

Jackson, Randle (1757 – 1837), British lawyer, was born in 1757.

He was called to the Bar in 1793. He served as Parliamentary Counsel for the East India Company: pleading in the House of Commons on matters dealing with the company such as the question of clothworkers' grievances in the Far East and the extension of the Company's charter.

His speeches were often published in book form: *Substance of the Speech of Randle Jackson Esq. delivered at a General Court of Proprietors of East India Stock on Tuesday May 5th 1812, upon the subject of the Negotiation with His Majesty's*

Ministers, for a Prolongation of the Term of the Company's exclusive charter. Printed by desire of the General Court, London 1812. Another printed speech was: *The Speech of Randle Jackson, Esq., on the State of the Woollen Manufacture of England, London 1806.*

His daughter, Anne, married Richard Meinertzen, and was a notable ornithologist.

He was elected to RAS membership in 1824.

He died on 15 March 1837.

Address: (1824) Middle Temple Lane; 3 Middle Temple Lane in *Boyle's Court Guide 1821*



Engraving of Randle Jackson, Barrister-at-Law,
National Galleries of Scotland

Jemmett, William Thomas (DOB unknown - 1875), was a lawyer and banker.

He was the nephew of William Jemmett and son of George Jemmett, who died in 1821, and from whom he inherited part of a considerable estate. His family had lived in Kent for many years and were prominent landowners and businesspeople.

He became a member of RAS in 1825.

On 28 August 1829 he married the Hon. Laura Sugden, daughter of Baron St Leonards.

In 1830, he owned a private Bank in Ashford, called "Jemmett & Co". Later, in 1846, together with Virgil Pomfret of Tenterden, Kent, he owned the private savings bank "Jemmett and Pomfret", and was styled "agriculturist". He was a party to a lease in Kent in 1847, and was then styled "banker". He was later listed as one of the lords of the manor of Ashford, together with George E. Jemmett, his brother.

He served as Recorder of Kingston on Thames from 1832 onwards and later became a Commissioner in Bankruptcy, serving from 1848 to 1869 in Manchester.

He edited:

Sugden's Acts, The Acts relating to the Administration of Law in Courts of Equity 1831.

He died on 17 May 1875.

Address: (1825) 16, Mitre Court Buildings, Temple (in *Boyle's Court Guide 1821*); in *Boyle's Court Guide 1829* 3 Pump Court, Temple; later Ashford, Kent

Jenkins, Richard (1785 - 1853), soldier and Member of Parliament, was born on 18 February 1785.

He married Elizabeth Spottiswoode, whose father was in the East India Company service. He himself joined the EIC Bombay service in 1800 and served until 1828; he was Resident at Nagpore from 1807 to 1827. On his return to England he became MP for Shrewsbury and a Director of the EIC from 1832 to 1853; he was Chairman of the board in 1839.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and a member of the Literary Society of Bombay that same year.

He died on 30 December 1853.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Nagpore; in 1834 he lived in 19 Upper Harley Street

Johnson, Dr. John Noble FRS (1787 - 1823), English physician, was born in 1787 in Buckinghamshire.

He studied at Oxford and became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1815. He was physician to the Westminster Hospital from 1818 to 1822.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823, but is deleted on the list.

He wrote *Life of Thomas Linacre* which was published in 1835.

He died on 6 October 1823.

Address: (1823) Albany Court (37 Clarges Street in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821)

Johnston, Sir Alexander FRS FAS (1775 -1849), multilinguist and judge, was born 25 April 1775.

His father, Samuel Johnston, was sent to Madras to serve under Lord Macartney, taking his family with him. As a result Alexander learnt several native languages at an early age, including Tamil and Hindustani. The family returned to England in 1792, and Macartney suggested to the young Alexander that he should study law, which he did, first in Germany and then at Lincoln's Inn.

He became a colonial official and was sent to Ceylon as Advocate-General in 1799, being appointed Chief Justice in 1805. He introduced many reforms in the administration of Ceylon, including universal education and the abolition of slavery. He codified the laws of Ceylon to take account of local traditional and religious practices.



Portrait of Sir Alexander Johnston, 3rd Chief Justice of Ceylon, engraving 1833 by John Cochran, National Portrait Gallery

He was present at the meeting held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, 32 Argyll Street, on 9 January 1823, at which the Asiatic Society was founded. He was also present at the second meeting held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, on 16 January 1823, at which the membership of the Asiatic Society was discussed. He made a donation of 18 books and 62 manuscripts, together with some paintings, to the RAS in May 1827.

He was a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He died on 6 March 1849.

The RAS library has:

Collection of manuscripts acquired in Ceylon [Sri Lanka] by Sir Alexander Johnston.

Proceedings of the Governor and Council at Fort William: respecting the administration of justice amongst the natives in Bengal. / Johnston, Alexander (Printed in the year MDCCLXXIV [1774]) (presumably not our member, given the date)

Code of provisional regulations, for the judicial and police departments, at Batavai, Samarang, and Sourabaya : containing rules for the practice, and mode of proceeding, in civil and criminal cases, in the several courts of justice : police regulations ... in the different districts throughout the island of Java, made and passed by ... Thomas Stamford Raffles ... : in pursuance, and under the authority of the proclamation, of ... Gilbert Lord Minto, dated the 11th September 1811, 1812. / Raffles, Thomas Stamford, Sir, 1781-1826 (1812.)

(this book was presented to the society by Sir Alex. Johnston May 17 1828)

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 19 Great Cumberland Place (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

Jones, Benjamin Scutt (1770 - 1850), administrator in the East India Company, was born in 1770 in Walworth, Surrey.

He started work at India House about 1785, before being appointed to Senior Clerk in 1791, then Assistant Secretary to the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India in 1828. The India Board, as it was usually known, was an administrative committee of the British government which managed the running of India and the East India Company. It was formed of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, three Privy Councillors and a Secretary of State. Jones gave very detailed evidence of how the board functioned when he was called before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in February 1832.

In 1821 he was listed as one of the Governors of the Surrey Dispensary, a charity involved in providing medical treatment to the needy in south London.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions from 1824 to 1827.

He died in 1850; his will, dated 26 April 1850, is in the National Archives.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) India Board, Cannon Row