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James Dallaway

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JAMES DALLAWAY, b. 1763
A GLOUCESTERSHIRE ANTIQUARY AND WRITER

John Dallaway, gent., of Brimscombe, who died 9 March 1764, aged 65, was according to his tomb in Minchinhampton church the only son of Robert Dallaway of Aston, Warws. John, author of a scarce pamphlet *A Scheme to make the River Stroudwater Navigable* (printed at Gloucester 1755) was a clothier, and owned or occupied 'an ancient house at Brimscombe formerly called Bigg's Place, with extensive clothing mills adjoining'. Brimscombe Mills were afterwards acquired by the Marling family.

John's wife, who died 25 October 1765, aged 65, was Rebecca, youngest daughter of Wm. Bradley, and sister of James Bradley, 1692-1762, astronomer-royal. John Dallaway was succeeded in business by his elder son William, 'an eminent clothier' who was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1766 and died 7 March 1776, aged 55. He had been a leading spirit in the promotion of the Stroudwater Canal. William married Eliza Hopton of Hopton Castle, who died 3 March 1775, aged 38, and there is said to have been a large brass shield, Dallaway impaling Hopton with twelve quarterings, over the family tomb at Minchinhampton; but this had disappeared before 1887.

William's younger brother James married Martha, (died 19 February 1783 aged 44) younger daughter of Richard Hopton of Worcester. James was in partnership with John Hollings in the Stroud Bank, and is described as of The Hill in Painswick in a deed of 22 March 1787 by which he acquired the remainder of a long lease on the grandiose folly called 'Fort George' (now 'Rodborough Fort') built by 'Captain' George Hawker in 1765. James Dallaway died, however, on 12 May 1787 aged 57, leaving a daughter Martha and an only son, the Rev. James Dallaway, the antiquary, who was born at Bristol 1763, educated at Cirencester Grammar School and Trinity, Oxford, and was curate of Rodborough from 1787 to 1795. As co-executor of his father's will he disposed of the Fort George lease in 1789, and the conveyance reveals that James Dalloway senior had been 'greatly indebted at the time of his death', the whole of his estate being due to creditors. After this the Reverend James is said to have lived for a time in Gloucester, and from about 1785 to 1796 he was employed as editor of Ralph Bigland's *History of Gloucestershire*. A MS. 'Journey from Rodborough to Gloucester, with a description

of the County and an account of the Cathedral', by Dallaway, was in 1842 in possession of John Delafield Phelps of Chavenage (see his *Collectanea Gloucestriensia*).

The Rev. James Dallaway, who was elected F.S.A. in 1789, enjoyed the patronage of the 11th Duke of Norfolk from about 1792, and was through the Duke's influence appointed chaplain and physician to the British Embassy in Turkey, having taken an Oxford M.B. in 1794. He was secretary to the Duke, as Earl Marshal, from 1797 until his death. Details of his academic career and of his publications are given in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Besides editing a *History of the Three Western Rapes of Sussex* (1811), the *Letters and other Works of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu* (1803) and *Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting* (1826-8), he wrote on heraldry, architecture, and ancient sculpture, as well as producing, in 1834, a collection of papers entitled *Antiquities of Bristow*.

Dallaway, says a writer in *Glos. Notes & Queries* (I, 1), 'had great abilities, but was pedantic and satirical'. Some personal impressions of him are to be found in manuscript notes of his fellow-antiquary, Joseph Hunter (1783-1861), who met him at Bath in 1830.

'I found a fine hearty-looking gentlemanly man, full of conversation, little short of seventy: having lived much in the world, known many remarkable persons, and has numerous stories about them, especially those who used to visit at Norfolk House.

He said he was born at Bristol, where his father was a merchant—is related to the Lysons—lives at Leatherhead . . .'

Three years later Hunter notes:—

'Mr W. L. Bowles entertained me with a long history of Mr Dallaway, as we rode together between Bremhill and Drycote, May 31, 1833. In early life he was disappointed of a Fellowship of Trinity Col., Oxford. He was the senior Scholar, and it was the practice to elect the senior Scholar into the vacant Fellowship. In his case the Fellows took a different course. He had lampooned and offended one or more of them. This was a great disappointment, as he had nothing to support him. He took a curacy, wrote his book on Heraldry. This introduced him to the notice of the Duke of Norfolk, and the Duke did all that has been done for him. He had also a disappointment in love—and again, this very lady grown old and unmarried, having no near connections or none that she cared about, wrote to him that in regard to their old attachment, she

meant to leave her fortune to his daughter, who was named after her. But when she died this intention was not performed. He had also expected better preferment, and more dignities. So that he has been a disappointed man, and this has somewhat soured him as his friends say.'

Dallaway held the rectory of South Stoke, Sussex from 1799 and the vicarage of Shinfold from 1803; in 1801 he exchanged the rectory of Llanmaes (Glam.) to which he had been presented by the Marquess of Bute, for the vicarage of Leatherhead, Surrey, where he died on 6 June 1834, leaving an only child, Harriet Jane, by his wife Harriet Anne, daughter of Alderman John Jeffries, of Gloucester. A correspondent in 1887, over the initials 'C.S.B.G.', said that his maternal grandmother was Dallaway's sister and that many of Dallaway's manuscripts were in his possession (*Glos. Notes & Queries*, III, 119).

The last member of the family living in Stroud, according to Fisher, was Joseph James Dallaway (1773-1859, youngest son of William Dallaway, the High Sheriff and first cousin of the antiquary), a silversmith, who retired to Cheltenham in 1834, died at Bath in 1859, but is buried at Pitchcombe, near Stroud. He left a son Joseph, of Bath.

IRVINE GRAY

(Sources of information: *D.N.B.*; Hyett & Austin, *Biographical Suppt. to Bibliography of Glos. Literature*; Bigland, *History of Glos.* (under Minchinhampton and Stroud); Fisher, *Notes & Recollections of Stroud, 1871*; *Glos. N. & Q.*, Vols. I, III, IV; deeds in Glos. Records Office (D846 II 9); MS. notes of Joseph Hunter in British Museum, Add. 36527).