

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday July 4 1863

Death Notice:-

On the 28th June, at Beachlands, Ryde, General Sir **James Lillyman CALDWELL** GCB, in the 94th year of his age.

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DEATH OF SIR JAMES LILLYMAN CALDWELL, GCB.

This venerable gentleman expired peacefully at twelve minutes after 10 o'clock on Sunday evening, the 28th of June, at his residence, Beachlands, Ryde, in the 94th year of his age; and as he carved for himself a niche in the history of his country, and enshrined himself in the hearts of his dependants and the poor, and was moreover esteemed by his compeers as a neighbour and friend, a short biography cannot be out of place. The companion-in-arms of the "Iron Duke", the Great WELLINGTON, in the ever-memorable siege of Seringapatam last century, ought not to be consigned to the tomb without a tribute of warm admiration and respectful condolence. Further, it is a privilege rarely awarded to man, whose allotted days are three score years and ten, to live to see five generations, especially if he has been three times severely wounded in battle.

Sir James L CALDWELL was the son of Major Arthur CALDWELL of the Bengal Engineers (who attained the extraordinary age of 104 years), by the daughter of A WEED, esq. (who also attained the great age of 84 years), and he was the nephew of the late Sir Alexander CALDWELL, GCB. Sir James was born at Greenwich in the year 1770, and he married the daughter of Mons. MALLIARDE, of Franche Compte, and relict of Richard JOHNSTON, esq., by whom he had a daughter who married the late Edward SULLIVAN, esq., of the Madras Civil Service, and son of the late Sir Richard SULLIVAN, bart. The issue of Mr and Mrs SULLIVAN was Maria-Charlotte, who was married on the 29th May, 1839, to Sir John LEES, bart., by whom there were three sons and three daughters; and the eldest son, HARCOURT-JAMES, is married and has issue: hence the five generations. Sir JAMES entered the service of the Royal (Madras) Engineers in 1788, and was gazetted as second lieutenant on 27th June, 1789. He served in the war against the renowned Tippoo Saib in 1790; in the attack on his entrenched camp near Bangalore in 1791; in the storming of the breach, and the capture of Bangalore; and in the two battles near Seringapatam in that year. Subsequently he was engaged at the capture of several hill fortresses. He was promoted first lieutenant on 2nd December, 1792, in which year he was at the first siege of Seringapatam under Lord CORNWALLIS. He was promoted captain on 8th January 1796, and was at the battle of Mallavelly in 1799. He was also present at the second and sanguinary siege and capture of Seringapatam, when he was severely wounded in assaulting the breach where the

Sultan was slain in 1799. He was subsequently commanding engineer at the capture of the Mauritius, and was on board the frigate Ceylon in a naval action of four hours' duration. He was severely wounded three times. He was promoted major, 1st January, 1806; lieutenant-colonel, 26th September, 1811; colonel, 1st May, 1824; major-general, 10th January, 1837; lieutenant-general, 9th November, 1846; he was created GCB in 1848; and promoted general 20th June, 1854; and he attained the rare distinction of being the oldest officer in the military service.

Sir James CALDWELL's town residence was No 4, Portland-place, which he sold within the past month, and the relics from which were removed to Ryde only within a week previous to his death. About 20 years ago he purchased Beachlands, whither he retired and chiefly resided ever since, surrounded by his family, and in the enjoyment of the esteem of all classes of society. Sir James was one of the founders of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and was for many years one of the Managing Committee, and his name stood No. 3 on the list; consequently the Club burgee and ensign have been hoisted at the semaphore half-mast during the week, as a token of regretful respect. Sir James was also one of the founders of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary, of which he was one of the vice-presidents, being one of the largest contributors to the building and furnishing funds of that most excellent charity; so that it has lost another of its liberal supporters. But to enumerate all the good deeds of the venerable Knight would be to give a list of the public institutions and charities of the locality; therefore we have selected the two chief ones as instances, and as examples to be worthily followed. As genuine traits of a "Fine Old English Gentleman," we may be pardoned for mentioning some of which he justly felt proud, and we fancy we now, as we write, hear his fine old soldierly voice exclaiming, as was his wont, "Depend upon it, sir, if you want to be comfortable, you must make your servants comfortable;" and he acted upon the maxim, and gave Mr LANGDON, sen., the builder, almost a *carte blanche* to erect comfortable quarters for them. In the merry Christmas time, too, the best suite of rooms in his house was set apart for a ball and supper fit "to set before a king" for his domestics and tradesmen, which the brave old warrior used to honour with his presence, and which the third and fourth generations of his family would join. Such a reunion we always looked upon as an oasis in the social desert, and for many years had the pleasure of joining it; and we are pleased to hear that the traditions of the house are to be preserved. Sir James extended his concern even to his horses, and at the time of his death was having some extensive stabling built in Monkton-street, so that the horses and their attendants should lack nothing for their comfort and convenience. We are afraid to pursue this subject any further, lest we should be thought sycophantic; but we assure our readers that we have not chronicled a tithe of the admiration and respect which we feel this excellent and great man now departed from amongst us for ever.

Sir James, through his long life, - a vista which it seems marvellous to contemplate as comprised in the career of one man, - was generally in the enjoyment of excellent health; and his final sickness (if sickness it can be called) was of only three weeks' duration during which time he received the unremitting attention of his

medical adviser, Mr BLOXAM, in whom he always expressed the highest confidence. As we said before, he quietly sank into rest on Sunday last, laden with age and honour.

The gallant and venerable Knight being thus gone “to the undiscover’d country, from whose bourn no traveller returns,” his mortal remains will be buried in a tomb at the Ryde cemetery on Saturday morning (this day), whither they will be conveyed by twelve of the oldest soldiers to be obtained in the neighbourhood. A goodly and ancient custom, too, will be observed on the occasion – a dole of a gallon of bread will be distributed by Mr WRIGHT to 93 poor widows and other persons, the number corresponding with the age of the deceased.

Messrs MARVIN and Sons are the undertakers.
