

Obituary - Anne Lucy, Lady Arundell 1842 -1934



The Rt Hon Anne Lucy Lady Arundell of Wardour died on Wednesday night at Wardour Castle, Tisbury, after a week's illness. She was 92 years of age.

Lady Arundell's death removed from Wiltshire one of the few remaining links with the Victorian nobility.

She was a daughter of John Errington, of High Warden, Hexham, Northumberland and in 1862 married John Francis, Baron Arundell of Wardour, Count of the Holy Roman Empire, who was twelfth in succession to the title, which was created in 1605.

Her husband died suddenly in a London hotel in 1906, when he was attending the House of Lords for a debate on the Balfour Education Act, which created a big controversy throughout the country. There is no family.

The twelfth baron was succeeded by his brother, a Roman Catholic priest, and next in succession was a nephew of the twelfth and thirteenth baron, who died without issue, the heir being his brother, the present holder of the barony. Wardour Estate has remained in the possession of Anne Lucy Lady Arundell until her death. Lord Arundell has one son and two daughters. His heir is the Hon John F Arundell.

A Familiar and Honoured Figure

The late Lady Arundell was a Lady Bountiful to the whole of the district. Up to a few years ago she devoted the whole of her time to social work in Wardour and the neighbourhood, and was daily to be seen in her carriage and pair paying calls on her tenants, particularly the cottagers, for whom she always had the greatest consideration. In politics she was a Conservative. The Wardour Habitation of the Primrose League was formed by her husband and at his death she continued the work started by him.

Lady Arundell was true to the Catholic traditions of the family and one of her latest acts was the gift of the Presbytery at Tisbury when the Church of the Sacred Heart was made a parish church. She was a regular attendant at Mass at the Wardour Chapel up to a month ago.

Lady Arundell was a woman of strong and inflexible character. She took the closest interest in her estate and was familiar with every property and knew every tenant. Right up to within the last fortnight, her great age did not deter her from discussing and managing her estate affairs.

Famous Catholic Family

The Arundells are the oldest Roman Catholic family in England. A member of the family was first created a Count of the Holy Roman Empire in 1595 and that title has come right down through the centuries to the present day. They have played a prominent part in the religious history of this country. The Old Wardour Castle, which is now in ruins, has been the scene of considerable political turmoil.

The late Mr E Doran Webb, of Tisbury, was a leading authority on the history of the Arundells of Wardour and, happily he left the result of his researches in a book which he published for private circulation.

The old castle was built at the end of the fourteenth century on the spot where King Alfred gave his first charter granting lands about there to Shaftesbury Abbey. Sir John Chaney, a standard bearer to Richard 111 at Bosworth Field, whose tomb is in Salisbury Cathedral, died at the Castle.

Later, it passed into the Arundell family. One of the Arundells was a cousin of Cardinal Wolsey and another one, Matthew Arundell, for eloping with a maid of honour in Queen Elizabeth's Court, had a part of his lands confiscated by the Queen. Soon afterwards, however, the Queen seems to have relented and the whole of the property was restored to the Arundell family.

In 1648 Blanche Lady Arundell, with 42 men from her estate, defended the Castle against 750 and kept her attackers at bay. The present chapel at Wardour Castle, which is staffed by two priests, was built in the eighteenth century. The marble altar was a very costly feature and underneath the altar is a sarcophagus of rare antiquity.

Wardour Requiem

Following a pontifical requiem sung by the Bishop of Clifton and a choir of Catholic priests, the mortal remains of the Right Hon Anne Lucy, widow of the twelfth Lord Arundell of Wardour, were laid to rest in the sarcophagus beneath the sanctuary of Wardour Chapel on Saturday.

The coffin was borne into the church on Friday evening and was received by the Right Rev the Bishop of Clifton, attended by the Rev Fathers J J Burbage (Wardour), C Hookway (Tisbury), T P Keville (Wardour) and D Foran (Bishop's secretary). Throughout the night the casket rested before the high altar.

At the service on Saturday the Bishop (Dr. Wm. Lec) was assisted by Monsigneur Canon Long (administrator, of the Pro-Cathedral, Clifton). The Rev. Father C. Hookway acted as deacon, and the Rev. Father J. J. Burbage was sub-deacon. The deacons at the throne were Canon P. Murphy, of Clifton, and the Rev. Father M. Hyland, of Salisbury, whilst the Rev. Father D. Foran officiated as master of ceremonies. The Rev. Fathers P. V. Hackett (Bath) and B. J. Ellis (Chipping Sodbury) carried out the duties of cantors, and the priests in the choir were the Rev. Fathers M. Reidy and P. Barrie (Clifton), V. Buckley and C. Cavanagh (Salisbury), I. Gourde (Downton), G. Donze Shaftesbury, W. Moylan (Dorset), W. Conway (Gillingham), R. Fellowes (Fonthill Abbey), W. Worswick (Bonham), Aloysius Jackson (Wincanton), and T. P. Keville (Wardour).

The family mourners were Lord and Lady Arundell of Wardour, the Hon. John Francis Arundell, the Hon. Blanche Arundell, the Hon. I. Arundell, Mr. W. V. Errington (brother of the late Lady Arundell), Mr. and Mrs. R. J. A. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Talbot, Mr. F. J. Talbot, Miss C. M. Arundell, Lieut.-Col. E. J. de Pentheny-O'Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Renfric de Pentheny-O'Kelly, Major F. R. and Mrs. Hodges, Mr. Cecil Turner, and Mrs. Taylor.

TRIBUTE FROM THE DISTRICT.

In the beautiful eighteenth century chapel many friends of the late Lady Arundell had assembled, and the estate tenants and a large number of employees were also present.

The congregation included Mr. W. R. Shaw-Stewart, Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Benett-Stanford, Major Sir Henry Crofton, Bart., Mrs. and Miss Engleheart, Mr. N. P. Squarey, Dr. and Mrs. Courtney, Mrs. Parmiter and Miss Parmiter, Mr. R. A. Parmiter, Mr. T. Doggrell, Mrs. T. Genge, Mr. E. Young, Mr. E. S. Brain, Mr. J. G. Jeffery, Mr. G. Townsend (representing the Wilts Constabulary), Captain G. A. Bull, the Misses Cadley, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Burt, Mr. P. Burt, Mr. Robert Lush, Mr. M. Lush, Mr. and Mrs. J. Street, Mr. Austin King, Mr. and Mrs. S. Parsons, Mrs. F. Burt, Mr. and Mrs. T. Flower, Mrs. Primavesi, Miss V. Eckhoff, Mrs. C. Lever, Mr. and Mrs. J. Burt, Mr. H. Gurd, Miss Harney, Mrs. A. Fisher, Mr. E. and Miss Parsons, Miss N. Parsons, Mr. Felix Parsons, Mr. C. Foyle and the Misses F. and M. Foyle, Mr. and Mrs. A. Flower, and Mr. A. Flower, junior, Mrs. S. Joliffe, Miss Harrison, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. B. Woods, Mrs. R. Jay, Mrs. T. Gray, Mrs. Yeates, Mrs. W. Lever, Mr. W. Woods, Mrs. M. Randall, Mr. W. Scoble, Mr. J. Lever, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Martin, Mr. S. Asprey, Mr. J. Parsons, Mrs. L. Lever, Mrs. J. Smith, Miss L. A. Lever, Mr. H. Jackson, Miss Aucher, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. W. Dewey, Mrs. V. Pickford, Mrs. Randall, Mr. C. Green, Mr. F. Bell, Mr. J. Randall, Mr. L. Parham, Mr. H. Burce, Mr. R. Moxham, Miss Ashman, Mr. L. A. Green, Mr. J. Flower, Mr. J. G. Ralph, Mr. C. Ruth, Miss Gale, Mr. S. Bailey, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. H. Mullins, Mrs. E. J. Ridley, Mrs. C. Lever, Mrs. J. Lever, Miss N. Green, Miss W. Tucker, Mrs. G. Parsons, Mrs. H. Gurd, and Mrs. E. Gray.

At the close of the Requiem, the coffin was removed to the crypt where the Bishop of Clifton officiated at the committal. The bearers were six of the late Lady Arundell's employees, Messrs F Fisher, L Harrison, C Lever, J Lever, R Jay and C Austridge. Messrs W Lever, F Sanger, W Woods and R Randall assisted in the final act of placing the coffin in a space next to that containing the remains of the late Lady Arundell's husband, John Francis, twelfth Baron, who died in 1906. It was at the special request of the family that there were no flowers.

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