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## **The Hallewell Family**

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# The Hallewell Family

By GEOFFREY SANDERS

**F**EW Gloucestershire families of today have deep roots in the county. History shows so many who have come and gone. The Hallewells, who flourished in Stroud in the nineteenth century, provide a case in point.

They came from Yorkshire and their first connection with Stroud was through Edmund Gilling Hallewell (1796–1881), son of a Yorkshire vicar, John Hallewell, and Ellen, daughter of Edmund Gilling of Marton, Yorks. In 1821 Edmund Hallewell eloped with Martha, only child of Joseph Watts of Stratford House, Stroud. The Watts family owned Wallbridge Mill, Stroud, but Joseph had been taken into the Stroud Brewery by its founder, Peter Leversage, in 1804, the firm being known as Leversage and Watts. On 5 January 1819, Watts became its sole proprietor and continued to conduct it for 36 years.

'Mr Watts', Fisher<sup>1</sup> tells us in his history of Stroud, 'had a calm and composed manner, with an untiring perseverance in the pursuit of any object on which he set his mind. He was kind and charitable, and in the course of his long life deservedly obtained a high position in the public estimation. He was so influential as to become the acknowledged head of the Whig interest in the borough and the neighbouring parts of the county: and his Brewery counting-house, where he was to be seen almost daily, has often witnessed the presence of high and distinguished personages, friends and acquaintances, in political or other consultations, or familiar conversation. Thus for many years he filled a large space in the political and social history of the neighbourhood'.

Edmund Hallewell had met Martha in London in 1819 and whatever his feelings about the match Joseph Watts was 'kind and charitable' in settling £500 a year on his daughter, along with the residence at Stratford Cottage, with the principal, £10,000, to go to their children.

Hallewell had spent much time in studying law, with the object of going to the Bar, but his father-in-law objected and stipulated that the couple were to reside near him. Accordingly, Hallewell found himself attending the brewery on frequent occasions with Watts, but the latter was always extremely reticent about matters concerning the business.

<sup>1</sup> P. H. Fisher, *Notes and Recollections of Stroud*.

'In 1823', Hallewell wrote later,<sup>2</sup> 'I discontinued attending at the counting-house, which was a mere farce'.

The industrial depression now lay ahead and Hallewell found his father-in-law prepared to admit that<sup>3</sup> 'an unfavourable change had taken place in the business. The repeal of the brewing monopoly was also threatened, and was soon afterwards accomplished. This produced a painful impression upon Mr Watts' spirits and appearance. In addition to the positive loss of property in his public-houses, to the amount of a great many thousand pounds, he apprehended great injury to his business from free competition'.

Here was evidence of the introduction of the tied-house. An example is to be found in the Bisley tithe terrier of 1841, which shows Watts as leasing the Bear Public House, Yard and Brew-House to Thomas Watkins.

Despite the difficult times, Watts agreed to help Hallewell in obtaining a share in a local banking venture and on 1 January 1830 the bank of Grazebrook and Co. passed into the hands of Watts, Wyatt, Hallewell and Wason. It, too, felt the effects of the depression and by 1838 it had been transferred to the County of Gloucester Joint-Stock Banking Company, as their Stroud branch.

Charles James Hallewell of Rowcroft House and 1 Granville Villas, Whitehall, Stroud, brother of Edmund Hallewell, joined his brother in the banking firm, while another brother to settle in the district was the Revd John Hallewell, who lived at Upper Grange, Stroud, and is buried at Pitchcombe.

By 1834 a serious rift had opened between Watts and Hallewell. The former, as Fisher has said, was the acknowledged head of the Whig interest and after his death in 1855 it is recorded that 'the funeral procession was joined by a long train of persons who had assembled to testify their respect to his memory. At their head was Earl (then Lord John) Russell, who had come from London for the purpose of being present'. Lord John Russell had been a Whig Member of Parliament for Stroud and later Prime Minister.

In 1834, Hallewell<sup>4</sup> wrote subsequently, 'I felt deep apprehension at some of the measures of the Reform Government. I strongly opposed Mr Watts in the representation of the Eastern Division of the county, and with success'.

In 1832 Sir Berkeley William Guise and the Hon Henry George

<sup>2</sup> Edmund Gilling Hallewell, *Statement of Facts and Circumstances relating to his Connexion with Mr Watts, in vindication of himself against Mr Watts' conduct.* (1846). Gloucester Public Library.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

Francis Reynolds Moreton, eldest son of Earl Ducie, of Spring Park, Woodchester, had been elected as Whig members for East Gloucestershire. The defeated Tory candidate was Christopher William Codrington of Dodington Park, whose wife was a daughter of the seventh Duke of Beaufort. The Codringtons had long connections with Gloucestershire and strong ties with the Royal Navy and their influence also extended to the West Indies. Two members of the family had been governors of the Leeward Islands and one of them by his will left to the newly-founded Society for the Propagation of the Gospel two plantations in Barbados, to be kept up by at least 300 negroes, for the maintenance of a convenient number of Professors and Scholars, under the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, who were to be bound to 'study and practice physic and chirurgery, as well as divinity, that they might endear themselves to the people, and have the better opportunity of doing good to men's souls, while they were taking care of their bodies'. It was the association with slavery that made so many people turn against the Codrington family. After the 1832 election the Whigs issued the following lampoon:<sup>5</sup>

The Last and DYING SPEECH and CONFESSION

Of the Conservative Tory, alias the West Indian Planter, who attempted to Murder the interest of the Reformers of the Eastern Division of Gloucestershire.

This interesting Trial came on in Five Courts held at the following places: Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury and Northleach. The prisoner appeared very young, and we are inclined to suppose he has been made the dupe of that Tory faction who would sell their countrymen like slaves, he was dressed in an old blue jacket, turned inside out, of the Cromwell cut, and appeared miserably chop-fallen, and his pale milk-white visage gave him a most ghastly appearance. It appeared in evidence that two well-known Reformers, Guise and Moreton, had arrived in Gloucestershire and nobly advocated the cause of the people, but was strongly opposed by this dealer in human kind, a Mr Codfish, in the Conservative interest. Thinking he would be cast, a plot was laid to murder the Reformers' witnesses on their way to the seat of Justice, and a hired band of ruffians, armed with bludgeons, was engaged for that purpose, but they instantly showed their banners, inscribed—'Moreton and Guise, the Heroes of Liberty', and the Tory bull dogs lost their courage, and dared not show their dirty blue calico any more. The majority of the evidence was so strong against the Tory on Wednesday night that he was sentenced to give up all thoughts of public life, and die in a more suitable sphere among his negroes. His confession was as follows: he said his trade was formerly a negro driver, but has now turned carcase butcher to the nose club, but trade failed owing to their bad name. The gang to which he belonged was a disreputable set of marauders, notoriously dishonest in their dealings, plundering everywhere within their reach, to the great distress of all honest people. One Mr John Bull was a sufferer to a large

<sup>5</sup> Leaflet in possession of author.

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amount. The party had been before detected, tried and convicted at St Stephen's and transported from their rotten boroughs.

(Willey, Printer, 219 High Street, Cheltenham).

Codrington, however, was far from finished.

In 1834 Sir Berkeley William Guise died, which necessitated a bye-election for the East Gloucestershire Division. Codrington, despite being 'sentenced to give up all thoughts of public life' at the 1832 election, again stood as Tory candidate for the vacant seat.

His opponent was Tracy Leigh, eldest son of Lord Sudeley, and the Whig supporters produced this leaflet:<sup>6</sup>

To the  
ELECTORS  
of the  
Eastern Division of the County of Gloucester

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A  
Capital  
Castigating  
Catalogue of  
Crimes of

### TORY ADMINISTRATION

King George III commenced his Reign in 1760, with a National Debt of 90 million. King George III died, in 1820, leaving as a legacy, a National Debt of 900 million.

During which time, with little exception,  
THE TORIES WERE ALWAYS IN POWER,  
as also during the whole Reign of George the Fourth.  
If, then, you wish for the blessings of

TORIES,  
TAXES, and  
TYTHES,

Vote for Codrington;  
But if for a gradual but certain Remission of

TORIES,  
TAXES, and  
TYTHES,

### VOTE FOR TRACY LEIGH

(W. A. Baylis, Stroud Printing-Office).

Codrington won by 2778 votes to 2708 and thereafter continued to hold the seat until 1854.

The election<sup>7</sup> had taken place on 11 and 12 August and it seems

<sup>6</sup> Leaflet in possession of author.

<sup>7</sup> Anonymous account in possession of author.

to have aroused extreme bitterness. Great concords assembled near the Stroud polling place on both days. On the second day, at two o'clock stones were thrown at the windows of the George Hotel in King Street. This continued for some hours and twice the Riot Act was read. The doors were several times broken open and again secured. Eventually the front door was destroyed by the mob and many of the rioters rushed in, but were beaten back by the guard inside.

The mob continued hurling stones, pieces of iron and bludgeons up the passages and did not disperse until after midnight. Many persons in the house were struck and wounded, including the returning officer, Nathaniel Marling, who was knocked down and severely cut, losing three of his teeth. He remained senseless for an hour and was confined to his bed for some days afterwards.

There were ten to twelve bushels of stones and other objects collected and the damage was estimated at £150. The unknown witness of the disturbance says that several of the rioters were afterwards apprehended and committed to Gloucester Gaol, 'and were tried at the next assizes, where sentence of death recorded was passed upon them.' This meant they escaped the death penalty, but were transported to a distant land for the remainder of their lives.

Subsequently Richard Parker, owner of the George Hotel, and Thomas Smith, the tenant, brought actions against the Hundred of Bisley to recover the amount of damage done to the house and to the furniture. Judgment was suffered by default. The damages were assessed by a jury pursuant to a writ of enquiry and the amount awarded to Parker was £87 15s. *od.* and Smith £41 2s. *7d.*

The Stroud riot was probably an aftermath of the Reform Bill disturbances. In 1831 Codrington had raised the Marshfield and Dodington Troop of Yeomanry, the first to be raised in the county since the days of the old corps of Gentlemen and Yeomanry. Under the command of Capt. Codrington they had been sent to help restore order in Bristol, where rioting had broken out. The cause was due to speeches by Sir Charles Wetherell, Recorder of Bristol, who represented a small northern constituency in Parliament and who appears to have given great offence to the people of Bristol by his assertions that they were indifferent to the principles of the Reform Bill then before the country.

The blame for the Stroud disturbance has been laid on 'Mr Moreton and his friends'. He is unlikely to have been the Member for East Gloucestershire, who in 1834 was joined in the House of Commons by Codrington, but was more probably his younger

brother, Augustus Moreton. The last-named succeeded his brother as Member in 1835.

Capt T. B. G. Estcourt, who with the Tetbury Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry was also sent to the Bristol riots, wrote in his diary for 13 August, 1834:<sup>8</sup> 'Received a requisition from Mr Burgh and Mr Hallewell at 2.30 to go with the Troop to Stroud in aid of the civil power. I immediately sent to Major Shakespeare and Mr Surman, and ordered the Troop to assemble at Tetbury at four. Marched from Tetbury at half-past five to Hampton Common, where a messenger met us with a desire to return to Hampton for further orders, but that town being much excited by rejoicings, Major Shakespeare deemed it right to take the Troop to Tetbury, where a messenger brought me a letter from Mr Hallewell (a magistrate) to inform me that the services of the Troop were no longer required. I therefore immediately dismissed them and returned home. The disturbance at Stroud was supposed to have been animated by the violence of Mr Moreton and his friends. Mr M. has interfered so pointedly as to occasion much offence'.

To Watts, leader of the Whigs, the election result was a crushing blow. His fury knew no bounds and from that period all common civility from him to Hallewell ceased.

'I called at his house some time after and was received by him in such a manner, that I never ventured to encounter him there again', Hallewell recalled.<sup>9</sup>

Hallewell was now engaged in educating his numerous family of twelve, who included eight daughters, 'upon a liberal footing', and in 1846 the saddened father related that 'numerous instances have occurred within the last year or two of Mr Watts' oppressive and offensive conduct towards me in matters in which my children were connected, all showing that his object is to impress upon their minds a contempt for my advice and authority as their father'.

Hallewell, however, stuck to his political faith and became one of its staunchest supporters. For a brief period, from 1851, he was Member of Parliament for the Irish constituency of Newry and he next unsuccessfully stood as Conservative candidate for Cheltenham in the 1856 election. He died in 1881 at Beauchamp House, Churcham, near Gloucester, having been a county magistrate for 50 years. For a time he had lived at Paradise House, Painswick. The funeral took place at Pitchcombe, where several of the Hallewell family are buried.

<sup>8</sup> W. H. Wyndham Quin, *The Yeomanry Cavalry of Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire*.

<sup>9</sup> See note 2.

The eldest son, Col. Edmund Gilling Hallewell, was born in 1821 and died in his 48th year from the effects of the Crimean War. Educated at Rugby School, he was commissioned as an ensign in the 20th Foot in 1839 and in 1843 married Sophia, daughter of Major General Sir William Reid. In 1852 he was appointed aide-de-camp and private secretary to his father-in-law, and when the war with Russia broke out in 1854 became Assistant Quartermaster General of the Light Division. He fought at the Battle of Alma, in which his horse was shot in three places but he himself was unhurt, and led the last attack in the taking of Sebastopol. He subsequently became Governor and Commandant of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst.

Fisher's history of Stroud records that Col. Hallewell presented to the Subscription Rooms in 1855 'a twelve pound carronade from Sebastopol; which, properly mounted, and with its appurtenances, stands on the mantel-shelf of the fire-place, in the same room, under portrait of his maternal grandfather, Mr. Watts'. Later, we read: 'On September the 17th, 1856, a dinner was given to the gallant Lieutenant-Colonel Hallewell, on his return from the Crimea; when the most hearty reception was given to him that his friends could have desired'.

Edmund Hallewell's second son was Joseph Watts Hallewell, who was born in 1823 at Stratford Court, and, like his brother, educated at Rugby in the days of the great headmaster Dr Arnold. His grandfather, Joseph Watts, died in 1855 and bequeathed the brewery, with much other property, including the Stratford estate, to him. Watts's son-in-law and eldest grandson were, therefore, cut out of the will.

The brewery now came to be carried on under the partnership of Watts Hallewell, Biddell and Stanton. In 1888 a company was formed under the title of Stroud Brewery Co. Ltd. and Joseph Watts Hallewell was the first chairman.

Joseph Hallewell married twice, the second wife being Mary Ann, daughter of Joseph Cripps of Cirencester, who had inherited the Farmhill estate and sold it to Henry Wyatt in 1833. He is stated to have had issue by both marriages.

Joseph Hallewell soon became a well-known public figure. As a young man he was appointed a magistrate and in 1878 on the retirement of William Capel he became chairman of the Stroud petty sessional division. He took a warm and unceasing interest in the Stroud School of Art and was its president from its commencement in 1860. He was one of the first promoters of the Volunteer movement in Stroud, being Captain of the 5th Company of the Volunteer

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Gloucestershire Regiment. He was president of Stroud cricket club and vicar's warden at Whiteshill. He also took a keen interest in politics and was a Liberal Unionist.

Shortly before his death on 27 February 1891 (having just returned by train from Gloucester assizes), he had been nominated as high sheriff of Gloucestershire and had his life been spared would have taken office in a few weeks' time. He had got as far as appointing his chaplain. He was buried in Pitchcombe churchyard in the vault containing the remains of his father. In the south wall of the church is a memorial stained-glass window to 'Edmund Gilling Hallewell and members of his family buried in the churchyard of this parish A.D. 1891'. As the *Stroud News* said, after the shock of his sudden death, 'we can hardly as yet conceive of Stroud being without Joseph Watts Hallewell, for no other man could be so much missed'.

Edmund Hallewell had two more sons, John and Charles James Maynard, who was educated at Cheltenham College, became a captain in the 19th Foot and died at Bathampton, Somerset, in 1919. These two were appointed trustees and executors of their father's will. Of his daughters, Adelaide was the wife of the Revd John Close, Mary the wife of John Gregory Cottingham, Ellen the wife of the Revd James Duncan Macfarlane, Lucy the wife of Henry Broadhurst and Grace the wife of the Revd Richard Roy. Settlements in the will<sup>10</sup> were divided between the daughters and the remainder went to the three children of his eldest son, Edmund, Henry Lonsdale and Martha.

As far as the Stroud district was concerned the Hallewell family now ceased their connection. In seventy years it had made an impact unequalled by many with longer ties.

<sup>10</sup> Extract from will in possession of Mr F. T. Hammond, Chalford, Glos.