

# Unitarian Members of Parliament in the Nineteenth Century

## A Catalogue

D. W. Bebbington

Professor of History, University of Stirling

The catalogue that follows contains biographical data on the Unitarians who sat in the House of Commons during the nineteenth century. The main list, which includes ninety-seven MPs, is the body of evidence on which the paper on ‘Unitarian Members of Parliament in the Nineteenth Century’ is based. The paper discusses the difficulty of identifying who should be treated as a Unitarian, the criterion chosen being that the individual appears to have been a practising adherent of the denomination at the time of his service in parliament. A supplementary list of supposed Unitarian MPs, which follows the main list, includes those who have sometimes been identified as Unitarians but who by this criterion were not and some who may have been affiliated to the denomination but who were probably not. The borderline is less sharp than might be wished, and, when further research has been done, a few in each list may need to be transferred to the other.

Each entry contains information in roughly the same order. After the name appear the dates of birth and death and the period as an MP. Then a paragraph contains general biographical details drawn from the sources indicated at the end of the entry. A further paragraph discusses religious affiliation and activities. Unattributed quotations with dates are from *Dod's Parliamentary Companion*, as presented in *Who's Who of British Members of Parliament*. A significant proportion of the evidence has been gathered from the local press at the Colindale Newspaper Library, but unfortunately not all of the newspapers were available for consultation. I am pleased to acknowledge a grant from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland that made much of the research in London possible. I am also grateful to Andrew Hill, who generously gave me a copy of the list of Unitarian MPs he had been assembling for some time, and to Alan Ruston for help in the preparation of this catalogue.

Previous work on Baptists and Congregationalists who sat in nineteenth-century parliaments has already appeared in print. Baptists are listed in *The Baptist Quarterly* 29 (1981-82), pp. 3-24, and discussed in a further article at pp. 51-64. Several omissions and corrections are noted in *The Baptist Quarterly* 42 (2007-08), pp. 148-61. The Congregationalists are the subject of *Congregational Members of Parliament in the Nineteenth Century*, Occasional Publication No. 1, The United Reformed Church History Society and the Congregational History Society ([Cambridge], 2007).

### Abbreviations

AMH            Andrew M. Hill

Baker	Thomas Baker, <i>Memorials of a Dissenting Chapel</i> (London, 1884)
B&FUA	British & Foreign Unitarian Association
BDMBR	<i>Biographical Dictionary of Modern British Radicals</i> , ed. J. O. Baylen and N. J. Gossman, 4 vols (Brighton, 1979-88)
Boase	<i>Modern English Biography</i> , ed. Frederic Boase, 6 vols (Truro, 1892-1921).
C	Conservative
CC	County Council
CL	<i>Christian Life</i> (London)
C. of E.	Church of England
CR	<i>Christian Reformer</i> (London)
CW	<i>Christian World</i> (London)
DBB	<i>Dictionary of Business Biography</i> , ed. D. J. Jeremy, 6 vols (London, 1984-86)
Ditchfield	G.M. Ditchfield, 'Manchester College and Anti-Slavery', in Barbara Smith (ed.), <i>Truth, Liberty, Religion</i> (Oxford, 1986)
DL	Deputy Lieutenant
DLB	<i>Dictionary of Labour Biography</i> , ed. J. M. Bellamy and John Saville, 10 vols (London, 1972-2000)
DWB	<i>Dictionary of Welsh Biography down to 1940</i> (London, 1959)
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
GP	Gladstone Papers, British Library Add. MS 44612, ff. 138-9: Dissenting Members of the House of Commons, 1869
Holt	R. V. Holt, <i>The Unitarian Contribution to Social Progress in England</i> (London, 1938)
Howe	Anthony Howe, <i>The Cotton Masters, 1830-1860</i> (Oxford, 1984)
I	<i>Inquirer</i> (London)
Johnson	Johnson Index of Unitarian Obituaries at Harris Manchester College, Oxford
JP	Justice of the Peace
L	Liberal
McLachlan	Herbert McLachlan, <i>The Unitarian Home Missionary College, 1854-1914</i> (London, 1915).
MCO	Manchester College, Oxford
MG	<i>Manchester Guardian</i>
MNC	Manchester New College
MR	<i>Monthly Review</i>
MU	<i>Memorable Unitarians</i> (London, 1906)
NELUM	North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> , ed. H. C. G. Matthew and Brian Harrison (Oxford, 2004)
PC	Privy Councillor
Spears	Robert Spears, <i>Record of Unitarian Worthies</i> (London, [1876?]),
Thorne	R. G. Thorne, <i>The House of Commons, 1790-1820</i> , 5 vols (London, 1986)
TUHS	<i>Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society</i>
Venn	J. A. Venn (ed.), <i>Alumni Cantabrigienses</i> , Part II, 6 vols (Cambridge, 1940)
UCL	University College, London
UHMC	Unitarian Home Missionary College

Watts	M. R. Watts, <i>The Dissenters: Volume II: The Expansion of Evangelical Nonconformity</i> (Oxford, 1995)
WW	<i>Who's Who</i> (London)
WWBMP	<i>Who's Who of British Members of Parliament</i> , ed. Michael Stenton and Stephen Lees, 4 vols (Hassocks, Sussex, 1976-81)
WWW	<i>Who Was Who</i> (London)

### List of Unitarian MPs

#### DAVID AINSWORTH

2 Mar. 1842 - 21 Mar. 1906

MP (L) for Cumberland, W, 1880-85, 1892-95

Flax manufacturer and ironmaster. University College School, MNC and UCL. Called to bar, Lincoln's Inn, 1870, but never practised. Vice-chairman, Maryport and Carlisle Railway Co. Director, Cleator and Workington Railway Co.; Lindal Mining Co.; and Economic Fire Office. Unsuccessful candidate for Cumberland, W, 1874, 1885, 1886, 1895, 1900. In favour of Home Rule 'and the Gladstonian programme generally' (1895). Vice-president, Egremont Division Liberal Association and president of several local Liberal Associations. JP, DL. Governor of St Bees Grammar School. Trustee of Whitehaven and W Cumberland Infirmary. President of Cleator District Nursing Association. '[M]ost gentle, genuinely courteous and kind with all classes alike' (Caine, p. 424). Of The Floss, Cleator, Whitehaven; Wray Castle, Windermere; and 29 Pont Street, SW.

Family belonged to Preston congregation. President, B&FUA, 1881-83. Treasurer, MNC, 1874-91. Hibbert Trustee, 1881-1906; chairman. (AMH) President, UHMC, 1877 (McLachlan, p. 157). President, MCO, 1896-1900. Presided at soiree at first meeting of National Conference, 1882. (*I*, 3 Mar. 1906, p. 134). Unitarian services were held at Ainsworth's linen thread mill. Memorial service at London home conducted by F. K. Freeston, minister of Essex Church. Funeral in Wray Church conducted by Anglican clergy. (*I*, 3 Mar. 1906, p. 134) Monument to his memory in Cleator parish church (Caine, pp. 309-10, 246). Brother of William M. Ainsworth, Unitarian minister at Lancaster and Brixton, and of John Stirling Ainsworth, MP (L) for Argyllshire, 1903-18. Visited America with William, 1872, seeing Unitarian congregations (James Harwood, *A Memorial of the late William M. Ainsworth* (London, 1891), p. xxvii).

Caesar Caine, *Cleator and Cleator Moor Past and Present* (Whitehaven, 1916), pp. 423-5. WWW 1897-1916. WWBMP 2. *I*, 3 Mar. 1906, pp. 133-4.

#### RICHARD LANE ALLMAN

1813-

MP (L) for Bandon, June 1880-85

Belfast College. Unsuccessful candidate at Bandon, Apr. 1880. A 'supporter of Mr. Gladstone's ministry' (1885). JP. Of Woodlands, Bandon, Co. Cork. Family belonged to Bandon Non-Subscribing Presbyterian congregation, Co. Cork (AMH). Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 19 Dec. 1885, p. 809).

WWBMP. Not in Johnson.

### THOMAS GAIR ASHTON

5 Feb. 1855 - 1 May 1933

MP (L) for Cheshire, Hyde, 1885-86

Bedfordshire, S, Luton, 1895-1911

Cotton master, succeeding grandfather and father; chairman, Ashton Brothers. Rugby School; University College, Oxford. Member of Cheshire CC. His father, Thomas, declined nomination for Hyde, 1885, and so he stood instead. Unsuccessful candidate at Hyde, 1886 and 1892. Knowledgeable about finance in Commons. Chairman, Commons Railway and Canal Traffic Committee, 1909, and of Standing Orders Committee, 1910. Created Baron Ashton of Hyde, 1911. Served on various royal commissions and departmental committees, including, during First World War, cotton exports committee. Supported women's suffrage (Holt, p. 154). Said to have endorsed Home Rule before Gladstone. Supported Mechanics' Institute. Governor of Manchester University. Undertook to make good any losses made in first three years by Hyde secondary school. Supported Hyde Technical School, free library. First hon. secretary of Manchester Technical School. Governor of Whitworth Institute. Interested in history and antiquities of Sussex, where lived from 1902. Laid foundation stone of public hall in Hyde, 1913. Hon. freeman of Hyde, 1931. Marked by extreme reserve and modesty. Sister married James Bryce. Of 39 Prince's Gardens, SW; and Vinehall, Robertsbridge, Sussex (1907).

Of Flowery Field Church, Hyde, founded by grandfather, Thomas senior. (Hague, pp. 84-5). Service at Manchester Crematorium conducted by minister of Flowery Field Church. Funeral at Hyde Chapel, where casket of ashes placed in family vault. Memorial service at parish church of Mountfield, Sussex, conducted by vicar. (*MG*, 5 May 1933, p. 14)

*ODNB*. *WWW* 1929-1940. *WWBMP* 2. *MG*, 2 May 1933, p. 18. Not in Johnson.

### SAMUEL BEALE

1803 – 11 Sept. 1874

MP (L) for Derby, 1857-65

Ironmaster; partner in Parkgate Ironworks near Rotherham. Glass and lead merchant in early years. Founder of Birmingham and Midland (later Midland) Bank, 1836. Director of Union Bank, London. Chairman of Midland Railway, 1844-64. Low Bailiff of Birmingham; alderman of Birmingham (not Manchester, *contra* Holt, p. 229); third mayor, 1841. JP. Defeated candidate, 1865. Of 10 Park Street, Westminster; and Warfield Grove, Bracknell, Berks.

Member of Church of the Messiah, Birmingham, and its minister H. W. Crosskey officiated at his interment. Vice-president, B&FUA. (*I*, 19 Sept. 1874, p. 619). Attended Unitarian service during 1857 election although warned that, if he did, he would lose (Holt, p. 346). Married, 1823, Emma, daughter of Edmund Butcher, Unitarian minister at Sidmouth, Devon.

*ODNB* (Beale family). *WWBMP*. Boase. *I*, 19 Sept. 1874, p. 619.

### BENJAMIN BENYON

1765 (?) – 6 Nov. 1834

MP for Stafford, 1818-26

Yarn manufacturer. Unsuccessful candidate at Shrewsbury, 1808 and 1814. Tenant of Haughton Hall, near Shrewsbury. Of Monkmoor, near Shrewsbury, and Wilton Crescent, London.

Unitarian, but by early 1850s his son Thomas built C. of E. in Leeds (W. G. Rimmer, *Marshalls of Leeds: Flax-Spinners, 1788-1886* (Cambridge, 1960), pp. 44, 58, 207). Descended from Dr Thomas Benyon, Presbyterian divine of Shrewsbury, and on mother's side from Philip Henry.

Thorne, 1, p. 185. No obituary in Johnson.

## JOHN BIGGS

1801 – 4 June 1871

MP (L) for Leicester, June 1856 - Feb. 1862

Hosier; of John Biggs and Sons. Took out patent for lacemaking, 1844. Councillor of Leicester from 1835; alderman, 1841-47, 1856-62; mayor three times, 1840-41, 1847-48 and 1855-56. JP, 1836. Exposed malpractices to which framework-knitters exposed and demanded greater regulation of children's employment. From 1826 joined in reform agitation, helping to form Political Union and Reform Society. Supported anti-Corn Law campaign, being acclaimed with a fellow hosier 'the Cobden and Bright of the Midland Counties'. Unsuccessful candidate for Leicestershire, S, 1841. From 1847 urged election of radical MPs, giving him political dominance of Leicester until Conservative by-election victory in 1861 induced him to withdraw from public life. Spoke seven times in Commons during first year, but subsequently silent (*Leicester Journal*, 28 Feb. 1862). In favour of reform that would give 'the intelligence of the country more controul', short parliaments, ballot and abolition of church rates (1861). Suffered financial failure, 1862, selling house and old masters and subsequently living alone, never having married, in terrace house. So 'tender-hearted' that could turn away nobody in affliction (*Midland Free Press*, reproduced in *I*, 17 June 1871, p. 390). As MP, of Stonygate, Knighton, Leics.

Of Great Meeting, Leicester. Funeral conducted by C. C. Coe, its minister. (ODNB)

R. H. Evans, 'The Biggs Family of Leicester', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 48 (1974 for 1972-73), pp. 29-58; and 'Fathers, Sons and Brothers: Two Victorian Families', *ibid.* 72 (1998), pp. 146-53. ODNB. WWBMP. Boase. *Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury United*, 10 June 1871, p. 5. *Midland Free Press*, reproduced in *I*, 17 June 1871, p. 390. C. C. Coe, *Sermon preached in Memory of John Biggs* (Leicester, 1871).

## WILLIAM BIGGS

18 Jan. 1805 – 3 Oct. 1881

MP (L) for Newport, Isle of Wight, 1852– Dec. 1856

Hosier; partner in John Biggs and Sons. Brother of John Biggs MP.

Councillor and alderman of Leicester for thirty years; mayor, 1842-43, 1848-49 and 1859-60. As councillor, disposed of council's historic regalia, organised police and supported brother's town improvement plans. As mayor 1859, secured organisation of company of rifle corps. JP. Addressed Derby commercial convention, 1841. His midland counties charter, 1842, failed to

rally Chartists to middle-class leadership. Spoke twenty times in Commons, but too didactic to be influential. ‘A Radical Reformer, opposed to all grants from the State for ecclesiastical purposes’ (1856). Favoured free trade, enfranchisement of ‘every adult of sound mind and untainted by crime’, ballot, equal electoral divisions, triennial parliaments, abolition of property qualification, national secular education, abolition of flogging in army and of impressment in navy, constitutional government in colonies, retrenchment of diplomatic staff, Foreign Office under popular control, Irish disestablishment, creation of Turkey in Europe as ‘a free Christian nationality, under the common guarantee of united Europe’. Supported Home for Penitent Females, helping to form Leicester branch. As MP, of Highfield House, Leicester; at death, of 195 Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool, where had moved after firm’s collapse, 1862.

Of Great Meeting, Leicester: ‘formerly an active member’ (*I*, 15 Oct. 1881, p. 691). President, B&FUA, 1855 (AMH). Married, 1837, Mary Deborah, daughter of John Worthington, related to Unitarian ministers.

R. H. Evans, ‘The Biggs Family of Leicester’, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, 48 (1974 for 1972–3), pp. 29–58. *ODNB*. *WWBMP*. *I*, 15 Oct. 1881, p. 691.

#### Sir JOSEPH BIRCH, Bart

18 June 1755 – 22 Aug. 1833

MP (Whig) for Nottingham, 1802-03

Ludgershall, Wiltshire, 1812-18

Nottingham, 1818-30

Merchant in Liverpool with interests in shipowning, brewing, Jamaica estates and East India Co. Married, 1786, Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin Heywood, Liverpool banker. Unsuccessful candidate for Liverpool, 1802. At 1803 election in Nottingham, where defeated, appealed to working classes. Urged parliamentary reform. Also defeated at Nottingham, 1806; and at St Ives, 1812. Bart, 1831. Of Hazle Hall, near Liverpool.

Founding subscriber to Paradise Street Chapel, Liverpool, 1793 (H. D.

Roberts, *Hope Street Church, Liverpool, and the Allied Nonconformity* (Liverpool, 1909), p. 245). Patron of Prescott Unitarian Chapel (Thorne, 3, p. 207).

*ODNB*. Thorne, 3, pp. 207-8. *Liverpool Mercury*, 30 Aug. 1833, p. 279. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir JOHN BOWRING

17 Oct. 1792 – 23 Sept. 1872

MP (L) for Kilmarnock Burghs, 1835-37

Bolton, 1841- c. Jan. 1849

Merchant and diplomat. After other commercial positions, established Bowring and Co., 1817, in London, dealing with continent, but it collapsed, 1827. Ironworks and railway interests collapsed 1847. Secretary of London Greek Committee from 1823, becoming financially embarrassed by bond issues. Friend from 1820 and literary executor of Jeremy Bentham. Political editor of *Westminster Review* from 1824. Defeated at Blackburn, 1832 and 1835; at Kilmarnock Burghs, 1837; and at Kirkcaldy Burghs, Jan. 1841.

Founder of Manchester Anti-Corn Law League, 1838 (Holt, p. 197).

Favoured free trade, more humane poor relief, popular education, revision of quarantine regulations, abolition of flogging in army, of slavery worldwide and of opium trade, though subsequently promoted it in Far East. In 1847 moved for introduction of florin, which minted 1849 as first step in decimal currency. Opposed Contagious Diseases Acts (Holt, p. 152). Opposed Ten Hours Bill (Holt, p. 180). JP, DL. Consul General at Canton from 1849. Governor of Hong Kong, 1854-59, commanding assault on Canton for Chinese boarding of *Arrow*. Knight, 1854. FRS, 1856. Published numerous translations of poetry from many European languages. Honorary degrees from Dutch and Italian universities. Fellow of Linnaean Societies of London and Paris, of the Historical Institute of the Scandinavian and Icelandic Societies, of the Royal Institute of the Netherlands, of the Royal Societies of Hungary and Copenhagen, of the Frisian, Athenian and various other societies. Criticised by George Borrow, especially in *Romany Rye* (1857), for exaggerating his literary exploits. Missed being great man because lacked concentration (*Nonconformist*, cited by *I*, 30 Nov. 1872, p. 770). Of 1 Queen Square, Westminster.

Member of George's Meeting, Exeter, until death. Mother was Sarah, daughter of Thomas Lane, vicar of St Ives, Cornwall. Debt to Lant Carpenter, his early minister at Exeter. Educated at Moretonhampstead, Devon, under James H. Bransby, Unitarian convert. Attended New Gravel Pit, Hackney, when moved to London, becoming founder member (1817) of and speaker at Non-Con Club (R. B. Aspland, *Memoir of the Life, Works and Correspondence of the Rev. Robert Aspland* (London, 1850), pp. 404-6). Foreign Secretary, B&FUA, from 1827 (Bartle, p. 27); president, 1860-61 (AMH). 1862, took lead at George's Meeting in calling T. W. Chignall as minister (Alan Brockett, *Nonconformity in Exeter, 1650-1875* (Manchester, 1962), p. 187). President, UHMC, 1870 (McLachlan, p. 157). Grandfather revered memory of Cromwell. Youthful ambition was to become minister. Wrote hymn 'In the cross of Christ I glory'. (*WWMBR*, 1). 'His hymns at least, so devout, so inspiring, are proof of his earnest, and in the true sense, Evangelical faith' (*I*, 30 Nov. 1872, p. 765). Supported Domestic Mission (Holt, p. 338). In later life attended all possible important Unitarian meetings. Sometimes conducted services. Author of *Matins and Vespers*. (*MU*, pp. 289, 293, 291). 'If a better, clearer, more widely-embracing, more instructive or more Christian word than Unitarian could be found to supersede it, I should not plead for its retention; but I know of none more significant, none so unobjectionable as that to which we cling.' (Quoted in Spears, p. 10). Could startle the old and conservative by his apparent latitudinarianism in speaking of Brahmanism, Buddhism and other forms of Eastern thought (*I*, 30 Nov. 1872, p. 765). 'He believed that inspiration was natural and universal amidst mankind' (T. W. Chignall, minister of George's Meeting, Exeter, on Sunday after death, quoted by *I*, 7 Dec. 1872, p. 790).

G. F. Bartle, *An Old Radical and his Brood* (London, 1994). J. Youings (ed.), *Sir John Bowring, 1792-1872* (Plymouth, 1993). *Autobiographical Reflections* (London, 1877). Lady Bowring, *A Memorial Volume of Sacred Poetry* (London, 1873). *ODNB* (slight on Unitarianism). *WWMBP*. *MU*, pp. 289-93.

RAWDON BRIGGS (Jun.)

d. 12 May 1858

MP (L) for Halifax, 1832-35

Son of Halifax banker. Favoured free trade, abolition of monopolies, gradual abolition of corn laws, property tax and abolition of church rates (1833). Too early to have opposed Contagious Diseases Acts (*contra* Holt, p. 152). Died at Cotham, Bristol. Of 18 Manchester Buildings, London.

Member of old Presbyterian family of Halifax (*CR* 14 (1858), p. 455). Annual subscriber to MNC (Ditchfield, p. 211).

*WWBMP*. *CR* 14 (1858), p. 455.

#### JOHN BROCKLEHURST

30 Oct. 1788 – 13 Aug. 1870

MP (L) for Macclesfield, 1832 - Nov. 1868

Silk manufacturer, senior partner of J. and T. Brocklehurst; and banker, Macclesfield. Largest silk manufacturers in England, employing over 8,000.

As candidate in 1832, declared for civil and religious liberty, but against overthrow of C. of E. In favour of protection of silk trade, 'a revenue being raised from foreign articles of luxury', short parliaments and ballot (1867).

Voted for Conservative Reform Bill, 1859. Sometimes supposed by advanced Liberals to be too sympathetic to opposite party. Alderman of Macclesfield from first meeting of reformed council in 1835 until death. President, Macclesfield Institution and Macclesfield Useful Knowledge Society. Twice declined baronetcy (*Macclesfield Chronicle*, 8 June 1900, [p. 5]). Left £800,000 (B. R. Law, *Fieldens of Todmorden: A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Business Dynasty* (Littleborough, Lancs, 1995), p. 232). Of 33 Milk Street, London; and Hurdsfield House, Macclesfield.

Listed as Unitarian (GP), but then no longer in Commons and so must be error for 'W. C. Brocklehurst'. John Fielden's daughter Ann married Henry, son of John Brocklehurst, and Ellen, daughter of Thomas Brocklehurst, John's brother, married John Fielden's son Joshua (Law, pp. 96, 98). No mention of religion in obituary from *Macclesfield Observer* reprinted in *I*, 27 Aug. 1870, p. 565. Sufficiently Unitarian to send his son to Rosoman House around time entered parliament (see W. C. Brocklehurst in Supplementary List of Supposed Unitarian MPs, below).

*WWMBP*. Boase. *I*, 27 Aug. 1870, p. 565.

#### Sir JOHN TOMLINSON BRUNNER, Bart

8 Feb. 1842 – 1 July 1919

MP (L) for Cheshire, Northwich, 1885-86, Aug. 1887- Jan. 1910

Alkali manufacturer; managing partner and chairman, Brunner, Mond and Co. from 1891. Son of John Brunner, Swiss Protestant minister who became Unitarian and schoolmaster. Educated at father's Pestalozzian school at St George's House, Everton. Entered mercantile life in Liverpool, 1857. Served John Hutchinson and Co., Widnes, alkali manufacturers, 1861-72. With Ludwig Mond, established alkali works at Northwich, 1873, which became largest in world. Introduced sickness and injury insurance, apprentice education, shorted working hours and holidays with pay. Favoured Home Rule, local government, temperance legislation, reform of social evils, religious equality and international arbitration (1909). Defeated at Northwich, 1886. Presented public library to Northwich; guildhalls for trade unions,



friendly and other societies, to Runcorn and Winsford; endowed three chairs at Liverpool University, Witton Grammar School and several schools and public libraries. Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool University, 1909. Member of Royal Commission for Paris Exhibition, 1900; of Civil List Committee, 1901; of Royal Commission on Canals and Waterways, 1906. Vice-President, Cheshire Football Association. Made gifts to Landesmuseum, Zürich, and hospital in Bülach, father's birthplace nearby. Bart, 1895. Declined several offers of peerage. DL. PC, 1906. LLD, Liverpool. Author of *Handbooks on Public Education in Cheshire* (1891 and 1896); *Eight Hours Question*. Of Druid's Cross, Wavertree, Liverpool, and 9 Ennismore Gardens, SW (1907). Of Ullet Road Unitarian Church, Liverpool, giving library ceiling. In London, of Essex Street. Sponsored Van Mission. President, Union for Social Service. President, B&FUA, 1900-01. President, MCO, 1911-17. (AMH). President, UHMC, 1898 (McLachlan, p. 158). Oldest son, J. F. L. Brunner, president of B&FUA, 1914-16 (*I*, 5 July 1916, p. 226). S. E. Koss, *Sir John Brunner, Radical Plutocrat, 1842-1919* (Cambridge, 1970). *ODNB*. *BDMBR* 3. *WWW* 1916-1928. *WWBMP* 2.

#### EDWARD HOMER CARBUTT

1838 –

MP (L) for Monmouth District, 1880-86

Formerly manufacturing engineer; partner in Thwaites and Carbutt, Bradford. Member of Leeds Town council from 1877; mayor, 1878. Defeated in 1886. An 'ardent Liberal', favouring 'County Boards elected on a broad and popular basis' and land law reform (1886). Of 19 Hyde Park Gardens, London; and Llanwern House, Newport, Mon.

Listed as Unitarian repeatedly (*I*, 10 Apr. 1880, p. 227, and 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788).

*WWBMP*.

#### JOHN BONHAM CARTER (Sen.)

1788 – 17 Feb. 1838

MP (Whig) for Portsmouth, 1816-38

Barrister. Son of Sir John Carter, merchant and brewer of Portsmouth. The family dominated Portsmouth life, a Carter becoming mayor thirty-two times between 1747 and 1835 ('Henry Bonham Carter', *ODNB*). Trinity College, Cambridge, 1806-10 (Fourth Wrangler); Fellow, 1811. Called to bar, Lincoln's Inn, 1819, practising on Western Circuit until 1827. Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioner. Alderman of Portsmouth. Inherited fortune including Buriton Manor, Hampshire, from bachelor cousin, Thomas Bonham, 1826, and assumed additional surname of 'Bonham', 1827. Helped redraft Reform Bill, 1831-32. Chairman of select committee leading to civil registration of births, deaths and marriages, 1836. Trustee of Statistical Society. 'Diffidence prevented his displaying his talents as a speaker in the House' (*CR*, 5 (1838), p. 208). Died of diabetes. Of 16 Duke Street, Westminster; and Ditcham Park, Hants.

Great-grandson of John Carter, who had contributed to building High Street Presbyterian Chapel, Portsmouth, maintaining family allegiance to chapel (website below). Married Joanna May, daughter of William Smith MP (Thorne, 3, p. 410). Son Henry, though *Senior Optime* of Trinity College,

Cambridge, 1849, refused to take degree because of 'religious scruples' (Venn, 1, p. 526). Hence, despite conforming at Cambridge, John probably returned to the family's religious allegiance.

Alan Ruston, 'Sir John Carter', Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Biography, <http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/listaf.html>, accessed 4 February 2008. Victor Bonham-Carter in R. W. Davis, *Dissent in Politics, 1780-1830: The Political Life of William Smith, MP* (London, 1971), pp. xi-xii. Thorne, 3, pp. 410-11. *WWBMP*. *CR* 5 (1838), p. 208 (not mentioning religion). Venn, 1, p. 527.

#### ROBERT MEEK CARTER

10 Aug. 1814 – 9 Aug. 1882

MP (L) for Leeds, 1868 – Aug. 1876

Coal merchant and cloth finisher. Son of East Riding farm labourer, became millhand at Holbeck for 14 years, attending night school and Sunday school, weighman in coalyard, then coal merchant. Member of Board of Highway Surveyors. Councillor (1850-62, 1880-82) and alderman (1862-74) of Leeds. Chairman of Nuisance and Waterworks Committees. President of Leeds Radical Reform League, which selected him as candidate, 1868. Was said that 'did not make much mark in the House of Commons' (*Leeds Mercury*, below). Of 'thoroughly radical' opinions, favouring complete severance of church and state and legal protection for trade union funds (1876). Supported Mechanics' Institution, Leeds Temperance Society, British Temperance League and United Kingdom Alliance. Disastrous investment in Staffordshire colliery led to departure for America, and, after his return, resigned parliamentary seat and filed for liquidation. Married three times. Described as 'a man of strong individuality... sanguine to a fault' (*Leeds Mercury*, below). 'You have only to see and hear him to be satisfied that he is a genuine working man... He does not pretend to polish and refinement; but he has a good deal of rough intellectual vigour, and considerable power of expression.' (*I*, 5 Dec. 1868, p. 775) Of The Grange, Burley, near Leeds.

'Unitarian, had to bear the reproach of being an Atheist' (*I*, 5 Dec. 1868, p. 775). Helped the Rev. J. Lawton Haigh in early days at Pudsey (*Unitarian Chapels in Yorkshire*, Bazaar Book per AMH). But burial service at Woodhouse Cemetery read by Vicar of Leeds (*Leeds Mercury*, 14 Aug. 1882, p. 7).

*WWBMP*. Boase. *Leeds Mercury*, 10 Aug. 1882, p. 5.

#### SAMUEL CARTER

15 May 1805 – 31 Jan. 1878

MP (L) for Coventry, Mar. – Nov. 1868

Solicitor. Articled clerk to uncle, Josiah Corrie, solicitor, with whom entered partnership. Firm became solicitors to London and Birmingham Railway, 1831; and to Birmingham and Derby Railway, which became Midland Railway, 1835. Concentrated on promoting railway business in parliament. Moved to London, 1850, retiring 1860. Bought estate at Battle, Sussex, late 1850s, but sold it, 1875. Retained small inherited estate at Kenilworth. Moved to Coventry, 1868. In Commons, spoke on Irish church and general carrier acts. Defeated at Coventry, Nov. 1868 and 1874. Published pamphlets on railway commissioners and debenture holders. Interests extended to art,

literature and science, a son Hugh becoming a painter. Of 3 Clifton Place, London.

Member of Essex Street Chapel under Thomas Madge. Son of Samuel Carter, member of Great Meeting, Coventry. (*Solicitors' Journal* reproduced in *I*, 4 Aug. 1866, p. 495) School at West Bromwich run by uncle, Unitarian minister John Corrie. Buried in Kenilworth Parish Church.

*ODNB* (omitting religion). *WWBMP* confuses him with Samuel Carter (b. 1814), Chartist MP for Tavistock, 1852-53. Boase.

#### JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN

8 July 1836 – 2 July 1914

MP (L) for Birmingham, June 1876-85

Birmingham, W (L), 1885-86

MP (LU) for Birmingham, W (LU), 1886-1910

MP (Unionist) for Birmingham, W, 1910-14

Screw manufacturer, Birmingham, retiring 1874. In Birmingham from 1854. University College School. Member of Birmingham Town Council from 1869; mayor, 1873-76. Member of Birmingham School Board; chairman, 1873. Chairman, National Education League. President of Board of Trade, 1880-85. President of Local Government Board, 1886. Jointly led Liberal Unionist secession from Liberal Party. Chief Commissioner to settle North American fisheries dispute, 1887. Chairman, Coal Dust Commission, 1891-94. Member, Aged Poor Commission, 1893-95. Secretary of State for Colonies, 1895-1903. Launched Tariff Reform campaign. Chancellor of Birmingham University from 1901. Lord Rector, Glasgow University, 1896. Elder Brother of Trinity House. FRS. LLD, Cambridge, 1892; and Dublin, Cardiff, Birmingham. DCL, Oxford, 1896. Of Highbury, Moor Green, Birmingham; 40 Prince's Gardens, SW.

Member of New Meeting, Birmingham, which in 1862 became Church of the Messiah, where taught Sunday school and evening classes for working men and acted as treasurer. From Unitarian family connected with Little Carter Lane Chapel, where Joseph had been Sunday school teacher, and which moved to Islington, 1862. His mother, Caroline Harben, descended from an ejected minister of 1662. Continued financial support of congregation until death, remaining trustee until 1913. Vice-president of B&FUA, subscriber until 1894 (Holt, pp. 231-2). Hibbert Trustee, 1877-82 (AMH). But attended church only twice while L. P. Jacks minister, 1894-1903 (L. P. Jacks, *The Confession of an Octogenarian* (London, 1942), p. 153). Had lost his faith on death of second wife Florence in 1875. Denounced as Comtist and hater of Christianity by C candidate for Essex, SW, 1885, Chamberlain replied that was a member of Unitarian body to which his father and grandfather belonged (*I*, 28 Nov. 1885, p. 760).

*Joseph Chamberlain: A Political Memoir*, ed. C. H. D. Howard (London, 1953). J. L. Garvin and L. S. Amery, *The Life of Joseph Chamberlain*, 6 vols (London, 1932-69). Richard Jay, *Joseph Chamberlain: A Political Study* (Oxford, 1981). P. T. Marsh, *Joseph Chamberlain: Entrepreneur in Politics* (New Haven, CT, 1994). Alan Ruston, 'The Chamberlains and Unitarianism', *TUHS* 24 (2008), pp. 100-11. *ODNB*. *BDMBR* 3. *WWW* 1897-1916. *WWBMP* 2.

## RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN

7 July 1840 – 2 Apr. 1899

MP (L) for Islington, W, 1885-86

MP (LU) for Islington, W, 1886-92

Brass founder, Birmingham; partner in Smith and Chamberlain, retiring c. 1879 to devote himself to public life. Chairman of Hamstead Colliery Co. and of Union Rolling Stock Co. Director of Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Co. Director of Warnford Exploration Co. President, Iron Trade Wages Board. Arbitrator for building trades. University College School. Member of Birmingham town council, 1874-86; mayor, 1879-81; alderman, 1881; chairman of finance committee from 1876. Chairman of Central Body of LU organisation. Chairman of Metropolitan LU Federation. Defeated at Islington, W, 1892. JP. Bailiff of Mason College and of King Edward's School. A promoter of Edgbaston High School for Girls. President of Sunday Lecture Society. President of Footpaths Preservation Society. During mayoralty arranged free organ recitals in Town Hall on Saturday mornings. 'Mr. Chamberlain's mind was cast in somewhat of a mathematical mould, and he was exceedingly fond of the resolution of arithmetical problems by the aid of the single rule. He always carried one of these implements' (*Birmingham Daily Post*, below). Like brother Joseph, wore flower in buttonhole. (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788). Of 39 Cadogan Square, London.

Brother of Joseph Chamberlain MP. Private funeral conducted by the Rev. L. P. Jacks, minister of the Church of the Messiah, Birmingham (*Birmingham Daily Post*, 6 Apr. 1899, p. 4).

*WWBMP 2. T*, 3 Apr. 1899, p. 7. *Birmingham Daily Post*, 3 Apr. 1899, [p. 4].

## HENRY PEYTON COBB

1835 – 27 Jan. 1910

MP (L) for Warwickshire, SE, 1885-95

Banker; partner in Cobb and Son, Banbury. Also solicitor, admitted 1866. UCL. A 'Radical and Nonconformist'; for Home Rule for Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales; against coercive legislation (1895). 'An enthusiastic Liberal of the old school' (*Banbury Advertiser*, below). Of 53 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; and Wealdstone House, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788; *CL*, 20 Aug. 1892, p. 399).

Educated partly under Samuel Bache, minister of Birmingham New Meeting, and under J. P. Malleson, minister of New Road Chapel, Brighton.

*WWBMP 2. Banbury Advertiser*, 3 Feb. 1910, p. 8.

## WALTER COFFIN

7 June 1785 – 15 Feb. 1867

MP (L) for Cardiff District, 1852-57

Coalowner. Opened coalmine in Rhondda Valley, 1809. Director of Taff Vale Railway; chairman. Shipowner in coal trade. Intended to enter bar, but deterred by Dissenting disabilities. Chairman of Poor Law Guardians of Cardiff Union. JP. Stood for parliament against nominee of Bute trustees. Favoured extension of suffrage and ballot; opposed all state endowments of religion (1856). Allegedly first Nonconformist to represent a Welsh constituency since Interregnum (Watts, p. 567), but second, after David Morris, MP 1837-64 (G. I. T. Machin, *Politics and the Churches in Great*

*Britain, 1832 to 1868* (Oxford, 1977), p. 247). Ineffective MP, never addressing Commons (K. O. Morgan, *Wales in British Politics, 1868-1922* (Cardiff, 1980), p. 18). Opened Dinas works school, probably 1829. Unmarried. Possessed natural endowments of orator. Spoke Welsh fluently. 'Beneath an apparent coldness, which he assumed from his dislike for mere professions of feeling, there lay a depth of kindness and humanity' (*I*, 23 Feb. 1867, p. 124). Of Llandaff Court, Glamorgan; and 47 Prince's Gate, London. Educated at John Kenrick's academy, Exeter. His mother was niece of Dr Richard Price. His father, Walter Coffin, was sole surviving trustee of Old Meeting, Bridgend, and so in 1816 Coffin was able to obtain John James as pastor, thus securing chapel for Unitarianism. At Llandaff, there being no Unitarian chapel, held worship in his dining room with servants who 'heard his impressive reading of the Scriptures, a prayer, and a sermon, by Channing or Tillotson, or some other divine, irrespective of creed, whose writings were marked by eloquence and piety' (*I*, 23 Feb. 1867, p. 124). At Dinas Rhondda also promoted his faith, appointing Evan Davies, a Unitarian, as works medical officer and Unitarian manager and chief clerk. But gained little response among miners, because, it was said, he owned everything at Dinas 'except the souls of men' (Lewis, p. 157 n.). Hibbert Trustee (*I*, 23 Feb. 1867, p. 124). *DWB*. E. D. Lewis, *The Rhondda Valleys* (London, 1959). *WWBMP*. *I*, 23 Feb. 1867, p. 124.

#### JESSE COLLINGS

9 Jan. 1831 – 20 Nov. 1920

MP (L) for Ipswich, 1880 - Apr. 1886 (unseated on petition)

MP (LU) for Birmingham, Bordesley, 1886-1918

Ironmonger; partner of Collings and Wallis, retiring from business 1879.

President, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Entered Samuel Booth and Co., hardware merchants, as junior clerk, rising to acquire business. Taught in ragged school and took lead in founding industrial school (Hennock, p. 83).

Hon. secretary of Birmingham Education Society, publishing *An Outline of the American School System* (1868) in favour of national, secular and compulsory education. Hon. secretary, National Education League, 1868. Member of Birmingham Town Council, 1868-86; alderman, 1875; mayor, 1878-79.

Member of Birmingham School Board. Chairman of Free Libraries and Art Gallery Committee, carrying Sunday opening, 1872, and presenting memorials in favour of Sunday opening of libraries. Member of Industrial Schools, General Purposes and other committees. Established free Saturday evening concerts in Town Hall for working people. As mayor, chaired public meeting to consider Afghan policy of Conservative government, directing police to remove Jingoists displaying placards 'Collings the Afghan'. JP. Governor of King Edward's School. Member of council, Birmingham and Midland Institute. First hon. secretary of National Liberal Federation; president, 1880-86. Supporter of Agricultural Labourers' Union in 1870s. Carried Allotments Extension Act, 1882. Founded Allotments Society, 1883. Member of Royal Commission on the Housing of the Poor. Founder and president of Rural Labourers' League. Jan. 1886, first Salisbury administration resigned following defeat on Collings's amendment to the address regretting absence of provision for allotments and smallholdings, policy of 'three acres and a cow'.

Parliamentary Secretary to Local Government Board, 1886, resigning with Chamberlain in opposition to Home Rule. PC, 1892. Under-Secretary for Home Office, 1895-1902. Early supporter of Tariff Reform, often attending Imperial Tariff Committee. Published *Land Reform: Occupying Ownership, Peasant Proprietary and Rural Education* (1906); *The Colonization of Rural Britain* (1914); *The Great War: Its Lessons and Warnings* (1915); and other pamphlets. Freeman of Birmingham, 1911. President, Birmingham Devonians' Society. Often travelled on continent with Joseph Chamberlain. Of Southfield, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Chamberlain's former home. Unitarian from Devon. Member from 1854 of Church of the Messiah, Birmingham; Warden, 1860-62; on Vestry Committee almost continuously, 1863-71; on committee of Sunday schools until October 1867 (E. P. Hennock, *Fit and Proper Persons: Ideal and Reality in Nineteenth-Century Urban Government* (London, 1973), p. 83). First part of funeral at Church of the Messiah conducted by the Rev. Lawrence Clare, hymns being 'O God, our help in ages past' and 'Lead kindly light' (*Birmingham Post*, 29 Nov. 1920, p. 12). But said to be member of Old Meeting, Birmingham (*I*, 27 Nov. 1920, p. 597).

Jesse Collings and J. L. Green, *Life of the Right Honourable Jesse Collings* (London, 1920). *ODNB*. *BDMBR* 3 (omitting religion). *Birmingham Post*, 22 Nov. 1920, p. 11.

#### HANDEL COSSHAM

31 Mar. 1824 - 23 Apr. 1890  
 MP (L) for Bristol, E, 1885-90  
 Bristol colliery proprietor. Employed c.1,500 at Parkfield and Kingswood collieries. Named after the composer, his father's favourite. Spoke at Anti-Corn Law meeting in Stroud addressed by Cobden and Bright, 1842. Supported North in American Civil War, visiting the United States at its conclusion. Member of Bath Town Council; mayor, 1882-83 and 1884-85. Member of Bristol town council, 1864-70. Contested Nottingham, May 1866; Dewsbury, 1868; Chippenham, 1874. Built British School in Thornbury, 1862, and donated Cosham Hall, 1888. Organised classes in mining engineering, his campaign for instruction in science and technology in Bristol leading to foundation of university (Meller, pp. 177, 58). Published geological and political pamphlets. Fellow of the Geological Society, 1855. Cosham Hospital, Kingswood, Bristol, founded under his will, opening 1907. Died at National Liberal Club after being taken ill in Commons. Of Weston Park, Bath, and Holly Lodge, Bristol.

Baptised at Stroud Congregational Church. In 1842 joined Thornbury Congregational Church, where had been Sunday school speaker for two years. Temperance activist from 1837. Lay preacher from 1844. (Press, p. 30) Active at Mangotsfield Tabernacle, c. 1851 (*Congregational Year Book*, 1891, p. 11). Conducted Bible class in home on Sunday afternoons. Speaker at Congregational Commemoration of Great Ejection, 1862 (Albert Peel, *These Hundred Years: A History of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, 1831-1931* (London, 1931), p. 240). But by his entry into parliament, was 'non-sectarian', attending Trim Street Unitarian Chapel, Bath (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788). In following year was described as 'a Liberal Christian, unattached' (*I*, 31 July 1886, p. 494). "[W]hile his views as to the Gospel have

naturally become enlarged, he has never ceased to regard that Gospel as the great lever by which the human race is to be raised” (Press, p. 30).

C. A. M. Press, *Liberal Leaders of Somerset* (Bridgwater, 1890), pp. 24-37.

WWBMP 2. Boase. Helen Meller, *Leisure and the Changing City* (London, 1976). C. J. James, *M.P. for Dewsbury* (Brighouse, Yorks, 1970), pp. 65-81.

#### GEORGE COURTAULD

1830 – 29 Feb. 1920

MP (L) for Maldon, Essex, Dec. 1878 – 1885

Textile manufacturer; of Samuel Courtauld and Co., specialising in mourning crape. Son of George Courtauld of Bocking, Essex, and nephew of Samuel Courtauld of Gosfield Hall, Essex. UCL. Became Unionist at Home Rule split. JP. High Sheriff of Essex. Made generous benefactions to Essex towns. Of Huguenot family, his great-great-grandfather Augustin Courtauld having fled from France at revocation of Edict of Nantes. Of 39 St James’s Place, London; and Cut Hedge, Halstead, Essex.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 10 Apr. 1880, p. 227; 19 Dec. 1885, p. 809). Obituary in *I*, 6 Mar. 1920, p. 115, omits religious allegiance.

WWBMP. D. C. Coleman, *Courtaulds: An Economic and Social History*, 3 vols (Oxford, 1969–80), 1. S. L. Courtauld, *The Huguenot Family of Courtauld*, 3 vols, privately printed (London, 1957–67). S. A. Courtauld (ed.), *Courtauld Family Letters, 1782–1900*, 7 vols. (Cambridge, 1916).

#### WILLIAM SHARMAN CRAWFORD

3 Sept. 1781 – 17 Oct. 1861

MP (L) for Dundalk, 1835-37

Rochdale, 1841-52

Landowner. Son of William Sharman, MP in Irish Parliament for Lisburn (1783-90). Added surname ‘Crawford’ in 1826 on inheritance of estate from brother-in-law. JP, DL. High Sheriff, Co. Down, 1811. Chairman of Newtonards Poor Law Union. Unsuccessful candidate for Co. Down, 1831; Belfast, 1832. Defeated at Dundalk, 1837; and in Co. Down, 1852. Helped draw up Charter, 1838. In 1841 joined Joseph Sturge in launching Complete Suffrage Union, acting as its parliamentary spokesman and in 1844 trying to obstruct budget in order to further cause. Opposed repeal of Union, but toyed with federal solution to relations between Ireland and Britain. Favoured free trade, reduced taxation, mitigation of effects of poor law, separation of church and state and, especially, giving Ulster custom of tenant right to all Ireland. Vice-president of Royal Belfast Academical Institution. ‘His oratory was singularly unlike that of his countrymen. It was solid, unadorned, and argumentative.’ (*Northern Whig*, 25 Oct. 1861, p. [3]) Of Crawfordsburn, near Bangor, Co. Down, 1841.

Laid foundation stone of York Street, Belfast (David Steers). Funeral conducted by Unitarian minister of Holyrood (*ODNB*).

*ODNB*. *T*, 19 Oct. 1861, p. 10. *Northern Whig*, 25 Oct. 1861, p. [3]. Alex Tyrrell, *Joseph Sturge and the Moral Radical Party in Early Victorian Britain* (London, 1987).

#### JOSEPH CROOK

1809 – 8 Dec. 1884

MP (L) for Bolton, 1852 – Feb. 1861

Cotton spinner; proprietor of J. and J. Crook, Bolton, second largest employers in town. Councillor of Bolton, 1868-71. JP. Member of Board of Guardians. Treasurer of Bolton Liberal Association. Responsible for reopening Bolton Reform Club. Supported Factory Operatives' Exhibition and Bazaar, 1853 to commemorate passing of Ten Hours' Bill. Was 'always recognised as an "extreme" politician, and was the accepted leader of the Radicals of Bolton' (*Bolton Advertiser*, Jan. 1885, p. 1). Supported Conservative Reform Bill, 1859, attracting censure. Favoured manhood suffrage, ballot, direct taxation, annual parliaments, redistribution (1860). Treasurer, Bolton County Liberal Association. Carried Bleachworks Bill, 1860, to extend benefits of Factory Acts to bleaching. Supported United Kingdom Alliance, urging local veto in Commons. (Howe, pp. 191, 242). Retired from Commons because of demands of business (*I*, 12 Dec. 1884, p. 802). Supported National Education League, forming Bolton branch, 1869. A founder of Bolton Mechanics' Institute, 1825; president from 1855. President of Association of Literary and Mechanics' Institutions of Lancashire and Cheshire, 1857. Supported Bolton Certified Industrial School. Firmness and eccentricity attracted nickname 'the self-acting mule' (*Bolton Advertiser*, below). Of Oakfield, Heaton, Bolton. Trustee of Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, Bolton, 1863; treasurer, 1882-84. Supported B&FUA. (Ramsden, p. 111). Memorial tablet to him in Bank Street (*CL*, 17 Oct. 1885, p. 507). 'He didn't care much for "parsons" as such, and entertained strong repugnance to the interference of these gentlemen in political or commercial affairs.' (*Bolton Advertiser*, below) On first election, reported to Lord Derby as Protestant Dissenter, 'without any precise idea of the doctrines of his protestant subdivision' (Howe, p. 71n). Funeral at Deane Parish Church conducted by vicar and C. C. Coe, Unitarian minister (Ramsden, p. 111).

WWBMP. Boase. *Bolton Advertiser*, Jan. 1885, p. 1. G. M. Ramsden, *A Responsible Society: The Life and Times of the Congregation of Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, Lancashire (Unitarian)* (Slinfold, Horsham, W. Sussex, 1985). *CL*, 13 Dec. 1884, p. 603.

Sir EDWIN DURNING-LAWRENCE, Bart

2 Feb. 1837 - 21 Apr. 1914

MP (LU) for Truro, 1895-1906

Of private means. University College School, of whose council he served from 1907, becoming chairman 1910-14, and UCL, to which subsequently generous. Worked in brother Alfred's ironworks and then father William's building company. Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Freeman of Ironworkers' Company from 1859. BA, 1861; LLB, 1866. Liveryman of Ironmongers' Company from 1865; master, 1887. Called to bar, Middle Temple, 1867, but never practised. In Commons, held weekly Friday dinner to secure government against being counted out, 1899-1905, so that nicknamed 'Count' Lawrence. Unsuccessful candidate at Berkshire, E, as L, 1885; Shoreditch, Haggerston, as LU, 1886; Burnley, 1892; Truro, 1906, January 1910. Member, Metropolitan Board of Works, 1886-88. Active in LU Council and Nonconformist Unionist Association. President of several metropolitan Unionist Associations, member of Metropolitan Committee of Unionist Council and co-president of University of London Unionist



Association. Keen supporter of Tariff Reform League. Governor of St Bartholomew's and St Thomas' Hospitals; on committees of Royal Free Hospital, King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, Royal Victoria Nursing Home, S. Ascot, and Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, of which chairman. Council member, Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund. Founded St Agnes and District Nursing Home, Cornwall, 1894. An originator of Polytechnic Institute, Southwark, 1892. Governor, Borough Road Institute, from 1891. Manager of Ascot Heath School. Governor of Ranelagh School, Bracknell, Berkshire. Member of Lambeth Libraries Committee from 1886 and made donations to public libraries. Bart, 1898, assuming additional surname of 'Durning'. JP. Freeman of Helston, Cornwall, 1907. Married, 1874, Edith Jane, daughter of J. B. Smith MP. Loved art, designing own Christmas cards, 1885-1913. Fellow of Society of Arts; treasurer. Gave artworks to South Kensington, Lambeth Town Hall and Bethnal Green Museum. President, Royal Institute of Cornwall, 1905. Dabbled in chemistry, physics, astronomy, archaeology, Nonconformist history and treatment of criminal mania. Enjoyed music. Collector of Elizabethan and Jacobean books. Member of council of Bacon Society from 1903; president from 1909, propagandising for theory that Bacon wrote Shakespeare's works. Published *The Progress of a Century, or The Age of Iron and Steam* (1885); *Mariolatry and Monckery mean Idolatry and Immorality* (1888); *A Short History of Lighting from the Earliest Times* (1895); *Steam in Relation to Cornwall* (1904); *Bacon is Shakespeare* (1910); *The Shakespeare Myth* (1912). Could be 'sharp in the expression of his distaste' (Gordon, p. 73). 'He was not afraid of ridicule.' (E. Basil Lupton of Bacon Society to editor, *I*, 2 May 1914, p. 280) Of 13 Carlton House Terrace, SW, once home of Gladstone; and King's Ride, Ascot, Berks, once owned by Prince Consort.

Brother of Sir William and Sir James Clarke Lawrence MPs. Classmate of Joseph Chamberlain at University College School. From 1861 attended ministry of Robert Spears at Stamford Street Chapel, Blackfriars, but subsequent reading broadened his views and 'improved his catholicity' (Gordon, p. 51). Influenced by James Freeman Clarke of Boston, Robert Collyer of Chicago and New York and Brooke Herford, latterly of Hampstead. When Collyer's library destroyed in Chicago fire of 1871, Lawrence organised assembling replacement. Occasionally preached, 'emphasising duty, discipline and devotion, rather than heads of doctrine' (Gordon, p. 52). Active in arranging reception of Keshab Chandra Sen, 1870. Trustee of B&FUA, but declined presidency. Contributed to *CL*, financially supporting it with his brothers from 1881. Supporter of London District Unitarian Society; president. Supporter (with Sir John Brunner MP) of Unitarian Van Society from 1906. Trustee of various chapels. Helped transfer of Essex Street Chapel to Notting Hill Gate, where he became trustee and treasurer from 1875. Gave to Permanent Chapel Building Fund, Ministers' Pension Fund, Sustentation Fund and Hostel for Pioneer Preachers at Highbury. Would be hard to find a Unitarian congregation in the British Isles which had not benefited from his generosity. Generous to other faiths near Ascot and in East London, but displayed 'a strong repugnance to certain practices of the Roman Church and its imitators in the Anglican fold' (Gordon, p. 54). Welcomed Sunday school teachers to his grounds at King's Ride for August Bank Holiday. Visited U.S. and Canada with Spears and C. S. Kenny MP, 1887,

calling on Emerson and establishing friendships with American Unitarians. At Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, the ‘unexpected vehemence of religious emotion was little short of terrifying to the visitors’ (Gordon, p. 64). Disliked ‘coddling’ men and women in domestic missions (Gordon, p. 64). President of UHMC, 1910-12, giving three works of Servetus to college library (McLachlan, pp. 158, 143).

Alexander Gordon, *Family History of the Lawrences of Cornwall*, privately printed (West Norwood, 1915), pp. 49-80. *WWW*, 1897-1916. *I*, 25 Apr. 1914, pp. 267-8.

## JOHN FIELDEN

1784 - 29 May 1849

MP (L) for Oldham, 1832-47

Cotton master, having worked in father’s mill at little more than ten. Believed in not cutting wages or laying off workers in hard times: ‘Good masters keep their hands together and wait for better times.’ (Select Committee on Hand Loom Weavers, *British Parliamentary Papers*, 1835, XIII, q. 2333, quoted in Law, p. 30). ‘The interests of the employers and the employed, were identical.’ (Quoted in Law, pp. 30-1). Started factory school, 1827. Overseer of poor, 1820s. Founder member of Manchester and Todmorden Political Unions, 1830 and 1831. In 1832 election address, urged that ‘Parliaments should be annual and votes be protected by the ballot’ (McLachlan, p. 121). Colleague as Oldham MP of William Cobbett, whose ideas he embraced. Promoted National Regeneration Society for factory reform from 1832. Member of commission on condition of handloom weavers, 1835. Advocate of Ten Hours Bill, writing *The Curse of the Factory System* (1836) and moving second reading of 1847 bill that passed. Financed working-class papers in 1830s. Opposed New Poor Law, believing in outdoor relief. Chaired Chartist meeting on Kersal Moor, Manchester, 1838, and presenting Chartist petition to Commons, 1839. Supported Complete Suffrage Union, 1843. Favoured ballot, short parliaments and universal suffrage (1847). Defeated by W. J. Fox at Oldham, 1847. Not a fluent speaker in Commons. ‘He used to hold his hat drum-ways in one hand, and, with the other, as he gave utterance to a proposition or stated a fact, he rammed home the charge by a violent knock into his hat, which not infrequently had the most ludicrous effect’ (quoted by McLachlan, p. 131). Bought Skeynes Park, near Edenbridge, Kent, 1845, dying there. At his funeral, his workers wore a medal distributed by the company bearing a representation of a happy family inscribed ‘Evening at home. The Ten Hours’ Bill, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1848’ (*I*, 16 June 1849, p. 380).

Methodist Unitarian. Father had moved from Quakers to Unitarians. (*BDMBR*, 2). Fielden tried Methodists and C. of E. before hearing Richard Wright, Unitarian missionary, 1818. Swayed by James Yates, *Vindication of Unitarianism* (1815) (McLachlan, pp. 93-4). In 1823 Methodist Unitarian Society formed. In 1824 John helped build Todmorden Unitarian Chapel, in 1828 buying building to extinguish debt. Subsequently paid most expenses including minister’s salary. Congregation languished after John entered parliament. Responsible for forming Todmorden Sunday School Union, 1816, in whose schools he taught. Paid for teachers of day school at Unitarian Chapel and superintendent of Sunday school there. (Law, pp. 54-5, 95).

B. R. Law, *Fieldens of Todmorden: A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Business Dynasty* (Littleborough, Lancs, 1995). S. A. Weaver, *John Fielden and the Politics of Popular Radicalism, 1832-1847* (Oxford, 1987). G. D. H. Cole, *Chartist Portraits* (London, 1941). [James Burnley], *Fortunes made in Business*, 3 vols (1884-87), 1, pp. 413-55. *ODNB*. *WWBMP*. Herbert McLachlan, *The Methodist Unitarian Movement* (Manchester, 1919).

## JOSHUA FIELDEN

8 Mar. 1827 – 9 Mar. 1887

MP (C) for Yorkshire, West Riding, E, 1868-80

Cotton master; partner in Fielden Brothers. Withdrew capital from family firm, 1879. Helped father, John Fielden, in Ten Hours campaign. With brothers, presented town hall costing £54,000 to Todmorden, 1875, when Joshua reminded audience that ‘some are and must be greater than the rest’ (quoted by Law, p. 181). President, Todmorden Mechanics’ Institution. Pressed for local authority, becoming member of Todmorden Local Board, 1861. JP. Opposed North in American Civil War because it was seeking ‘territory aggrandisement and power’ (Law, p. 218). Persuaded to stand as C in 1868, though claimed never having been one. Not consistently in C lobby in Commons divisions. Author of pamphlets on malt tax repeal and union of church and state: ‘as much opposed as any Churchman can be to the separation of Church and State’ (1880). Favoured large reduction in national expenditure (1880). Supported Owens College, National Life Boat Association and Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster, for the insane (1873). Patron of musical society. Loquacious, being described by other Conservative candidate in 1868 as ‘a parrot that was a beggar to talk’ (Law, p. 219). Frequently spoke in Commons, attracting derision: ‘Perhaps by and by we shall find this modern Joshua ordering the sun to stand still on Todmorden and the moon on the valley of Hebden Bridge’ (Law, p. 222). Member of Royal Thames Yacht Club from 1876, buying steam yacht in 1878 for £15,000. Fellow of Royal Geographical Society and Society of Antiquaries. Member of Chetham Society. Thought to be proud and quick to take offence. Of Stansfield Hall, Todmorden, to 1872, when moved to Nutfield Priory, Redhill, Surrey, built for him as Gothic mansion with 30 bedrooms by John Gibson, centre of lavish lifestyle. Also of Queen’s Gate, South Kensington, then Grosvenor Square, spending winters at Beaulieu near Nice and dying at Cannes.

Educated by Carl Voelker, Unitarian (*ODNB*). Married Ellen, daughter of Thomas, brother of John Brocklehurst MP. President, NELUM, 1863 and 1865 (AMH). President, B&FUA, 1875-76; subsequently vice-president (*CL*, 12 Mar. 1887, p. 126). With brothers, built elaborate Todmorden Unitarian Church (1869), ‘so completely in harmony with our bright and happy faith’ (William Gaskell at opening: Law, p. 177). Over selecting new minister, he often said, ‘We have no wish to override the choice of the congregation’ (Fox, p. 50). Yet because of friction with congregation, brothers set up trust with £7,500 endowment to provide annual income. Joshua conducted service every Sunday at Nutfield Priory because no Unitarian chapel nearby (Fox, p. 49). First to be buried in Todmorden Unitarian churchyard, though left nothing to charity or Unitarian church. At his memorial service, choir sang anthem ‘Et incarnatus’ (*CL*, 26 Mar. 1887, p. 148). Favourite hymn: ‘Be what thou

seemest; live thy creed,/Hold up to earth the torch divine;/Be what thou prayest to be made;/Let the great Master's steps be thine.' (Fox, p. 50)  
 Law (as in previous entry). *ODNB* (recognising strong Unitarianism).  
*WWBMP*. Boase. A. W. Fox, *Annals of Todmorden Unitarian Congregation: A Centennial Sketch* (Todmorden, 1924).

#### WILLIAM JOHNSON FOX

1 Mar. 1786 - 3 June 1864

MP (L) for Oldham, 1847-52, Dec. 1852-57, Oct. 1857- c. Apr.

1862

Minister and journalist. Wrote leading article for first issue of *Westminster Review*, 1823, and leading articles for the *True Sun* from 1835, popular as 'blisters for the aristocracy' (Garrett, p. 175). Leader writer for *Morning Chronicle*, 1839-43; and for *Daily News*, 1846; regular contributor to *Weekly Despatch*, 1846-63. Champion of anti-corn law cause, contributing lectures and letters to *The League*. Proposed secular education, 1850. Favoured separation of church and state, end of all religious endowments and ballot (1862). Defeated at Oldham, 1852 and 1857. Published *Lectures chiefly Addressed to the Working Classes*, 4 vols (1845-49). Possessed 'a clear and musical voice that he had learned to modulate in the most impressive manner' (*Daily News* reproduced by *I*, 11 June 1864, p. 391). But mannered style unsuited to Commons, where seldom spoke. From 1847 received annuity of £400 from Samuel Courtauld. Of 3 Sussex Place, London.

From a Norwich Independent chapel, went to Homerton Academy, 1806-09. Settled at Fareham, Hants, 1809, becoming minister of its Independent Chapel in 1811 but in 1812 avowing Unitarianism. Published *Letters to the Rev. J. P. Smith on the Sacrifice of Christ* (1813). Preached at Gosport, standing in street to expound Proverbs 23:23, 'Buy the truth, and sell it not'. Minister at Baffin's Lane Chapel, Chichester, from 1817 at Parliament Court Chapel, London, and from 1824 at South Place Chapel, Finsbury. Controversially urged fullest freedom for deists, 1819. Chief founder of B&FUA, 1825, becoming its secretary for foreign correspondence. Editor of *Monthly Repository*, 1827-36. Planned London Domestic Mission. Affair with ward Eliza Flower came to light, 1834, and from 1835 to 1846 lived with her rather than wife. Resigned as minister, but revoked resignation and remained until 1852, delivering addresses with increasingly secular content. Expelled by Presbyterian Board, 1835, and largely repudiated by Unitarians at large. Preached more on politics than ethics or religion, charging one shilling entry fee to chapel. Gave up Sunday addresses around when entered parliament. Published the *Comparative Tendency of Unitarianism and Calvinism to promote Love to God and Love to Man* (1813); *Christ and Christianity* (1831); *Christian Morality* (1833); *Hymns and Anthems* (1845); *On the Religious Ideas* (1849); and many lectures and pamphlets. Oldham pollbook 1852 published to show who 'the voters are who have given their approbation to the politics, religion, and the morals of the Rev Mr. Fox' (*The Second Remembrancer showing how the Electors of the Borough of Oldham voted at the General Election which took place July 8th, 1852* (Oldham, 1852), p. 2). Funeral service conducted by J. P. Malleon, Unitarian minister at Brighton (*I*, 11 June 1864, p. 391). According to Sir John Bowring, Fox was 'among

rather than of the Unitarian body' (*Theological Review* 3 (1866), p. 441, quoted by Mineka, p. 196).

Richard and Edward Garnett, *The Life of W. J. Fox, Public Teacher and Social Reformer, 1786-1864* (London, 1910). *ODNB* (by R. K. Webb). *BDMBR* 2. *WWBMP*. W. J. Fox, *Memorial Edition of Collected Works*, 12 vols (London, 1865-68). F. E. Mineka, *The Dissidence of Dissent: The Monthly Repository, 1806-1838* (Chapel Hill, NC, 1944), pp. 169-203. *MU*, pp. 274-9. *I*, 11 June 1864, p. 391.

#### BENJAMIN GASKELL

28 Feb. 1781 – 21 Jan. 1856

MP for Maldon, 1806 – Feb. 1807 (unseated on petition), 1812-26

Landowner. Inherited Thornes estate on death of James Milnes, MP for Maldon, 1805. Supported Wakefield charities, building schools. Defeated at Maldon, May 1807. Admirer of George Canning. Supported Queen Caroline, 1821. Favoured removal of civil disabilities for religious opinions and Roman Catholic emancipation. Voted with Whigs for temperate parliamentary and legal reform, but generally supported Tory administration. Of Upper Brook Street, London (1818); and of Thornes House, near Wakefield.

Member and generous supporter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield, where memorial erected. Educated under John Harrison, Presbyterian minister at Lancaster, and at William Shepherd's school at Gateacre. Manchester Academy from 1796 (remaining annual subscriber), privately at Hackney under Thomas Belsham and Trinity College, Cambridge, not graduating. Although built Anglican church at Thornes, attender and generous supporter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield, where commemorated by tablet. (*CR* 12 (1856), p. 125) President, MNC, 1815-17. Trustee, Essex Street Chapel, London, from 1818. (*TUHS* 1 (1918), p. 266). Not related to William Gaskell, minister of Cross Street, Manchester (Holt, p. 46). Benjamin's Anglican wife Mary deeply influenced the young W. E. Gladstone on a visit in 1829, when she remarked to him, 'Surely we cannot entertain a doubt as to the future condition of any person truly united to Christ by faith and love, whatever may be the faults of his opinions.' (John Brooke and Mary Sorensen (eds), *The Prime Ministers' Papers: W. E. Gladstone: I. Autobiographica* (London, 1971), p. 150).

Thorne, 4, pp. 13-14. Boase. *CR* 12 (1856), p. 125, reproducing *Wakefield Journal*.

#### DANIEL GASKELL

11 Sept. 1782 - 20 Dec. 1875

MP (L) for Wakefield, 1832-37

Landowner: family had owned Clifton Hall, Lancs, since 1652. First MP for Wakefield, where defeated, 1837. Favoured free trade, replacement of taxes pressing on industry with graduated property tax, abolition of monopolies, small duty on corn for one year and then end of corn laws, ballot and triennial parliaments (1837). 'He but seldom spoke in the House of Commons, nor, indeed, was the atmosphere of publicity congenial to his tastes and habits' (*I*, 1 Jan. 1876, p. 12). Later devoted Gladstonian. JP, but gave up because disliked inflicting punishment (*I*, 5 Feb. 1876, p. 94). At Wakefield supporter of Mechanics' Institution, Lancasterian Schools, Clayton Hospital, Royal

Albert Asylum for Idiots, Rifle Corps (*I*, 1 Jan. 1876, p. 12). Built Gaskell School, Horbury, 1842 (<http://www.twixtaireandcalder.org.uk/HeritageTrails/Schooldays/default.htm>). Having no children, reputed to spend half income on public usefulness (*I*, 5 Feb. 1876, p. 94). Of Lupset Hall, Wakefield.

Brother of Benjamin Gaskell MP. William Shepherd's school at Gateacre, Liverpool, and Hackney College under Thomas Belsham. With wife Mary, member of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield. Stimulus for radical Unitarians. (Kathryn Gleadle, *The Early Feminists: Radical Unitarians and the Emergence of the Women's Rights Movement, 1831-1851* (Basingstoke, 1998), p. 43, citing J. F. C. Harrison, *Learning and Living*, pp. 118-51) Endowed Westgate Chapel (J. M. Bass, *Westgate Chapel: A Short History* (Wakefield, [1952])) and presented gardens of the Orangery to it, 1850 (<http://www.publicarts.co.uk/beam/intro/orangery.html>). Memorial tablet erected to him in chapel (*CL*, 26 Jan. 1878, p. 45). Donated £300 to Memorial Hall (AMH). Mary attended South Place Chapel, London, 1835 (Richard and Edward Garnett, *The Life of W. J. Fox* (London, 1910), p. 205). Annual subscriber to MNC (Ditchfield, p. 211). Liberally contributed to Wakefield Parish Church Restoration Fund. Charitable mode of thinking was 'a protest against sectarian feeling, and the jealousy of contending dogmas'. (*I*, 1 Jan. 1876, p. 12). Bequeathed legacies to 3 former ministers of Westgate Chapel and present one. Left £1,000 and Horbury school, which was required to be open to all denominations, to Westgate trustees. (*I*, 29 Jan. 1876, p. 74) *WVBMP*. Boase. *I*, 1 Jan. 1876, p. 12, reproducing *Wakefield Express*.

#### WILLIAM DOWNE GILLON

d. 7 Oct. 1846

MP (L) for Falkirk Burghs, 1831-41

Radical reformer in favour of ballot, triennial parliaments and extension of suffrage (1840). Defeated, 1841. Of Wallhouse, West Lothian; and Hurstmonceaux, Sussex.

Unitarian (G. I. T. Machin, *Politics and the Churches in Great Britain, 1832 to 1868* (Oxford, 1977), p. 114). No congregational allegiance found.

*WVBMP*. Not in Johnson.

#### ROBERT HYDE GREG

24 Sept. 1795 – 21 Feb. 1875

MP (Whig) for Manchester, 1839-41

Cotton spinner and merchant. Edinburgh University. Joined father's textile firm at Quarry Bank, Styal, Cheshire, 1817. On disbandment of firm in 1841, took Reddish estate near Stockport with two mills, trading as R. H. Greg and Co., 1844. President, Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Member of Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, contributing paper on site of Troy, 1823. A founder of Manchester Royal Institution, 1823, and Mechanics' Institution, 1825. Subscribed to UCL, 1825 (Howe, p. 294n). Chairman of committee for brother-in-law Mark Philips MP, 1832. Unsuccessful candidate at Lancaster, 1830 (Howe, pp. 93, 115); and at Macclesfield, 1837. Elected MP in absence abroad and without desiring it. Favoured ballot, but opposed further extension of franchise after 1832. 'Multitudes are easily carried away by passion and...by rumours however absurd.' (Journal, late 1840s, quoted by

Rose, p. 126). Opponent of Ten Hours Bill, writing *The Factory Question*, 1837. Active in Anti-Corn Law League. Claimed to be concerned only for reform and repeal (Howe, p. 227). Published pamphlets arguing for efficiency in agriculture, 1842, 1844. Led National Association of Factory Employers, 1855, for resisting fencing of machinery: ‘The Manufacturers have for years submitted to these burdens imposed upon them by pseudo-philanthropists’ (Howe, pp. 180, 188; quoted at p. 185). ‘Our public schools and universities want a “League” to reform them as much as the Corn Law gentlemen.’ (to R. P. Greg, 4 Dec. 1843, quoted by Howe, p. 293n). Supported Manchester Peace Conference, 1858 (Howe, p. 232). Criticised ‘Lancashire dillitante [*sic*] sympathy’ for the imprisoned Garibaldi, 1862. (Howe, p. 240n). Palmerston wished to ennoble Greg in 1856 (Howe, p. 267). Maintained day school at Styal. Supported Society for the Preservation of Ancient Footpaths. Bought Styal estate, 1855, living at Norcliffe Hall, where he assembled conifers, rhododendrons and azaleas. Engaged in experimental farming in Hertfordshire.

Greg’s mother descended from Philip Henry, Nonconformist minister. Probably attended Lant Carpenter’s school, Bristol. His wife Mary was sister of Mark and R. N. Philips MPs. Norcliffe Unitarian Chapel, Styal, provided Sunday school, lectures, readings and magic lantern shows for his workers. Its pulpit supplied by minister of Dean Row on alternate Sundays. Buried at Unitarian Chapel, Dean Row, Wilmslow, Cheshire (*ODNB*).

Mary B. Rose, *The Gregs of Quarry Bank Mill: The Rise and Decline of a Family Firm, 1750-1914* (Cambridge, 1986). *ODNB*. *WWBMP* (as ‘Gregg’). *I*, 27 Feb. 1875, p. 139 (reproducing *MG*).

Sir EDWARD JAMES HARLAND, Bart

15 May 1831 - 24 Dec. 1895

MP (C) for Belfast, N, Aug. 1889 – Dec. 1895

Shipbuilder; partner in Harland and Wolff from 1861, constructing Atlantic liners. Scarborough Grammar School, Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University. Apprenticed to Robert Stephenson and Co., Newcastle, 1846-51. Worked in Clydeside shipyard and again on Tyne before settled in Belfast in 1854. Commissioner of Belfast Harbour Trust, 1870-87; chairman, 1875-85. Alderman of Belfast, 1884; mayor, 1885-87, helping co-ordinate campaign against Home Rule. JP. High Sheriff, Co. Down, 1887. Rarely spoke in parliament except on naval issues. Supported ‘Unionist policy of the Marq[uess] of Salisbury’s government as being of vital importance to Protestantism in Ireland and to religious liberty generally’ (1895). Knight then Bart, 1885. Contributed chapter on himself to Samuel Smiles’s *Men of Invention and Industry* (1884). Of 24 Kensington Palace Gardens, London; and Glenfarne Hall, near Enniskillen, Co. Leitrim.

Chairman of congregational committee of First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast, during ministry of Alexander Gordon, 1887-90 (Herbert McLachlan, *Alexander Gordon* (Manchester, 1932), p. 31). The deceased, it was said at the time of his funeral, ‘had never severed his connection with the congregation’ (*Belfast News-Letter*, 30 Dec. 1895, p. 5). Gave generously to Trinity Church, Belfast (*ibid.*, 27 Dec. 1895, p. 5). A brother became Anglican clergyman (*ibid.*, 25 Dec. 1895, p. 6).

*ODNB* (mistakenly giving 1887 as date when became MP). *WWBMP* 2. Boase. *Belfast News-Letter*, 25 Dec. 1895, p. 6.

#### DANIEL WHITTLE HARVEY

10 June 1786 – 24 Feb. 1863

MP for Colchester, 1818-20, 1826-35

Southwark (L), 1835- Jan. 1840

Solicitor, in Colchester, then London. Rejected as barrister by Inner Temple because had been found guilty of slandering another solicitor. Founder of *Sunday Times*, conducting it for two years; proprietor of *True Sun* and *Weekly True Sun*. Stern opponent of corruption, especially in C. of E., displaying ‘terrible sarcasm’ (Spears, p. 208). Unsuccessful candidate at Southwark, 1812. An ultra radical reformer, favouring equitable adjustment of national debt (1838). Registrar of Metropolitan Public Carriages, 1839. Commissioner of City of London Police, 1840: ‘This post he owed to his formidable opposition in the House of Commons to the Government of the day, who were delighted to give him an office which disqualified him from sitting in Parliament.’ (Spears, p. 208). Had once been offered place in government, but beneath what he thought his entitlement and declined (Spears, p. 208). Candidate for Southwark, 1847, but stood down. Of 7 Great George Street, London; and Brixton Hill, Surrey.

Son of Matthew Barnard Harvey, merchant of Witham, Essex, originally Calvinist but later Unitarian, friend of James Martineau (Richard and Edward Garnett, *The Life of W. J. Fox* (London, 1910), p. 175). 1805, took part in establishing Unitarian Fund Society. Buried in Hackney Unitarian graveyard. (Spears, pp. 207-9). Service conducted by James Martineau (*I*, 7 Mar. 1863, p. 159). ‘He had no more respect for the Roman Catholic religion than the Evangelical members of the Church of England have’ (Ainslie, p. 12).

*ODNB* (on religious allegiance mentioning only Unitarian burial). Thorne, 4, p. 164. Spears, pp. 207-9. *WWBMP*. Boase. Robert Ainslie, *A Discourse on the Death of Daniel Whittle Harvey* (London, 1863).

#### ALEXANDER HENRY

1783 - 4 Oct. 1862

MP (L) for Lancashire, S, December 1847-52.

Merchant; founder of A. and S. Henry and Co. of Manchester, Leeds, Huddersfield etc. Born at Loughbrickland, Co. Down. Brought up by uncle in Philadelphia, and to Manchester at 21. Made more than 25 voyages to America, and once left behind at Plymouth when helping elderly gentleman ashore. Active in struggle for Manchester corporation charter. Supporter of Anti-Corn Law League. Favoured extension of free trade, ballot, ‘the diffusion of education unconnected with religious opinions’; opposed grants of money for religious endowments (1852). Host of Kossuth (Holt, p. 221). Became blind (*I*, 11 Oct. 1862, p. 726). Of 56 St James’s Street, London; and Woodlands, near Manchester.

Presbyterian, becoming Unitarian in Manchester (Holt, p. 47). Trustee, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester (Baker, pp. 122-3).

*WWBMP*. Boase.

Sir BENJAMIN HEYWOOD, Bart



12 Dec. 1793 – 11 Aug. 1865

MP (L) for Lancashire, 1831-32

Banker; of Heywood Brothers and Co., Manchester. Glasgow University. Founder and president (1825-40) of Manchester Mechanics' Institution. First commercial MP for Lancashire (Howe, p. 93). Supported reform and 'abolition of all commercial monopolies' (Heywood, p. 65). Active in Manchester Statistical Society. Bart, 1838. FRS, 1843. By later 1840s a devotee of Shakespeare and Scott. Of Acresfield, near Manchester. Trustee, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. President, MNC, 1840-42. (Baker, p. 115) Educated at schools run by Anglican clergy at Liverpool and Warrington before John Corrie's Dissenting school at Birmingham, 1806. Studied Bible daily and read Christian writers of every shade of opinion, including Lancelot Andrewes, Jeremy Taylor and Thomas Wilson and, of named authors, Richard Baxter alone was Nonconformist. Oldest 3 children died, 1836. Found rite of confirmation attractive, recognising 'the beauty of the service', 1840 (Heywood, p. 155). Adhered to C. of E. by conviction from 1841-42. But still Unitarian when MP.

Thomas Heywood, *A Memoir of Sir Benjamin Heywood* (Manchester, 1888). *ODNB. I*, 19 Aug. 1865, p. 535 (omitting religion).

#### JAMES HEYWOOD

28 May 1810 – 17 Oct. 1897

MP (L) for Lancashire, N, 1847-57

Enjoyed private means. Brother of Sir Benjamin Heywood MP. University of Edinburgh, 1825-26, and then Geneva. Entered father's bank, 1828, but withdrew in following year on inheriting fortune from uncle. Trinity College, Cambridge, from 1829: a Senior Optime, 1833, but did not graduate. Called to bar, Inner Temple, 1838, but did not practise. Active in Anti-Corn Law League from 1843. Moved address to crown, 1847. Favoured ballot, 'a moderate extension of the suffrage' and reduction of duties on tea, coffee and sugar; considered Irish Roman Catholic clergy should be maintained by taxes on Irish land and that Church of Ireland required reform (1857). Advocate of reform of Oxford and Cambridge, proposing royal commission on the universities, 1850, and moving abolition of tests at matriculation and on bachelor's degrees at Oxford, 1854. Moved resolution in favour of royal commission on revising Authorised Version of Bible, 1856. Unsuccessful candidate for South Lancashire, 1865. JP. Member of Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society from 1833. Associated with Cobden in foundation of Manchester Athenaeum, becoming first president, 1835-40. First president, Manchester School of Design, 1838. Member of first council of Chetham Society. Local secretary for British Association meeting in Manchester, 1842. President, Statistical Section, British Association, 1875, and of Statistical Society, 1875-76. President of council, Royal Historical Society, 1878-80. Member of senate, London University, from 1831. Trustee of Owens College, beginning its library with gift of 1,200 volumes, 1851 (McLachlan, p. 81). Member of council, Girton College, Cambridge, 1872-97. Supported female suffrage. President of Sunday Society from its foundation in 1875, supporting Sunday opening of libraries, art galleries and museums. Established free lending library at Notting Hill, first in London to open on Sunday. Student of geology, reading paper on 'The Lancashire Coalfield' before British

Association, 1851. FRS, 1839. Moved to Kensington, 1859. Published *Collection of Statutes for the University and the Colleges of Cambridge* (1840); *The Foundation Documents of Merton College, Oxford* (with J. O. Halliwell, 1843); *Oxford University Statutes* (originally by G. R. M. Ward, 1843); *The Ancient Laws of the Fifteenth Century for King's College, Cambridge, and for the Public School of Eton College* (with Thomas Wright, 1850); *The Recommendations of the Oxford University Commissioners* (1853); *Cambridge University Transactions during the Puritan Controversies* (1854); *Early Cambridge University and College Statutes* (1855); *Introduction to the Book of Genesis... from the German of Peter Von Bohlen* (1855), contending for late origin of its cosmogony; *Academical Reform and University Representation* (1860); *State of the Authorised Biblical Revision* (1860); *University Tests Bill in the House of Lords, 1871* (1871); *The Primaeval World of Switzerland* (originally by Oswald Heer, 1876), to dispel theory of creation in 6 days; *Illustrations of the Principal English Universities* (n.d.). 1875, offered £50 prize for essay urging disuse of Athanasian Creed, jointly won by Courtney Kenny, later MP (*I*, 23 Oct. 1897, p. 690). Of Mosley Street, Manchester; later The Headlands, near Manchester; 5 Eaton Place, London; and at death 26 Kensington Park Gardens, London. Trustee, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. Lant Carpenter's school at Bristol. (Baker, pp. 123-4) Hibbert Trustee, 1853-87 (AMH). Chief supporter from 1867 of services at Notting Hill under W. H. Channing leading to creation of Essex Church. Chairman, B&FUA, 1840, 1849; president, 1866-67. Trustee of Dr Williams's Library from 1860, giving generously to it. Life member of London Domestic Mission and Sunday School Association. (*I*, 23 Oct. 1897, p. 690). President, UHMC, 1857 and 1872 (McLachlan, p. 157). President, MNC, 1853-58; vice-president to death. Treasurer, New England Co., missionary society begun in 1649 (*I*, 30 Oct. 1897, pp. 706-7). Funeral at Essex Church included Heywood's favourite hymns, 'O God, our help in ages past' and 'Lead, kindly light' (*I*, 23 Oct. 1897, p. 690). *ODNB*. *WWBMP*. Boase. *I*, 23 Oct. 1897, pp. 689-90.

Sir BENJAMIN HOBHOUSE, Bart

29 Mar. 1757 – 14 Aug. 1831

MP (Whig) for Bletchingley, 1797- 1802

Grampound, 1802-06

Hindon, 1806-18

Financier. Bristol Grammar School. Brasenose College, Oxford. Called to bar, Middle Temple, 1781. Unsuccessful candidate at Bristol, 1796. Secretary to India Board of Control, 1803. First commissioner for settling Carnatic nawabs' debts, 1806-29. Commissioner of inquiry into Lincoln Gaol, 1812. Bart, 1812. FRS, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, vice-president of Royal Society of Literature. President, West of England Agricultural Society, 1805-17. According to Coleridge, 'of great abilities & uncommon Probity' (R. E. Zegger, *John Cam Hobhouse: A Political Life, 1819-1852* (Columbia, MO, 1973), p. 37). Of Berkeley Square, London.

An Anglican who was drawn by both wives, married 1785 and 1793, into Dissenting circles. Attended Lewin's Mead Chapel, Bristol, under John Prior Estlin (R. E. Zegger, *John Cam Hobhouse: A Political Life, 1819-1852* (Columbia, MO, 1973), p. 37). Wrote pamphlets against test acts and on

heresy and dogma. But by 1800 described by Lady Holland as ‘humanitarian’ rather than ‘Unitarian’ (Watts, p. 433). Withdrew from Nonconformity some years before death (*CL*, 11 Nov. 1876, p. 321). His son John Cam Hobhouse (1786-1869) attended Estlin’s school before Westminster School, where ‘I was insulted and laughed at – and questioned as to what god was worshipped at my chapel’ (Zegger, p. 38); this must have taken place while his father was in the Commons. Although John Cam kept up with Bristol Unitarians, he was a religious sceptic but formally declared himself C. of E. on taking Cambridge degree, 1808 (Zegger, p. 42).

*ODNB*. Thorne, 1, p. 295; 4, pp. 209-12.

#### SAMUEL HOLLAND

17 Oct. 1803 – 27 Dec. 1892

MP (L) for Merionethshire, Jan. 1870 – 1885

Quarry owner in North Wales. Schools in England and Germany. Began work in father’s Liverpool mercantile house. JP. At original election professed general belief in disestablishment but denied that Welsh church could be treated separately (K. O. Morgan, *Wales in British Politics, 1868-1922* (Cardiff, 1980), p. 35). Chief promoter of Dr Williams’s school for girls, Dollgelly. Of Caerdeon, Merionethshire.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 19 Dec. 1885, p. 809).

*DWB*. *WWBMP*. MS autobiography in National Library of Wales.

#### WILLIAM ALEXANDER HUNTER

1844 – 21 July 1898

MP (L) for Aberdeen, N, 1885 – c. Apr. 1896

Barrister. Aberdeen Grammar School and University. MA, LL.D. Called to bar, Middle Temple, 1867. Professor of Jurisprudence, Roman Law, the Principles of Legislation and International Law, UCL. Author of *A Systematic and Historical Exposition of Roman Law in the Order of a Code* (1876) and *Introduction to Roman Law* (1880). Opposed to second legislative chamber, supported disestablishment and old age pensions (1895). Spoke on ‘The Past and Present of Heresy Laws’ to Sunday Lecture Society, 1878. Of Fountain Court, Temple, London.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789).

*WWBMP*.

#### Sir JAMES ALFRED JACOBY

1852 – 23 June 1909

MP (L) for Derbyshire, Mid, 1885-1909

Lace manufacturer; director of M. Jacoby and Co. Member of Nottingham Town Council from 1876; sheriff, 1877-78. President, Nottingham Chamber of Commerce. Chairman, Technical Schools Committee and Nottingham Liberal Club. Vice-chairman, Castle Museum Committee. Fellow of the Statistical Society. Knight, 1906. Social reformer and free trader. Advocate of Eight Hours’ Bill for miners. Favoured Home Rule, local option and reform of House of Lords (1909). Tried to reduce street noise. ‘The barrel organs of the old days were his pet abomination’ (*Nottingham Daily Express*, below). Chairman, Commons Kitchen Committee. Of Oakhill House,

Nottingham, and 8 Queen's Gate Gardens, SW (1907). Moved to Normanton in his constituency.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 1 July 1885, p. 789; *CL*, 16 July 1892, p. 337), and as Free Churchman in 1907 (*Free Church Yearbook*, 1907, p. 258). Of High Pavement Chapel? But nothing about religious allegiance in obituary below. Funeral at undenominational Nottingham General Cemetery conducted by the Rev. F. C. Cursham, vicar of Flintham, Notts., lifelong friend (*Nottingham Daily Express*, 28 June 1909, p. 8).

*WWBMP* 2. *WWW*, 1897-1916. *Nottingham Daily Express*, 24 June 1909, p. 4. Not in Johnson.

#### CHARLES HERBERT JAMES

16 June 1817 – 3 Oct. 1890

MP (L) for Merthyr Tydfil, 1880- c. Feb. 1888

Solicitor, retiring 1876, and colliery proprietor. Director of Rhymney Railway. Taliesin Williams's school, Merthyr, and Goulstone's boarding school, Bristol. Prize for English law, UCL, 1837-38. Nominated Henry Richard as candidate, 1868. Differed from most Nonconformists in supporting 25<sup>th</sup> clause of 1870 Education Act. Retired as MP through ill health. JP. Member of first Merthyr Board of Health. Chairman, Science and Art Committee, Merthyr. Member of Merthyr School Board. Initiated movement for creation of Abermorlais British School, continuing support when became board school. Supported town library. Governor, Gellygaer Endowed Charity; Aberystwyth College; UCL. Published *Lectures on Various Subjects*; *Letters...giving a Description of the Customs and Rules of the House of Commons*; and *What I remember about Myself and Old Merthyr* (all 1892). 'Naturally reserved in habits he was sometimes placed in a position aloof from others' (*I*, 11 Oct. 1890, p. 655). Of Brynteg, Merthyr Tydfil.

Brought up a Wesleyan, he became a Unitarian (*DWB*). Member of Merthyr Unitarian Church; taught in Sunday school for quarter century, leader of singing. Brother of W. Henry James, minister who was buried in Herefordshire (though not listed among Unitarian ministers in *TUHS* 23 (2006)). (*South Wales Daily News*, 4 Oct. 1890, p. 5) Vice-president, B&FUA; president, 1880-81. Manager of Sustentation Fund. (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789). Shareholder in *I* (AMH).

*DWB*. *WWBMP* 2. *South Wales Daily News*, 4 Oct. 1890, p. 5. *I*, 11 Oct. 1890, p. 655.

#### COURTNEY STANHOPE KENNY

18 March 1847- 18 Mar. 1930

MP (L) for Barnsley, 1885- Feb. 1889

Academic lawyer. Heath and Hipperholme Grammar Schools. Articled to Halifax solicitor, 1863, and admitted solicitor 1869 with Broderup gold medal, Clifford's Inn Prize and special prize for highest mark ever given by Incorporated Law Society. Practised in Yorkshire for 2 years. Downing College, Cambridge, as scholar in modern languages and law, 1871. Chancellor's legal medallist, 1874. President of the Union, 1874. Called to bar, Lincoln's Inn, 1881. Law lecturer, Downing College, from 1875; and of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1882-86. Fellow of Downing College, 1885-1907, and from 1918. University Reader in English Law, 1888-1907.

Downing Professor of the Laws of England, 1907-18. Chairman of Cambridgeshire Quarter Sessions, 1912. Vice-Chairman, Cambridgeshire CC. JP. LL.D. Fellow of the British Academy, 1909. In Commons, devoted himself to law reform, education and charities. Favoured 'an entire reconstruction of the House of Lords' (1888). Visited Canada and U.S. with Edwin [Durning-]Lawrence, later MP, 1887, establishing Unitarian contacts ([Alexander Gordon], *Family History of the Lawrences of Cornwall* (West Norwood, 1915), pp. 62-4). Published *Two Prize Essays on the Disuse of the Athanasian Creed in the Services of the Church of England* (with Charles Pebody, 1875); *The History of the Law of Primogeniture* (1878); *The History of the Law of England as to the Effects of Marriage on Property and the Wife's Legal Capacity* (1879); *The True Principles of Legislation with regard to Property given for Charitable or Other Public Uses* (1880); *A Selection of Cases illustrative of English Criminal Law* (1901); *Outlines of Criminal Law* (1902), long a standard work; *A Selection of Cases illustrative of the English Law of Tort* (1904); *A Selection of Cases illustrative of the Law of Contract* (1922); and *Parliamentary Logic* (ed., 1927). Of Westbye, Cambridge. Unitarian, retaining membership of Northgate End Chapel, Halifax, until death (*I*, 19 Apr. 1930, p. 192). In Cambridge attended Emmanuel Congregational Church (Information from J. C. G. Binfield). From Huguenot family. Closely associated with *CL*, contributing to it and to *I* after amalgamation. (*I*, 22 Mar. 1930, p. 144) President, Cambridge University Nonconformist Union. Regular donor to library of UHMC (McLachlan, p. 142). H. D. Hazeltine, *Courtney Stanhope Kenny, 1847-1930* (London, [1933]). *ODNB*. WWW, 1929-40. *WWBMP* 2. *I*, 22 Mar. 1930, p. 144.

#### WILLIAM KENRICK

8 June 1831- 31 July 1919

MP (L) for Birmingham, N, 1885-86

(LU) for Birmingham, N, 1886 – c. Jan. 1899

Hardware manufacturer; partner and chairman of Archibald Kenrick and Sons Ltd. Schools at Handsworth and Hove. UCL: gold medal for chemistry, 1850. Member of Birmingham Town Council for Edgbaston, 1870-1911; alderman from 1877; mayor, 1877. Chairman of Watch Committee, 1874-76; of Gas Committee, 1880-83; member of Free Libraries Committee, chairman of Museum and School of Art Committee, 1884-1911. Freeman of Birmingham, 1911. PC, 1899. JP. Member of Education League from 1866; sponsored launch of National Education League, 1869. Chairman, National Liberal Federation general committee, 1882-86. In Commons, authority on local government. Member of council, Midland Institute, 1866-77. Governor of King Edward's Foundation, High School for Girls and branch grammar schools. Life Governor, University of Birmingham. Member of committee, Birmingham School of Art from 1874; chairman from 1883. Founder member of Birmingham Art Gallery purchase committee, 1880. Established Jewellers' School and scholarships for craft education. Of younger operatives: 'What is now needed is the establishment of Science and Art classes to enable them to acquire power to add beauty of form to arts of utility.' (In *British Association Handbook*, 1886, p. 182, quoted by Church, p. 283) Landscape painter; member of Burlington Fine Arts Club. Friend of William Morris and Sir Edward Burne-Jones, patron of Pre-Raphaelites generally; gave paintings to

Birmingham Art Gallery including Millais' 'Blind Girl' (*I*, 9 Aug. 1919, p. 289). Wife Mary was sister of Joseph Chamberlain, whose first wife Harriet was sister of Kenrick and whose second wife Florence was his cousin. Of The Grove, Harborne, Birmingham.

Lifelong supporter of Church of the Messiah, Birmingham. President, B&FUA, 1904-05. Cremated. (*I*, 9 Aug. 1919, p. 290) Married at Unity Unitarian Church, Islington, 1862 (*CW*, 29 August 1912, p. 3).

*ODNB* (s.v. Kenrick family). *WWW* 1916-1928. R. A. Church, *Kenricks in Hardware: A Family Business: 1791-1966* (Newton Abbot, 1969). *I*, 9 Aug. 1919, pp. 289-90.

#### Sir JAMES KITSON, Bart

22 Sept. 1835 – 16 Mar. 1911

MP (L) for Yorkshire, West Riding, S, Colne Valley, 1892-1907

Iron and steel manufacturer. Wakefield Proprietary School and UCL. Took charge in 1854, with older brother, of Monk Bridge Ironworks, Leeds, which amalgamated with Airedale Foundry, 1858; effectively head of firm from 1862, chiefly producing locomotives. Director, London City and Midland Banking Co.; North Eastern Railway Co. Member of Institution of Mechanical Engineers from 1859. Member of council, Institution of Civil Engineers, 1899-1901. President, Iron and Steel Institute, 1889-91. President of Iron Trade Federation. President, Leeds Chamber of Commerce, 1880-81. First Lord Mayor of Leeds, 1896-97. Founder and secretary of Leeds branch of National Education League, and member of national council. President, Leeds Liberal Association in 1880, organising W. E. Gladstone's parliamentary campaign in the city and in 1881 having him stay at his home. President, National Liberal Federation, 1883-90. Unsuccessful candidate for Leeds, Central, 1886. As MP, campaigned for old age pensions. Bart, 1886. PC, 1906. Secretary of Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes for 7 years. Launched self-help model dwelling scheme, 1862. Governor, Leeds General Infirmary. Supported Yorkshire College, later Leeds University. DSc, Leeds, 1904. Member of Leeds Rifle Corps, becoming its honorary colonel until 1905. Freeman of Leeds, 1906. Created Lord Airedale, 1907. Left fortune of £1 million. Of Gledhow Hall, Leeds.

Sunday school teacher and regular attender at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, supporting all its institutions. (*Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds: Memorial Window to the late Lord Airedale* (Leeds, [1916]), pp. 1-3) Baptised, like father, at Leeds Parish Church. Lectures by Charles Wicksteed induced father to join Mill Hill Chapel when James small. Became Sunday school teacher at 19, marrying fellow teacher, Emily Christiana Cliff. Founded Leeds Unitarian Friendly Society to promote self-help among Sunday scholars; president. Organised Old Scholars' Society, which became Mill Hill Social Union. Supported churches at Holbeck and Hunslet and Unitarian churches throughout Yorkshire and elsewhere. President, MCO at death. Rejoiced not to be bound to creed. Funeral at Mill Hill. Memorial service at St Margaret's, Westminster. (*I*, 25 Mar. 1911, pp. 190-1). At opening of Lydgate School late in life, declared: 'I call myself a Unitarian, because it tells men what I am. I might like another name better, but it would not tell men what they want to know of me.' (*Window*, p. 2) Favourite hymn: 'God is wisdom, God is love'. (*Window*, p. 8) Trustee of Mill Hill from 1874; and chairman of trustees.

Enlarged vestry, 1897. Laid foundation stone of Holbeck Free Christian Chapel, 1882. (W. L. Schroeder *Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, 1674-1924* (n.p., n.d.), pp. 85, 79, 77). President, Yorkshire Unitarian Bazaar, n.d. Subscribed £500 towards MCO buildings, 1893. (AMH)  
*ODNB*. WWW 1897-1916.

Sir EDWIN DURNING LAWRENCE, Bart

See Sir EDWIN DURNING-LAWRENCE, Bart

Sir JAMES CLARKE LAWRENCE, Bart

1 Sept. 1820 - 21 May 1897

MP (L) for Lambeth, May – July 1865, 1868-85

Building contractor; partner with brothers William and Edwin in William Lawrence & Son, Commercial Road, Lambeth. Architecture class at UCL.

Attended City of London Literary and Scientific Institute, Aldersgate.

Freeman and liveryman of Carpenters' Company from 1841; master, 1861.

Member of Fishmongers' Company from 1865; prime warden, 1881.

Alderman of City, 1860-97. High Sheriff of London and Middlesex, 1862.

Lord Mayor of London, 1868-69. Bunhill Fields reopened during Lord Mayoralty. Favoured 'removal of all restrictions on trade' (1885).

Unsuccessful candidate at Lambeth, 1865; at Lambeth, N, 1885; and, as LU, at Carmarthenshire, W, 1886. Bart, 1869. JP, DL. President of Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlehem. Governor of St Bartholomew's and St Thomas' Hospitals; of Christ's Hospital and Emmanuel Hospital. Chairman of visiting committee of City of London Lunatic Asylum. President, British and Colonial Emigration Society. Convened conference on technical education, 1869, leading to City Guilds' Institute. On council of Middle Class School Corporation; governor of United Westminster School Corporation. His wife Agnes was sister of second wife of Sir John Bowring MP. Possessed 'sunny optimism' (Gordon, p. 38). Of Coombe Lands, Addlestone, Surrey; and 23 Hyde Park Gardens, W, London.

Attended Rosoman House like brother William. Teacher from 1840 in Carter Lane Sunday school; superintendent. Treasurer, Carter Lane and then Unity Chapel, Islington, 1856-75. Took leading part in establishing London District Unitarian Society, 1850; secretary, then treasurer, then president, 1871-97, contributing to one-third of metropolitan Unitarian chapels. Member of executive committee, B&FUA; president, 1863-64. Member of Presbyterian Board from 1856. Trustee, treasurer and secretary of Holt Fund until death.

Hibbert Trustee, 1864-97. Dr Williams's Trustee from 1861. Member of Hackney College Trust. Supported Carmarthen College, attending annual examinations and presenting stained glass windows. Provided salary for Robert Spears to become minister of Stamford Street Chapel, Blackfriars, 1861. Helped move congregation from Carter Lane to Islington, 1860-62.

Supporter of conversion of Essex Street Chapel into B&FUA headquarters and transfer of chapel to Notting Hill, where latterly worshipped. Helped secure return of Brooke Herford as minister of Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead. Upheld traditional biblically based views that he learned from John Scott Parker and Joseph Hutton, deploring 'the later theistic position' (Gordon, p. 36).

Contributed to *CL* from its foundation by Spears in 1876, his memories last appearing on 22 May 1897, and helped finance it from 1881. After Spears,

favourite exponent of faith was Dr Robert Collyer. Belonged to 'the essentially conservative school of Unitarianism', though courteous to opponents such as H. W. Crosskey (*I*, 29 May 1897, p. 350). Claimed his religion was 'as broad as the Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer' (*I*, 5 June 1897, p. 367). 'When journeying, Sir James made a point of attending, at whatever inconvenience, the nearest place of Unitarian worship.' (Gordon, p. 37) Funeral services conducted by same ministers as at brother's (below). Supported London Domestic Mission Society (AMH). 1886, with William, travelled to Transylvania to encourage Unitarians. Sometimes occupied pulpit, though according to Gordon (p. 36) never preached lay sermons published in *CL*. Believed that he could sense a divine voice within. (*MU*, p. 421). Protested with Mark Philips and others against sectarian teaching in Borough Road Training School. Defended New England Society and other institutions as unsectarian. Practice at denominational meetings prepared him for speaking as municipal and parliamentary candidate. 'A somewhat imperious manner, and a constitutional inability to quite understand or appreciate the views of those who differed from himself on questions of vital importance, sometimes prevented the due recognition of Sir James Lawrence's many admirable qualities' (*I*, 29 May 1897, p. 350). C. H. Spurgeon supported him in 1868, insisting that his Unitarian views, criticised by Conservatives, were no more relevant than 'his views on the planet Jupiter' (*I*, 5 Dec. 1868, p. 777).

Alexander Gordon, *Family History of the Lawrences of Cornwall*, privately printed (West Norwood, 1915). *WWW* 1897-1916. *WWBMP* 2. *MU*, pp. 419-22. *I*, 29 May 1897, p. 350.

#### Sir WILLIAM LAWRENCE

2 Sept. 1818 – 18 Apr. 1897

MP (L) for City of London, 1865-74, 1880-85.

Building contractor; partner of brothers in William Lawrence and Son. On retirement, 1879, firm transferred to employees. Architecture class at UCL. Freeman and liveryman of Carpenters' Company from 1839; master, 1856. Member of Fishmongers' Company from 1860; prime warden, 1874. Alderman of City, 1855-97. High Sheriff of London and Middlesex, 1857. Lord Mayor, 1863-64, presenting freedom of City to Garibaldi at Mansion House. Chairman of committee to raise permanent income for Garibaldi. In Commons spoke on fiscal reforms, opposed Robert Lowe's match tax (1869) and generous terms of H. A. Bruce's Licensing Act (1872) and favoured equalisation of duties, abolition of light shipping dues and preservation of Epping Forest. Unsuccessful candidate for City, 1874, and for Paddington, S, 1885. Unreserved LU after 1886. JP, DL. Knight, 1887. Officer of Order of Leopold of Belgium. Trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum. Obtained freehold of British School at St Agnes, Cornwall, 1872. Member of Reform Club. Of 3 Adelaide Crescent, Hove; and 75 Lancaster Gate, W. Father, William, attached to The Church of God, secession in 1798 under Samuel Thompson from Universalists and from 1804 called Freethinking Christians; transferred to New Gravel Pit Chapel, Hackney, under Robert Aspland; later worshipped at Carter Lane, Doctors' Commons; Essex Street, Strand; and Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead. William Jun. educated at Rosoman House, Islington Green, conducted by David Davidson, minister of Jewin



Street Chapel, and John Scott Parker, minister of Carter Lane. When Lord Mayor, Thomas Madge, minister of Essex Street, was his chaplain, first time Nonconformist had served in that office. Worshipped at same three churches as father and from 1887 at Essex Church, Notting Hill Gate. President, B&FUA, 1859. Funeral at Kensal Green Cemetery conducted by F. K. Freeston, minister of Essex Church, with address by Brooke Herford, minister of Rosslyn Hill, and commitment to grave by Robert Spears, minister of Highgate Hill Unitarian Church.

Alexander Gordon, *Family History of the Lawrences of Cornwall*, privately printed (West Norwood, 1915). *WWW* 1897-1916. *WWBMP*. I, 24 April 1897, p. 270.

#### FRED MADDISON

17 Aug. 1856 – 12 Mar. 1937

MP (L) for Sheffield, Brightside, Aug. 1897 – 1900

Burnley, 1906 – Jan. 1910

Compositor. Chairman, Hull branch of Typographical Association. President, Hull Trades and Labour Council. President, Trades Union Congress, 1886. First Labour member of Hull Corporation, 1887-89. Member of Tottenham School Board, 1891-97. Editor of *Railway Review*, organ of Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, 1889-1897. Opposed South African War. Anti-socialist defender of Labour links with Liberals. Opposed state intervention in Commons. From 1897, organiser of what became Labour Co-Partnership Association. From 1908 until death, secretary of International Arbitration League. Defeated at Hull Central, 1892 and 1895; at Sheffield, Brightside, 1900; at Burnley, Jan. 1910; at Darlington, Dec. 1910; at Holderness, 1918; at Dorset, S, 1922; and at Reading, 1923. JP. Total abstainer, often on platforms of National Union of Temperance Organisations. Strongly influenced by Mazzini. Wrote *Workmen as Producers and Consumers* (1901). Of 34 Brentham Way, Ealing, W5 (1920).

Adelaide Street Wesleyan School, Hull. Member of Wandsworth Unitarian Church, subsequently joining Essex Church, where regular attender. Speaker and preacher in Unitarian pulpits. He 'gloried in the name of Unitarian'.

Cremated. (*I*, 20 Mar. 1937, p. 141)

*ODNB* (omitting religious allegiance). *DLB*. *WWBMP* 2. *WW* 1921. *I*, 20 Mar. 1937, p. 141.

#### Sir MOSES PHILIP MANFIELD

26 July 1819 - 31 July 1899

MP (L) for Northampton, Feb. 1891 – 1895

Shoe manufacturer; of Manfield and Sons. Began as bootmaker by hand, became manager of W. Swan's shoe factory and at 28 started separate business. From c. 1880 sold through own retail shops; new factory 1892 adopted 'an American system of manufacture that was then entirely new to England' (*Northampton Daily Reporter*, below). Criticised during lockout in shoe industry, 1887, but successfully chaired subsequent arbitration. Director, Northampton Turkish Baths Co. and Smith's Timber Co. Ltd. Secretary then chairman, Northampton Manufacturers' Association. Proposed resolution forming Northampton Chamber of Commerce, 1867. Councillor of Northampton, 1866-71 and 1882-86; alderman, 1871-77, 1886-92; mayor,

1883-84, 1892. Helped resolve local difficulties over representation of town by the secularist Charles Bradlaugh, whom he succeeded as MP. Election agent for Henry Labouchere, 1880. 'An advanced Radical' (1895). Vice-president, Northampton Liberal and Radical Union, 1892; Mid Northamptonshire and S. Northamptonshire Liberal Associations. Vice-president and council member, National Education Association. Helped launch Northampton branch of Liberation Society, 1898. JP, 1886. Knight, 1894. Hon. freeman of Northampton, 1899. Governor, Northampton and County Modern and Technical School. President, Northampton Freehold Land Society. Hon. treasurer and trustee, Northampton Hospital Week Fund. Trustee, Municipal General Charities. President, Northampton Working Men's Club. Vice-president, Northampton Town and County Nursing Association. Trustee, Northampton Diamond Jubilee Nursing Association. Vice-president, Northampton Artizans' and Labourers' Friend Society. Committee member, Northampton Poor Children's Christmas Dinner Fund, 1882; Northampton Royal Victoria Dispensary and of National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. President, Northamptonshire Horticultural Society, 1896; Northamptonshire Crysanthemum Society; Northampton Town and County Amateur Athletics Club. Lifelong speaker, Northampton Parliamentary Debating Society. Oddfellow of Manchester Unity. Member, Ancient Order of Foresters. 'No one wielded so great an influence in the town, no one has ever risen to such a height of popularity among his fellow-townsmen of Northampton' (*Northampton Daily Reporter*, 1 Aug. 1899, p. 6). Of Redlands, Cliftonville, Northampton.

From early manhood, convinced Unitarian. On council of B&FUA. Director of *I*. (*I*, 5 Aug. 1899, p. 494) Constant worshipper in King Street Unitarian Chapel, Northampton. Gave site and new building on Kettering Road, costing c. £6,000. Lady Manfield laid foundation stone, 1896. It was announced that 'Unitarian' would be dropped at new building, opened 1897. (*Northampton Daily Reporter*, 1 Aug. 1899, p. 6) Lady Manfield's sister married Henry Ierson, minister of Greyfriars Baptist Church, Northampton, who subsequently became Unitarian minister and secretary, B&UFA, from 1874. Funeral address by John Byles, minister of Kettering Road, ended with quotation from Whittier, *The Eternal Goodness* (*I*, 5 Aug. 1899, p. 510).

*ODNB. DBB. WWBMP 2. WWW 1897-1916. Northampton Daily Reporter*, 1 Aug. 1899, p. 6

#### JOHN MARSHALL (Sen.)

27 July 1765 – 6 June 1845

MP for Yorkshire, 1826-30

Flax spinner, pioneering application of machinery and accumulating fortune at death of between £1.5 and 2.5 millions. Subscribed to Leeds Library, public buildings and *Leeds Mercury*. Founded Lancasterian school, Mechanics' Institute and school in Holbeck with evening classes for factory workers and infant school. Founded and gave papers at Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. Financed *Parliamentary History and Review* as organ for James Mill and circle, 1825-28. Member of council, UCL, and recommended university for Leeds, 1826. Stood for parliament, 1826, to 'maintain the interests of trade and commerce, and support the principles of civil liberty' (*Leeds Mercury*, 21 Jan. 1826, quoted by Rimmer, p. 111). First manufacturer to sit for Yorkshire.

Sought seat to secure 'an introduction to good society' (Marshall quoted by Rimmer, p. 111). Entertained Wordsworths and Carlyle. Bought estate on Ullswater in Lake District, spent on books and paintings, studied geology. DL. High Sheriff of Cumberland, 1821. Wrote *The Economy of Social Life* (1825) to explain political economy to working classes. Of 'quiet and reserved manner' (Taylor, p. 412). Of Headingley House, near Leeds; Hallsteads, near Penrith (from 1815); and (1825-32) 4 Grosvenor Square, London.

Son of Baptist who became Presbyterian after arrival in Leeds (Rimmer, p. 14). Trustee of Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, 1810 (W. L. Schroeder, *Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, 1674-1924* (n.p., n.d.), p. 54). Raised capital for business from its congregation and Rawdon Baptists, 1793 (Rimmer, p. 40). At Hallsteads, rebuilt Anglican church where he was buried (*ODNB*). Three daughters married Anglican clergymen (Taylor, p. 364 n.).

W. G. Rimmer, *Marshalls of Leeds, Flax-Spinners, 1788-1886* (Cambridge, 1960). R. V. Taylor, *The Biographia Leodiensis* (London, 1865), pp. 411-15. *ODNB*. Holt, p. 46.

#### JAMES MARTIN

24 May 1738 – 26 Jan. 1810

MP for Tewkesbury, 1776-1807

Banker; senior partner of Martin's Bank, 1775-1807, in Lombard Street in the City of London. Scrupulously independent MP, usually voting with opposition. Member of Association of the Friends of the People, defending them in Commons, 1792-93. Denounced in 1794 those 'who, having no real religion either in theory or in practice, affect to lay great stress on religion, merely for secular and political, if not for self-interested and corrupt purposes' (Thorne, 4, pp. 558-9). An advocate of 'civil and religious liberty to its utmost extent' (Thorne, 4, p. 561). Of Overbury, Worcs, and Downing Street, London, where lived next to William Pitt as Prime Minister. James's son John was MP for Tewkesbury, 1812-32.

Educated by Anglican clergy, Matthew Bloxam and James Graham. Trustee, Essex Street Chapel (*TUHS* 1 (1918), p. 265). Attracted to rational Christianity (Thorne, 1, p. 295).

*ODNB* (s.v. Martin family). Thorne, 4, pp. 558-61. Not in Johnson.

#### GEORGE MELLY

1830 – 27 Sept. 1894

MP (L) for Stoke-upon-Trent, Feb. 1868 – 1874

Merchant and shipowner, Liverpool. Rugby. A 'strong supporter of Mr. Gladstone; in favour of religious equality, reduced public expenditure, etc.' (1873). Unsuccessful candidate at Preston, 1862, and Stoke-upon-Trent, 1865. Major, 4<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, 1859-67. Author of *Khartoum and the Blue and White Niles* (1851), *School Experiences of a Fag* (1854) and pamphlets. Of Abercromby Square, Liverpool.

Laid foundation stone and at opening of Longton Unitarian Church, 1870 (*Christian Freeman*, January 1871, p. 9). Window at Ullet Road, Liverpool (AMH). Cousin of William Rathbone MP.

George Melly, *Recollections of Sixty Years (1833-93): Political, Social and Sportive* (Coventry, 1893). *WWBMP*. Not in Johnson.

### JAMES MILNES

11 Oct. 1755 – 21 Apr. 1805

MP (Whig) for Bletchingley, Surrey, 1802-05

Of private means. Son of woollen manufacturer and merchant of Wakefield, but had no interest in trade. When William Wilberforce visited him in 1795, his conversation ‘rambling about religion and politics – good-natured and well-intentioned’ (R. I. and Samuel Wilberforce, *The Life of William Wilberforce* (London, 1839), 4 p. 107). Unsuccessfully contested Shaftesbury, 1796. Captain, Wakefield Volunteers, 1798. High Sheriff of Yorkshire, 1800-01. On entering parliament, joined Brooks’s Club sponsored by Fox and voted with Whigs. Took name Rich, 1802-03.

Father James Milnes a Dissenter (Thorne 4, p. 597). No firm evidence of membership of Westgate Chapel found, but likely.

Thorne, 4, pp. 597-8. *Gentleman’s Magazine*, 1 (1805), p. 489.

### ROBERT PEMBERTON MILNES

20 [or 28] May 1784 – 9 Nov. 1858

MP (Tory) for Pontefract, 1806 -18

Of private means. School at Liverpool before Hackney. Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating 1804. Brilliant maiden speech in Commons, 1807, brought offer of post as Chancellor of Exchequer or Secretary of War, 1809, but declined. Could no longer support Tories after they opposed enfranchisement of large towns. From 1817 rented Thorne Hall near Doncaster, reclaiming land. Lived on continent to retrench, 1829-35. 1835, inherited Bawtry estate and took over family Fryston Hall near Wakefield. Declined barony, 1856. A ‘wild, unstable creature’ (A. M. W. Stirling, *The Letter-Bag of Lady Elizabeth Spencer-Stanhope*, 2 vols (London, 1913, Vol. 1, p. 119).

Son of R. S. Milnes MP. Educated at Hackney Academy (Thorne 4, p. 598). Because took Cambridge degree, must have then subscribed 39 Articles. Yet maintained ancestors’ Dissenting views, raising his son a Unitarian (*ODNB*). *ODNB* (s.v. Richard Monckton Milnes). Thorne, 4, pp. 598-601. Not in Johnson.

### RICHARD SLATER MILNES

12 Dec. 1759 – 2 June 1804

MP for York, 1784-1802

Cloth merchant. Glasgow University. 1784, announced conversion from Rockingham Whigs to William Pitt, but from 1790 became Foxite Whig. Member of Association of the Friends of the People, 1792. Bought Fryston Hall estate near Wakefield after 1771 and took Effingham House, Piccadilly, in 1790s.

Member of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield (John Seed, ‘“A set of men powerful enough in many things”: Rational Dissent and Political Opposition, 1770-1790’, in Knud Haakonssen (ed.), *Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (Cambridge, 1996), p. 156).

*ODNB* (s.v. Richard Monckton Milnes). Thorne, 4, p. 598. Not in Johnson.

### CHARLES PAGET

29 Sept. 1799 – 13 Oct. 1873

MP (L) for Nottingham, July 1856 – 1865

Landowner. Helped his labourers to become farmers: ‘a model landlord’ (NMCDE). Originator of the half-time system whereby children on his estate required to attend school on alternate days. JP, 1835. High Sheriff of Notts, 1844. Generous supporter of Anti-Corn Law League, despite being landowner. Succeeded Edward Strutt as MP for Nottingham. Chairman of Commons committee. Seconded address to throne. Favoured progressive extension of franchise, ballot and comprehensive system of education (1865). Defeated at Nottingham, 1865. Member, first Nottingham School Board. Vice-president, Nottingham Mechanics’ Institution, funding membership for school leavers. Supported People’s College, People’s Hall, High Pavement School; Nottingham Hospital, Dispensary, School for the Blind. With Lord Belper, promoted university extension to Nottingham. Possessed ‘neither rhetoric nor fame’ (R. A. Armstrong: *Nottingham and Midland Counties Daily Express*, 20 Oct. 1873, [p. 3]). Drowned with wife at Filey, Yorks. Of Ruddington Grange, Notts.

Member and generous supporter of High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham (*Nottingham and Midland Counties Daily Express*, 15 Oct. 1873, [p. 3]). Preached every month to older Sunday scholars (*I*, 18 Oct. 1873, p. 678). Warden of congregation and portrait by Redgate in chapel collection. When MP, after service attended to his carriage by members of congregation to protect him from possible attack. (*The High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham: A Biographical Catalogue of Portraits and a List of Books, Documents and Relics relating to our Congregational History* (Nottingham, n.d.), p. 29). According to his minister, R. A. Armstrong, despite attractions of established church, he was ‘quietly and steadfastly faithful to a little band of disciples everywhere misunderstood and spoken against’. Praised by James Matheson, minister of Friar Lane Independent Chapel, while disavowing Unitarianism as ‘erroneous’. (*Nottingham and Midland Counties Daily Express*, 20 Oct. 1873, [p. 3]) President, B&FUA, 1859-60. Memorial window in chapel. (AMH) WWBMP. *Nottingham and Midland Counties Daily Express*, 15 Oct. 1873, [p. 3]. *I*, 25 Oct. 1873, p. 694.

#### THOMAS PAGET

30 Dec. 1778 – 25 Nov. 1862

MP (Whig) for Leicestershire, 1831-32

Banker, of Paget and Kirby, and landowner, family having lived at Ibstock, Leics, under Henry VI. First mayor, for 2 terms, of reformed corporation of Leicester, 1835 and 1836. Urged parliamentary reform, Catholic emancipation, corn law repeal, abolition of church rates, and redress of Dissenting grievances. Unsuccessfully contested Leicestershire, 1830. ‘Being imbued from his earliest years with the great principles of Civil and Religious Liberty, to which his family had long been attached, he ever remained their consistent and zealous advocate in days of doubt and danger.’ On achievement of parliamentary reform, ‘he retired into that private life which he ever preferred’. (Bebbington, p. 194). Of Humberstone, Leicester; and Ibstock House, Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leics.

Member of Great Meeting, Leicester, where commemorated by wall monument reproduced in D. W. Bebbington *et al.* (ed.), *Protestant*

*Nonconformist Texts 3: The Nineteenth Century* (Aldershot, Hants, 2006), pp. 193-4.

*I*, 29 Nov. 1862, p. 842.

#### THOMAS TERTIUS PAGET

27 Dec. 1807 – 16 Oct. 1892

MP (L) for Leicestershire, S, Nov 1867 – 1868; 1880-86

Banker and landowner. Joined father's bank, 1825, becoming partner, 1839. High Sheriff of Leicestershire, 1869. JP, DL. Defeated in Leicestershire, S, 1868, June 1870 and 1874. Was 'firmly attached to the great principles which guide the Liberal party' (1886). President of Trade Protection Society from 1850 until death. Joined in founding proprietary and British schools and Mechanics' Institute. Supported Leicester Opera House, which he adorned lavishly. Squire of Humberstone, Leics. Was 'a model country gentleman, fond of sporting' (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789). Patron of one living. Of 8 Charles Street, St James's, London; Humberstone, Leicester; Ibstock House, Ashby-de-la-Zouche; and Oxendon, Market Harborough.

Member of Great Meeting, Leicester. Son of Thomas Paget MP. Educated under his uncle, Charles Perry, minister of Great Meeting. Supporter of MNC. Vice-president, B&FUA. (*I*, 22 Oct. 1892, p. 683)

*WWBMP*. *I*, 22 Oct. 1892, p. 683.

#### RICHARD PEACOCK

1820 – 3 Mar. 1889

MP (L) for Lancashire, SE, Gorton, 1885 – 89

Railway locomotive manufacturer; manager and chairman of Peacock, Beyer and Co. Leeds Grammar School. Apprenticed to locomotive makers at 14. 1841, became locomotive superintendent for Manchester and Sheffield Railway, choosing Gorton as depot. Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Active in founding Institution of Mechanical Engineers. 1854, entered partnership with Charles Beyer to erect locomotive works there; became limited company, 1883. Effectively founder of Gorton and Openshaw. First chairman of Gorton Local Board, 1863. JP. Established savings bank with G. H. Wells, Gorton Unitarian minister. President, Openshaw Mechanics' Institute. Chairman, Manchester Theatre Co. President, Royal Manchester Institution. 'An advanced Liberal, in favour of Home Rule, of the Reform of the House of Lords, the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church, and the establishment of local self-government.' (1889) Favoured free trade and parliamentary reform. Chairman of Gorton committee for returning Gladstone for S. Lancashire, 1865. Health failed soon after entered Commons. Assembled art collection. Of Gorton Hall, Manchester.

Son of Wesleyan and in early life Wesleyan himself (*CL*, 9 Mar. 1889, p. 114). When first in Lancashire, joined Gee Cross Chapel, Hyde. Before bought Gorton Hall, 1850, connected with ancient chapel there, erecting new schools. 1870, provided fine new Brookfield Unitarian Church, Gorton, spending over £12,000. Church described in Graham Hague, *The Unitarian Heritage* (Sheffield, 1986), pp. 88-9. Trustee of Memorial Hall. Vice-president, Unitarian Home Missionary Board. (*I*, 9 Mar. 1889, p. 157). *WWBMP* 2. *MG*, 4 Mar. 1889, p. 5. *I*, 9 Mar. 1889, pp. 156-7.

## MARK PHILIPS

4 Nov. 1800 – 23 Dec. 1873

MP (L) for Manchester, 1832-47

Cotton manufacturer and merchant; partner in J. and N. Philips, and in Philips and Wood. Chairman of New Quay Co. Glasgow University for two years. Publicly criticised corn laws, 1826. Advocate of repeal of Test and Corporation Acts and of Catholic emancipation. One of deputation to Paris to convey congratulations of Manchester to French on their revolution, 1830, accompanied by John Bowring, later MP. Unsuccessful candidate at Preston, 1830-31 (Howe, p. 93). Favoured further reform, including retrenchment, ballot and triennial parliaments, 1832, but by 1842 did not favour suffrage extension. Spokesman for cotton masters on trade with Brazil and law of bankruptcy. (Howe, p. 122) Opposed Ten Hours Bill. Supported Anti-Corn Law League. Chaired Manchester meeting, 1837, in favour of national education. Favoured repeal of taxes on knowledge. Gave answer to address, 1841, urging peace (Howe, p. 122). Opposed Sunday observance (Howe, p. 123). Retired to landed estate, 1847, entering on 'the engagements and pleasures of a country squire' (*MG*, 24 Dec. 1873, p. 8). Chairman of committee to promote Dissenters' Chapels Bill, 1844. Supported Manchester Mechanics' Institution. Large contributor to Owens College, Manchester. Supported free library for Manchester. Benefactor of Manchester Royal Infirmary. Bought land for public recreation alongside queen and Sir Robert Peel, and Philips Park, Manchester, named after him (Holt, p. 273). Member of Board of Guardians. JP, DL. Declined baronetcy, 1838. High Sheriff of Warwickshire, 1851. Possessed 'an inexhaustible fund of quaint and curious anecdote; unflinching geniality and good-temper; and a sense of humour' (*MG*, 24 Dec. 1873, p. 8). Passing of 'The Squire of Welcombe' marked by 'his tenantry' lining roads for his coffin to be carried by 26 old servants from Welcombe and Snitterfield (*I*, 10 Jan. 1874, p. 29). Of Welcombe House, Stratford-on-Avon, in latter years.

Educated under J. B. Tayler, minister of High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham. Student at Manchester College, York, 1816-18. On retirement of Charles Wellbeloved as principal, Philips spoke on behalf of former students.

President, MNC, 1842-46, 1871-73. (*MG*, 24 Dec. 1873, p. 8). Member of Stand Chapel. Hibbert Trustee, 1853-73. (AMH) Nephew of Sir George Philips MP. With cousin, selected first Hibbert Trustees. (Holt, p. 46). In Warwicks, regularly attended Warwick Unitarian Chapel until infirmity prevented. Buried in family vault in Snitterfield parish church, with funeral conducted by Anglican clergy though Unitarian ministers present (*I*, 10 Jan. 1874, p. 29).

*WWBMP*. *MG*, 24 Dec. 1873, p. 8.

## ROBERT NEEDHAM PHILIPS

20 June 1815 – 28 Feb. 1890

MP (L) for Bury, 1857-59, 1865-85

Cotton manufacturer. Entered father's textile firm of J. and N. Philips and Co. Campaigned for free trade and repeal of corn laws. Brother of Mark Philips MP, differing with him 1857 because R. N. supported Milner Gibson and Bright. High Sheriff of Lancashire, 1856. Elected 1857 when had no hope of winning and apprehensive about parliament affecting business. 1865,

compelled to stand by supporters and elected without making single speech. Infrequent speaker in Commons. Mainly responsible for securing Gladstone for S Lancashire, 1865. Chairman of Jacob Bright's election committee for Manchester, 1875. President of Manchester Liberal Association. President of National Reform Union. Disliked legislation against trade unions. Before 1874, supported Nine Hours Bill with A. J. Mundella. An 'advanced Liberal' (1885). During 1874 election, while he was addressing supporters on top floor of a flannel warehouse, their stamping was so enthusiastic that the floor gave way and almost all present fell to the storey below, with 8 killed and 20-30 injured (*I*, 8 Mar. 1890, p. 151). Provided Philips Hall and Trevelyan Club in Bury. Built Park Lane Schools, Bury. Took interest in Manchester schools. President, Henshaw's Blind Asylum. Member of Brooks's, Athenaeum and Reform Club in London and Reform Club in Manchester. JP, DL. On Warwicks estates at Snitterfield and Welcombe inherited from his brother, c. 6,000 rabbits annually killed and consumed on estates. Supported school of c. 150, nearly all children of tenants. Provided building with billiard room, library and reading room. Provided similar building in Stratford-on-Avon, 1889. Able chairman of public meetings. Like father, declined baronetcy. From Staffordshire, but 'a Lancashire man of a thoroughly representative type'. Was said that 'he dearly loved a fight', but 'quaint of speech, and warm of heart'. (*Bury Times*, 1 Mar. 1890, p. 8) According to *MG*, 'the type of a Manchester man' but also 'a fine old English gentleman' (*I*, 8 Mar. 1890, p. 151). Of 47 Berkeley Square, London; The Park, near Manchester; and Welcombe House, near Stratford-on-Avon, Warwicks. Of Stand Chapel, Lancs, to which he gave organ. Attended Lant Carpenter's school, 1824-29, before Rugby School and MNC, 1831-33. Chairman, MNC committee, 1852-53; treasurer, 1854-60. Hibbert Trustee, 1853-77. President, NELUM, 1870-71. (AMH) Vice-president, B&FUA (*CL*, 8 Mar. 1890, p. 114). Generous to ministers, schools and chapels across country (*I*, 8 Mar. 1890, p. 151). Married as second wife Mary, daughter of J. A. Yates MP (S. A. T. Yates, *Memorials of the Family of the Rev. John Yates*, privately printed (n.p., 1890), p. 16). Daughter married W. E. Price MP (*Gloucester Journal*, 13 Feb. 1886, p. 5). Funeral conducted by the Rev. S. A. Steinthal at Stand, where his body interred in vault under family pew. The Rev. H. E. Dowson of Gee Cross, Hyde, conducted opening of service and the Rev. Dr Thomas Sadler of Hampstead preached, declaring that Philips represented 'Unitarian opinions combined with their love of freedom, which was the reward of the old English Presbyterians for the things they suffered... Their piety was not of a demonstrative sort, but it was based on personal convictions and was genuine to the core, and it was especially practical. It stamped their politics, made them strenuous supporters of education, and led to a ready and genuine co-operation in institutions and public movements which have for their object the benefit of the masses, especially from a large and liberal point of view.' Bells of Bury Parish Church tolled all day. (*Bury Times*, 8 Mar. 1890, p. 5) *WWBMP*. *Bury Times*, 1 Mar. 1890, p. 8. *I*, 8 Mar. 1890, p. 151.

#### JOHN PINKERTON

1845 – 4 Nov. 1908

MP (Home Rule) for Galway City, 1886-1900



Farmer. Considered as L candidate but, on non-acceptance, stood unsuccessfully as Independent at Antrim, N, 1885 (B. M. Walker, *Ulster Politics: The Formative Years, 1868-86* (Belfast, 1989), pp. 196, 216). Anti-Parnellite after 1890. JP. Of Secon, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. School of Joseph McFadden, Unitarian minister, Ballymoney (*WWBMP* 2). Listed as Unitarian (*CL*, 16 July 1892, p. 337). Richard McMinn, 'John Pinkerton: An Ulster Unitarian at the Court of "King Charles"', *Bulletin of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland* (1992). *WWBMP* 2. *WWW* 1897-1916.

#### Sir ANDREW MARSHALL PORTER, Bart

27 June 1837 – 9 Jan. 1919

MP (L) for Co. Londonderry, Dec. 1881 – c. Dec. 1883

Barrister. Belfast Academical Institution; Queen's College, Belfast, where elected Barrington Lecturer on Political Economy, 1861, and later Hon. LL.D. Called to Irish bar, King's Inns, Dublin, 1860; bencher, 1878. Practised on north-eastern circuit. QC, 1872. Solicitor-General for Ireland, 1881; Attorney-General and PC, 1883. Declined Irish secretaryship, 1882, when the appointee, Lord Frederick Cavendish, was assassinated. Prosecuted his Phoenix Park murderers. Was 'a strenuous supporter of Mr. Gladstone', seeing 1881 Land Act as 'the greatest boon ever conferred on Ireland' (1883). Master of the Rolls in Ireland, 1883-1906. Bart, 1902. 'A fine speaker, courteous, refined, and sincere in all his ways' (*I*, 25 Jan. 1919, p. 28). Of 42 Merrion Square East, Dublin, and Nessan's Howth, Co. Dublin.

Member of Dublin congregation. Once contemplated ministry. Funeral attended by Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. (*I*, 25 Jan. 1919, p. 28) Son of John Scott Porter, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian minister of Carter Lane Chapel, London, and then of First Presbyterian, Belfast, and Professor of Biblical Criticism and Dogmatic Theology to the Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians. (Alexander Gordon, *The Lawrences of Cornwall*, privately printed (West Norwood, 1915), p. 19).

*ODNB*. *WWBMP*.

#### EDMUND POTTER

25 Jan. 1802 – 26 Oct. 1883

MP (L) for Carlisle, Nov. 1861 – 1874

Calico printer. In partnership with cousin Charles; business failed, 1831, but paid off debts and resumed trading, 1836. His Dinting Vale, Glossop, became reputedly largest calico works in world; retired, 1873. President of Manchester Chamber of Commerce, 1859-62. Campaigner on cotton supply. Director, Manchester Athenaeum, from opening, 1835. Reporter to a jury, Great Exhibition, 1851. Member of Manchester and Salford Committee for Paris International Exhibition, 1855. Helped establish Manchester School of Design, 1838; president, 1855-58. Promoted Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition, 1857. Published pamphlets including *Calico Printing as Art and Manufacture* (1852), which was translated into German and French, and *A Lecture on the Positions of Schools of Art* (1855). Held that taste resulting from commerce purer than any arising from noble patronage (Hurst, pp. 31-2). Member of council, National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, 1861-62. FRS, 1856. JP, DL. A founder of Anti-Corn Law League. Arranged

alliance of League party, Palmerstonians and working-class radicals through Manchester Reform Association and Lancashire Reform Union, 1858-60. Published pamphlets in favour of ballot and restriction of one man to one vote, 1857, for complete suffrage for ratepayers, 1858, and on other political topics. Chairman of Liberal general committee at 1859 Manchester election. Opposed intervention in Austro-French War, 1859. Recommended to Carlisle by Richard Cobden. In Commons, 'not a talking member, but he was a worker', sitting on committees (Hurst, p. 53). A parliamentary spokesman for National Federation of Associated Employers of Labour from 1873. Favoured laissez-faire except in sanitary reform and education, opposing trade unions, co-operation and limited liability. Favoured 'individual self-reliance' (quoted by Hurst, p. 34). Admired United States, 'unfettered from hereditary laws' (quoted by Hurst, p. 31). Favoured total abolition of church rates (1873). Supported state-provided secular education. By 1840, established Logwood Mill School for young children and part-timers. Provided reading room, library and dining room at his works. Member of Owens College, Manchester, new buildings committee, 1865 and 1867; benefactor. After became MP, increasingly in London. 1866, bought Camfield Place, Hatfield, Herts, retiring there in 1874. Of 'gentle bearing' (*Times* obituary quoted by Hurst, p. 77). Grandfather of Beatrix Potter. Of 22 Prince's Gardens, Hyde Park London; and Charlotte Street, Manchester. Son of James Potter, merchant and trustee of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester (Baker, p. 106). Attended Mosley Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester, 1831. When lived at Dinting Lodge, Glossop, attended Gee Cross Unitarian Chapel, Hyde, Cheshire, where buried in family vault with service taken by Charles Beard. Paid for first Unitarian minister in Glossop from 1872 (McLachlan, p. 126) and for its Unitarian Church erected in 1875. His aim was 'to Christianise, not to dogmatise'. Trustee of St Nicholas Unitarian Chapel, Lancaster. (Hurst, p. 74). President, B&FUA, 1862-63 (AMH). Trustee and member of committee, MNC, where he sent sons (Hurst, pp. 3, 21). Attacked as Unitarian at Carlisle election, 1861 (Hurst, p. 52). Daughter married H. E. Roscoe, later MP. J. G. Hurst, *Edmund Potter, D.L., F.R.S., M.P., J.P., and Dinting Vale* (Manchester, 1948). *ODNB. WWBMP. I*, 3 Nov. 1883, p. 700.

#### Sir JOHN POTTER

1815 – 25 Oct. 1858

MP (L) for Manchester, 1857 – Oct. 1858

Merchant; head of Potter, Norris and Co., Manchester. University of Edinburgh. Alderman of Manchester Town Council from 1845; mayor, 1848-51. JP, DL. Knight, 1851. Opponent of corn laws, Factory Acts and regulation of chimney sweeps. Host of Duke of Newcastle. Raised public subscription for Manchester Free Public Library, 1852. (Holt, pp. 46-7, 189, 193, 221, 272) Supported Palmerston's foreign policy, but favoured household suffrage. Increasingly separated from Manchester School until defeated John Bright at Manchester, 1857. As mayor, charged with snobbery. Unmarried. Of Buile Hill, Pendleton, Manchester.

Of Cross Street, Manchester, with funeral conducted by William Gaskell. (*I*, 6 Nov. 1858, p. 720, reproducing *Manchester Examiner*). Brother of Thomas Bayley Potter MP and nephew of Richard Potter MP. Lant Carpenter's

school, Bristol (*CR*, Dec. 1858, p. 717). Friend of James Prince Lee, first Bishop of Manchester (*I*, 30 Oct. 1858, p. 708).  
*ODNB* (s.v. T. B. Potter). *WWBMP*.

#### RICHARD POTTER

1778 – 13 July 1842

MP (L) for Wigan, 1832 - Mar. 1839

Wholesale cotton goods merchant. Brother and sleeping partner of Sir Thomas Potter, first mayor of Manchester. Unsuccessful candidate at Wigan, 1830-31 (Howe, p. 93) and at Gloucester, Feb. 1862. A leader of movement for incorporation of Manchester (Holt, p. 224). Helped found *MG* and *Manchester Examiner and Times*. Of Whig principles, inclining to radicalism and favouring removal of bishops from House of Lords (1838). Favoured religious equality, free trade and national education. ‘Radical Dick’. Grandfather of Beatrice Webb (Watts, p. 654). Of Broughton House, Lancashire.

Of Cross Street, Manchester. President, B&FUA, 1834. (AMH) Annual subscriber to MNC (Ditchfield, p. 211). ‘We ought never to forget to pray to the great God who is so good to us all, and to thank him for the benefits we are every day receiving.’ (To his four-year-old son Richard, Sept. 1821, quoted in Georgina Meinertzhagen, *From Ploughshare to Parliament: A Short Memoir of the Potters of Tadcaster* (London, 1908), p. 222)

*ODNB* (s.v. T. B. Potter). *WWBMP*.

#### THOMAS BAYLEY POTTER

29 Nov. 1817 - 6 Nov. 1898

MP (L) for Rochdale, 1865-95

Cotton merchant. Rugby; UCL. Entered wholesale cotton goods business of father, Sir Thomas Potter; principal partner, 1858. Warehouse a frequent meeting place for Liberal leaders during 1830s, so that dubbed ‘the plotting-room’ (*Rochdale Observer*, 9 Nov. 1898, p. 4). JP, DL. Chairman, Manchester branch of Complete Suffrage Union. From late 1850s, tried to heal breach in Manchester Liberalism. Vice-president, National Reform Society, National Reform Union and Ballot Society. President, Manchester Reform Association. Active in anti-slavery. Supported North in American Civil War, founding Union and Emancipation Society, 1863, and presenting condolences on behalf of many MPs to American minister on assassination of Lincoln. Sent money to Garibaldi, visiting him in 1864 on island of Caprera, bought for him as result of talk at Potter’s dinner table. Did not favour Hungarian or Polish aspirations, considering them aristocratic rather than democratic. Succeeded Cobden as MP for Rochdale. Free trader, founding Cobden Club (1866), of which acted as secretary. 1876, introduced Real Estate and Intestacy Bill, to abolish preference for oldest son when there was no will, ‘for which there is no State necessity, as in feudal times’ (*Rochdale Observer*, 9 Nov. 1898, p. 4). Although rejected Home Rule in 1885, followed Gladstone in 1886. Favoured Home Rule, religious equality and land law reform (1895). Republican in theory, but never criticised queen. Declined Serbian decoration because offered by a prince. A wirepuller, on friendly terms with leaders of both parties and engaging in global correspondence. ‘He was a Constitutional Radical, as loyal to the authority of

Government and of law as any Tory who ever lived.’ (*Rochdale Observer*, 9 Nov. 1898, p. 4) Travelled extensively on continent and visited U.S.A., 1879. Friend of J. S. Mill. Not orator or debater, but noted in Commons for girth. Known as ‘Principles Potter’ (Meinertzhagen, p. 261 [see under Richard Potter]). ‘He was that *rara avis*[,] a perfectly disinterested, sincere, and honest politician’ (*Rochdale Observer*, 9 Nov. 1898, p. 2). Sold family home at Buile Hill, Pendleton, moving to London. Of The Hurst, Midhurst, Sussex; and 31 Courtfield Gardens, Kensington, London.

Brother of Sir John Potter MP. With his brother John and R. N. Philips, at Lant Carpenter’s school, where the minister read reports of Commons debates, giving ‘a very necessary drill in the principles of civil and religious liberty’ (*Rochdale Observer*, 9 Nov. 1898, p. 4). Trustee of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, from 1828 (Baker, p. 117). Funeral in Heyshott parish church near Midhurst conducted by Anglican clergy (*Rochdale Observer*, 12 Nov. 1896, p. 5).

*ODNB* (mentioning religion only in relation to school). *WWBMP* 2. *WWW* 1897-1916. *Rochdale Observer*, 9 Nov. 1898, p. 4.

#### WILLIAM EDWIN PRICE

10 Jan. 1841 – 10 Feb. 1886

MP (L) for Tewkesbury, 1868-80 (unseated on petition)

Of private means. Eton and UCL. Commissioned officer in 36<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry, serving in Ireland and India, 1861-63. Commanding officer, Gloucester City Rifle Co. Major, S Gloucestershire Militia. Director, Gloucester and Berkeley Canal Co.; of Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway Co. JP, 1869. A ‘supporter of Mr. Gladstone’, advocating disestablishment (1880). Chairman, Tewkesbury Division Liberal Association. First president, Parliamentary Debating Society of Gloucester Junior Liberal Association. Governor, Gloucester Endowed Schools; chairman, promoting Upper School for girls. Gloucester Charity Trustee. Member, Gloucester Literary and Scientific Society, to which lectured on Anglo-Saxon language (*I*, 6 Mar. 1886, p. 158). President, Gloucester School of Science. Member, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Past Master of Royal Lebanon Lodge, No. 493, and Past Senior Warden of Province of Gloucestershire, but for some time inactive as Mason. Fellow of Geological Society. Maintained Tibberton Harriers at own expense until 1878. One of best shots in county. Possessing ‘an inquiring mind’, once when detained in Norway by wife’s illness, learned Norwegian (*Gloucester Journal*, 13 Feb. 1886, p. 5). Died of complications of Bright’s disease. Of Hillfield, Gloucester, and Tibberton Court, Glos.

Active member, president and generous supporter of Barton Street Unitarian Chapel, Gloucester (*I*, 13 Feb. 1886, p. 110; 6 Mar. 1886, p.158). Son of William Philip Price MP. Married Margaret, daughter of R. N. Philips MP, 1878. Hibbert Trustee, 1884-86 (AMH). Like father, ‘a sturdy Nonconformist’ (*Gloucester Journal*, 13 Feb. 1886, p. 5), but funeral conducted by Anglican clergy at Tibberton parish church, where buried in family vault (*ibid.*, 20 Feb. 1886, p. 5).

*WWBMP*. *Gloucester Journal*, 13 Feb. 1886, p. 5.

#### WILLIAM PHILIP PRICE

1817 – 31 Mar. 1891

MP (L) for Gloucester, 1852-59 (unseated on petition), 1865 - May 1873  
 Timber merchant: Price, Walker and Co., Gloucester. Director, Midland Railway Co.; chairman, 1869-73. Director of Gloucester and Berkeley Canal. Connected with Gloucester banking. A founder of Gloucester Chamber of Commerce, 1839; president for 14 years. Railway commissioner, 1873. JP, DL. High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, 1848. 'A Liberal, opposed to all religious endowments from the public funds' (1873). Supported ballot, 1853. Opposed Home Rule, 1886. Farmed at Tibberton Court, Gloucs. Was 'a zealous supporter of Unitarianism for many years'. Chairman, B&FUA, 1852; president, 1864-65. Hibbert Trustee. Long connected with MNC. (*I*, 4 Apr. 1891, p. 213). Presented windows to MCO chapel (AMH). Promoted musical recitals in Gloucester Cathedral. Funeral at Tibberton Court conducted by rector, Bishop of Gloucester and 'other clerical dignitaries'. According to Walter Lloyd, minister of Barton Street Unitarian Chapel, Gloucester, 'of late years he had only been an occasional attendant'. Interested in theological literature and poetry, introducing Lee Williams to hymn 'Come unto me when shadows darkly gather', which was edited by Williams and Martineau and often sung at cathedral recitals Price supported. (*I*, 4 Apr. 1891, p. 233)  
*WWBMP*. *I*, 4 Apr. 1891, p. 233.

#### WILLIAM RATHBONE

11 Feb. 1819 - 6 Mar. 1902

MP (L) for Liverpool, 1868-80

Carnarvonshire, Nov. 1881 - 1885

Carnarvonshire, N, 1885-95

Merchant and shipowner; partner in Rathbone Brothers and Co. Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce, 1851. Member of Liverpool Corporation Dock Committee, 1856. One of first members of Mersey Dock and Harbour Board. Chairman, Liverpool Liberal Association, 1852. Initiated, with George Melly, Liverpool relief fund during cotton famine. During American Civil War, roused opinion, with George Melly, against building ships for Confederacy. Chairman of election committee for Gladstone in S Lancashire, 1865. Member of Liverpool Select Vestry from 1867. Guardian of Poor. DL. Free trader. 1868, favoured Irish disestablishment and reform of local taxation, poor law administration, bankruptcy and land transfer laws. In parliament specialised in local taxation and local government. Refused to support local veto, holding that prohibition impractical and instead favouring free trade in licences. Resisted Samuel Plimsoll's campaign for protection of sailors. In last 15 years, strongly favoured disestablishment, casting first significant parliamentary vote against Gladstone on Welsh disestablishment. Became supporter of women's enfranchisement. Declined to stand for Liverpool, 1880, because refused to endorse Home Rule Association, and defeated in Lancashire, SW. A chief promoter of Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889. Did not vote for Home Rule Bill, 1893. House-to-house collector for Liverpool Provident Society from 1849. Following death of first wife, 1859, pioneered district nursing, establishing Training School and Home for Nurses at Liverpool Royal Infirmary and helping Florence Nightingale provide nurses for poor law institutions (Holt, pp. 22, 244). Supported

foundation of National Association for Providing Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor, 1874. Hon. secretary, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 1888-89; subsequently vice-president. Promoted University College, Liverpool, and University College, Bangor, serving as president of both. Freeman of Liverpool, 1891. LLD., Victoria University, 1895. Published *Social Duties* (1867), anticipating Charity Organisation Society policy; *Local Government and Taxation* (1875); *The Increased Earnings of the Working Classes* (1877); *Protection and Communism* (1884); *Sketch of the History and Progress of District Nursing* (1890); and magazine articles. 'Certainly, though a republic may be a very fine form of government, a democracy, as far as we may judge from the United States, is the next worst thing to a despotism' (1841, after visiting America: E. F. Rathbone, p. 100). Liked Scott, Elizabeth Gaskell, Harriet Beecher Stowe's earlier stories; thought George Eliot 'pompous and affected' (E. F. Rathbone, p. 485), disliking irony and cynicism and finding humorous books boring. Enjoyed riding, viewing mountain scenery and two small cigars a day. Latterly deaf. Ordered own cremation. Mourners at funeral included Roman Catholic Bishop of Liverpool. (*I*, 15 Mar. 1902, p. 165) Of Greenbank, Toxteth Park, Liverpool.

Member of Renshaw Street/Ullet Road, Liverpool. His father, William, expelled from Friends for marrying out, readmitted but subsequently joined Unitarians (E. F. Rathbone, p. 41). William jun. attended boarding school at Gateacre; Pestalozzian school at Cheam under William Brown, Anglican clergyman; and Voelker's school at St Domingo House, Everton, 1830-35. There schoolfellow of Thomas Ashton, father of MP, whom loved as brother and accompanied to Heidelberg (*I*, 15 Mar. 1902, p. 166; 29 Mar. 1902, p. 201). After separating from Friends, attended Renshaw Street under J. H. Thom, whose preaching, according to Rathbone, made 'appeal to individual conscience' (E. F. Rathbone p. 68). Thom married his sister. As executor for Thom, produced new edition of his *Laws of Life after the Mind of Christ* (*I*, 29 Mar. 1902, p. 201). President, Liverpool Domestic Mission Society, 1886-88, 1895-97 (AMH). President of UHMC, 1866 (McLachlan, p. 157). Supported founding of Sustentation Fund at National Conference of Unitarians, 1882 (*I*, 29 Mar. 1902, p. 201). Nephew of R. H. Greg MP and cousin of George Melly MP (E. F. Rathbone, pp. 39, 313). Held, 1849, that Unitarianism, 'or rather Christianity emancipated from creeds', had exerted too little effect, and that Quakerism had beauty and truth (E. F. Rathbone, p. 135). Upheld Quaker doctrine of inner light: 'Just in the measure that we listen to it and obey it, will the Spirit of God lead each human soul' (*MU*, p. 403). Insisted on sovereignty of Christ, speaking habitually of him as 'the Master' (*MU*, p. 404). Thought younger ministers dealt too much in abstractions (E. F. Rathbone, p. 430). Did not favour teaching of Robert Spears (E. F. Rathbone, p. 433). Diagnosed Unitarian weakness, 1891, as 'because we have failed to bring home to the people the force that Jesus Christ is to us' (E. F. Rathbone, p. 431). We must prove that 'by Unitarianism we mean Christianity, and by Christianity we mean the religion of Christ as set forth in his own words, and as embodied in his own person and life' (E. F. Rathbone, p. 432). Gave financial support to C. of E. clergy in poor districts. Admired Congregationalist R. W. Dale, enjoying his sermons (E. F. Rathbone, pp. 486-7). Maintained 2 homes of rest for C. of E. clergy and Nonconformist ministers at West Kirby (*I*, 29 Mar. 1902, p. 201). Employed Evangelical Lady Superintendent in nurse training

school despite her initial refusal to join an enterprise whose foundation was not 'Christ and him crucified' (E. F. Rathbone, p. 170). Endorsed work of W. P. Lockhart, Baptist minister (E. F. Rathbone, p. 437). Avoided weekly work on Sundays as aid to spirituality (E. F. Rathbone, p. 451).

Eleanor F. Rathbone, *William Rathbone: A Memoir* (London, 1905). *ODNB. MU*, pp. 401-04. Sheila Marriner, 'Business in Two Continents, 1845-1873: A Study in Entrepreneurial Behaviour, with special reference to the Liverpool House of Rathbone Brothers and Company' (PhD, Liverpool, 1958).

#### DAVID RICARDO (Sen.)

18 Apr. 1772 – 11 Sept. 1823

MP (Whig) for Portarlington (Ireland), Feb. 1819-23

Jobber on stock exchange, gradually retiring from 1815, and political economist. Joined King of Clubs and Brook's Club, 1817-18, Whig centres. Disciple of James Mill and Jeremy Bentham. Author of pamphlets on bullion controversy (1810-11), corn laws (1815), *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (1817), the classical text in its field, and other pamphlets and articles. In Commons, favoured free trade, religious tolerance and parliamentary reform. High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, 1818. Two sons, Osman and David, became MPs. Of 56 Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London; and Gatcombe Park, Gloucs.

Jew who married out against parents' wishes, becoming Unitarian (Thorne, 1, p. 295). Attended Essex Street Unitarian Chapel, under Thomas Belsham. Then joined New Gravel Pit, Hackney, 1809, subscribing regularly, 1809-12, until moved to West End, and again in 1820 and 1821. Wife continued to attend Friends. 1817, investigated whether had to take sacrament to become High Sheriff or MP. (P. Sraffa and M. H. Dobb (eds), *The Works and Correspondence of David Ricardo*, 11 vols (Cambridge, 1951-73), Vol. 10, pp. 39-43) Subsequently seems to have become agnostic: 'To account for evil in a world governed by a being of unbounded benevolence and power is or appears to be impossible.' (Sraffa and Dobb, Vol. 7, p. 206). No reference to Unitarianism in *MR* obituary, Sept. 1823, p. 551.

*ODNB. MU*, pp. 184-8.

#### Sir HENRY ENFIELD ROSCOE

7 Jan. 1833 – 18 Dec. 1915

MP (L) for Manchester, S, 1885-95

Chemist. UCL. PhD, Heidelberg. Professor of Chemistry, Owens College, Manchester, 1857-85. Noted for preparation of pure vanadium. FRS, 1863. Member of British Association for the Advancement of Science; president of chemical section, 1870 and 1884; president of association, 1887. President of Chemical Society, 1881. First president of Society of Chemical Industry, 1881. Established Manchester Working Man's College. President of Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. President, Sunday Society, for opening museums on Sundays. Knight, 1884. Defeated, 1895. Vice-Chancellor of University of London, 1896-1902. PC, 1909. Of Woodcote Lodge, near Leatherhead, Surrey.

Grandson of William Roscoe MP. Of Presbyterian/Unitarian stock on both sides. Friend of James Martineau when minister of Paradise Street, Liverpool, and William Gaskell in Manchester. Marriage to Lucy, daughter of Edmund

Potter MP, 1863, conducted by Charles Beard. (*Henry Enfield Roscoe*, pp. 21, 367, 363) Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789; *CL*, 20 Aug. 1892, p. 399). No reference to religion in memorial notice in *I*, 1 Jan. 1916, p. 8, though memorial service at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, conducted by Henry Gow (*I*, 1 Jan. 1916, p. 9).

*The Life and Experiences of Henry Enfield Roscoe, D.C.L., LL.D., F. R. S.* (London, 1906). *ODNB*. *WWBMP* 2.

## WILLIAM ROSCOE

8 Mar. 1753 – 30 June 1831

MP (Whig) for Liverpool, 1806-07

Banker and attorney. Bank failed, 1815. In 1806 election, declared, ‘I find myself represented as an enemy to the constitution of my country, and the exploded cry of Church and King, has been again, on this occasion, revived. We are all for Church and King; but whether it be the Church of England, or the Church of Scotland, must be left to every man’s bosom’ (*History of the Election for Members of Parliament for the Borough of Liverpool, 1806* (Liverpool, 1806), p. 15). Favoured ultimate peace, government encouragement of arts, agriculture and manufactures, gradual end of slave trade and parliamentary reform, giving vote to great towns (*Ibid.*, pp. 41-4). Voted for abolition of trade, knowing it would lose him his seat. Had written poem, *The Wrongs of Africa* (1787) and *A General View of the African Slave Trade* (1788). Active in forming African Institution, 1807. A founder of Society for the Encouragement of the Arts of Painting and Design, 1773. Honorary member of Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. Proposed Liverpool Botanic Park, 1803, subsequently overseeing its laying out. Supported Liverpool Athenaeum. First president of Liverpool Royal Institution, 1817. Published *The Life of Lorenzo de’ Medici called the Magnificent* (1796); *Life and Pontificate of Leo the Tenth* (1805); an edition of the works of Alexander Pope (1824); and volumes of verse including *The Butterfly’s Ball and Grasshopper’s Feast* (1807), a children’s classic. FLS, 1805. Spoke French fluently, wrote Italian with ease and learned Greek in middle age. Failure of bank caused disposal of books, prints and pictures. Received Ramohun Roy on his arrival in Liverpool, 1831. When, in 1807, offered DL, declined because Test Laws precluded it (Spears, p. 77). Of Allerton Hall.

Member of Renshaw Street Chapel and interred in its graveyard. Parents were members of Bear Garden Chapel, Liverpool, under Dr Enfield. Contributed to new hymn book for Renshaw Street, 1818. When at Allerton Hall, attended Gateacre Chapel, Liverpool (Spears, p. 77). In youthful MS, deprecated ‘the speculative and abstruse parts of the New Testament’ in favour of ‘the moral or preceptive part’: ‘the Christian religion was designed by the Almighty to promote the eternal happiness of mankind, by the truest pursuit of their temporal welfare’ (Roscoe, 1, p. 37). His mature view was: ‘The belief in Christ and in Christianity, so strongly and uniformly inculcated in the Holy Scriptures, is not embracing or holding a particular doctrine, but a belief which results in action, which evinces itself in all the relations and concerns of life, which induces us to follow the precepts and imitates the example of Christ...’ (Roscoe, 2, pp. 441-2).



Henry Roscoe, *The Life of William Roscoe*, 2 vols (London, 1833). *ODNB*. Spears, pp. 75-7. Jenny Elizabeth Graham, 'The Political Ideas and Activities of William Roscoe, 1787-1801' (MA, Liverpool, 1970).

Sir BERNHARD SAMUELSON, Bart

22 Nov. 1820 – 10 May 1905

MP (L) for Banbury, Feb. – Apr. 1859, 1865-85

Oxfordshire, Banbury, 1885-95

Ironmaster; chairman of Sir B. Samuelson and Co., 1887-95. Apprenticed to Swiss merchants, became engineering specialist. From 1848, manufacturer of agricultural implements in Banbury. From 1853 operated blast furnaces, and from 1870 an ironworks, near Middlesbrough. Member of Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1865; and of Civil Engineers, 1869. A founder of the Iron and Steel Institute, 1869; president, 1883-85. First president, Association of Agricultural Engineers. Chairman of Associated Chambers of Commerce of United Kingdom, 1886. Chairman of Commons committee on scientific education for industry, 1868. Member of Devonshire Commission on scientific instruction, 1870. Chairman of parliamentary committees on patent laws, 1871-72, and on railways, 1873. Member of Royal Commission on Paris Exhibition, 1878. Chairman, Royal Commission on Technical Instruction, 1881. Member of Cross Commission on Elementary Education, 1887. Alderman, Oxfordshire CC. JP. Supported Home Rule, but lost sympathy with radical trends in Liberal Party. Favoured tariff reform before Joseph Chamberlain. Established technical institute at Banbury, 1884. Supported Cleveland Institution of Engineers and Cleveland Literary and Philosophical Society. Legion of Honour, 1878. FRS, 1881; member of council from 1887. Bart, 1884. PC, 1895. Published *Studies of the Land and Tenantry of Ireland* (1870); letters, papers and reports. Able linguist. Keen yachtsman. Wealth at death: £756,000. Of Bodicote Grange, Banbury, and 56 Prince's Gate, London.

Member of Christ Church Chapel, Banbury, 1870s/80s (AMH). Funeral conducted by Canon Gooden, Anglican clergyman who was brother-in-law of his eldest daughter. Dr Burton preaching at Banbury Parish Church announced that 'he died as he had lived, a churchman. He did not wear his heart, as people said, upon his sleeve.' But at Christ Church Chapel, Mr W. Olieff declared that 'Sir Bernhard during his residence here in Banbury attended this place of worship and was for many years a regular subscriber to the funds'. (*Banbury Advertiser*, 18 May 1905, p. 5)

*ODNB* (omitting religion). *WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

Sir CHARLES ERNEST SCHWANN (later SWAN), Bart

25 Jan. 1844 – 13 July 1929

MP (L) for Manchester, N, 1886-1918

Merchant. Huddersfield College, Owens College, Manchester, and UCL. Entered Manchester shipping trade at 20. Director, Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Supported Manchester Ship Canal. Secretary, treasurer and president, Manchester Liberal Federation. Treasurer, vice-president and president, Manchester Reform Club. President, National Reform Union for 9 years. Founder of Manchester '95 Club. Unsuccessful at Manchester, N, 1885. Carried bill for granting votes to policemen in municipal and School

Board elections. Spokesman for postal workers in Commons. Specialised in Indian affairs, attending Indian National Congress. Helped abolish paddy tax in Ceylon. 'An advanced Liberal, in favour of Land Reform, Temperance Reform, Disestablishment, Free Trade, etc.' (1918). Helped organise relief during cotton famine. Assisted victims of Bulgarian horrors and interested in persecuted Jews of Russia. Bart, 1906. PC, 1911. Supported Warehousemen's and Clerks' Schools and Lower Mosley Street School in Manchester. Governor, Manchester Children's Hospital. Supported YMCA, Committee for Securing Open Spaces and Working Men's Clubs Association of Manchester. Supported Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes. Advocated women's trade unions. Changed name to 'Swan', 1913. Of 4 Prince's Gardens, London SW (1907). Latterly of Westbourne Road, Birkdale, Southport. Originally Jewish. Married Elizabeth Duncan in Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford, 1876 (G. A. Payne, *An Ancient Chapel* (Banbury, 1934), p. 55). Addressed N Manchester Nonconformist Union (*CW*, 18 Apr. 1895, p. 216). Unitarian (*CW*, 4 Jan. 1906, p. vii). At memorial service at Cross Street, Manchester, the Rev. G. A. Payne of Knutsford declared: 'Though a convinced Unitarian, he took no part in denominational affairs. His religion was of that practical order which compelled him to go about doing all he could to make better conditions of life for all.' At Swan's home, the Rev. W. Hall, minister of Southport Unitarian Church, officiated at a short service. (*MG*, 17 July 1929, p. 13)

*WWBMP* 2. *WWW* 1929-1940. *MG*, 15 July 1929, p. 5. Not in Johnson.

#### CHARLES PRESTWICH SCOTT

1846 – 1 Jan. 1932  
 MP (L) for Lancashire, SW, Leigh, 1895-1906  
 Editor, *MG*, 1872-1929. Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Worked for *Scotsman* and for *MG* from 1871. JP. Contested Manchester, NE, 1886, 1891 and 1892. President, Manchester Liberal Union. Governor of Victoria University of Manchester, University of Liverpool, Manchester Grammar School and Hulme Trust. Changed from supporting to opposing Contagious Diseases Acts (Holt, p. 152). Of The Firs, Fallowfield, Manchester. Member of Upper Brook Street and Platt, Manchester (AMH). Unitarian school at Hove (*I*, 9 Jan. 1932, p. 16). Grandson of Russell Scott, minister of High Street Chapel, Portsmouth (Holt, p. 215). At Upper Brook Street 'very irregular in his attendance' according to his then pastor, Charles Peach, and ended membership there. Memorial service at Cross Street Chapel. (*I*, 16 Jan. 1932, p. 34). His brother Lawrence was Unitarian minister at Denton. J. L. Hammond, *C. P. Scott of the Manchester Guardian* (London, 1934). *ODNB*. *WWBMP* 2. Trevor Wilson (ed.), *The Political Diaries of C. P. Scott, 1911-1928* (London, 1970). Michael Dennis McKeown, 'The Principle and Politics of the "Manchester Guardian" under C. P. Scott to 1914' (PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 1972).

#### ROBERT SCOTT

15 July 1803 – 21 Feb. 1856  
 MP (L) for Walsall, 1841-47  
 Barrister. Session at University of Glasgow. Called to bar, Middle Temple. Commissioner of Court of Bankruptcy, 1831. Employed by G. W. Wood MP

to draw up bill to transfer representation of two corrupt boroughs to Manchester. Active in reform cause, 1831. JP, DL. Author of some legal works. Of Stourbridge, Worcs.; and The Red House, Staffs. Monument in Stourbridge Presbyterian Chapel (Unitarian) (AMH). Born 'Wellbeloved', son of the Rev. Charles Wellbeloved, but changed name to Scott on marrying heiress of John Scott, 1830. Educated under the Rev. Mr Robertson at Heald's Hall, West Riding, and then under the Rev. John Corrie, of Birmingham New Meeting. (*I*, 1 Mar. 1856, p. 140) Showed zeal and consistency as Unitarian (*CR*, 12 (1856), p. 192). 'His religious convictions and feelings were...deep and firm, never ostentatiously displayed, never concealed through timidity, but showing their strength and steadiness in the peace of mind with which he contemplated the approach of death.' (*I*, 1 Mar. 1856, p. 140)  
*WWBMP*. *I*, 1 Mar. 1856, p. 140.

#### JOHN BENJAMIN SMITH

1794 - 15 Sept. 1879

MP (L) for Stirling Burghs, 1847-52  
 Stockport, 1852-74

Cotton merchant; head of Benjamin Smith and Sons, retiring 1836. President of Manchester Chamber of Commerce, 1839-41. First president, from 1839, and treasurer, Anti-Corn Law League. Leader writer for *League* newspaper from 1843. 'Corn Law Smith'. Wrote extensively for press on commercial and other questions, also publishing pamphlets. Unsuccessful candidate at Blackburn, 1837; Walsall and Dundee, 1841. Overseer of poor. Member of council of Social Science Association. Favoured peace, retrenchment and reform, including ballot. Opposed Palmerston's foreign policy. Favoured North in American Civil War. Supported decimal currency, becoming member of Royal Commission on International Coinage, 1868. Opposed church rates and all state grants for religious purposes. As speaker, never distinguished except for 'a fund of accurate commercial knowledge, sound Liberal principles, and an earnest fidelity to his political convictions' (*MG* quoted by *I*, 20 Sept. 1879, p. 622). Naïve in supposing logic and figures would ensure victory. Of 105 Westbourne Terrace, London; and King's Ride, Ascot, Berks.

Member of Little Portland Street Chapel, London, and of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. In early life, an Independent, but enquiry led him to Unitarianism. Vice-president, B&FUA. Subscriber to MNC, Christian Missionary Board and other Unitarian institutions. The 'unChristian Smith' married Jemima Durning at Renshaw Street Chapel, Liverpool, 1841 (*TUHS*, 11 (1955), p. 2). Daughter became wife of Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence MP. *ODNB*. *WWBMP*. Boase. *I*, 20 Sept. 1879, pp. 622-3.

#### WILLIAM SMITH

22 Sept. 1756 – 31 May 1835

MP for Sudbury, 1784-90

Camelford, 1791-96

Sudbury, 1796-1802

Norwich, 1802-06, 1807-30

Grocer; partner from 1777 in father's London firm, head from 1798. Partnership ended 1813, firm wound up 1823. Partner in Cook's Distillery, Millbank. Member of Society for Constitutional Information, 1782. Admirer of C. J. Fox, but generally supported Pitt in 1780s. 1787, on Dissenting committee for repeal of Test and Corporation Acts. Defeated at Sudbury, 1790, and Norwich, 1806. Member of Association of the Friends of the People, 1792, embracing Jacobin republicanism. Declared in 1802 that his conduct in parliament had been 'uniformly consistent with the genuine principles of constitutional liberty' and desired blessings of peace (*The Poll for Members of Parliament for the City and County of Norwich, taken the 5th of July, 1802* (Norwich, 1802), p. VI). Leading opponent of slave trade. A founder of African Institution. Chairman, Anti-Slavery Society, where effort made to remove him from chair for his theological views. Member from 1791 of Dissenting Deputies; chairman, 1805-32, despite another attempt to displace him. Secured repeal of Conventicle and Five Mile Acts. Conducted Unitarian Toleration Bill through Commons, 1813: 'Mr. William Smith's Bill'. Chairman of United Committee that secured repeal of Test and Corporation Acts, 1828. Commissioner of Highlands Roads and Bridges. Collected pictures including 3 Rembrandts, a Van Dyck and a Rubens. Of Eagle House, Clapham Common, to 1794, when moved to 6 Park Street, Westminster; and of Parndon Hall, near Harlow, Essex, from 1785. Grandfather of Florence Nightingale.

Son of Independents, attending school of Independent minister named French at Ware, where met Thomas Belsham. Attended Daventry Academy, probably there moving towards Unitarian views. Declared allegiance to Unitarian Society, 1791. Patron of Southern Unitarian Society, 1801 (Holt, p. 314). Friend of Belsham and regular attender of Essex Street Chapel. Supporter of English Presbyterian Association. Buried in family vault in a church in Southwark. (*CR*, Sept. 1835, p. 654)

R. W. Davis, *Dissent in Politics, 1780-1830: The Political Life of William Smith, MP* (London, 1971). *ODNB*. *CR*, Sept. 1835, p. 654.

#### Sir JAMES STANSFELD

5 Mar. 1820 – 17 Feb. 1898

MP (L) for Halifax, 1859-95

Brewer, from 1850 running Swan Brewery, Fulham. UCL. Called to bar, Inner Temple, 1849, but never practised. Declined government office, 1861, because of business demands. Junior Lord of Admiralty, 1863, resigning 1864 because of clandestine fund-raising for Italian agitators. Under-Secretary of State for India, 1866. Financial Secretary to the Treasury, 1868-69. President of Poor Law Board, 1871, joining cabinet, and of Local Government Board, 1871-74, Apr. – July 1886. Appointed woman, Mrs Nassau Senior, as Inspector of Poor Law Institutions, 1874. Influenced by Bentham. Supported Anti-Corn Law League, Chartism and anti-slavery. Leading member of People's International League, 1847. Early supporter of Mazzini, Garibaldi and Friends of Italy. Supported Northern Reform Union, begun by Joseph Cowen in 1858, aiming for manhood suffrage and ballot. 1862, moved Commons resolution for decrease in government spending. 1863, backed Polish independence. Leading opponent of Contagious Diseases Acts, carrying resolution against them, 1883, and moving their abolition, 1886.

Twice declined Deputy Speakership. Proposed one man one vote, 1891 (Holt, p. 143). Declined peerage, 1892. PC, 1869. Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, 1895. Freeman of Halifax, 1895. Enjoyed landscape gardening. Of Stoke Lodge, Hyde Park Gate, London; and Castle Hill, Rotherfield, Sussex. Lifelong supporter of Northgate End Unitarian Chapel, Halifax (*I*, 26 Feb. 1898, p. 136). Mother was Emma, daughter of John Ralph, minister of Northgate End. Father an active trustee of same chapel (Hammond, p. 4). Sister married F. E. Millson, minister of Northgate End, 1872-1906 (McLachlan, p. 154). Attended school at Gateacre and then Voelker's school in Everton with sons of Unitarian manufacturers. Hearer of Thomas Madge of Essex Street Chapel (Hammond, p. 8). Attended South Place Chapel, Finsbury, under W. J. Fox. Vice-president, B&FUA. Laid corner-stone of Northgate End Chapel, 1871. Chairman, London Domestic Mission, 1886. (*MU*, p. 393) 'The Unitarian brewer' (*ODNB*). J. L. and Barbara Hammond, *James Stansfeld* (London, 1932). *ODNB* (Alan Ruston). *BDMBR* 2. *WWBMP* 2. *MU*, pp. 387-93. *I*, 26 Feb. 1898, p. 136.

#### ROBERT STEWART

18 June 1769 – 12 Aug. 1822  
 MP for Tregony, Cornwall, 1794-96  
     Orford, 1796-97  
     Co. Down, 1801-05  
     Boroughbridge, 1806  
     Plympton Erle, 1806-12  
     Co. Down, 1812-21  
     Orford, 1821-22

Statesman. St John's College, Cambridge, not graduating. MP for Co. Down in Irish parliament, 1790. Lieutenant-colonel of Londonderry Militia, 1793; colonel, 1798. Keeper of Irish Privy Seal, 1797-1801. Lord of Irish Treasury, 1797. Chief Secretary for Ireland, 1798. PC for Great Britain, 1798. Helped secure Irish union with Britain. In charge of management of Ireland from 1801. President of Board of Control for India, 1802-06. Secretary of State for War and Colonies, 1805-06, 1807-09. Foreign Secretary, 1812-22, participating in settlement of Europe after Napoleon. FRS, 1802. Knight of the Garter, 1814. Loved gardening. Viscount Castlereagh (from 1796 by courtesy) and Marquis of Londonderry (1821).

Robert's father was at head of the Dissenting interest in Ireland. Baptised a Presbyterian. Member of Strand Street, Dublin (AMH).

*Memoirs and Correspondence of Viscount Castlereagh*, ed. Charles Vane, Marquess of Londonderry, 12 vols (London, 1848-53). Wendy Hind, *Castlereagh* (London, 1981). *ODNB*. Thorne, 5, pp. 278-96. Not in Johnson.

#### JOSEPH STRUTT

15 Aug. 1765 – 13 Jan. 1844  
 MP (Whig) for Maldon, 1790-1826  
     Okehampton, 1826-30

Cotton manufacturer. Derby School. Lieutenant-colonel of Belper Volunteers, 1803. Supported the accused in Derbyshire treason trials, 1817. Established in Derby, with brother William, Lancasterian school; and, with nephew Edward, Mechanics' Institution, 1824, becoming president and giving

it 500 books from own library. First mayor of reformed Derby corporation, 1835, and served again; alderman. JP, DL. Favoured civil, religious and commercial freedom. Gave arboretum to Derby at outlay of £12-13,000, 1840, specifying that to be open free on Sunday afternoons. There the leisured and the artisans were to meet with common joy (Memorial sermon by Noah Jones, minister of Friargate Chapel, 21 Jan. 1844, according to *I*, 10 Feb. 1844, p. 85). Governor of Derby Infirmary. According to Thomas Moore, 1814, Joseph's family 'have fine pianofortes, magnificent organs, splendid houses, most excellent white soup, and are, to crown all, right true Jacobins' (quoted by Fitton and Wadsworth, p. 179). Of St Peter's House, Derby, where assembled paintings and statuary.

Son of Jedediah, builder of Friargate Chapel, Derby. Himself member there. Supported its Sunday school by giving prizes and entertaining children at his pleasure grounds. During last illness, frequently remarked, 'I am very happy; I am quite prepared to go.' (*CR*, Mar. 1844, pp. 152-7) President, MNC, 1817-26 (AMH).

R. S. Fitton and A. P. Wadsworth, *The Strutts and the Arkwrights, 1758-1830: A Study of the Early Factory System* (Manchester, 1958). *ODNB* (s.v. Jedediah Strutt). *CR*, Mar. 1844, pp. 152-7.

Sir CHARLES ERNEST SWAN, Bart

See Sir CHARLES ERNEST SCHWANN, Bart

FRANCIS TAYLOR

1845 – 1 Sept. 1915

MP (L) for Norfolk, S, 1885-86

MP (LU) for Norfolk, S, 1886 - c. Apr. 1898

Brewer; partner of Taylor, Son and Dowson, Diss, Norfolk, but sold out on death of father. Hove House School, Brighton, University College School and UCL. Apprenticed in engineering firm. JP. Lord of the manor at Diss. Chairman, Diss Petty Sessions. Chairman, Diss School Board. Governor, Diss Secondary School, giving its site. Member, Diss Local Board of Health; member of its old age pensions committee. Supporter of Diss Choral Society, lending it the Corn Hall built by his father. Major and commanding officer, Diss Rifle Volunteers. Member, Royal Thames Yacht Club. Commodore, Harwich Yacht Club, winning trophies. Married Susan Rigby, daughter of Diss lord of the manor. Was 'certainly one of England's gentlemen' (*Norwich Mercury*, 4 Sept. 1915, p. 1). Of 54 Victoria Street, London; and Manor House, Diss, Norfolk.

Regular attender of Park Fields Chapel, Diss. President, Eastern Union of Unitarian Churches. From Huguenot family (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789). 'In religion the deceased was a Unitarian and a warm supporter of the cause of Diss Unitarian Church.' (*Norwich Mercury*, 4 Sept. 1915, p. 1)

*WWBMP* 2. *WWW* 1897-1916. *I*, 18 Sept. 1915, p. 462.

PETER ALFRED TAYLOR

30 Apr. 1819 – 20 Dec. 1891

MP (L) for Leicester, Feb. 1862 – June 1884

Silk and crape manufacturer; partner of Samuel Courtauld and Co. Supported Anti-Corn Law League. First treasurer of Society of the Friends of Italy,

entertaining Mazzini. Early member of Northern Reform Union favouring manhood suffrage, 1858. Unsuccessful candidate at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1859, and at Leicester, 1861. At Leicester election 1862 opposed church rates and union of church and state, being attacked as 'anti- everything'. Member of Emancipation Society, 1862, supporting North in American Civil War. Favoured Polish independence, 1863. Member of committee to welcome Garibaldi, 1864. Vice-president of Reform League from 1865, seeking unity with National Reform Union. With J. S. Mill, a parliamentary spokesman for Jamaica committee, 1865. Favoured universal suffrage, disestablishment, abolition of Contagious Diseases Acts, payment of MPs, land tenure reform, abolition of game laws, abolition of flogging in armed forces, Sunday opening of museums, rejection of compulsory vaccination and press freedom, 'the very embodiment of faddism' (*Leicester Daily Post*, 22 Dec. 1891, quoted in *ODNB*). Supporter of women's suffrage and related issues, in which his wife active (Holt, pp. 148, 153). 1871, notorious as republican, supporting Charles Dilke's motion against dowry for Princess Louise. Proprietor of *The Examiner*, radical newspaper, 1873-78. Refused to subscribe to any public cause in Leicester to avoid imputation of bribery. 1873, moved to Brighton, where founded clubs for working men, particularly Nineteenth Century Club that promoted radical and secularist views. Opposed Home Rule, 1886. Of Aubrey House, Notting Hill Gate (from 1861); subsequently 22 Ashley Place, London; and 22 Marine Parade, Brighton; latterly of 18 Eaton Place, Brighton. Nephew, like George Courtauld MP, of Samuel Courtauld. Attended school of the Rev. J. P. Malleon, a cousin, West Hove, Brighton. Father a leading member of South Place Chapel, Finsbury, of which Peter jun. became member and benefactor (S. K. Ratcliffe, *The Story of South Place* (London, 1955), p. 10). Funeral conducted by Stanton Coit of South Place. *ODNB* (A. Ruston). *BDMBR* 2. *WWBMP*.

#### JOHN PENNINGTON THOMASSON

9 May 1841 – 16 May 1904

MP (L) for Bolton, 1880-85

Cotton spinner; proprietor of John Thomasson and Son, Bolton. Pestalozzian School, Worksop, Notts; UCL. Member of Bolton School Board, 1879.

Favoured reform of land laws, assimilation of borough and county franchise, redistribution of seats (1885). In 1886 supported Unionists, but views diverged on all issues except Home Rule and so returned to Liberals.

Abhorred S African War and against unjust treatment of native races. Prime mover and treasurer of Bolton Citizens' Committee on Licensing Administration. (*I*, 21 May 1904, p. 326) Supported women's suffrage. His wife Katherine, niece of John Bright, helped form Social Purity Alliance (Ramsden, p. 136). Gave land for Girls' High School, 1877. Presented land to Bolton for Haulgh Boarding School, 1881. Paid for secondary and higher education of Bolton students. Benefactor to Bolton Infirmary. Gave Mere Hall and park to Bolton as museum (to which donated collection of birds' eggs) and recreation ground, 1890. Also gave picture gallery, co-operative reading room and gymnasium to borough (*I*, 21 May 1904, p. 326). Freeman of Bolton, 1902. Gave Thomas Huxley £1,000 for six months' travel (Ramsden, p. 52). Cremated at Manchester. Of Woodside, Bolton.

Father Thomas Thomasson was Quaker who moved to Bolton Parish Church, but joined Bolton Free Christian Church, 1873. John Pennington a committee member of same church, 1874, but by 1885 attended Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, Bolton (Ramsden, p. 136). Also established Lark Street Free Christian Church. (*Bolton Evening News*, 16 May 1904, p. 3) Gave electric lighting to Sunday school of Unity Church, Deane Road, Bolton, 1899 (R. T. Herford and E. D. P. Evans, *Historical Sketch of the North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission and its Affiliated Churches, 1859-1909* (Bury, 1909), p. 62). Bought adjoining premises for Halliwell Road Free Church, Bolton (Ramsden, p. 59). Occasional teacher in men's class at Bank Street and Halliwell Road. Gave £1,000 to Unitarian ministers' pension fund. On deathbed promised £500 to UHMC. (*I*, 21 May 1904, p. 326) Gave £1,050 to MCO building fund (Ramsden, p. 52). Daughter married son of C. C. Coe, Unitarian minister (*I*, 21 May 1904, p. 326).  
*WWBMP*. *WWW* 1897-1916. *Bolton Evening News*, 16 May 1904, p. 3. G. M. Ramsden, *A Responsible Society: The Life and Times of the Congregation of Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, Lancashire (Unitarian)* (Slinfold, Horsham, W Sussex, 1985). *I*, 21 May 1904, p. 326.

#### THOMAS THORNELY

1 Apr. 1781 – 4 May 1862

MP (L) for Wolverhampton, 1835-59

Merchant; principal in Thomas and J. D. Thornely, specialising in American trade but retiring 1835. Apprenticed to Rathbones and subsequently partner in Martin, Hope and Thornely. Entered public life in opposition to Orders in Council, 1811, joining Liverpool deputation to government. JP. Unsuccessful candidate at Liverpool, 1831 and 1832. 'He was a warm and consistent friend and advocate of civil and religious liberty.' (*Wolverhampton Chronicle*, 7 May 1862, p. 5) Supported Anti-Corn Law League. Favoured ballot and short parliaments. Often voted against Liberal government in favour of retrenchment and reform. Regular attender of Commons. 'Not of brilliant talent, yet his various knowledge on all subjects connected with the extensive commerce of the empire seldom left him at a loss in the House of Commons how to make his opinions respected.' (*Wolverhampton Chronicle*, 7 May 1862, p. 4) Several times visited United States. Of 12 Mount Street, Liverpool; and 24 Regent Street, London.

Member, Renshaw Street Unitarian Chapel, Liverpool; secretary, 1816-21; still on committee, 1858 (Roger Morris). President, Liverpool Domestic Mission Society, 1840-41. Memorial in Ullet Road cloister. (AMH) Friend of J. A. Yates MP (S. A. T. Yates, *Memorials of the Family of the Rev. John Yates*, privately printed (n.p., 1890), p. 17). Funeral at Renshaw Street (*Wolverhampton Chronicle*, 7 May 1862, p. 5). He remarked to friend whom he had known for 60 years that he hoped they would carry on their friendly intercourse in another world (*I*, 17 May 1862, p. 366).

*WWBMP* (as 'Thornley'). *Wolverhampton Chronicle*, 7 May 1862, p. 5.

#### JAMES ASPINALL TURNER

1797 - 28 Sept. 1867

MP (L) for Manchester, 1857-65



Cotton manufacturer and merchant of Manchester. Bolton Grammar School. Joined firm of his uncle, Francis Philips, becoming its head. Chairman of Manchester Commercial Association. JP, DL. Palmerstonian candidate in 1857 against Bright and Milner Gibson. Favoured providing 'means of defence against injury or insult' from other nations, 'progressive improvements at home', franchise extension and general education consistent with religious liberty (1865). Criticised military corruption. 'In Parliament Mr. Turner's services were useful rather than brilliant.' He forgot 'the suavity which lessens the painfulness of a blow, and was not quick in seeking reconciliation'. (*I*, 5 Oct. 1867, p. 648). Supported Manchester Mechanics' Institution. A promoter of art exhibition, 1857. (Holt, pp. 268, 272). Made entomological collections. Loved botanic gardens. Of Pendlebury House, Lancs.

Parents were members of Presbyterian congregation at Bolton-le-Moors. Grandfather was William Turner, minister at Wakefield. Uncle was William Turner, minister at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Related to John Holland, minister at Bolton, from whom derived interest in Sunday schools, in two of which he taught. A 'zealous Unitarian', expressing contempt for those hiding their convictions. Had private Unitarian chapel in grounds of his house at Pendlebury. Built chapel for its congregation at Swinton, 1857. When Hackney congregation rebuilt chapel, Turner laid foundation stone. (*I*, 5 Oct. 1867, p. 648) Trustee of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester (Baker, p. 121). President, B&FUA, 1857, 1861-62. Chairman, MNC committee, 1840-52. (AMH) Supported Domestic Mission (Holt, p. 338). *WWBMP*. *MG*, 30 Sept. 1867, p. 2 (omitting religion). *I*, 5 Oct. 1867, p. 648.

Sir SYDNEY HEDLEY WATERLOW, Bart

1 Nov. 1822 – 3 Aug. 1906

MP (L) for Dumfriesshire, 1868 – Mar. 1869

Maidstone, 1874-80

Gravesend, July 1880-85

Printer and stationer; head of Waterlow and Sons. St Saviour's School. Alderman of City of London, 1863; Lord Mayor, 1872-73, when Shah of Persia visited City. Treasurer of St Bartholomew's Hospital from 1874. Defeated at Maidstone, 1880, and in Kent, Medway, 1885. Bart, 1873. Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, 1902. Recreations in *WW* 'consisted in the performance of his duties' such as the following: Chairman of the Distribution Committee of the Hospital Sunday Fund; Chairman of the General Commissioners of Income Tax for the City of London; Chairman, Industrial Dwellings Co., with 6,000 tenements and 30,000 souls; Chairman, Board of Governors of United Westminster Schools, educating 1,100 boys – 'all this work nearly honorary'. Gave Waterlow Park, his Highgate estate, to London CC. His son David Sydney Waterlow was MP (L) for Islington, N, 1906 - Dec. 1910. Of 29 Chesham Place, SW; Trosley Towers, Wrotham, Kent; Monterey, Cannes, France.

Trustee of South Place Chapel. When he first stood for parliament, 'his connection with South Place came near defeating him' (Moncure D. Conway, *Autobiography*, 2 vols (London, 1904), 2, p. 281). Conservatives in Dumfriesshire employed private detective to discover if Waterlow was Unitarian and connected with Finsbury Chapel (*I*, 28 Nov. 1868, p. 763).

Influenced by W. J. Fox, for whose memorial he acted as treasurer (*I*, 16 July 1864, p. 477). Acknowledged as Unitarian (*I*, 10 Apr. 1880, p. 227).  
*ODNB*. *WWBMP*.

#### ARTHUR JOHN WILLIAMS

1836 – 12 Sept. 1911

MP (L) for Glamorgan, S, 1885-95

Barrister. Called to bar, Inner Temple, 1867. JP. Unsuccessful candidate at Birkenhead, 1880. Defeated, 1895. Hon. secretary, Law Amendment Society. Hon. secretary, Legal Education Society. Secretary to Accidents in Mines Commission. Originator of National Liberal Club. Member of executive of Liberation Society. Author of *The Appropriation of the Railways by the State* (1869) and *Hints to Honest Citizens on Going to Law* (1885). Of Morva, Eastbourne.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789; *CL*, 20 Aug. 1892, p. 399).

Great-nephew of Richard Price. Related to Walter Coffin MP, with whom he lived for some years. (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789)

*WWBMP*. Not in Johnson.

#### BENJAMIN THOMAS WILLIAMS

9 Nov. 1832 – 21 Mar. 1890

MP (L) for Carmarthen Boroughs, May 1878 – Dec. 1881

Barrister. School attached to Presbyterian College, Carmarthen, then Glasgow University, 1850-53. Resented having to leave his country for higher education and so wrote *The Desirableness of a University for Wales* (1853).

Called to bar, Gray's Inn, 1859; and admitted to Middle Temple, 1875.

Leader of South Wales Circuit. Recorder of Carmarthen, 1872-78. QC, 1875.

County Court Judge, 1881-85. Editor of the *Law Magazine* and of the *Commercial Law Annual* (1871-74). JP. Wrote novel, *Arthur Vaughan* (1856), depicting the Carmarthen principal Dr Lloyd, which he later regretted. Published *The Case of George William Gordon* (1866), vindicating a persecuted black victim of a draconian Governor of Jamaica; and an edition of *The Literature of the Kymry* (1876), with a life of its author, Thomas Stephens. Member of council, Glasgow University; vice-president and secretary, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Governor, University College of North Wales, Bangor. Chairman, Narberth Urban District School Board. Of 65 Hilldrop Crescent, London; 4 Harcourt Buildings, Temple; and Merryvale, Narberth, Pembs.

Son of T. R. Williams, Independent minister at Templeton, Pembs. Intended Independent ministry but espoused Unitarianism at Carmarthen. Briefly supplied Unitarian pulpits in Leeds and Plymouth after leaving Glasgow. 'It has been said that an inconsiderate and offensive criticism of his dress by a member of one of our churches was the cause of his forsaking the pulpit and turning his attention to the Law' (Jones, p. 53). Subsequent religious allegiance not explicitly stated, but presumably Unitarian.

*DWB*. *WWBMP*. R. J. Jones, *The Unitarian Students at the Presbyterian College, Carmarthen, in the Nineteenth Century (1796-1901)* (Aberdare, 1901), pp. 52-4. Not in Johnson.

#### BENJAMIN WOOD

1787 – 13 Aug. 1845

MP (L) for Southwark, June 1840 – 1845

Hop merchant, Southwark. Opposed corn laws. Favoured religious liberty. Unsuccessful candidate at Tiverton, 1832, and at Hull, 1837. Supported reform candidates at various elections. Succeeded D. W. Harvey as MP for Southwark. Supported Dissenters' Chapels Bill. Of 24 Great George Street, London; 25 Mark Lane, London; and Eden Park, near Eltham, Kent.

Member, Old Jewry congregation, meeting in Jewin Street from 1809, until its dissolution. On Presbyterian Board, 1841-45. Dr Williams's Trustee, 1836-45. Non-Con Club, Hackney (*TUHS* 14:3 (1969), p. 159). 'Since that place of worship [Jewin Street] was closed, living in the country, Mr. Wood attended the services of the Established Church, and from this circumstance he has been stated publicly to have been a Churchman, but as he continued to the last one of Dr Williams's trustees, who are all understood to be Dissenters, and as we ourselves witnessed the interest he took in the passing of the Dissenters' Chapels Bill, we cannot think this statement correct.' (*I*, 16 Aug. 1845, p. 516) Practised occasional conformity (*CR*, Sept. 1845, p. 659). Brother of Sir Matthew Wood MP.

*WWBMP*. *I*, 16 Aug. 1845, p. 516.

#### GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD

21 July 1781 – 3 Oct. 1843

MP (Whig) for Lancashire, S, 1832-35

Kendal, 1837 – Oct. 1843

Cotton manufacturer and merchant; partner in Phillips, Wood and Co. from 1809. Defeated in Lancashire, S, 1835. JP. President of Manchester Chamber of Commerce, but removed for not requiring immediate repeal of corn laws (Holt, p. 198). On first committee of Manchester Mechanics' Institution, 1824 (Thomas Heywood, *A Memoir of Sir Benjamin Heywood* (Manchester, [1888]), p. 41). Member of Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society; vice-president from 1822. A founder of Manchester Savings Bank, Manchester Royal Institution and *MG*. Promoter of gas works at Manchester (Holt, p. 223). Prepared unsuccessful bill for enfranchising Manchester, c. 1827. Whig of school of Fox, showing reverence for rank. 'In politics – perhaps, too, in religion – the cast of his mind was aristocratical.' (*MG*, 7 Oct. 1843, p. 5). Introduced bill for opening ancient universities to Dissenters, 1834. Largely responsible for Dissenters' Chapels Bill, 1843, though died before enacted. Had taste for natural sciences, specially botany and geology. Fellow of Linnaean and Geological Societies. Showed 'fearlessness of obloquy' and 'what sometimes seemed like a defect in the constitution of his mind – a fondness for minute regulation, and complexity of arrangement, and an aversion to recognition of broad general principles'. (*MG*, 7 Oct. 1843, p. 5). Seemed 'overbearing' (*I*, 7 Oct. 1843, p. 626). Of Pall Mall East, London; and Singleton Lodge, Lancs.

Active member of Upper Brook Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester (*CR*, Nov. 1843, p. 730). 'He was sincerely and warmly attached to the old Presbyterian form of protestant dissent, and lived through his whole life on terms of intimacy with most of the more eminent divines of that denomination.' Distrusted introduction of 'a more democratic element into the working of religious societies'. Unfitted for speculative thinking, but

convinced Unitarian. Like Dissenters of old school, Wood, 'while he never concealed his opinions, shrunk from all ostentatious display of sectarian feeling'. (*MG*, 7 Oct. 1843, p. 5) Son of William Wood, minister of Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds (see *ODNB*). Trustee of Stand Chapel. President, B&FUA, 1832, 1836. Treasurer, MNC, 1808-43. (AMH)  
*WWBMP*. *MG*, 7 Oct. 1843, p. 5.

#### JOHN WOOD

4 Nov. 1789 – 10 Oct. 1856

MP for Preston, 1826-30

Barrister and civil servant. Glasgow University. Entered business, but then called to bar, Inner Temple. Elected for Preston with Lord Stanley, defeating William Cobbett. In Commons, exposed administrative abuses. Helped carry Manchester Police Bill, 1828, conferring civic powers for first time. Helped in repeal of Test and Corporation Acts. Recorder of York, 1830. Chairman, H. M. Board of Excise, restructuring British fiscal arrangements. Judged 'a lively genteel young man' (*Diary, Reminiscences and Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson, Barrister-at-Law, F.S.A.*, ed. Thomas Sadler, 3 vols, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (London, 1869), 2, p. 220 (written 1851)).

Son of Ottiwell Wood, trustee of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. Brother of Samuel Wood, minister at Kenilworth. (Baker, p. 93). Probably pupil of William Shepherd at Gateacre. Originally intended Unitarian ministry. Married daughter of the Rev. James Serjeantson of Kirkby Lonsdale. Dr Williams's Trustee (AMH). Trustee, Red Lion Hill Unitarian Chapel, Hampstead (Ruth Rowntree, *'Religious Devils' of Hampstead* (Oxford, 2004), p. 130). 'He is a rare example of independence and courage, not renouncing the profession of his unpopular religious opinions.' (*Crabb Robinson*, 2, p. 220)

*CR* n.s., 12 (1856), p. 757.

#### Sir MATTHEW WOOD, Bart

2 June 1768 – 25 Sept. 1843

MP (Whig) for City of London, 1817-43

Hop merchant, Southwark, 1804-42. Blundell's Grammar School, Tiverton, Devon. At 14 apprenticed to Exeter druggist, moving to London as druggist, 1790. Freeman and liveryman of Fishmongers' Company, 1802; Prime Warden, 1836. Councillor of City of London from 1802; alderman from 1809. High Sheriff of London and Middlesex, 1809. Lord Mayor of London, 1815-16 (quelling Spitalfields riots) and 1816-17. His Whig views so distasteful to government that no ministers attended either of his Lord Mayoral banquets. Opposed corn laws and Test and Corporation Acts, favouring Catholic emancipation and parliamentary reform. 'A radical Reformer, in favour of free-trade, the vote by ballot, triennial Parliaments and the repeal of part of the assessed taxes.' (1843). Escorted Queen Caroline back from exile, 1820. Member of committee administering finances of Duke of Kent, arranging his residence so that Victoria could be born in England. Chairman of Commons committee on metropolitan improvements. His London home was scene of formation of Westminster Club, forerunner of Reform Club. Bart, 1837, because of friendship with young Queen Victoria. His son and partner in trade, Western Wood, was MP for City of London, 1861-63; another, William

Page Wood, became Lord Chancellor as Lord Hatherley. Of 24 Great George Street, London; Little Strawberry Hill, Middlesex; and latterly of Hatherley Court, Gloucs.

Member of Old Jewry, meeting in Jewin Street from 1809 'until nearly, though not quite, the end of his life'. Wife was C. of E., bringing up children as Anglicans. (*CL*, 6 Sept. 1884, p. 433). Watts (p. 434n.) mistakenly denies hard evidence that he was Dissenter even though he cites *CR* 10 (1843), p. 730 [sc. 731], as saying he attached himself to Abraham Rees' congregation, which was Old Jewry. Presbyterian Board (AMH). Supported principal Dissenting institutions, 'the more liberal in particular', presiding at their anniversaries (*CR*, Nov. 1843, p. 731). Death notice in *I*, 30 Sept. 1843, p. 617, does not mention religion. Brother of Benjamin Wood MP.

*ODNB*. *WWBMP*. *CR*, Nov. 1843, pp. 726-31. *CL*, 6 Sept. 1884, p. 433.

#### CALEB WRIGHT

1 Aug. 1810 – 28 Apr. 1898

MP (L) for Lancashire, SW, Leigh, 1885-95

Cotton spinner; founder of Caleb Wright and Co., retiring c. 1876. Started when 9 as piecer lad in cotton mill. Attended night schools and formed mutual improvement society. Member of Local Board; chairman. JP. Was 'strongly opposed to an hereditary legislative chamber, in favour of the abolition of the Parliamentary oath, and of the disestablishment of the Church' (1895). Promoted temperance, education and thrift. Fought for public baths, a mechanics' institute and shorter hours: 'mindful of his own struggles, his sympathies ran radically with the people'. Urging ten-hour day, advised local wage-earners: 'Never cringe to men on account of their wealth, but stand up as Englishmen and do all you can to elevate your condition.' (*I*, 14 May 1898, p. 311). Known as 'Owd Caleb'. Of Lower Oak, Tyldesley, Lancs.

Member of Chowbent Chapel, the 1722 building retaining its oak three-decker pulpit, pews and galleries. Treasurer of congregation while MP. (*CL*, 9 Mar. 1889, p. 117) Sunday scholar there, treasurer of Sick Society. When father, previous organist, died in 1832, requested father's place. 'I cannot play the organ; but I can learn; I'll be ready in a month.' (*I*, 14 May 1898, p. 311)

First-rate trombonist. Father of the congregation. Gave site for Chowbent Sunday schools, 1890. President, NELUM, 1877. In London attended Stopford Brooke's ministry at Bedford Chapel, Bloomsbury. Succeeded in constituency by C. P. Scott and then another Unitarian. At his funeral, Roman Catholic priest joined in Lord's Prayer.

*WWBMP* 2. *I*, 14 May 1898, pp. 310-11.

#### JOHN ASHTON YATES

1781 – 1 Nov. 1863

MP (L) for Carlow Co., 1837-41

Merchant and broker, Liverpool. Apprenticed to commercial firm of William Rathbone. Defeated at Bolton, 1832, where 'he was not liberal enough for a very small section of the newly enfranchised electors' (Yates, p.18); and at Carlow Co., 1841. Wrote tract urging abolition of slavery, 1824. On committee, Anti-Corn Law Association, London, 1836 (Holt, p. 197).

Published *A Letter on the Distress of the Country* (1817); *Colonial Slavery* (1824); *Essays on Currency and Circulation* (1827); and *A Letter on the*

*Present Depression of Trade and Manufactures* (1841). FRS. Collected engravings and old masters. Cousin of William James MP. Of Dinglehead, Lancs.; and 33 Bryanstone Square, London.

Probably member of Renshaw Street Chapel, Liverpool. Son of John Yates, minister at Key Street (1777-91), then Paradise Street, Liverpool. School of William Shepherd, Unitarian minister at Gateacre, Liverpool. Commerce student, Manchester Academy, 1795-97 (Ditchfield, p. 211), remaining supporter of MNC and becoming officer. Studied under Dr Thomas Barnes, minister of Cross Street, and John Dalton. Another apprentice at Rathbones was Thomas Thornely, later MP, who remained friend. President, B&FUA, 1841, 1856 (AMH). Brother of James Yates, Unitarian minister in Glasgow, at New Meeting, Birmingham, and at Carter Lane, London, where he served as secretary of the B&UFA. Encouraged in literature and fine arts by William Roscoe MP. Father-in-law of R. N. Philips MP.

S. A. T. Yates, *Memorials of the Family of the Rev. John Yates*, privately printed (n.p., 1890), pp. 16-18. *WWBMP*.

### Supplementary List of Supposed Unitarian MPs

#### PETER AINSWORTH

24 Nov. 1790 – 18 [19?] Jan. 1870

MP (L) for Bolton, 1835-47

Quarry owner. Seconded second reading of Ten Hours Bill moved by John Fielden, 1846. A Reformer, favouring ballot and shortening parliaments (1847). Unsuccessfully contested Bolton, 1852. After defeat, 'his principles became more Conservative, and finally he thoroughly identified with that party' (*Bolton Advertiser*, Feb. 1870, [p. 1]). DL. Provided dining room and library for his quarrymen. Initiated establishment of Athenaeum in Bolton. (Holt, p. 59) Supported British and Foreign School Society (Holt, p. 262). Unrelated to David Ainsworth MP. Of Smithills Hall, Bolton.

Unitarian? (Holt, p. 180) Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 19 Dec. 1885, p. 809). But a liberal Churchman (G. M. Ramsden, *A Responsible Society: The Life and Times of the Congregation of Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, Lancashire (Unitarian)* (Slinfold, Horsham, W Sussex, 1985), p. 25).

*WWBMP*. Boase. Not in Johnson.

#### EDGAR ALFRED BOWRING

26 May 1826 - 8 Aug. 1911

MP (L) for Exeter, 1868-74.

Private secretary. University College School and UCL. Entered Board of Trade, 1841. Private secretary to Earl of Clarendon, 1846-47; to Earl Granville, 1848-52; to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1852-53. Librarian and registrar to Board of Trade, 1848-63. Secretary to Royal Commission for the 1851 Exhibition, 1850-68. Supported father, Sir John Bowring, former MP, during his time in Hong Kong. Favoured disestablishment of Irish church, 1869, and reduction of public expenditure (1873). Defeated at Exeter, 1874. Companion of the Bath, 1882. Author of translations of Schiller, Goethe and Heine; *The Book of Psalms in English Verse*; etc. Of 69 Westbourne Terrace,

London (1873); and of 30 Eaton Place, London, SW; and 5 Lewes Crescent, Brighton (1911).

Listed as Unitarian (GP). But had become member of Church of England, as was evident from comments during Exeter election (Bartle, p. 125).

Recognised as 'Liberal Churchman' by *I*, 12 Dec. 1868, p. 799.

G. F. Bartle, *An Old Radical and his Brood* (London, 1994). *WWW* 1897-1916. *WWBMP*. Not in Johnson.

#### JACOB BRIGHT

1821 – 7 Nov. 1899

MP (L) for Manchester, Nov. 1867-1874, Feb. 1876 – 85  
Manchester, SW, 1886-95.

Cotton spinner; chairman of John Bright and Brothers of Rochdale. Partner in Bright and Co., carpet manufacturers of Rochdale and Manchester. Friends' School, York. Supported incorporation of Rochdale, becoming first mayor, 1856-57. Originator of the People's Institute, Rochdale. Member of Lancashire Public Schools Association favouring secular education. Promoter of Manchester Ship Canal. Defeated at Manchester, 1865 and 1874; and at Manchester, SW, 1885. PC, 1894. 'An advanced Liberal, in favour of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy' (1895). Persistent supporter of women's rights, securing municipal vote for women, 1869. Governor of Owens College, Manchester. Of 31 St James's Place, SW; The Lodge, Esher, Surrey. Ex-Quaker, nephew of John Bright. Accepted no religion. 'We have reason to know that he is Rationalistic in his religious opinions, but he has never, we believe, identified himself with Unitarians as a denomination.' (*I*, 24 July 1886, p. 479) Cremated without funeral service at Woking, where no religious organisation represented. Afterwards urn of ashes, inscribed 'Entered the land of light', taken to home in Goring, where family friend sang 'Like as the hart desireth the water brooks' and 'O rest in the Lord' and music by Bach and Schumann was played without speeches or formal ceremony. (*MG*, 14 Nov. 1899, p. 9).

*ODNB* (Alan Ruston). *BDMBR* 3. *WWW* 1897-1916. *WWMBP* 2. Boase. *MG*, 9 Nov. 1899, p. 12. Not in Johnson.

#### WILLIAM COARE BROCKLEHURST

9 Feb. 1818 – 3 June 1900

MP (L) for Macclesfield, 1868 – 80 (unseated on petition)  
Cheshire, Macclesfield, 1885-86

Silk manufacturer; partner of J. and T. Brocklehurst. Kept mills open in downturn of trade in 1863-64. Director, London and North-Western Railway for 20 years. Director of Buxton Palace Co. President of Macclesfield Chamber of Commerce for 17 years. Councillor from 1853 in Macclesfield; alderman, 1871-74 and 1879-96; mayor, 1855. JP. Captain in Earl of Chester's Yeomanry Cavalry, retiring 1876. Succeeded his father, John Brocklehurst, in seat. Favoured Irish disestablishment, abolition of rate-paying clauses, ballot, redistribution of voting power, triennial parliaments, security for trade union funds, religious equality, education provision, administrative reform, public retrenchment, reduction of taxes on articles of consumption. Always voted with Gladstone. Taken to Commons in bath-chair to vote for Home Rule when suffering from gout. Defeated at Macclesfield, 1886.

Governor, Macclesfield Grammar School, for 33 years. Supported formation of High School for Girls. Gave £500 to new technical school. President, Useful Knowledge Society. Master of Lyme Harriers, telling 'many a good story of the hunting field'. 1888, remarked that 'at his birth Nature had forgotten one bump in his head – the bump of eloquence'. (*Macclesfield Chronicle*, 8 June 1900, [p. 5]) Of Butley Hall, Prestbury, Cheshire. Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1868, p. 799; 10 Apr. 1880, p. 227). At school with William and James Lawrence at Rosoman House, Islington Green, conducted by David Davidson and John Scott Porter, Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian ministers then serving at Jewin Street Chapel and Carter Lane Chapel, London ([Alexander Gordon], *Family History of the Lawrences of Cornwall*, privately printed (West Norwood, 1915), p. 19). Funeral conducted by Anglican clergy at Prestbury Church, where buried in family vault. Recalled being taken as a boy to King Edward Street Chapel by grandfather as though it were an exceptional event. (*Macclesfield Chronicle*, 8 June 1900, [p. 5]) Hence apparently non-practising. *WVBMP* (omitting sitting in 1885 parliament). Not in Johnson.

#### ALEXANDER BROGDEN

3 Nov. 1825 – 26 Nov. 1892  
 MP (L) for Wednesbury, 1868-85  
 Ironmaster and railway contractor. Unsuccessfully contested Yarmouth, 1865. Of 9 Victoria Chambers, London; and Woodheads, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs. Student at MNC, c. 1843-48 (R. A. Armstrong, *Henry William Crosskey, LL.D., F.G.S.: His Life and Work* (Birmingham, 1895), p. 23). But subsequently of King's College, London, and so became C. of E. *WVBMP*. Boase. Not in Johnson.

#### THOMAS BURT

12 Nov. 1837 – 13 Apr. 1922  
 MP (L) for Morpeth, 1874-1918  
 Miner. Began work in coalmines at 10. Secretary of Northumberland Miners' Mutual Confidence Association, 1865-1913. Representative to Berlin Labour conference, 1890. President, Trades Union Congress, 1891. President, International Peace League, 1882-1914. One of first Lib-Lab MPs. Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade, 1892-95. Father of House of Commons, 1910-18. PC, 1906. DCL, Durham. 1911. Opposed Contagious Diseases Acts (Holt, p. 152). Published articles in *Nineteenth Century*, *Contemporary*, *Fortnightly*. Of 20 Burdon Terrace, Newcastle. Unitarian according to Holt, p. 205. Local preacher and Sunday school teacher among Primitive Methodists in youth. Secretary of local temperance society. Volume by Channing in his house as a boy. (*CL*, 22 Apr. 1922, p. 125). Formerly took interest in Unitarian chapel at Choppington, Northumberland, and considered 'an outside member of the denomination' (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788). Occasionally attended Church of the Divine Unity, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, during ministry of J. C. Street down to 1870 (Satre, p. 35). Not in list of Free Church candidates seeking re-election (*CW*, 4 Jan. 1906, p. vii). Obituary in *CL*, 22 Apr. 1922, p. 125, makes no reference to Unitarian allegiance. No evidence of practice while MP.



J. J. Satre, *Thomas Burt, Miners' MP, 1837-1922: The Great Conciliator* (London, 1999). Thomas Burt, *An Autobiography* (London, 1924). *ODNB*. *DLB* 1. *BDMBR* 2. *WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### JOHN BONHAM CARTER (Jun.)

13 Oct. 1817 – 26 Nov. 1884

MP (L) for Winchester, 1847-74

Landowner. Trinity College, Cambridge, matriculating in 1836 but not graduating. Junior Lord of Treasury, 1866. Chairman of committees of Commons and Deputy Speaker, 1872-74. Defeated, 1874. JP, DL. High Sheriff of Hampshire, 1879. Fellow of Winchester College, 1873-84. Of 29 Ashley Place, Victoria Street, London; and Adhurst St Mary's, Petersfield, Hants.

Son of John Bonham Carter (Sen.) MP. Brother of Henry, who did not graduate at Cambridge because of 'religious scruples' (Venn, 1, p. 526) but attended C. of E. though retaining Unitarian beliefs (website in entry for J. B. Carter Sen.). Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1868, p. 799, and GP), but probably followed same path as brother.

*WWBMP*. *Illustrated London News*, 60 (1872), pp. 601 (portrait), 607. Venn, 1, p. 527. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir (JOSEPH) AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN

16 Oct. 1863 – 16 Mar. 1937

MP (LU) for Worcestershire, E, Mar. 1892-1900

MP (C) for Worcestershire, E, 1900-14

MP (C) for Birmingham, W, 1914-37

Statesman. Rugby; Trinity College, Cambridge; Ecole des Sciences Politiques, Paris; Berlin. Civil Lord of the Admiralty, 1895-1900. Financial Secretary to the Treasury, 1900-02. Postmaster General, 1902-03. Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1903-05. Secretary of State for India, 1915-17. Member of War Cabinet without Portfolio, 1918-19. Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1919-21. Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons, 1921-22. Leader of Conservative Party in Commons, 1921-22. Foreign Secretary and Deputy Leader of Commons, 1924-29. First Lord of the Admiralty, 1931. Chairman of Royal Commission on Indian Finance, 1913. Rector of Glasgow University, 1925-28. Chairman of Governors, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; British Postgraduate Medical School; and Rugby School, 1932-37. Rector of Reading University, 1935-37. PC, 1902. KG, 1925. DCL, Oxford. LLD, Birmingham, Cambridge, Sheffield, Glasgow, Toronto and Lyons. A passionate rock gardener. Of 24 Egerton Terrace, London.

As son of Joseph Chamberlain, family tradition made him Unitarian, but only nominally. 'I may not be a very orthodox Unitarian, if there is such a thing as orthodoxy in that very heterodox body' (Charles Petrie, *The Life and Letters of the Rt. Hon. Sir Austen Chamberlain*, 2 vols (London, 1939-40), 1, pp. 320-1). Religion did not play a large part in his life and he found it difficult to conceptualise an afterlife (*ODNB*). Funeral at St Margaret's, Westminster, with archbishop of Canterbury giving blessing.

D. J. Dutton, *Austen Chamberlain: Gentleman in Politics* (Bolton, 1985). *The Austen Chamberlain Diary Letters: The Correspondence of Sir Austen Chamberlain with his Sisters Hilda and Ida, 1916-1937*, ed. R. C. Self,

*Camden Fifth Series*, 5 (1995). Austen Chamberlain, *Down the Years* (London, 1935); *Politics from Inside* (London, 1936); *Seen in Passing* (London, 1937). Ruston article (see Joseph Chamberlain entry). *ODNB*. WWW 1929-40. *WWBMP* 3.

#### Sir FRANCIS ALLSTON CHANNING

1841 – 20 Feb. 1926

MP (L) for Northamptonshire, 1885 – Dec. 1910

Barrister. Educated at Liverpool and at Exeter College, Oxford. Fellow of University College, Oxford. Called to bar, Lincoln's Inn. Member of Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1893; Small Holdings Committee, 1905; and many parliamentary and departmental enquiries. Chairman of Standing Committees in Commons, 1906. Chairman of Chambers of Agriculture, 1894. President of Land Law Reform Association, 1894-99. Favoured land law reform, national system of education and shorter hours of labour (1910). JP. Bart, 1906. Created Baron Channing of Wellingborough, 1912. Of 40 Eaton Place, London.

Son of the Rev. W. H. Channing, minister in America, Renshaw Street Church, Liverpool (1854-57), Hope Street Church, Liverpool (1857-61), and Washington, D.C.; nephew of the Rev. W. E. Channing. Not in list of Free Church MPs seeking re-election (*CW*, 4 Jan. 1906, p. vii). Recognised as 'a very Broad Churchman' by *I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788.

F. A. Channing, *Memories of Midland Politics, 1885-1910* (London, 1918). *WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir JOSEPH COWEN

10 Feb. 1800 – 19 Dec. 1873

MP (L) for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1865 – Dec. 1873

Fire brick and clay retort manufacturer and coalowner. Apprentice chairmaker, entering fire brick business c. 1824 and rising to become sole proprietor. Took out patents for glass retorts. Member of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Council from 1855; alderman from 1864. Chairman of Gateshead Board of Guardians for thirteen years. Chairman of Tyneside Improvement Commissioners for thirteen years. In demonstration against Peterloo massacre, 1819. A 'warm admirer' of Lord Durham. Member of National Political Union. Early member of Anti-Corn Law League. Helped with Cobden-Chevalier treaty with France, 1860. Voted in parliament for English disestablishment and game law abolition; refused to support Irish coercion. 'Radical Reformer', favouring shorter parliaments, redistribution and equalisation of franchise between counties and boroughs (1873). JP. Knight, 1872. Of 3 Redcliffe Square, London; Brompton, London; and Stella Hall, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

Listed as Unitarian (GP) and tentatively acknowledged by *I*, 12 Dec. 1868, p. 799). But had son Joseph (born 1831) baptised as Methodist (Nigel Todd, *'The Militant Democracy': Joseph Cowen and Victorian Radicalism* (Whitley Bay, 1991), p. 4). Interred in family vault at Winlaten, with Anglican clergyman reading service of C. of E. (*Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 24 Dec. 1873, p. 3). No clear indication of Unitarian affiliation found.

*ODNB* (under Joseph Cowen, omitting religion). *WWBMP*. Boase. *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 22 Dec. 1873, p. 3.

## JOSEPH COWEN

1831 – 17 Feb. 1900

MP (L) for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Jan. 1874 – 1886

Coalowner and fire brick and clay retort manufacturer. Proprietor of *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* and *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*. Son of Sir Joseph Cowen. Edinburgh University. ‘Radical Reformer’, seeking disestablishment, abolition of game laws, short parliaments and Home Rule (1886). Wrote political pamphlets. Of 23 Onslow Square, London; and Stella Hall, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

Baptised a Methodist but avoided identification with any sect. From 1859 helped finance George Holyoake’s secularist propaganda. Avoided completely secularist stance, but would offer no distinct statement of creed. (Todd, pp. 4, 26, 30, 86) Occasionally attended Church of the Divine Unity, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, during ministry of J. C. Street down to 1870 (J. J. Satre, *Thomas Burt, Miners’ MP, 1837-1922: The Great Conciliator* (London, 1999), p. 35). Considered by Unitarians ‘an outside member of the denomination’ (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788).

William Duncan, *Life of Joseph Cowen, MP* (London, 1904). Nigel Todd, *‘The Militant Democracy’: Joseph Cowen and Victorian Radicalism* (Whitley Bay, 1991). *ODNB*. *BDMBR* 2. *WWBMP*. Boase.

## JAMES SHARMAN CRAWFORD

1812 – Apr. 1878

MP (L) for Co. Down, 1874 - 78

Landowner. Son of William Sharman Crawford MP. Land agent from 1835. Favoured improved tenant right in Ireland, amendment to Grand Jury laws and economy in public finances (1878). Of Crossgar, Co. Down.

Graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, 1833 (G. D. Burtchaell and T. U. Sadleir (eds), *Alumni Dublinenses* (Dublin, 1935), p. 189), and so not then Unitarian. Unlikely to have returned to father’s religious allegiance.

*WWBMP*.

## CHARLES CROMPTON

4 Feb. 1833 – 25 July 1890 [or June, *WWBMP*]

MP (L) for Staffordshire, Leek, 1885-86

Barrister. University College School, UCL. Trinity College, Cambridge, becoming fellow, 1856-63. Called to bar, Inner Temple, 1864; bencher, 1887. Practised on Northern Circuit. QC, 1882. Defeated at Cheshire, W, 1880; and at Leek, 1886. Of 13 Cromwell Place, South Kensington; and 3 Harcourt Buildings, Temple.

Reputedly Unitarian. Married, 1863, Florence Elizabeth, third daughter of William Gaskell, minister of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 789). But Cambridge fellowship means that by 1856 he was C. of E. *WWBMP*. Boase.

## JOHN PASSMORE EDWARDS

24 Mar. 1823 – 22 Apr. 1911

MP (L) for Salisbury, 1880-82

Newspaper proprietor. Lawyer's clerk in Truro, then anti-corn-law journalist and temperance lecturer in Manchester before, in 1845, moving to London as journalist. Launched series of magazines, many of which failed. From 1876 proprietor of *The Echo*, first halfpenny daily newspaper in London.

Committee member of Early Closing Association, Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, Society for the Abolition of Taxes on Knowledge, Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, Peace Society, Ballot Society, Committee for the Abolition of Flogging in the Army and Navy, Garibaldi reception committee (1864) and education organisations. Attended Peace Congresses at Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt, 1848-50. Lecturer to Mechanics' Institutes. Unsuccessful candidate at Truro, 1868; and at Rochester, 1885. In 1868 favoured repeal of rate-payer clauses of 1867 Reform Act, universal education, ballot, equal parliamentary constituencies, 'a wise economy in every department of the State', non-intervention and arbitration, abolition of army purchase, end of game laws, university tests and capital punishment, self-supporting colonies, equalisation of poor law, better administration of charitable endowments, improved working-class dwellings, courts of arbitration to protect funds of trade societies, cultivation of waste lands and revision of liquor licensing. 'I did not find the House of Commons such a fruitful field of usefulness as I expected' because of unquestioning party loyalties and advantage-seeking, especially by 'scions of the hereditary aristocracy' (Edwards, p. 42). As MP 'I always, when opportunity offered, lowered the gas within reach that was burning to waste' (p. 68). President of Transvaal committees (1881 and c. 1900), London Reform Union (1894) and Anti-Gambling League. Opposed Home Rule. Sympathetic to Labour, 'a great and growing party' (p. 23). Erected, especially in Cornwall, reading rooms, hospitals, convalescent homes, children's institutions, public libraries, technical and art facilities, an epileptic colony and, in London, drinking fountains and a settlement. Author of *The War a Blunder and a Crime* (1854) and other pamphlets. Freemason. Twice declined knighthood. 'I have had no particular recreation, as generally understood. I have tried to perform the duties of life with as little friction as possible...' (p. 64). Of 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London.

Son of Baptist mother and Calvinistic father in Blackwater, Cornwall. Attended Wesleyan chapel in afternoons, briefly becoming Sunday school teacher (Edwards, pp. 8, 44n). Avowed intellectual debt to Martineau and Carlyle, and declared, 'I owe more to Emerson than to any other writer or teacher' (p. 18) as interpreter of nature and human soul. Held no allegiance to organised religion, instead, with Emerson, looking forward to a new Church...that will have heaven and earth for its beams and rafters, and service for symbol and illustration' (p.67).

John Passmore Edwards, *A Few Footprints* (London, 1905). *ODNB* (omitting religious allegiance). *WWBMP*.

Sir FRANCIS HENRY EVANS, Bart

29 Aug. 1840 – 22 Jan. 1907

MP (L) for Southampton, May 1888 – 1895, Feb. 1896 – 1900

Maidstone, Mar. 1901 - 1906

Banker, 1870-84: Melville, Evans and Co. Shipowner from 1880, when joined board of Union Steamship Co. As managing director, organised merger

with White Castle line, 1900. Then joint manager of Union Castle Co. Director of Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Co.; and of International Sleeping Car Co. Chairman of Elysee Palace Hotel, Paris. Trained as civil engineer. Spent time in America, including during Civil War. Married Marie, daughter of Samuel Stevens, Attorney General for New York, 1872. Commissioner of lieutenancy for London. Claimed to be only MP to have won 3 by-elections. Defeated at Southampton, 1895 and 1900, and at Maidstone, 1906. KCMG, 1893. Bart, 1902, for services to troop transport in South African War. Friend of Gladstone, dining with him on 2 May 1891 to meet representatives of Newfoundland (M. R. D. Foot and H. C. G. Matthew (eds), *The Gladstone Diaries*, 14 vols (Oxford, 1968-94), 12, p. 382), and Campbell-Bannerman. Enjoyed fishing. Of 40 Grosvenor Place, SW; and Tubbendens, Orpington, Kent.

Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 9 July 1892, p. 437). Educated MNC (after Moravian school at Neuwied in Germany). Not in list of Free Church candidates (*CW*, 4 Jan. 1906, pp. i-vii). Funeral at St Peter's, Eaton Square, London, and buried at Farnborough by Anglican clergy. At Tubbendons parish church, tribute to Evans made no reference to religious allegiance. (*Kent Messenger and Maidstone Telegraph*, 2 Feb. 1907, p. 9) No sign of Unitarian allegiance in maturity found.

WWW 1897-1916. *WWBMP* 2. *Kent Messenger and Maidstone Telegraph*, 26 Jan. 1907, p. 5. Not in Johnson.

#### EDWIN BROCKLEHURST FIELDEN

1852 – 31 Mar. 1942

MP (C) for Lancashire, SE, Middleton, 1900-06  
Manchester, Exchange, 1924-35

Cotton master; chairman of Fielden Brothers, 1889-1939. Son of Joshua Fielden. Director of Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; deputy chairman by 1903, chairman, 1918-23. Deputy Chairman, LMS Railway, from 1922. Local chairman, Alliance Insurance Co. Wellington College, then study in France. Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Engineer to Thames Valley Drainage Commission, 1881-94. Master of South Oxfordshire Hunt, 1887-94. Acquired Condover Hall, Salop, grand Elizabethan house, 1896. Chairman of wartime tribunals. Member of Shropshire CC from 1916; chairman of finance committee, 1920-40. JP. High Sheriff of Shropshire, 1911. Of Great College Street, London; Court of Hill, Ludlow, from 1926; and Dobroyd Castle, Todmorden.

Anglican, involved in church events as squire of Condover and elected to House of Laity, but patron of Unitarian events (Law, pp. 260, 266, 268).

B. R. Law, *Fieldens of Todmorden: A Nineteenth-Century Business Dynasty* (Littleborough, Lancs, 1995). *WWBMP* 3.

#### THOMAS FIELDEN

1854 – 5 Oct. 1897

MP (C) for Lancashire, Middleton, 1886-92, 1895 - c. Oct. 1897

Son of Joshua Fielden. Wellington College; Trinity College, Cambridge.

Twenty-first birthday celebrated at Nutfield with lavish feast (Law, p. 223).

Married at St George's, Hanover Square, Martha, daughter of Thomas

Knowles, MP (C) for Wigan. Pursued hunting and shooting, having lodge at

Amulree, Perthshire, on grouse moor owned by wife's family. JP, DL. Defeated at Middleton, 1885 and 1892. Although Unionist, in favour of 'any well-considered scheme of local government for Ireland' (1897). No record of his speaking in Commons. Genial and hearty in manner. Of Walton House, Boston Spa (1886), and, from 1893, Grimston Park, Tadcaster, Yorks. Probably became Anglican, like brother Edwin. Law (as in entry for E. B. Fielden). *WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### JOHN SNOWDEN HENRY

1824 – 30 Oct. 1896

MP (C) for Lancashire, SE, 1868-74

Merchant; partner in A. and S. Henry and Co. Favoured 'full religious liberty', but in 1869 voted against Irish disestablishment (1873). Of 142 Piccadilly, London; East Dens, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight; and Kirouchtree, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire.

Son of Alexander Henry (Baker, p. 123). No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

*WWBMP*. Boase. Not in Johnson.

#### GEORGE HIBBERT

13 Jan. 1757 – 8 Oct. 1837

MP for Seaford, 1806-12

Merchant; head of Hibberts, Fuhr and Purrier in City of London, retiring 1829. Chairman of Committee of West India Merchants. Agent for Island of Jamaica; absentee member of Jamaica House of Assembly, 1812-30. Director of West India Dock Co. from 1799; often chairman and active in establishing West India Docks. Helped to establish London Institution, 1805, becoming president to 1835. Alderman of City of London, 1798-1803. A 'temperate reformer' who after 1832 supported Conservatives (Markland, p. 6). Moved resolution of London merchants favouring property tax, 1798, and urging its repeal, 1816. Defended slave trade against its assailants. FRS, 1811. Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, 1812. Edited for Roxburghe Club Caxton's version of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Patron of arts and collector of exotic plants, one of which named Hibbertina after him. In 1829 sale catalogue of his library extended to 484 pages.

Brother of Robert Hibbert, founder of Hibbert Trust. Father was trustee of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester (Baker, p. 90). Educated at school of Anglican clergyman named Booth at Liverpool. Buried in churchyard of Aldenham, Herts. No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

J. H. Markland, *Sketch of Life and Character of George Hibbert* (1837), omitting religion. *ODNB*. Thorne, 4, pp. 193-4 (omitting religion).

#### JAMES MILNES GASKELL

19 Oct. 1810 – 5 Feb. 1873

MP (C) for Wenlock, 1832-68

Landowner. Eton, where he was a close friend of Gladstone, and Christ Church, Oxford, where he was 3 times secretary of the Union. Lord of the Treasury, 1841-1846. Favoured 'the basis of our representative system being extended' without 'any sudden or sweeping alteration'; and complete religious freedom (1867). Of 12 Stratford Place, London; and Wenlock Abbey, Salop.

Son of Benjamin Gaskell MP, nephew of Daniel Gaskell MP. Entry to Oxford shows that by then not Unitarian.

*ODNB. WWBMP.* J. M. Gaskell, *Records of an Eton Schoolboy*, ed. C. M. Gaskell, privately printed ([London], 1883). Not in Johnson.

#### GEORGE HARWOOD

1845 – 7 Nov. 1912

MP (L) for Bolton, 1895 – Nov. 1912

Cotton spinner; head of Richard Harwood and Son Ltd, Bolton. Chorlton High School and Owens College, Manchester. Called to bar, Lincoln's Inn, 1890. Independent Liberal, favouring Home Rule, principle of established church, reform of House of Lords and diminution of public houses but not local veto (1912). Published *The Coming Democracy* (1882). Of 70 South Audley Street, London; and Brownlow Fold, Bolton.

Left Unitarians for C. of E. (P. F. Taylor, *Popular Politics in Early Industrial Britain: Bolton, 1825-1850* (Keele, 1995), p. 64). Son of Unitarians, but convinced C. of E. (*CW*, 14 Nov. 1912, p. 5). Passed ordination exam for ordination and served as unpaid deacon at St Anne's, Manchester, 1886-89. Member of council of Church Reform Union (*Why should you support the Church Reform Union?*, leaflet by G. H. (1880)). Member of Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline, 1904-06. Author of *Disestablishment: Or a Defence of the Principle of a National Church* (1876); *Address on the Comprehension of Nonconformists* (1879); *Christianity and Common Sense* (1904); *The Bible as a Book* (1909).

*WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir BENJAMIN HAWES

19 Mar. 1797 – 15 May 1862

MP (L) for Lambeth, 1832-47

Kinsale, Mar. 1848 - Feb. 1852

Soap manufacturer. Grandson of Benjamin Hawes, a founder of Humane Society of London, 1774. Dr William Carmalt's school, Putney. Married daughter of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, 1820. JP, DL. Member of committee of Anti-Corn Law Association, 1836 (Holt, p. 197), but did not join League. Supported penny post. Supporter of New Zealand Company. Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1846. Deputy Secretary at War, 1851-57; Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, 1857. Defeated at Lambeth, 1847. Successfully proposed motion for appointment of Fine Arts Commission, 1841, of which became member. Pressed for opening of British Museum on great holidays. Urged Thames tunnel and took up scientific subjects including telegraph, railway gauges, Commons ventilation and Babbage's calculating machine, forerunner of computer. Favoured triennial parliaments, ballot, property tax and free trade (1851). Alienated Catholic voters at Kinsale by voting for Ecclesiastical Titles Act, 1851. Earned KCB, 1856, for administration during Crimean War, though Florence Nightingale considered him an autocratic obstacle to reform. Largely responsible for adoption of Armstrong gun. Wore evening dress and kid gloves in Commons, 'fussy and talkative' (Francis, p. 346). Object of amused contempt as 'Little Benjamin' because 'he unfortunately took a more active part in public business than

either his position or his experience appeared to warrant' (Francis, p. 345). Of 9 Queen Street, Westminster.

No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

G. H. Francis, *Orators of the Age* (London, 1847), pp. 345-50. *Gentleman's Magazine* 213 (July 1862), pp. 101-2. *ODNB* (omitting religion). *WWBMP*. Boase.

#### MITCHELL HENRY

1826 – 22 Nov. 1910

MP (L) for Co. Galway, February 1871-74

MP (Home Rule) for Co. Galway, 1874-85

MP (L) for Glasgow, Blackfriars and Hutchesontown, 1885-86

Merchant; head of A. and S. Henry, Manchester. UCL. Consulting surgeon from 1848, becoming surgeon to Middlesex Hospital. Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons. Retired from medicine to enter family firm, 1862.

Bought Kylemore Castle, Co. Galway. High Sheriff of Galway, 1888-89. JP, DL. Defeated as L at Woodstock, 1865, and at Manchester, Nov. 1867, 1868; and as LU at Blackfriars and Hutchesontown, 1886. Wrote at unknown dates that if there were rebellion in Ireland, home rulers 'would support the authority of the Queen in the most loyal manner'; and that 'Our attitude towards the liberal party should be that of watchful expectation.' (C. C. O'Brien, *Parnell and His Party, 1880-90* (Oxford, 1968), pp. 29, 45). By 1886 favoured local self-government in all parts of United Kingdom. Of Strathedon House, London; and Kylemore Castle.

Son of Alexander Henry (Baker, p. 123). But no evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

*ODNB*. *WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir JOHN TOMLINSON HIBBERT

5 Jan. 1824 - 7 Nov. 1908

Barrister. MP (L) for Oldham, May 1862-74, Mar. 1877-86, 1892-95.

Shrewsbury School and St John's College, Cambridge. Called to bar, Inner Temple, 1849. Promoted Married Women's Property Act, 1870. Secretary to Local Government Board, 1872-74, 1880-83. Under-Secretary for Home Department, 1883-84. Financial Secretary to Treasury, 1884-85. Secretary to Admiralty, 1886. Financial Secretary to Treasury, 1892-95. Favoured Home Rule, disestablishment in Wales and Scotland, legal limitation of hours of labour and payment of MPs (1895). Chairman of Lancashire CC, 1889-1908. President, County Councils Association. Defeated at Cambridge, 1857; at Blackburn, 1875; and at Oldham, 1859, 1874, 1886, 1895. PC, 1886. JP, DL. KCB, 1893. DCL, Manchester. Of Hampsfield, Grange-over-Sands.

Because graduated from Cambridge 1847, not then Dissenter. From 1851 supported Flixton parish church and later Lindale parish church. Long vice-chairman, Carlisle Association of Church Schools. (Hibbert, pp. 7, 81, 89) C. Hibbert, *Memories of ... Sir J. T. Hibbert* (1911). *ODNB*. *WWW* 1897-1916. Not in Johnson.

#### MATTHEW DAVENPORT HILL

6 Aug. 1792 – 7 June 1872

MP (L) for Hull, 1832-35



Barrister. Brother of Rowland Hill, postal reformer. Helped teach in father's school from age of twelve. Called to bar (Lincoln's Inn), 1819. Reporter on *Morning Herald* and contributor to magazines. Served on Midland Circuit, defending Nottingham reform rioters of 1831. KC, 1834. Recorder of Birmingham, 1839. Commissioner of Bankrupts for Bristol district, 1851. Published *Suggestions for the Repression of Crime* (1857), consolidating reputation as penal reformer. Co-founder of Law Amendment Society, 1844. Whig, inclined to radicalism (1833). Favoured municipal reform, ending of monopolies, lighter taxation and its redistribution away from working classes; specially favoured ending of taxes on knowledge, education of the people and anti-slavery cause (1832). Independent in Commons, in first session voting with ministry 3 times and opposing 11 times. Helped with preparation of New Poor Law, 1834. Defeated at Hull, 1835. Supported female enfranchisement. In later life opposed trade unions ('Led away by the desire for equality...': Davenport-Hill, p. 399), favouring industrial co-operation instead. Maintained his father's Hazelwood School, described in his *Public Education* (1825), which won Bentham's admiration. Promoter of UCL, 1825. Supporter of Society for Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, conceiving idea of its *Penny Magazine*. Supported free libraries. Supporter of National Association for the Promotion of Social Science from 1857. Believed Sunday should be rescued from 'the restraints which superstition has affixed to its enjoyment' (1827, quoted by Davenport-Hill, p. 99), and so embarrassed at having to present Hull petition in favour of better observance of Sabbath (p. 124). Reputedly pompous and short-tempered. Of 44 Chancery Lane, London. Father abandoned Calvinism for Joseph Priestley's Birmingham congregation. Because of Dissenting stock, Matthew could not subscribe university tests. Addressing Commons on this point, spoke of himself as 'sprung from a dissenting family' (Davenport-Hill, p. 125). Member of Non-Con Club, founded by Robert Aspland in 1817, delivering paper 'On Freedom in Matters of Opinion', and so probably then associated with his Hackney congregation (Aspland, pp. 404-5). Friend of the Rev. W. H. Channing and at Bristol co-operated with Mary Carpenter, but no mention of Unitarian or any other affiliation in later life. A speculative theist, supposing that perhaps laws bind divine power in relation to origins of evil (Davenport-Hill, p. 420). Rosamond and Florence Davenport-Hill, *The Recorder of Birmingham: A Memoir of Matthew Davenport Hill* (London, 1878). *ODNB*. *WWBMP*. Boase. Not in Johnson.

#### THOMAS KNOWLES

1824 – 3 Dec. 1883

MP (C) for Wigan, 1874 – Dec. 1883

Colliery proprietor; chairman of Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Co. Also cotton spinner and bleacher. Son of John Knowles, of Ince, near Wigan.

Twice mayor of Wigan, 1864 and 1865. JP. A 'thorough Protestant', in favour of union of church and state (1883). Of 9 St James' Place, London; and Darnhall Hall, Winsford, Cheshire.

No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

*WWBMP*. Not in Johnson.

#### JAMES GARTH MARSHALL

20 Feb. 1802 – 22 Oct. 1873

MP (L) for Leeds, 1847-52

Member of linen manufacturing family; son of John Marshall (Sen.). Director of Leeds, Dewsbury and Manchester Railway. High Sheriff of Yorkshire, 1860. JP, DL. Hon. curator of Leeds Philosophical Society, to which read scientific papers. Chiefly responsible for formation of Leeds Social Improvement Society. With others in family, built schools at Holbeck. Advocate of compulsory state education. Held advanced views on franchise, urging ballot. Urged Gothenburg system of liquor licensing. Shy and a poor public speaker. Pursued geology with Adam Sedgwick. Married Mary, daughter of Thomas Spring-Rice, Lord Mounteagle. Of Headingley House, near Leeds; 37 South Street, London; and Monk Coniston, Ambleside, Lancashire.

Built St John the Evangelist for employees, 1847-50, and so C. of E. by entry into parliament (Rimmer, p.207).

W. G. Rimmer, *Marshalls of Leeds: Flax-Spinners, 1788-1886* (Cambridge, 1960). *WWBMP*. *Leeds Mercury*, 24 Oct. 1873. Not in Johnson.

#### JOHN MARSHALL (Jun.)

28 Dec. 1797 – 31 Oct. 1836

MP (L) for Leeds, 1832-35

Member of linen manufacturing family; son of John Marshall (Sen.). A Reformer, inclining to radicalism (1833). Favoured repeal of corn laws, factory reform and civil liberties. Seconded address in response to speech from throne, 1833 (Taylor, p. 366n.). Loved race-horses. Owned estate on Derwentwater. Of Headingley Lodge, near Leeds; and 41 Upper Grosvenor Street, London.

Erected new Anglican church at Keswick (Taylor, p. 366), and so, like brothers Henry and James, became C. of E. Not MNC student (Ditchfield, p. 223 n. 163).

W. G. Rimmer, *Marshalls of Leeds: Flax Spinners, 1788-1886* (Cambridge, 1960). R. V. Taylor, *The Biographia Leodiensis* (London, 1865), pp. 364-6. *WWBMP*. Not in Johnson.

#### WILLIAM MARSHALL

26 May 1796 – 16 May 1872

MP (L) for Petersfield, 1826-30

Leominster, 1830

Beverley, 1831

Carlisle, 1835-37

Cumberland, E, 1847-68

Member of linen manufacturing family but not involved in business; eldest son of John Marshall (Sen.). Educated by the Rev. Dr Thomas Whitaker of Holme, Lancashire, Anglican. Called to bar. JP, DL. Favoured triennial parliaments, ballot, 'an extension and equitable division of the suffrage' and reform of church establishment (1867). Of 32 St George's Road, London; and Patterdale Hall, Westmorland.

Married, 1828, Georgiana, daughter of George Hibbert MP. No indication of Unitarian allegiance, and so, like brothers Henry, James and John, likely to have become C. of E.

W. G. Rimmer, *Marshalls of Leeds: Flax Spinners, 1788-1886* (Cambridge, 1960). *WWBMP*. *Leeds Mercury*, 21 May 1872.

#### RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES

19 June 1809 – 10 Aug. 1885

MP (C, then L from 1846) for Pontefract, 1837-52

MP (L) for Pontefract, 1852 – Dec.1862

Of private means. After Cambridge, UCL and University of Bonn. Travelled, publishing accounts of journeys, wrote poetry and played host. Advocate of civil and religious liberty, factory education, mechanics' institutes and penny savings banks. Promoted Copyright Act, 1842. Moved Deceased Wife's Sister Marriage Bill, 1862, and worked for repeal of Contagious Diseases Acts. Supported North in American Civil War. Favoured women's suffrage. Created Lord Houghton, 1863. Author of *Life, Letters and Literary Remains of John Keats* (2 vols., 1848) and contributed extensively to magazines. President of the Statistical Society (1865–7). Secretary for foreign correspondence of the Royal Academy, 1878-85. Trustee of British Museum and of Royal Geographic Society. A vice-president of the Society of Authors. President of London Library, 1881. DCL, Oxford, 1855. FRS, 1868. Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, 1876. LLD, Edinburgh, 1877. Depicted by Disraeli as Mr Vavasour in *Tancred* (1847).

Son of Robert Pemberton Milnes MP. Graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, 1830, and so then C. of E. Attracted by Irvingism and Roman Catholicism before evolving into (according to himself) a 'Puseyite sceptic' (*ODNB*). Nevertheless chaired meeting for R. W. Emerson at Exeter Hall, 1848 (J. Passmore Edwards, *A Few Footprints*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (London, 1906), pp. 21-2). No allusion to Unitarian background in obituary in *I*, 15 Aug. 1885, p. 526.

T. Wemyss Reid, *The Life, Letters and Friendships of Richard Monckton Milnes, First Lord Houghton*, 2 vols (London, 1890). *ODNB*.

#### JOHN MITCHEL

3 Nov. 1815 – 20 Mar. 1875

MP (Home Rule) for Tipperary, Feb. and Mar. 1875 (but declared ineligible as convicted felon)

Attorney and journalist. Born in Londonderry. In Daniel O'Connell's campaign for repeal of Union, following Thomas Davis on the *Nation*, 1845-46. Seceded from Repeal Association with Young Ireland, 1846. Urged revolution in *United Irishman*, 1848. Transported to Tasmania, but escaped to America, where intermittently pursued journalism. Published *Jail Journal* (1854). Opposed abolitionists and supported Confederacy in American Civil War. Defeated candidate in absence at Tipperary and at Cork City, Feb. 1874. Returned to Ireland, summer 1874. 1875, declared disqualified by resolution of Commons, but returned in second poll just before death. 'The heart, whose every pulse was for Ireland, now beats no more' (*Cork Examiner*, 22 Mar. 1875, [p. 2]). Published *History of Ireland* (1867); *The Crusade of the Period* (1873); etc. His ideas influenced later Irish republicans.

Son of John Mitchel, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian minister of Newry, 1823-40 (AMH), and buried at Newry beside his parents (*Cork Examiner*, 24 Mar. 1875, [p. 2]). But must have subscribed 39 Articles at Trinity College,

Dublin. Said to have been ‘Unitarian by creed’ (*Cork Examiner*, 22 Mar. 1875, [p. 2]), but he felt that his views were ‘almost pagan’ (*ODNB*). *ODNB*. *Cork Examiner*, 22 Mar. 1875, [p. 2]. Not in Johnson.

#### OSWALD PARTINGTON

4 May 1872 – 23 Mar. 1935

MP (L) for Derbyshire, High Peak, 1900 – Dec. 1910

Yorkshire, West Riding, Shipley, Feb. 1915 - 1918

Paper manufacturer. Rossall School. Captain, 4<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Battalion, Cheshire Regiment. JP. Junior Lord of the Treasury and Liberal Whip, 1909-10. Defeated at High Peak, Dec. 1910. Alderman, London CC, 1913.

Member of Royal Commission on Paper, 1916. Second Baron Doverdale, 1925. Of Bolney House, Ennismore Gardens, London; and Red Court, Glossop, Derbyshire.

Second son of Edward Partington, Unitarian paper manufacturer from 1874 at Glossop (A. H. Birch, *Small-Town Politics: A Study of Political Life in Glossop* (London, 1959), pp. 19, 26-7). Not listed in *CW*, 4 Jan. 1906, p. vii, as Free Churchman seeking re-election or in *Free Church Yearbook*, 1905 or 1907. Unlikely to have retained Unitarian allegiance.

*WVBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir GEORGE PHILIPS, Bart

24 Mar. 1766 – 3 Oct. 1847

MP (Whig) for Ilchester, 1812-18

Stevington, 1818-20

Wootton Bassett, 1820-30

Warwickshire, S, 1832-34

Cotton manufacturer; partner in Philips and Lee from 1792; and in J. and N. Philips. Partner in Boddington, Philips and Sharp, West India merchants. Member of Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society and Portico Library. In *The Necessity of a Speedy and Effectual Reform in Parliament* (1792), contended for universal, including female, suffrage, but moderated principles afterwards. Joined the King of Clubs, Sir James Mackintosh’s Whig dining club in London, 1807. In Commons supported free trade, opposed factory legislation and trade unions. The ‘unofficial member for Manchester’. When sat for Warwickshire, S, however, supported corn laws. JP, DL. Bart, 1828. Lieutenant-Colonel of volunteer infantry, 1803. First chairman of Manchester Royal Exchange, 1804-10. Helped found *MG*, 1821. Supported UCL. Father of Sir George Richard Philips, Bart, MP (Whig) for Horsham (1812-20), Stevington (1820-32), Kidderminster (1835-37) and Poole (1837-52). Of Sedgley, Staffs; and from 1827 of Weston House, Long Compton, Warwicks, which was rebuilt for him by A. W. N. Pugin. Wesleyan upbringing, but educated at Stand Grammar School and then under Ralph Harrison, minister of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. Possibly attracted to Unitarianism (Thorne, 1, p. 295). Unitarian (Watts, p. 434). But not Unitarian according to Brown (p. 1), who suggests he became ‘superficial Anglican’, rejecting religious belief. In retirement, experienced religious conversion recorded in his memoirs.

*ODNB*. D. Brown, 'From "cotton lord" to landed aristocrat: the rise of Sir George Philips Bart, 1766–1847', *Historical Research*, 69 (1996), pp. 62–82. Thorne, 4, pp. 793-4.

#### JAMES ALLANSON PICTON

8 Aug. 1832 – 4 Feb. 1910

MP (L) for Leicester, June 1884 – Aug. 1894

Minister and journalist. Liverpool Institute; Owens College, Manchester; London University MA in classics. Lancashire Independent College while at Owens College. Minister of Cheetham Hill Congregational Church, Manchester, 1857-62; of Gallowtree Gate Congregational Church, Leicester, 1862-69; and of St Thomas' Square Congregational Church, Hackney, 1869-79. Gave Sunday afternoon lectures to working men at Manchester and Leicester. President of Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. Opposed compulsory vaccination. Member of London School Board, 1870-79; and of Caernarvonshire CC and its Local Education Committee to 1909. Member of Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls, 1888. For 20 years regular political leader writer on *CW* until his residence in Wales made it impossible. (*CW*, 10 Feb. 1910, p. 4, whose dates of pastorates have been preferred). Supported kindergartens, phonetic teaching of reading and Froebel philosophy of education. Learned Welsh. JP. Of 80 Regent's Park Road, London. Influenced towards liberal theology by A. J. Scott, principal of Owens College from 1851. Went to Halle, Heidelberg, Leipzig, returning to defend Samuel Davidson of Lancashire College, 1856. In 1869 introduced liturgical services without full support of members at St Thomas'. Addressed Leicester Conference on Religious Communion in 1877 on 'Some Relations of Theology to Religion', arguing that varied theologies were aids to the religious life (Mark Hopkins, *Nonconformity's Romantic Generation* (Carlisle, 2004), p. 90). At Congregational Union spring assembly 1878 made farewell speech to organised Congregationalism. Became Spinozan pantheist. Later lectured at South Place Ethical Society, Finsbury, and addressed Hampstead Ethical Society, 1901. Author of *New Theories and the Old Faith* (1870), *The Mystery of Matter* (1873), *Oliver Cromwell: The Man and his Mission* (1882), *Lessons from the Rise and Fall of the English Commonwealth* (1884), *The Conflict of Oligarchy and Democracy* (1885), *The Religion of Jesus* (1893), *Sir James A. Picton: A Biography* (1891), *The Religion of the Universe* (1904), *Spinoza: A Handbook to the Ethics* (1907), *Man and the Bible: A Review of the Place of the Bible in Human History* (1909); etc. Hibbert Trustee, 1898-1910. But not in list of Free Church candidates seeking re-election (*CW*, 4 Jan. 1906, p. vii). 'Mr. Picton is not a professed Unitarian, but is so much in sympathy with free religious thought that we have never been able to discover the difference.' (*I*, 12 Dec. 1885, p. 788). *ODNB*. WWW 1897-1916. WWBMP 2. Not in Johnson.

#### WILLIAM CONYNGHAM PLUNKET

1 July 1764 – 4 Jan. 1854

MP for Midhurst, 1807

Dublin University, 1812-27

Barrister. Called to Irish bar, 1787. KC, 1797. Sat in Irish House of Commons for Charlemont before Union, 1798-1800. Unsuccessful candidate

for Dublin University, 1802. Solicitor General for Ireland, 1803; Attorney General, 1805-07, 1822. In 1821 carried Catholic emancipation in Commons, but defeated in Lords. PC, 1822. Chief Justice of Common Pleas in Ireland and Baron Plunket, 1827. Lord Chancellor of Ireland, 1830-41. According to Lord Brougham, the greatest orator since ancient Greece (*MU*, p. 142). Of Old Connaught, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Son of Thomas Plunket, Presbyterian minister at Enniskillen and then of Strand Street Chapel, Dublin. Thomas died in debt in 1778, leaving family to care of congregation, which paid for William's education. He repaid the whole, creating Widows' Fund for widows of ministers of congregation. Although subscribed to Strand Street down to his death, conformed to established church from early manhood (*MU*, p. 143), no doubt because attended Trinity College, Dublin (Thorne, 4, p. 837).

*ODNB. MU*, pp. 141-3. *I*, 7 Jan. 1854, pp. 9, 27.

#### DAVID RICARDO (Jun.)

1803 – 17 May 1864

MP (L) for Stroud, 1832 – May 1833

Landowner. Son of David Ricardo (Sen.) MP. 'Of Whig principles, and in favour of free-trade' (1833). Of 59 Harley Street, London; and Gatcombe Park, Gloucs.

Reputedly Unitarian (AMH), but no evidence found.

*WWBMP*.

#### GODFREY BLUNDELL SAMUELSON

3 June 1863 – 3 Nov. 1941

MP (L) for Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean, July 1887 – 1892

Of private means. Rugby and Balliol College, Oxford. Private secretary to A. J. Mundella MP. Unsuccessful candidate for Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury, 1885, and Somerset, Frome, 1886. 'A Liberal, in favour of Union with Ireland through Home Rule, of Land Law and Local Government reform, free elementary education, and absolute Religious Equality' (1892). Of 56 Prince's Gate, London.

Son of Sir Bernhard Samuelson MP. Married daughter of Brocklesby Davis, Anglican clergyman, of Apsley House, Torquay, 1887. Friend of W. E. Price MP (*Gloucester Journal*, 13 Feb. 1886, p. 5). No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

*WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### HENRY BERNHARD SAMUELSON

30 Sept. 1845 -

MP (L) for Cheltenham, 1868-74

Frome, Nov. 1876 - 1885

Soldier. Rugby and Trinity College, Oxford. Captain, 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Defeated, 1874. JP. Of 56 Prince's Gate, London; and Chelston Cross, Torquay.

Son of Sir Bernhard Samuelson MP. Married Emily, daughter of John Gooden of Over Compton, Dorset, 1874. Listed as Unitarian (*I*, 12 Dec. 1868, p. 799, and GP), but probably on grounds of father's denomination. No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

*WWBMP* 2. Not in Johnson.

#### JOHN SARGENT

25 Jan. 1750 – 9 Sept. 1831

MP for Seaford, 1790-93

Queenborough, 1794-1802

Bodmin, 1802-06

Landowner. Eton, St John's College, Cambridge, and Lincoln's Inn.

Director, Bank of England, 1778-79. Gentleman of Privy Chamber, 1784.

Member of Board of Agriculture, 1803. Clerk of Ordnance, 1793-1802. Joint

Secretary to Treasury, 1802-04. Commissioner of Audit, 1806-21. Chairman

of Sussex Quarter Sessions for over 40 years. Supporter of William Pitt.

Friend of third Duke of Richmond. Wrote dramatic poetry on historical

themes. Of Woolavington, Sussex.

Said to have attended Essex Street Chapel, but probably transiently.

*ODNB*, omitting religion. Thorne, 5, pp. 95-6. Not in Johnson.

#### BENJAMIN SMITH

28 Apr. 1783 – 12 Apr. 1860

MP (L) for Sudbury, 1835-37

Norwich, May 1838 - 1847

Distiller; of Cooke's Distillery, making fortune. Tonbridge School. Admitted

to Trinity College, Cambridge, but probably never resided. Candidate for

Norwich in 1837, being awarded seat on disqualification of another candidate.

Built Owenite school in Vincent Square. Staunch Liberal and free trader.

Lived openly with Anne Longden, milliner's apprentice, mother of his five

children. Father of Barbara Leigh Smith, organiser of women's suffrage

committee, 1868 (Holt, p. 153). Of 5 Blandford Square, London; and

Hastings.

Son of William Smith MP, but domestic arrangement makes active Unitarian

allegiance unlikely.

*ODNB* (s.v. William Smith) *WWBMP*.

#### EDWARD STRUTT

26 Oct. 1801 – 30 June 1880

MP (L) for Derby, 1830 - c. Aug. 1848

Arundel, July 1851 - 1852

Nottingham, 1852 – c. July 1856

Partner in family cotton spinning firm, but never took active part. Trinity

College, Cambridge, graduating 1823; president of the Union. Admitted to

Lincoln's Inn 1823 and Inner Temple 1825, but never called to bar. Supported

UCL, proposing toast to its success, 1828; vice-president, 1862-71; president,

1871-79. Helped found Derby Mechanics' Institution, 1825. High Sheriff of

Nottinghamshire, 1850; Lord Lieutenant from 1864. Chairman of

Nottinghamshire Quarter Sessions. Supported electoral reform, free trade,

abolition of slavery. Opposed Factory Act, 1848. Chief commissioner of

railways, 1846-48. Unsuccessful candidate at Coventry, Apr. 1852.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1852-54. PC, 1845. Baron Belper,

1856. FRS, 1860. LLD, Cambridge, 1862. Fellow, Geological and

Zoological Societies. Vice-president, Sunday Society, 1879-80. Friend of

Bentham, Macaulay, John Romilly, McCulloch, John and Charles Austen, Grote and Charles Buller. Of Kingston-on-Soar Hall, Notts; St Helen's House, Derby; and 75 Eaton Square, London.

Strutts supported Friargate Chapel, Derby, where they were buried. Attended MNC, 1817-19. (Holt, p. 49) Subscribed to MNC until 1840s (AMH). But graduation at Cambridge entailed conforming to established church, and contributed to building of St Peter's, Derby, 1820s. Married Amelia, daughter of William Otter, Bishop of Chichester, 1837. No reference to religion in notice of death in *CL*, 3 July 1880, p. 5. Thus seems to have become C. of E. R. S. Fitton and A. P. Wadsworth, *The Strutts and the Arkwrights, 1758-1830: A Study of the Early Factory System* (Manchester, 1958). *ODNB* (omitting religion).

#### HENRY STRUTT

20 May 1840 – 26 July 1914

MP (L) for Derbyshire, E, 1868-74

Berwick-on-Tweed, April - c. June 1880

Son of Edward Strutt, succeeding him as Baron Belper, 1880. Harrow; Trinity College, Cambridge. Chairman, Nottinghamshire CC and Quarter Sessions. ADC to King Edward VII. Captain, Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, 1895-1906. Defeated in Derbyshire, E, 1874. LLM, PC. Of Kingston-on-Soar Hall, Notts.

Not in GP. No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

WWW 1897-1916. Not in Johnson.

#### Sir THOMAS NOON TALFOURD

26 Jan. 1795 – 13 Mar. 1854

MP (L) for Reading, 1835-41, 1847 – July 1849

Barrister. Reading Grammar School. Called to bar, Middle Temple, 1821, practising on Oxford circuit. Serjeant-at-Law, 1833. Recorder of Banbury. Judge of the Common Pleas, 1849. Promoter of Infants' Custody Act (Serjeant Talfourd's Act), 1839 (Holt, p. 149). Hon. Doctor of Civil Law (Oxford). Knight, 1850. Died while delivering charge to Grand Jury at Stafford Assizes, deploring 'that separation between class and class which is the great curse of British society' as cause of crime (*MU*, p. 350). Reviewer of plays. Wrote tragedy *Ion* and memoir of Charles Lamb, whom he served as literary executor. His rhetorical style 'encumbered by both redundancy of words and by their poetic character' (*CR*, Apr. 1854, p. 253). Of 67 Russell Square, London; and 3 Serjeant's Inn, London.

Mother was daughter of Thomas Noon, Independent minister at Reading.

Brought up as Calvinist, but embraced Unitarianism through preaching of Richard Wright and William Vidler at Reading. Married Rachel, daughter of J. T. Rutt, editor of works of Joseph Priestley. (*CR*, Apr. 1854, p. 253) Father, Edward Talfourd, became a member of Hackney (*THUS*, 14 (1967), p. 5). A friend of Robert Aspland, making contributions to *MR* signed 'T.N.T.'

Joined in establishing Non-Con Club, Hackney, delivering papers on 'The Intolerance of the Dissenters usually denominated 'Orthodox', as compared with that of the Established Churches' and 'The Supposed Affinity of the Poetical Faculties with Arbitrary Power and Superstitious Faith' (R.B. Aspland, *Memoir of the Life, Works and Correspondence of the Rev. Robert*



*Aspland* (London, 1850), pp. 403-5). But ‘assuming the coif he withdrew from Unitarian worship’ to attend the C. of E., and so ceased to be Unitarian before became MP (*MU*, p. 351).

*ODNB. WWBMP. MU*, pp.348-52. *CR*, Apr. 1854, p. 253. Contributions to *MR* in F. E. Mineka, *The Dissidence of Dissent: The Monthly Repository, 1806-1838* (Chapel Hill, NC, 1944), pp. 397-9.

## JOSIAH WEDGWOOD

1769 – 12 July 1843

MP (L) for Stoke-upon-Trent, 1832-35

Potter; partner in firm of his father, Josiah Wedgwood. Edinburgh University. After death of father in 1795, moved to Stoke d’Abernon Hall, Surrey, issuing orders to pottery from there. Moved to Dunville, Dorset, 1799, selling property there when moved to Maer, 1803. High Sheriff of Dorset, 1803.

Retired from pottery, 1841. Unsuccessful candidate at Newcastle-under-Lyne, 1831. ‘A Reformer, in favour of the immediate abolition of slavery.’ (1833)

On committee of Anti-Slavery Society (D. C. Stange, *British Unitarians against American Slavery, 1833-65* (Cranbury, NJ, 1984), p. 41). But, according to his daughter, by 1832 had ‘become too Tory for these Radical Times’ (Wedgwood, p. 219). Maintained closed carriage with velvet cushions, four white horses and postillions in red livery. Married cousin Caroline Elizabeth, daughter of Erasmus Darwin of Shrewsbury, and was father-in-law of Charles Darwin. Sent sons to Eton, 1810. Supported N Staffs Infirmary. Principal originator of Pottery Mechanics’ Institution and of British School in Stoke-upon-Trent, helping other schools. Supported Pottery Central Savings Bank and local savings banks. Gave £100 to S. T. Coleridge, 1798, so that he did not need to take up Unitarian ministry at Shrewsbury and so could concentrate on literature, and continued to provide him with £75 annuity. He was ‘of considerable taste, and of high attainments’ (Jewitt, p. 380). A founder of the Royal Horticultural Society. Enjoyed hunting, shooting and improving sheep. Patient, averse to risk, a ‘natural conformist’ (Wedgwood, p. 106). Solemn in manner. ‘Wedgwood is a good man. It is a pity he hates his friends. (Sydney Smith in Wedgwood, p. 175). Of Maer Hall and Etruria Hall, Staffs.

Originally member of Newcastle-under-Lyne. Brother-in-law of the Rev. Samuel Willetts. (AMH) But abandoned Unitarian chapel for C. of E. (Wedgwood, p. 106). Buried in vault of Maer church (*N Staffordshire Mercury* reproduced in *CR*, Oct. 1843, pp. 666-8).

Barbara and Hensleigh Wedgwood, *The Wedgwood Circle, 1730-1897* (London, 1980). Llewellynn Jewitt, *Life of Josiah Wedgwood* (London, 1865). *ODNB. WWBMP.*

## SAMUEL WHITBREAD

17 Jan. 1764 – 6 July 1815

MP (Whig) for Bedford, 1790-1815

Statesman. Inherited his father Samuel’s brewery and estates, 1796. Eton, Christ Church, Oxford, and St John’s College, Cambridge. Leading spirit of Association of the Friends of the People, 1792. Lieutenant-Colonel, Bedford volunteer infantry, 1803; Bedfordshire militia, 1809. Prominent Foxite speaker in Commons. Impeached Lord Melville for malpractice, 1806. Broke

with his brother-in-law Lord Grey, leader of Whigs, through pursuing peace policy from 1807. Champion of Caroline, Princess of Wales, from 1812.

Committed suicide. Of Southill, Beds.

Mother related to Thomas Belsham (AMH). But graduation at Cambridge meant that by then not Unitarian. Father had abandoned Dissent for C. of E. (*ODNB* for father). Treated as non-Unitarian by Holt, pp. 125, 259. ‘He was no bigot to forms of worship’ (*Morning Chronicle* reproduced in *MR*, July 1815, p. 461).

Dean Rapp, *Samuel Whitbread: A Social and Political Study* (New York, 1987). *ODNB*. Thorne, 5, pp. 528-45.

#### Sir JAMES WIGRAM

1793 – 29 July 1866

MP (C) for Leominster, June – Oct. 1841

Barrister. Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating 1815; fellow. Called to bar, Lincoln’s Inn, 1819; bencher, 1835. KC, 1834. Vice-Chancellor, 1841-50.

Knight, 1842. PC, 1842. Defeated candidate at Leominster, 1839. Of 68 Portland Place, London.

Son of Sir Robert Wigram, Bart. Because of Cambridge degree, by then Anglican. Older brother of J. C. Wigram, Bishop of Rochester. No evidence of Unitarian allegiance found.

*ODNB* (omitting religion). *WWBMP*.

#### Sir ROBERT WIGRAM, Bart

30 Jan. 1744 – 6 Nov. 1830

MP for Fowey, 1802-06

Wexford, 1806-07

Merchant and shipbuilder. Surgeon’s mate and surgeon in East India service. Leading drug importer from East. Shareholder in East India Company vessels. Director of East India Dock Co. from 1805; chairman from 1810. Auditor, British Fire Office, from 1805. From 1805 held large share in Blackwall Yard, building ships. Also held large share of Meux’s brewery. Strong supporter of Pitt, who gave him baronetcy, 1805. High Sheriff of Essex, 1812-13.

Captain, volunteers, 1798; Lieutenant-Colonel, 1803. Father of Robert and William Wigram, MPs. Of 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate, London; and Walthamstow House, Essex.

Married Catherine, daughter of John Brodhurst of Mansfield, Notts, a Unitarian, 1772, and under her influence became Unitarian. But she died in 1786 and Unitarian allegiance probably did not long outlast her life.

*ODNB*. Thorne, 5, pp. 554-6. Not in Johnson.

The Unitarian Fund "for the Promotion of Unitarianism by means of Popular Preaching" was founded in 1806, largely by laypeople. It gave money to congregations that needed it[5] and employed Richard Wright as an itinerant missionary. Foreign Secretaries of the Association included Sir John Bowring, till 1832, then Edward Tagart. "Unitarian Members of Parliament in the Nineteenth Century" A Catalogue" (PDF). Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society. 24 (3): 54. The journal English Literature: Theories, Interpretations, Contexts, published at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, invites scholars to send article proposals on the topic of. Fictions, Facts and "Effects of Reality": Questioning the Mimetic in the Nineteenth-Century Novel. The new deadline for sending proposals is August 15th, 2019. To send your proposal please refer to the journal webpage: <https://edizionicafoscari.unive.it/en/edizioni/riviste/english-literature/>, click on "Contacts", fill in the form complete with proposed title and abstract, then click on "Submit".

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, Americans used a variety of terms to describe, represent, and imagine the religious culture of India. These regulations largely target and disadvantage Christians as members of the only other recognized religion in Indonesia, aside from Islam, that is considered to be a "missionary" or "proselytizing" religion. Read more. Chapter. Several selections from nineteenth-century dictionaries and books show how Asian religions were commonly perceived at the time. While there was growing sophistication about Asian religions, the period's most popular book on the subject (James Freeman Clarke, Ten Great Religions) still maintained that only Christianity had the fullness of truth and Asian religions were static and stunted.