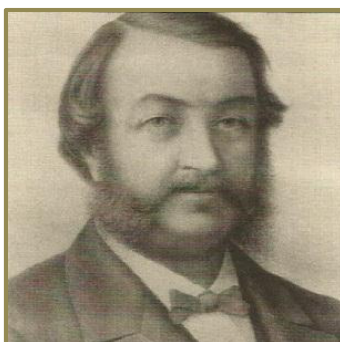


Death of Alfred Seymour of Knoyle House



EAST KNOYLE.

DEATH OF MR. ALFRED SEYMOUR.

Mr. Alfred Seymour died at his residence, Knoyle House, on Thursday, March 15th. He was born in 1824, and was the son of the late Mr. Henry Seymour, by Jane, daughter of Mr. Benjamin Hopkinson, of Bath. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, and in 1866 married Isabella, daughter of Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., and widow of Mr. Beriah Pottfield. Through his wife Mr. Seymour became possessed of considerable landed property, and he inherited other estates from his brother, Mr. Henry Danby Seymour. At the time of his death he was the owner of the Manor at Treet, near Sherborne; of Nerton Hall, near Daventry, Northamptonshire; of the Ditton Estate, near Cleobury Mortimer, in the same county; of the Church Stretton Estate, in Shropshire; and of Knoyle House, the family residence, and property in Wiltshire. He was elected member of Parliament for Totnes in 1863, and sat for that borough in the Liberal interest until 1868. He was returned for Salisbury in 1869, but was defeated on again contesting that constituency at the general election of 1874. Since the latter date Mr. Seymour ceased to take an active part in politics, and, owing to failing health, had for some years lived in comparative retirement; he suffered from asthma, which, towards the close of his life, was complicated by other illness. He was a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant of Wilts. He took much interest in agriculture. In the flourishing days of that industry, the Knoyle Farmers' Club was one of the most important farmers' clubs in the county, and owed its position in a great measure to Mr. Seymour's efforts. He was a good sportsman, and as foxes were strictly preserved there, the Knoyle covers were a sure find for the South and West Wilts Hounds. In politics Mr. Seymour belonged to the old school of Liberalism. He was strongly opposed to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule policy.

The deepest sympathy is felt by the residents of this village for Mrs. and Miss Seymour in their bereavement, and marks of the sorrow and regret which the inhabitants universally feel at Mr. Seymour's death are everywhere observable. On Sunday, hymns having reference to the event were sung at the services at the Parish Church, and the Curate, the Rev. — Suffrin, alluded to the great loss the locality has sustained in the decease of one who was a local benefactor, and in every aspect of his public and private life a noble-hearted man. Deceased's character was such as to gain him spontaneous regard and liking from all who knew him either in a personal or public capacity. His generosity was unstinted, and his sympathy with the joys and sorrows of others was equally unrestricted. He was ever ready to further, both with his purse and his personal co-operation, any movement that was set on foot for the benefit of the villagers, and a testimony of his liberality in that direction remains in the handsome new schools, towards the erection of which he gave £500 and the site.

The funeral of the deceased took place on Wednesday afternoon, amidst every token of sorrow and regret. The whole of the parishioners drew their blinds out of respect to one so dear to them, and, the day being fine, there was a large attendance. Signs of mourning were general. At two o'clock the Church bell commenced tolling, and visitors from far and near commenced to congregate outside the mansion. The spot where Mr. Seymour was to be interred in the picturesque Knoyle Churchyard was chosen by himself. Most of his ancestors, however, are buried in the Seymour mausoleum at Trent, Somersetshire. Shortly before three o'clock the procession emerged from the mansion, and was admirably marshalled by Mr. John Walton (Walton & Co.), of Mere, who was the undertaker. The order was as follows:—

The whole of the Police Officers of the Hindon Petty Sessional Division (under Mr. Supt. Bull), of which the deceased was chairman.

Parishioners and Visitors.

Four Old Workmen, loaded with magnificent wreaths.

Four Bearers.

THE BODY.

Four Bearers.

Mourners.

Brother Magistrates.

Knoyle and Trent Tenantry.

Servants.

Tradespeople.

Villagers.

Visitors.

Private Carriages.

The mourners included:—Mrs. Seymour (widow), Miss Seymour (only daughter), Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P. (deceased's brother-in-law), Miss Leighton (sister-in-law), Mademoiselle Khayl (Miss Seymour's governess), Mrs., the Misses (3), and Mr. Milford (the Rector's family), Mr. Henry Bouverie (nephew), Mr. Sandford (nephew), Mr. Seymour Bouverie (nephew), Captain George Bouverie (nephew), Col. the Hon. — Methuen (nephew), Earl Northbrook (an old and intimate friend of the deceased), Baron Stalbridge, the Hon. Percy Wyndham, Mr. Alfred Buckley (New Hall, Salisbury), Mr. W. R. Shaw Stewart, Mr. Walter Grove, Mr. W. H. Hulbert (London), Mr. Still (the family lawyer), Mr. Lightfoot (representing Sir Michael Shaw Stewart), Mr. W. E. Moss King (Donhead), Lieut.-Col. Best (Chariton House), Mr. Yates (bailiff on the Norton estate), Mr. Ball (the outler), Mr. Cramond (the gardener), Mr. Collins (the keeper), Mr. Crowhurst (the coachman), Miss Collins, Miss Searle, and others. The Knoyle tenantry included Messrs. Dowding, Scammell, Howell, C. King, and Burton; and among those present from the Trent estate were Messrs. Stacey (2), Otway, Andrews, Poop, and Garrett. The others present included the Rev. W. H. Tayler (vicar of Hindon), the Rev. G. B. Oldfield (rector of Sedgemoor), the Rev. — Vander Meulen (rector of West Knoyle), the Rev. W. Reece (rector of Putwood), Mr. J. A. Mayo (representing Mr. W. H. Mayo, of Yeovil).

clerk to the Hindon Bench), Mr. R. G. Shackleton (representing Sir Henry Hoars), Mr. James Rawlence (Rawlence & Squaresy, Salisbury), Mr. Ernest Rawlence, Mr. G. H. Gordon (H.M. Inspector of Schools), Mr. Edgar Gordon (Wincombe Park), Mr. Alderman Hicks (Salisbury), Dr. Blythe (deceased's medical attendant), Mr. and Mrs. Browning (Knole), Mr. Ellen (Semley Station), Mr. Swain (Shaftesbury), Mr. R. S. Freame (Gillingham), Mr. James Burbidge (Shaftesbury), Mr. Mothersdale (Shaftesbury), Mr. Norris (Hindon), Mr. W. L. Chitty (Cann House), Mr. J. Soppitt (Shaftesbury), Mr. John Kemp (Hindon), Mr. Bracher (Place Farm, Tisbury), Mr. J. Beckett (Hindon), Mr. R. Uppcraft (Shaftesbury), Mr. A. Beckett (Tisbury), Mr. Imber (Shaftesbury), Mr. P. Genge (Hatch), Mr. James Alford (Tisbury), Mr. M. Alford (Shaftesbury), &c. Amongst the carriages was that of Lord Arundell of Wardour. The whole of the bearers were servants on the estate. On arriving at the church gates, those preceding the coffin opened out, and the procession was headed by the Rev. C. R. Tate (rector of Trent) and the Rev. A. E. Suffrin (curate of East Knole). The Rector of the parish (the Rev. R. N. Milford) was prevented through illness from being present. The Rev. C. R. Tate read the opening sentences of the burial service, and whilst the mourners and friends were taking their seats (the sacred edifice being crowded in every part), Mr. Tanswell played "I know that my Redeemer liveth" (Handel). Before the lesson, the hymn, "Beloved and honoured, fare thee well," was sung. The psalm was read by the Rev. A. E. Suffrin. Whilst the mourners were in the church, Mr. Supt. Bull placed his men around the approaches to the grave, which is situated at the top of the churchyard. The grave, which is a brick one (in accordance with the express wish of the deceased), is made for three persons, and is bricked up the sides. At the

bottom was a bedding of beautiful green moss, surmounted with a large cross of snowdrops. The sides of the grave were covered with arum lilies, white camelias, and ivy leaves, and on the top was a large quantity of fern and moss. This labour of love was due to Mr. Cramond (the gardener) and Mr. J. Howell (bricklayer). Whilst the mourners were leaving the church, Mr. Tanswell played the "Dead March" in *Saul*. At the graveside, the concluding part of the service was read by the Rev. C. R. Tate, after which the choir sang "Thy will be done." The coffin (which was covered with about 40 wreaths and crosses) was made of unpolished oak, with brass furniture, by Mr. James Snook, the estate carpenter. In addition to this there was a shell. The breast-plate bore the inscription:—"Alfred Seymour, born November 11th, 1824; died March 15th, 1888." Those who sent or brought wreaths included—Mrs. Seymour, Miss Seymour, and Mademoiselle Kkuyi, Mrs. Stanley Leighton, Miss Rosalind Sandford (a niece of deceased, whose residence is Ninhead Court, Somerset, but who is at present in France, whence she sent a magnificent wreath of white heather), the Marchioness of Bath (Longleat), Lord Carlisle, Lord Magheramorne, Lady Rawlinson (deceased's sister), the Hon. and Mrs. Percy

Wyndham (Cloude), Miss Wyndham, Miss Pamello Wyndham, the Vicar, Churchwardens, and the parishioners of Norton (Northamptonshire), Dr. and Mr. Blythe (Knole), Mr. and Miss Cramond (Knole), Misses Rachel and Parker Leighton (deceased's nieces), Miss Crowhurst, the Rev. W. H. Herman David (Tavistock), Miss Portia Smith (Bath), the servants of the Norton Hall Estate, Mrs. Philip Pleydell Bouverie (Bridgwater), Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Morrison (Fonthill House), Sir Michael and Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart, Mr. W. R. Shaw Stewart, Colonel Best, Mr. and Mrs. P. Bouverie, Fred and Janet Peel, Jane and Matilda (servants), servants of Knole House, Ellen Kirkwood (servant), Mr. Henry E. Bouverie, Mrs. Bouverie, and Mr. and Mrs. Atherton (Daventry).