

THE ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 11th December 1869

HISTORY OF THE MAYOR OF RYDE.

Dear Sir, - Without enquiring whence you obtained the materials for the *very complimentary* article upon the above subject, which appeared in your paper last week, as it contains several inaccuracies, I must request to be allowed to correct them.

Your commence to say that I am “a native of Portsea.” This is incorrect. I was born near Wolverhampton, in South Staffordshire. You next say that I “commenced business in Cross-street, Portsea.” This is a mistake also. I never lived on Cross-street, Portsea; but I did practice as a dentist in Cross-street, Ryde. You further say that I picked up my knowledge of dentistry from working *for* dentists. This is a *further* mistake; I learned my profession from a relative, and I made many sets of artificial teeth before I was 16 years of age. In my profession I have attained the degree of L.D.S., having certificated of membership from the College of Dentists and the Ordontological Society of Great Britain, and a diploma by examination from the College of Surgeons of England. It is true I practised in St. Thomas’s-street, Portsmouth, and afterwards in Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, London; whence I was induced to remove to Ryde, in 1855, in consequence of pressing invitations from Admiral HOARE, and several other of the principal families of Ryde.

You then say, “from comparatively humble life, “ &c. This is giving me credit for that I do not deserve. My father was a son of a landowner, at Stretton, in Shropshire, and descended from Sir John HARRINGTON, the friend of the Earl of Essex, and author of several works of acknowledged ability. My mother was the daughter of Squire John FELLOWES, of Asteel Hall, near Sedgeley. The present village inn at Canlane, has been formed out of the stabling of his mansion. He was owner of immense landed property, comprising several square miles, and extending beyond the site now occupied by the Deepfields railway station on the one hand, to Goldthorn-hill on the other, including the town of Sedgeley (after which town I have named my present residence) and part of Wolverhampton, a considerable portion of which town was his property. And it was a branch of his family who left a large property to the Earl of Portsmouth on condition that he should take the name “FELLOWS,” hence the present Earl’s name-“Isaac Newton FELLOWS WALLOP.” My grandfather was also on terms of intimate friendship with the Lord Dudley Ward of his day, and a frequent visitor at Hinley Hall, his Lordship’s seat in South Staffordshire ; and the title deeds, in the possession of the present Lord Ward, will clearly show to whom a large portion of his Staffordshire property formerly belonged. Thus it will be seen that so far from rising myself from “comparatively humble life,” I have scarcely reached the level of my parentage, much less the higher positions that were occupied by several of my progenitors. If it is for the few little matters I have assisted in doing for the benefit of Ryde that I have been exulted to the position of chief magistrate, I can only say I feel amply rewarded, and as I stated at the time of my election to the mayoralty, I will do my best to sustain my distinguished position with dignity and honour.

I remain yours faithfully,

Sedgeley House, G.F.H. Dec. 6th 1869