

DEATH OF LORD CALTHORPE

We deeply regret to have to record the death of Lieut.-General the Right Hon. Seventh Lord CALTHORPE, which occurred on Saturday evening last, at Woodlands Vale, his Island residence. Lord CALTHORPE had been in failing health for a considerable time, his condition causing the gravest anxiety to his family. His death, just before seven in the evening, was, therefore, not unexpected. His Lordship was born on the 23rd January, 1831, and was the fourth son of the fourth Baron CALTHORPE and Lady CALTHORPE, daughter of the sixth Duke of BEAUFORT.

He was educated privately, and served in the Garde Hussars of Hanover in 1848, and in the following year in the 8th Hussars, and saw service in the Crimean War, where he acted as Aide-de-camp to Field-Marshal Lord RAGLAN. He became Captain and brevet-Major in 1855. In 1861 he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel in command of the 5th Dragoon Guards, was promoted Colonel in 1866, and retired on half-pay in 1869. In the following year he became Major-General and Lieut.-General in 1881.

Lord CALTHORPE, in 1862, married Eliza Maria, the only child of Captain CHAMLER, R.N., and widow of Captain Frederick CREWE, and had two sons and two daughters.

Lord CALTHORPE took a great deal of interest in politics, and contested Hastings in the Conservative interest in 1868. In '69 or '70, he and one or two other gentlemen met at Ryde and founded the I.W. Conservative Association. Lord CALTHORPE and Mr. W. A. GLYNN, of Seaview, attended a number of meetings in Ryde, and gave addresses on political subjects, and the result was the formation of the Conservative Association, with the late Mr. John WHITE, a prominent solicitor, as the first hon. secretary.

When the Isle of Wight was first separated from Hampshire and became an administrative county, with its own County Council, Lord CALTHORPE became its first chairman, a position which he held until his retirement eight years later. He was an excellent head of that body, being firm and strictly impartial, and his resignation was received with the deepest regret by the whole Council. When Lord ROBERTS returned from the war in South Africa Lord CALTHORPE presented him with an address of welcome on his landing at East Cowes.

The heir to the title is his lordship's eldest son, the Hon. Somerset Frederick Gough CALTHORPE late Captain 5th Batt. Royal Fusiliers. He was born on December 28th, 1862, and married in 1891 Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. Ogden Hoffman BURROWS, of Newport, Rhode Island. He has one son in his 21st year. His Lordship's second son, the Hon. Somerset Arthur GOUGH-CALTHORPE, has had an active naval career, and was recently promoted Rear-Admiral.

The surname on the male side is GOUGH, and the fourth baron obtained Royal license for himself only to bear the surname of GOUGH. It was derived from an old Staffordshire family, one member of which was Richard GOUGH, the antiquary. Sir Henry GOUGH, baronet, married Barbara CALTHORPE, a Norfolk heiress, and their son, having inherited through his mother the Elvetham estates, was raised to the peerage as Lord CALTHORPE, Oliver CROMWELL conferred the first honour upon the CALTHORPE's in the person of Sir James CALTHORPE of Ampton.

The CALTHORPE estate formerly included property in Clerkenwell, but a good portion of this was sold in 1891. Another extremely valuable part resulted from the foresight of Sir Richard GOUGH, merchant in the time of Queen Anne and George I. This ancestor having made a fortune in the trade of India and China bought of Lord FAUCONBERG some

2,000 acres of land, near “the village of Birmingham.” How the village of Birmingham has grown need not be told, but on those 2,000 acres stands to-day the best residential part of the hardware metropolis, the suburbs of Edgbaston. Gough Square, in London, including the house in which Dr. JOHNSON lived, and where he compiled the dictionary, were part of the London estate; but shortly after the death of his brother, Lord CALTHORPE, now deceased, wrote to the Press that the house was no longer his, his brother “having alienated the whole of the estates, which had hitherto gone with the title.”

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at St. John’s Parish Church, Perry Barr, at 12.30 on Thursday. It was a simple enough ceremony at the old Church, but an air of pomp and circumstance was added to the externals of the function by presence of officers and men of the 5th Dragoon Guards, of which regiment the late Lord CALTHORPE was Colonel-in-Chief in 1892.

A large number of people lined the road leading to the Church, and their number was swelled when, after the service in the church, the coffin was borne on the shoulders of six stalwart sergeants of Dragoons to the crematorium near by, where the body was reduced to ashes. The remains of the deceased noble-man had been removed from Ryde by motor hearse, and the coffin reposed in Perry Barr Church all night. It was covered with the Union Jack, and on it reposed the dead general’s plumed hat, his sword and belt, and the medals fixed on a white cushion. This, with the scarlet uniforms of the Dragoons, the different garbs of the Boy Scouts, and the arum lilies and palms heaped up on either side of the chancel steps, was the only touch of colour in the sombre and impressive proceedings.

The funeral service in the Church was conducted by the Rev. J.N. GORDON, vicar of Perry Barr, who was assisted by the curate – the Rev. R.S.S. KNIGHT. As the congregation assembled Mr. T. STATHAM, the organist played “O Rest in the Lord,” and the hymns sung were “Lead kindly Light,” and “Peace, Perfect Peace.” At the conclusion of a short and simple service the solemn strains of the Dead March in “Saul” accompanied the carrying out of the coffin by the Dragoon sergeants. Leading the procession out of the Church along the country road to the crematorium was a large detachment of Boy Scouts from the Handsworth division, of which the late Lord CALTHORPE was president. At their head was the Scouts’ flag, recently presented to them by Lord CALTHORPE, be-ribboned in black, borne by one of the officers. Then followed on either side of the roadway a file of Dragoons, after which came the coffin.

The principal mourners, who walked in the procession immediately behind the bearers, were Captain the Hon. Somerset Frederick GOUGH-CALTHORPE, the new lord, Rear-Admiral the Hon. Somerset Arthur GOUGH-CALTHORPE, C.V.O. (son), the Hon. Leila Mabel GOUGH-CALTHORPE and the Hon. Leila Evelyn WILSON (daughters), Mr. Cecil Grosvenor WILSON (son-in-law), the Hon. Frederick GOUGH-CALTHORPE (grandson), Mr. Anstruther GOUGH-CALTHORPE, the Earl of MALMESBURY, Mr. CRESSWELL, Major Granville FIELDEN, Mr. Frank NOEL, Mr. J. B. CLARKE (solicitor), and Mr. F. P. LIGHTFOOT, the estate agent.

Those who also attended the service and walked in the procession to the crematorium included a contingent of the Birmingham branch of the Corps of Commissioners under Captain W. GRANT. The officer commanding the Dragoons was Lieut.-Colonel ANSELL, with whom were Captains PANKHURST and BALFOUR and Lieutenant NETTLEFOLD. These officers followed immediately behind the family mourners. A large number of servants and tenant farmers also walked in the procession. A conspicuous figure in the cortege was Sergeant-Major DAWES, the military veteran, in his picturesque Hussar uniform. The late Lord CALTHORPE had his first military experience in the 8th Hussars as a Cornet.

Among the general mourners noticed at the service were Sir John HOLDER, Bart., Sir Henry WIGGIN, Bart., Mr. J. B. CLARKE, Mr. J. I. BARTON (chairman of the St. Helens, Isle of Wight, District Council; this gentleman also represented Mr. MAYBRICK, chairman of the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital), the Rev. Francis T. BRANSTON Vicar of Wootton Wawes), the Rev. H. A. G. BLOMEFIELD (former vicar of Perry Barr), and the Rev. J. Lane HOPKIN (vicar of Great Barr). The officers in charge of the Boy Scouts were Commissioner TOMEY and District Scoutmaster TYE. Mr. J. B. PURNELL represented the Mayor of Ryde.

The final scene was the most impressive of all. Outside the crematorium gates six Dragoon buglers were drawn up, and as the coffin was consigned to the furnace they sounded the "Last Post."

The whole of the arrangements at Ryde conveyance by road, and at Perry Bar, were entrusted to and admirably carried out by Messrs. PURNELL and PURNELL, of Ryde.

Researched & typed by
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