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***From The Editor***

I have found this issue particularly interesting in the demonstration of determination, deduction and steady research by the contributors to find out what they were seeking. It contains two most interesting stories of people with a Campden link - from Jackie Radford and from Robin Salmon, with both of whom I have had contact through the Archive Room website this year. We have also had some useful correspondence, in particular Judith Ellis's information about the Trinder Bequest of 1912 and the results of Philip Walker's detective work into a postcard message. Thank you all once again for sending your articles and comments for Notes & Queries.

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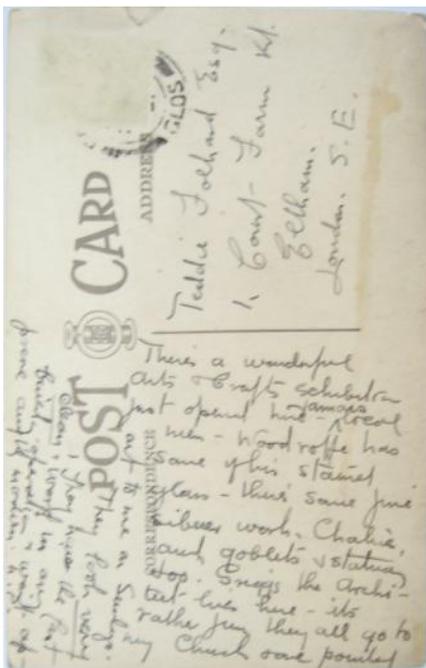
## Letters to the Editor

After the last Notes and Queries (Vol. VII No.3 p.26) and Mary Hart's memories of backbone pie, CADHAS member **Celia Jones** wrote: 'In 1907 Norman Jewson stayed at the Swan Inn (now Maylam's Delicatessen). The inn-keeper's wife, Mrs. Skey, was a first-rate cook and one of her famous dishes was backbone pie. In *'By Chance I did Rove'* (p.8) Jewson says, "a delicious dish, at any rate as made by Mrs Skey, but disconcerting at the first introduction, owing to the large amount of debris left on one's plate after enjoying it, as very little meat is attached to each segment of bone!" It must have been a favourite Campden dish.'

**Jenny Bruce** identified an Editor's error: the photograph on page 33 was not of Norton Hall, but from Farncombe Manor, also a VAD hospital. Apologies and well spotted!

Following the Trinder family article **Judith Ellis**, CADHAS Chairman, also reminded us of the benefits that Frederick Trinder bestowed on the townspeople. His will, proved in 1912, states: *'The remainder after paying all debts to be invested in good securities and the Interest to be given to the poor of Chipping Campden on the first day of February in each year, the Ministers of the Church, Chapel, and Roman Catholic Chapel (sic) with the Members of the Town Council to have the distribution of the same in Bread Meat Coals or other necessaries at their discretion but in no case to make money gifts.'*

So a meeting in February 1915 agreed a charity scheme to administer the bequest, Charity Commission approval followed and the first distribution list of 1919 contains the names and addresses of 43 people who received coal, value 10s., 23 people who were given 'one quarter loaf per week for 52 weeks' and 19 children who had boots. A few years later milk was added for children who were in need and one boy received eggs. In 1922 local coal merchants tendered for the provision of coal, including William Keyte, Sheep Street, and John Kinchin, Mickleton. Plunkett and Prouts (outfitters) and later Lloyds and Ash provided the boots. Milk came from a range of local dairies and in 1939 Bon Marche supplied one shirt for James 'Teapot' Williams. The records of accounts and recipient lists, though not complete, continue through to the formation in 1969 of Chipping Campden United Charities which amalgamated the many charities for the poor in the parish. This collection of papers includes some records of other Campden charities and a full study could tell us much about support for the Campden poor. CADHAS would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to get their hands dirty - literally! - and help with this study.



In October 2012 a query about a postcard was received from **Philip Walker of Cambridge**, a retired Inspector and archaeologist with English Heritage, who is currently writing a book on British intelligence and the Arab Revolt (1916-18). He subsequently summarised his research for us:

### “Famous local men” - a postcard about an Arts & Crafts Exhibition

One of my hobbies is buying, researching and writing about the messages on old picture postcards. Normally these concern the First World War, but I am always open to distraction by other postcards that take my fancy. I recently acquired a real photographic postcard showing a picturesque, unidentified cottage with a thatched roof, a curious object like a heraldic shield on one wall and a classic English cottage garden. I was equally intrigued by the message:

“There's a wonderful Arts & Crafts exhibition just opened here - famous local men - Woodroffe has some of his stained glass - there's

## CADHAS Notes & Queries

*some fine silver work, Chalices and goblets & statuary too. Griggs the architect lives here - it's rather fun - they all go to my Church & are pointed out to me on Sundays. They look very clean & they have the last word in any building operation & won't approve anything modern."*

The sender of the postcard gives just his or her initials, which are hard to read. They could be G.P., N.P., G.F., N.F., or perhaps K.P. or K.F. From internal clues, K.P. is a likely candidate (the first initial is similar to the unusual letter K in Folkard, the addressee), but this is not an exact science! The stamp has been removed, unfortunately taking with it most of the cancellation including the date of posting, but "Glos" survives.

I knew of Paul Woodroffe through his book and magazine illustrations and assumed that the exhibition referred to could have been at Chipping Campden. What other clues could be gleaned from the message? I made a quick check on F.L. Griggs, the etcher and designer, who died on 7 June 1938. So we know the card was sent before that date. We are told that Griggs "lives here" and we know he lived in Chipping Campden. Griggs became a Catholic in 1912, allowing the conclusion that the sender's reference to "my church" (which is also Griggs' church) is to St Catharine's, Chipping Campden. So it is likely that the sender lived in the town too.

Carol Jackson of CADHAS and Kirsty Hartsiotis (Curator of Decorative Art & Designated Collection at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum) kindly confirmed that the goblets and chalices would have been by Hart's Silversmiths and the statuary by Alec Miller. I also discovered that Woodroffe too was a Catholic and contributed several windows in St Catharine's church. Carol was able to confirm that the image in the photograph is Pike Cottage, now Pike House, when it was the home of Wentworth Huyshe, the journalist, collector, medievalist and heraldic draughtsman. Huyshe was stepfather of George Hart, the silversmith, and his brother William, the wood carver, both of the Guild of Handicraft. The shield with a cross on the wall of the house would have been designed by Wentworth Huyshe.



The postcard was sent to Teddie Folkard at Eltham, London. This would have been Edward Charles N. Folkard (1911-2005), who became a well-known sculptor. He studied at Goldsmith's College of Art and the Royal Academy of Art in London, regularly exhibiting at the Royal Academy from 1932. The exhibition referred to was more likely to have been one of the later Campden Arts and Crafts Exhibitions between 1931 and 1937, as Edward Folkard would have been only 20 in 1931 and there were no exhibitions at Chipping Campden in 1929 or 1930. At the time of the 1928 exhibition Folkard would have been barely 17 years old and the tone of the message, with the use of Esq. after the name, suggest an older man.

It would be interesting to hear whether readers are able to throw any light on the identity of the Catholic sender of the postcard – with initials G.P., N.P., G.F., N.F., K.P. or K.F. Do you recognise the writing? The sense of the message is that he or she was an outsider, not in the circle of these artists/designers (the artists "are pointed out to me on Sundays"). If the second initial of the sender's name is "F" (unlikely, judging by the "F" in "Folkard"), the sender could perhaps be a Folkard too and related to the recipient - but this is probably carrying conjecture too far.

## From Brewhouse Boy to Boatman

Robin Salmon

Why on earth did my grandfather, Robert Salmon, leave his honey-coloured home in the Cotswolds to end his days in the grimy Northern town of Birkenhead? And how did a young boy from an agricultural community become a saltwater boatman, reputedly running a small fleet of the large sailing barges known as Mersey Flats? I was never able to ask him these questions, as he died long before I was born, and the bits of information which came down to me via my father were not of much help.

We knew he was born in Chipping Campden in 1856, next to the sign of the Kettle (see below). As a boy he had worked in a brew house, crawling under the grate to rake out the ashes, when hot embers would sometimes fall through and burn his back.



The story was that his father, Charles Salmon, had been a waif, found on the doorstep of Robert Fletcher, with his name pinned to him and a hint of a liveried carriage disappearing into the night. When I decided to find out the truth of these stories 25 years ago, there was no internet, so the only way was to make the trip to the Gloucester Record Office and start poring over the Parish Registers and census returns.

We soon discovered that the story of Charles' origins was largely tosh.

He was the illegitimate son of a servant named Mary Salmon, born in 1827. We could find no other reference to anyone called Mary Salmon, either before or after the baptism, and so, as the Register gave no name for the father, we seemed to have come to a dead end rather abruptly. However, a friendly archivist told us that, when a girl like Mary became pregnant, her employers would have turned her out and she would have gone into the workhouse. The Trustees would have cross-examined her to find the name of the father, so that they could recover from him some of the costs arising from the confinement and the aftercare of the mother and child. The details would be recorded in a document known as a Filiation Order, sometimes referred to as a Bastardy Bond. The archivist produced a bundle consisting of 200 years of Campden's Filiation Orders, tied up with the proverbial red tape, and amongst them we quickly found the one referring to Mary and her 'bastard child' Charles. In it Mary named John Tracey, a cordwainer (i.e. a shoemaker), and the document then said that, after due consideration, they 'could see no just reason why the said John Tracey should not be adjudged the father'. There followed several charges, perhaps the most revealing being a sum for 'securing and apprehending him'. I assume this means that he had 'done a runner' to evade his responsibilities and the authorities had had to drag him back.

Whether or not he paid his dues I do not know, but at least I now had a great-great grandfather to search for. Guessing that he would have been born in the first decade of the 19th century, we started searching the Parish Register again and found that a John Tracey was born to William Tracey and his wife Hannah (née Keyte) in 1803. Being from a scientific background I know that, just because you *think* you have found what you are looking for, that does not mean you should stop looking. The

value of this principle was soon borne out, for two years later another John Tracey was born to a William Tracey, whose wife was Elizabeth (née Smith). Initially I thought that the first John and his mother had died and his father remarried, but this turned out not to be so – both couples continued to have other children after the birth of the two Johns.

So now I had the name of my great x3 grandfather, as well as my great x2 grandfather, but from which of the Traceys I am descended I still do not know. The best I have been able to do is make an educated guess.

Meanwhile Charles was given to foster parents, Robert Fletcher and his wife Mary, so there was some truth in the story the family had believed, after all. In the first census in 1841 Charles is shown still living with the Fletchers, aged 13, and already an agricultural labourer. There were also two other foster children with the Fletchers, so they seem to have been a kindly couple who took pleasure in helping unfortunates like Charles. The relationship with them continued to be good, as in 1851 Charles is still living with them together with his new wife, Mary (née Curtis), and their first two children. As further evidence of the good regard he had for the Fletchers, Charles named his last son, Robert, after his foster father and gave him the name Fletcher as a middle name, a custom which has continued for 4 generations more, down through me to my first grandson. It is interesting, though, that Charles named his eldest son John – so perhaps he did know who his real father was and was even, perhaps, in contact with him.

So Charles' family continued to grow, but by the 1871 census there is no trace of them in Campden. The Parish Register shows that Mary and several of the children had died in the 1860s, but there was no evidence of what had happened to Charles and his surviving family. As far as my research was concerned, I was at another dead end. I speculated that the downturn in agriculture at that time had lured Charles away from Campden, but where had he gone? At that time the only way to find out was to go through the census records of every county in the country, without even knowing where to start. A hopeless task, till the arrival of the internet and ancestry search engines made life much easier.

So it was, that I found them in the 1871 census at Smethwick, in a street which backed onto the Birmingham Canal Navigation. Having no navigable river system, the Black Country was totally dependent on the B.C.N., not only to move goods and materials around within the area, but also to get them to and from the ports and the other centres of population within the UK. Charles was living with his son John and John's young family, but Robert, now aged 16, was lodging nearby, his occupation being given as 'Boatman'. Stephen, Robert's next elder brother, is missing from the 1871 census, but, thanks to your editor, he was found in the 1881 census, also described as a boatman. So Stephen, now married, was earning his living helming a narrowboat around the B.C.N., but Robert (*see right*) had set his sights further afield.



In that same census of 1881 he is living at Haydock, described as a Flatman. The Mersey Flats (*see below*) were to the Mersey Basin what the narrow boats were to the Black Country, beavering away between the big centres like Manchester, Runcorn, Northwich, Birkenhead, and Liverpool. At first I was puzzled how a Flatman could live some 15 miles or so from the River, but his address gave a clue – he was living at



Double Lock Cottages, on the Sankey Canal. This was the first canal in Britain, and connected the manufacturing and coalmining town of St. Helens to the Mersey, at a

place called Sankey. Robert was, by this time, married, his wife being the daughter of another Flatman. Ten years later, the couple had moved to Birkenhead, to be even closer to the focus of the Flatman's world, but shortly afterwards, his wife died childless. It was not long before he married again, at the age of 40. His new wife was Ada Waring (*see right possibly in 1894 at her wedding to Robert Fletcher Salmon.*), the daughter of his next-door neighbour, Richard Waring, yet another Flatman. Tracing back Ada, my grandmother, who was 20 years younger than Robert, I discovered that she had been born at the same Double Lock Cottages at Haydock, as had several of her siblings. Some of her brothers and many of Richard's ancestors had been boatmen, working in and around the Mersey Basin. So Robert had left the close-knit rural community of his origins, to marry into another, this time of boatmen.



But the days of the Flatmen were numbered. Though the port of Liverpool continued to thrive, the trade passing through the docks made increasing use of road and rail, to the detriment of the Flatmen, whose fortunes declined rapidly. Robert's fortunes sank even faster, perhaps aided by his fondness for a drink or two and a bet on the horses. So by the 1911 census, Robert can no longer describe himself as a proud 'Captain of a Flat', but admits to being a casual 'Dock Labourer' and we have a document showing him having to apply for Social Security in 1927.

That is more or less the end of the story, not a triumphal climax but a rather sad fading away. But at least I know the details of how it finished, which is certainly not the case for the beginnings. So if anyone can fill in any background to Robert and Charles Salmon, or John and William Tracey, I would be pleased to hear from you via the Notes & Queries Editor.

## Marmaduke Tennant

**Jackie Radford**

*This well researched article follows Jackie's 2012 query to CADHAS. I was particularly interested, when it arrived, having in the past noted this gentleman's unusual name in the deeds of North End Terrace and Westcote House and I had often wondered how this man from Wales came to be in Chipping Campden. Jackie is currently a political researcher to a member of the National Assembly for Wales and from 2004 to 2008 worked for West Glamorgan Archive Service helping researchers with family and local history. It was there she discovered the extent of Marmaduke Tennant's involvement in her town's history and was surprised at the lack of biographical detail about such an important civic figure. She hopes in the years to come to be able to complete his story and discover family photographs or descendants of Marmaduke. His photograph is reproduced here by kind permission of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, who hold the copyright. The full unabridged article with further research notes, church, memorial and grave photos are on disc in CADHAS Archives.*

On 31st March 1864, at the Parish Church of St. James, Chipping Campden, Sarah Matthews, daughter of Charles Decimus Matthews [*Ed. Campden Grocer*] and his wife Mary, née Ebsworth, married Marmaduke Tennant, a bachelor solicitor from Aberavon. The eldest of four surviving children and the only daughter, Sarah had met Marmaduke when he attended the Grammar School in Campden where her two brothers, Charles Miles Matthews and John Ebsworth Matthews were also educated for their future positions.

Sarah and Marmaduke were together for more than fifty years and when Marmaduke died on 24th January 1915, the gross value of his estate was £15,606.8s.11d - more than a million pounds by today's standards. In his lifetime he held prominent positions in many of the local societies and boards, was heavily involved in charitable works, rubbed shoulders with the great and the good and worked tirelessly throughout his life. One newspaper report of his death affirmed him as "the oldest town clerk in the kingdom".<sup>1</sup>

Much of Sarah's life in Campden has already been documented. Her links to the Ebsworth and Miles families and her ownership by gift of 2, North End Terrace, Chipping Campden, as well as her part-ownership of Westcote House, have been the subject of earlier research.<sup>2</sup> The story of Sarah's personal and later life with her husband has been sparse until now, but the fascinating story of Marmaduke Tennant and his family is at least partly ready to be unfolded. How and why did a man born in Lincolnshire come to be educated in Gloucestershire, articulated as a solicitor in Staffordshire and from such a relatively young age become a major figure in the civic life of a small town in South Wales?

Marmaduke Tennant was born on 22nd November 1837 in Castle Bytham, Lincolnshire, the last of eleven surviving children (ten boys and one girl) of William Tennant, Clerk in Orders and his wife, Katherine.<sup>3</sup> William had been born in 1792 in Bentham, Yorkshire, the son of William Tennant and Mary Bannister. Having attained a B.A. at Pembroke College, Cambridge, William became Stipendiary Curate at Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire on 24th September 1815, a curacy shared with Careby with Holywell and Aunby. His ordination took place on 29th September that

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<sup>1</sup> *Daily Post*, 25th January, 1915

<sup>2</sup> Peter Gordon, *CADHAS Extract of Deeds File*

<sup>3</sup> Henry Hopkinson, 1819-1875, Landed Proprietor; William, 1822- post-1861, Solicitor; John, 1823-1853, Farmer; Francis 1824-post-1871, Farmer; Edmund, 1826-1916, Solicitor; James 1827-1870, Medical Assistant; Charles, 1831-1889, Surgeon; George, 1832-?, Land Surveyor; Mary Ellen, 1833-1916(?); Alfred, 1836-1880, Solicitor; Marmaduke, 1837-1915, Solicitor.

year at the chapel in the Episcopal Palace in Buckden, Cambridgeshire. On 20th July 1826, William secured the curacy of Little Bytham and Castle Bytham in Lincolnshire with a stipend of £95. It was here he met Katherine, daughter of Henry Hopkinson, who had been Sheriff of Lincoln in 1799 and who, in the Assizes on March 11th that year, had the dubious honour of sentencing two burglars to death. William and Katherine married on Tuesday, 12th October 1815 at Careby. The 1841 Census shows Marmaduke as one of seventeen people in his father's Castle Bytham household, which included Matthew Barton, also a Clerk in Orders.

On 29th July 1849 Marmaduke's father, Reverend William Tennant died at Singlesole Farm, Eye, the home of his son, John. The death certificate gives the cause of death as Dropsy, a condition in which the body's tissues fill with fluid. His death was not certified by a doctor and was registered by John Tennant on 31st August - more than a month after the death and 28 days after the funeral on 3rd August at St. James' Church, Castle Bytham. He was just 56 years old, and his death left Katherine a widow at the age of 54, with five of her eleven children yet to reach their majority and with ages ranging from eighteen down to eleven. His will, a beautiful, seven-page document complete with red wax seals, was signed and witnessed on 25th July 1842. A codicil had been added in 1849 which removed John as one of the two executors of William's estate and replaced him with younger brother Edmund, a solicitor. Their older brother William, also a solicitor and living nearby, remained the second executor and helped oversee the disposal of the substantial £6000 estate.<sup>4</sup>

The 1851 Census found Marmaduke and his brother Alfred at Chipping Campden Grammar School, the headmaster of which was one Matthew Barton - the same man who fourteen years earlier, on 15th December 1837, had baptised Marmaduke in the parish church of the Lincolnshire village where he was born. Also attending the Grammar School were two of Sarah's three brothers, Charles Miles Matthews and John Ebsworth Matthews. Meanwhile the 1851 Census found Katherine and her son Edmund, 25, living at Singlesole Farm with John, who would himself die just two years later, whilst brother Francis Tennant is shown as a visitor in the household of W. Lawrence, Auctioneer - the man who would act on behalf of the family to sell Rev. Tennant's "Valuable Freehold Estates" at the Three Tuns Inn, Castle Bytham on Thursday, 3rd July, 1851 at 5pm.<sup>5</sup>

By 1861 Katherine and her young family had moved on again and the 1861 Census shows them at Wheatley Cottage, Hanley, Staffordshire, the home of Edmund Tennant, "Attorney and Advocate". Marmaduke, now 23, is shown as an Articled Clerk attached to a Mr. Heaton.<sup>6</sup> The following year, as a fully qualified solicitor, Marmaduke travelled more than 150 miles to Aberavon, nr. Port Talbot, South Wales, where he set up in practice. Law Society records show that he initially practised alone until forming a partnership with David Edward Jones of Aberavon, Marmaduke's young articled clerk, who qualified as a solicitor in the summer of 1873. Tennant & Jones Solicitors flourished in the area, allowing additional offices to be opened in neighbouring Neath, Port Talbot and Briton Ferry with the partnership continuing until its dissolution in 1911, when M. Tennant & Son was formed between

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<sup>4</sup> *LCC Wills 1851-365 at Lincolnshire Archives.*

<sup>5</sup> *Stamford Mercury, 27th June, 1851.*

<sup>6</sup> *Post Office Directory for Birmingham and Staffordshire (p.223) shows a Richard Heaton, Solicitor, at Moorland Rd., Burslem.*

Marmaduke and his youngest son, Ernest Theodore.<sup>7</sup>

Why Marmaduke came to Aberavon or even how he knew of its existence has yet to be fully established. No records have emerged so far to give any indication of prior links with the Borough or any of its inhabitants. Marmaduke's brothers and sister had also travelled extensively - James and Charles studied medicine in Edinburgh; Henry Hopkinson Tennant lived in Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Kent before he died in Brighton in 1875; Mary Ellen lived in Staffordshire, Chelsea and Guildford; and George, a land surveyor, spent time in Australia where his son, John James Tennant was born. His other son, Alfred Cardwell Tennant, was born in Staffordshire.

Sarah's brother George Shingleton Matthews also spent a great deal of his life away from his Chipping Campden home. His mother had died when he was just five years old and he had been sent to school in Shipston-on-Stour. The Churchwardens Accounts for Chipping Campden show numerous entries for George S. Matthews between 1864 and 1869, but in the mid-1880s George embarked on a lengthy journey to New Zealand - he would never come back home to Campden. Records from New Zealand show that George Shingleton Matthews, son of Charles Decimus Matthews, married Annie Evans on the 11th July, 1895 at the Register Office, Wellington. George was 52 and a Clerk, while his wife, a widow of almost two years, was 38.<sup>8</sup> George lived in New Zealand for forty years, and his death at Wellington Hospital at the age of 83 shows that he had become a Caretaker but had suffered with heart problems for ten years, eventually succumbing to septic broncho-pneumonia and heart failure. He was buried on 2nd May at Kirori Cemetery, Wellington.<sup>9</sup>

As for Marmaduke and Aberavon, what we *do* know is that living in South Wales at that time was another family called Tennant. George Tennant was born in Wigan in 1765, the son of John Tennant, a solicitor and his wife, Alice Latham. George was a lawyer and he had come to South Wales when he bought the Rhyddings Estate, which included a colliery. He then purchased the Cadoxton Estate and subsequently lived there whilst at the same time leasing and developing an existing canal network into a major industrial trade route. The waterway became known as the Tennant Canal, a name which remains to this day along with Port Tennant, Swansea, where originally the canal met the sea and docks became established. The canal project was finished in 1824, but it may well have been events of the 1850s which ignited Marmaduke's interest in his namesakes in South Wales.

George Tennant's two eldest sons, Henry (also a lawyer) and Charles, along with their sister Margaret and a number of other relatives and acquaintances had been the subject of a legal complaint by the Earl of Jersey.<sup>10</sup> This extensive case arose because the land owned by the Earl of Jersey and leased to the defendants was alleged to have been irreparably damaged by their copper works. As a trainee solicitor, Marmaduke may well have read about the case and taken a particular interest, especially as many of the defendants had the same name as him. However, despite the similarities in location, occupation and name, no evidence has so far surfaced to link the two Tennant families or even to show that their paths ever crossed. Henry Tennant died in London in 1865 and his family lost their links with the area. Charles died in 1873, having moved his family to Bloomsbury. It was his daughter, Dorothy who married

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<sup>7</sup> *Law Society Record* 4845

<sup>8</sup> *1895 Marriages in the District of Wellington, New Zealand.*

<sup>9</sup> *Deaths in the District of Wellington, New Zealand.*

<sup>10</sup> [www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) NAS BF 1/7/11 (*Neath Antiquarian Society, Briton Ferry Estate papers*)

the explorer Henry Morton Stanley at Westminster Abbey on 12th July, 1890.

So in the June of 1862 Marmaduke became Borough Solicitor, was subsequently elected Church Warden at St. Mary's, Aberavon and in 1863 became Clerk to the Justices. He was a Justice of the Peace for Brecknockshire and by 1910 he was also Clerk to the Public Elementary School Board, while his solicitors' practice acted for Aberavon Equitable Building Society. In 1875 he was also Hon. Sec. of the Briton Ferry Cottage Company, Hon. Sec. of the Public Hall Company and Clerk to the Burial Board.<sup>11</sup> On 2nd April 1863 Marmaduke was initiated into the Freemasons' Afan Lodge where he quickly rose through the ranks, becoming Master of the Lodge in 1867, 1871 and 1875, as well as joining and founding lodges in Cardiff, Swansea and Neath. In 1877 he reached the rank of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, a title he held until his death.

In March 1864, having established himself in Aberavon, Marmaduke journeyed to Chipping Campden to marry Sarah (two of his siblings, Edmund and Mary Ellen, were witnesses) and brought her back to live in the Pentyla area of Aberavon. One can only speculate on the differences Marmaduke and Sarah saw between their past homes in the shires and the town of Aberavon. Even forty years later the Aberavon Town Council Minutes bemoan 'the bad conditions of Closets in Angel Street' and the 'vexatious and damaging nuisance caused by the dust' of traffic in the town. As Clerk, Marmaduke was tasked with writing a letter, the Council believing the 'serious attention of His Majesty's Government should be drawn to the terrible nuisance and damage caused by Motor Vehicles'. Their suggested solution was greater taxation and the regular watering of roads.<sup>12</sup> However, Pentyla was an area inhabited by the more wealthy members of Aberavon society. The 1901 Census identifies councillors, architects, surgeons, colliery and steelworks managers, accountants and the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages living as close neighbours, whilst various censuses show that Sarah and Marmaduke employed a number of servants, including a governess.



It is clear that Marmaduke had been held in exceptionally high esteem during his time as a Freemason and in September 1902 after serving 25 years as Deputy Provincial Grand Master he was presented with a number of tokens of appreciation from his brothers. Records show that Marmaduke received "an illuminated album containing the address of congratulation, followed by the names of every subscriber each arranged according to rank and lodge" along with a "choice collection of silver plate weighing upwards of 200 ounces" and a "purse of gold" made up of the money left over as they did not know how to spend it all.<sup>13</sup> Sarah Tennant also received a gift: a "handsome dressing

bag" to thank her for the sacrifices she had made while her husband carried out his duties.<sup>14</sup> After a long ovation Marmaduke vowed emotionally, that he would "hand

<sup>11</sup> *Worrall's Directory, 1875.*

<sup>12</sup> *West Glamorgan Archive Service, Annual Report of the County Archivist, 2005 - 2006, Article by J Radford.*

<sup>13</sup> *Masonic Illustrated, 1st November 1902, p. 25*

<sup>14</sup> *ibid.*

them down to his family as amongst the most prized of his possessions".<sup>15</sup>

When Marmaduke died in 1915, his funeral had been notable for the fact that the numerous Masonic mourners threw sprigs of Acacia on to the coffin. In September 1916, a memorial window was unveiled and dedicated at St. Mary's Parish Church in his memory. The subject of the window is the Parable of the Talents and the text reads: *"Well done thou good and faithful servant"*. A brass plaque below the window bears the inscription: *"To the Glory of God and in Loving and Fraternal Memory of Marmaduke Tennant. P.A.G.D.C. Eng. Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of the Eastern Division of South Wales and for 24 years Churchwarden of this Parish who died on the 24th January 1915 aged 77 years. The above Window and this Tablet were erected by his masonic Brethren of this Province as a token of their affection and appreciation of the services rendered by him to the Craft during the 38 years he acted as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and also in recognition of his continuous labours on behalf of the various Masonic Charities and especially on behalf of the Masonic Educational and Widows' Fund which he founded and which under his unremitting care prospered exceedingly"*.

Many of Marmaduke's last days were spent in the rural mid-Wales area of Llangammarch, where he had leased property from William Maitland MP. The 1911 Census shows Marmaduke as a visitor in the household of William Black Jones and his wife Gwladys, Marmaduke and Sarah's daughter.

Sarah bore Marmaduke twelve children, all born in the Parish of Aberavon.<sup>16</sup> Tragically, four of their children died at very young ages: twins Frances Marian and Charles at eight days and fifteen days respectively; Beatrice Octavia at eight weeks and lastly baby Winifred, whose brief life lasted just nineteen hours.<sup>17</sup> Of the remaining eight children, Mary Katharine and Edith Sarah also died young aged 28 and 22, Alice Maude died in 1910 aged 41, whilst Mabel Louisa and Constance Olivia lived until they were 67 and 82. All five died unmarried. Only three of their children would marry - Alfred Marmaduke, Gwladys Gwenllian and Ernest Theodore.

Gwladys Tennant married American doctor and widower, William Black Jones, in Builth, mid-Wales, in 1910. He was 46 and Gwladys was 35 and their son, Eric Theodore Black Jones, was born three years later, but tragically in the winter of 1919, at the age of six, Eric contracted diphtheria and compounded by asthma and following an operation, probably a tracheotomy, the young boy died within seven days. Some years later, on 26th July 1938 the choir stalls, panelling and altar rail of St, Mary's Church, Aberavon, were dedicated to young Eric Theodore along with his grandfather and grandmother (Marmaduke and Sarah) and his Aunt, Mabel Louisa Tennant.

Ernest Theodore Tennant was born in 1881 and worked as a solicitor. He followed in his father's footsteps in Aberavon civic society, succeeding Marmaduke as Clerk to the Justices, as well as holding prominent positions within the Freemasons. He was also a member of the Rotary Club, clerk to the governors of a local school and a significant figure within St. Mary's Church. It was not until 1945 that Ernest married Enid Davies, née Venables, the daughter of Gilbert Scale Venables, a lithographer in the Japanning works, but he died the following year and his ashes were buried with

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<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Mary Katharine (various spellings in sources e.g. Katherine & Catherine), baptised 16/2/1865; Edith Sarah, baptised 1/3/1866; Charles and Frances Marian, baptised 7/8/1867; Alice Maude, baptised 6/8/1868; Mabel Louisa, baptised 12/5/1870; Alfred Marmaduke, baptised 1/9/1871; Constance Olivia, baptised 22/4/1873; Gwladys Gwenllian, baptised 20/7/1875; Beatrice Octavia, baptised 31/5/1876; Winifred, born March 1877; Ernest Theodore baptised 11/8/1881.*

<sup>17</sup> *National Burial Index, St. Baglan's Church, Baglan.*

the rest of his family at St. Baglan's Church, Baglan.

The 1891 Census records Sarah and Marmaduke's eldest son, Alfred Marmaduke, as an apprentice engineer, boarding at 9, Bridgefield Terrace, Leeds. However, by the early 1900s, he was in Egypt, occupying what would be reported in 1915 as an "important Government position".<sup>18</sup> Alfred was involved in the construction of the water works at Alexandria and it was in Egypt that he married Amy Jane Bass and his daughter, Amy Mary Tennant, was born in 1907. However, their second child, Eric Marmaduke Tennant, was born on 14th September 1908 at Sarah and Marmaduke's home in Aberavon. Amy Jane's address on the birth certificate is Water Works, Rond Point, Alexandria, but UK Incoming Passenger Lists do not tell us how or when she returned prior to Eric's birth.

Finding more information about Eric has been extremely difficult and research is still on-going as to his fate. However, Alfred, his wife and daughter returned to the UK in 1929 where they initially settled in Hertfordshire. In 1937 Amy Mary married Dr. Adalbert Wenceslaus Patton, MRCS, FRCS, a 35-year-old surgeon, the son of Adlebert Wingislaus Patton and his wife Helena Frances Woolstinholmes. They had two daughters, Gillian born in 1938 and Helen born in 1941. Entries in The Medical Register show that the family subsequently lived in Herefordshire and then Carlisle".

By 1944 Alfred Marmaduke, now aged 72 and in failing health, and Amy Jane were living at 74, Brampton Road, Carlisle. After being admitted to Cumberland Infirmary he died on March 19th with his daughter, Amy Mary Patton, at his side. Alfred's education, training and specialist engineering work in Alexandria had made him a wealthy man. His father had also left him £1,250 when he died in 1915, a sum worth at least £100,000 today. Probate records show that Alfred's wife and daughter were the beneficiaries of his estate of £9,593.17s. However, the ultimate beneficiary of Marmaduke and Sarah's Masonic gifts remains a mystery. Marmaduke's will made no specific mention of them, although it is likely that Ernest, as a Freemason himself, might have been given them after Marmaduke's death, in the hope of handing the items down to future generations. We now know, however, that Ernest died without producing a male heir and the direct male Tennant line died with him in 1946.

Marmaduke's death at home in Aberavon from Chronic Prostatitis and Myocardial Disease resulting in heart failure left Sarah Tennant a widow just a few weeks before her seventy-seventh birthday. Remarkably, she lived on for a further sixteen years and was buried alongside her husband and children in St. Baglan's Church aged 93. Her estate was valued at £2,355.1s which equates to a few hundred thousand pounds today.

It is entirely possible that both of Sarah and Marmaduke's great-grand-daughters, Gillian and Helen, are still alive today and so the next stage of this research will be to look into the possibility of Sarah and Marmaduke having living relatives. This project began for me almost eight years ago when I came across the compelling name "Marmaduke Tennant". Even after so long and finding out so much about his life and family, I still feel that I have only scratched the surface. The charismatic image of Sarah Matthews' husband is a constant source of inspiration and I know that I shall continue this search. I hope you share my fascination with this remarkable man and the contribution he made to the lives of others.

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18 *Daily Post, 25th January 1915*