

Nicoll, The Revd. Alexander LL.D. (1793 - 1828), librarian and linguist, was born in 1793.

Born into a poor family in Aberdeen, he did very well at school and was sent to Balliol College Oxford in 1808. He did not take a degree, but travelled extensively in Europe. He joined the staff of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, where he catalogued oriental manuscripts. He continued travelling in Europe to keep in contact with oriental collections in European institutions. He spoke French, German, Italian, Danish and other European languages. In 1822 he was appointed Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford. He married twice.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823. In November 1826 he donated the copy of *Bibliothecae Bodleianae codicum manuscriptorum orientalium* which is in the RAS library.

He died suddenly on 24 September 1828 at the age of 35. His death was said to have resulted from the exacting work schedule he maintained.

The RAS library has:

Bibliothecae Bodleianae codicum manuscriptorum orientalium : videlicet Hebraicorum, Chaldaicorum, Syriacorum, Aethiopicorum, Arabicorum, Persicorum, Turcicorum, Copticumque / catalogus, jussu curatorum preli academici a Joanne Uri confectus ... (MDCCLXXXVII [-1835]) - to which Nicoll contributed.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Nil

Noble, Lieutenant Colonel John (1780 - 1828), soldier with the East India Company, was born in 1780. He was the son of William Noble.

He served in the EIC Army for 32 years. He never married. He formed the Madras Horse Artillery and was chosen by Wellington (also a member of the RAS) to command it in 1805.

He was a member of RAS in 1825 and paid subscriptions from 1825 to 1827.

He died on 16 July 1828 whilst returning from England on leave, on board the *Roxburgh Castle* as the ship arrived in Madras. He was buried in St George's Cathedral, Chennai (formerly Madras). Noble Street in Chennai is named after him.

Address: (1825) 2 Hanover Street, Hanover Square; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 there are two John Nobles, living at 18 Gower Street and 87 Norton Street

Noehden, George Henry LL.D FRS (1770 - 1826), librarian, botanist and teacher, was born on 23 January 1770 in Hanover.

He attended Göttingen University in 1789, and while still at university started to tutor the son of Sir William Milner, who was at Eton. He moved to teach at Eton, and visited other German expatriates, such as Sir William Herschel at Slough. Particularly interested in teaching the German language, he wrote a German Grammar in 1816. He was also interested in botany, in particular horticulture, and contributed several papers to the journal of the London Horticultural Society.

In 1820 he became Librarian of the new British Museum, and was appointed Honorary Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society on its formation in 1823.

He lived in an apartment in the newly-built British Museum, where he died on 14 March 1826.

He wrote, among many works:

A Grammar of the German Language 1816.

Observations on the Expediency of giving to Horticulture a Scientific form (Journal of the London Horticultural Society 1827).

Account of the Banyan-Tree 1827.

Address: (1823) 32 George Street, Portman Square; (1824, 1825) British Museum; (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was British Museum, Gt Russell-St)



Bust of George Henry Noehden, by Sir Richard Westmacott; RAS Collections

North, Frederick

See

Guilford

Northcote, Henry Stafford (1792 - 1850), British MP, was born on 18 March 1792. He was the son of Sir Stafford Northcote, 7th Bart. His mother was the daughter of Thomas Cockburn (also a member of the RAS).

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1825.

He was elected MP for Heytesbury in 1826 but does not appear to have ever spoken in the House of Commons. He left Parliament in 1830, and thereafter spent most of his time on his estate at The Pynes, near Exeter. Jane Austen had visited the house, and it is generally believed to be the inspiration for Barton Park in *Sense and Sensibility*.

He died on 22 February 1850.



1810-20, mezzotint by Samuel Bellin, after James Northcote, National Portrait Gallery

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Malsanger, Basingstoke, Hants; (also in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 at 25 Portland Place and Pynes Exeter Devon)

Norwich, The Right Reverend Lord Bishop of, FAS (1744 - 1837), Bishop of Norwich, was born Henry Bathurst on 16 October 1744.

He was Bishop of Norwich from 1805 to his death in 1837. He was the son of Benjamin Bathurst and grandson of the first Earl Bathurst. His nephew, also Henry Bathurst, was Commissioner of the India Board, which supervised the government of India by the East India Company (and also was a member of the RAS). Educated at Winchester and New College Oxford, he became canon of Christ Church in 1775. A liberal member of the House of Lords, he voted for Catholic Emancipation, and at the age of ninety voted in support of Lord Melbourne as Prime Minister.

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

He died on 5 April 1837.

Address: (1823) 46 Wimpole Street; (1824, 1825) Palace, Norwich



Bishop of Norwich, by Thomas Kirkby

Nowell, Alexander MP (1761 - 1842), British MP and landowner, was born on 19 November 1761 in Lancashire.

He entered the East India Company Army as an ensign in 1781, but never attained a higher rank, resigning in 1792. He started work in an indigo company in Tirhut and married the widow of the company's chief engineer, Maria Theresa, who ran the company's dockyards in Calcutta.

Nowell returned to England in 1805, very wealthy, and bought his house in Wimpole Street. He also acquired several estates in Westmoreland with the inheritance he received from his wife on her death in 1824. He was owed £1016.0.0 in the crash of the bank Marsh, Sibbald and Co. in 1824.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1825.

After many fruitless attempts, he finally entered Parliament in 1831 as MP for Westmoreland. He lived part of the time in Wimpole Street, but mainly at his estate at Netherside, Skipton, Yorkshire.

He died on 17 November 1842.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 43 Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square; (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821)