

## **The Howorth and the Ellicott Families**

An abbreviated version of a family history by a descendant of Baron Howorth of Sacavém, who owned the ceramic company *Fábrica da Loíça de Sacavém*, whose subsequent ownership passed through the hands of two of our Members' families: Clive & Emma Gilbert.

*By Tim Barry*

### **Author's note**

I have accumulated historical notes written over the years by Rupert Howorth, his cousin Mary Tisdale, Betty Beattie and Richard Beattie, Dorothy Ford and others together with family photos left to me by my mother. I decided that it may be of interest to other family members if I tried, in my amateurish way, to amalgamate the documents and the pictures and I trust that I have been faithful to the original sources. The quality of the photographs may be questionable but many of them are well over one hundred years old.

My research took me to Funchal in Madeira and to Lisbon and Porto, and, as is to be expected, I soon discovered that all was not as I had been brought up to believe. On the Howorth side of the family, some ancestors blossomed from humble beginnings whilst others were Jacobite rebels.

On the Ellicott side of the family, Evelyne's grandfather Edmund who lived and died in Madeira was a devout Catholic from Ireland who had a chapel at his home with a chaplain. Her Father, William Ellicott apparently worked in the telegraph company in Porto which would have been part of the postal system and her mother, Hannah Maria is recorded as having died in the 'correos' (post office), five days after Evelyne's birth.

All families have a 'black sheep', it seems that even the Baron, John Howorth, strayed from the straight and narrow. This makes family research worthwhile!

### **Introduction**

At the beginning of the 18th century, King Louis XIV - The Sun King (1638-1715) - ruled France. Ever interested in increasing his power he was at war with his neighbours intermittently for most of the seventy-two years of his reign.

In 1700 the last of the Habsburg Kings of Spain died. A Bourbon, King Philip V inherited the Spanish throne, but he was also a potential heir to King Louis XIV. Spanish possessions included Milan, most of southern Italy, southern Netherlands, the Philippines and vast tracts of central and southern America.

An alliance was formed by Austria, Holland, England and Savoy who feared that, if the kingdoms of Spain and France united under one monarch, the balance of power in Europe would be upset. They planned to install a Habsburg (the traditional rulers of Austria) instead

of a Bourbon on the throne of Spain. The consequential 'War of Spanish Succession' (1701-1714) failed to replace King Philip V but achieved some success as, under the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, he surrendered his claim to the French throne.

Portugal suffers from its position in Europe. Spain, the much larger and more powerful neighbour on the Iberian Peninsular, can block land communications with the rest of the continent. Freedom to navigate the oceans was essential for the prosperity of the country. The sea power of England and the Netherlands was superior to the combined power of France and Spain and, as a result, Portugal was in danger of losing some, or all, of its overseas possessions

The English needed access to the ports of Portugal as the whole of the Atlantic seaboard from the Netherlands to Africa was enemy territory and closed to the fleet. Also all the islands in the North Atlantic from the Azores to Cape Verde Islands were owned by the Spanish or Portuguese and were unavailable for shelter in times of need.

Initially Portugal was an ally of France because King Pedro II (1683-1706) was persuaded that the French fleet would protect the country from the combined sea power of the British and Dutch. However, when the British fleet sailed unhindered into the Tagus and trained their canons on Lisbon, he realised that the French promise of protection was empty and decided that an alliance with England would be in the best interests of Portugal.

### **The Methuen Treaty**

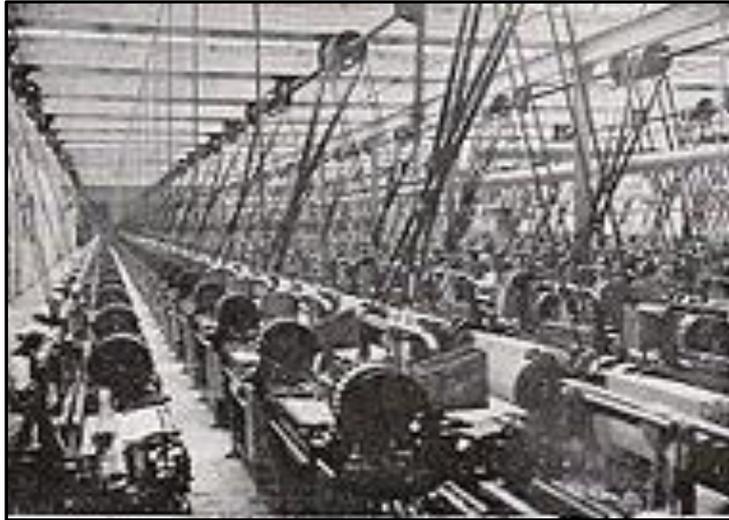
In 1703 John Methuen (1650-1706) was sent to Portugal as the ambassador. He negotiated a treaty which was to have far reaching effects. Both the Howorth and Ellicott families would prosper as a result of its provisions over the next two centuries.

Usually treaties are known by the town or city where they are negotiated and signed. The 'Methuen Treaty' bears the name of the individual who was sent from England to persuade the King of Portugal to abandon his alliance with the French and join England, Holland and Austria in the War of Spanish Succession.

The treaty was simple. In exchange for the right to import woollen goods into Portugal free of duties the British undertook to charge duty on Portuguese wines which would be twenty-five per cent lower than duties on French wines. The benefits were significant, particularly for the British. As a result of the conflict the British were unable to import French wine and when hostilities ceased, the continuing unfavourable tax treatment discouraged the purchase these wines. Portuguese wine rapidly became the drink of choice. Soon families from the British Isles settled in Portugal and Madeira to exploit the prosperous trade.

A whole new market opened up for sheep farmers of Lancashire and Yorkshire who spun wool as a cottage industry.

Within fifty years of the Methuen Treaty, the Industrial Revolution transformed the landscape of Britain. The introduction of machinery with the resultant mass production in factories and mills concentrated large numbers into new towns which grew up around these centres of employment.



**Lancashire Cotton Mill - 1914**

The woollen mills, and subsequently the cotton mills, employed labourers who had previously been agricultural workers. As the demand for more workers increased immigrants arrived, many from poverty stricken families in Ireland. They were housed in tenement properties adjacent to the workplace which were basic in the extreme and many rapidly became slums.

Conditions at work were appalling. Health considerations did not exist. There was no excuse for not working, and no work meant no pay. There was no regard for safety. Injury and death through accidents were commonplace - there was no compensation. If a child was old enough to work, employment was available, even for a six year old. The noise of the machinery and the overcrowding were unbearable. There was only one alternative to work - starve.

Perhaps the slaves on the cotton fields of the southern states of America, who produced the raw material, fared better than the freemen working in *'Those dark satanic mills'*.<sup>1</sup>

Most owners prospered mightily as did the merchants who sold the products on the home market and abroad.

Rochdale was one of the major towns which evolved as a result of the Industrial Revolution. By 1891 there were fifty three cotton spinners and manufacturers and a further twenty three woollen manufacturers in the town and a further forty four mills within a five miles radius. Of these Abraham Brierley and Sons was perhaps the biggest with four mills in Rochdale containing 1,900 looms and 100,000 spindles.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> From the hymn "Jerusalem"

<sup>2</sup> Grace's guide to British Industrial History

## THE HOWORTH FAMILY

The Howorth family were probably yeomen fell farmers who had lived in the valleys north of Rochdale, and possibly in Lower Stack Farm, for generations. The name Howorth is common in Rochdale and the surrounding towns and villages of the Whitworth valley. The earliest ancestor traced is John Howorth, living in the 17th century. He had a son James who was the father of Henry (1741-1820) married to Mary, née Lord, the widow of Henry Hoyle. They lived in Lower Stack Farm, Rockcliffe.

### **Mary Lord**

Mary was the wife of Henry Hoyle (1751-1782). They lived in New Hall Hey near Rawtenstall in Lancashire. They had two children, a daughter, Betty married to John Stott (they had no issue) and a son, also Henry (1775-1862), a sea captain. He prospered greatly at the beginning of the 19th century. A captain would typically be the owner of a large proportion of his vessel and would receive a substantial part of the profits resulting from each voyage. He invested wisely and became a large landowner owning land suitable for quarrying. His numerous quarries provided stone which, it is said, created the pavements of London. He owned woollen and cotton mills in Rawtenstall and had agencies overseas from which his products were distributed. One of these, John Ashworth & Co, was the Lisbon agent for the Rawtenstall firm of Hoyle Ashworth & Co.

He had one son, also Henry, who predeceased him. As there was no successor to the Hoyle fortune, Henry adopted Elizabeth Schofield (nee Howorth), the daughter of his half-brother, John Howorth and the Scholfield family inherited most of his fortune amounting to £100,000. He also bequeathed the not inconsiderable sum of £4,000 to each of the other children of John.

Following the death of her first husband Mary Hoyle married Henry Howorth (1741-1820) whose family had been fell farmers living in Lower Stack Farm, Facit in the Whitworth valley for many generations. Henry Howorth is buried in the Wesleyan chapel at Bacup. Attempts by previous generations, notably Henry Hoyle Howorth and his son Rupert, both keen historians and genealogists, to identify a family connection with the aristocratic Howords of Howord Hall, Honorsfield in the parish of Rochdale have been unsuccessful. This family had lived in Howord Hall from the time of King Henry I (A.D.1100-1137) until the end of the eighteenth century when the last surviving male heir died. He was Radcliffe Howord LLD a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford where he is buried.

### **Mary Whitworth**

Mary (b.1794) was the sister of the vicar of Facit. She married John Howorth (1790-1855), the son of Henry and Mary Howorth. As a young man he was in the cotton trade but failed in this venture.

They had four sons and three daughters. John is described as an ‘unfortunate’ as throughout his life he was always hard-up as various business ventures failed. Luckily his half-brother, Henry Hoyle had the means to support his large family. Henry Hoyle owned an inn in Facit and installed John to manage it which was a strange arrangement as John was a Methodist (and thus, probably, teetotal) and regularly attended Chapel. Mary appears to have been in charge of the pub but suffered from deafness which was a severe disadvantage. John also rented a small farm from his half-brother. Mary attended Chapel with her husband but all their four children were baptised in the Church of England.

In his later life John would receive letters of advice from his son Henry in Lisbon advising him to concentrate on his farming activities and negotiate lower rents on the pub and farm rather than invest in ventures which were ‘certain to end in ruin’! He died on his way home from courting a potential third wife when he fell into a pit and was killed. He is also buried in the Wesleyan Chapel at Bacup. Each of the four sons of John were given an introduction to Hoyle’s agency in Lisbon. As soon as they were old enough, they travelled there to seek their fortune.

### **Henry Howorth (1817-1850)**

Henry was the eldest son of John and Mary After leaving school he served for a time in the Mill owned by his half-uncle, Henry Hoyle in Rawtenstall before migrating to Lisbon in 1835 where, at the tender age of eighteen, he replaced George Ashworth who had been in charge of the agency of Hoyle Ashworth & Co, which operated in Lisbon under the name of John Ashworth & Company.

His eldest sister, Elizabeth, was also sent to Lisbon at an early age to keep house for her brother. She was being wooed by James Scholfield but her parents disapproved of this young man because of his heavy drinking habits. When she returned to Facit, she married James who had got over his heavy drinking with ‘great difficulty’. She was to inherit the Hoyle fortune on the death of her father’s half-brother. At some stage Henry appears to have purchased the Lisbon business. It started importing goods from Manchester and exporting Portuguese produce both on commission and for its own account. In 1840 he returned ‘full of money’ to marry his cousin Anne, the daughter of Abraham Tweedale, the proprietor of the public house known as ‘The Grapes’ but fell for Elizabeth Beswicke who was working in the hostelry and married her instead. They set up home in Lisbon and had five children (one daughter, Ann, died in infancy). Henry was admitted as a member of the masonic Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin in 1843. As the admission certificate refers to ‘Lodge 341’ Lisbon, perhaps he did not need to travel to Ireland for his inauguration ceremony.

### **Beswicke**

In 1513, the battle of Flodden was fought in Northumberland when a large Scottish army under King James 11 (of Scotland) was decisively defeated by the English. Richard Beswicke, an ancestor fought at this battle, presumably on the victorious side. He was an ancestor of the Rev. Charles Beswicke, Rector of Radcliffe in the 17th Century, the father of Charles ‘the Jacobite’.

Jacobites supported the claim of James Edward, the son of King James II (of England) to be the rightful king of Britain. King James II had abandoned his throne and fled to France when the country was invaded by his son-in-law William 'of Orange' at the invitation of the powerful Whig landowners in 1688.

In 1715 James Edward landed in Scotland with his band of supporters but this invasion soon petered out. In 1745, His son Charles Edward (Bonnie Prince Charlie) led a more successful invasion when his army reached Derby before they had to retreat due to lack of support. The Scottish 'rebels' retreated through Rochdale on their route back to Scotland The Battle of Culloden fought outside Inverness finally ended the aspirations of the Jacobites.



**Charles Beswicke (the Jacobite)**

**Picture owned by Peter Vickery**

Charles Beswicke, the Jacobite, and his son John, executed in 1745, are presumed to have been supporters of 'The King across the water'. Jacobites considered that the Hanoverian dynasty imposed on the country in 1714 when King George 1 was invited to be king was an imposition of Germanic sovereignty against the wishes of the people of these islands.

### **Elizabeth Beswicke**

The grandson of John's brother, James Beswicke died in 1820. In 1818, he married Ann, née Tweedale, who died 1831 having remarried and is buried under the name of Jones. Their children Elizabeth and Robert were left as orphans and went to their grandfather John Tweedale of Mount Cottage, Lower Farm, Healey where they were looked after by their step-grandmother Elizabeth and their uncle, Robert Tweedale of Broadley Mills. Elizabeth is supposed to have been unkindly treated and she ran away, aged about 10.

As Elizabeth was running across fields towards Rochdale she met a Mrs Newell, a relation of her father who said - in her broad Lancashire dialect - 'weart tha' bun lass?'. On hearing Elizabeth's story she said 'get th' to th' uncle Abramaatth in Packer Street and say I sent thee'.

She lived with Abraham Tweedale at 'the Grapes' Inn at the bottom of Yorkshire Street, Rochdale until she was 18. She always said that she arrived in heaven when she got there and they were very, very good to her. They dressed and fed her and treated her as one of their own children. They all worked hard and she worked the hardest. When Henry Howorth came home from Lisbon 'full of money' to marry his cousin Anne, daughter of Abraham Tweedale and Pricilla Whitworth, he married Elizabeth instead!



**Elisabeth Beswicke**

In November 1850, Henry Howorth died in Lisbon having been confined to his bed with 'vomiting and apoplexy' for some days. He was buried in Lisbon. He had achieved much during his short life of 33 years.

Elizabeth, on advice from the English Consul, sent for her brother Robert Beswicke to bring the family back to Lancashire as she was advised that they could be claimed as Portuguese subjects. She left in his ship 'Tagus' with her 4 children, Henry, Mary, Louisa and Fanny, and a nurse. Her husband, Henry, was disinterred and his body and the remains of their infant daughter who had died in 1845 aged 7 months were sent back to England for burial.

They lived for some time in a room in South Street, Rochdale. In June 1851 Robert Beswicke died there. Shortly after Elizabeth and her children moved to 'Moss Cottage'. In 1851 the Elizabeth and her children travelled to London to visit the Great Exhibition with John

Stott Howorth and his fiancée Alice Rawstron, who was accompanied by her brother Thomas.<sup>3</sup> When young Henry got lost at this huge event, his sister records that she was left alone 'at the fountain next to the entrance' whilst the family set out to search for him.



**Thomas Rawstron**

In 1852 Elizabeth married Thomas Rawstron (1819-1861) of Castleton in Whitworth church. The Rawstrons had bought the Cotton Mill at Norden together with a row of cottages and other property and Thomas managed this new family project. The Rawstrons were a prosperous family as their father, Ralph, who lived in Facit, had three mills, including Bridge Mills at Whitworth even though he was illiterate and could not sign his name. Thomas died in 1861 and Elizabeth then moved to Castleton Hall.

By this stage Elizabeth was 'of independent means'. Her brother, Robert, had been the administrator of 'Uncle Ned's' estate which had 'value' and funds also flowed from the Tweedale and Beswicke estates. Also there was her Portuguese income from Henry's share of the business which was worth 'at least £1,000 per year'. Finally she had a life interest in the Thomas Rawstron estate which, when realised, amounted to £40,000.

Casleton Hall was an enormous house which needed a big staff. No sooner had the family moved in than Elizabeth lost a large part of her income due to the failure of the Lisbon business and she had to keep the house going with many fewer servants. In spite of this she kept an open house for the friends of her children and in particular Henry, who was never happy unless it was full of people.

### **William John Howorth (1821-1905)**

William followed his brother to Lisbon and joined his business in 1841. He married a Portuguese and had a son, Julio. It is understood that his descendants still reside in Portugal.

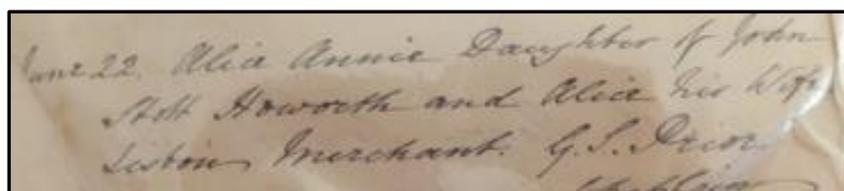
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<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Haigh, nee Rawstrom, the grandmother of Evelyne Howorth, was the sister of Alice and Thomas

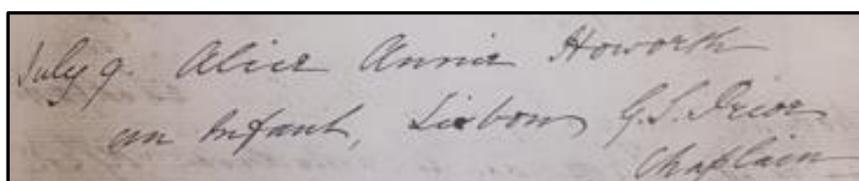
### **John Stott Howorth (1829 - 1893)**

In 1843, aged 15, John, the third son of John and Mary, emigrated to join his brothers in Lisbon and started as clerk in a potato importing concern.

He married Alice Rawstron (1831-1925), the sister of Thomas Rawstron, husband of Henry's widow. The only child of this union that was born alive, Alice Annie, died in 1859 aged 8 weeks. They lived at No.55 Rua Nova de S. Francisco de Paula, Lisbon.



June 22. Alice Annie Daughter of John  
Stott Howorth and Alice his wife  
Lisbon Merchant. G.S. Price  
Chaplain



July 9. Alice Annie Howorth  
an infant, Lisbon G.S. Price  
Chaplain

### **Church register entry of christening and burial of Alice at St George's, Lisbon**



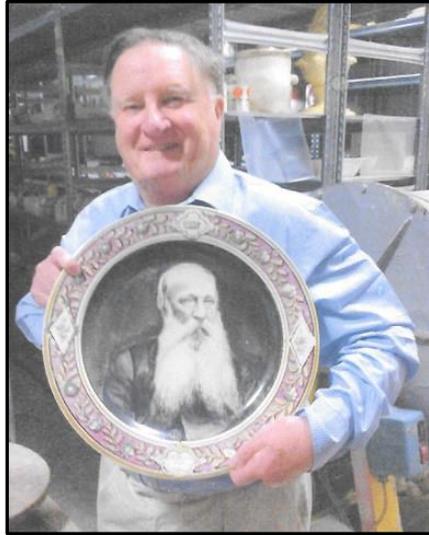
**John Stott, Baron Howorth and Alice, the Baroness**

John (in association with his brother William) soon became a very successful businessman in Portugal although his concession to build a railway from Lisbon to Cintra did not materialise.

However he founded the following companies:

- Fábrica de Moagens do Terreiro do Trigo (the flour mill - Terreiro do Trigo)
- The Companhia de Gas do Porto (the gas company in Porto)
- The Fábrica de Fiacao de Xabregas (a spinning mill at Xabregas)

In 1880, John Stott bought Fábrica da Loiça de Sacavém, which had been founded in 1856 and was close to bankruptcy. He increased production and the range of products and engaged English engineers to develop and modernise techniques to create one of the biggest potteries in Portugal. He also launched an earthenware industry in the town of Leiria in central Portugal. Together, these enterprises employed 300 people.



**The Baron on a Loiças de Sacavém platter**



**Two Sacavém products: a Life Guard c. 1815, and Winston Churchill (with an incorrect V sign)**

John was a close friend of King Dom Fernando II. The royal family held him in great esteem and would visit him at Sacavém where the king and his son, Luis, and grandson Carlos painted some of the products as a hobby. They were all good artists who probably found relaxation away from politics and the constant attention of courtiers.

In 1885, there was a territorial dispute with England over the area of Africa subsequently to be known as Rhodesia. Portugal wanted to control the lands between their colonies of

Mozambique and Angola. This conflicted with British ambitions to control a continuous landmass from Egypt in the North, to the Cape in the South. John took Portuguese citizenship, and this popular move led to King Luis I creating him 'Baron de Howorth de Sacavém'.

It is not recorded whether the marriage to Alice was harmonious but it seems that John deviated from the straight and narrow as the following baptismal document testifies:

Translated:

“On the 7th day of October one thousand eight hundred and ninety one I solemnly baptised in this parish church of Santos-o-Velho in the city of Lisbon an individual of the male sex to whom I gave the name of Henrique Anthony who was born in the parish of Pena in this city at eleven o'clock in the evening on the twenty third of August in the same year, the illegitimate son, the first of this name, of the Most Excellent Baron Howorth of Sacavém, Jphn Stott Howorth, married, businessman, a native of England, resident in this parish São Francisco de Paula and Maria Margarida Pinto, single, baptised in the parish of Socorro in this city and resident in the parish of Pena, Rua Santo Antonio dos Capuchos paternal grandson of João Howorth and Maria Howorth and maternal of Antonio Gonçalves Pinto Bastos and Margarida Pinto Bastos. The maternal grandparents acted as godparents, resident in the same house in Rua Antonio dos Capuchos.

The child's father declared in my presence and in those witnesses nominated below, that he would sign this document taking into account the effects of the Civil Code in its respective articles and his mother acknowledged the child as her own for all intents and purposes. The witnesses to this act were José Eduardo Anjos and João Carlos Martins, an employee of this church. This document in duplicate after being read out and confirmed before the parents, godparents and witnesses was signed in my presence, Baron Howorth of Sacavém, Maria Margarida Pinto, José Eduardo Anjos and João Carlos Martins.”

In 1891, John signed a legal document on the occasion of the baptism in the parish church of Santos-o-Velho of Henrique Antony acknowledging that he was the father of this child, born to the unmarried Margarida Maria Pinto and accepting full responsibility under the Civil Code.

Descendants of Henrique continue to reside in Portugal. They claim that he divorced Alice, and then married Maria Margarita, although this is doubtful in 19th Century Portugal.

John brought a Mr. John Barlow from the Potteries in Staffordshire to modernise the factory at Sacavém. Following his death in 1893 his widow, Alice owned the business and she invited a Mr James Gilman, son of Thomas Gilman who was a friend of King Dom Luis. As a result of this contact, James became her partner and started to produce pottery under the name of 'Gilman & Co'. In 1907, Herbert Gilbert who had worked in Funchal for the Blandy family since 1896, was persuaded to move to Lisbon and become a partner in the business. He and the Howorths acquired the Gilman interest and the two families remained in partnership until the Howorth shares were finally purchased from them in the 1960s.

John transferred ownership of the Fábrica da Loiça da Sacavém into the ownership of Alice but she did not receive any benefit from his other businesses. Family lore suggests that his other activities failed but, maybe Henrique inherited them.



**Tomb of Baron Howorth - St. George's Church, Lisbon**

The inscription on the tomb reads:

*'Sacred to the memory of John Stott Howorth, Baron de Howorth de Sacavém, who died Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 1893, aged 64 years. Also of Alice Anna, daughter of John Stott and Alice Howorth, died 9th July 1859 aged 8 weeks.'*

On another face there is inscribed:

*'Sacred to the memory of Abraham Tweedale Howorth son of John and the late Mary Howorth of Facit near Rochdale Lancs who departed this life at Lisbon on 22nd February 1852 aged 19.'*

There is no mention of the Baroness who continued to live in Lisbon with her sister's granddaughter, Evelyne, as the political situation there was settled but they regularly visited their relatives in England. In 1909, she left Portugal which was in turmoil after the Monarchy was deposed. She spent the rest of her life with Evelyne and her husband, Rupert in England.

### **Abraham Tweedale Howorth (1833-1852)**

The fourth son of John and Mary, also joined his brothers in Lisbon. He died there, aged 19, in 1852.

### **Sir Henry Hoyle Howorth K.C.I.E. D.C.L. F.R.S. F.S.A. (1842-1923)**

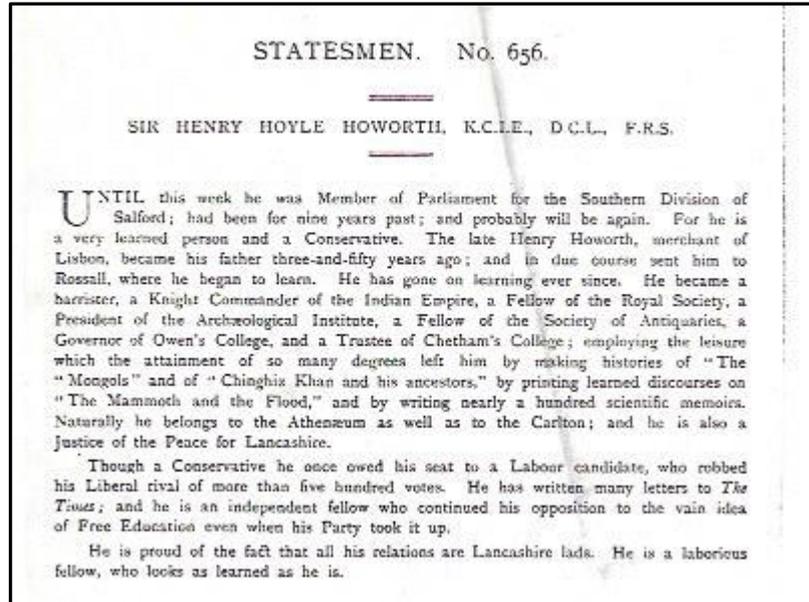
This Henry was the eldest child and only son of Henry and Elizabeth. He was born in Lisbon in 1842 and returned to Lancashire with his mother following the death of his father. He was educated at Rossall School. His interests in antiquity began on his walks along the Lancashire coast whilst at school as he started collecting fossils that he found on the beach. He was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in 1867. He then practised on the northern circuit. Having inherited from his grandfather's half-brother, Henry Hoyle the substantial sum of £4,000, he was of independent means.

Historical research was his primary interest and his first major work was the 'History of the Mongols' in three volumes which were published between 1875 and 1889. The first was a history of the eastern Mongolian races, the second the Tartars and the final volume was devoted to the Persian Mongols. He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in 1875. He was a staunch Conservative with independent views, often at odds with the party leadership. In 1886 he was elected to parliament as the member for South Salford and was re-elected in the elections of 1892 and 1895 but did not stand as a candidate at the next election.



**Sir Henry and Lady Howorth in court dress**

Being an MP did not interfere with his research. Between 1887 and 1903 he published the following books 'The Mammoth and the Flood' (1887), 'The Glacial Nightmare' (1893) and 'Ice or Water' (1903). He argued that a global flood followed by a sudden change of climate caused the extinction of the Mammoths and the formation of the glaciers, an unorthodox viewpoint at the time.



For his research into Asiatic history he was awarded a knighthood as a Knight Commander of the Indian Empire in 1892 and the following year was elected a fellow of The Royal Society. He was also a Trustee of the British Museum and president of the Archeological Institute.

In his later years Sir Henry wrote books on 'St. Gregory the Great' (1912), 'Augustine the Missionary' (1913) and 'The Golden Days of the early English Church' (1916).

During his life he had put together a substantial art collection. In 1875 he presented the National Gallery with 'Interior of a Church' by Bartholomus van Bassen. In 1922, following the death of Lady Howorth he presented a further five pictures, including the Nativity by Masaccio.



**The Nativity by Masaccio (1401-1428)**

On a board at the entrance of the National Gallery in London his name is included as a major benefactor. None of the pictures mentioned above were on display when I visited in 1997! The minutes of National Gallery Board also record that other pictures were offered - but declined.

Throughout his life Sir Henry suffered from ill health and this was aggravated by his intense literary and political activities. He lost the sight of one eye and endured severe headaches and other ailments and yet achieved so much and lived to a respectable old age.

In 1869, he married Katharine, the daughter of J. P. Brierley, of Rochdale. She died in 1921 and Sir Henry died in 1923. Following his death his remaining collection was sold by Christies. Members of the family successfully bid for some of these pictures.



**Sir Henry and Lady Katharine Howorth**

**Henry Godfrey Howorth** (from the notes of his brother, Rupert)

Henry Godfrey Howorth was born at Derby House, Eccles, Lancs on 6th June 1870, the eldest of my parents' four children. He was sent to school at Honiton and then to Haileybury. From there he passed into the R.M. Academy at Woolwich and was subsequently commissioned into the Royal Artillery (about 1889). He served in India for some years and was invalided home. On recovering his health he was posted to Ireland where he met his wife Alice Carol, nee Gibson, one of the daughters of Captain Gibson of Rockforest, Co. Tipperary who was the eldest brother of the first Lord Ashbourne - Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

My brother subsequently served on forts in Milford Haven and then became inspector of steel for the War Office serving in that capacity in Sheffield and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. During the 1914 -1918 war he served on the Ordinance Committee at the War Office. He was mentioned in dispatches, promoted to Colonel and received a C.M.G. in 1918. He retired from the army in 1919 with the rank of Colonel.

In 1898 he married Alice Caroline Mary Carol the widow of Egerton Griffen Carol. After retirement he undertook successful research into the diseases of bees at Bideford in Devon where he continued to reside until his death in 1947'. He had two sons, Henry (married to Shirley - the parents of Simon) and Peter (married to Val). There was one daughter, Kathleen married to Jack Druce, a partner in the firm of Druce & Attlee where another partner was Clement Attlee, one time Prime Minister of England.

**Sir Rupert Howorth** (extracts from the Obituary in the Times - 6th January 1964)

*'Sir Rupert Howorth K.C.M.G. K.C.V.O. C.B. who died on Saturday at his home in Eastbourne at the age of 83 was the Deputy Secretary (Civil) of the Cabinet from 1930 and Clerk of the Privy Council from 1938, until his retirement in 1942.*

*Rupert Beswicke Howorth was born on 13th July 1880, the second son of Sir Henry Howorth K.C.I.E. F.R.S who for many years represented South Salford in Parliament and was a versatile author of numerous works on scientific, historical and other subjects (notably a History of the Mongols and others on the Ice Age and The Flood, advancing theories peculiar to their author, attracted attention at the time but have hardly sustained the test of more exact modern research).*

*Rupert was educated at St. Paul's School and New College, Oxford where he took a second in Modern History in 1902. He was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1903 and the same year joined the Board of Education. He entered the Treasury in 1915 and in 1919 was seconded to the Cabinet Office where he was established as Deputy Secretary (Civil) in 1930.*

*In 1938, on the retirement of Maurice (later Lord Hankey), Howorth succeeded him as Clerk of the Privy Council retaining the post of Deputy Secretary (Civil) to the Cabinet. He was awarded many titles, a C.B. (Commander of the Bath) in 1926, C.M.G. in 1931, K.C.M.G. (Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George) in 1933 and K.C.V.O. (Knight Commander of the Victoria Order) in 1942. He was particularly proud of the last Knighthood as it was personal gift from the King. He had many of his father's interests and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.*

*On attaining the age of 62 in 1942 Howorth retired and devoted himself to his duties as a Justice of the Peace in Wimbledon. He was also an active Governor of the Moorfield's Eye Hospital. In 1945 he was recalled to official life by the Lord Chancellor Simon who appointed him Secretary to the Commissioners of the Peace in the place of the late Sir Leo Page. Howorth threw himself into the work of the office with zeal and when in 1946, a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Parcq was appointed to inquire into the position generally of Justices of the Peace, Howorth's elaborate memorandum and evidence proved of great value.*

*Sir Rupert Howorth married in 1907 Evelyne Maria only child of William Roope Ellicott, of Oporto, and he leaves one son and three daughters.'*



**Sir Rupert Howorth - called to the bar...**

**...and in Court dress**

Rupert recorded that, when he was about ten years old, he was sent to the Royal Naval School at Eltham, Kent with a view to joining the Navy but after two years he caught Rheumatic Fever and was in bed for the next twelve months after which he was educated at St. Paul's School and then, in 1898, at New College, Oxford.

## **THE ELLICOTT FAMILY**

### **Edmund Ellicott (1800-1852)**

The Ellicotts were Irish and Catholics. In 21st century Ireland, this name is almost unknown. In the west, and in particular Co. Galway, the name McElligott is common.

It was not unusual for Irish Catholics to 'Anglicanise' their name by removing the 'O' or 'Mc' and this was considered beneficial for those Irish who wanted a successful trading relationship with the English. Charles Ellicott, the father of Edmund, had a business in the 1790's which traded from Galway with Lisbon, Porto, Madeira and Brazil. He resided in Madeira where the large English, Scottish and Irish community had a comfortable life and enjoyed riding and swimming in the sea.

His son, Edmund Ellicott, had a small prayer book in which he wrote in his firm, sloping hand<sup>4</sup>

*'On 14th February 1814, I, Edmund Ellicott, took my departure from Galway to Cork where I arrived on 16th February and sailed from Cove (sic) on 10th March on board 'David' - Capt. Cowell - and landed in this city of Lisbon the 22nd day of March 1814,*

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<sup>4</sup> Dorothy Ford, his great grand- daughter owns this prayer book

*and sailed from Lisbon 1st September 1821 for Madeira in the Portuguese Packet 'Gloria' - Capt. Ferreira - where I arrived 9th September.*

*He was fourteen when he went to Lisbon and twenty-one when he left. It is presumed that he was educated during this time in preparation for taking over the family business. Catholics in Ireland were subject to the 'Penal Laws'. Any formal education for catholic children was prohibited. Hedge schools made some effort to provide education but they, literally, took place in the open under the hedgerows and, naturally, facilities were limited'.*

In Madeira, Edmund joined his father, Charles, who owned vineyards and made Madeira wine which was sort after by the English gentry. He lived in a large white two storied structure with wrought-iron balconies and a terrace with a magnificent view over the Bay of Funchal. There was private chapel and chaplain.

Edmund owned race horses, some of which won substantial silver trophies. In particular there is an impressive silver cup won by his horse 'Prince' in 1834. In 1832, he married Susan Wardrop. There were four children of this union, William Roope, (1833-1900), Annie (1834-1904), Raymond O'Toole (1836-1885) and Henry (b.1842).



**Edmund Ellicott and his wife Susan (née Wardrop)**

### **Religious Problems**

The first record book at the English Church in Funchal covers the years 1811-1837. It is recorded in this book that, in 1816, Andrew Wardrop who was not a contributor to church funds and presumably not a parishioner, and William Newman Roope (the treasurer of the Church) were appointed to make representations to the Governor of the island concerning the Duty that

he was proposing which was contrary to the Treaty of Peace between the two countries. Clearly they were objecting to a new tax and invoking the Methven Anglo/Portuguese Treaty.

The English Church was built in 1822. It is a square building because permission for its erection was given on condition that it bore no resemblance to a Christian church. Hence no gothic windows, no tower and no spire.

This low profile approach by the Protestant community was unsettled by the ostentatious religious displays of the Reverend Lowe who had been appointed by the Crown as the chaplain in 1833. He was apparently more interested in botany on the island than his flock. Also he insisted on burial services being held in the church prior to a formal procession with the coffin the two hundred yards to the cemetery and this was contrary to the policy which the Protestant community were anxious to maintain. Previously burial services were held in a small chapel at the cemetery. In 1847, about 50 signatories signed a petition to Her Most Gracious Majesty to remove the Rev. Lowe from his post as he was 'causing much dissension within the community'.

A Memorandum, signed by 50 persons present (including Edmund Ellicott) requesting the removal of the Chaplain was sent to Queen Victoria.

The Reverend Lowe had no intention of vacating his living and entered into lengthy correspondence with Lord Palmerston, (long term foreign secretary and later prime minister of England) who dealt with this dispute on behalf of Her Most Gracious Majesty. Revd. Lowe pointed out that, of the 50 signatures - to his certain knowledge at least one was a Roman Catholic and eight were Presbyterians. All the signatories were requested to explain their position and Edmund Ellicott wrote as follows....

*"I am a Roman Catholic and my wife is a member of the Church of England. Wishing that all my children be brought up in one faith I consented to them being baptised according to the rights of the Church. I have been a consistent contributor to the British Chapel since my marriage in 1833 but propose withholding my subscription hereafter unless the grievances complained of by the laity who addressed Mr. Lowe are redressed."*

Mr. Lowe was replaced in 1848. Edmund is recorded as being one of the major financial supporters of the Church from 1833 until 1852 and indeed attended most of the meetings of the Elders of the church normally held at the British Consulate. When Edmund died his children were still young and the family properties were entrusted by Susan to an agent. He took advantage of his position and the long absences of the family from home to defraud them of much of the property so that little was realised when these assets were sold.

## **Wardrop**

James was the Laird of Torbane Hill in Bathgate, West Lothian which had been in the possession of this family for over six hundred years. He married Marjory Marjoribanks of Marjoribanks. There were three sons of this union.

Charles, the eldest, became a gambling associate of George, Prince of Wales (later King George IV). Unfortunately this weakness cost him his inheritance and the family estates were sold by his creditors. To add injury to insult, sometime later coal was discovered on the estate. This seam of coal, known as Torbanite, was of particularly high quality and commanded a premium price<sup>5</sup> so that the yearly income from royalties exceeded £60,000 per year (well in excess of a million pounds in current money values).



**Andrew and Christian Wardrop (née Lundy) - parents of Susan, married to Edmund Ellicott**

Andrew (1766-1833), the second son of James and Marjorie, married Christian Lundy (1786-1836) in Madeira in 1804. As no English church had yet been built on the island, the ceremony took place at the British Consulate<sup>6</sup>. The only reference to the Wardrop family in the records of the English Church in Funchal is the appointment of Andrew as a delegate to make representations to the authorities regarding the proposed tax increase on wine. As the Wardrops were Presbyterians, all religious records of the family are presumably held in the Presbyterian Chapel still active there.

Susan, born in 1811, was the fourth eldest of the eleven children of Andrew and Christian. In 1832 she married Edmund Ellicott. To avoid any religious problems during their marriage they agreed that all their children would be christened and brought up as members of the Anglican Church.

William was sent to a boarding school in Bath in England. He married Hannah Maria Haigh in 1870. She was the daughter of William Haigh from Lancashire and Elizabeth née Rawstron. He was the land agent for Lord de Saumarez and their only child, Evelyne, was born fifteen years later.

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<sup>5</sup> Torbanite is 88% carbon and 11% Hydrogen. In 1851 James Young patented a process for distilling paraffin from this quality coal

<sup>6</sup> The dominant wine company in Funchal is Blandy. The original Blandy was sent from his home in Scotland, aged 14, to Lisbon with just £5 as he was in poor health and the Scottish climate did not suit him, From Lisbon he made his way to Madeira and wealth. As the second son, and with a profligate brother perhaps Andrew, too, was sent out into the world to seek his fortune.

Annie Ellicott married George Henry Brandt, a young doctor from the Azores who went to Lisbon at the invitation of the King of Portugal, King Pedro V, and became his personal physician. In 1858 he was presented with the 'Order of the Tower and the Sword' for his courage in dealing with a yellow fever epidemic. This is believed to be the only occasion when this prized decoration was not given for heroism in battle.

Raymond and Henry did not marry. Raymond is buried in the graveyard at the Church of St. James, Porto. Also buried here are William and Hannah Maria.

## **Haigh**

Elizabeth Rawstrom was the daughter of a Mill owner in Rochdale and William's mother was Clara Pilling. Abraham Brierley had married the daughter of James Pilling, the owner of Pilling Mill and there is a possible connection between these women, in which case there was some consanguinity when an Ellicott married a Howorth. The photo of William Haigh was taken by a photographer in Manchester which would indicate that the Haigh family originated in that region.

He was the Land Agent for the Lord de Saumurez who are the dominant family on the Island of Guernsey. Their daughter, Hannah Maria married William Ellicott in 1870.



**William Ellicott (1833-1900) and Hannah Maria Haigh (1848-1885)**

After fifteen years of marriage, on 8th November 1885, Evelyne was born. She was the only child of William and Hannah Maria to be born alive. Hannah Maria died within a few days and was buried in the graveyard at Porto on 16th. November 1885.

There has been a Anglican Chaplain in Porto since 1671 attending to the needs of merchants from England. However Protestants were not allowed to have a fixed place of

worship or to worship openly and services were therefore held in private houses. In 1787 the British Consul was allowed to buy a plot for the burial of deceased members of the community.

At the end of the Peninsular War, the Protestants were given permission to build a church so long as the building did not include any tower, spire or bells. It was also stipulated that it was to be built beyond the range of two gun shots from the city and had to be surrounded by walls which were at least three metres in height. Was this to confine the parishioners within the walls or to stop the local catholic population from gaining access? In 1815 work started on a Chapel which was consecrated in 1843. This 'chapel' has subsequently been enlarged and remains a vibrant part of the community. The property is now situated in the middle of a much enlarged city.

On Evelyne's christening certificate William is described as a 'book-keeper with the Telephone Company in Porto' and in the register of deaths at Porto records that Hannah Maria died in the 'Correos'. Presumably he lived and worked at the same place.

The job description appears mundane. Perhaps the haughty Howorths from Lisbon disapproved of William and his employment. William however was not impoverished. He retained many of the Ellicott valuables including a substantial silver collection which was kept in a large silver-chest specially designed for the purpose.

As William did not have the facilities to look after the baby, she was sent by train, with a wet nurse, to his wife's closest relations in Portugal. Alice and John Howorth were the great-aunt and great-uncle of Evelyne and were both over fifty years old. They took Evelyne in and brought her up. Evelyne wrote regularly to her father in Porto and clearly missed him. In one of these letters she tells him how she and the Baroness met the Queen whilst walking on the beach and they were invited back to the palace for tea. Following the death of William in 1900, Alice formally adopted Evelyne who inherited her interest in the Fábrica da Loiça da Sacavém.

In 1907, Rupert and Evelyne were married in St. Jude's, South Kensington. The marriage was celebrated by the Rev. Prebendary Brierley, a relative of the groom. The bride was given away by the Baroness Howorth and the reception was in the home of Sir Henry Howorth, 30 Collingham Place, SW3. For a short time they lived in Woking where their eldest daughter was born. Although she was christened Evelyne Katharine Alice, she was universally known throughout her life as 'Menina' - 'the little one' which was the greeting she received from the maids of the Baroness when she was taken to Portugal as a baby. Within four years John and then Betty were born and the family moved to Belvedere Close in Wimbledon.



**Evelyne Maria Ellicott**



**Evelyne and Alice, the Baroness**

The Baroness was now in her eighties and moved in with the family for the final years of her life. She was known as ‘Granny’ and always wore black with a white lace cap. She would play cards with her grandchildren - but never on a Sunday. She disapproved of Sunday papers<sup>7</sup> and organised the singing of hymns around the piano after Sunday tea. Latterly she is remembered as ‘the little old lady sitting in the corner’. She was 94 years of age when she died and was senile in her later years but staff were in permanent attendance, many from Portugal.



**Window in memory of Baron John Howorth and plaque in memory of his widow Alice, in St. George’s church Lisbon**

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<sup>7</sup> Sir Rupert had to secretly smuggle the Sunday paper into the house and hide in his study to read it.

During the First World War the south of England was under threat from air raids. The family would retire to the cellar when these occurred and there was great excitement when a Zeppelin airship caught fire above Wimbledon. During the war, in addition to his work with the government, Rupert was a Special Constable guarding Whitehall and Buckingham Palace. He would regularly walk to and from home to his work - a distance of eight miles.

In 1934 they then moved to 'Neswick', No.17 Parkside, Wimbledon.<sup>8</sup> 'Neswick' boasted a genuine 'green baize door'. On the one side was fancy heavy furniture, much of it from Portugal, Goa or Brazil; on the other side, flagstone floors and functional kitchen furniture. During the hostilities of the second world war, Wimbledon, like the rest of London suffered from aerial bombardment and in particular received a fair share of hits from the V1 unmanned flying bombs (known as 'doodlebugs'). Once again Rupert would walk to and from his work at the Cabinet Office and at Buckingham Palace during the war years,

After the war and when Rupert finally retired, Ada moved with Rupert and Evelyne to Limpsfield and then the Manor House at Edenbridge and finally to Eastbourne. When they died she was provided with a cottage in Eastbourne for the final years of her life.



**Evelyne, Lady Howorth at the commemoration for *Loiças de Sacavém* in Lisbon, c. 1950**

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<sup>8</sup> Parkside, Wimbledon was recently described in the Times newspaper as the road with the most expensive houses in England



**The author, Tim Barry, as a baby with his grandparents and parents 1937**  
**Col. Edward Barry; Evelyne, Lady Howorth; ‘Menina’ (Evelyne Katharine Alice); Margaret Barry; Sir Rupert Howorth; and Fred Barry (reclining)**

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