

ORIGINAL FROM RUPERT GUNN'S TO ESSEX RECORDS OFFICE.
THE UNKNOWN.

P R E F A C E

These letters are part of a large collection which I recently inherited from my aunt, the widow of Sir Francis Lloyd, to whose grandmother, Mrs. Lloyd, the letters had been written. The letters number well over one thousand and date from 1804 to the 1850s and nearly all are of interest, but owing to the many distractions of war-time it has been possible for me to go through but few of the bundles and these are by no means the most interesting.

Mrs. Lloyd of Aston was the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Admiral Sir Eliab and Lady Louisa Harvey of Rolls Park, Essex, and she must have been a woman of considerable beauty and charm, as her portrait by Sir George Hayter shows. I have a copy of the portrait but the original had to be sold in 1923. Fortunately it was bought by Lady Pigott-Browne, a great-granddaughter of Mrs. Lloyd.

Mrs. Lloyd had a wide circle of friends who wrote frequently to her, giving her the London news and gossip. Unfortunately before her death in 1866, she destroyed a number of these letters, including those from the great Duke of Wellington who was one of her admirers - indeed as his guest she was at Brussels and present at the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball held before the Battle of Waterloo. It was always thought that these letters were of a rather familiar nature and there is no doubt that the Iron Duke was attracted by the beauty of Mrs. Lloyd. Soon after the Battle of Waterloo he took her for a ride across the Battlefield, explaining it to her, and himself cut off and presented to Mrs. Lloyd a branch of the tree under which he had met Marshal Blucher. Nor was this Wellington's only present to Mrs. Lloyd - he gave her among other things one of his Field Marshal's cloaks and part of the tail of his charger, Copenhagen, and various other mementoes.

There were also more than one hundred letters from the "Ladies of Llangollen" written in the beautiful clear script of either Lady Eleanor Butler or Miss Ponsonby. The majority of these letters were left by my uncle to follow the entailed estates and relatively few are in my possession. Mrs. Lloyd was on the friendliest terms with the "Ladies" and I well remember as a child at Aston the enchanting portrait of them in their beaver chimney-pot hats, their riding habits and their short powdered hair, and it was from Aston that the Duke of Wellington rode to visit them at Plas Newydd.

Mrs. Lloyd's father's family had long been settled in Essex although the only member of the Harveys of any real distinction was the immortal Doctor Harvey, whose body rests in

it is to this day, so far as I am aware, still unopened.

Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, Mrs. Lloyd's father, was, it would seem from his wife's letters, a difficult old gentleman, and this is to put it mildly. He died in 1830 and in my boyhood many stories still lingered in Essex of the "Old Admiral". The ancient gardener at Rolls used to point out to me a long gravel walk in the garden which was still known as "the quarter-deck" and up and down which the Admiral used to stomp when in one of his only too frequent rages. The hedge bordering one side of this walk was planted in a most curious zig-zag fashion, the reason being, so the gardener assured me, that the Admiral had had it planted in this odd, unusual way so that it might remind him of the waves of his beloved sea.

My uncle used to tell me, too, an enchanting tale of how, when in 1830 the Admiral died, the long funeral procession wound its tortuous way from Rolls right across Essex to Hempstead which was the family burying place. The funeral was on a grand scale for not only had the Admiral's family lived for two-hundred and fifty years in Essex, but he was also M.P. for the county and a distinguished naval hero. During the journey the Essex hounds crossed the procession which was at once halted. Mourners jumped from their coaches and carriages and "View halloed" the hounds on. One of the most excited and cheering the loudest being Mr. Lloyd, the Admiral's son-in-law and chief mourner! As the huntsmen and hounds disappeared into the distance the mourners climbed back into their carriages and the procession resumed its stately way to Hempstead where the coffin, covered in dark blue velvet, was lowered into the family vault.

I have often seen the Harvey vault - a curious macabre place. All the earlier leadened coffins are shaped like mummy-cases and have rude and rough attempts to depict the human face on the lead in which the body was lapped. The Admiral's coffin rests near a Harvey who died as Ambassador in Constantinople in the middle of the eighteenth century and whose body was sent back to Hempstead. The huge coffin is covered in the most beautiful rose-pink Brusa velvet which seems almost as good as the day it was nailed on in Turkey. A scandalous, and I trust untrue, piece of Hempstead gossip has it that in the nineteenth century the verger would go down into the vault, and taking off some of the velvet would take it back to his wife who would make it into a waistcoat! I should, I must admit, dearly have liked to have seen the verger showing parishioners into their seats, Sunday after Sunday, resplendent in a waistcoat of rose-pink velvet. It must have had a stately and rather startling effect, for vergers in the days of Victoria, were dressed in black broadcloth. Perhaps only on the very special church festivals he startled

the flag ship in so public and violent a manner that Lord Gambier had no option but to bring him to a Court Martial at Portsmouth. One cannot but feel slightly for Lord Gambier, bad sailor though he was. He was not of the stuff of which sailors are usually supposed to be made. He had not only strong religious, but held some novel ideas as to the manner in which British tars ought to be treated. A satirist has said :-

"Oh, if awak'ning from eternal sleep,
The shade of Gambier walked the howling deep,
How British tars would sweep the subject sea,
Inspired by milk and water and lokea,
And when the war fiends came in threatening shape
They'd give the rascals psalms instead of grape."

It was notorious how little time Gambier had spent at sea, and his rapid promotion was almost entirely due to his relationship to Pitt, but one hardly feels that excuses Harvey's language, for according to my uncle the mildest remark Harvey used on this famous occasion of his chief was that "He was the - psalm-singing son of a - hypocritical sea-cook's - ." Harvey was dismissed the service but was reinstated in 1810, in 1815 he was appointed K.C.B. and in 1825 received the Grand Cross of the Bath. During most of his life he held the family seat in Parliament, and was to the day of his death, a figure of considerable importance in Essex, feared, perhaps, more than loved, by his family, neighbours and servants.

Lady Louisa Harvey was the younger daughter of that not very attractive figure, Robert, Earl Nugent - now chiefly remembered not so much for his political life or his witty sayings as for his habit of marrying rich widows, a talent so marked that Horace Walpole invented the word 'Negentize' to describe those adventurers who attempted to imitate his good fortune, for good fortune it certainly brought him. Mr. Nugent's (for he was not raised to the peerage till 1766) first marriage was to a daughter of the Earl of Fingall, his second to Anne, daughter of James Craggs, who had already been twice married, and by his marriage to this "fat and ugly dame" he acquired Gosfield in Essex, a seat in Parliament and £100,000 in cash, besides which by his third marriage to Elizabeth Drax, widow of the fourth Earl of Berkeley, he also acquired a large fortune. This last marriage, like his previous ones, brought him no happiness, and he was separated from Elizabeth before his death. By her he had two children, Mary, afterwards Marchioness of Buckingham and Louisa, wife of Admiral Harvey. Lord Nugent made Lady Buckingham his Heiress, (Lord Buckingham took the surname of Nugent) and would have nothing to do with Louisa because she had followed her mother when the latter had left Nugent's house, owing to his treatment of her.

ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

Level: Category
 Level: Fonds
 Level: Sub-Fonds

Estate and Family records
 LLOYD FAMILY OF ROLLS PARK, CHIGWELL
 CORRESPONDENCE

Reference Code **D/DGu/C4/1/1**

Dates of Accumulation **1826**

Scope and Content Letters from Lady Louisa Harvey to her daughter Mrs Louisa Lloyd Georgiana (b.1796) had married John Drummond, member of a wealthy banking family, in 1816. Maria (b.1791) married Rev. William Tower in 1825. Isabella Mary (b.1806) did not marry until 1835.

Sunday Night

My dearest Louisa

We had a line last night from John Drummond to say that Georgiana was much stronger than ever she had felt the day after her labour, as his letters come here at night I can not write you word in this tomorrow how she continued going on – tell me is not poor little Mary much vex'd about her Dog. I am sure I am and have thought enough about it – think our nasty Coachman and Groom going out at six at night and never coming home till eleven the next morning the poor things left all that time to their fate. How tiresome servants are. I only wait for the Adm'l's answer to hire another coachman whose appearance I like much and shall be so glad to get rid of this one. Mary wrote me word that the Adm'l wanted to take her back with him but she does not like to leave you so soon, and seems to think you do not wish her to go. I think if we could get Mr. Kenyon to drive her to Birmingham about the middle of January I would send a maid there to bring her home in a post chaise. I should wish her to have ten days of Maria before she leaves us, do think it over my dearest Louisa and then turn it in your mind. I had some thoughts of proposing to Mrs. Grosvenor to bring her part of the way back, as they go to Eaton this week, and will probably be returning towards Newmarket in about three weeks time. I understand that the General has hired Lord Rivers home at Newmarket. My cold is quite well today... Mr. and Mrs. Abdy dine here tomorrow. She enquired so anxiously about you and seemed so kind and feeling that I felt glad to ask her, poor thing she will find it dull as we have no soul to meet her – have you begun reading any of the books I sent you...

Mrs. Grosvenor was the wife of her husband's cousin, General Grosvenor who lived at The Warren, Loughton. The mothers of Admiral Harvey and General Grosvenor were sisters, daughters of Stephen Skynner.

ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

Level: Category
 Level: Fonds
 Level: Sub-Fonds

Estate and Family records
 LLOYD FAMILY OF ROLLS PARK, CHIGWELL
 CORRESPONDENCE

Reference Code **D/DGu/C4/1/1**

Dates of Accumulation **1826**

Scope and Content Letters from Lady Louisa Harvey to her daughter Mrs Louisa Lloyd
 Includes reference to death of Mrs Catherine Tylney Long Wellesley

Lady Louisa Nugent (1758-1841), the younger daughter of Earl Nugent, married Eliab Harvey (1758-1830) in 1783 and they lived at Rolls Park, Chigwell. Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey captained the *Temeraire* brilliantly in the Battle of Trafalgar. Their two sons predeceased him but they had six surviving daughters. Louisa (1785-1866) married William Lloyd and Rolls Park continued through the Lloyd family to Lt. Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd, d. 1926.

Catherine Long-Wellesley must have been the same age as one of her daughters and they must have met socially – though I would not imagine frequently. Wanstead is just over 3 miles from Chigwell.

Chigwell, Thursday

Dearest Louisa

Dabord? I must say that tho I am longing to go to Malvern, I yet dread the length of journey and do not feel up to it as very little tires me. My *bowels?* are in a sad weak state otherwise I am very much better indeed very well if quiet, except my stomach. Emma is bent on Hastings and therefore there we shall probably go. They have taken a House where we were before, probably the same House and they go I believe next Tuesday. Eliza is extremely well, much the better for her *sojourn/visit?* at Fulham. She writes me word Mary is there with her, goes to Hastings with her and the Adml. joins them there – Georgiana will come here when Eliza leaves her – We are all so shocked at poor little Mrs. Long Wellesley's death. What will become of all the money. I hope he will have none, as I think he must in part have been the occasion of her death. – I shall not write you a long letter as I have nothing to say from hence. William Tower is very sorry indeed to leave his Lincoln House...

This is about half the letter which continues with similar news about family and friends.

It is one of a series filled with family gossip, presumably keeping the various members of the family in touch with what is happening to others members of their circle.

Miss MINNIE ROBERTS
55 Bell Common,
Epping, Essex.

extracts from a conversation tape recorded 11/4/84
by Georgina Green.

ROLLS PARK

Rolls House was the capital mansion of the manor of Barringtons which was acquired by Sir Eliab Harvey jointly in 1668 - by 1700 the whole manor was owned by the Harveys. The last of the line was Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey who died in 1830, when the estate passed to his daughter Louisa, wife of William Lloyd of Aston Hall, Salop. In 1839 the estate consisted of about 420 acres. Louisa died in 1866, after her husband, so the estate passed to her son Richard T. Lloyd who died in 1898 when it passed to his son Lt.Gen.Sir Francis Lloyd, who died without issue in 1926. The manor then passed to Revd. Rossendale Lloyd, brother of Sir Francis. Soon after this the manorial rights were sold to Philip Savill of Kent. The freehold of the Barringtons estate remained with Revd. Rossendale Lloyd who died in 1940 and was succeeded by his son.

The house was two-story, with attics, partly timber-framed and partly of brick. Part of the house dated back to 1600 but there were several large additions to the building, which was being demolished in 1953. (abridged from VCH)

Minnie Roberts is the youngest of 8 children, and was born in 1896. Her sister Carrie (1891-1982) worked as a cook at Rolls Park around the period 1929-1933. Presumably the wife of Lt.Gen.Sir Francis Lloyd was allowed to continue living at Rolls Park after her husband's death, by her brother-in-law, as Carrie Robert's employer was Lady Lloyd.

"Rolls Park was beautiful - I've never seen anything like that. It had rose gardens and herb gardens, it was just wonderful. Carrie was cook/housekeeper there and they had seven staircases. In the drawing room there was a large painting of the Harvey family. There was a Japanese bedroom, a Chinese bedroom, they had the silver bedroom, an orange room. The room she (Lady Lloyd) used to sleep in - she'd got his uniform beside her bed (Sir Francis Lloyd). The lady's maid showed me into her bedroom. There was a little tiny chest of drawers beside her bed, containing rings of everything you can mention - pearls, diamonds, sapphires .. it fascinated me, because I wasn't very old. Then there was a little table which was covered in silver snuff boxes, I should think there must have been about fifty. Yet she was a little wissand person with a very, very sharp tongue.

Lady Lloyd eventually wanted to move to the country but Carrie wouldn't go with her, to be her cook, which upset old Lady Lloyd. Then they started to miss things, so of course, the lady's maid, they all were worried. But it was the old butler who had a cottage there and had been helping himself to carpets and everything. One day old Lady Lloyd thought she'd go and have a look and found everything there.

There was a silver room at Rolls Park , with a silver washingstand, basin and jug, even to the Jemimah (chamber pot) which used to fascinate me to see that. There was a big thing on the top of the stair case ... a cork tree in the garden ... the cellars used to run underneath ... "

Copyright GEORGINA GREEN.

It seems that she regarded her social standing far above that of the Chigwell residents and that her level was rather with the aristocratic and landed classes of the County. Of her six daughters and only surviving children, the eldest, Louisa, born in 1785, married in 1804 William Lloyd of Aston, Salop. She was the recipient of her mother's letters which have been mentioned before. From these it may be learnt that Lady Louisa was an occasional visitor to her daughter; the distance made frequent visits too difficult. The second daughter, Emma, born in 1787, did not marry until a few days before her father's death; her husband was Colonel William Cornwallis Eustace of Sampford, Essex, who took her as his third wife. Maria, born in 1791, married in 1825, the Rev. William Tower, a member of the South Weald family; he was a man of little wealth and the was not regarded by his mother with enthusiasm. Georgiana, born in 1796, married in 1816 John Drummond, a member of a wealthy banking family. Still unmarried when their father died were the two youngest daughters. Elizabeth, born in 1798, married five months later, Thomas William Onamston of Skreens in Roxwell, for many years Member of Parliament for Essex. Isabella Mary, born in 1806, married George Robert Cecil Fane in 1835 and died three years later. All the daughters were married at St. George's, Hanover Square, except Emma who was married at Loughton. It is perhaps interesting to note that the respective ages at marriage were 17, 42, 36, 20, 32 and 28, which suggests that it was no easy task for Lady Louisa to make suitable marriages for such a large family of girls.

In 1832, soon after she was widowed, Lady Louisa had an unpleasant experience as a result of dismissing her butler, William Hall, "in consequence of some recent irregularities"; he thereupon shot himself in his pantry at Rolls just as his mistress was about to enter her coach. From her letters we learn that she had continually had difficulties with servants; if she employed them, her husband soon dismissed them, while he engaged those she found quite unsuitable.

Lady Louisa Harvey died in 1841 at the age of 84 at her daughter's home at Skreens and was buried at Roxwell. Rolls Park thereafter passed in the same manner as Barringtons manor. The rate books show Mrs. Louisa Lloyd as both owner and occupier for many years, but in fact it appears that successive tenants were found for the mansion; it is certainly doubtful that she ever lived here. The Census Return of 1831 shows Edward Charrington, aged 39, with his wife Georgiana, their five small children, eight indoor servants, with a gardener and a groom living in the outhouses with their families. A year later, on the death of his elder brother, Mr. Charrington and his family moved to the families ancestral seat of Bures Manor, Surrey, and Rolls was taken by Sir William Abraham Chatterton, 2nd bart., who lived here with his wife until his death in 1855. His wife Lady Henrietta Georgina Marcia Lascelles Chatterton, was an authoress of some note.