

Burke's Peerage 1860

Lees, Sir John of Blackrock, born 31 December 1816; his father as 3rd bart., 7th March 1852; married 29th May 1839, Maria Charlotte, only daughter of the late Edward Sullivan of the Madras Civil Service, granddaughter of the late Sir Richard Sullivan, Bart, and has issue:

Harcourt James b.1840 60th Rifles

Arthur Richard b. 1842

James Lilyman Martet b.1845

Bellina Alicia Maria d. 26 January 1858

Nora Frances Sophia

Mary Charlotte Cook

Hester Elizabeth Ida

Lineage:

1. John Lees, Esq. early distinguished himself with the British Troops in Germany under the Marquess of Granby, and afterwards went to Ireland as private secretary to the Marquess of Townsend, and subsequently filling the office of the usher of the black rod.

2. The Rev. Sir Harcourt Lees, rector of Kilany

Isle of Wight Observer June 1892

The death of Sir John Lees, Bart.

Universal regret has been expressed at the death of Sir John Lees, Bart., which took place at his residence, Beachlands, Ryde, on Sunday evening. Sir John had been in failing health for some years, but it was not generally known that his condition was so critical, and the news of his death came as a surprise to many. The deceased gentleman married in 1839, Maria Charlotte, daughter of Mr Edward Sullivan, of the Madras Civil Service. He succeeded to the title, as third baronet, in 1852, and coming to reside in Ryde he became thoroughly identified with the place, and a prominent figure in its society. No social gathering for many years seemed complete unless Sir John and Lady Lees were present. Sir John, however was not a mere "society" man. His sympathies were broad, and in many ways he did good services for those amongst whom he lived. When the Volunteer movement originated he gave it his support, and was, we understand, the first one sworn in of the little band of Ryde men who started the movement in the Isle of Wight. He was the first Isle of Wight commandant, and when the Island companies became consolidated as the 1st Isle of Wight Rifle Volunteers, he was appointed major, a position he held from 1860 to 1866. He was also a captain in the Hampshire Militia. At that time Sir John was a handsome and aristocratic looking man, and no doubt the figure he displayed in Volunteer uniform tempted many who were not possessed of his physical advantages, to don the dark green tunic and plumed shako which was then worn. When, in the course of time, younger men came to the front in Volunteering, Sir John never lost his interest in the movement, and it was with great satisfaction he saw the patriotic efforts of himself and others productive of so much good a man, the deceased baronet will not soon be forgotten. He was kindly and charitable to all. For many years Beachlands has been a house of call for the distressed, and no deserving cases have ever been turned away from those hospitable doors. In fact Sir John was the type of that good old English gentleman whose virtues are celebrated in song. As time went on, however, it brought him many sorrows, not the least being the sudden death of a much-loved daughter just as she was entering on womanhood blow was a severe one for Sir John and his wife never seemed quite the same afterwards, and for years he might have been seen, almost daily, wending his way to the Cemetery to lay a beautiful floral token on the grave of his daughter, by whose side not many years afterwards were laid the remains of Lady Lees, and a gallant soldier son, whose career was shortened through the hardships of African warfare. In that family vault, by the side of those he had loved so well, the mortal remains of the deceased baronet were laid on Wednesday last, and the general sympathy of the town found respectful expression in the partial closing of the shutters on most of the shops in the principal streets. The polished oak coffin was conveyed in an open car to the Cemetery.

Chief mourners were: Mr Pigou (son-in-law), Mr Hasting Lees (Chief Constable of the Isle of Wight), and Mr Upperton. The servants were represented by Messers Dover, King, Warne and Pierre*(the old butler).Amongst those who attended at the Cemetery we noticed Ald Ellery (Mayor of Ryde), General Sir Samuel Browne, V.C. Colonel Bridge, Colonel Howard Brooke, General Pigou, Captain Boger, R.N., Mr J. G. Oglander, J.P., Major Barry, Captain Green, Captain Menzies, Rev C.R. Sharpe, Mr Tattnell, Councillors Fowler, Groves, Gurnell, Messers W. Jacobs, W. Gibbs, H. Pack, H. H. Morgan, T.A. Butler, J. Mason &c. The officiating clergy were the Rev. A. J. Wade (Vicar of Holy Trinity) and the Rev. T. W. Fair. The inscription on the coffin plate was: SIR JOHN LEES BART., Born, December 31st 1816, Died, June 19th 1892.

The coffin was covered with a number of wreaths of the choicest flowers, bearing the following inscription: The men servants at Beachlands; "with love and sympathy," from Lady and Miss Daly; "with C. F. Booth's deepest sympathy"; Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs H. H. Tattnell and the Misses Tattnell; "In loving memory," Fanny, Alice, Ada, and Emily; Mrs.Catthorpe; A. Dunn, W. Westbrook; Mr and Mrs Hancock, Berwick Lodge; "with deep sympathy," from R. A. and Mrs W. E. Ratcliffe; from Arthur, Gerard and Kathleen Pigou; Miss Blanche and Miss Godwin; Miss Knox; Mr and Mrs Clement Upperton. There were two or three without any names. Mr Simmonds carried out the funeral arrangements. Sir John is succeeded in the baronetcy by his son, Harcourt James Lees, born in 1840, who is now abroad.

*Pierre,the old butler was actually Patrice Puyravel, who had been a loyal servant to Sir John Lees for forty years.

Isle of Wight County Press Saturday 25th June 1892 Death of Sir John Lees.Bart

We record with regret the death of the above named esteemed and old Ryde resident. The sad event occurred on Sunday night after a very long illness, at Beachlands, the residence of the deceased. Sir John was the third baronet. He was born in 1816, and succeeded his father, the Rev Harcourt, in 1852. He was captain commandant of the Isle of Wight (Ryde) Rifle Volunteers and was appointed major of the administrative battalion on the 15th May 1868. He was also a captain in the Hampshire Militia. He married in 1839, Maria Charlotte, daughter of Mr. Edward Sullivan, of the Madras Civil Service, who died in 1881. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by his son, Harcourt James, born in 1840, who has served in the 2nd Warwickshire Militia and the 60th Rifles. The internment took place on Wednesday at the Cemetery. The body was contained in a polished oak coffin with brass furniture. On the plate on the lid was the inscription:

"Sir John Lees, Bart., born December 31st 1816, died June 19th 1892." The vicar of Holy Trinity (the Rev. A. J. Wade) officiated, the Rev. T. W. Fair reading the lesson. The mourners were MrPigou, Mr. T. Hastings Lees, and Mr.Upperton. There were also present Gen. Sir S. Browne, Col. Howard Brooke, Col. Bridge, Major Barry, Capt. Boger, R. N., Capt. Menzies, Capt. Green, the Rev. C. R. Sharpe, Mr. J. H. Glynn Oglander, J. P., and Messrs Tattnell, W. Gibbs, H. Jacobs, W. Jackson, H. Pack, J. Kemp, W. Gurnell, E. S. Fowler, H. H. Morgan, Sidney Ward, Dover and a number of the deceased's servants. Some beautiful wreaths and crosses were sent by relatives and friends, including those from the family (a lovely cross of roses); Mr and Mrs Clement Upperton; Arthur, Gerald and Kathleen Pigou; a cross and wreath from Lady and the Misses Daly, Mrs and Miss Hancock, Mrs. Calthorpe; Col. and Mrs A.H. Tattnell; Miss Knox; Miss Blanche and Miss Florence Godwin; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith; RA. Dalton; A. Dunn, W. Williams and M. Westbrook; Fanny Mason; Jenny Dunn; C. F. Booth; Fanny, Alice, Ada and Emily; and from the servants at Beachlands. Deceased was interred in a vault with his wife and daughter.