Later he gave 15,000 guineas for *Blue Ensign* and 11,800 guineas for *Westward Ho!* He has won several important handicaps; *Sunderland* capturing the Doveridge Handicap *Capture Him* the Wokingham Stakes, and *Navigator* the Stewards' Cup. In 1928 his winning stakes totalled 414,000 [guineas].

ISSUED BY  
Ogdens  
BRANCH OF IMPERIAL TOBACCO CO  
(OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND) LTD

Fig, 35 Text on the back of the cigarette card \*

Lord Glanely purchased Lackham in 1919. The date isn't exactly certain, a peerage published in 1919 gives him as still living at "*The Court*", *St Fagan's, Cardiff*" <sup>481</sup> but he certainly owned the estate by 1920 <sup>482</sup>. It is said that in January 1920 he moved to Lackham and booked a special train to move his household "*lock, stock and barrel, including the animals, from Cardiff*" <sup>483</sup>

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<sup>481</sup> Walford, E.(1919) *The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland* .. Volume 59 p536

<sup>482</sup> Kelly (1920) *Directory of Wiltshire* p129 *Lackham House Lord Glanely*

<sup>483</sup> Brocklebank, (1968) *The Heraldry of St Cyriac's Lacock* p 14 states that this was a direct quote from one of the people in Lord Glanely's employ at the time.

The Tatems were a part of the county set by 1921, the report on the Beaufort Hunt Ball, held in January 1921, records they attended.<sup>484</sup> It might well be that the family was often elsewhere, Lord Glanely had property at Exning House<sup>485</sup>; Exning is about 2 miles northwest of Newmarket (for the racing, presumably) and Danehill at Stockbridge in Hants, as well as Lackham<sup>486</sup>.

Lord Glanely was made a JP for Wiltshire in 1922<sup>486</sup> and he had been a JP in Wales previously.

At some time in his tenure Lord Glanely bought

*All that messe farm and pieces of land commonly known as Naish Hill Farm together with those two pieces of woodland commonly known as Wheeler's Wood and Tackle Moor Wood.*<sup>487</sup>

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<sup>484</sup> Wiltshire Times Saturday January 15 1921 p3 *Beaufort Hunt Ball A brilliant Assembly.*

They were a large party:

*Lackham House Lord Glanely, Lady Glanely, Commander Holbrook, Mrs Holbrook, Captain Rupert Lewis, Mrs Lewis, Mr Fraser, Miss J Fraser, Mr Joseph Fraser, Hon Mrs Basil Mundy, Mr George Gibson, Miss Gibson, Miss Beel, Major Read, Major Exely Millar [sic], Captain Geoffrey Crawshay, Mr Maxwell Scott, Captain Lionel Lindsay*

It is noteworthy that the party included Capt. And Mrs Lewis; Lord Glanely's first shipping company was the Lady Lewis Steamship Company Ltd (<http://www.angelfire.com/de/BobSanders/SHIPCO.html>). The connection, if any remains obscure but it is interesting. The W J Tatem and CO steamship Lady Lewis was wrecked near Mogotes Point, Argentina on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1906, while on a voyage from Bahia Blanca to Barcelona, carrying corn (<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/cdasm.56/dictionnaire/409.pdf>)

<sup>485</sup> <http://www.angelfire.com/ga/BobSanders/SHIPCO.html>

The last vessel owned by the Tatem Steamship Co Ltd was "The Exning", she was sold in 1973

<sup>486</sup> Kelly's (1923) *Handbook of Wiltshire* p575

<sup>487</sup> These two woods were later conveyed to the MAFF (precursor of DEFRA) by the County Council on 31 Dec 1959 for the consideration of £150 Thrings papers)

from Matilda Theresa Talbot of Lacock Abbey <sup>488</sup> .

After owning Lackham for eight years he sold the estate to Major Holt. This was early in 1927 and Major Holt paid £78,000 with a 10% deposit <sup>489</sup> . Major Holt moved in sometime between late January 1927 and mid March of the same year, when

*The outlying portions of the valuable agricultural property known as Lackham Estate, extending to an area of 1,030 acres and having an actual and estimated rent roll of about £3,000 per annum <sup>490</sup>*

were sold off by auction at Chippenham Town Hall <sup>491</sup>

Lord Glanely was killed in 1942,

*Having moved temporarily to Weston -super-Mare, Lord Glanely was killed when the town was bombed by enemy aircraft on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1942 <sup>492</sup>*

This was during one of the worst raids Weston experienced. The first bombs fell on Weston in June 1940 but blitzes in January 1941 and in June 1942

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<sup>488</sup> From *Lackham Estate Supplemental Abstract of the Title of Rt Hon William James Baron Glanely of St Fagans to freehold Acreditaments part of the Lackham Estate in the County of Wilts* dated 1927 Thrings papers

<sup>489</sup> WRO 44/4 Main deeds Mansion House Agreement between William James Tatem Baron Glanely of St Fagans of Lackham House and Sir Herbert Paton Holt 7 Gracechurch St London MP. Dated 25 Jan 1927

<sup>490</sup> Notice of the sale in the *Contract for Lot 23 Lackham College Library papers*. Three pictures from this catalogue appeared in the *Wiltshire Gazette* of Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup> 1927, under the heading "Bits of Old Wiltshire"

<sup>491</sup> on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 1927, in 41 lots from Notice of the sale in the *Contract for Lot 23* *ibid*

<sup>492</sup> Appleyard, HS & Hedon, PM (no date) *The Baron Glanely of St. Fagans - WS Tatem World Ship Society Mongraph #2* p8



destroyed large areas of the town.<sup>493</sup> Many people were killed in the two raids in 1942<sup>494</sup>

It has been suggested that Lord Glanely had moved "temporarily" to Weston to avoid the bombing in Cardiff, which was becoming intense in the middle of 1942, but this cannot be verified.

Five months later the Tatem Steam Navigation Co Motorship *Lady Glanely* was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine 400 miles west of Ireland, she went down with all hands<sup>495</sup>. [To return to the section list click [here](#)]

Major Herbert Paton Holt at Lackham

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<sup>493</sup> <http://www.weston-super-mare.com/newhistory/newhistory.html>

<sup>494</sup> <http://www.fishponds.freeuk.com/nluftbri3.htm>

*Weston super Mare was attacked on the nights of June 27th and 28th resulting in the death of 102 persons, with a further 400 injured. It was chosen as a reprisal for the British Thousand Bomber raid on Bremen on the night of June 26th, because German intelligence understood that Churchill was to stay in the town on his return from a visit to the United States.*

*53 aircraft of I, II and III/KG 2, II/KG 40 and Kü Fl Gr 106 claimed to have attacked Weston on the night of June 27th, with a total of 28.6 tonnes of H.E's and 18,832 I.B's, while 2 Ju 88's of 1(F)/123 kept a look-out for British fighters. The raid began in brilliant weather with a full moon and the first bombs were dropped just before the siren warning at 01.22 hrs. A total of 62 H.E. incidents involving casualties were reported from many locations, but the main concentration was in the residential and shopping centre of the town. The attack, which was of short duration, ended at about 02.00 hrs, the majority of the damage having been confined to residential property. From the attack force only one aircraft was lost, this having crashed in France injuring the 4 crewmen.*

*The following night a similar number of bombers from the same units delivered some 27 tonnes of H.E.'s and 20,096 I.B's, the Weston Anti-Aircraft guns engaging them between 01.59 and 02.24 hrs. During this raid it was the main shopping centre which was chiefly affected with many shops and commercial premises being destroyed as a result of the large fires which took hold in the Regent Street, High Street, South Parade, Waterloo Street and Boulevard area. Railway services in and out of Weston were also suspended, and at the station the Waiting room and goods shed were destroyed by fire, as were 12 passenger coaches.*

<sup>495</sup> <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/cdasm.56/dictionnaire/409.pdf> *ibid*



Fig. 36 Arms of Herbert Paton Holt. <sup>496</sup> \*

The purchaser of the core of the estate, Major Herbert Paton Holt, was born in 1890 in Canada. Lackham folklore has it that he rose to be President of the Royal Bank of Canada but this isn't correct. The Holt who was President of the RBC was his father, Sir Herbert S Holt <sup>497</sup>, who was born in Co. Kildare, Ireland on 12th February 1855, the younger son of William Robert Gratton Holt.

Herbert S Holt had an interesting career as a civil engineer. He qualified as a in Dublin and moved to Canada in his early teens where he spent

*some years in western Ont., went to the N.-W., and was employed there in the survey and construction of portions of the Can. Pac. Ry. Afterwards, he was associated with Jas. Ross, C. E. in constructing other lines of ry.* <sup>498</sup>

HS Holt married Jessie, daughter of Andrew Paton of Sherbrooke, Quebec. Little is known of her, but in 1914 she was vice regent of the Wolfe & Montcalm

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<sup>496</sup> Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* Azure, two bars or, in chief a cross formee fitchee of the last

<sup>497</sup> *Who was Who*, 1941-1950 p 558

<sup>498</sup> Morgan, HJ (1898) , *The Canadian Men and Women of the Time: A Handbook of Canadian Biography*, Toronto, William Briggs p. 474.

chapter <sup>499</sup> of the *Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire* <sup>500</sup> They were very involved with philanthropic works, and

*The particular function of the Daughters of the Empire in war time [was to] supplement the equipment of the soldier's kit with such articles as the Government [did] not supply, designated field comforts, particularly knitted articles. The Red Cross by their constitution can handle only hospital supplies. This left a wide scope for the I.O.D.E., and they rallied to the work with enthusiasm. During October [1914] alone over 7,000 Balaclava caps were sent down to Valcartier <sup>501</sup>, very largely hand knit. This number was to a large extent made possible by the fine donation of 1,000 pounds of wool from the Paton Manufacturing Co., Sherbrooke <sup>502</sup>*

Herbert Paton Holt's childhood was spent in Canada, it is unclear when he moved to England but it may have been in 1911. He graduated from the Canadian Military College on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1910 <sup>503</sup> and was made Lieutenant the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Dragoon Guards in September the following year <sup>504</sup>. At this time they were stationed in Hounslow, Middlesex, where it remained until being sent to Cairo in 1912, and thence to France in 1914 <sup>505</sup>. In 1915 Lt. Holt was Adjutant to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and was serving with the Regiment's Machine Gun Corps for a year in 1916 / 1917. <sup>506</sup>

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<sup>499</sup> A district of Montreal

<sup>500</sup> McDougald, Mrs HW (1914) *The Call To Arms, Montreal's Roll of Honour, European War , 1914*

<sup>501</sup> Close to Quebec.

<sup>502</sup> See <http://www.rootsweb.com/~qcmtl-w/IODE.html> for a short history of the IODE. It is noted that the company mentioned here was owned by Jessie Holt's father.

<sup>503</sup> *Army List* January 1911

<sup>504</sup> *Army List* 1911 - 917

<sup>505</sup> <http://www.regiments.org/deploy/uk/reg-cav/dg3.htm>

<sup>506</sup> *Army List* July 1917 He was in the Machine Gun Corps between 20 Feb. 1916 and 19<sup>th</sup> March 1917

He was promoted to Captain a few months later and moved to the Tank Corps. Maj. Holt later published a history of the regiment's service during the Great War <sup>507</sup>. Major Holt's batman was Percy William Badminton who was killed on 18 September 1918 <sup>508</sup> and there is a photograph of him in the Stable Yard at Lackham before hostilities commenced

Before Holt bought Lackham in 1927 he was living at Jaggards in Corsham and while he was still there he bought Showell Farm from Lord Glanely for £9,800. Showell's tenant at the time was Guy Frank King <sup>509</sup>

The agreement between Lord Glanely (the previous owner of Lackham) and Major Holt was dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 1927 and gives some interesting details about the estate, for example the House was not yet on mains electricity but had storage batteries supplied by the local electricity company. This appears in the clause detailing what fixtures and fittings were to be left behind when Lord Glanely (the Vendor) sold the estate -

*The price will include all timber timber like trees and underwood fencing and everything connected with the heating apparatus water supply drainage and electric lighting (except the electric light fittings and the batteries which latter the West Wilts Electric Light and Power Company will remove when the Mansion House is connected up to the new electric main) the sundial stone seats and birds bath in the gardens garden lights staging in the greenhouse, acetylene gas fittings or electric light fittings in the stabling outbuildings and cottages harness fittings in the stables and cupboards and shelves which are not loose and belong to the Vendor*

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<sup>507</sup> Holt, H. P.(1937) *The history of the Third (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, 1914-1918*. Guildford : Privately Printed. Issued by DP & G Military Publishers (2001) ISBN-13 9781903972021. I have been unable to track down a copy of this book - if anyone knows where I could consult it please do get in touch!

There is a copy in the State Library of New South Wales in Australia [[N940.41242/8 http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/search~S2?/cN940.41242%2F8/cn940.41242%2F8/-3%2C-1%2C0%2CE/frameset&FF=cn940.41242%2F8&1%2C1%2C](http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au/search~S2?/cN940.41242%2F8/cn940.41242%2F8/-3%2C-1%2C0%2CE/frameset&FF=cn940.41242%2F8&1%2C1%2C) accessed 24 May 16] and should I ever make it to NSW I shall certainly investigate it. - Auth

<sup>508</sup> Wilson A & Wilson, M (1990) *Around Corsham and Box in Old Photographs* Alan Sutton Publishing ISBN 0 86299 894 B p102

<sup>509</sup> Thrings papers

*and all fitted furniture including radiator covers fire backs and dog grates fixed cupboards and shelves (except the Vendor's Desk and two Bookcases in the business room a Maplewood Mantlepiece and the Safe and cover which the Vendor shall be at liberty to remove at any time prior to the date fixed for completion of the purchase the Vendor replacing said Mantlepiece with another similar to the one which was there when he purchased the property*<sup>510</sup>

It shows that Holt paid £39, 285 for the estate including

*the bed and soil the fishing of the River Avon" and also "all such rights as belong to [Glanely] over the South Transept of Lacock Parish Church and the sittings therein*<sup>511</sup>

Major Holt married Elizabeth Cairns from Montreal. She was well regarded, an old inhabitant of Lacock was recorded as saying

*Mrs Holt was a dear little lady, dainty, rather fascinating. She was never very robust, and never recovered from the shock of her only son's death. She was good to people in Lackham, Notton and Lacock, saying, 'Let me know of anyone in difficulties, I would love to help'. She sent all kinds of useful gifts to rummage sales in Lacock or anything else. No one approached her in vain. She was never much seen about as she was a partial invalid, but she is remembered with affection*<sup>512</sup>

Maj Holt and Elizabeth had two daughters and a son<sup>513</sup>, Lt. George Herbert Holt, who was a member of the Royal Artillery Corps. Whilst on secondment to

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<sup>510</sup> WA 44/4 Agreement between William James Baron Glanely of St Fagans and Sir Herbert Paton Holt Clause 3

<sup>511</sup> WA 44/4

<sup>512</sup> Wiltshire Inscriptions WFHS microfiche p86

<sup>513</sup> Vernon, T (1969) pamphlet *A short history of the Lords of the Manor of Lackham from Saxon Days* Lackham College

the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers he was killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1944 in Italy <sup>514</sup>. His death was notified in the Wiltshire Times in December. <sup>515</sup>

Major Holt was MP for the Upton division of West Ham 1924-1929 and was High Sheriff of Wiltshire 1935-46.

The 1930's was a difficult decade for most people, especially those involved in agriculture. Evidence for the parlous state of the industry can be found in Captain (as he was at this time). Holt's papers. Towards the end of November, 1938 he was allowing temporary reductions in the rent on Great Notton Farm as "*I realize [sic] that agricultural conditions are very bad at present*" <sup>516</sup>

The financial conditions may have been why Holt didn't repay a loan on time: when he bought the estate in 1927 he borrowed £1500 from Roycan Nominees Ltd in London <sup>517</sup> to be repaid on 24 May 1935. It was eventually repaid 1941 <sup>518</sup>

Notwithstanding this farming continued, only a month earlier Holt had rented Cuckoo Bush Farm to Miss Edith Scott for £40 pa <sup>519</sup>.

During the Second World War the estate was partially requisitioned but Holt retained title to it, see below.

His niece, Mrs B Clark from Canada, visited Lackham in 1991 and erected the monument situated to the west of the house, between the House and the Back

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<sup>514</sup> Memorial in Lackham Aisle, St Cyriac's Church, Lacock.

<sup>515</sup> *Wiltshire Times*, December 4<sup>th</sup> 1944

"Lieutenant GHP Holt

*News has been received by Major and Mrs HP Holt in Lackham House, Lacock that their only son, Lt. GHP Holt was killed in action during November. It will be recalled that Maj. Holt made a gift of £10,000 to the Royal Artillery Corps. Charities trust in memory of his old comrades of the cavalry and Royal Tank Corps of the last War "*

<sup>516</sup> Letter to tenant 22 Nov 1938 Thrings papers

<sup>517</sup> On 24 November 1934 Thrings papers

<sup>518</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> March 1941 statutory receipt in Thrings papers

<sup>519</sup> Agreement between Capt HP Holt and Miss Edith Scott dated 20 Sep 1935 Thrings papers



compensation from the War Department of £300 pa plus £75pa for the upkeep of the gardens. When the Butler's cottage was derequisitioned the amount was reduced by £26 pa. The Army didn't take control of all the estate, and maps held by Wiltshire College from the period indicate that the farms remained free (below). Lt Col Holt was paid an additional 10 shillings a year compensation for the land on which the 7 pillboxes guarding the estate stood.<sup>522</sup>

It has been suggested that these must have been put in place when it was decided to use Lackham as Gen. Patton's HQ - similar estates locally that were also requisitioned do not have such features. However apart from the structures on the hill overlooking the park all of the pillboxes at Lackham immediately guard the river and the one on the hill on the Front Drive overlooks the land in front of the river even though the Avon itself cannot be seen; they are all part of the defensive lines established in 1941, two years before the Americans eventually joined the allied forces. One, supposedly at the junction of the Front and Back Drives, was removed "with great difficulty"<sup>523</sup> in the mid nineteen sixties but the other six remain.<sup>524</sup>

Little information on the demolished pill box was known, but in 2017 information on it was given by Tim Culling, whose father was Vice Principal at Lackham for very many years. Tim and his sisters were brought up on the estate in the 1960's - 70's. In a letter to the author he recorded that

*I have very vivid memories of the demolition of the seventh [pillbox] (which I think, by the way, from looking at the photos was also a type 24). We were allowed to watch the demolition team do their work (health and safety nowadays would have had us stand about a mile further away than the couple of hundred yards that we retreated on that hot day!). The first attempt to blow the box up involved a spectacular explosion, a dust cloud that extended a hundred feet into the air and a surviving and pretty much undamaged pill box once the air cleared. The guy in charge was clearly embarrassed and determined not to have a repeat defeat.*

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<sup>522</sup> WA f2/600/117/1 1945 - 1949 letter dated 21 June 46 ref DLA.51/1219/R

<sup>523</sup> Morris, PW , Principal of Lackham 1978-1996 pers.comm

<sup>524</sup> For an investigation of these structures see Pratt, T (2008) " Lackham's World War II hardened field defences, or Lackham's WWII "Pill boxes" " online at [Pill Boxes](#)



*So he installed what must have been a mega-ton of dynamite for the second attempt, we retreated a further ten yards or so and the explosion could, apparently, be heard in Trowbridge. All that was left once the dust from that one settled was a very large hole in the ground, not far from where the weather station stood then and still stands now. A great day - well, at least it was for a small boy whose career ambition at the time became (briefly) to train as a demolition expert!*<sup>525</sup>

In 1940 Maj Holt rented Home Farm to Mr PE Pocock for £500 pa<sup>526</sup>. The Farm was 236 acres in extent and the ponds were excluded from the rental, being requisitioned by the government. The rental didn't last very long, on 7th September 1944 Holt's agents<sup>527</sup> issued a notice to quit. It is noteworthy that the farm is given both as Home and Lackham, the earliest indication the two are synonymous. In 1942 Holt rented Naish Hill Farm to Mr Dew for £152 10s pa<sup>528</sup>

During the period 1943 to 1944 Lackham was the headquarters for the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion of the 4th Armored Division of the 3rd United States Army, commanded by Gen. George S Patton.

The unit's Battle Diary includes details of their early training and their move to England (see [Appendix 3](#)).

It was late when they arrived at Lackham; a veteran of the 10th who visited Lackham in 2001, recalled that they arrived at Lackham in the dark of night and were surprised at how small the house was - the soldiers were apparently taken directly to the Stable Yard, and it was the Bothy and Stable Yard buildings they first saw, having been driven past Lackham House and not seen it in the blackout.

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<sup>525</sup> Tim Culling Nov 2017 *pers. comm.* My thanks to Tim for telling me about the demolition and his time at Lackham, and for allowing me to reproduce his account. (Auth.)

<sup>526</sup> *Agreement between Capt HP Holt and Mr PE Pocock* dated 6 June 1940 Thrings papers

<sup>527</sup> Thomson & Neeld of Chippenham

<sup>528</sup> Thrings papers

Very little information seems to have survived from this period, although it is said that damage was inflicted on the garden wall by a Sherman tank. It is also claimed that the original entrance pillars by the Front Lodge were damaged at this time and were later replaced. Neither of these claims are believed to be true. The wooden hut, used in the 1980's as a store for the Rural Museum housed at Lackham, was reportedly built by American servicemen.



Fig. 38 Art Nouveau (c 1910-20?) wallpaper from the first floor Lackham House \*

The first floor rooms on the southern side, overlooking the Terraces and the fields, were the location of Gen. Patton's rooms and removal of plaster in a small side room here <sup>529</sup> room revealed even earlier wallpaper still in place (see above).

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<sup>529</sup> In 2000

It is understood that when D-Day was being planned Gen. Eisenhower visited Lackham, but no evidence for this has been located so far.

It has been suggested that

*a pond on the estate created during World War II, as history has it, using explosives at General Patton's behest to make a swimming pool for GIs while he was based at Lackham in the run-up to D-Day.*<sup>530</sup>

This is not true, all of the ponds and tanks that are visible today appear on the OS maps and estate sale maps back to at least 1850. There was a swimming pool on the estate but it was built after the war; "1949-50 Swimming pool excavated with direct labour [ie County Council staff] served the College well for twenty years"<sup>531</sup>

Over fifty years later local residents still recalled soldiers being at Lackham, Nancie Howie remembered that

*Soldiers stationed at Lackham House who came to the village for a glass or two (or more) of beer, often missed the brook path and blundered through the brook and up the old Nethercote Hill and on to Lackham. Grandfather found many a soldiers' hat floating in the brook, past the garden and heading for the river. Especially when the Americans arrived*<sup>532</sup>

and in the archives at Lackham there is a roll of honour of the US Service men who were stationed at Lackham in 1944, made by Joan and Eileen Brunt (Joan later married Mr. Alford who lived in Lacock, and she is still resident in the village.)

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<sup>530</sup> Masson, S *In the field of Higher Learning* Shooting Times Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 [http://www.shootingtimes.co.uk/features/440370/In\\_the\\_field\\_of\\_higher\\_learning.html](http://www.shootingtimes.co.uk/features/440370/In_the_field_of_higher_learning.html)

<sup>531</sup> Thomas, JO (1984) [edited 2011 by the current author] *Agricultural Education in Wiltshire* p51 [Agricultural Education](#)

<sup>532</sup> Howe, Nancie M (1996) *Memories of a Lacock Family* private pub. p145

In the centre of the middle column is the name of the commanding officer, General George Patton. The name at the top of the list, however, is Private Joseph E Walsh who was engaged to Eileen Brunt, although they never married. It is reported that

*the night before D Day, Private Walsh disobeyed orders and left Lackham to tell Eileen he was to leave for France. Joseph found he couldn't get back into Lackham without facing arrest. After dark Eileen's father Percy Brunt, a Lackham farm-worker, guided Joseph back across the fields, carefully avoiding the American sentries<sup>533</sup>*

Percy Brunt appears in other records of this period <sup>534</sup> ; Oliver Menhinick, Head of Horticulture at Lackham for 35 years, described the condition of the grounds after 1945 :

*The garden survived the war years, when the old mansion house was occupied by General Patton's servicemen and tanks were parked on the grass. The paths had grown over but Percy Brunt and Bert Bird found them by probing with an iron bar. Only a few of the fine shrubs survived although the larger specimen trees were in good condition<sup>535</sup>*

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<sup>533</sup> Unattributed notes in Lackham College Archives

<sup>534</sup> See Thomas, JO (1984-) [ed Pratt, T 2011] *Agricultural Education in Wiltshire Lackham College*, pp 26, 65, 86 and photograph on p137. online at [Agricultural Education](#)

<sup>535</sup> Menhinick, O.N (1984) *Horticulture* p68 in Thomas, JO (1984) *ibid*. The wording is identical to that used in an earlier paper (*Horticultural affairs*, dated 6.7.76, report from O. N. Menhinick to Mr. Thomas, Lackham College Library papers)

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

HQ Co				Officers			B Co			
Name	First	rank	other	Name	rank	other	Name	First	rank	other
Walsh	Joseph	pvt	ph	Smith	Capt		Dahl	Orvin	pfc	ph
Crisp	Waldon	pfc	kia	Greenstein	Capt	ph	Sansevera	Jospeh	pfc	
Gassy	Mike	cap		Slette	Lt	ph	Phelps	Richard	pvt	
Quigley		pfc		Green	Lt	kia	Blough	Noah	pfc	ph
Hokit	James	pvt		Lyons	Lt		Fields	Ray	pfc	
Masline-										
Cosry	Macey	pfc		Quigley	Lt		Batson	Joseph	pfc	
Wisnesky	Walter	pvt		Cohen	capt	ph	Scra	jimmy	pvt	ph
Stutzman	William	pvt		Finch	Capt	kia	Sharpe		pfc	usa
Kegley		pfc		Gurns	WO		Williamson	Thomas	pvt	
Garner	Milo	pfc	ph	Ellwell	Maj	ph	Adams	Roy	pvt	ph
Casanover	Alfonso	pfc		West	Col		Owens	Charles	pfc	ph
Tulie	Johnie	pfc	ph	Patton	Gen		Gonsales	Manuel	pfc	
Cumble	Frederico	pfc	ph	Wood	Gen		Perez	Cisko	pfc	ph
Johnson		pfc	ph	Kerpatrick	Col		Clabattan	Frank	pvt	
Read	Charles	pfc	ph				Yarmand		pvt	
Dugin	Wilson	pvt	ph				Plavaico	Johnie	pvt	
Magheee	Carl	pvt	ph				Stein		pfc	ph
Payner		pfc					Rivkin	Arthur	Cpl	usa
Wensley	William	pvt	ph	Light	Jack		Pierce	Howard	pvt	
Chapman	Harold	pvt	?	Silverman	Capt	kia	Mcphee		pfc	ph
Miller	vernon	pfc	?				Williamson	William	pvt	
Grimes	Charles	pfc	ph				Scettie?		pfc	
Settlelef		pvt		Diller	Campbell		Nyman	Newt	unqual	ph
Bortman	Harry	pfc			Birdie		Shires	Norman	pvt	ph
Jackson	Andrew	sgt		Reed	Charles	ph	Pear	Walter	pvt	ph
				Rice						

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners

Ledger	Arthur	pfc		Mclure	Samuel	ph	Kaner?	William	cpl	ph
Gamesta	Johnie	St sgt	kia				Nicholon	Michael	pvt	ph
Leg	Bou	pvt	kia				Suliano	Donald	pfc	
Smith	Carl	pfc					Walsh	Ray	pfc	
Fields	Brian?	?					Roses?	?	?	
Cardella	Henry	pfc					Kenetz	Thomas	pvt	ph
Johnson	Ralph	pfc					Stoddard	Woiliam	TSgt	ph
									pvt	
McDonnell	Macey	T Sgt	ph				Charlton	William	(sgt)	
Delasio	frank	cpl	ph				Vennacurios	George	sgt	ph
Howard	Samuel	cpl					Smith	Ivan	pfc	ph
Ham	Joseph	sgt	?				Trachetta	Buster	pfc	ph
Simpson?	Memphis	pfc	?				Greek		pfc	ph
Holly		pvt	ph				Yarlan	George	pfc	
Hayes		pfc	ph				Blue	Richard	pvt	pfc
									sgt	
Oakep		pvt					Cannibaker		(lt)	
							Reason	Johnie	pfc	kia
							Abraham	Johnie	pfc	ph

Contractions: *capt* Captain; *col* colonel; *cpl* corporal; *gen* general; *kia* killed in action; *maj* major; *ph* Purple Heart (decoration); *pvt* private; *pfc* private first class; *St sgt* Staff sergeant; *T sgt* Technical sergeant; *usa* unclear may mean he was invalided back to the USA; *wo* warrant officer

Fig. 39 Roll of Honour \*

a photograph of Percy Brunt appears in the online edition of JO Thomas' book <sup>536</sup>

*One of the soldiers stationed locally wrote*

*In Chippenham we'd go into town for fish and chips (at a cost of one shilling six Pence about .35 cents). They would rap them in newspaper and we ate them at the barracks. Also at other stores and pubs we practically bought all their food - breads, cakes, etc. Soon some of the people were annoyed as the supply was diminishing for them. Also, the English soldiers were envious and annoyed at the Americans for making it difficult for female company because we had more money to spend than the English and they said that we were overpaid, over-sexed and over here.*

At times it was very lonely for the American soldier.

*To relieve some of the boredom - we'd get together with the English WRAF.*

*A dance would be scheduled for a Saturday night at a large building in our barracks area. The pairing of the English girls and the American G.I.'s was done by numbers that matched each other. It was fun. Some were paired with tall, others with short - switching could be made if necessary <sup>537</sup>*

When the American Forces left Lackham after D-Day the House was used as a Recuperation Centre.

In July 1945 Maj. Holt contacted the County Council, offering to buy the pine panelling in the entrance hallway of Lackham house "if the County Council desired to sell it and the price be reasonable" <sup>538</sup>. Fortunately this offer was turned down; there is a pencil written note on Maj. Holt's letter, instructing

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<sup>536</sup> [Agricultural Education](#) p107

<sup>537</sup> Luciano, Tech. Sgt. Eugene W. (2004) *Our Blood and His Guts! Memoirs of One of General Patton's Combat Soldiers*

<sup>538</sup> WA f2/600/117/1 1945 - 1949 Letter from Holt dated 16 July 45 from 6 Mount Row Davies Street W1

*The house is still requisitioned. I have spoken to the Secretary of the War Agricultural Committee who are to lease the property from the council and he says " do not remove panelling as it will make a dreadful mess and there is nothing to replace it with!"* <sup>539</sup>

The house was de-requisitioned by the War Ministry on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1945 <sup>540</sup> and the Minister for Agriculture formally gave the County Council the go ahead to purchase Lackham on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1945. The sale was agreed in June 1945 and the estate was conveyed from Maj. Holt to WCC on November 15<sup>th</sup> 1945.

The land sold by Holt is listed in the deeds and shows that the estate owned 10 farms, 22 cottages separate from the farms and a shop in Lacock <sup>541</sup>

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<sup>539</sup> WA 1945 Letter from Holt dated 16 July 45

<sup>540</sup> WA 1945 letter from Maj. Holt to the Agricultural Department Wiltshire County Council

<sup>541</sup> *Abstract Title of Maj HP Holt to Freehold Lands and Premises known as Lackham House etc Lacock Wilts dated 1945 Thrings papers*

Name	acres	poles	perches
Mansion etc	87	0	31
Lackham Park (or Home) Farm	130	0	0
Cuckoo Bush Farm,	147	1	31
Notton Farm	117	1	0
Ray Bridge small holding	2	3	34
Showell Farm and Milbourne Farm`	295	0	33
Patterdown Farm	60	3	7
Holywell Farm	5	2	38
Halt Farm	31	0	8
New End Farm	119	1	36
Folly Ground Lacock	7	1	11
Rowden Farm	191	2	15
Camp Wood	2	3	4
Land at Rowden (3 tenants)	33 acres		
Allotments at Rowden	19	3	26
Garden Patterdown	1	34	
Land at Lacock	2	1	22
2 cottages at Notton	2	11	
"	2	0	4
" Vines & another	1	22	
" Marles & another	2	3.5	



To return to the Section list click [here](#) ]

Lackham owned as a College

The County Council purchased Lackham with a view to turning it into the Wiltshire Farm institute <sup>542</sup>, with a 60% grant from the War Agricultural Committee, but this was on the understanding that the Committee would use Lackham to run its own training courses for de-mobilised servicemen for the next three to five years <sup>543</sup>.

This was not the first Agricultural training establishment in the local area - in 1944 the local paper reported that

*The Wiltshire War Agricultural Committee held a successful Farm At Home at Bowden Park Farm Lacock on Sunday evening. This holding, which is at present being farmed by the Committee is being utilised as a stock rearing farm specially for young dairy bulls and as a Farm Training School for boys.*

" Hutchins & Gibbon	2	0	
2 cottages at Ray Bridge	2	0	
4 cottages at Ray Bridge W Cole	1	29	
Garden Ground Ray Bridge	1	0	6
5 Cottages Nethercote	2	22	
1 cottage Chapel Hill Lacock	20		
4 "	1	6	
The Folly Cottage Lacock	3	33	
Shop East Street Lacock	14		
2 Cottages Patterdown	20		
Rowden Lodge Chippenham	3	0	
3 Cottages Queens Bridge Chippenham	1	24	
	1356	3	25.5

<sup>542</sup> WA 1945 This was proposed and agreed at a meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945

<sup>543</sup> WA 1945

*"Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture have inspected Lackham Park estate and have approved in principle its purchase by the County Council for ultimate use as a farm institute on condition it be loaned to the Ministry for an agreed period of not less than three and not more than 5 years for use as a Government Training Centre to be administered on the Ministry's behalf by the County Agricultural Executive Committee "*

*The At Home included a demonstration of calf feeding and rearing, together with inspection of the young bulls the crops and livestock.*<sup>544</sup>

A sub-committee of the Wiltshire Agricultural Committee was set up to make appointments of teaching and domestic staff <sup>545</sup> at Lackham, and by early 1946 the Principal, Head lecturer, Housekeeper and Matron had already been appointed <sup>546</sup>. From the minutes of this meeting it is possible to find the names of some of the estate workers and where they were living during the War. <sup>547</sup>

<sup>544</sup> *Wiltshire Gazette and Herald* May 1944

<sup>545</sup> Thomas JO (1984) *History of Agricultural Education in Wiltshire* WA F8/760/20 and a copy is also held in Wiltshire College Lackham library, online at [Agricultural Education](#)

<sup>546</sup> WA 1945 *Minutes of a Meeting held in the Principals House 22 Jan 1946 to discuss the use of estate housing*

<sup>547</sup>

<b>Cottage</b>	<b>Current tenant</b>	<b>To be used for</b>
Butler's	J Pike until 25/4/46	Farm bailiff
Keeper's	P Bartholomew	Teaching staff
Head Gardner's	R Winch	Head Gardner
Second gardener's	G Chamberlain	same use
Chippenham Road Lodge	3rd gardener	same use
Lacock lodge	Resident of RDC	
Estate office	same use	same use
Lackham Gate	C Thacker, Head cowman	Head cowman
Cottage at Notton	Bannerman	Life tenancy
Cottage at Notton	[Percy] Brunt	Continue employ
Cottage at Notton	Woodman [Hutchins]	same use
House Lacock gate	J Tapper	Under cowman
Cottage at Notton	J Baker of RDC	J Pike gardener
Cottage at Notton	AE Williamson employed by Westinghouse	Farm worker
Cuckoo Bush House	EV Scott	No decision
Cottage at Notton	HG Cole, carpenter	Carpenter
Cottage at Notton	Gullis farm worker	Farm worker
Biddestone Lane cottage	[Jack] Chivers	Pig & poultry man
Cottage at bottom Naish Hill	H Brooks	Naish Hill farm

*The information in square brackets above is not found in the original but has been inserted by the author*

Of interest here are:

- J Pike was a gardener according to this document but Thomas <sup>548</sup> records that he was taken on by the new College as a groom, a mistake or a change in occupation ?
- the life tenancy of "Bannerman" of a cottage at Notton. Mr Bannerman had been Head Gardener to Llewellyn Palmer, he decorated the church for Madeline's wedding in 1907 (see above). This is a good example of the estate looking after it's ex-employees, something that the Palmers and Holts were recorded as doing.
- Jack Chivers was the estate carter and ploughman, pictures of him with his horses can be found in the 1945-1953 photograph album held in the Lackham archive now held in the Wiltshire Archive at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road Chippenham
- Mr Gullis was an estate worker when the College was first formed <sup>549</sup> and later the estate carpenter. When the author was first employed by the College he lived next door to Myra Gullis, Mr. Gullis' widow, who sadly died in 1994. She had also been employed at Lackham as a Housemaid.

[By one of those strange coincidences, three days after the author finished inserting the table above he was mowing the grass at the Front Lodge (identified in the table as Chippenham Road Lodge) when a car stopped and the lady inside told him she had been born in the Lodge in 1941. Her father had been a gardener on the estate, George Cooper. She was very young when they left the Lodge but she recalled seeing Sentries guarding the entrance]

It is not entirely clear when the first actual course was run at Lackham. That things did not proceed as rapidly as many people had hoped, is clear from a report on the YFC rally at Lackham in May 1946 <sup>550</sup>.

*Young Farmers Rally  
County Federation at Lackham  
Interesting Competition*

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<sup>548</sup> Thomas, JO (1080) *Historical Education in Wiltshire* Lackham College p26, online at [Agricultural Education](#)

<sup>549</sup> Thomas, JO (1080) *ibid*

<sup>550</sup> *Wiltshire Gazette and Trowbridge Times* June 8th 1946 p2

*Young farmers from all over the County, and representing 27 clubs, assembled at Lackham School of Agriculture Lacock on Friday afternoon*

*Mr GM Peal, Chairman of the County Federation of YFC introduced Major J Morrison and said that they were hoping when they set out to have a rally at the Lackham School of Agriculture that it would be properly running as a farm school. In connection with the project they had, since last October, three government departments to deal with. They knew how hard it was to deal with one Government department. When they had two it was difficult and when it was three it was almost impossible (laughter) One of the Government departments had now fallen out and they hoped to get going shortly "Well your children may be able to come here" he added, amid laughter*

*He spoke of the good work of the staff in getting the grounds of the school ready for the rally*

So it is clear that the school was not up and running at that time, but in an article a week later the phrase

*The more immediate scheme, however, - to help those returning from the Services - will continue for a few years and it is hoped that this will soon be working fully<sup>551</sup>*

might be taken to indicate that some training activity was already under way. It is known that the first course run had 6 people on it<sup>552</sup> but exactly when the first full course was run, and the school fully opened, is unclear. It is likely it was June or July 1946.

Details of the estate were given to the Young Farmers in a leaflet.

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<sup>551</sup> Wiltshire Gazette and Trowbridge Times June 5th 1946 p2

<sup>552</sup> Gullis, M pers comm..

Myra Gullis was the wife of the "Gullis" seen in the accommodation list above as living in a "cottage at Notton". She was still living there nearly 50 years later when I was her next door neighbour. She had worked in "The Big House" as a Housekeeper for many years both during and after WWII. She died some years ago and is much missed.

*The Lackham Estate is of 600 acres and comprises 3 farms with the mansion, stables, gardens and about 50 acres of woodlands Two farms on the estate are let, leaving the Committee with the 250 acres of Lackham Park Farm which is now run in conjunction with Bowden Park Farm of 270 acres where a farm school for training boys who have had no previous experience had been established.* <sup>553</sup>

The plans for the near future were also discussed. At Lackham itself it was proposed to

*establish an attested herd of Friesian cattle with 50 milking cows, plus young stock, and by the use of pedigree Friesian bulls, to grade the herd up to pedigree status* <sup>554</sup>

In June 1946 the stock on the two farms at Bowden Park and Lackham Park totaled 193, of which 103 cattle had been home reared.

It was originally hoped that the estate would be handed over to the County Council on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1949 <sup>555</sup> and the agreement for the sale is dated October 15<sup>th</sup> 1949, showing that by then Holt was living in Devizes. but in the end it wasn't transferred until 27<sup>th</sup> September <sup>556</sup> 1950. For an excellent account of the development of Lackham as a College, with details of staff and how the infrastructure of the estate was developed to accommodate the new role, see JO Thomas book<sup>557</sup>.

The first female students were admitted for the 1952-3 academic year, and in 2016 one of those students, Rosemary Vellender, who was Rosemary Thomas when she was at Lackham, contacted the author to tell him of her

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<sup>553</sup> Wiltshire Gazette and Trowbridge Times June 8th 1946 p2

<sup>554</sup> Wiltshire Gazette and Trowbridge Times *ibid*

<sup>555</sup> WA 1945 note from K Innes, Director of Education dated 17 Dec.. 1948

<sup>556</sup> WA 1945

<sup>557</sup> Thomas, JO (1984) *History of Agricultural Education in Wilshire* Lackham College, online at [Agricultural Education](#)

The Manor of Lackham IV : 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century owners



Fig 40 Staff and students 1952-3 including the first female students to study at Lackham \*

time there <sup>558</sup>

*The "five girls - the first to be admitted - were Wendy Woods, Shirley Spreadbury, Jill (or Gill) Jonas, Iris Pontin and myself Rosemary Thomas"<sup>559</sup> Enclosed with Rosemary's second letter <sup>560</sup> were several fascinating photographs, one of which, a group photograph taken just outside the House*

<sup>558</sup> My very sincere thanks to Mrs Vellender for allowing me to use her photographs and the contents of her letters and for being so very helpful in answering my questions.

<sup>559</sup> Letter 1 dated 19 Jan 2016

<sup>560</sup> Letter 2 Dated 15 February 2016

*on the Top Terrace, shows all of "the girls" together - they can be seen "in the middle row and are, left to right, Wendy Woods, Iris Pontin, Gill Jonas, Rosemary Thomas and Shirley Spreadbury* <sup>561</sup>.*" 1953 being Coronation year for Queen Elizabeth II the students were involved in the Pageant and procession held in Chippenham.* <sup>562</sup>

Hunting continued to be a regular occurrence at Lackham after the war, and there was a hunting bridge over the River Avon which connected Lackham with its lands across the river. This Bridge was certainly in existence in 1927, the map produced for the sale of the outlying farms clearly shows it in the center of the figure east of Lackham Wood.

Remnants of the bridge survived until 1954 when it was washed away by huge floods.

*The Avon Vale hunt [founded by Maj.Gen. Palmer] met at Lackham every year from 1948-1970 on the last Saturday of the College autumn term. They seldom killed after the bridge disappeared in 1954 - the old master Reynard took to the river and swam downstream with the current for 100 yards or so and out on the opposite side to find safe cover on Nash Hill* <sup>563</sup>

The estate was the site of Lackham College of Agriculture until the College became independent after the Government changes to tertiary education in 1996. At the time of writing Lackham College was still in occupation but had become the Lackham campus of Wiltshire College <sup>564</sup>. Internal alterations were made to the house during the period 1950 -2000. During the construction of a lift shaft the internal walls were breached and "*clean, white, beautifully carved*

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<sup>561</sup> There is a copy of this photograph in the collection of "Year Photographs" in the Wiltshire Archives , WA F8/760/19/1BW in the smaller of the two envelopes

<sup>562</sup> for more details see Pratt, T (2016) *The Wiltshire Farm Institute remembered - the first intake of female students 1952-3*, online at [Agricultural Education](#) )

<sup>563</sup> Note in photo album, Wiltshire College Lackham Library. p 31, now (2016) held in the Wiltshire Archive at the Wiltshire and Swindon Hoistory Centre, Chippenham

<sup>564</sup> A multi campus College formed by the fusion of Trowbridge, Lackham and Chippenham College's in late 2000, enhanced by the inclusion of Salisbury College in 2002.

*stonework*" was found filling the wall centers. This has been identified as being medieval stone from the original house.

Lackham as an estate has been an identifiable entity for over a thousand years. In that time it has been the home, the focal point, of many lives, all of whom have both been affected by and had an effect on this ancient land. The four volumes in this account <sup>565</sup>, limited though they are, hopefully give some idea of the depth of time this estate has seen. A sense of continuity is very important; it helps to anchor us on what seems a very turbulent river of time and if this series, and the papers produced over the last decade and a half, have achieved this I am well satisfied.

Tony Pratt

[Horticultural staff, Wiltshire College Lackham, 2019](#)

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<sup>565</sup> Pratt, T & Repko, K (2008) *The Bluets: a baronial family and their historical commotions 1066-1400*; Pratt, T (2009) *The Baynards of Lackham: a county family and their historical connections 1360-1650*; Pratt, T & Repko, K (2010) *The Montagu family of Lackham : their antecedents and historical connections 1440-1840* and the current volume



## Appendix 1

### Military career of Frederick William Rooke RN

In 1791 he joined his first ship, *HMS Cumberland*<sup>566</sup>, as a Midshipman under her Captain, Bartholomew Samuel Rowley<sup>567</sup>.

In July 1797 he joined *HMS Sirius*<sup>568</sup> under Captain Richard King<sup>569</sup>, a vessel and commanding officer he was to be associated with a number of times in his

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<sup>566</sup> Boniface, P (2006) *HMS Cumberland* p105

This version of *HMS Cumberland* was the fifth to bear the name, she was built at Deptford and launched 29<sup>th</sup> March 1774. She weighed 1674 tons and was fairly small at 149' x 46'. She was broken up 1805 in Portsmouth. 74 guns, 3<sup>rd</sup> rate

<sup>567</sup> Son of Rear Adm Sir Joshua Rowley 1<sup>st</sup> Bart and Sarah Burton. Achieved the Rank of Vice Admiral [<http://thepeerage.com/p31606.htm#i316057>] and was C-in-C Jamaica when he died. [*Gentleman's Magazine* 1833 p83]. There is a memorial inscription in Kingston Cathedral Church, Kingston, Jamaica, which reads: "Sacred to the memory of Bartholomew Samuel ROWLEY Esqre. Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Fleet at Jamaica, who died on the 7th of October A.D. 1811, aged 47 years. This monument is erected as a tribute of affection by his widow, Arabella."

[<http://www.halhed.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=I7734&tree=halhed&PHPSESSID=23a0c0ef60fd755ed7ae60d9f6d610a8>]

<sup>568</sup> [http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/HMS\\_Sirius](http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/HMS_Sirius)

*HMS Sirius* was a 36-gun fifth-rate frigate. Ordered 30 April 1795, keel laid at Dudman's yard in Deptford September 1795. She was launched on 12 April 1797. The *Sirius Class* (1795) was established following the taking of the *San Fiorenzo* from the Spanish in 1794, upon whose lines this frigate was based.

Between 1797 and 1805, the *Sirius* was engaged in maintaining the blockade of Napoleonic Europe. Under the command of Captain Richard King she took two Dutch ships, the *Furie* and the *Waakzaamheid*, in her first action in 1798, [note M/S FW Rooke was not in *Sirius* when these actions occurred]

<sup>569</sup> <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8FF3ACB7-40B0-4D7A-AAE0-BE3DB22AA5EA/0/Kingletter.pdf>

Richard King (afterwards Sir Richard King, 2nd bt, 1774 - 1834), only son of Admiral Sir Richard King, entered the navy in 1788, and was made lieutenant in 1791, commander in 1793 and captain in 1794. In April 1804, King was appointed to the *Achille* (74 guns), .... In 1811-12 he served as captain of the fleet to Sir Charles Cotton, and was promoted rear-admiral in August 1812. He was made KCB in 1815 and became vice-admiral in 1821. He married Maria Susanna, daughter of Admiral Sir

career. After serving with King in the North Sea for almost a year he rejoined Capt. Rowley in February 1798, this time in HMS *Ramillies*<sup>570</sup> when he "cruized

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*Charles Cotton in 1822. He was appointed commander in chief at the Nore in 1833 and died at Sheerness in 1834.*

It is noted that O'Byrne gives King's rank as "Commander" in 1797, but this is incorrect.



Fig. 41 Arms of Sir Richard King \*

<http://www.nelson-society.com/html/documents/TheBattleOfTrafalgar.pdf>

*Only son of Admiral Sir Richard King Kt., MP by Susannah Margaretta, daughter of William Coker of Maypowder, Dorset. He was born 1774 and entered the service in 1788. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1791 and Captain in 1794. He was a member of the courtmartial which tried Richard Parker, the ringleader in the Mutiny on the Nore in 1797.*

*When Captain of the 36 gun frigate *Sirius* in 1802, he captured the Dutch ships *Furie* of 36 guns and 153 men, and the *Waakzaamheid* of 26 guns and 100 men, on the 14 October 1798; and in the same month made a prize of *La Favorie* (6g), off the coast of France, and a Spanish brig. Under him the *Sirius* did gallant service, in company with the *L'Oiseau*, in capturing *La Dedaigieuse*, French frigate of 36 guns and 300 men, bound from Cayenne to Rochefort with despatches, on the 27 January 1801. In the spring of 1805 he was appointed to the *Achille* (74g) which he commanded at the battle of Trafalgar. In the lee column she did excellent service and lost heavily; he was rewarded with the gold medal, received the thanks of Parliament, and a sword of honour from the Patriotic Fund. In 1806 he succeeded to the baronetcy.*

<sup>570</sup> <http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/HMS-Ramillies>

*HMS *Ramillies*, was a frigate, 3rd rate, 74 guns. 1670 tons built by Randall of Rotherhithe in 1785. 170½ ft x 48½ ft. Fought the French in the Caribbean (1800) and the Americans in 1812. Into harbour service in 1831. Broken up at Deptford in 1850.*

[sic] ..in the Channel and off the coast of Ireland" .<sup>571</sup> He stayed for just over a year.

Midshipman Rooke rejoined Capt. King and *Sirius* in 1799 for another 2 years. He was in *Sirius* when, in 1800, she captured a Spanish<sup>572</sup> vessel. Although King's account of the action given some details, more can be gleaned from the notice of payment of the Prize money <sup>573</sup> . One of the most profitable parts of serving on a warship at this time was the sharing of the value of captured ships, the "Prize money". Naturally this was not an equitable distribution with everyone getting the same amount; Admirals under whose command the ship was got most of it and then Captains got most of the rest with the officers and then ratings the remainder, in order of seniority. FW Rooke's share would have been modest.

Rooke was also present when, in company with HMS *L'Oiseau* and HMS *Amethyst* (both 36 gun frigates), *Sirius* captured the French 36-gun frigate *La D'edaiyneuse* on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1801. The senior Officer present was *L'Oiseau's* Commander, Linzee; his account of the action was published in the *Gazette* in

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<sup>571</sup> O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54

<sup>572</sup> *London Gazette* 15322 dated 23 December 1800 p1438

*His Majesty's Ship Sirius, at Sea December 12<sup>th</sup> 1800*

*My Lord I beg leave to acquaint you that His Majesty's Ship Sirius, under my Command, captured on the 11<sup>th</sup> instant (Sisarga bearing W by N Three miles) the Spanish Merchant Brig Melchura Corunna bound to Monte Video, out of port only Twenty-Four hours. It may be some satisfaction to your lordship in hearing it is the only Spanish Vessel that has sailed from Corunna since the Ship taken by His Majesty's Ship Boadicea in August last. I have the Honour to be &c &c &c*  
RICHARD KING

It is noted that HMS *Boadicea* was FWR's next ship (see below)

<sup>573</sup> *London Gazette* 15381 dated 14 July 1801 p 843

Plymouth July 13<sup>th</sup> 1801

*Notice is hereby given to the Officers and Companies of His Majesty's Ships the Sirius, Richard King Esq; Commander; Amethyst, John Cooke Esq; Commander and Hired Armed Cutter earl of St Vincent. Lieutenant Henry Boys, Commander, and who were actually on board at the capture of the Spanish ship La Carlotta 27<sup>th</sup> January 1801, that an Account Sale of the said Ship and her Cargo will be deposited in the Registry of the High Court of the Admiralty agreeable to Act of Parliament*  
Edmund Lockyer, Acting Agent

the following month and is worth including as it gives some flavour of the complications of a naval engagement <sup>574</sup>

Letter from Captain Linzee, giving an Account of the Capture of *La Dedaignuse* French Frigate.

*His Majesty's Ship L'Oifeau, Torbay, Feb. 3, 1801.*

*I Have the Honor to acquaint your Lordship, that on Monday the 26th of January at Eight AM. in Lat. 45 Deg. North, Long. 1.2 Deg West, I fell in with the French National Frigate La Daigneuse of Thirty Six Guns and Three Hundred Men, with Dispatches from Cayenne for Rochfort, and chased her until Noon the following Day ; when I discovered His Majesty's Ships' Sirius and Amethyst, off Cape Finisterre, whose Captains I directed by Signal to chase, and continued in Pursuit of the Enemy until Two o'Clock on Wednesday Morning, being within Musket Shot, she opened her Fire on the Sirius and Oiseau, which was immediately returned, and surrendered to the above Ships after an Action of Forty five Minutes, distant from the Shore, near Cape Belem, about Two Miles; her running Rigging and Sails were cut to Pieces; several Men killed and Seventeen wounded, amongst the latter were the Captain and Fifth Lieutenant. My warmest Thanks are due to Captains King and Cookea for their Exertions, but particularly to the former, as from the Sirius's steady and well-directed Fire, the Enemy received considerable Damage ; the Amethyst, from unfavourable Winds, was unable to get up until she had struck.*

*I am happy to say, notwithstanding the gallant Resistance made by the Dedaigneuse, neither of the Ships lost a Man ;, the Sirius's Rigging and Sails were a little damaged, her Main-Yard and Bowsprit slightly wounded, I cannot conclude without expressing my Approbation of the Officers and Company of His Majesty's Ship under-my Command, and in Justice to them, must add, their Anxiety to close with the Enemy, on first discovering her, was equal to what it was on becoming so superior ; and must further beg to acknowledge the very great Assistance I received from Mr. H. Lloyd my First Lieutenant, during a long and anxious Chace of Forty two Hours ; I trust your Lordship will be pleased to recommend him to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as a most valuable Officer and deserving of their Attention ; on his Account most sincerely do I lament the baffling Winds that prevented my bringing the Enemy to Action on the preceding Day, which I was several Times in Expectation of doing.*

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<sup>574</sup> London Gazette 15335 dated 7 February 1801 pp 162-3

*La Dedaigneuse is a perfect new Frigate, Copper fastened, and sails well, carries Twenty eight Twelve-Pounders on her Main Deck, and pierced for Forty Guns. I have given the Prize in Charge of my First Lieutenant with Directions to proceed to Plymouth ; .....'*  
*I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. Sec.*  
*S H Linzee*

There is considerable confusion in *secondary* sources about this action, for example the list of vessels involved is always inaccurate, as can be seen from the announcement of payment of the prize money in 1802 <sup>575</sup>.

Rooke may have been in *Sirius* when she and *Amethyst* captured the Spanish privateer *Charlotta*, also early in 1801 <sup>576</sup>.

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<sup>575</sup> *London Gazette* 15486 dated 5 June 1802 p 584

Plymouth May 29 1802

*Notice is hereby given to the Officers and Company of His majesty's Ship Sirius, Richard King Esq; Commander and who were actually on board at the Capture of the French Frigate La Desdaineufe 19<sup>th</sup> January 1801 by His Majesty's Ships Oifeau Amethyst Sirius Immortalite and Atalantes that they will be paid their respective Proportions of the Proceeds of the said Frigate's Hull Stores and Head-money on board the Sirius at Portsmouth, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June next; and that the shares not then demanded will be recalled at my Office every Friday afterwards for Three years*  
Edmund Lockyer, of Plymouth, George Player, of Portsmouth, Agents  
It is noted that Mr Lockyer had been promoted between July 1801 and the date of this notice.

<sup>576</sup> *London Gazette* 15334 dated 3 Feb 1801 p 149

*Sirius, off Cape Belam 28<sup>th</sup> 1801*

*My Lord, I beg leave to inform your Lordship, His majesty's Ship Sirius, under my command, in company with His Majesty's Ship Amethyst, captured the Spanish Letter of Marque Charlotta, from Ferrol bound to Curacao, out of Ferrol only Sixteen Hours , Cape Belam bearing S by W Six or Seven Leagues I am &c Rcd King*  
Also *Gentleman's Magazine* 1801 pt 1 Jan 1801 pp 170-171

According to O'Bryne FW Rooke next spent 14 months in HMS *Boadicea* 33<sup>577</sup> under Capt. Charles Rowley<sup>578</sup>, the brother of his second captain. The date when he left *Sirius* is unknown but he is likely to have been in *Boadicea* when she and two other ships captured the Spanish ship *El Reymo Duno* on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1801<sup>579</sup>

In 1802 he was made Admiralty Midshipman in HMS *Clyde* 38 with Capt. John Larmour<sup>580</sup> serving in the North Sea and the Baltic.

In December 1803 Rooke was made Acting Lieutenant in HMS *Ariadne* 26<sup>581</sup>, Capt. Charles Elphinstone Fleeming commanding. He didn't remain in *Ariadne* long; according to O'Bryne in 1804 he served in HMS *Veteran* 64<sup>582</sup> under both Capt. Richard King<sup>583</sup> (again) and Capt. James Newman. Newman<sup>584</sup>. During his

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<sup>577</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Boadicea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Boadicea) Ordered April 1795, from the Adams Yard at Bucklers Hard, in Hampshire. Laid down September 1795, launched April 1797 and commissioned in September of that year. Broken up 1858

<sup>578</sup> Sir Charles Rowley, Admiral 1841. 16/12/1770 - 10/11/1845 Fourth son of Vice Adm. Sir Joshua Rowley

<sup>579</sup> *London Gazette* 15431 dated 28 November 1801 p1428 The other vessels were HMS *Fisgard*, under Thomas Byam Martin and HMS *Diamond*, Edward Griffith commanding.

<sup>580</sup> Died 1807 - "In Memory of Capt. John Larmour of the Royal Navy who died Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 1807, aged 52 years" [Allen, T (1827) *The history and antiquities of the parish of Lambeth*" section *Monuments and Epitaphs in the Churchyard* p15

<sup>581</sup> *Ariadne* has started life as a 20 gun 6<sup>th</sup> rate frigate, launched 27 December 1776 at Chatham but was rebuilt as a 26 gun vessel at Northam 16 years later and it was in this version that Rooke served. She was sold in 1814

[[http://britainsnavy.co.uk/Ships/HMS%20Ariadne/HMS%20Ariadne%20\(1776\)%201.htm](http://britainsnavy.co.uk/Ships/HMS%20Ariadne/HMS%20Ariadne%20(1776)%201.htm) ]

<sup>582</sup> Lavery, B (1984) *The Ship of the Line* vol 1 *The Development of the Battlefleet 1650-1850* p192

*Veteran* was a 64 gun third rate ship of the line, launched in 1787. She had been present in the reserve force at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801.

<sup>583</sup> King had been made Captain ten years earlier but was appointed to *Achille* in April 1804 (see fn 569 above)

<sup>584</sup> 1767-1811. There is a portrait of him in the NMM at Greenwich.

time in *Veteran* he allegedly took part in an attack on the French Boulogne flotilla by the ship's boats <sup>585</sup> However it has also been said that "FW Rooke was Mid of the *Sirius*.... served in her boats in the attack on the French flotilla off Boulogne <sup>586</sup>". *Sirius* was off Boulogne at this time as well, and it is unclear which version of events is correct.

In January 1805 Rooke was made Sub-Lieutenant of the gun brig HMS *Attentive* <sup>587</sup> in the West Indies under Lieutenant John Harris and later that year was in command himself as an Acting Lieutenant.

He returned to England in HMS *Proselyte* 24 <sup>588</sup>, Captain John Charles Woolcombe <sup>589</sup> commanding, in the summer of 1805 and was confirmed Lieutenant on 15<sup>th</sup> November of that year <sup>590</sup>.

On 12 December 1805 he returned to HMS *Achille* 74 and Capt, now Sir, Richard King in the Channel Fleet.

In July 1806 *Achille* was part of Samuel Hood's squadron which captured the French ship *Caesar*. The Prize money for this vessel, spread amongst many ships and men only came to a few pounds to a few shillings each <sup>591</sup>. In

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<sup>585</sup> O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54

<sup>586</sup> *The New Navy List* (1842) p132

<sup>587</sup> *Attentive* was a 14 gun brig built in Bridport in 1804 and commanded in Jamaica in 1805 by Lt. Harris. She was broken up in 1815  
[<http://www.ageofnelson.org/MichaelPhillips/info.php?ref=0249>]

<sup>588</sup> <http://www.ageofnelson.org/MichaelPhillips/info.php?ref=1800>  
*Proselyte* was purchased in 1804 and escorted 150 merchant ships with 3 regiments of infantry to Barbados under her first commander, Capt. George Sayer. Capt Woolcombe took command when Sayer went to command HMS *Galatea* in July 1805

<sup>589</sup> Brown, AG (1999) *Persons, Animals, Ships and Cannon in the Aubrey-Maturin Sea Novels of Patrick O'Brian* p335  
His dates are unknown. He was made Commander in 1804 and Post rank later that year. In 1808 his HMS *Laurel* was captured by the *Cannoniere* 48

<sup>590</sup> *The New Navy List* (1842) p30, O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54

<sup>591</sup> *London Gazette* 16131 dated 26 March 1808 p 439

September the same year the squadron engaged 7 French ships, of which 4 were captured <sup>592</sup>. Sir Samuel Hood reported that he was satisfied "at the Endeavours of Captains Boyles, King, Sir John Gore and Masfield, in getting up with the Enemy, although they could not succeed" <sup>593</sup>. There were no reported casualties on *Achille*; Sir Samuel lost his right arm.

Rooke remained in *Achille* until 10 October 1806, when he was detached for six months in charge of the signal station at Swanage, returning to *Achille* on 14 July 1807 <sup>594</sup>.

For the next 2 years Rooke and *Achille* were stationed off the coast of Spain and in the Channel. In July - August 1809 Rooke served at the siege of Flushing; In July 1809 the largest British expeditionary force ever assembled weighed anchor off the Kent coast and sailed for the island of Walcheren in the Scheldt estuary. French naval activity at Antwerp had made the Dutch coast "a pistol held at the head of England," and the government was keen to strike a decisive blow at Napoleon's ambitions <sup>595</sup>. Consequently a British expedition of thirty-five warships, escorting 200 transports carrying 40,000 men, was sent to capture Antwerp and thus divert Napoleon's attention. The expedition commander was the Earl of Chatham and before moving on Antwerp he invested and took the town of Flushing on the island of Walcheren after "a feeble defence" <sup>596</sup> on 16<sup>th</sup> August. The surrender might be forgiven as the town was

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		£	s	d
Seaman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	2	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	1	10	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	4 <sup>th</sup> Class	0	7	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
	5 <sup>th</sup> Class	0	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$

<sup>592</sup> *London Gazette* 15962 dated 30 September 1806 pp 1306-7

The captured ships were *La Gloire* 46, *L'Infatigable* 44, *La Minerve* 44 and *L'Armide* 44.

<sup>593</sup> *London Gazette* 15962 dated 30 September 1806 pp 1307

<sup>594</sup> O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54

<sup>595</sup> Howard, MR (1999) *Walcheren 1809: a medical catastrophe* *BMJ* 319 (7225): 1642-1645

<sup>596</sup> [http://www.lightinfantry.org.uk/regiments/dli/durham\\_68thfoottl.htm](http://www.lightinfantry.org.uk/regiments/dli/durham_68thfoottl.htm)



subject to a "tremendous cannonade .. for several hours [so that by 4pm] the fire of the Enemy had entirely ceased and the town present[ed] a most awful Scene of Destruction being on fire in almost every Quarter"<sup>597</sup>

Because of this delay there was time for Louis Bonaparte and Marshal Bernadotte to reinforce Antwerp and Chatham withdrew, Naval personnel, including Lt. Rooke, were involved on shore, their contribution was acknowledged by Chatham<sup>598</sup>. Unfortunately sickness was a constant threat and when Chatham withdrew, leaving a garrison of 15,000 on Walcheren, 5,000 died in an epidemic of "Walcheren Fever"<sup>599</sup>.

*The progress of "Walcheren fever" or "Flushing sickness" was relentless. In early August there were fewer than 700 men sick, but by 3 September over 8000 were in hospital. In late October the 9000 troops sick on Walcheren easily outnumbered those fit for duty. Hospitals were set up in houses, churches, and warehouses, and conditions were appalling. Men were "packed together in hovels, such as would be thought unfit for dogs, exposed to the noxious night airs, and in some cases with only damp straw to lie on."*<sup>600</sup>

Lt Rooke didn't die but he suffered a serious attack of the illness and was on half pay for 10 months<sup>601</sup>.

It was only in August 1810 that he returned to active service, joining HMS *San Juan* 74<sup>602</sup> at Gibraltar, where she was in the flotilla commanded by

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<sup>597</sup> *London Gazette* 16289 dated 20 August 1809 p1321, a despatch from The Earl of Chatham dated 16 August 1809

<sup>598</sup> *London Gazette* 16289 dated 20 August 1809 p1322  
"The Seamen, whose Labours had already been so useful to the Army, sought their Reward in a further Opportunity of distinguishing themselves and One of the Batteries was accordingly entrusted to them and which they served with admirable Vigor and Effect"

<sup>599</sup> [http://www.lightinfantry.org.uk/regiments/dli/durham\\_68thfoottl.htm](http://www.lightinfantry.org.uk/regiments/dli/durham_68thfoottl.htm)

<sup>600</sup> Howard, MR (1999) *Walcheren 1809: a medical catastrophe* *BMJ* 319 (7225): 1642-1645

<sup>601</sup> O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54

<sup>602</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish\\_ship\\_San\\_Juan\\_Nepomuceno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_ship_San_Juan_Nepomuceno)

Commodore Charles Vinicombe Penrose <sup>603</sup>. Rooke was "in constant action with the enemy during the siege of Cadiz <sup>604</sup>".

*At the end of the year 1810, Cadiz was blockaded by land by the French, who made vigorous preparations for a siege, and collected a flotilla of gun-boats to co-operate by sea. A British squadron under the command of Rear Admiral Sir E. Keats lay off the place, and with gun-boats and bomb vessels very much annoyed the enemy, and hindered the construction of their works. On November 23rd the HMS Devastation, HMS Thunder, and HMS Etna, bombs, with a number of English and Spanish mortar and gun-boats, under the orders of Captain Hall, attacked the French flotilla at Port St. Mary, and threw some hundred shells among them with considerable effect. Being exposed to the fire of Fort Catalina, Lieutenants Worth, and Buckland, of the Royal Marine Artillery, and a midshipman were killed, and four English and four Spanish seamen wounded in this service <sup>605</sup>*

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*San Juan Nepomuceno* was a Spanish ship of the line launched in 1765 from the royal shipyard in Guarnizo (Cantabria). She was commanded at Trafalgar by the famous Brigadier Don Cosme Damian Churruca and constituted for the Spaniards "a handsome example of the heroism of their nation and the bravery of their sailor". After Trafalgar, the ship was taken into British service as HMS *San Juan* and served as a supply hulk for many years at Gibraltar. In honour of Churruca's courage, the cabin he had occupied while alive bore his name on a brass plate, and all who entered it were required to remove their hats as a mark of respect for a gallant enemy.

<sup>603</sup> Marshall, J (1828) *Royal Naval Biography* p462

Sir Charles Vinicombe Penrose (1759 - 1830) was born June 20 1759, entered Royal Academy Portsmouth 1772. In the summer of 1810 an "extensive flotilla establishment was ordered to be formed at Gibraltar, principally for the defence of Cadiz and Captain Penrose was appointed to the chief command with the rank of Commodore. He accordingly repaired to the rock and hoisted his broad penant on board the *San Juan* sheer-hulk lying in the New Mole"

He was in command of a squadron co-operating with the army in the Peninsula War (1813), and chief in command in the Mediterranean in 1814 and 1816. He was awarded the K.C.B. and G.C.M.G. in 1816 and appointed vice-admiral in 1821.

<sup>604</sup> O'Byrne, WR (1849) *Naval Biographical Dictionary* vol Q-R p54

<sup>605</sup> [http://www.royal-navy.org/lib/index.php?title=Attack\\_on\\_Shipping\\_at\\_Port\\_St.\\_Mary](http://www.royal-navy.org/lib/index.php?title=Attack_on_Shipping_at_Port_St._Mary)

It was for his actions here that Lt. Rooke was awarded the Naval Service Medal with the clasp for Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> 1810, a representation of which appears on his memorial. Strangely this award does not appear to have been noted in the *Gazette*.



Fig. 42 Naval Service Medal with clasp for Boat Service,<sup>\*</sup>

The siege of Cadiz was raised after Wellington's victory at Salamanca in 1812<sup>606</sup>. Lt. Rooke commanded a squadron of gun-boats during the defence of Tarifa, and here Rooke [although spelt Rook] finally gets a mention in the *Gazette*:

*I have now the pleasing task to state to you, Sir, that during the whole of this little siege, the exertions of Captains Searle, Pell, Everard, and Carroll, with the several lieutenants, commanding mortar brigs and gun-boats, viz. Jenkins, Rook, Style, Rattray, , Cobbe, and Basden, in taking up positions, and their extreme perseverance in remaining at their different anchorages, during the most tempestuous weather, to the great annoyance of the enemy in carrying on their operations, and giving countenance to our little army on shore, has been most meritorious, and demands of me my warmest acknowledgments*<sup>607</sup>

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<sup>606</sup> *London Gazette* 16674 dated 11 November 1812 p 2391

<sup>607</sup> *London Gazette* 16567 dated 28 January 1812 p 188

For his services in both sieges Rooke was advanced to Commodore on 21 March 1812.

He, like many other officers, went on half pay at the end of the Napoleonic wars and eventually retired

If visiting from the main body of the text [click here](#) to return or [here](#) to return to the Contents page

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Despatch from Capt GS Dickson [HMS: *Stately*] to Rear Adm AK Legge dated 5 January 1812

Appendix 2

An account of the wreck of HMS *Aveneger* and the actions of Lieut F Rooke RN  
608.

Location:

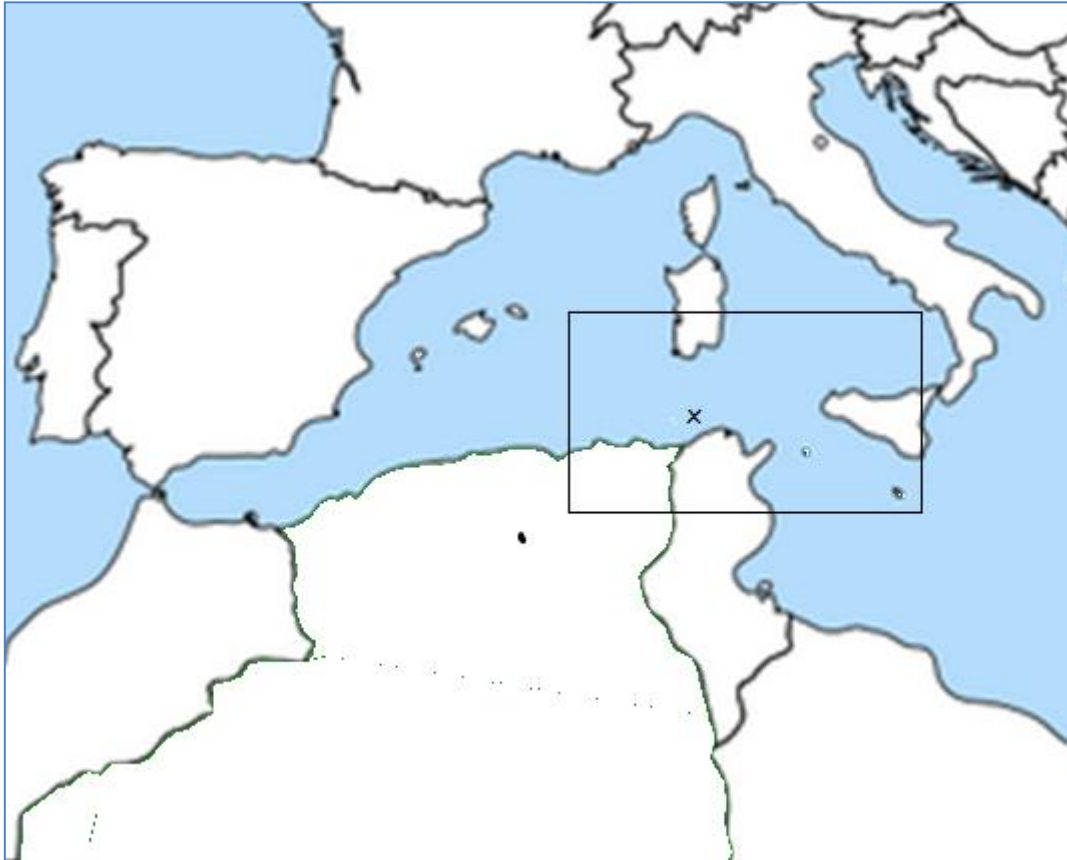


Fig. 43 Eastern Mediterranean \*\_\_Box indicates area of Fig 44 x marks wreck site

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<sup>608</sup> Transcribed from Gilly, WS (1850) "Narratives of shipwrecks of the Royal Navy between 1793 and 1849" pp298-311 Online at [http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=pDsIAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA298&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&ad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=pDsIAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA298&source=gbs_toc_r&ad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false)



Fig .44 Location of the Galite Islands <sup>609</sup> \* \_Box indicates area of Fig 45 x marks wreck site

The account as printed: :

The *Avenger*, a steam frigate, with an armament of 6 heavy guns and 280 men, sailed from Gibraltar on the afternoon of the 17th of December, 1847. As her commander. Captain Charles G E. Napier, was anxious to spare the coal, the steam was reduced to the least possible degree, leaving sufficient to work the wheels up to the rate of sailing. On Monday, the 20th, the steamer was running with square yards, at the rate of eight or nine knots an hour, steering about east by south, under double-reefed topsails and reefed foresail. At eight o'clock in the evening the usual watch was placed, with directions to keep a careful look-out. The night was dark and squally, with a high sea running, and occasionally loud peals of thunder were heard, accompanied with vivid flashes of lightning.

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<sup>609</sup> The location box shows the area of the next figure, see 6 pages below

Most of the officers were collected in the gun-room, with the exception of the captain, who had retired to his sleeping cabin. He had directed his steward to request the attendance of the master, and of Mr. Betts, the second master, who soon joined him in the cabin, where they remained for a few minutes examining the charts. The captain's steward relates that the above officers went upon deck, when Captain Napier desired him to take away the light, and to leave a small lamp burning in the fore-cabin, which was always kept alight at sea during the night. He accordingly did so, and returned to his berth. In about half-an-hour afterwards he heard some one come down from the quarter-deck, and go into the captain's cabin. In about five minutes the captain went upon deck, where he remained for a short time, and again returned to his cabin, but had scarcely closed the door, before he was summoned upon deck by the officer of the watch.

The officers in the-gun-room were upon the point of retiring to their berths, when they were startled by a sudden jerk, which they at first supposed to be a gun broken adrift, but the next moment the ship gave a heavy lurch, as if filling, and her whole frame appeared shaken, and every beam loosened. It would be in vain to attempt to describe the dismay of the crew of the ill-fated *Avenger*, when thus roused from a sense of comparative security, to find themselves in an instant upon the verge of destruction. Already the deck was crowded with people, most of them only partially clothed. and the rest almost naked. On the bridge between the paddle-boxes stood the captain and master; Mr. Ayling, the master's assistant, the quarter-master, and two seamen were at the wheel. In another minute the ship gave a heavy lurch to starboard, and the sea poured over the forecastle. The captain then gave the order, '*Out boats — lower away the boats.*' These were his last words, for he was immediately afterwards washed overboard and drowned.

Lieutenant Rooke, who never appears to have lost his presence of mind, immediately went forward to assist in lowering the boats, but under the firm impression that the ship was fast sinking, and with little hope that there was time enough to get out the boats, or even if lowered, that they could live in such a heavy sea. He saw, however, if anything was to be done, it must be done immediately ; he therefore went amongst the men endeavouring to persuade them to lower the starboard cutter; Mr. Betts,, the second master, at the same time attempted to lower the port one. Every entreaty and persuasion that Lieutenant Rooke could use was, however, of no avail; the men seemed paralysed with the sudden panic and the apparent helplessness of their situation. Instead of affording assistance, they clustered together, exclaiming, '*Oh, my God, Sir, we are lost — we are lost!*' Mr. Rooke, finding that all his arguments were of no

avail, crossed the deck to the port side for the purpose of helping Mr. Betts in lowering the port cutter. In his way he met Larcom, the gunner, who had just come from below, with his clothes under his arm, having been in bed when the ship struck. Hastily acquainting him with his intention, they made the best of their way to the cutter, where they were joined by Dr. Steel, the surgeon, Mr. Ayling, master's assistant, John Owen, a stoker, James Morley, a boy, and W Hills, captain's steward. At this moment, Lieutenant Marryat made his appearance, his manner calm and self-possessed; he was in the act of addressing himself to one of the party, when the ship gave a heavy lurch to starboard, and the gallant young officer lost his footing, and was washed overboard. Whilst they were in the act of lowering the cutter, an accident occurred, which was nearly proving fatal to all their hopes of preservation.

In lowering the boat, the foremost fall got jammed, and the after one going freely, the boat had her stern in the water, and her bows in the air; at this moment, Dr. Steel threw in his cloak, which fortunately got into the sleeve-hole of the after fall, and stopped it.

Just as the boat touched the water, and before the tackles were unhooked, the ship struck again heavily, and began swinging broadside to the sea, falling over to starboard at the same time, which, from the cutter being the port one, made her crush with great violence against the ship's side : however, by dint of great exertion, the boat was got free from the tackles, and pulled clear of the ship.

The *Avenger* now lay broadside to the sea, with her head towards Africa, falling at the same time to windward. with her deck exposed ; the foremast. mainmast. and mizen topmast falling over the starboard side and the funnel on the gangway no doubt killing many of the crew as it fell. As the boat left the ships side, some one attempted to burn a blue-light, but it went out immediately. The sea was now occasionally seen to break over the Forecastle and quarter, and Mr. Rooke, in the hope of saving some of the crew, gave orders to lie on their oars, and keep the boat's bow to the ship to be ready to pick up any of the survivors in the event of the ship's falling to pieces. Lieutenant Rooke and his little party <sup>610</sup> remained by the ship for about an hour and a half, the moon at intervals shining out brightly from behind the heavy clouds, and discovering the Island of Galita, apparently at about ten or

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<sup>610</sup> [Original footnote ]The party in the boat consisted of Lieutenant Rooks; Mr. Betts, second master; Mr. Ayling. master's mate ; Mr. Lazom, gunner; , Dr. Steel, the surgeon, Wm Hills, captain's steward, John Owen, stoker, and the boy Morley



twelve miles distant. The weather now became more tempestuous; the rain poured in torrents; and all being almost exhausted with pulling against a strong current, and being gradually drawn away from the ship, Lieutenant Rooke considered it most advisable to run under the lee of Galita, and there, if possible, remain on their oars until there was daylight sufficient to land, and seek assistance for the ship, in the event of the island being inhabited.

All being of the same opinion, the boat's head was turned towards Galita. and they took a last look of the *Avenger*, which appeared to be firmly fixed, and likely to hold together for some time..

The weather grew worse and worse; the boat, under a close-reefed mizzen on the bumpkin <sup>611</sup> stepped as a foremast, was steered with an oar by the second master. When they had arrived within about two miles of the island, the wind shifted to a very severe squall, accompanied with lightning, thunder, and a heavy hail-storm, Mr. Larcom, the gunner, now took the place of the second master in steering the boat, which was scarcely got round, before the wind caught her with such violence, that it seemed impossible the boat could live.

The squall continued without intermission for two hours and a half, when the moon again emerged from the clouds, and the Island of Galita was discovered on the port quarter. Some in the boat exclaimed "*That is the island*" which, at the time, they supposed to be long out of sight, as the boat appeared to be going rapidly through the water; this naturally led to a conjecture that a strong current set to the northward and eastward. The wind still continued to veer about, and at one time they thought that they must have passed the ship, but the night was too dark to enable them to discern anything clearly many yards beyond the boat.

In this manner they passed the long hours of night, exposed to cold, hunger, and exhaustion ; and, as Lieutenant Rooke afterwards observed, with the full expectation that they would be unable to survive until morning. The second master appeared to have lost all reason. Upon being questioned as to whereabouts they were, or in what direction it was necessary to steer, he seemed to be scarcely aware that he was addressed. The doctor, the master's assistant, and the boy Morley, were lying at the bottom of the boat during the

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<sup>611</sup> Biddlecombe, G |(1925)*The art of Rigging* Dover Books edition 1991 p5 ISBN 13: 0 486 26343 4

A short boom, or beam of timber, projecting from each bow of a ship, to extend the clue, or lower edges of the foresail to windward.

whole night, and the stoker, John Owen, was wrapped in his jacket, and appeared, if possible, in a worse condition than the second master. When asked to do anything, he only replied by vacant answers, and before morning became an idiot. At last the wished-for day broke, and the coast of Africa was discerned about eight or nine miles distant. As Lieutenant Rooke considered that the boat could not be kept above water much longer he determined upon attempting a landing, and accordingly he himself steered her towards a small spot of sand apparently clear of the rocks, and slightly sheltered by a reef running out into the sea

This officer, from the time the boat quitted the *Avenger*, had, notwithstanding his own personal sufferings, set a noble example to his comrades, by exerting every effort to sustain their drooping spirits. As he approached the shore, he exclaimed in a cheerful voice, ' *This is something like Don Juans shipwreck; I only hope, we shall find a Haidee.*' It must not be supposed that this was said out of bravado, or because he was not perfectly aware of the danger, but from the necessity of his duty, as their commanding officer, to infuse a new spirit into his exhausted crew, and to encourage them in the approaching struggle, which he well knew would be 'life or death'. On hearing the above words, poor Steel, the doctor, exclaimed, ' *Rooke ! Rooke !!*' *there are other things to think of now.*' The words were prophetic, for before many minutes had elapsed, he had ceased to exist. As they approached the shore, the sail was shifted from the port side to the starboard, and the sheet which had been held by Hills, the captain's steward, for ten hours, was fastened to the thwarts.

Mr. Rooke now again resigned his place as steerer to Larcom, the gunner, and assisted the others in baling out the boat, which had shipped a heavy sea on the- quarter. The boat was steered within about one hundred and fifty yards of the beach, when the rollers caught her, first lifting her upright, and, as there was not water enough to float her whole length, she tilted and capsized. Larcom, Lieutenant Rooke. Hills, the captain's steward, and the boy Morley, succeeded in gaining the beach, but the rest of their unfortunate comrades perished.

We should here mention that this was the second occasion on which the boy Morley narrowly escaped a watery grave.

When the *Avenger* was at Lisbon, the boy fell over-board, and would have perished, had it not been for Lieutenant Marryat, who, at the risk of his own life, sprung into the sea, and rescued the boy

In a few minutes a Bedouin Arab, who had been watching the boat from some high ground, came toward them and conducted them to his hut, where he supplied them with some milk: and having lighted a fire, they were enabled to dry their clothes.

They remained with their hospitable entertainer during that day, and in the evening made a supper of maize-cake and sour milk. In the meantime, Mr. Rooke had made the Arab understand their situation, and their wish to get to Tunis; and after some trouble and promise of reward, he agreed to conduct them next morning to Biserta. The wearied men then threw themselves on the ground, where they passed the night in company with dogs, cows, and goats, exposed to a violent wind and pouring rain.

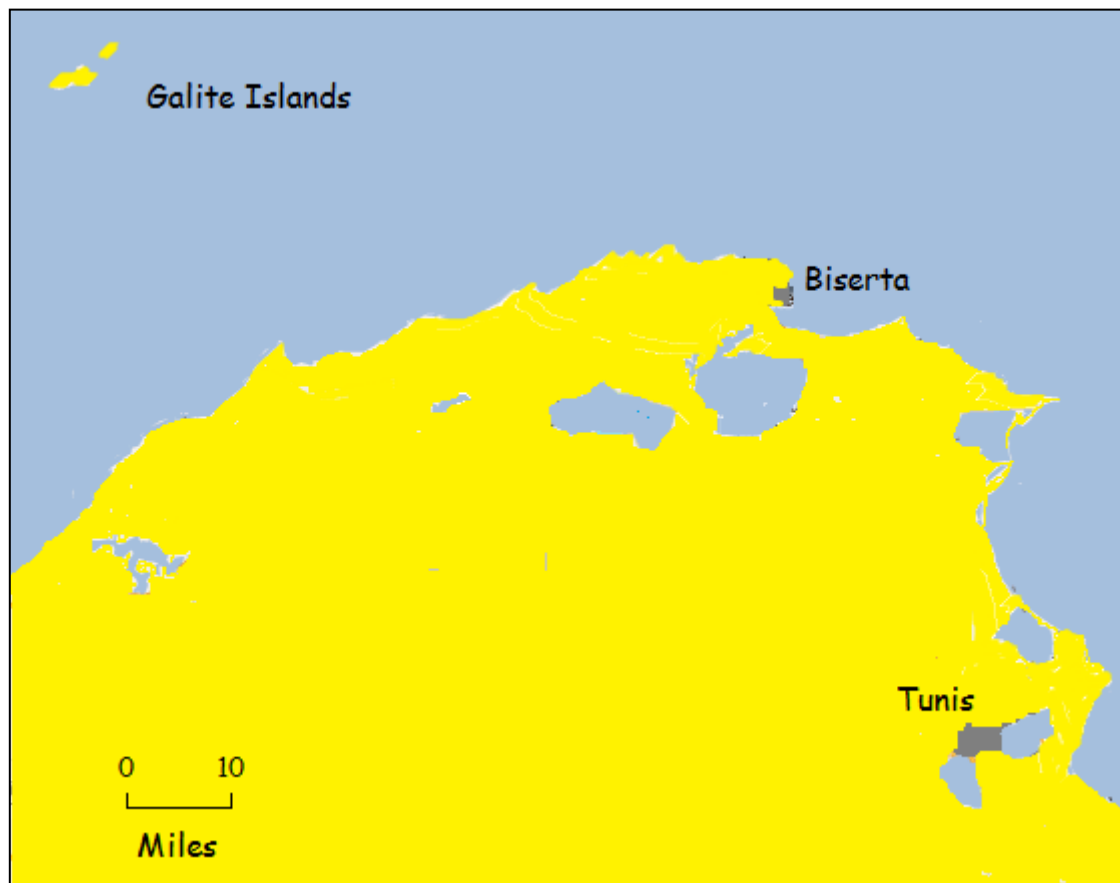


Fig. 45 Relationship of Galite Islands to Biserta and Tunis <sup>612</sup> \*

Their subsequent proceedings are thus related by Lieutenant. Rooke :—

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<sup>612</sup> Note that in the text Galite island is referred to as *Galita*. Both Biserta and Tunis are referred to in the account

*'Wednesday, December 22nd.— At about 9 A.M. we started. Our road lay at first over a ridge of high hills, from which we saw nothing of the ship. We then crossed a sandy plain covered with the cactus, which severely wounded my feet. Afterwards passed through some wooded ravines, and over an extensive marsh intersected with brooks. Towards the evening a horseman overtook us, who seeing the tired condition of the steward, his feet bleeding, and also suffering from a gash on his head, received whilst landing, carried him for about four miles, and when his road lay in a different direction, gave our guide his gun, and a piece of silver for us.'*

*'The night being now dark, and all of us exhausted, we stopped at a Bedouin encampment. and asked for shelter, which after some time was granted. We had been walking about, ten hours, and got over more than thirty miles of broken ground, having stopped once for a few minutes to pick the berries off some arbutus trees, being our only food since breakfast till late that night. We were wet, coverless, and all except myself shoeless'.*

*'They gave us some maize-cake and milk. Seeing horses, I made them understand that, they would be well paid if they let us have them to take us on to Biserta that night, when they made signs that the gates were locked, but that we should have them in the morning'.*

*'Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> At daylight we set out, but none of us could walk from swollen feet. After a ride of about fifteen miles, sometimes fording streams. and at others nearly up to our horse's knees in mud, we arrived about ten A.M., at Biserta, and went to the house of our consular agent, an Italian, whom I immediately asked to prepare a boat for Tunis.'*

*'The boats here were all too small to send to the wreck, and for which the wind was foul, with a fresh breeze. About 1 P.M. I started for Tunis, and arrived about 11 P.M. at the Golleta when I landed, and sent to our Vice Consul, who after some difficulty, owing to the port regulations, came to see me,, and tried to pass me through the gate, but did not succeed. He promised to get two vessels ready, as unfortunately then were no steamers here at the time of our arrival. In one I meant to have sent Mr. Larcom to Galita, and the other I intended to take to the wreck.'*

*'Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> —At daylight, when the gates opened, I entered a carriage, and drove up to our consul-general who ordered his agent to forward my views in every way sending his son to hurry matters, whilst, he communicated with the Bey, who ordered his squadron to sea.'*

*' Whilst my boat was preparing (a Maltese speronara, with a crew of twelve men. selected for their knowledge of the coast) I wrote two letters, one to Malta, and the other to Lisbon, stating the loss of the ship Not having slept for four nights, and being thoroughly tired, would account for the vague statement I sent. I then breakfasted, and started about 2 P.M., having put aboard such provisions as my hurried departure admitted of - tea, coffee, biscuits and sprits in case I should be fortunate enough to save anybody '*

*' Saturday December 25<sup>th</sup>, on my passage, and at daylight on Sunday I was close to the spot where the Avenger was wrecked, although there was no broken or discoloured water to mark it. I cruised about till satisfied she had either broken up or sunk. Whilst here I saw two steamers (Lavoisier and Pasha) come up and cruise about Galita together: a merchant ship, and a gun-boat of the Bey's, with which I communicated, asking them to take me to Galita, which I wished to examine personally, as also to speak the steamers, my own crew, with whom I had great trouble, refusing to do so. They declined, when I asked them to take half my crew out, and lend me two men, to which request I also received a negative; so I returned to Tunis, arriving at about 1 A.M. on the morning of Tuesday. December 28<sup>th</sup>. Sir Thomas Reade took all to his house, and made it a home for us. I went on board the French steamer Lavoisier, to thank the captain for his assistance, and also waited on the governor for the same purpose.'*

During the summer of the present year, the French government directed Captain Bouchet Riviere to make a survey of the Sorelle. In conclusion, therefore, we will give the following extract from that officer's letter, as it throws some light upon the circumstances which led to the loss of the *Avenger*:—

*' The English frigate, Avenger, was lost on the two Sorelle; I saw between the two heads of rocks, which are aptly named 'Sisters,' her entire engine, two anchors, a shell gun, and some loose parts of the wreck. I recovered and took on board some pieces of iron from the bed of the engine, and a boarding cutlass. The engine lies in a medium depth of ten metres (thirty-three feet)'*

*' From information which has been given me by boats which saw the Avenger at sea the day of her loss, and adding the observations which I was enabled to make the event happened in the following manner: —*

*' The Avenger had, during the day, run along the coast of Algeria, but on the approach of night, being then north of Calle, and the weather having suddenly become very bad, with a great deal of wind from the north-west, the captain of the Avenger altered her course immediately to the northward, in order not to be caught in the middle of a dangerous channel. As soon as he thought that the ship had passed the parallel of the Sorelle, he resumed his course to the eastward, satisfied that he would pass several miles to the northward of them. He had not calculated on the currents which I have found at this dangerous spot, and which, with a north-west wind, set to the south-eastward with a rapidity of about 3 miles an hour. The track of the Avenger must have been materially altered by this cause. When she steered east, she was only in the latitude of the Sorelle, and was shortly afterwards, on a very dark night, shattered against these rocks. The first shock must have been dreadful. It took place on the point south-east of the north-west rock; when she cleared this rock, which is at this spot thirteen feet below the surface, leaving a large white furrow she ran a hundred and sixty feet further ; and struck on the south-east rock, which is only about four feet (one metre twenty centimetres) below the surface. She again marked the rock very distinctly. The sea which is often very rough on this spot has left nothing remaining but the massive part of the engine, where it can be perceived between the two rocks, covered with thick weed.*

*' The dangerous Sorcille , ore formed by two tables of rocks, distant about a hundred and sixty feet from each other, and separated by a channel of a medium depth of thirty-nine to forty-nine feet (twelve to fifteen metres). These two tables of rocks extend from the north-west to the south-east, The north-west one has a diameter of 66 English feet (twenty metres), its highest point is to the eastward, 16 feet under water (five metres). The south-eastern has a diameter of 197 feet, (sixty metres), and its highest point is only at a depth of 4 feet. This last point is situated, according to my observations, which agree with the position laid down in the chart of Admiral Berard. in 37° 24' of north latitude, and 6° 16' 45" of east longitude from Paris, (or 8° 36' 45" east of Greenwich); 17.4 miles S. 65° 15' W. of the east point of the Island of Galita, and 27' 3 mile -s N 0° 30' E. of Cape Roux.'*

The fate of the *Avenger* lends to many sad reflections. The last of the wrecks described in this volume. one of yesterday, as it were, was more disastrous than many others. It is painful to contemplate the scene of dismay, when the ship struck, so unlike the presence of mind and calm deportment which we have recorded on similar occasions. But every allowance is to be made for the panic which followed a Catastrophe so sudden and so overwhelming. The night was dark

and tempestuous, the sea was running high, and all the elements were in a state of uproar. The paralyzing effect of this accumulation of horrors appears in the fact, that even after the small party of eight had so far secured their preservation as to be in possession of the cutter, and were within sight of the Island of Galita two of them were found to be bereft of their reason.

The first crash, and the rapid plunge of the ship into the gulf that opened for her and the loss of their captain among the first that perished, left the crew without that guidance and control to which seamen are in the habit of looking for support.

But though we have regret the consternation that prevailed, there was no gross neglect or misconduct to throw a darker shade over the last hours of the *Avenger*. Captain Xapier had been in consultation in his cabin with the master and second-master, examining the charts, and had also been on deck, giving direction to the officer of the watch but a short time- before the first alarm. When panic was at its height, there was no act of dastardly selfishness for personal preservation, to the disregard of the safety others. The officers are not accused of losing their composure. Lieut, Marryat is stated to have been '*calm and self-possessed*' and Lieut Rooke's strenuous efforts to lower the cutter, and his manly resolution to remain by the ship, as long as there was any chance of saving the; lives of some of the survivors, attest his devotion to his duty to the very last.

The French officer, Captain Bonchier Riviere, who made if a survey of the *Sorelle* after the wreck, and who deliberately considered all the circumstances, imputes no blame to the officers of the *Avenger*, but generously accounts for the misfortune by referring to the dangers of the spot, the force of the currents, the wildness of the weather, and the darkness of the night. '*The first shock,*' says he, '*must have been dreadful.*'

..... Truth has required that the words '*dismay and panic*' should be used in the foregoing relation; but the terrible suddenness of the event, the instantaneous shock which broke, up the *Avenger* in a moment, without the preparatory warning of '*breakers ahead.*' or the previous notice of rocks or shoals in sight, will more than account for the helplessness to which the crew were reduced. They had not time to brace up their shattered nerves. The noble bearing of the two lieutenants, Rooke and Marryat cool as they were, and in full command of their energies in the midst of crashing timbers and

perishing men, places the character of the British seaman in its true light, and winds up our narrative with two more examples of naval heroism.

[end of transcript]

Naturally there was a Courts Martial to investigate the loss of the ship; this assembled on 31st of January, 1848, on board HMS *Trafalger* in Portsmouth, to try "*Lieutenant Rooke and the survivors of HMS Avenger, for the loss of that ship on the Sorella rocks, off Galita, on the night of the 20th December, 1847*". At the end of the two day hearing the Judge-Advocate gave the verdict: *The court, after having the narrative of Lieutenant Rooke read, and the evidence adduced, are of opinion that the Avenger was wrecked on a reef of rocks, about ten o'clock on the evening of the 20th of December last, but there is not sufficient cause shown in the evidence to account for the accident. No blame is attached to Lieutenant Rooke, or the other prisoners, and they are fully acquitted. The court consider the conduct of Lieutenant Rooke to have been proper, in lowering the cutter, as he was acting in obedience to orders given. The court consider the conduct of Lieutenant Rooke, in laying off the ship to save the lives of any who might seek safety, and his persevering efforts for the same object in returning to the vessel from Tunis, to have been most praiseworthy and humane. The court cannot separate without expressing their warm approbation of the conduct of Mr. Larcom through out the trying scene. The court warmly eulogise the humanity of the Arabs, who assisted the sufferers on their reaching land. The court have very considerable doubts if the Avenger had the Admiralty charts of the Mediterranean on board. The court fully and entirely acquit the prisoners.*

The President, then addressed Lieutenant Francis Rooke: - "*Lieutenant Rooke.- It is needless for me to make any comment, after the expression of the opinion of the court you have just heard and read, and I have the greatest pleasure in returning you your sword.*" <sup>613</sup>

If visiting from the main text click [here](#) to return or [here](#) to return to the Contents list

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<sup>613</sup> <http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/A/00413.html>



### Appendix 3

#### *10<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Division Reports* <sup>614</sup>

#### *HEADQUARTERS TENTH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION 10-1/HES/obb*

*15 November 1943 to 11 December 1943 - this unit as a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was alerted for overseas movement. The period between this date and date of departure from Camp Bowie, Texas, 11 December 1943 was spent in training to meet the required PCM (typist note: may be POM) qualifications.*

*11 December 1943 - this unit moved by rail to the staging area, Camp Myles Standish, Mass., arriving 14 December 1943.*

*15 December 1943 to 29 December 1943 - this unit was staged for overseas duty, drawing all shortages in personnel and equipment.*

*29 December 1943 - this unit departed from Staging Area arriving at Boston Port of Embarkation the same date. This unit departed from the port of Embarkation*

*29 December 1943 on the U.S. Army Transport "Thomas H. Barry" <sup>615</sup>, and arrived in E.T.O. on 9 January 1944.*

*10 January 1944 - this unit disembarked at Avonsmouth [sic], England, and moved by rail and trucks to present station, Lackham House, Chippenham, Wiltshire County.*

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<sup>614</sup> <http://www.fourtharmored.com/diary/introduction.htm>

<sup>615</sup> <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/22045.htm>

#### *AP-45 / USAT Thomas H Barry*

*A passenger and cargo ship launched, 15 May 1930 as *Oriente* at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Newport News, VA., for New York and Cuba Mail and Steamship Company's, Ward Line; Acquired by the War Department in June 1941 for use as an Army transport; Designated (AP-45) by the US Navy but never taken over by the Navy remaining under Army control throughout World War II.*

*Specifications: Displacement 11,250'; Length 508'; Beam 70' 9"; Draft 27' 3"; Speed 18kts; Troop Capacity, 3,609; Armament two single 5"/38 gun mounts, four single 3"/50 gun mounts, eight .50 cal. machine guns; Propulsion, two steam turbines, twin shafts.*

*For the Battalion Commander  
Signed*

*Howard E. Seaver ,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., 10<sup>th</sup> Armd Inf Bn,  
Adjutant*

If visiting from the main body of the text click [here](#) to return or [here](#) to return to the Contents list

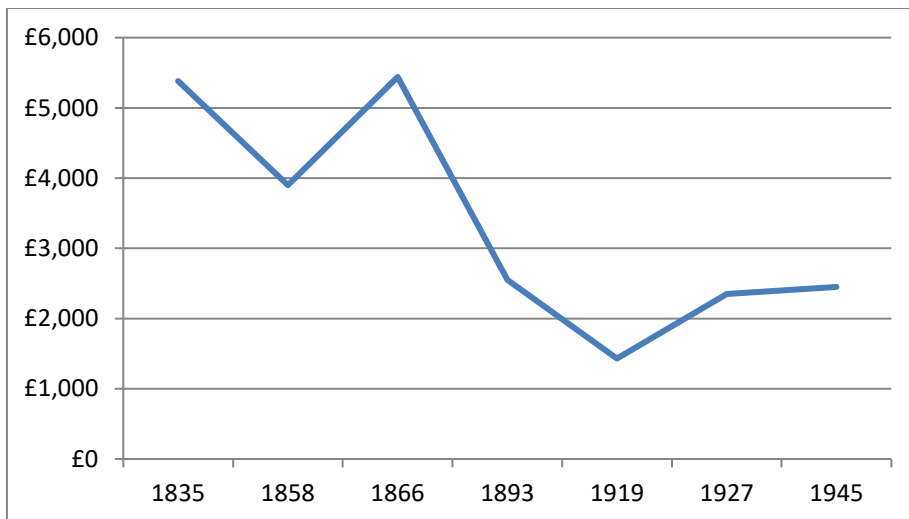
Appendix 4

Comparative land values 1835 -1945

The text gives the amount paid by each of the owners and from this and the extent of the estate it is possible to work out the amount paid per acre. The value of money, however, changes over time and so converting all the values <sup>616</sup> to the equivalent purchasing power for a set year allows direct comparisons to be made. The year chosen here is 2009,

Name	Bought	Acreage bought	Amount Paid	2009 equivalent (£m)	Price per acre	2009 equivalent
Capt Rooke	1835	590	£30,000	£2.57	£50.85	£5,380
Stapleton-Bretherton	1858	590	£40,000	£3.06	£67.80	£3,900
Henry Caldwell	1866	585	£46,000	£3.13	£78.63	£5,440
Brig Gen George Palmer	1893	585	£17,652	£1.48	£30.17	£2,550
Lord Glanely	1919	1469	£62,000	£3.79	£42.21	£1,430
Maj Herbert P Holt	1927	1469	£78,000	£3.45	£53.10	£2,350
Wilts. County Council	1945	600	£42,500	£1.36	£70.83	£2,450

Price per acre (normalised to 2009 values)



To return to the Contents page click [\\*](#)

<sup>616</sup> Values computed from Officer, LH (2010) *Measuring worth* using the comparison tool at <http://www.measuringworth.com/ppoweruk/index.php>

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## Index

- , J, 153  
 :Naish, 154  
 10<sup>th</sup> Armored  
     arrived Lackham Jan 10 1944, 184  
     HQ Lackham, 144  
     *Reports*, 5, 184  
 12<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Rifle Corps, 64  
 1841 Census Lackham House, 35  
 2nd gardener 1946, 153  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (East Kent) Foot (The Buffs), 39  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoon Guards, 138  
 3rd United States Army, 144  
 41<sup>st</sup> Foot, 39  
 47<sup>th</sup> (The Lancashire) Regiment of  
     Foot., 38  
 4th Armored Division, 144  
 77<sup>th</sup> Foot, 40  
 8th Lord Beaumont, 85  
 Abraham, Jane, 45  
 Account of capture of La Dedaigneuse,  
     163  
 Adam, Robert, 22  
 Adams, Steven, 103  
 Admiralty midshipman, 24  
 Agricultural hardship 1930's, 141  
 Agricultural training starts June/July  
     1946, 155  
 Alderton sold, 16  
 Alford, Joan, 146  
 Alkin, Susannah, 9  
 American ship  
     *Oriente*, 184  
 Ancona, Cyprus, 19, 21  
 Angel Hotel Chippenham, 120  
 Anning Bros, shipping co, 128  
 Anson, Capt Talavera Vernon, 41  
 Antwerp, 167, 168  
 AP-45 / USAT Thomas H Barry, 184  
 Appledore, 128  
 Appledore church  
     memorial window, 131  
 Appledore Church  
     bells, 130  
 Appledore, Devon, 128  
 Archard, John, 32  
 Arms  
     Caldwell, 109  
 Armstrong, Rev H  
     member Fox-Talbot memorial  
     committee, 119  
 Arnold's Wood, 33  
 Arnwick, Lancs, 29  
 Ashton, John, 82  
 Astle, Thomas, 19  
 Atkinson, Jane  
     marries Bartholomew Bretheton, 82  
 Aubrey, John, 22  
 Austen, James  
     hallboy Lackham 1901, 111  
 Austin, Capt Thomas Horatio, 44  
 Austin, James, pot boy Lackham 1901,  
     119  
 HMS, 183  
 HMS, 44  
 Avening, Glos, 40  
 Avonmouth, 184  
 Awdry, Bella, 76  
 Awdry, Charles  
     member Fox-Talbot memorial  
     committee, 119  
 Awdry, Henry Goddard Churchwarden  
     Lacock, 71  
 Awdry, John  
     dies 1844, 50  
 Awdry, John Withers, 52  
     inherits lease at Notton, 50  
     land at Notton 1861, 51  
 Awdry, Miss  
     member Fox-Talbot memorial  
     committee, 119  
 Ayling, Mr, 174, 175  
 Back Drive, 108, 109

- Badminton House, 62  
 Badminton, Percy William, 139  
 Bailbrook Villa, 14  
 Bailbrook, Bath, 14  
*Baker, J*, 153  
 Ballynahinck co Tipperary, 91  
 Baltic, 24  
 Balyna, co Kildare, 89  
*Bannerman*, 153  
 Bannerman, J  
     Head Gardener to GLIP, 124  
     Head Gardener Lackham, 153  
 Barbados, 166  
 Barnett, Samuel carpenter wheelwright,  
     36  
 Baron Clifford, 88  
*Bartholomew, P*, 153  
 Barton, Edward, Churchwarden Lacock,  
     71  
*Bartrum*, 15  
*Bary, Thomas H*  
     US Army Troopship, 184  
 Bates, Joshua, 99  
 Bates, Mary Ann, 99  
 Bath, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 22, 25, 31,  
     46, 89, 124  
 Bath & West of England Society, 58  
 Batheaston, 14  
 Battle of Copenhagen, 165  
 battle of Trafalgar, 161  
 Baynards, 1, 6  
 Beanacre, 72  
 Beaufort Hunt, 108, 133  
     Ball, 105  
 Bedouin Arab, 178  
 Beel, Miss  
     attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 Belcher, Issac, 78  
 Bendigo, 98  
 Berard, Adm, 181  
 Bernadotte, Marshall, 168  
 Berry, Lydia, 35  
 Berryfield, 102  
 Berryfield House, 99, 127  
 Betts, Mr  
     lowers port cutter, 174  
 Betts, Mr, 2nd master HMS Avenger,  
     174, 175  
 Betts, Mr, 2nd master HMS Avenger, 175  
 Bewley Common, 119  
 Bewley Court, 33  
 Bewley Farm, 119  
 Bewley House, 119  
 Bexley, 127  
*bicycle*, 112  
 bicycles, 112  
 Biddestone, 29  
 Big Ben, 98  
 Bilinge, Lans, 91  
*Bird, Bert*, 149  
 Biserta, 178, 179  
 Bishop of Bristol  
     member Fox-Talbot memorial  
     committee, 119  
 Bishop, JD, Mayor of Calne, 75  
 Bishopbourne, Kent, 9  
 Bishopsbourne Kent, 16  
 Bishopsbourne, Kent, 9  
 Blackley, Lancs, 104  
 Bladud Bank, 13  
*Bladud Buildings*, 14  
 Blenseve, Joseph, 35  
 Blomfield, Rev A, 62, 73  
 Bloomfield, Rev Arthur, 72  
 Blore, Edward, 85  
 Bluets, 1, 6  
 Boer War, 123  
 Bombay, now Mumbai, 14  
 Bonaparte, Loius, 168  
 Boodie, C, 66  
*Boston*, 184  
 Boughton Gifford, 14  
 Boulogne, 166  
*Bowden Park Farm*, 152, 155  
 Bowsher, Thomas, 32  
 Box, 16  
*Boyd Farm*, 78  
 Boyles, Capt, 167  
 Bradford on Avon, 99, 127  
 Brak, Charles G, 78

- Brakespeare, Harold  
 architect of Fox Talbot memorial, 120  
 report on Bewly House, 119
- Bremen*, 135
- Bremer, Comm. Sir James John Gordon, 41
- Bretherton, Bartholomew  
 builds Catholic church, 83  
 coach line operator, 82  
 enters coaching trade 1800, 82  
 flour dealer 1799, 82  
 marries Jane Atkinson, 82
- Bretherton, FA, 86
- Bretherton, Francis, 82
- Bretherton, Jane, 82
- Bretherton, Joseph, 82
- Bridges, W, 78
- Bridport, 166
- Briggs, Mr & Mrs, 114
- Brighthelmftone*, 56
- Brighton, Sussex, 12
- Bristol, 8, 89
- British Newspaper Archive, 1
- Britten, Ms, 10
- Brompton, 57
- Brooke Collection, 119
- Brooks, H*  
*Naish Hill Farm*, 153
- Brooks. H*, 153
- Brown of Hazelbury, 60
- Brown, Kate  
 Ladysmaid Lackham 1901, 111
- Brown, WJ, 78
- Brunt*, 153
- Brunt, Eileen, 146, 149
- Brunt, Joan, 146
- Brunt, Percy*, 149, 153
- Bryanston Square, 58
- Buckland, Bucks, 111
- Buckworth, Esther  
 marries Caldwell, 58  
 marries HB Caldwell, 58
- Buckworth, Esther, 58
- Bull, Charles, Coachman 1861, 69
- Burges, William, 85
- Burgess & Kay mower, 59
- Burgess & Key reaping machine, 60
- Burnett, Ann, 35
- Burton, James  
 servant to William Wallace Rooke, 50
- Burton, Sarah, 160
- Palmer, Michael  
 Leigh House, 99
- Cadiz, 169, 170
- Cadiz, siege of, 24
- Cairns, Elizabeth, 140
- Caldwell arms, 109
- Caldwell HB  
 chairman Chippenham Ag. Soc 1859, 61
- Caldwell, AM*  
*chairs farmer's meeting*, 75  
 letter re river rights, 80
- Caldwell, Caroline  
 dies 1863, 74
- Caldwell, Esther  
 at Chippenham Ball 1860, 61  
 Census 1861, 69  
 married, 58
- Caldwell, George  
 cricket career, 57  
 dies 1836, 57  
 living at Brompton?, 57  
 marries Marianne Pynne 1843, 58  
 witnesses brother's marriage, 58
- Caldwell, HB  
 advertises Lackham for sale 1864, 75  
 advocates  
 better labourer housing 1860, 66  
 better land drainage 1860, 66  
 appointed Wiltshire JP 1860, 62  
 attends Chippenham Ag Soc Ploughing Match 1860, 65  
 attends Chippenham Ball 1860, 61  
 builds Back Lodge, 109  
 Chairmand Chippenham Cattle Plague Society, 78  
 chairman Chippenham Ag. Soc 1864, 77

- chairs meeting to celebrate formation of Melksham Rifle Corps, 64
- elected to Bath & West Committee, 58
- judge
  - Melksham Ag Soc ploughing match, 59
  - Norfolk Ag Soc Show, 61
- judge at Melksham Ploughing Match 1862, 72
- judges agrivultural show at Gainsborough, 76
- judges farming implements in Newcastle, 74
- leaves Lackham before sale, 79
- marries Esther Buckworth, 58
- marries *Esther Buckworth*, 58
- provides employee housing in Norfolk, 66
- steward at RAS meeting at Canterbury, 63
- Caldwell, Henry
  - Census 1861, 69
- Caldwell, Henry Berney
  - born HAwhurst 1805, 56
  - born in Kent, 56
  - buys back Reybridge land, 69
  - buys Lackham 1858, 47
  - buys land form WW Rooke 1859, 54
  - cricket career, 57
  - developes Lackham House, 79
  - dies 1873, 79
  - enters Oxford 1824, 56
  - First Class cricket career, 57
  - living at Hillbourne Hall, 54
  - recalls lease at Notton 1848, 50
  - repairs Lackham Aisle, 79
  - sells Hillborough Hall, 54
- Caldwell, Louisa
  - born 1774/8, 56
  - Census 1861, 69
  - dies 1864, 77
- Caldwell, Louisa Esther
  - Census 1861, 69
  - dies 1908, 72
- marries William Powell 1862, 72
- Caldwell, Mary
  - painted as Muse Terpischore, 56
- Caldwell, Mary Anna
  - Census 1861, 69
- Caldwell, Miss
  - Wiltshire champion female archer 1864, 76
- Caldwell, Ralph, 57
  - BA Oxford Uni, 56
  - buys Hillborough Hall, 54
  - in West Norfolk Militia, 56
  - landscapes Hillborough Hall, 54
  - marries 1 Mary Scutt, 56
  - marries 2 Louisa Isham 1804, 56
  - son of Henry Berney Caldwell, 75
  - Wiltshire champion male archer 1864, 76
- Caldwell, Sophia Louisa
  - marries Alfred Wallace Rooke, 72
- Caldwell, Sophie Louisa
  - Census 1861, 69
- Caldwell, Frederick Edmund, 75
- Caldwell, Ralph father of Henry Berney
  - Caldwell, 56
- Calne, 22, 23, 114, 125
- Cambridge, 19, 57, 123
- Camp Bowie, Texas*, 184
- Camp Myles Standish, Mass*, 184
- Camp Wood, 151
- Canal Mania, 1
- Canterbury, Kent, 9
- Canton, 42
- Cardiff, 128, 130, 132, 133, 136
- Carelton, Mary
  - married William Tufnell II, 8
- Carelton, Thomas, 8
- Carew, 98
- Carroll, Capt, 170
- Castle House, 22, 23
- Cattle Plague, 77, 78, 79
  - Commission, 77
- Caunt, Benjamin, 98
- Cayenne*, 161
- Celebration at Lackham
  - Calard, Mr M, 123

- Clarke, Mr M, 123  
 Fair, Mr TH, 123  
 Goldsmith Mrs, 123  
 Griffiths, Mr Copland,, 123  
 Harris Mr & Mrs, 123  
 Johnson, Mr John, 123  
 Mackay, Mr Eric, 123  
 Martin, Jack Mr & Mrs, 123  
 Palmer AL, 123  
 Palmer Miss, 123  
 Palmer Mrs & Mrs G LI, 123  
 Pinkney, Mr Hugh, 123  
 Shorland, Mr T, 123  
 Smith, Miss, 123  
 Smith, Mr & Mrs HH, 123  
 Stancomb, Mr & MRs W, 123  
 Willis, Mr Herbert, 123  
*Chamberlain, G*  
     *Second gardener 1946, 153*  
     *Third gardener 1946, 153*  
 Chandler, Frederick, 96  
*Channel fleet, 24*  
 Channel Fleet, 166  
 Chapel Hill Lacock  
     1 cottage at, 151  
 Chapel, Mary Anne, 112  
 Chatham, 165, 168  
 Chatham, earl of, 167, 168  
 Chatteris, 57  
*Chief Lord of the Woods and Forests,*  
     98  
 Chinese spices, 41  
*Chippenham, 1, 6, 104*  
 Chippenham Agricultural Society, 59, 61,  
     65  
 Chippenham Free Reading Rooms, 89  
*Chippenham Union Mutual Cattle Assurance*  
     *Society, 78*  
*Chivers*  
     *Pig and Poultry man 1946, 153*  
*Chivers, Jack, 153, 154*  
 Churchill, 136  
 Churruca , Brigadier Don Cosme Damian,  
     169  
 Civil War, 1  
 Clapcote Farm, 65  
 Clark, Mrs B, 142  
 Clark-Maxwell, Rev  
     member Fox-Talbot memorial  
     committee, 119  
 Clifford, Charles Hugh, 88  
 Clifton, 89  
 Clintz, 89  
*Clutterbuck, Daniel, 101*  
 Clutterbuck, Ellen  
     marries AB Rooke, 40  
 Clutterbuck, Thomas, 40  
 Clutton, Henry  
     Battle Abbey, 85  
     Cliveden, 85  
     Haverop Castle, 85  
     Minley Manor, 85  
     The Sandy Lodge, 85  
     Wrotham Park, 85  
 Clutton. Henry, architect, 85  
 Clyffe Hall, 112  
 Clyrow, 111  
 Co. Kildare, 137  
*Cockley Clay Hall, 58*  
*Coker, Margaretta, 161*  
*Coker, William, 161*  
*Cole, HG*  
     *Estate carpenter 1946, 153*  
*Cole, HG Estate carpenter 1946, 153*  
 Coleman, Walter, 78  
 College, Lackham, 158  
 Collins, Mabel  
     Household Domestic Lackham 1901,  
     111  
 Collins, MARY, 45  
 Collyer, Anne, 58  
 Commission on Agricultural employment,  
     75  
 Conservators for the Avon, Brue and  
     Parrett Fishery District, 86  
 Cook, Louisa, 128  
 Cook, Margaret, 19  
 Cook, William, 128  
*Cooper, George*  
     *gardener 1943, 154*



- Corsham, 39, 47, 139  
 Cotton, Adm Sir Charles, 161  
 Cotton, Maria Susanna, 160  
 Countess Badeni, 105  
 Country Life, 125  
 County Ball Chippenham 1897, 106  
 Cowbridge Farm, 78  
 Cowley, earl, 78  
 Crawshay, Capt. Geoffrey  
     attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 Cricket teams  
     6 Gentlemen with 5 players, 57  
     7 Gentlemen with 4 players, 57  
     Cambridge Town, 57  
     England, 57  
     Eton College, 57  
     Gentlemen of Kent, 57  
     Lord Strathavon's XI, 57  
     Married, 57  
     MCC, 57  
     Oxford University, 57  
     Singles, 57  
     Sir St Vincent Cotton's XI, 57  
     Suffolk, 57  
     Sussex, 57  
     The B's, 57  
 Cricklade, Nugent, 88  
 Cronin, Elizabeth  
     housemaid 1871 census Lackham, 91  
 Cross, Sir Richard, 96  
 Crouch, Capt Edward, 44  
 Cucckoo Bush Farm, 33  
 Cuckoo Bush farm, 30  
 Cuckoo Bush Farm, 151  
 Cummings, Maud  
     Hospital Nurse Lackham 1901, 111  
 Cunliff, Anne  
     cook 1871 census Lackham, 91  
 Cunliff, Margaret  
     housemaid 1871 census Lackham, 91  
 D Day, 149  
 Dacres, Capt Sidney Colpoys, 44  
 Daisybank Farm, 98  
 Dale Street, Liverpool, 83  
 Danehill, 134  
 Dauntsey House, Wilts, 16  
 Davies, Hanah, 99  
 de Errington, Arthur William, 91  
 de Errington, Elias, 91  
 de Errington, Hucretus, 91  
 de Errington, Orm, 91  
 de Ricci, Helena  
     marries George Errington, 90  
     widow of John Shuldham, 90  
 de Ricci, Robert, 90  
 Dean Hall, 38, 39, 48  
 Deane, Isaac, 32  
 Destruction of Opium 1839, 42  
 Deverell, John, 17, 69  
 Devizes. Wiltshire, 17  
 Dibdi, Thomas Frognall, 58  
 Dibdin, Rev Dr, 58  
 Dickinson, Bernard, 119  
 Dickson, Capt GS, 171  
 Dilke, Sir Charles W, 91, 92, 93  
 Disraeli Rd, Putney, 123  
 Ditton, 85  
 Ditton Hall, 82, 83, 85  
 Ditton Hall, 85  
 Doel, Jane, 127  
 Doveridge Handicap, 133  
 Dowdall, Catherine, 89  
 Dowdall, Walter, 89  
 Dowell, Thomas, 16  
 Dr Bayliffes School, 10  
 Drinkwater, Julia, 35  
     servant's daughter 1841, 35  
 Drinkwater, Sarah, 35  
     servant 1841, 35  
 Drinkwater, Thomas, 35  
     servant 1841, 35  
 Duke of  
     Beaufort, 13, 62, 74  
     Wellington, 54  
 Duke of Wellington, 64  
 Dutch ship  
     Furie, 160, 161  
     Waakzaamheid, 160  
     Waakzaamheid, 161  
 earl of

- Clarendon, 74  
 Suffolk, 74  
 East Putney Tube Station, 123  
 Eastbourne, 105, 108  
 Edge, Mary, 21  
 Edinborough, 124  
 Edinburgh, 25, 26, 29, 192  
 Edith Scott, Miss, 141  
 Edmonton, 19, 21  
 Eillen Alford, 149  
 Eisenhower, Gen DD, 145  
 Electoral register, 106  
 Elliot, George, 8  
 Elliot, Henry George, 123  
 Ellis, John, gardener to FJ Rooke, 50  
 Enniskillen Dragoons, 22  
 Errington, Archbishop George  
     death of, 89  
 Errington, Arthur William de, 91  
 Errington, Elias de, 91  
 Errington, George, 103, 125  
     advertises Lackham House for let, 96  
     educated Ushaw College, 90  
     go between UK government and  
     Vatican, 91  
     High Sheriff  
         co Longford, 90  
         co Wexford, 90  
     JP  
         for co Longford, 90  
         for co Tipperary, 90  
         for co Wexford, 90  
     lifetime tenant Lackham?, 89  
     marries Helena de Rcici, 90  
     MP Co Longford, 90, 91  
     not attending opening of Chippenham  
     Reading Rooms, 89  
     sells Lackham 1893, 97  
     stands as MP in SW Lancs 1867, 96  
 Errington, George has lifetime rights to  
     Lackham, 91  
 Errington, Goege  
     visits Dilke in Paris 1880, 92  
 Errington, Huctretus de, 91  
 Errington, James, dies at Lackham, 96  
 Errington, Michael, 89  
 Errington, Orm de, 91  
 Errington, Thomas, 89  
*Estate carpenter 1946, 153*  
*Estate Staff 1946, 153*  
 Estcourt, Southeron, 66  
 Evans, Capt, 8  
 Everard, Capt, 170  
 Exeter, 33  
 Eyre, E  
     member Fox-Talbot memorial  
     committee, 119  
 Farhill Mary  
     marries GF Tufnell, 8  
 Farleigh Hungerford, 72  
 Farm  
     Bewley Court, 33  
     Bowden Park, 152, 155  
     Boyd, 78  
     Clapcote, 65  
     Cowbridge, 78  
     Cuckoo Bush, 30, 33, 151  
     Daisybank, 98  
     Great Lodge, 17, 33  
     Gt Notton, 141  
     Halt, 151  
     Holywell, 151  
     Home, 151  
     Lackham, 143  
     Lackham Park, 151, 155  
     Little Lodge, 17, 33, 78  
     Llandigwyett, 98  
     Lower Sheldon, 78  
     Mauditt's Park, 78  
     Middle Lodge, 17, 33  
     Millbourne, 151  
     Naish Hill, 153  
     Naish Hill, 126, 134, 143  
     Naish Hill, 153  
     New End, 33, 151  
     Nocketts Hill, 33  
     Notton, 30, 33, 151  
     Patterdown, 151  
     Rowden, 120, 151  
     Showell, 139, 151

- Sladesbrook, 101  
 Farm Training School, 152  
*Farm worker 1946*, 153  
 Farm, Bewley, 119  
 Farm, Forest, 103  
 Farm, Lackham, 107  
 Farmer's Discussion Club, 70  
 Faulkland, Fife, 124  
 Fell, Henry James, 118  
 Fell, William John  
     bicycle for duties, 112  
     born 1892, 118  
     in photograph c1905, 118  
     potboy Lackham, 118  
 Fellowes, Henry Abdy  
     Frederick Montagus attorney, 70  
     land use at Reybridge, 70  
 Fellowes, John Abdy  
     land at Notton 1861, 51  
 Fellowes, TA, 76  
 Fellowes, Thomas Abdy  
     acts for WW Rooke 1859, 54  
     aunts married to Caldwells, 54  
     land at Notton, 50  
     marries Elizabeth Rooke, 44  
     WW Rooke's agent, 47  
 Ferris, Loiuise (housekeeper) 1881  
     census, 104  
 Ferris, Thomas M, 78  
 Fisher, Joseph F, 45  
 Fleeming, Capt Charles Elphinstone, 165  
 Floyer, N, 33  
 Flushing, 167  
 Flushing sickness, 168  
*Flushing, siege of*, 24  
 Foley, Richard, 112  
 Folly Cottage Lacock, 151  
 Folly Ground Lacock, 151  
 Fonthill, Tisbury, 112  
 Forest Farm, 103  
 Forster Elizabeth, 8  
 Forster, Elizabeth, 8  
 Forster, John, 8  
 Foster is Forster, 8  
 Foster, Elizabeth  
     marries GF Tufnell, 8  
 Fowell, Rev John, 9, 16  
 Fowell, Uliana Margaret, 9  
 Fox Talbot, 124  
 Fox Talbot memorial, 120  
 Foxlease, 72  
 Fox-Talbot, William, 79  
     correspondence with FW Rooke, 31,  
     32  
 Fraser, Mr Miss J & Mr Joseph  
     attend Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 French ship  
     *Caefar*, 166  
     *Cannoniere*, 166  
     *Dédaigneuse*, 24  
     *L'Armide*, 167  
     *L'Infatigable*, 167  
     *La D'edaiyneuse*, 162, 163  
     *La Desdaigneufe*, 164  
     *La Gloire*, 167  
     *La Minerve*, 167  
     *Lavoisier*, 180  
 Front Drive, 52  
 Front Lodge, 50, 52  
 Fry, James, 78  
 Frye, John, 32  
 Fuller, John Bird, 78  
 Gainsborough, 76  
 Galita, 183  
 Galita Island, 175, 176, 179, 180, 181,  
     182  
*gardener*, 15, 106, 111, 124, 142, 153,  
     154  
*Gen. George S Patton.*, 144  
*General Patton*, 149  
 Palmer  
     buys Rowden Manor and land, 120  
 Gerard, Sir Robert, Bart, 84  
 Gerard, William  
     dies 1844, 84  
     marries Mary Stapleton Bretherton,  
     84  
 Gerrard, Dr James, 83  
 Gibraltar, 24, 168, 169, 173  
 Gibson, Georgina, 129

- Gibson, Mr George & Miss  
attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134
- Gladstone, 92, 93, 119
- Gladstone, JE  
member Fox-Talbot memorial  
committee, 119
- Glanely, Lady  
attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134
- Glasgow, 82
- globe mangold wurzels*, 71
- Goddard, AN, 74
- Godwick Hall, 54
- Goldney, Gabriel, 78
- Golleta*, 179
- Gore, Capt Sir John, 167
- Gosport, 44
- Gouldsmith, Hannah, 102
- Gouldsmith, Louie Madeline, 102
- Granahan, 10
- Great Clock of Westminster*, 98
- Great Lodge Farm, 17, 33
- Great Notton Farm, 141
- Great War, 125, 139
- Griffith, Capt Edward, 165
- Groves, John, 45, 54
- Gt Bedwyn, 19
- Guarnizo (Cantabria), 169
- Guildhall Coffee House, 75
- Gullis*  
*Farm worker 1946,, 153*  
*Gullis farm worker 1946, 153*  
*Gullis, Myra, 154*
- Guyer's House, 54
- Guyer's House Corsham,, 50
- Guyers House, 105
- Hall, Benjamin, 98
- Hall, Richard, 98
- Halt Farm, 151
- Hamblin, Matilda, Dairy maid 1861, 69
- Hanbury Tracy, David, 124
- Hanbury Tracy, Madeline  
visiting Lackham census 1911, 124
- Hanbury Tracy, Ninian, 124
- Hanbury-Tracey, Felix  
kia France 1912, 124
- Hanbury-Tracey, Frederick Charles  
Hubert, 124
- Hanbury-Tracey, Madeline Llewellen,  
124
- Hanks, HP, 77
- Hardenhuish House Chippenham, 40
- Harding, 19
- Harding, Richard, 78
- Hargeaves, madeline, 124
- Hargeaves, Mary Rosalie Alice  
born June 1931, 124  
daughter of Caryl & Madeline, 124
- Hargreaves, Capt Caryl Lidell, 124
- Harper, Thomas, **35**
- Harris, Lt John, 166
- Hartley, WH, 66
- Havre de Grace*, 24
- Hawkins, Charlotte A  
Housemaid Lackham 1901, 111
- Hawkins, Philip, footman 1861, 69
- Hawkridge, 104
- Hawkshurst, 56
- Hayward, John, 78
- Hazelbury, 60
- Head cowman 1946, 153*  
*Head gardener 1946, 153*  
*Head of Horticulture, 142*
- Heevens, Alice 1901, 112
- Heevens, John 1901, 112
- Heevens, Matilda 1901, 112
- Henderson. Anne  
marries Thomas Rooke, 17
- Hessey, Edmund Lackham Coachman, 36
- Hessey, William, 36
- Hessletine?, Jessie  
marries John Taylor, 104
- Heston, Msx, 10
- Hilborowe Hall*, 58
- Hill, Lt, 40
- Hill, Maria, 35
- Hillborough, 54, 56, 58
- Hillborough Hall, 54, 56  
landscape developed, 54  
sold to Duke of Wellington 1858, 54
- Hillbrough Hall

- bought by Ralph Caldwell 1765, 54  
 Hillier, John Front Lodge 1902, 107  
 Hillier, John, Front Lodge 1901, 107  
 Hillier, Sarah J, Front Lodge 1901, 107  
 Hills, Mr, 177  
 Hills, W captain's steward HMS  
     *Avenger*, 175  
 Hislop, John  
     Toolman, Lackham 1901, 111  
 Hissey, William, 35, 36  
 HMS  
     *Achille*, 24, 160, 161, 165, 166, 167  
     *Agamemnon*, 44  
     *Amethyst*, 162, 163, 164  
     *Ariadne*, 24, 165  
     *Assurance*, 43  
     *Atalantes*, 164  
     *Attentive*, 24, 166  
     *Avenger*, 44, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 180, 181, 182, 183  
     *Blenheim*, 41  
     *Boadicea*, 24  
     *Boadicea*, 162, 165  
     *Bodicea*, 43  
     *Clyde*, 165  
     *Cumberland*, 24, 160  
     *Devastation*, 43, 44  
     *Diamond*, 165  
     *Egyptienne*, 43  
     *Fisgard*, 165  
     *Galatea*, 166  
     *Gorgon*, 44  
     *Greyhound*, 43  
     *Immortalite*, 164  
     *L'Oiseau*, 164  
     *Laurel*, 166  
     *L'Oiseau*, 161, 163  
     *Malta*, 43  
     *Minerva*, 43  
     *Petrel*, 43  
     *Princess Augusta*, 43  
     *Proselyte*, 166  
     *Ramillies*, 161  
     *Ramillion*, 24  
     *Rivoli*, 43  
     *San Juan*, 24, 169  
     *Sirius*, 24, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166  
     *St Vincent*, 43  
     *Talavera*, 40  
     *Unite*, 43  
     *Veteran*, 165, 166  
     *Wellesley*, 41  
 Hodgson, Richard, 32  
 Holbrook, Commander and wife  
     attend Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 Holt  
     Herbert Paton  
         rents out Naish Hill Farm 1942, 143  
 Holt monument erected, 142  
 Holt, George Herbert, 140  
 Holt, GHP Lt, 141  
 Holt, HB  
     publishes history of 3rd Dragoons, 139  
 Holt, Hebert George  
     kia 1944, 140  
 Holt, Herbert Paton  
     buys Lackham 1927, 137  
     High Sheriff of Wiltshire, 141  
     joins 3rd Dragoon Guards, 138  
     living at Jaggards, 139  
     living at Lanhill 1940, 142  
     marries Elizabeth Cairns, 140  
     offers to buy Lackham panelling from County, 150  
     rents Cuckoo Bush farm 1938, 141  
     rents Home Farm to Pocok, 143  
     sells to WCC November 1945, 151  
 Holt, HS  
     born 1855, 137  
     civil engineer on Candian Pacific Railway, 137  
     marries Jessie Paton, 137  
 Holt, Jessie, 137  
 Holt, Sir Herbert Paton, 135  
 Holt, William Robert Gratton, 137  
 Holt, Herbert Paton  
     leases cottage to JO Tapper, 142  
 Holywell Farm, 151

- Home Farm, 151  
 notice to quit 1944, 143  
 rented to Mr Pocock 1940, 143  
 was Lackham Farm, 143
- Hood, Sir Samuel, 166
- Hopley, Mrs, 118
- Horksley, 22
- Horlock, 13
- Hornsby plough, 66
- Horton, Elizabeth, 35
- Hotham, Capt Sir Charles, 44
- Hounslow, Middlesex, 138
- Howell, Chales  
 Back Lodge 1902), 113
- Howie, Nancie, 146
- Hulbert, Thomas, 78
- Hullavington House, 108
- Humphreys, Julia nee Rooke, 38
- Hunt JJ Photographer 1905, 114
- Hunt, John, 69
- Hutchins*, Woodman 1946, 153
- Hyde, Harriet  
 marries FW Rooke, 29
- Hyde, Nathan, 29
- Iford Manor, 54
- Imperial Commissioner for the  
 Destruction of Opium, 42
- Imperial Order of the Daughters of the  
 Empire, 138
- Imperial Tobacco Co, 133
- Innes, K  
 Director of Education Wilts CC, 156
- Inniskillin Dragoons, 72
- Inns of Court, 19
- Irish Times*, 12
- Isham, Justinian 7th Bart, 56
- Isham, Louisa, 56  
 marries Ralph Caldwell 1804, 56
- Isham, Sir Justinian Bart, 57
- Islington, 8
- Jaggards in Corsham, 139
- Jamaica, 160, 166
- James, Francis  
 Groom 1871 census Lackham, 91
- Jenkins, Solomon, carter to HB  
 Caldwell, 66
- Jenkinson, Sir George s*, 77
- Jenkinson, Sir George S*, 77
- Jennings, Edward RN, 12
- Jennings, Thomas Robert, 12
- Jessie Taylor  
 butler was Robert Whiteside, 105
- John, Taylor  
 living at Lackham, 106
- Johnstone, Mr & Mrs, 33
- Jones, Louisa  
 Servant Lackham 1901, 111
- Jones, Mary  
 Housekeeper Lackham 1901, 111
- Joyce, Issac  
 rents Bewley Farm, 119
- Julia, Rooke  
 marries William W Rooke, 38
- Keayes, Frederick Charles, 14
- Keayes, Rev Robert Young, 14
- Keayes, Robert Henry, 14
- Keays, Fanny Bate, 14
- Keays, Rev RY, 14
- Keevil, Richard, 78
- Kelly, Elizabeth J  
 Governess 1861, 69
- Kelsick, 17
- Kensington, 57
- King George III, 21
- King, Guy Frank at Showell, 139
- King, Richard, 8, 21, 33, 160, 161, 162,  
 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 187
- King's Bench Court, 8
- King's Head, Melksham, 58
- Kingston Cathedral Church, 160
- Kingston, Jamaica, 160
- Kirkham, John, Butler to GLIP, 127
- Knapton, Margaret  
 Cook lackham 1901, 111
- Knee, Thomas, 32
- Knollys, James, visiting Lackham 1861,  
 69
- Lackham, 1, 6
- Lackham College of Agriculture, 158

- Lackham Farm, 107, 143
- Lackham house  
     employees celebrate relief of  
     Mafeking, 112
- Lackham House  
     1841 census, 35  
     additonal storey added by Capt  
     Rooke?, 33  
     alterations made by George Palmer,  
     110  
     colonnade, 33  
     derequisitioned August 1945, 150  
     fixtures to remain after 1866 sale, 82  
     modernised 1900, 110  
     new water pipes from Naish Hill, 79  
     not on mains electricity 1927, 139  
     panelling in hall, 150  
     staff 1851, 46  
     survey of estate 1830 fn, 30  
     US military at, 146  
     watercolour, 33
- Lackham House*  
     description 1858, 48
- Lackham House, Msx, 10
- Lackham Lodge*, 106, 109, 113
- Lackham Park Farm, 151, 155
- Lackham School of Agriculture, 154
- Lackham Trustees  
     1893  
         Charles Hugh Clifford (Baron  
         Clifford), 88  
         George Errington), 88  
         John Gerrd Ridell), 88  
         William Joseph Petre (Lord Petre)),  
         88
- Lacock  
     land at, 151
- Lacock Abbey*, 134
- Lacock Agricultural Society, 61
- Lacock Cottage Flower Show 1900*, 111
- Lacock Cottage Garden Improvement  
     Society, 106
- Lacock Farmers Club, 75
- Lacock Ploughing match, 71
- Lacock Scouts*, 125
- Lady Lewis Steamship Co, 130
- Lady Lewis Steamship Company Ltd, 134
- Lambeth, 165
- Land League*, 91
- Lane, Sidney  
     Gamekeeper 1901, 107
- Lane, Sidney (gamekeeper) 1881 census,  
     104
- Lane, Sidney, Front Lodge 1902, 107
- Langham Hall, 22
- Langleys, 8
- Larcom, gunner HMS Avenger, 175
- Larcom, Mr, gunner HMS Avenger, 177,  
     179  
         steers cutter, 176
- Larconi, 177
- Large, John, 74
- Larmour, Capt John, 165
- Latings, Mr*, 105
- Lavbington, Hannah, 35
- Lavington, Mr, Poulshot, 66
- Lawe, William, 32
- Lay, 32
- Lay, Robert, 32
- Legge, Rear Adm AK, 171
- Leigh Park*, 99
- Levens, Frances J, 96
- Lewis, Capt & Mrs, 134
- Lewis, Capt. Rupert and wife  
     attend Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134
- Lin Tse-Hsu, 42
- Lindsay, Capt Lionel  
     attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134
- Linzee, Capt, 164
- Lisbon, 177, 180
- Little Lodge Farm, 17, 33, 78
- Little, Edward, 59
- Little, HB*, 78
- Liverpool, 82, 83, 104
- Fenfold, E  
     marries the Rev Tufnell, 13
- Llandigwyett Farm, 98
- Llangeffin, Anglesey, 111
- Llewelin, Elizabeth, 99
- Lloyd, H, Lt, 163

- Lockyer, Edmund, 162, 164  
 Long, Richard, 65  
 Lopes, Ralph Kekewich  
     declared bankrupt 1898, 101  
 Lopes, Ralph Ludlow, 101  
 Lord Amphill, 92  
 Lord Glanley, 127, 128  
 Lord Glanville, 91, 92  
 Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh Abbey, 63  
 Lord Llanover, 98  
 Lord Petre, 88, 89  
     dies 1893, 97  
*Lord Spencer*, 92  
 Lowe, Annabelle 1901, 113  
 Lowe, David  
     Lackham  
         gardens 1901 census, 113  
         Lackham gardens 1902, 113  
 Lowe, Frederick 1901, 113  
 Lowe, George, 82  
 Lowe, Jessie 1901, 113  
 Lowe, Mabel Causer, 74  
*Lowe, Mr, gardener Lackham*, 111  
*Lower Sheldon Farm*, 78  
 Loyola Hall, 83  
*Lt. GHP Holt*, 141  
 Lucas, Mary A, Laundry maid 1861, 69  
 Lyndhurst, 72  
 Lysley Arms, 17  
 Lysley, WJ, 17  
*Machine for moving large Trees;*, 31  
 Machine Gun Corps, 138  
 Mafeking  
     relief of, 111  
     Seaside Fund, 112  
 Maitland, Capt Thomas, 41  
 Maitland., Rear Adm Frederick Lewis, 41  
 Major, Robert, groom 1861, 69  
 Malmesbury Home Guard, 105  
 Manchester, 21, 22, 83, 104, 105  
 Marcon, A , Swaffham solicitor, 51  
 Marcon, Andrew  
     solicitor Swaffam, 52  
 Marcon, Elizabeth  
     first wife Rev FJ Rooke, 36  
 Marcon, Jane, wife Rev J Rooke, 72  
 Market Lavington, 112  
 Marlborough College, 10  
 Marquis of Lansdowne, 74  
 Marriott, Jemina, 22  
 Marriott, Joshua, 21  
 Marriott, Mary  
     marries George Rooke, 21  
 Marryat, Lt, 177, 182  
 Marryat, Lt, drowned, 175  
 Martin, Arabella, 160  
 Martin, Barron, 62  
 Martin, Capt Thomas Byam, 165  
 Marylebone Cricket Club, 57  
 Marylebone, London, 9  
 Masfield, Capt, 167  
 Maslen, Charles  
     marries 1908, 114  
 Maslen, Charles Henry  
     stable yard staff, 114  
*Matyard, Mr, gardener at Lackham*,  
     106  
 Matthews, Stewart, 142  
*Mauditts Park Farm*, 78  
 Mayor of Calne, 75  
 Maypowder, Dorset, 161  
 MCC, 57  
 Melksham Agricultural Society  
     Bradford on Avon 1861, 70  
     first ploughing match 1859, 59  
     reestablishment meeting 1858, 59  
 Melksham Rifle Corps at Spye Psrk  
     1860, 65  
 Menhinick, Oliver, 142  
 Menhinick, ONM, 149  
 Meteyard, Albert, gardener 1901 & 2,  
     107  
 Meteyard, Ellen 1901, 107  
 Middle Lodge Farm, 17, 33  
 Middlesex militia, 9  
 Milbourne Farm, 151  
 Miles, James, 78  
*Military Training School, Sandhurst*,  
     122  
 Mill Mead, 69



- Millar, Maj. Exely  
     attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 Mitchell, Robert, 32  
 Moigh, co Longford, 90  
 Molesey House, 90  
 Monkton Farleigh, 75, 79  
 Monkton Farley, 75  
 Montagu, 6  
     Trustees  
         selling off land, 16  
 Montagu VI, James  
     death 1794, 6  
 Montagu, Frederick  
     land at Reybridge sold, 69  
 Montagu, Frederick CC  
     sells land to George White, 16  
 Montagu, George  
     court cases, 6  
 Montreal, 138, 140  
 Monwhite, Anne, Ladys maid 1891, 69  
 Moony, Crosadile, 10  
 Moony, Henrietta, 10  
 More-O'Ferrall, Ambrose, 89  
 More-O'Ferrall, Rosanna, 89  
 Morley, James, 177  
     ships boy HMS Avenger, 175  
 Morrison, Hugh, 112  
 Morrison, Maj. J, 154  
 Mr Little, 29  
 Mrs Banks, 73  
 Mrs Fry, 63  
 Mrs Taylor  
     rents Lackham, 103  
 Mt Jerome Cemetery, 10  
 Much Woollon, Lancs, 91  
 Mundy, Hon Mrs  
     attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 Musselburgh arrow, 27  
 Naish Hill farm, 153  
 Naish Hill Farm, 134  
     rented by Robert Marsh, 126  
     rented to Mr Drew, 143  
     sold by WCC 1957, 126  
 Naming of Big Ben, 98  
 Napier, Capt Charles, 173, 174  
     Napier, Capt Charles George Elers, 44  
     Napoleonic War, 23  
     Nash Hill, 79, 158  
     Neal's Leigh, 54  
     Neale, John Corbett, 47  
     Neale's Leigh, 47  
     Neeld, John, 74  
     Neeld, Sir John, 78  
     Nelthorpe family, 54  
     Nepean, Ens Molyneaux Nepean, 39  
     Nethercote  
         5 cottages at, 151  
     Nethercote Hill, 146  
     New End Farm, 33, 151  
     New Forest, 72  
     Newhall, 84  
     Newmam, William, 32  
     Newman, Capt James Newman, 165  
     Newmarket, 134  
     Nicholson, William, 88  
     Nocketts Hill Farm, 33  
     Norborne, Walter, 22  
     Norfolk Agricultural Society, 61  
     North Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, 76  
     North Mead, 33  
     North Sea, 24, 161  
     Northam, 165  
     Notting Hill, 123  
     Notting Hill, London, 123  
     Notton, 33, 47, 54, 140, 141, 153, 155  
         2 cottages at, 151  
     Notton Farm, 30, 151  
     nwick, William, 45  
     Oddfellows Hall, Lacock, 120  
     Caldwell, Henry Berney, 50  
     Ogdens Tobacco, 133  
     Ogle, Sir Chaloner, 43  
     Ogle, Sir Charles, 43  
     Oliver, Mary anne, 29  
     Omodhos, 19  
     opium from India, 42  
     Opium War, The, 41  
     Order of St Anne, 20  
     Ornamental Lodge, 108  
         Caldwell arms above door, 3, 109

- Over, Glos, 111
- Owen, Eugine M  
 Kitchenman Lackham 1901, 111
- Owen, John  
 stoker HMS Avenger, 175
- Tufnell, John Jolliffe, 8
- Tufnell, John Jolliffe, 8
- Paley, Rev James, 12, 14
- Paley, Rev James, 71
- Palmer & Mackay, 99
- Palmer Challenge Shield, 125
- Palmer, Allen, 99
- Palmer, Allen Llewellyn, 103  
 celebration at Lackham, 122  
 dies in France 1916, 126  
 hunting diary entries, 113  
 joins Army, 122  
 Lacock War Memorial, 126  
 memorial in Trowbridge Church, 126  
 Queens Award, 123  
 serves in Boer War, 123  
 visits from India, 124
- Palmer, Elizabeth, 99
- Palmer, George  
 earliest so named, 99  
 marries Elizabeth Llewellyn >1789, 99
- Palmer, George Llewellyn  
 1901 census, 111  
 alterations to Lackham House, 110  
 awarded Territorial Decoration, 121  
 born 1856, 99  
 Brig.General 1918, 126  
 builds Stable Yard 1902, 113  
 buys Bewley House, 119  
 buys Forest Farm, 103  
 buys Lackham 1893, 97  
 cattle show successes, 125  
 Coat of arms, 115  
 Colonel 1915, 126  
 community work, 127  
 Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB), 126  
 contributes to WANHS appeals, 119  
 Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, 126  
 dies 1932, 127
- electoral roll 1902, 113  
 founder Avon Vale Hunt, 113  
*founds Avon Vale Hunt*, 158  
 gardener Mr Lowe, 111  
 Kerry cattle herd, 125  
 Lackham water supply, 124  
 land agent Richard Foley, 112  
 lives at Lackham 1900, 110  
 Lt. Colonel 1915, 126  
 marries Madeline Gouldsmith, 102  
 member Fox-Talbot memorial committee, 119  
 moves to Bexley 1927, 127  
 moves to Hilperton, 127  
 MP Westbury 1918-1922, 127  
 renting Naish Hill Farm, 126  
 rents Lackham to Mrs Taylor, 103  
 sells Forest Farm, 103  
 sells Lackham 1919, 127  
 Sheriff of Wiltshire 1903, 112  
 Town Councillor Trowbridge, 103  
*will*, 127  
 witnesses trusteeship of his father, 101
- Palmer, George Llewellyn  
 appointed Major / Lt Col, 121
- Palmer, Lady Alexandra, 127
- Palmer, Madeline, 102  
 awarded OBE, 126  
 awards shield for shooting, 125  
 dies 1925, 127  
 marries Capt Hargeaves, 124
- Palmer, Madeline, 103
- Palmer, Madeline Llewellyn  
 marries Frederick Hanbury-Tracy, 124
- Palmer, Margaret, 98
- Palmer, Mary  
 lives at Berryfield, 102
- Palmer, Mary Ann, 99
- Palmer, Michael, 99  
 buys  
 Heywood estates, 101  
 Letter to George Llewellyn 1890, 101  
 transfers title of Heywood to GLIP, 101

- trustee for Ralph Ludlow Lopes, 101
- Palmer, Michael Llewellyn, 103
  - Clare's College Cambridge, 123
  - dies of asphyxiation 1908, 123
- Palmer, William Llewellyn, 103
  - moves to Rushwood Hall, 127
- Paris, Caroline*, 74
- Paris, Rev Archibald*, 74
- Parker, Richard, courtmartial*, 161
- Paterson Rollo, Davida, 26
- Paton Manufacturing Co, 138
- Paton, Andrew, 137
- Paton, Jessie, 137
- Patterdown
  - 2 cottages at, 151
- Patterdown Farm, 151
- Patterdown, Garden at, 151
- Patton, General, 145, 146
- Paulton, Somerset, 111
- Paynter, Harry, train guard dies in accident*, 87
- Peal, GM*
  - Chairman county YFC 1946, 154
- Pell, Capt, 170
- Pembroke, 98
- Penfold, Elizabeth, 9
- Pengram, 129
- Penrose, Com. CV, 24
- Penrose, Sir Charles Vinicombe, 169
- peritonitis, 126
- Perret, Stephen R*, 78
- Petre, William Joseph, 88
- Pew Hill House*, 14
- Pewhill House, Chippenham, 14
- Pewsham estate, bought by Lysley, 17
- Phelips, Charles, 58
- Philip, JAcob, 78
- Phillips, Alan, 98
- Pierce, Elizabeth, 45
- Pig & poultry man 1946*, 153
- Pike J*
  - Lackham groom, 153
- Pike, J*, 153
  - Lackham gardener, 153
- Pike, T
  - member Fox-Talbot memorial committee, 119
- Pill boxes, 143
- Plmer, George Llewellyn
  - knew Swinburne?, 101
- poaching, 96
- Pocock, PE, 143
- Pope of Gt Tolls Dorset, 63
- Porter, Edward G, 101
- Portsmouth*, 24, 44
- Poster 1927 sale, 135
- Potterne, 17
- Poulet Scrope, G, 78
- Powell, Clarissa, 72
- Powell, Edward Wayland Martin, 72
- Powell, Henry, 72
- Powell, Henry Martin, 72
- Powell, Henry Weyland, 72
- Powell, Louisa
  - loses new baby, 74
- Powell, Mary Grace, 72
- Powell, Mary, dies 1863, 74
- Powell, William
  - living in Lyndhurst, 72
- Powell, William Martin, 72
  - marries Louisa Esther Caldwell, 72
- Powick, Worcs, 91
- Poynder, Thomas Henry Allen, 78
- Pratt, James, 74
- Preston, 105
- Prior Park, 89
- Pugin
  - designs Rampisham rectory, Dorset, 36
  - restores Rampisham church chancel, 36
- Pynne, Marianne, 57
  - married to -- pynne, 58
  - marries George Caldwell, 57
- Pyre, Augusta
  - marries OC Rooke, 39
  - wife to Octavius Cobb Rooke, 38
- Pyre, Dunscombe, 39
- Queen Victoria
  - Diamond Jubilee 1897, 40

- Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, 16  
 Queens Bridge Chippenham, 151  
 Railway Accident at Thingley Junction  
 1875, 86  
 Rainhill, 82, 83, 84, 87, 103  
 Rainhill House, 83  
 Rainhill Trials, 83  
 Rampisham, 36, 50  
 Ray Bridge  
 2 cottages at, 151  
 garden at, 151  
 Ray Grist Mill, 33  
 Read, Major  
 attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
*Red Cross*, 126  
 Red Lion Inn,, 73  
 Regiment of Foot, 100th, 19  
 Reybridge, 16, 17, 69, 70  
 Reybridge Road, 113  
 Reynolds, George, 78  
 Rich, Charles, 78  
 Rich, John, 78  
 Rich, Richard P, 78  
*Richardson-gardener*, 105  
 Ridell, John Gerard, 88  
 Ridgley, Richard, Butler 1861, 69  
 River  
 Avon, 6, 116, 117, 158  
 Lackham rights dispute  
 Caldwell  
 letter by AM Caldwell, 80  
 Riviere, Capt Bouchet, 180, 182  
 report on the loss of *HMS Avenger*,  
 180  
 Rochefort, 161  
 Rockfield, 89  
 Rocks House, 104, 105  
 Rodwell Hall, 102  
 Roke, FW  
 dies Bath 1856, 46  
 Rollo, David Patterson, 29  
 Roman Catholic priest in Chippenham, 87  
 Rooke, Alexander, 76  
 Rooke, Alexander Beaumont, 47  
 1858 witnessed by servant, 50  
 Glos JP 1864, 40  
 lieutenant 1840, 40  
 living The Ridge, 39  
 Rooke, Alexandwer Beaumont  
 marries Ellen Clutterbuck, 40  
 Rooke, Alfred Wallace  
 marries Sophia Louisa Caldwell, 72  
 Rooke, Anne, 25  
 Rooke, Anne 1660, 17  
 Rooke, Augusta, 38, 39  
 Rooke, Capt George  
 born 1856, 21  
 marries Mary Marriott, 21  
 Rooke, Charles, 38  
 marries Anne Watson, 22  
 Rooke, Darell born 1863, 74  
 Rooke, Dorothy, 19  
 Rooke, Elizabeth  
 at Lackham 1841 census, 35  
 dies Bath 1837, 22  
 Rooke, Elizabeth Sophia  
 converts to Catholicism, 44  
 dies 1874, 44  
 married to TAF, 70  
 marries Thomas Abdy Felowes, 44  
 Rooke, Francis  
 back in *HMS Blenheim*, 44  
 born 1825, 40  
 court martial 1848, 183  
 dies 1853, 44  
 gets to shore, 177  
 Lieutenant 1842, 43  
 no blame found at Court martial, 183  
 orders landing on island, 177  
 organises lowering of cutter, 174  
 Rooke, Frederick John, 52  
 158 witnessed by gardener, 50  
 at Lackham 1841 census, 35  
 Rector of Rampisham, 36  
 Rooke, Fredrick John, 47  
*Rooke, FW*  
 adds extra storey onto Lackham  
 House?, 33  
 at Lackham 1841 census, 35  
 at Lackham 1851 census, 46

- at Royal Naval Academy, 23
- born Calne 1782, 23
- buys Lackham, 29
- buys Lackham 1835, 17
- changes entrance to House to north, 33
- children, 29
- dies 1855, 46
- indenture for sale 1835, 30
- Joins HMS Cumberland*, 160
- leases land to Awdry 1836, 50
- living in Royal Crescent Bath, 31
- made Commader 1812, 25
- marries Anne Wallace*, 29
- marries Anne Wallace*, 25
- Military career*, 5, 160
- naval service*
  - advanced to Commodore 1812, 171
  - awarded Naval Service Medal, 170
  - commands gunboats, 170
  - confirmed Lt Nov 1805, 166
  - Joins HMS*
    - Ariadne*, 165
    - Attentive*, 166
    - Boadicea*, 165
    - Clyde*, 165
    - Proselyte*, 166
    - Sirius*, 160
    - Veteran*, 165
  - made Acting Lieutenant, 165
  - made Admiralty Midshaman, 165
  - made Sub Lieutenant, 166
  - mentioned in despatches, 170
  - modest share of prize money, 162
  - rejoins HMS*
    - Achille*, 166
    - Ramillies*, 161
    - Sirius*, 162
  - purchases Lackham for £30k, 29
  - summary of naval career, 24
  - under Sir Charles Rowley, 43
  - Wiltshire Land Tax Commissioner, 33
- Rooke, Harriet
  - at Lackham 1841 census, 35
  - at Lackham 1851 census, 46
- Rooke, Henry
  - born 1711, 19
  - chief Clerk of Records Tower of London, 19
  - dies 1775, 19
  - marries Margaret Cook, 19
- Rooke, Julia, 22
- Rooke, Lt Col Henry
  - account of siege published, 21
  - at siege of Ancona, 19
  - dies Cyprus 1814, 19
  - education, 19
- Rooke, Margaret, 19
  - dies 1798, 19
- Rooke, Maria
  - at Lackham 1841 census, 35
- Rooke, Octavius Cobb, 48
  - 1858 witnessed by servant, 50
  - living Dean Hall Glos, 38
  - military career, 39
- Rooke, Rev FJ, 74
- Rooke, Rev Frederick John, 47
- Rooke, Seton, 26
- Rooke, Sophia Louisa, 72
- Rooke, Susan, 17
- Rooke, Thomas
  - marries Anne Henderson 1660, 17
- Rooke, William
  - marries Dorothy Sumiford, 19
- Rooke, William, 38
- Rooke, William W, 47
  - army career, 38
  - born 1812, 38
  - buying land 1857, 47
  - buys Iford Manor, 54
  - marries cousin Julia, 38
  - sells Notton land to Caldwell, 54
  - servant named 1859, 54
- Rooke, William Wallace
  - 1858 witnessed by servant, 50
- Rooke, William
  - gravestone for LT Col Rooke, 21
- Rowden Farm
  - bought by Palmer 1904, 120
- Rowden Lodge Chippenham, 151

- Rowden Manor  
 allotments at, 151  
 bought 1904, 120  
 land at, 151
- Rowington, 118
- Rowles, Robert Marsh, 126
- Rowley, Capt Bartholomew Samuel, 160
- Rowley, Capt Bartholomew Samuel, 24
- Rowley, Capt Charles, 165
- Rowley, RrAdm Sir Joshua, 160
- Rowley, Sir Charles, 43  
 FW & F Rooke both serve with him,  
 43
- Royal Agricultural Society, 74
- Royal Agricultural Society of England,,  
 63
- Royal Artillery Corps, 140
- Royal Artillery Corps. Charities*, 141
- Royal Bank of Canada, 137
- Royal Crescent, 31
- Royal Military College, 39
- Royal Naval College, 40
- Royal Society of Archers, 27
- Royal South Gloucester Light Infantry  
 Militia, 39
- Royal Tank Corps*, 141
- Royal Wilts Militia Band*, 73
- Rt Hon Lord Methuen, 78
- Rushwood Hall, 127
- Russell, John, portraitist, 56
- Saint Mary, 58
- Salamanca, 170
- Salmon Fishery Act 1865, 86
- Sanders, Bob, 128
- Saracen's Head, 83
- Sat Mary's Church Appledore, 130
- Sayer, Capt George, 166
- Schomberg, Edmund, 112
- Schomberg, Edmund Clerke  
 appointed Sheriff of Wiltshire 1902,  
 112
- Scott, EV, 153
- Scott, Maxwell  
 attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134
- Scott, Miss Edith, 141
- Scott, EV, 153
- Scutt, Mary  
 marries Ralph Caldwell, 56
- Scutt, Thomas, 56
- Searle, Capt, 170
- Seaver, Hpward E*, 185
- Secrets of Farming*, 74
- Seend, 9
- Seend Lodge, 112
- Senhouse, Capt Humphrey Fleming, 41
- Servants 1841 census Lackham, 35
- servants 1851 census Lackham, 45
- Shaw House, 112
- Sheate, John Gould, 103
- Sheerness, 161
- Sherborne, Dorset, 29
- Sherbrooke, Quebec, 137, 138
- Sherman tank, 144
- Ship Inn, 83
- Shop East Street Lacock, 151
- Showell  
 lands at, 33
- Showell Farm, 139, 151
- Showell Fsrn, tenant  
 Guy Frank King, 139
- Shuldham, John, 90
- Silvey, Joseph, 35
- Simmonds, Elizabeth*, 109
- Simmonds, Prof JB*, 77, 78
- Simmons, Phoebe, 35
- Sisters of Nazareth, 86
- Slade, James, 17
- Slade, Mary (maid) 1881 census, 104
- Sladesbrook Farm, 101
- Smith, Henry, 35
- Smith, Hnery, killed at Lackham*, 86
- Smith, James  
 bailiff 1871 census Lackham, 91
- Smith, Lt, 39
- Smithfield Show, 61
- Snow, Elizabeth A  
 Ladysmaid Lackham 1901, 111
- Society of Jesus, 83
- Society of Wiltshire Archers  
 at Lackham, 70

- Sorella Rock, 44, 183
- Sorella Rocks, 44
- Sorelle, 180, 181, 182
- Sorelle Rocks, 180
- South Carleton, 8
- South Moulton Devon, 111
- Spanish ship
  - Charlotta*, 164
  - Melchura Corunna*, 162
- Spencer, Mr*, 87
- Spinks, Elizabeth*, 109
- Spitalfields, 130
- Springfield, 103
- Springfields*, 110
- SS *Lady Glanely* torpedoed, 136
- St Cyriacs
  - Lackham Aisle, 71
  - reopened for worship Dec 1861, 71
  - restoration 1862, 71
  - the Lackham Aisle, 50
- St Mary's, 8
- St Peter & St Paul Bath, 8
- St, Nicholas, 82
- St. Bartholomew, 83
- St. Michael's, 85
- St.Fagans Court, 128
- Stable Yard
  - Bothy, 114
  - built 1902, 113
  - staff
    - Charles Maslen, 113
    - photographed, 113
    - troops billeted 1944*, 144
- Stancomb, John, 112
- Stapleton Bretherton, Frederick, 103
  - marries Isabella Mary Petre, 89
- Stapleton Bretherton, Mary
  - adds Stapleton to family name, 85
  - arms, 84
  - Buildings for Roman Catholics at Ditton, 85
  - dies 1883, 87
  - made Marchiness by Pope, 85
  - marries Gilbert Stapleton, 84
  - marries William Gerard, 84
  - sends hothouse grapes to injured from train accident, 87
  - Trustees
    - Edward WH Woods, 88
    - Nungent Cricklade, 88
    - William Nicholson, 88
  - Trustees named in will 1882, 88
- Stapleton, Gilbert
  - marries Mary Stapleton Bretherton, 84
- Stapleton, Mary*, 82
- steam ploughing, 61
- Steamer *Pasha*, 180
- Steel, Dr, surgeon HMS *Avenger*, 175, 177
  - saves cutter, 175
- Stephens, Ann, 45
- Stewards' Cup, 133
- Stockbridge, 134
- Stoneyhurst, 82
- Storer, Robert, 78
- Stratford on Avon, 118
- Stroud, 40
- Styles, Stephen, 32
- Sumiford, Dorothy, 19
- Tufnell, Uliana, 16
- Sutton Benger Church, 62
- Swaffam, Norfolk, 51
- Swaffham, Norfolk, 52
- Swanage, 24
- swimming pool Lackham
  - excavated 1949-50, 146
  - made by Gen Patton?, 146
- Swinburne, Algernon, 101
- Swinburne, Lady Jane, 101
- Tackle Moor Wood*, 134
- Taylor, Darcy, 105
- Talbot, CH
  - member Fox-Talbot memorial committee, 119
- Talbot, Maria Teresa, Spinster*, 134
- Talbot, RC
  - member Fox-Talbot memorial committee, 119
- Tank Corps., 139

- Tanner, John, 78
- Tapper, J, 153
- Tapper, Jospeh Oare, 142
- TapperJ  
*Under cowman 1946*, 153
- Tarifa  
 lieutenants, comanding mortar brigs  
 and gun-boats  
     Jenklins, 170  
 lieutenants, commanding mortar brigs  
 and gun-boats  
     Basden, 170  
     Cobbe, 170  
     Jenklins, 170  
     Ratray, 170  
     Style, 170
- Tarifa, 170  
 defence of, 24
- Tarifa  
 lieutenants, commanding mortar brigs  
 and gun-boats  
     Rook, 170
- Tatem Steam Navigation Co*, 130
- Tatem Steamships  
 lost in WWI, 131
- Tatem, Ada Mary, 129
- Tatem, George  
 purchases estate 1919, 127
- Tatem, Louisa, 128
- Tatem, Thomas, 128, 130
- Tatem, Thomas Shandon, 130
- Tatem, Wiliiam  
 JP Wiltshire 1922, 134
- Tatem, William  
 sells Lackham 1927, 135  
 attends Beaufort Hunt Ball 1921, 134  
 born 1868, 133  
 buys Lackham, 127  
 buys Naish Hill farm, 134  
 erects memorial window Appledore  
 church, 131  
 killed 1942, 135  
 made 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Glanely, 131  
 made Baronet 1916, 131  
 Racehorse  
     *Blue Empire*, 133  
     *Capture Him*, 133  
     *Grand Parade*, 133  
     *Navigator*, 133  
     *Sunderland*, 133  
     *Westaward Ho!*, 133  
 wins  
     8 races at Ascot, 133  
     the Derby 1919, 133  
     the Dovedridge Handicap, 133  
     the Steward's Cup, 133  
     the Wokingham Stakes, 133  
 sells Showell Farm to Holt, 139  
 shipwreck & yellow fever?, 128  
 The Court, Cardiff, 133
- Tatem, William, 128
- Tatem. Thomas Shandon, 130
- Taylor, Daniel J, 78
- Taylor, Darcy  
 born 1869,, 104  
 marries Margaret, 105
- Taylor, Darcy's widow, *Guyers House*,  
 105
- Taylor, Derrick*, 105
- Taylor, Duel Rector of Bath, 8
- Taylor, Eileen, born 1883, 105
- Taylor, Helena Jessie, 104
- Taylor, Jessie  
 at County Ball 1897, 106  
 born 1848, 104  
*gardener Mr Mateyard*, 106  
 leaves Lackham 1899?, 108  
 living at Lackham 1898,99 & 1900, 106  
 living at Lackham with 2 sons, 105  
 living at Rocks House 1881, 104  
 living in Eastbourne 1901, 108
- Taylor, John, 104  
 dies 1876-81, 105
- Taylor, John Edmund, 104  
 living at Lackham 1899 & 1900, 107
- Taylor, Leonard, 104  
 Commander Malmesbury Home Guard  
 WWII, 105  
 living at Lackham, 106  
 living at Lackham 1899 & 1900, 107



- living Biddstone 1901, 108  
 secretary to Beaufort Hunt, 108  
 Taylor, Marion, 104  
 Taylor, Mary  
     children born in Blackley Lancs 1868,  
     104  
 Taylor, Jessie  
     cannot vote for MP 1898, 107  
 Teagle, John, 78  
 Temple, George, 32  
 Territorial Decoration, 121  
 Territorial Medal details, 121  
 Thacker C  
     *Head Cowman* 1946, 153  
 Thacker, C *Head Cowman* 1946, 153  
 the Angel, 47  
 The Crescent, Bath, 30  
 The Enclosure, 33  
 The Grove, 85  
 The Hall Rainhill, 103  
 The Ivy Chippenham, 40  
 The Prospect, Hilperton, 127  
 The Red Cross, 138  
 The Ridge, Corsham, 39, 47, 50  
 Thomas, 149  
 Thomas, Fanny, House maid 1861, 69  
 Thomas, John, 45  
 Thomas, Miles 8th Lord Beaumont, 84  
 Thornton, Brin, 142  
 Thrings and Townsend, 113  
 Tibbs, Emily E  
     Housemaid Lackham 1901, 111  
 Tilehurst, Bucks, 111  
 Tonbridge Public School, 19  
 Tower House, Reyridge, 112  
 Trelawny, Ellen  
     second wife Rev FJ Rooke, 36  
 Trinity College, 19  
 Troodos mountains, 19  
 Trowbridge Almshouses, 127  
 Tufnel, John  
     sale of house furnishing and fittings,  
     15  
 Tufnel, Thomas Jolliffe  
     dies 1885, 12  
 Tufnell Park, 8  
 Tufnell, Anne Catherine, 12  
 Tufnell, Arthur Bonham, 9  
 Tufnell, Charlotte Bonella  
     baptized St Cyriac's, 6  
 Tufnell, Charlotte Bonetta, 12  
     dies aged 4 months, 12  
 Tufnell, Edward Wyndham, 10  
     1st Bishop of Brisbane, 10  
 Tufnell, Fanny  
     marries Rev Keays, 14  
 Tufnell, Florence, 10  
 Tufnell, Francis, 12  
     marries Rev Robert Young, 14  
 Tufnell, George, 8  
 Tufnell, George Edmund, 9  
 Tufnell, George Foster  
     born 1723, 8  
     divorces Elizabeth 1758, 8  
     marries Elizabeth Forster, 8  
     marries Mary Farhill, 8  
 Tufnell, Henrietta Susannah, 12  
     awarded art prize, 15  
     marries Thomas Dewell, 16  
 Tufnell, Iva, 10  
 Tufnell, John  
     at Lackham, 6  
     child of George and Mary, 8  
     dies 1841, 16  
     foxes at Lackham 1822, 13  
     living Batheaston, 14  
     marries Uliana Fowell, 9  
 Tufnell, John Charles  
     will, 9  
 Tufnell, John Charles Fowell, 9  
 Tufnell, Mary, 8  
 Tufnell, Mary Jane, 12  
     marries Edward Jennings, 12  
 Tufnell, Rev JCF, 13  
 Tufnell, Robert Hutchinson Campbell, 10  
 Tufnell, Samuel, 8  
 Tufnell, Thomas Jolliffe, 10  
 Tufnell, Thomas Robert, 10  
     born 1822, 13

- Chairman Royal Mail Steam Packet Co,  
10  
marries Henrietta Moony, 10  
Tufnell, Uliana Margaret  
widow, 16  
Tufnell, William, 9  
inherits Tufnell Park, 8  
owns Tufnell Park, 8  
Tunis, 178, 179, 180  
Turnham Green, 8  
Tzar Paul, 21  
*Under cowman 1946*, 153  
Valcartier, 138  
*Vatican*, 3, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95  
Virgin Mobile, 15  
Viscount Dangan, 78  
Voluntary Rifle Corps, 64  
Volunteer Corps, 64  
Wadham College Oxford, 10  
Waite, Arthur  
Lackham Farm 1902, 107  
Walcheren, 24, 167, 168  
*Walcheren fever*, 24, 168  
Walcheren Fever, 168  
Walcot, Bath, 12  
Walker, Sarah, Cook 1861, 69  
Wallace Alexander, 29  
Wallace, Alexander, 25, 29  
dies 1804, 26  
expert bowman, 27  
Wallace, Anne, 29  
born Edinburgh, 26  
children at Lackham, 33  
*marries Capt FW Rooke*, 29  
marries FW Rooke, 25  
only surviving offspring, 29  
*Wallace, Robert*, 29  
dies 1801, 29  
Wallace, Robert II dies 1824, 29  
Walsh, Private J.O, 149  
Walters, Ann, 35  
War Agricultural Committee, 150  
War Ministry, 150  
Warner, J, 130  
Warrington, 82  
Watkins, Elizabeth 1851, 45  
Watson, Lt Col, 22  
Watson, Thomas, 69  
Webb, Aaron, 78  
Webb, William, 78  
*West Indies*, 24, 166  
West Meath, Ireland, 111  
West Wilts Electric Light and Power  
Comp, 30  
West Wilts Electric Light and Power  
Company, 139  
Weston super Mare, air raids 1942, 135  
Westwood House, Essex, 22  
Wheeler, Mary, Kitchen maid 1861, 69  
*Wheeler's Wood*, 134  
White, George, 16  
buys land at Reybridge, 16, 69  
Lacock baker, 17  
Whiteside, Robert, 105  
*Whitmarsh, Coroner at Chippenham*, 86  
Williams, Ada Mary  
marries William Tatem, 129  
Williams, Isabella M, House maid 1861,  
69  
Williams, Thomas, 129  
*Williamson, AE*, 153  
*Williamson, AE employed by*  
*Westinghouse 1946*, 153  
Wills, Mr & Mrs, 109  
Wilsford, 16  
Wilson, John, 78  
Wilson, June Countess Badeni, 105  
Wiltshire  
College, Lackham, 158  
Wiltshire  
*Agricultural Committee*, 152  
*Agricultural Society*, 125  
County Council  
*appoints senior staff Lackham*  
*1946*, 152  
cannot use Lackham until 1950, 152  
*obtains Lackham 1950*, 156  
Purchases Lackham 1945, 152  
Land Tax Commissioners, 33

Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society., 127  
Wiltshire and Trowbridge Gazette, 125, 193  
Wiltshire Friendly Society, 62  
*Wiltshire Gazette*, 46, 135  
Wiltshire Times, 141  
*Winch, R*, 153  
*Head gardener 1946*, 153  
Wokingham Stakes, 133  
Wolfe & Montcalm chapter, 138  
Wood  
  Arnold's, 33  
  Camp, 151  
  *Tackle Moor*, 134  
*Tacklemoor*, 134  
*Wheeler's*, 134  
Wood Lane Bungalow, 127  
Wood, Henry Awdry, 51  
Woodland Cottage, 57  
Woods, Edward WH, 88  
Woolcombe, Capt, 166  
Woolcombe, Capt John Charles, 166  
Woolhampton, Bucks, 111  
Wylde, Canon  
  Vicar of Melksham, 126  
*Yorkshire paragon turnips*, 71  
Young Farmers Rally 1946, 154  
Zavallis, Lakis, 19