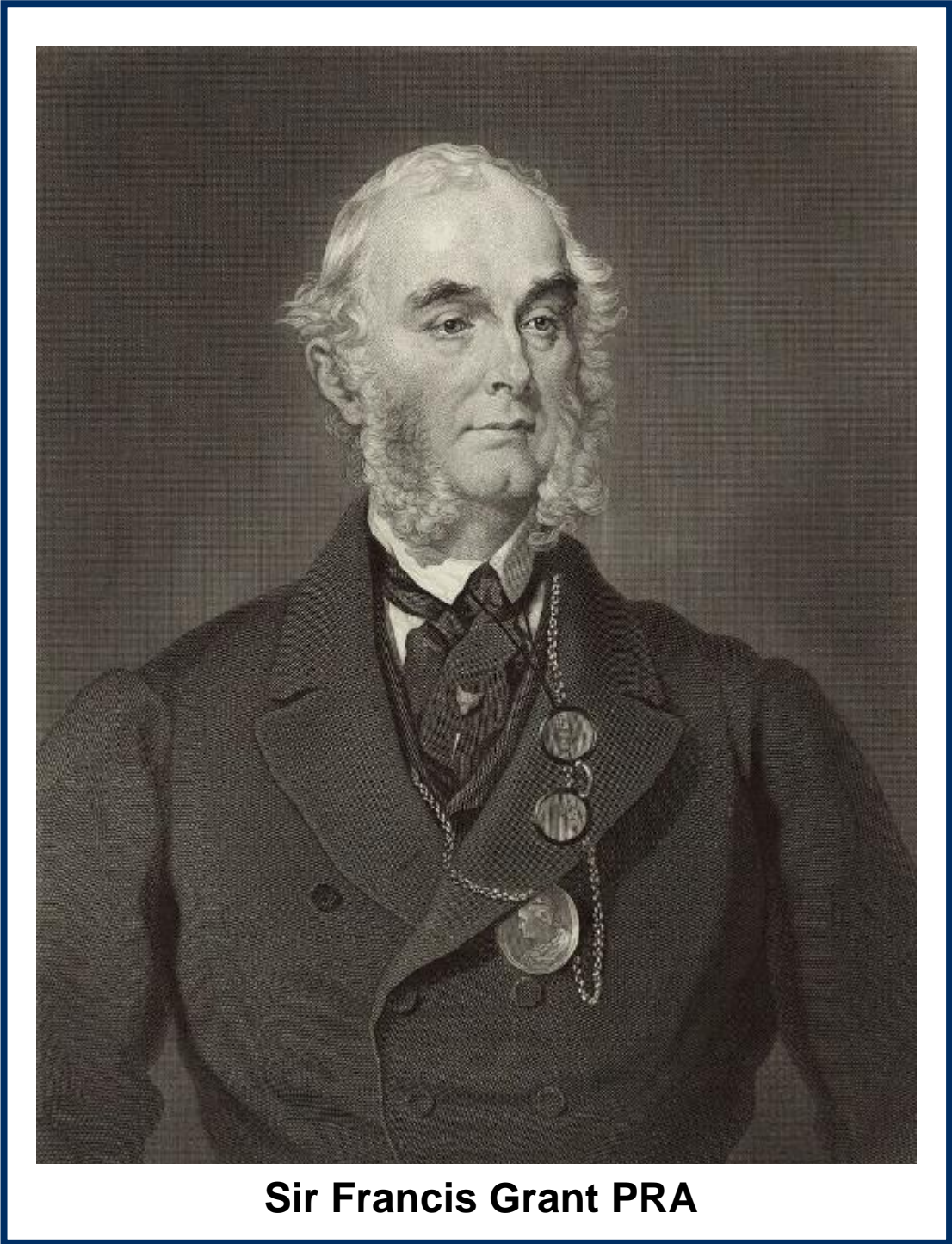


BULLETIN ISSUE NO. 8 – JANUARY 2024



Welcome

Ladies & Gents,

Welcome to this January edition of the *HistoryFare Bulletin* and I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas spending precious time with your family and friends. enjoyed reading the last issue, sent a couple of few weeks ago.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at a HistoryFare event soon.

Brian

Next Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be on this **Thursday, 4th January 2024** at the Melton Mowbray Royal Air Forces Association Tornado Club, Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0HR at 20:00Hrs.

We will be welcoming Peter Spooner as our guest speaker who will be speaking about the Battle of Frezenberg in May 1915, in which A Squadron (the Melton Squadron) of the 1/1st Leicestershire Yeomanry played a key role. The battle saw the Regiment's greatest loss of life during the First World War. It will also look at mobilization in 1914, the Regiment's move to France and the deployment of A Squadron in 1918.



The current talk schedule proposed for 2024 can be seen online via [HistoryFare Military Talks Programme - HistoryFare](#)

Admission Cost £3 Seats are to be reserved by email: meltonhistoryfare@gmail.com

Raffle



Many thanks to those of you who have supported the monthly raffles by donating prizes for use the draws, they have all been gratefully appreciated.

If you would like to donate prizes to future raffles, biscuits, chocolates, wine, beer etc are all acceptable proving they are in date! Books and partwork etc will also be accepted.

Social Media

Keep up To Date by following HistoryFare on the following social media sites:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MeltonHistoryFare>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/farebrian/>

Twitter: HistoryFare @FareBrian

Website: <https://historyfare.co.uk/>

Email: meltonhistoryfare@gmail.com



Sir Francis Grant PRA

Sir Francis Grant was born on 18th January 1803 and was the fourth son of Francis Grant, Laird of Kilgraston, near Bridge of Earn in Perthshire, and his wife Anne Oliphant of Rossie.

He was educated at Harrow School and Edinburgh High School and initially intended to be a lawyer but left his studies after a year and took up painting and it is believed he spent time in the Edinburgh studio of Alexander Nasmyth.

Grant married, firstly, Amelia Farquharson, the daughter of a Scottish laird, in 1826; she died in 1827, after giving birth to their son. He married again, in 1829, Isabella Elizabeth Norman, daughter of Richard Norman and his wife Lady Elizabeth Isabella, and a niece of John Manners, 5th Duke of Rutland; they had three sons and four daughters.

It was through his second wife, Isabella that he gained access to a clientele in the hunting set in Melton Mowbray, where he hunted himself, and took lessons with the artist John Ferneley. Francis and Isabella went on to have 8 children together and one of the daughters, Anne Emily Sophia, married William Thomas Markham. Anne and William had 16 children and one of them was Major Ronald Anthony (Tony) Markham who was killed in France in the early days of WW1 and his body was repatriated by to Melton for burial at Sysonby St Leonard's Churchyard, see <https://historyfare.co.uk/military-history/06-major-ronald-anthony-markham/>

Sir Francis acquired a reputation as a painter of sporting subjects, and in 1834 he produced a picture titled "The Melton Breakfast" for Mr Rowland Errington which was engraved by Charles George Lewis and exhibited at the Royal Academy.

In 1840 he exhibited an equestrian group of Queen Victoria riding with Lord Melbourne and others in Windsor Park and became the fashionable portrait-painter of the day.

His portrait of Lady Glenlyon, exhibited in 1842, increased his reputation, and for nearly 40 years graceful portraits in the Royal Academy exhibitions came from his studio.

After years of gradually failing health, Sir Francis Grant died of heart disease suddenly at his home, The Lodge in Melton Mowbray, on 5 October 1878.

The Lodge was down a quiet lane off Dalby Road on the Western Slope of Mount Pleasant, on the southern side of the railway line.



The Lodge



Sir Francis Grant PRA
headstone

When he died, his family declined the usual honour of being buried in Painters' Corner of St Paul's Cathedral, and instead opted for him to be buried in Melton.

He was laid to rest on 12th October 1878 in accordance with his wishes in the cemetery in King Street, now St Mary's Way.

The funeral service was conducted Dr Thompson, Archbishop of York with the Duke of Rutland, the Marquis of Bristol, Viscount Hardinge and Lord Kinnaird acting as pall bearers. An imposing memorial was originally erected over the grave, but now only a headstone now survives.



Memorial Window

A memorial window was placed in the North Transept, Norman Chapel at St Mary's Parish Church depicting St Luke, the patron Saint of painters and physicians.

The Melton Breakfast



The Melton Breakfast 1834

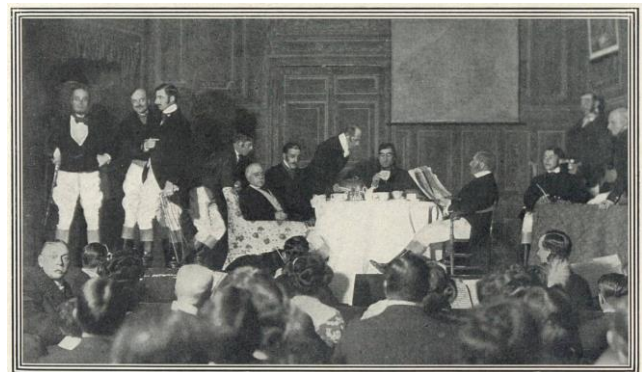
The Melton Breakfast was based on a scene at the Old Club on Burton Street. The painting portrayed the following gentlemen:

Mr Massey Stanley; Lord Wilton; Count Matusewicz; Lord Gardner; Mr "Bonnie Allen" Gilmour; Mr Lyne Stevens; Sir Frederick Johnston, Lord Rokeby; Lord Forester; Lord Kinnaird; Mr Rowland Errington and Mr Errington's servant.

In 1913, the Quorn Hunt put on a pantomime at the Corn Exchange in Melton Mowbray, featuring a set called "The Clever Tableau – The Melton Breakfast" after Sir Francis Grant's famous picture.

Those characters in The Clever Tableau are (Left to Right):

Major W F Ricardo; Major W D Mann-Thomson; Mr George Drummond; Mr Archie Brocklehurst; Mr A V Pryor; Captain H Ashton; Mr Archie Smith; Captain A Burnaby; Colonel the Hon W A W Lawson; Mr W Lawson; Major Bradford Atkinson; Captain Burns Hartopp.



The Clever Tableau – The Melton Breakfast 1913

Major W F Ricardo was a veteran of the South African War of 1899-1902 serving with the Royal Horse Guards, taking part in operations in the Cape Colony, South of Orange River. He was awarded the Queens South Africa Medal with 3 clasps. In January 1900, he was captured during the Colesburg Reconnaissance and taken prisoner along with 4 troopers. During WW1 he served with the Leicestershire (Prince Alberts Own) Yeomanry Cavalry.

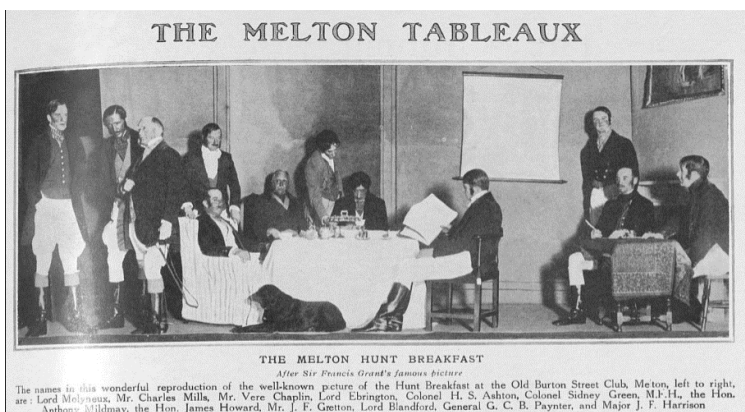
Major William Dixon Mann-Thomson – another veteran of the South African War being awarded the Queens South Africa Medal with 3 clasps. He retired from the Army in 1910, but on the outbreak of World War 1, he rejoined and Commanded the Regent’s Park Barracks. He died of heart trouble, attributed to over work of his Regiment, at his home Scaford Hall 22nd Oct 1918.

Captain (Later Major) Hugh Ashton – served as a Captain with the 2nd Life Guards and was a veteran of the South African War of 1899-1902. He went on to serve in WW1 where he was taken prisoner and after 4 years imprisonment, he was returned to England in Nov 1918.

Captain (Later Major) Algernon Edwin Burnaby received a Commission in the Royal Horse Guards and as a Captain served with the Westmoreland and Cumberland Hussars. During WW1 he served with the London Yeomanry in Gallipoli and Egypt until he was invalided out of the service. He won the famous Melton midnight steeplechase of 1890 where the riders all wore white nightshirts.

Colonel the Hon William Arnold Webster Lawson 3rd Baron Burnham – Owned Staveley Lodge - Commissioned into Yorks and Lancashire Regt in 1884; transferred to 1 Bn, Scots Guards and retired in 1899. He raised the 38 Company, Imperial Yeomanry and served in South Africa War 1899-1902; Commanding Officer 10 Bn, Imperial Yeomanry and awarded DSO in 1901. Served in WW1; when he raised the 2/1 Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars.

Major Thomas Henry Hollis Bradford Atkinson – served in the Grenadier Guards from 1880 – 1899. Took part in the Egyptian Campaign of 1892 and fought at Tel-el-Kabir.



Captain James ‘Tommy’ Burns-Hartopp Master of the Quorn Hunt 1898-1905. Served in the Royal Horse Guards, promoted Lieutenant 1888 and Captain 1889, resigned 1894.

The scene was again repeated as part of “The Melton Tableaux” at the Corn Exchange in 1930. This show was generally acclaimed to be the most successful that had taken place in Melton Mowbray for many years. It was

organised by The Honourable Mrs Gretton, on behalf of the Melton and Framland Nursing Associations. HRH The Duke of Gloucester was present at the opening night and helping to produce the show was Mr Ernest Thesiger, one of the best-known actors of the London stage scene.

In addition to the “Melton Breakfast” scene, the leading feature of the programme was a historical pageant – a procession of “The Lovers throughout the Ages” consisting of 13 scenes with costumes being not only gorgeous but historically accurate right down to the smallest detail.



The various characters were: Anthony & Cleopatra; Paola & Francesca; Romeo & Juliet; Robin Hood & Maid Marion; Henry VIII & his six wives: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour; Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr; Bothwell & Mary Queen of Scots; Earl of Leicester & Queen Elizabeth; and Charles II & Nell Gwynn.



Street Signs



Hartopp Road was built during the 60's & 70's on the Queensway estate on a site previously occupied by one of the domestic sites of RAF Melton Mowbray.

Who were the Hartopp family?

The Hartopp family were Lords of the Manor at Little Dalby, lying just 4 miles South of Melton Mowbray. The Hartopp's were 'seated' at Little Dalby during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and Edward Hartopp was made a Baronet by King James I on 3rd December 1619.

Edward served in the army as a Captain of Foot in the Low Countries from 1598 to 1599 and was afterwards a captain of militia foot (by 1614 to 1616). In 1614 he bought Buckminster, Leicestershire, which became his seat and was appointed High Sheriff of Leicestershire for 1617–18. During the Civil War he sided with the Parliamentarians and his estate was seized by the Royalists.

At Little Dalby, the family's home was Dalby Hall, an Elizabethan manor house. Which during its life has been extended, built on and reduced in size over the years.



The centre part of the building dates from late Elizabethan times (16th C), the West wing was added in 1682, and the East wing much later in 1816. The centre portion of the house was rebuilt in 1838.

The picture above right, taken from Leicester Evening Mail 4th July 1952, shows the hall undergoing a transformation from a 28 bedroom mid Victorian mansion to an Elizabethan farmhouse.



William Wrey Hartopp

In the 1800's, the house was home to Edward Burchier Hartopp who was the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and Conservative MP for North Leicestershire from 1859–68. In 1834 he married Honoria Gent the daughter of Major-General William Gent and he owned the parishes of Burton Lazars, Scraftoft and Little Dalby.

Edward and Honoria had eight children: William Wrey; George; Maria Georgina; Juliana Evans; Edward and Hanna.

The eldest child, William Wrey, was educated at Eton College, after which he enlisted with the 1st Royal Dragoons upon purchasing the rank of Cornet in March 1853. At the age of 18, he served in the Crimean War and took part in the Charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaclava in October 1854,

where he was seriously wounded in the leg. In December 1854, he was promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to the Royal Horse Guards in August 1855. In April 1859, whilst serving with the RHG, he purchased the rank of Captain, and retired from active service on August 1871.

After leaving the Army, William and his wife moved to Penderley Lodge at Beaulieu in Hampshire. While out fishing on 20th July 1874, he was killed in an accident where his body was found wrapped around a tree having apparently fallen over a stile. His body was returned to the ancestral home at Little Dalby, where he was buried in the Churchyard of St James.



Edward Hartopp

One of the other children, Edward, was commissioned into the 10th Hussars as a cornet on 18th October 1864 and promoted to Lieutenant on 17 Aug 1870. He reached the rank of Captain on 23rd June 1875 and retired from the Regiment in 1877. The historical record of the 10th Hussars, by Colonel R S Liddell, has a page-length biography of him:

'When the 10th Hussars was quartered in Cahir, a subaltern joined the regiment who was a man so remarkable in every way, and especially for the geniality and kindness of his disposition, that his old comrades would consider these memoirs incomplete if Edward Hartopp was not specially mentioned in them. A giant in height and strength, he had also an unusually great share of mental quickness and power, as well as many accomplishments. He was an excellent musician and was possessed of a splendid voice. He was known as one of the most daring riders and best

heavy weights that ever crossed a country in Ireland. He constantly hunted hounds himself, and his stentorian "holloas" full of music, will never be forgotten by those who heard them. After leaving the army he became Master of the Kilkenny Hounds, in which county he showed great sport and unbounded hospitality, and was beloved by all, rich and poor. His great power and fine hands made him so good a whip that few more competent coachmen ever mounted a box, and he was devoted to all other forms of sport with hound and gun by flood and field. He served for some years on the personal staff of Lord Spencer in Ireland, and afterwards on that of Lord Northbrook, Governor General of India. His health, broken by the Indian climate, prevented him from remaining in the service, and he died at a comparatively early age, a man who had all the personal qualifications to attain distinction in his profession, but to whom the fitting opportunity was denied.'

What Liddell fails to mention is that he was a well known polo player when the game was in its infancy. In a biography of Hartopp's fellow officer, Viscount Valentia, three champion polo players are mentioned; E M Dancey, E Hartopp and the Hon H Boscawen. He had been playing the game for some time in India and was a participant in the first English polo match, having introduced the game to Britain with Viscount Valentia. Captain Hartopp was responsible for drafting the Rules of the Game in England and was one of the principals at the Lillie Bridge grounds. Histories of the game say that his nickname was 'Chicken' but his size, strength and prowess as a rider indicate that this was ironic.

He died on 7 Sep 1882 at the age of 37. The photo of the tall Captain Hartopp is a detail from a group photo of the officers of the 10th Hussars taken in January 1876 when Edward Prince of Wales visited India. Hartopp stands behind the Prince, dressed in the undress patrol jacket and pill-box cap. ([10th Hussars \(britishempire.co.uk\)](http://10thHussars.britishempire.co.uk))

Talks & Walking Tours

The next public history tour dates for 2024 are Friday 19th January and Saturday 17th February, both at 10:00Hrs. Tours are £5 per person and last approximately 2 hours. To book a place on one, just email meltonhistoryfare@gmail.com

I am also working on developing new tours for 2024, some relating to the general history of the town and another military history one, based on a particular theme, but more of that to come over the next few months. To keep up to date with future tour dates, keep an eye out on social media and my web page <https://historyfare.co.uk/historyfare-tours/>

HistoryFare Gift Vouchers

Looking for the perfect present for a friend or family member?

A gift they'll always remember!

HistoryFare gift vouchers are the perfect gift for friends, family and colleagues who love getting outdoors, discovering history, or exploring new places. We provide guided walks and talks across the historic market town of Melton Mowbray.



For more information, see my website: [HistoryFare Gift Vouchers - HistoryFare](#)

Major General Edwyn Sherard Burnaby



If you visit the Carnegie Museum here in Melton Mowbray, you can see a marble bust of Major-General Edwyn Sherard Burnaby by John Gibson of the Royal Academy. He was the son and heir of Edwyn and Anne Burnaby of Baggrave Hall at Hungerton, 10 miles from Melton.

He joined the Army in 1848 serving with the Grenadier Guards. He fought in the Crimean War (1854 – 55), gaining the rank of Brevet Major for distinguished conduct and fought in the Battle of Inkerman and the Siege of Sebastopol.

He served as Brigadier-General to the British Italian Legion from 1855 to 1857 and in 1860/61 was employed on special duties in Syria.

Till next time!

Please feel free to share this bulletin with whoever you think may be interested.

For any enquiries or to submit articles, please email Brian at meltonhistoryfare@gmail.com