

Baber, Thomas Hervey (1771 - 1843), was born on 29th September 1771 in Yorkshire. He was the son of the Rector of Slingsby.

Baber joined the East India Company as a young man, arriving in Bombay in early 1797. He was soon sent to the company's factories in Tellicherry and joined the company's revenue department. In 1804 he was sub-collector in Malabar when he was put in charge of a force of British troops with the aim of putting down the revolt led by Pazhassi Raja. Later, in 1811, as the local magistrate he found evidence of slavery (including women and children) on the Company's estate and reported this to the headquarters. After some arguments he was suspended and returned to England where he made a report on the living conditions of the slaves in evidence he gave to the Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1830. This was the basis upon which the British Parliament eventually abolished slavery in India in 1843.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823; and paid his subscription as a non-resident member in 1823, renewing it in 1824 and 1825

He died in 1843 in India.

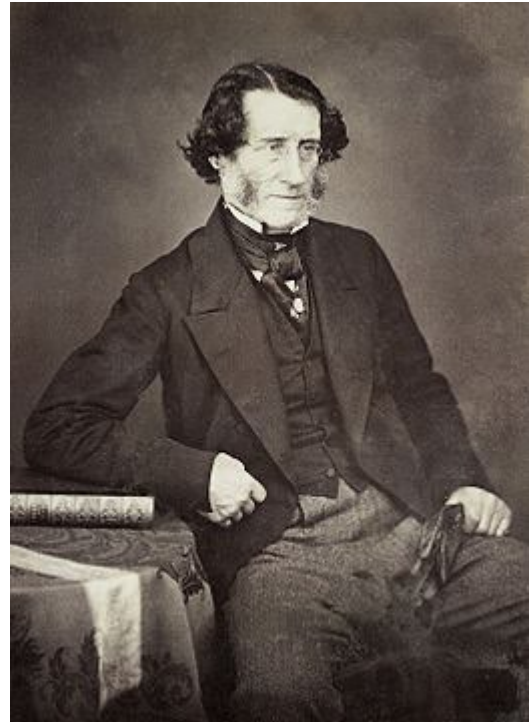
Address: Nil 1823; later: Bombay

Update 03/06/25 - Middle name changed to 'Hervey' from 'Harvey'; image of portrait by Archer removed as the subject was not our member but rather a relative, Revd Henry Hervey Baber. Thank you to Nick Balmer, 4 X great nephew of Thomas Hervey Baber, for pointing out these errors and providing corrections.

Babington, Benjamin Guy (1794 – 1866), physician and epidemiologist was born in Guy's Hospital, London, on 5 March 1794. It was the same hospital where his father, William Babington, was a physician.

From 1803 to 1807 he served as a midshipman in the Royal Navy before studying at Charterhouse School. He then studied at the East India Company College at Haileybury until 1812 when he was sent to Calcutta to work in the Company offices.

He became a member of RAS in 1824, paid his subscription from 1824 -1827 and served as RAS secretary from 1826 to 1828. In February 1825 he donated two of his books to the society, and in April 1827 he donated a further large number of books along with two Burmese manuscripts; one on copper sheets and the other on palm leaves.



Benjamin Guy Babington, albumen print 1866,
Welcome images

During this time he studied medicine at Cambridge, gaining a doctorate in 1831. He joined Guy's Hospital but resigned in 1855 after a disagreement over policy. He was lecturer at the Royal College of Physicians, and president of several medical societies. He was also the inventor of the laryngoscope.

He died in London on 8 April 1866.

Address: 17, Aldermanbury; (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 48 Finsbury Square).

RAS Library has:

A grammar of the high dialect of the Tamil language, termed Shen-Tamil: to which is added, an introduction to Tamil poetry / Constantino Giuseppe Beschi, translated by B.G. Babington (2013).

Remarks on the geology of the country between Tellicherry and Madras / by Benjamin Babington; communicated by W. Babington (1821)

The Descent of the Ganges, southern part. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

The Descent of the Ganges, northern part. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

A sculptured relief of Vishnu with attendants from the Adi Varaha cave. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

A sculptured relief of Lakshmi with celestial attendants. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

A column from the Adi Varaha cave. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

A sculpted relief of Gaja-Lakshmi with attendants, from the Adi Varaha cave. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

A figure of a god in a niche, from the Adi Varaha cave. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

The Goddess Lakshmi. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

A Mandapam at Mamallapuram. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

Vishnu Anantasayin from the Mahisa Mandapa. / Benjamin Guy Babington (c. 1812-14)

Babington, William (Died around October 1854), was a clerk in the East India Company Baggage Warehouse in London.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1823 up until 1827.

Records indicate that he remained in his position at the East India Company Baggage Warehouse up until at least 1835. He is listed as a member of the Oriental Translation committee in the 1835 RAS Journal.

His will, dated 12 October 1854, lists him as “Chief of the Baggage Warehouse Department in the service of the East India Company” and is in the archive of Sherborne, Dorset, as he was a resident of that town.

Address: East India House (1823); East-India Baggage Warehouse (1825); later, Sherborne, Dorset

Baillie, Colonel John MP FRS (1772 - 1833), orientalist, Indian administrator and director of the East India Company was born in Inverness on 10 May 1772.

Baillie joined the East India Company army in 1790 and arrived in India in 1791. His service was concurrent with his oriental language studies; in 1797 he translated from the Arabic part of a digest of Mohammedan law at the request of Lord Teignmouth, the then governor-general. He served in the Second Maratha war of 1803 as a captain, and afterwards became Political Agent in Bundelkhand. He was instrumental in transferring that territory to the company's jurisdiction. In 1801 he was appointed Professor of Arabic and Persian at the new Fort William College in Calcutta.

During his time as professor he published *Sixty Tables elucidatory of a Course of Lectures on Arabic Grammar delivered in the College of Fort William during the first year of its institution* (1801) and *The Five Books upon Arabic Grammar*, published 1802 onwards. In 1807 he resigned from this post and became Resident in Lucknow until 1815, when he was replaced by Richard Strachey (also a member of the RAS). He became Lieutenant Colonel in the Native Infantry, and returned to the UK in 1816.

He became a director of the East India Company in 1823, the same year that he became a founding member of RAS. He paid his subscriptions to the Society from 1823 until 1827 and in November of 1824 he donated three of his books to the library. He was also a member of the founding committee of the Oriental Club in 1824. During this time he served as MP for Hedon (1820 – 31) and then for Inverness Burghs (1832 – 1833).

He died at Devonshire Place, London, on 20 April 1833.

Address: 9 Devonshire Place (In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821)

RAS Library has:

Khulasat tadris al-sarf fi sanat ahad wa-thamanimiah wa-alf : or, Sixty tables elucidatory of the first part of a course of lectures on the grammar of the Arabic language, delivered in the College of Fort William in Bengal : during the first year of its institution / by John Baillie, Lieutenant in the service of the Honorable East India Company, Professor of the Arabic and Persian languages and of mohammad law in the new college of Fort William in Bengal. (1801)



Colonel John Baillie, portrait by John Cochran after Abraham Wivell in the National Gallery of Scotland

A digest of Mohummudan law : according to the tenets of the twelve imams compiled under the superintendence of the late Sir William Jones ; extended so as to comprize the whole of the imameea code of jurisprudence in temporal matters ; and translated from the original Arabic by order of the Supreme Government of Bengal with notes illustrative of the decisions of other sects of Mohummudan lawyers on many leading and important questions / by Captain John Baillie, Professor of the Arabic and Persian languages and of Mohummudan law in the College of Fort William (MDCCCV [1805])

Hadhihi majmu'at 'al-kutub 'al-mutadawalah li-dars 'al-nahow = An entire and correct edition of the five books upon Arabic grammar which together with the principles of inflection in the Arabic Language form the first part of a classical education throughout all the seminaries of Asia / by J. Baillie (1802-05)

Baker, Sir Frederick Francis, Bart. FRS (1772 – 1830), fellow of the Royal Society was born on 13 May 1772 in the family home in Jermyn Street, London. He was the son of Sir George Baker, Physician to George III.

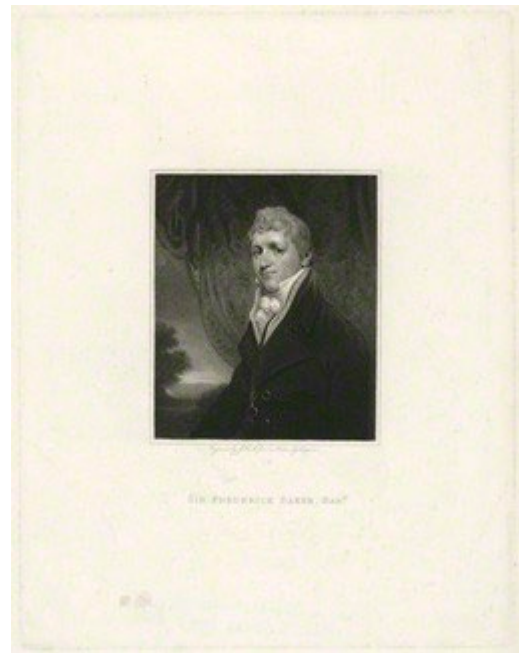
He studied at Balliol College, Oxford, and graduated MA in 1796. He succeeded to the baronetcy in 1809.

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

He was present at the first levee of William IV in 1830.

On 1 October 1830 he was killed at Hastings where he was hit by the sail of a windmill: “He was showing his children the effect and operations of a windmill near Hastings, when, being very short-sighted, he approached nearer than he had an idea of and one of the flappers instantaneously striking him on the back part of the head, he shortly afterwards breathed his last” (*Gentleman’s Magazine Vol. 100, for the year 1830*).

Address: 40, Jermyn Street (changed by hand 1823 from 47). In *Boyle’s Court Guide* 1821 the address of Sir Fred. Baker was 45, Jermyn-street; in *Boyle’s Court Guide* 1829 it was 40 Jermyn Street.



Sir Frederick Francis Baker, by James Heath, after a painting by Hoppner; National Portrait Gallery

Balfour, Francis (1777 - 1854),

Francis Balfour of Fernie was a member of an old Scottish family of the lairds of Fernie. In the Fernie family archive (Bundle 16, Balfour of Fernie papers, University of St Andrews) there is a covenant dated 12 June 1804, by which "Francis Balfour of London, Gentleman, enters into the East India Company service as Junior Merchant and Covenant Servant at Fort William Bengal for three years".

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1823 and 1824.

He rose through the ranks of the East India Company and in 1830 was appointed Private Secretary, and aide-de-camp, to the Governor of Bengal.

He is buried in the old graveyard at Monimail, Fife. His tomb has the inscription:

"Francis Balfour of Fernie Castle died 3 December 1854 aged 77 years"

The RAS Library has the following book, written by our member's father, an orientalist and surgeon also named Francis Balfour, who died in 1818.

[Insha-yi Harkaran : = The forms of Herkern corrected from a variety of manuscripts, supplied with the distinguishing marks of construction, and translated into English: with an index of Arabic words explained, and arranged under their proper roots. By Francis Balfour M.D.] / Harikana, Multan, & Balfour, Francis (1781)



Tomb of Francis Balfour in the churchyard of Monimail, Fife

Ball, Samuel (1781 - 1874) sinologist and tea specialist, Ball was a school friend of Charles Lamb (who later worked in the India Office, London).

Ball lived in China from 1804 to 1826, and wrote about the tea trade. He was Inspector of Teas for the East India Company in Canton at a salary of £2500. Although foreigners were not allowed to visit the tea plantations, Ball was able to learn how the Black Souchong tea was prepared by talking to his Chinese contacts. He would go on to publish a history of tea in China in 1848 entitled *An account of the cultivation and manufacture of tea in China*.

In 1806, when Thomas Manning was planning to visit China, Lamb suggested he should meet Ball in Canton to learn about the tea trade. Ball wrote an article on the expediency of opening a second port in China; this was first published in 1816 and was intended to influence Lord Amherst in his discussions with the Chinese during his ineffectual embassy of that year.

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

Address: (1823) 4 Wigmore Street (altered to China); (1824 onwards Canton, China); in 1834 he lived at 24 Wimpole Street.

Barclay, Charles (1780 - 1855), campaigner and politician was born 26 December 1780 into a Quaker banking family. His father, Robert Barclay, was a brewer; Charles entered the brewery at a young age and in 1813 took over management when his father gave up his role.

He was very active in the anti-slavery movement, forming a Clapham Society to further the cause. In the election of 1815 Barclay succeeded in winning Henry Thornton's seat in Southwark, easily defeating his radical opponent.

He was well-known in Parliament for the support he gave to many philanthropic causes. He lost his seat in 1818, then returned as MP for Dundalk (1826-30), and then for Surrey West (1835-37).

He was a member of RAS in 1824, though his name was added by hand on the printed list of 1823, and he paid his subscriptions from 1823 until 1827. In 1824 he also became a member of the Athenaeum.

He died 5 December 1855.

Address: Southwark; he also lived at 43 Grosvenor Place (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829).



Photograph of Charles Barclay, ca. 1855

Barclay, Colonel Sir Robert, KCB (1758 - 1829)

He served as adjutant to the Duke of Wellington. "Col Sir Robert Barclay Madras Establishment appointed KCB 7 April 1811" or "Knighthood conferred Sir Robert Barclay, East India Company's Service. 20 April 1816". In 1822 he was "Col. Sir Robert Barclay KCB of the East India Service". He was listed in *Debrett's Peerage* of 1820.

His death was recorded: "In Hanover Street Hanover Square Col Sir Robert Barclay KCB of the Honourable E I Company's Madras establishment died 6 March 1829 in his 71st year" (United Services Magazine 1829). "the will of Sir Robert Barclay late colonel in the service of the East

India Company 21 March 1829" (Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register, Vol. 27; the actual will of 21 March 1829 is in the National Archives). His niece, Elizabeth, married Dr Theodore Gordon, Physician to the Forces (also a member of the RAS), in 1822.

Founding member RAS 1823; he paid his subscriptions for 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826 and 1827.

A portrait of Sir Robert Barclay by Raeburn was in a sale at Christie's in 1930. A photograph of another painting of Sir Robert Barclay KCB, by Sir William Beechey 1819, is in the McCord Museum, Montreal

He died on 6 March 1829 in Hanover Square.

NOTE: there was another Sir Robert Barclay, who was a baronet, but not KCB.



Sir Robert Barclay by Raeburn

Address: 5, Hanover Street, Hanover Square (also in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829). In the list of Members of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies (1826) his address is given as "Mount Coffer, Near Banff, North Britain"

Baring, Henry MP (1777 - 1848), banker and politician, third son of Sir Francis Baring was born 18 January 1777 in Cromer Hall, Norfolk. Grandson of the founder of Barings Bank, and younger brother of Sir Thomas Baring, Henry Baring became a partner in the firm in 1804. In later years he would grow less interested in the firm than his brothers eventually retiring from partnership in 1823.

He was an inveterate gambler and a crack shot. After the fall of Napoleon he lived in Paris for a while where he was feted by the highest society. He was MP for Bossiney from 1806 to 1807, then for Colchester from 1820 to 1826.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions from 1823 until 1826.

His first wife, Maria Matilda, was the daughter of a US senator and the divorced wife of the Comte de Tilly. She had an affair with Captain Henry Webster which led to Henry Baring being granted a divorce from her in 1825. He remarried almost immediately, his second wife being Cecilia Anne, the daughter of Admiral Windham of Cromer Hall in Norfolk. They had eight children. Baring sold his Hampshire estates and lived the rest of his life at Cromer Hall which he has acquired from his father-in-law, whilst retaining his London house in Berkeley Square.

He died on 13 April 1848.

Address: 48, Berkeley Square (In Boyle's Court Guide 1821)



Henry Baring, MP, of Cromer Hall, portrait by Francis William Wilkin, at Felbrigg Hall, National Trust

Baring, Sir Thomas, Bart. MP (1772 - 1848) banker and MP, was born 12 June 1772. He married Mary Ursula Sealy in 1794 in Calcutta, India.

Grandson of the founder of Barings Bank, and elder brother of Henry Baring, he was a partner in the family bank for five years from 1804, after which he became MP for High Wycombe until 1831. He was a supporter of the Reform movement and voted in Parliament for Jewish emancipation in 1830.

Baring held high positions in several notable institutions; in 1823 he was a founding member of RAS and from 1832 to 1833 he was Chairman of the London and South Western Railway. He also served as president of the London Institution, was a director of the British Institution and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in June 1841. He was also a well-known art collector.

He died on 3 April 1848 at his residence Stratton Park House in Hampshire.

Address: 21 Devonshire Place. In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 the address of Sir T. Baring was 21, Devonshire-place, Portland-place.



Sir Thomas Baring, 2nd baronet, by George Englehart, 1803, Cleveland Museum of Art

Barnes, Major General Sir Edward KCB

(1776 - 1838), was a soldier and governor of Ceylon, born 1776 in Enfield, Middlesex.

He joined the army as ensign in the 47th Regiment in 1792, and was stationed in Martinique before serving under Wellington in Spain during the Peninsular War. He was wounded at Waterloo.

He was sent to Ceylon as Acting Governor from 1820 to 1822; then was Governor from 1824 to 1831.

He was an active governor: building roads, including the Great Military Road from Colombo to Kandy, conducting the first census of the population, and introducing the cultivation of coffee.

From 1832 to 1833 he was Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in India. He returned to England and served for a short period as MP for Sudbury.

As well as being a founding member of RAS in 1823 he was a founder and first president of the Army and Navy Club in Pall Mall.

He died 19 March 1838 in Piccadilly, London.



Sir Edward Barnes portrait by William Salter, National Portrait Gallery

Barrington, Shute

see

Durham, bishop of

Barrow, Sir John, Bart. FRS (1764 - 1848), statesman and writer, was born on 19 June 1764, the only son of Roger Barrow, in the parish of Ulverston, Lancashire.

He left Town Bank grammar school at the age of 13 to found a Sunday school for the poor. During his teenage years he was also employed as superintending clerk of an iron foundry in Liverpool and at 16 went on a whaling expedition to Greenland.

In his twenties he found employment as a maths teacher at a private school in Greenwich. One of his students was the son of Sir George Staunton and through this connection Barrow was appointed comptroller of the household of Lord Macartney on the first embassy to China, 1792 to 1794. On this expedition Barrow became an expert on Chinese language and culture; he would later publish an account of the embassy entitled *Travels in China* in 1804.



Sir John Barrow by John Jackson, 1810 (National Portrait Gallery)

In 1797 he was secretary again to Lord Macartney on his mission to the new British colony of Cape of Good Hope. He settled there, buying a house in Cape Town. He returned to Britain following the surrender of the colony in 1804 and was appointed Secretary to the Admiralty, a post he held for the next forty years. In 1806 he published *Travels into the interior of Southern Africa*.

He was much admired by the governors of the Admiralty; in particular by the Duke of Clarence, later William IV. He encouraged Arctic exploration by explorers such as Ross and Franklin and was a fervent supporter of new colonies, such as Fernando Po in the Indian Ocean and Swan River in Australia; this led the colonial secretary Lord Bathurst (member of the RAS) to comment that "if coveting islands is a breach of the Ten Commandments, then Barrow is the greatest violator in the kingdom." In 1818 he published *Chronological History of Voyages into the Arctic Regions* and in 1831 he published his best-known work *Mutiny on the Bounty*. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824. In February 1828 he donated a copy of his *Mirror of Parliament, Vol. 1* to the RAS.

He died on 23 November 1848 in New Street, London.

The RAS Library has:

Travels in China, containing descriptions, observations, and comparisons: made and collected in the course of a short residence at the imperial palace of Yuen-min-yuen, and on

a subsequent journey through the country from Peking to Canton ... / by John Barrow,..; illustrated with several engravings (1806).

Barrow's travels in China: an investigation into the origin and authenticity of the "facts and observations" related in a work entitled "Travels in China, by John Barrow" ... preceded by a preliminary inquiry into the nature of the "powerful motive" of the same author and its influence on his duties at the Chinese capital, as comptroller to the British Embassy, in 1793 / Proudfoot, William Jardine & Barrow, John (1861).

Address: 7, New Street, Spring Gardens (In Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

Bathurst, Henry, The Right Honourable The Earl, KG (1762 - 1834), High Tory and High Church, was born elder son to Henry Bathurst, 2nd Earl Bathurst, on 22 May 1762 in London.

He studied at Eton, then Christ Church, Oxford. In 1783 he became MP for Cirencester, a post he would retain until 1794.

Bathurst was a friend of William Pitt, though was a markedly more restrained character than Pitt, particularly in terms of the latter's drinking habits, and became the organiser of various cabinets and committees during the Napoleonic period. For example, he arranged the recognition of independent Spain after the Peninsular War. He was a business-like man, good at committees and management, though lacking in oratorical skill. A liberal Tory, he opposed the transportation of convicts to Australia and was a strong supporter in Parliament of the abolition of slavery.

He was appointed Commissioner of the India Board from 1793 to 1802. He served as Secretary of State for the Colonies 1812-27 under Lord Liverpool as PM and then as Lord President of the Council 1828-30 under the Duke of Wellington as PM (both Liverpool and Wellington were members of the RAS). He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and he paid his subscriptions for 1823 to 1827. His uncle, also Henry Bathurst and bishop of Norwich, was also a member and his daughter, Lady Emily Charlotte, would marry RAS member Major-General Sir Frederick Ponsonby.

His tenure of the office of Secretary for the Colonies resulted in numerous towns being named after him; Bathurst New South Wales, Bathurst New Brunswick amongst others. Despite this he never left the British Isles, save from a two year tour of France and Germany in 1781. He built Apsley House at Hyde Park Corner, which later became the residence of the Dukes of Wellington.

He died on 27 July 1834 at Arlington Street, London.

Address: 15, Great Stanhope Street (In *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 he lived in 9 Mansfield Street; in 1834 he lived at 16 Arlington Street



Earl Bathurst, by Sir Thomas Lawrence

Bathurst, Henry

See

Norwich, Bishop of

Bazett, Richard Campbell (1766 - 1833), East India Company Agent and partner in Bazett, Farquahar and Company, was born in St Helena in 1766. He came to England as a boy and was sent to Calcutta around 1790 after joining the East India Company.

He returned to London after serving in Calcutta and became a partner in the bank Bruce de Ponthieu & Co. before founding Colvin, Bazett & Co.

He was involved in several court cases concerning the companies he had directed in India. In 1809 he was involved in a case concerning his position as attorney to David

Colvin (also a member of the RAS), on whose behalf he had given money to Charles Fallon for the purchase of a commission in the dragoons.

Another case concerned funds that he and Colvin had advanced to J.B. Gooch to enable him to ship goods from India to England; unfortunately, Gooch became bankrupt in 1818 and the question of the ownership of the goods came before the courts.

He retired to the Cape of Good Hope, but then returned to England to live at Waltham Abbey, writing poetry and studying the works of Shakespeare. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1826 and 1827.

He was chairman of the Society of Merchants and Agents in London which met in 1830 to discuss Parliament's investigations of the East India Company's affairs, as well as to renew the company charter.

He died 31 October 1833 at Waltham Abbey, Essex.



A recently discovered portrait of R. C. Bazett by Robert Home, sold at auction 2018

Address: 32, Upper Gower Street, Bedford Square (written by hand 1823, printed thereafter); in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was 34, York-place, Portman-square.

Bebb, John (1770 - 1830), from a young age Bebb worked for the East India Company in Bengal until 1800, ending as a resident in Dacca. During this time he kept in contact with the home country and in 1795, Donnington Grove, a large Gothic-style house in Berkshire previously owned by William Brummell, was transferred to his ownership. In 1793 he married Jennet Lawrence Kinloch (known as Jessy).

On their return to England they stopped at Cape Town where they met the colonial secretary and his wife Lady Anne Bernard. Lady Anne gives a graphic description of the Bebb in her diary: "the richest person who for many years has come from Bengal, was presented to me – Mrs Bebb with her husband Mr Bebb... Mrs Bebb seems a rather frank open-mannered woman, her husband a true lean bilious East Indian, more prudent than she, as is the husband's business you know..."

He became a director of the East India Company in 1804, and testified in May 1809 to the Parliamentary Commission on conditions of trade with India. He was no lover of missionaries, complaining to the Directors of the Company in 1813 about the number of public meetings organized by the missionary societies to discuss Christian policy in India. He was Chairman of the Court of Directors for a year from April 1817 to 1818. In 1818 he attempted to be elected to Parliament for Weymouth, but was unsuccessful.

He and his wife Jessy lived a life of continual partying, both at their house at Donnington Grove and at their London house in Gloucester Place. A ball she gave at her house in 1804 was described in the *Morning Post*: "The ball room, which is very spacious, was adorned with a variety of appropriate ornaments; the chandeliers and lustres reflecting their brilliancy by the aid of several magnificent mirrors added a beauty to the scene scarcely to be surpassed". Among the guests was Lord Charles Bentinck, future Governor-General of India and a future member of the RAS. A ball and supper in London in 1821 was attended by several minor members of the royal family, including Captain Fitzclarence, member and future President of the RAS, and illegitimate son of William IV and Mrs Jordan.

The Court of the Company tried to make him resign his position as Director in 1829 because of his failing eyesight and hearing. Bebb refused, saying he hoped to be restored to useful vision. He did finally retire in April 1830.

He died 27 September 1830 and left his house in 13 Gloucester Place together with his country house at Donnington Grove to his widow, Jessy.

Address: 13, Gloucester Place, Portman Square (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821)

Becher, John (ca. 1766 – 1830)

Very little information about him has come to light. Becher was quite a common name in Tunbridge Wells, and there are several Bechers living there today. The Dictionary of Indian Biography lists three Bechers who lived in India, but none can be our member. They include John Reid Becher who while not our member, may well be his nephew. William Makepeace Thackeray, the novelist, lived in Tunbridge Wells, but was born in Calcutta, where his parents, Richmond Thackeray and Anne Becher were from families working for the East India Company. Thackeray was sent back to England at the age of 5 to go to school, and it would be surprising if he did not maintain contact with the Bechers of Tunbridge Wells: it may be that they were the basis for notable characters in Thackeray's fiction, such as Jos Sedley, the returned nabob, in "Vanity Fair".

He was a founding member of the RAS in 1823 and he paid his subscriptions for 1823 up until 1827. Becher lived in Chancellor House, Tunbridge Wells, formerly the house of Judge Jeffreys, and died sometime around April 1830.

Address: Tunbridge Wells



A portrait of John Becher of Chancellor's House, Tunbridge Wells by Henry Pickersgill

Benson, Robert (1781 - 1846), investment banker, shipowner and Quaker, was born to Robert Benson, originally a Kendal grocer who became a Liverpool merchant, in 1781.

The Bensons dealt in cotton and were members of an important group of Quaker businessmen in 19th century Liverpool. The company was for a time the Liverpool agent for the East India Company. Robert Benson was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and became a director of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1824.

Later he founded his own company, Cropper, Benson & Co. together with James Cropper and later David Hodgson, both of whom were members of RAS. Benson ended this partnership in 1838 following a dispute that would lead to him leaving the Quakers. The agreement which he originally had with Cropper when the company was formed was that James Cropper was to receive two-thirds of the profits of the company and Benson one-third (*Business Culture in the British Atlantic 1750-1815*, Sheryllyne Haggerty, 2012).

As the Benson family's banking and railway interests expanded, they moved their business to London in 1853 and remained independent until 1960 when they merged with Kleinworts.

Benson died in August 1846.

Address: Liverpool; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 a Rob. Benson was living at 3 Elm Court, Temple.

Bentinck, The Right Honourable Lord William Henry Cavendish MP (1774 - 1839), soldier and statesman, was the son of William Cavendish-Bentick, the 3rd Duke of Portland who served two terms as Prime Minister, and Lady Dorothy Cavendish, daughter of the Duke of Devonshire; he was born 14 September 1774 in Buckinghamshire.

He went to Westminster School before pursuing a military career, joining the Coldstream Guards in 1791, then the Dragoons before rising to the rank of colonel in 1798. As a son of a duke and prime minister he received various sinecures. In 1783, at the age of 9, he was given the sinecure of Clerk of the Pipe for life; this was a post superintending the national archives and allowed him in 1787, aged 13, to recommend John Caley (later a member of the RAS) as archivist with the treasury.



Lord William Cavendish Bentinck (University of Nottingham collection)

Bentinck was sent to Madras in 1803 to serve as Governor. However, a ruling in which he forbade native troops from wearing traditional dress sparked a mutiny, forcing him to abandon his position in 1807. He then served in the Peninsular War under Wellington, and was appointed commander of the British Army in Sicily in 1811. During his time in Sicily he promoted a new independent constitution for the island. He was an early proponent of a united Italy but had to leave his post in 1816 after he had landed his troops in Genoa and attempted to install a democratic government in the north of the country.

After his return to England he was an MP for Camelford and other constituencies. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and a member of the founding committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

In 1828 he was sent back to India to serve as Governor-General of Bengal. He was a reforming governor-general and sought to ensure that the East India Company return to profitability and thus enable its charter to be renewed.

He tried to abolish the practice of suttee, discouraged child marriages, tried to reduce the strength of the caste system, made English the language of the law courts, reduced army pay, and encouraged the entry of English-speaking Indians into the civil service. He was criticised for selling off marble from Agra and melting down the Great Agra Gun for scrap metal. He was helped by the reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy (also a member of the RAS). During his service in India the Charter Act was passed in England which ended the monopoly of the East India Company and instituted the position of Governor-General of India.

He returned to England in 1835 and sat as MP for Glasgow for a short while. He died in Paris on 17 June 1839 and is buried in St Marylebone Parish Church in London.

Address: (1823) 20 Park Lane (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); deleted and replaced by 48 Charles Street, Berkeley Square (1824); Nil (1825); in 1834 lived at Fort William, Calcutta

The RAS library has:

The correspondence of Lord William Cavendish Bentinck, Governor-General of India 1828-1835 / edited with an introduction by C.H. Philips. (1977)

Betham, Sir William (1779 - 1853), English-born Irish herald and antiquarian, was Born 22 May 1779 at Stradbroke, Suffolk. He was son of Rev William Betham, the antiquarian, and author of *The Baronetage of England* (in five volumes). Like his father, he does not seem to have been to university and was educated at home.

On a chance visit to Dublin, to look for documents connected with a court case, he found that the records in Dublin Castle were in such a mess that he offered his services for the role of Keeper. This was done and he served as Herald, Ulster King of Arms from 1820 until his death.

His work as keeper of the records involved sorting out masses of documents dealing with Irish families, for which he kept detailed notes. These proved invaluable when the Dublin records were destroyed by fire in 1922. His 34 volumes of notebooks, known as "Betham's Abstracts", are in the National Archives, Dublin. He was knighted in 1812.

He was elected to RAS membership in 1825 and paid his subscription fee for 1826. In November 1827, he donated two volumes of his *Irish Antiquarian Researches* and four Persian manuscripts to the RAS library. He was also an active member of the Royal Irish Academy, where he became secretary.

He died on 26 October 1853 at Rockford, County Dublin and is buried at Carrickbrennan Church.

Address: Dublin; in 1834 lived at Montpelier, near Dublin



Sir William Betham 1836, British Museum

Bethune, Sir Henry Lindsay, Bart. 9th Earl of Lindsay (1787 - 1851), Scottish military officer, was born 12 April 1787 at Hilton near Perth.

An English officer, Lindsay joined the East India Company as a cadet in 1804 and remained in the company's service for some years, rising to the rank of major. He was made Major-General in 1835, when he was serving with the Persian Army.

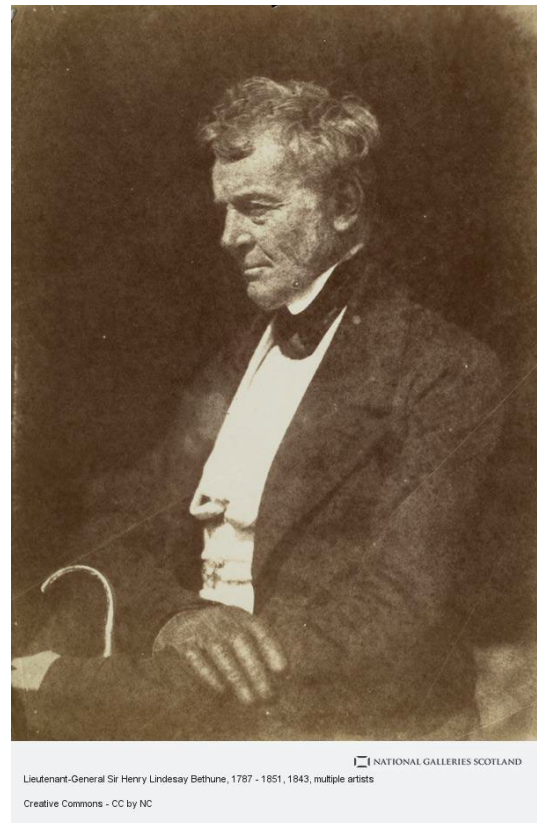
He was a member of the diplomatic and military mission led by Sir John Malcolm (also a member of the RAS and vice-president in 1825) to Persia in 1810.

An artillery officer, he impressed the Persians with his great height (he was 6' 8"), and was soon put in charge of the organization of the Persian horse artillery. In 1816, he was awarded the order of the Lion and the Sun, in recognition of his services to Persia. In 1823 he was a founding member of RAS.

He left Persia but was recalled in 1834 and again in 1836 when he became a general in the Persian army. He retired from the army in 1839 after the Persians attacked Herat in Afghanistan, which was part of the British sphere of influence, but nevertheless remained in Persia for the rest of his life.

He died 19 February 1851 at Tabriz, Persia and is buried in the Armenian cemetery in Tehran.

Address: 31, South Street, Grosvenor Square; in 1834 lived at Kilconquhar, North Britain



Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune, photograph 1843 taken by Robert Adamson and David Octavius Hill

Bexley, The Right Honorable Lord FRS (1766 - 1851), lawyer, politician and one of the longest-serving Chancellors of the Exchequer, was born Nicholas Vansittart on 29 April 1766 in Old Burlington Street, London.

He was the fifth son of Henry Vansittart, Governor of Bengal, and was educated at Christ Church, Oxford. In 1796 he became MP for Hastings and was returned for Old Sarum in 1802 by Lord Caledon (also a member of the RAS). He became Secretary to the Treasury under various Prime Ministers from 1802 to 1807.

He became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1812, under the Earl of Liverpool (RAS member 1823) and was faced with an enormous national debt. He spent ten years trying to decrease the debt without increasing taxes. Against his advice, Parliament voted to abolish income tax, which meant that he had to increase borrowing. He became increasingly unpopular and his measures were criticised by many people including Huskisson (also a member of the RAS), Hume, Brougham and others. He resigned from office in 1822 and was elevated to the Lords with the title of Baron Bexley.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823, paying his subscriptions from 1823 – 1827, and donated a group of Hindu divinity drawings to the Society in 1824. He was also a committee member of the Athenaeum in 1824. He was a supporter of the Church Missionary Society, and was one of the founders of King's College, London.

He died on 8 February 1851 at Foot's Cray, Kent.

Address: (1823) 10 Downing Street (deleted and replaced by 29 & 31, Great George Street, Westminster); (1824 onwards 31, Great George Street, Westminster)



Lord Bexley, by Sir Thomas Lawrence

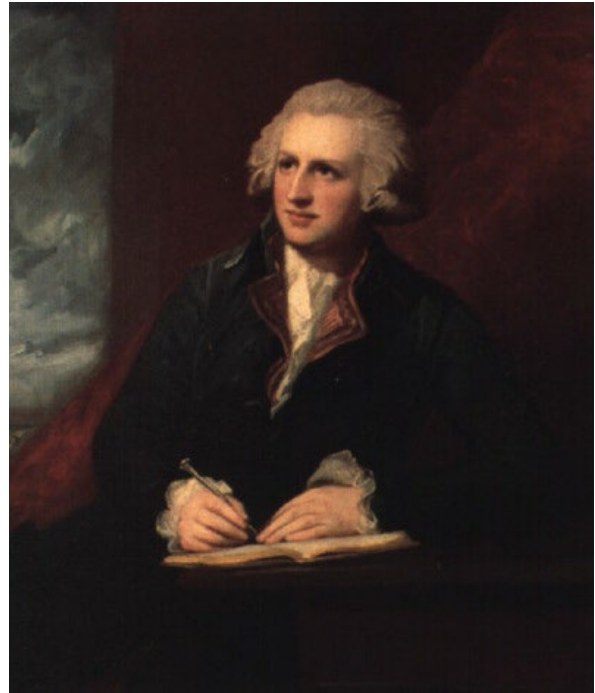
Blackburne, John FRS (1797 - 1850), writer and magistrate, was born 17 May 1797.

He was presumably the son of Colonel William Blackburne, who preceded him as Resident at Tanjore, though there is no confirmation of this. He went to Manchester School and from there was appointed writer in the East India Company in 1814. He then went to Haileybury College where he learnt Hindustani. He arrived in India in 1815 to join the Madras establishment as a writer at Fort St George. In 1821 he was appointed to the register of Canara.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions until 1827. In 1824 he was appointed Head Assistant to the principal Collector and Magistrate of Tanjore. He was acting Resident at Tanjore in 1831 and 1832, and then magistrate at Madura for fourteen years until 1847.

He died on 17 June 1850.

Addresses: Various: (1823) Nil; (1824 and 1825) 21 Cavendish Square; (1834 Journal) 4, Upper Portland Place (this was the address of Lieut-Col. W. Blackburne in Boyle's Court Guide 1829).



John Blackburne by George Romney

Blackburne, Col. William (1765 - 1839), joined the East India Company army as a cadet in 1782 at Madras. He served in the campaign which resulted in the defeat of Tipu Sultan in 1792 and moved up the ranks becoming Lieutenant-Colonel in 1813.

As Captain he was appointed Resident at Tanjore in 1801, where he helped put down a rebellion. Later as Resident, he investigated cases of embezzlement by Company employees which resulted in a complete overhaul of the local financial system. He retired in 1823 and returned to England.

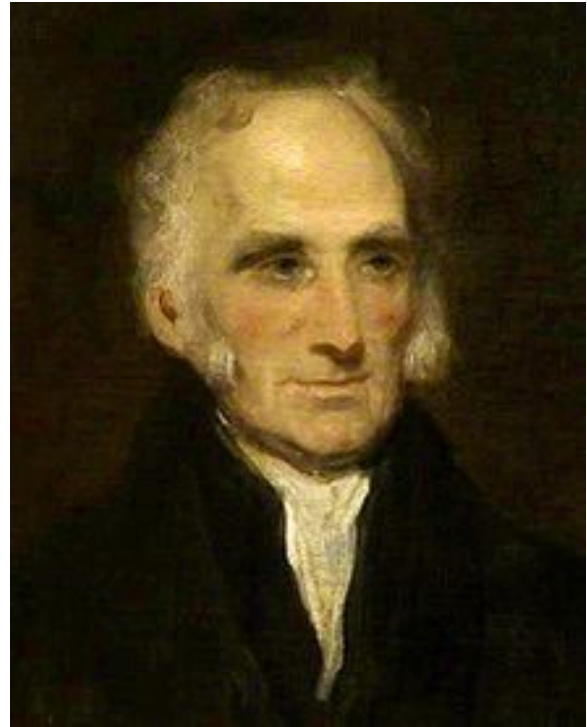
After his return he was elected to RAS membership in 1823 and became a member of the RAS Oriental Translation Committee, having previously served as Maharatta interpreter whilst in India. He was also a member of the Athenaeum in 1824. He was knighted in 1838.

Blackburne died on 16 October 1839 in Portland Place, London.

Address: (1823) Nil; (1824, 1825) 17 Portland Place; (in 1834 Journal) 4, Upper Portland Place (also in Boyle's Court Guide 1829).

Blane, Sir Gilbert, Bart. MD FRS (1749 - 1834), Scottish physician, was born 29 August 1749 in Blanefield, Ayr.

He studied medicine at Edinburgh and Glasgow before moving to London as private physician to Admiral Lord Rodney. In 1779 Blane was appointed Physician to the Fleet by Lord Rodney on their voyage to the West Indies. He did much to improve the medical conditions of the sailors and in 1785 ordered the entire British navy to add lemon juice to the daily tot of rum in order to combat the effects of scurvy. The Navy would later use limes, which were readily available from the Caribbean colonies, instead of lemons, giving rise to the nickname 'limey' as a slang term for a British person. Blane later became Court Physician to the Prince of Wales, later George IV, and subsequently to William IV.



Sir Gilbert Blane by Martin Archer Shee 1833

Blane would publish *Observations on the Diseased of Seamen* in 1795 and *Elements of Medical Logic* in 1819. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1825 and 1826.

He died 26 June 1834 in his home on Sackville Street, London.

Address: (1823) 8 Sackville Street; (1824 onwards) 17 Portland Place, Piccadilly; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was 4, Cleveland-row; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 it was 8 Sackville Street.

Blanshard, Captain John (1782 - 1828), captain of the East India Company, was born in 1786; brother of Henry and Richard Blanshard and son of John Atkinson Blanshard. He followed in his father's footsteps, who had been captain of the East Indiamen *York* and *Rockingham*, becoming captain of several East India Company ships including *The Carnatic* and *The Marquis of Wellington*.

Blanshard was governor of the Asylum for the Support and Education of the Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor in Bermondsey in 1817 and he was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1823 and 1824.

He was buried in Holy Trinity Church at Cheltenham, where his memorial gives his date of death as 8th September 1828.

Address: (1823) H. C. S. Wellington; (1824) 5 Harper Street, Red Lion Square; (1825) Blackheath; (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821 his address was "3 Harpur-st-Bloomsb").

Blanshard, Henry (1786 - 1854), merchant and shipowner was born in 1786, brother of John and Richard Blanshard, and son of John Atkinson Blanshard.

He married Miss Percival on 24th March 1814. Blanshard held several government contracts for transporting convicts to Australia; these contracts were for the following of Blanshard's ships: *Thames* 1818; *Arab* July 1822; *Lord Lowther* 1823; *Countess of Harcourt* 1825. Some of these ships were also chartered by the EIC for trade with China.

Blanshard belonged to a number of societies and committees. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823, a vice-president of the Labourers' Friend Society, founded by Lord Shaftesbury in 1830, and a director of the London Assurance Co. He was a member of the founding committee of King's College, London 1828 as well as a fellow of the Zoological Society in 1831. He was a Governor of Coram's Foundling Hospital in 1853, where there is a memorial tablet dedicated to him in the hospital's chapel.

He died on 28 March 1854 in Islington, London.

Address: 3 Colebrooke Row, Islington; in 1814 he was at New Ormond Street; in Boyle's Court Guide 1829 and in the RAS Journal of 1834 he was at 37 Great Ormond Street

Blanshard, Richard FRS (1781 - 1836), London merchant, was the brother of John and Henry Blanshard, and son of John Atkinson Blanshard.

He joined another merchant, Thomas Wilson (also a member of the RAS) to form the company Wilson & Blanshard in 1818, with offices at 4 Jeffery's Square, St Mary Axe. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823, a fellow of the Zoological Society in 1831 and a council member of the Literary Fund Society. In 1833 he owned shares in the Provincial Bank of Ireland.

He died 21 February 1836.

Address: 19, New Ormond Street, Russell Square; in 1834 lived at 187 Piccadilly; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 Mrs Blanshard is living at 19 New Ormond Street

Bonar, James (*dates unknown*), was an agent for freight and passage in ships of the East India Company; he was based in Adam's Court.

James Bonar was an officer of the Royal Society of Edinburgh when the society moved into new premises in George Street Edinburgh in 1810. He was elected to RAS membership in 1824, though his surname was misspelled 'Bonnor' in the General Meeting Minutes, and paid subscriptions from 1824 to 1827.

He attended a meeting of the Proprietors of the United Mexican Mining Association in London on 12 January 1831. He was householder of a property in Adam's Court, Old Broad Street, in the City of London Poll-Book for the election of 1837.

James Bonar was a member of the London Board of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company in 1841, when the company was based in King William Street, London.

Address: 46, Pall Mall; a member of the RAS in 1827, his address was still the same but his name was listed as Jones Bonar; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 a James Bonar lived at 27 Margaret Street; Henry Bonar is listed in the Journal 1834, but without an address.

Bosanquet, Samuel FRS (1768 - 1843), was an English banker born on August 27 1768. He was a member of an old Huguenot family and his father had served as a governor of the Bank of England.

Starting as a partner in a private bank, he left it to set up Bosanquet, Beechcroft and Reeves, a new bank in Lombard Street. The bank had lucrative connections with merchant traders in London as well as with the Admiralty.

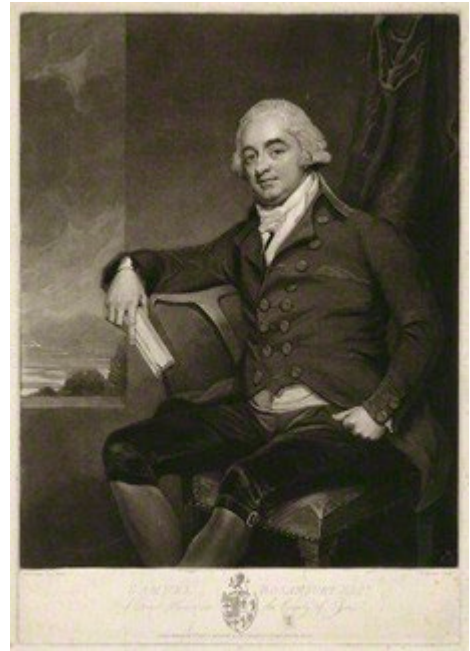
The bank continued under different names as partners left and others joined, but always with Bosanquet as the principal name, until it merged with Lloyds in 1884. Bosanquet retired from active participation in the bank in 1836

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824. He was also director of the Palladium Life Assurance Society, according to an advertisement in the Foreign Quarterly Review July 1831. The Palladium was founded in 1824 and based in Waterloo Place, and also at 14 Argyll Street, Glasgow. Its chairman was Sir Edward Hyde East, also a member of the RAS.

He made the family home of Dingestow, Monmouthshire his base. He was sheriff of Monmouthshire in 1841; Gwent Archives hold deeds and other documents relating to the Bosanquet family.

He died on 3 June 1843.

Address: 18, Wimpole Street; (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was "1, Up. Grosvenor-st.")



Samuel Bosanquet by Charles Turner,
National Portrait Gallery

Bourke, Edmund F. (1795 - 1831) was the son of Edmund Fearon Bourke, of Clarendon, Jamaica. His father owned an estate "The Oakes" with 250 slaves, but did not live there; he lived in the Clifton area of Bristol.

Edmund Bourke matriculated at University College, Oxford, on 21 February 1810, aged 15 and became a fellow of St John's College, Cambridge in 1822. As a member of St John's, Edmund Bourke voted in the parliamentary election in 1822. He contributed to the British & Foreign Bible Society in 1825 and was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

After his death in 1831, as a result of the passing of the Abolition of Slavery Act of 1833, compensation was paid to the executors of his son Edmund, who had by then died.

Address: A. 14 Albany (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

Bowring, Sir John (1792 - 1872), English political economist, traveller, writer, literary translator, polyglot and the fourth Governor of Hong Kong, was born on 17 October 1792 in Exeter, England.

The son of a wool merchant, Bowring started work in his father's firm at age 13. At the same time he studied a wide range of foreign languages; later claiming that he was proficient in over 100, though this has been widely disputed. His first published works were translations of folk songs from various Eastern European languages into English.

Around 1818 he became a friend of the philosopher Jeremy Bentham and would go on to edit the two-volume collection *Bentham's Deontology* published in 1834.

He travelled widely in Europe pursuing business affairs. He was arrested in 1822 in Calais after attempting to carry a message to the Portuguese government warning of the possible invasion of the Iberian Peninsula by the French. He was released from prison after the intervention of then Foreign Secretary, and later member of the RAS, George Canning.

On his return to England he became a founding member of RAS in 1823, with paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1827, and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824. In November 1826 he donated six of his works including *Details of his arrest in France*, a pamphlet about his imprisonment in Calais, and In January 1828 he donated copies of his *Servian Popular Poetry* and *Specimens of the Polish Poets* to the RAS library.

He entered parliament in 1835 as MP for Kilmarnock Burghs and was appointed to a commission investigating European and British commercial practices. He invested in iron works in South Wales but lost his money in the crash of 1840. He was an early advocate of decimalization.

In 1849, Palmerston offered him the post of Consul in Canton and superintendent of trade with China. In 1854 he was appointed the fourth Governor of Hong Kong. During his time in Hong Kong he worked to improve building practices and helped lay out the plans of the city as it is today by reclaiming land along the harbour. Several places in Hong Kong are named after him. He visited Siam in 1855 and signed a commercial treaty with King Mongkuk.

After retiring from the governorship he returned to England, but was appointed commissioner to Italy. He also represented Hawaii as minister in Europe.



John Bowring 1826, portrait by John King, National Portrait Gallery

He died on 23 November 1872 in Claremont, England.

He published (among other works):

Batavian Anthology 1824

Ancient Poetry and Romances of Spain 1824

Specimens of the Polish Poets, and Serbian Popular Poetry, both published in 1827.

Poetry of the Magyars 1830

The Decimal System in Numbers, Coins and Accounts 1854

The Kingdom and People of Siam 1857

A visit to the Philippine Islands 1859

The RAS Library has:

The Kingdom and People of Siam: with a narrative of the mission to that country in 1855 / by Sir John Bowring. (1857)

Hwa tsien ki : the flowery scroll, a Chinese novel / translated and illustrated with notes by Sir John Bowring. (1868)

The Kingdom and People of Siam / Sir John Bowring; with an introduction by David K. Wyatt (1969)

Address: London Field, Hackney; in 1828, this was altered by hand in the printed list to Queen Square Place, Westminster; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 John Bowring (not Sir) lived at 70 Great Portland Street; in 1834 he lived at 1 Queen Square, Westminster

Bowser, Sir Thomas (1749 - 1833), joined the Madras European Regiment in 1773, becoming Lieutenant-Colonel in 1797. He fought in many of the Anglo-Indian wars, and was taken prisoner in 1778 when serving under Colonel Baillie (also a future member of the RAS); he was kept prisoner until 1784.

He was commander of Fort St George in 1818 and earned praise from Lord Wellesley, the Commander-in-Chief at the time.

In December 1824 Lieutenant-General Bowser became commander of the Madras Army. He was a member of RAS in 1827 and paid his subscription for that year. He was elected a fellow of the Medico-Botanical Society, which was founded by RAS member John Frost, in October 1827. On 17 July 1830, Bowser read a paper on the "Palmyra" to the Society, as recorded in the Asiatic Journal and Register 1830.

He subsequently became Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in India and was present at the first levee of William IV in 1830.

Bowser was the original owner of a gold finial from the throne of Tipu Sultan which was sold at Bonhams in 2010 for £434,000. A gold-plated sword, given to him by the Rajah of Mysore, was sold by Bonhams in the same sale.

He died on 15 June 1833.

Address: 6 Weymouth Street, Portland Place in Boyle's Court Guide 1829 Lieut-Gen Sir Thos. Bowser lived at 6 Weymouth Street; in Boyle's Court Guide 1821 Richard Bowser who was living at 8 Weymouth Street)



Sir Thomas Bowser by Thomas Hickey

Bracken, Captain Thomas (1791 - 1850), Son of the Rev. Thomas Bracken of Ickenham, Middlesex, who was curate of Stutton in Suffolk, was born 10 September 1791.

He studied at Queen's College Oxford from 1807 to 1810. He joined the EIC army in England as a cadet in 1810 and resigned in 1811. He went to India as a free trader in 1813 and joined Alexander & Co in 1818, becoming a partner shortly afterwards. He stayed with the company until 1832 when the firm failed with debts of over £3 million. He then became secretary and treasurer of the Bank of Bengal. He was one of the original owners of the Bank of Hindostan.

He was a non-resident founding member of RAS in 1823. He gave evidence to the Select Committee on the affairs of the East India Company in February 1831 and March 1832, testifying on details of the opium trade.

He was reputed to be the father of Isa Blagden, an Anglo-Indian girl to whom he left money in his will, and who became a great friend of Robert and Elisabeth Barrett Browning in Italy.

He remained in Calcutta for much of his life, and was appointed sheriff of Calcutta for the year 1840. He retired in 1847 and returned to England but after his health began to deteriorate in 1850 he returned to Calcutta.

He died 16 December 1850 in Calcutta.

Address: (1823) 19 Russell Place, Fitzroy Square (deleted on list); (1824 onwards: nil)

Brenton, Captain Sir Jahleel, Bart. KCB (1770 - 1844), British naval captain, was born on Newport Rhode Island on 22 August 1770. He was the son of Admiral Jahleel Brenton, a Loyalist in the American War of Independence, who emigrated to England in 1780.

Captain Brenton entered the navy in 1781, serving on his father's ship *HMS Queen*. While still a midshipman he took part in the survey of the coast of Nova Scotia in 1789. His naval service took him to the North Sea, then to the Mediterranean where he took part in the battle of Cape St Vincent (1796). For a time he served in the Swedish navy in their war against the Russians.



Captain Sir Jahleel Brenton by Smith of Barbados,
Royal Museum, Greenwich

He saw continual service during the wars with France and was appointed captain of the frigate *Minerve* in 1803. Unfortunately, the ship ran aground off the French coast and Brenton was forced to surrender. He and the crew were marched across to Verdun in Eastern France where they were imprisoned. Brenton tried to improve the conditions of the other prisoners, with some success, and was released in 1806 in exchange for a French captain taken prisoner at Trafalgar.

Badly wounded in a battle off Naples in 1810, he was knighted in 1812. He became commissioner of the dockyard at the Cape of Good Hope, and was deputy governor of the Greenwich Hospital for almost thirty years.

On 9 October 1822, he married his cousin Harriet, youngest daughter of the late James Brenton of Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

He died 21 April 1844 in Lansdowne Place, Leamington Spa.

Address: 20, Park Street, Bath

Brenton, John (1782 - 1837), joined the Royal Navy as an ordinary seaman in 1798, but was rapidly promoted to midshipman and then to captain in 1822. He served in the Mediterranean, and later in the Baltic, for which he received the Order of St Vladimir from the Russians. He retired from the Navy in 1846.

On 27 March 1806, he married his cousin, Frances, the daughter of Sir Jahleel Brenton.

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

He died in 1837.

Address: Shrubbery, Fetcham, near Leatherhead, Surrey; in 1834 lived at 26 Cumberland Street, Portman Square.

Bridge, Revd. Bewick FRS (1767 - 1833) was a British mathematician and clergyman born in Linton, Cambridgeshire in 1767.

He studied mathematics at Peterhouse, Cambridge from 1786 to 1790, becoming Senior Wrangler in his final year. After becoming ordained in 1792 he returned to Peterhouse as a fellow. He became Professor of Mathematics and Registrar at the East India College (later Haileybury) 1814-1816. He was vicar of Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, from 1816 to his death in 1833 and he built the first school in Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, in 1818. He supported various charitable institutions including the Cambridge Savings Bank.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions from 1823 to 1827. In January 1825 he donated three of his books on maths to the society's library. He was also a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He died on 15 May 1833 in Cherry Hinton, Cambridge.

He published:

Introduction to the study of the Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy 1813

Elementary Treatise on Algebra 1815

Compendious Treatise on the Elements of Plane Trigonometry 1818

Address: Peterhouse College, Cambridge

Bridgman, William FRS (1764 - 1847), was a founding member of RAS, scholar and member of various learned societies.

He was a Freemason, initiated in 1787. In the list of Freemasons who were FRS his address is given as Bishopsgate Street. In 1804 he published *Translations from the Greek, Aristotle's Synopsis, Democrates, etc.*

He was Fellow of the Linnaean Society, a Member of the Royal Institution and the Society for the Encouragement of Arts 1809 and was elected to the Royal Society in March 1821. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 until 1827. He subscribed to *Elements of Greek Grammar* published by Valpy (RAS member) in 1818.

In 1837 the Rev. William Bridgman was appointed headmaster of the new King's College School, at Nassau in the Bahamas, but had to resign two years later as his wife became ill.

Bridgman died on 6 December 1847.

Address: RAS 1834/35 Frogmore-Lodge, Gloucester; Royal Society 1833/4 also Frogmore, Gloucester; in 1818 his address was 85 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury; in 1809-1812, he lived at 76 Old Broad Street; (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 his address was 95 Great Russell-str.)

Browne, Henry FRS (1754 - 1830), a factor in Canton and scientist, was born in 1754. He was the founder of the company 'Sestrel,' which manufactured scientific instruments, and notably provided Lord Macartney with a telescope which he presented to Quianlong Emperor in Peking on an expedition to China in 1792.

Browne was brother-in-law of Sir Edward Sabine and together they were founding members of the Society of Civil Engineers. In 1818, at Browne's house, Sabine and

Captain Henry Kater (later a member of RAS) carried out a series of experiments on pendulum oscillations. Later, also at Browne's house, Captain Forster carried out further experiments on pendulums.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823, paying subscriptions from 1823 until 1827, and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He died 18 June 1830 in Portland Place.

Address: 2 Portland Place (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

(Born: 1754; died: 18 June 1830 in Portland Place)



Sestrel deadbeat compass made by Henry Browne Ltd around 1890.

Brownlow, The Right Honourable the Earl (1779 - 1853) English politician, was born John Cust on 19 August 1779 at the family home of Belton House in Lincolnshire.

He was educated at Eton and Cambridge. From 1802 – 1807 he served as MP for Clitheroe and was Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire from 1809 to 1852.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823, paying his subscriptions from 1823 to 1827, and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He died on 15 September 1853 and is buried in Belton Church which adjoins the family estate in Lincolnshire.

Address: 1, Cavendish Square (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 he lived at 16 Charles Street, Berkeley Square); in 1834 he lived at 2 Belgrave Square.



Earl Brownlow, by Martin Archer Shee, in Belton House

Bryant, Major-General Jeremiah (1783 - 1845), was a British soldier and director of the East India Company.

He joined the East India Company army in 1798 and as Brigade Major was stationed at Fort William, Bengal in 1810. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and, that same year, married Mary Churchill in London. He was one of the original members of the Bengal Club in 1827 and would later be appointed Judge Advocate-General of Bengal. He retired to England, becoming a director of the East India Company in 1835.

He died in June 1845 and is buried at St Peter's Church, Petersham.

Address: (1823) 3, Montague Square (deleted); (1824 onwards) Bengal.

Bryce, The Reverend James DD (DOB unverifiable - 1866), was a Scottish clergyman.

In 1810 he published *A Sketch of the State of British India*. He was the first Scottish chaplain in India, having been appointed minister of the Church of Scotland in Fort William, Bengal, in 1814. Bryce vigorously maintained the position of the kirk against that of the Church of England as embodied in the first Bishop of Calcutta, Bishop Middleton, who was also appointed in 1814. He was criticised for having acted discourteously towards the Bishop in various ways. The most obvious of these was his decision to build a new Scottish kirk, St Andrew's Church, with a spire taller than that of the existing Anglican Church. His church was also more strikingly positioned at the end of a broad avenue, and not surrounded by smaller secular buildings. This naturally annoyed the Anglican Bishop Middleton.



Photograph of the Rev. James Bryce

He was elected to RAS membership in 1825 and paid his subscriptions to 1827.

In 1829 he brought an action for libel against Samuel Smith, the publisher of a Bengal newspaper, who had declared that Bryce spent too much time dealing with political matters when he should have been exercising his religious duties. Although the court found for him Bryce was forced to pay part of the defendant's costs, which were very high. There was a Samuel Smith who was a member of the RAS, though it may not be the same man.

He returned to Scotland in 1840 and was asked to give advice to new Presbyterian chaplains about to leave for India.

He died on 11 March 1866.

Address: Calcutta

Buckingham, His Grace the Duke of, KG (1776 - 1839), British landowner and politician was born Richard Temple-Nugent-Grenville on 20 March 1776 in London. He was son of the first Marquess of Buckingham, whose father, George Grenville, had been Prime Minister from 1763 to 1765. The family was a notably political one, providing members of many 18th and 19th century governments. Buckingham was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1791.

In 1796 he married Lady Anne Brydges, daughter of the 3rd Duke of Chandos, and by royal licence in 1799 joined her family names to his, giving them the remarkable family name of Temple-Nugent-Brydges-Chandos-Grenville.



1st Duke of Buckingham and Chandos 1835

A substantial landowner in Buckinghamshire, he was elected MP for Buckingham in 1797. He was a member of several governments including that of his uncle, Lord Grenville, in which he was Vice-President of the Board of Trade. He succeeded his father as Marquess of Buckingham in 1813 and so left the House of Commons. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire from 1813 to his death. In 1822 he was made Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. His main residence was Stowe House, in Buckinghamshire. In 1823 he was a founding member of RAS and paid his subscriptions for 1826 and 1827.

He was very fat and unpopular, as can be inferred from contemporary nicknames.

He died 17 January 1839 at Stowe.

Address: 91, Pall Mall (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821).

Burney, The Reverend Charles Parr DD FRS (1786 - 1864), Anglican Archdeacon, was the only son of schoolmaster Charles Burney. His aunt was Fanny Burney, the diarist.

When his father was at Cambridge, he was accused of stealing books from the university library and was sent down without a degree; this meant that the only job he could get was as an usher in a small school in Chiswick, which he eventually bought when the master died in 1786. Having bought the school, he moved it to Greenwich in 1793. Charles Parr Burney ran the school after his father retired and stayed there until 1833. In 1838 he moved to Sible Hedingham in Essex to take up the position of Rector, before becoming Archdeacon of St Albans from 1840 to 1845, then transferring to the arch deanery of Colchester where he died in 1864.

In 1814, he was a member of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

His grandfather, Charles Burney senior (1726 – 1814), was a musician, teacher and author of books on the history of music, including Chinese music; he was also an acquaintance of Matthew Raper, a member of the RAS, who sent him a chest of Chinese musical instruments from Canton in 1777. Burney later mentions in his will “my two gongs and oriental instruments sent from Canton by Mr Matthew Raper and two of inferior quality brought by Lord Macartney when he returned from his Chinese embassy.”

The papers of the Burney family are held in the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester and in the Beinecke Library at Yale University.

He died on 1 November 1864.

Fanny Burney and her brother Charles Burney are both commemorated by tombs in Westminster Abbey.

Address: Greenwich

Burr, Lieutenant-General (1749 - 1828), Colonel of the 10th Madras Native Infantry, was born 19 August 1749 in Ramsey, Essex.

Daniel Burr went to school in Cavendish, Suffolk, and joined the East India Company Army as a cadet in Madras in 1767. He arrived at Fort George in India in July 1768 after a voyage of seven months. He was immediately attached to the Commander of the army, General Joseph Smith. Commissioned as ensign in November 1768, he was promoted Lieutenant in 1770 and sent with a group of sepoys to garrison a small fort at Aylore, on the border with Hyder Ali's territory.

He took part in the siege of Tanjore in 1773. Promoted Adjutant, he was wounded in both legs near Aska. In 1783, now Captain Burr, he spent a happy period in Ganjam where he immersed himself in the study of the northern part of the province.

He was promoted to Major in 1791 and then to Colonel in 1797 in command of the 10th Regiment of Native Infantry. In 1798 he returned to England after thirty years' continuous service. His stay in England was short as he was sent back to Madras in 1800 and put in command of the expedition to capture the Moluccas. In concert with Robert Townshend Farquhar, Resident in Amboyna and future member of RAS, he succeeded in occupying the Moluccas and brought them under British control.

He left India for the last time in 1803 and returned to England. He was received by the Directors of the East India Company at a dinner at the Crown and Anchor on the Strand, and was presented with a bounty of £800. In 1823 he was a founding member of RAS.

He died on 19 February 1828 in Portland Place.

Address: not listed in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821; "Mrs Gen. Burr" is listed at 16 Portland Place in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829.



Portrait of Lieutenant-General Daniel Burr 1799, by John I. Smart, in the Cleveland Museum of Art.
Communicated by Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

Burton, John (dates unknown)

John Burton is listed in the subscription payments list in 1826, but is not in the printed list for that year, and therefore no address is given for him in the RAS journals; very little is known about him, but the following is a series of possible references:

In 1796 John Burton was assistant surgeon with the 9th Sepoys at Madras (Town and Country Almanack for 1796)

In 1802, Captain Burton was a member of the Asiatic Society in Bengal.

On 3 April 1819, in Madras, the wife of John Burton gave birth to a son and heir.

14 January 1822 John Burton married Mrs Rosario Rose in Bombay.

23 January 1827 at sea: Mr J. C. Burton died on board the *Robarts* aged 47 (Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register Vol 24).

John Burton, son of Captain Richard Burton (died 1832) and grandson of Sir Richard Burton (died 1855), died in 1833, and an elaborate family memorial to them is in St Peter in Thanet church, Thanet (St Peter in Thanet Parish Church monuments. Note: his grandfather was not the more famous Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821 – 1890), the African explorer and translator.



The Burton family monument in St Peter in Thanet Church, Thanet

In 1834, June 24, at Algoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope, Captain John Burton of the brig *Maria* married May Robinson (Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register, Vol. 13)

In 1834 a barque named *Ewell Grove*, master John Burton, was registered at the Port of London. Ewell Grove was the home of the Reid family, members of the RAS (see John Rae Reid).

1836, the partnership between John Burton and George Burton as calico printers, manufacturers and merchants, is dissolved (London Gazette, 1836).

In 1836, Captain Burton was the owner and captain of the *Maria* in London docks, bound for Algoa Bay (Asiatic Journal, Vol. 21).

In 1837, Captain Burton was the owner and captain of the *Patriot* in St Katharine docks bound for Algoa Bay (Asiatic Journal, Vol. 24).

On 17 October 1839, John Burton, aged 34, was admitted to hospital in Madras for an operation for an abscess on his liver; he died 4th December 1839 (Madras Quarterly Medical Journal, Vol. 6)

27 January 1841, at Cheltenham, Mary Anna, wife of John Burton, late of the Madras medical Service, died in child-bed of her eleventh child, a son, who survives her (Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register).

February 1845 Advertisement: To sail 1 February. For Madras, calling at the Cape of Good Hope, the MARY ANN. For freight or passage, apply to the commander, or to JOHN BURTON, 122 Bishopsgate Street (Allen's Indian Mail and Register of Intelligence).

1857 Letters from John and Judith Burton to their cousin, Mrs Robert Smith, a relative of Sir Colvin Colvin-smith of the Madras Medical Service, are in the British Library, Asian and African Studies section.

Butler, Charles (1750 - 1832), English Roman Catholic lawyer and writer, was born to a Catholic family in London on 14 August 1750.

He was educated at the Catholic Academy in Hammersmith and then at the English College at Douai. He trained as a lawyer at Lincoln's Inn and became a voluminous writer. He spent his early career as a conveyancer, rather than a barrister, as Catholics were not permitted to be called to the bar. In 1791 he was accepted to the bar after Parliament passed a measure to allow Catholics barristers the right to practice. He became the first Catholic in modern times to be called King's Counsel. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

In Catholic circles he was a defender of the independence of English Catholics from Rome. He was a proponent of an institutionalised order of English Catholic bishops.

Among his many works are:

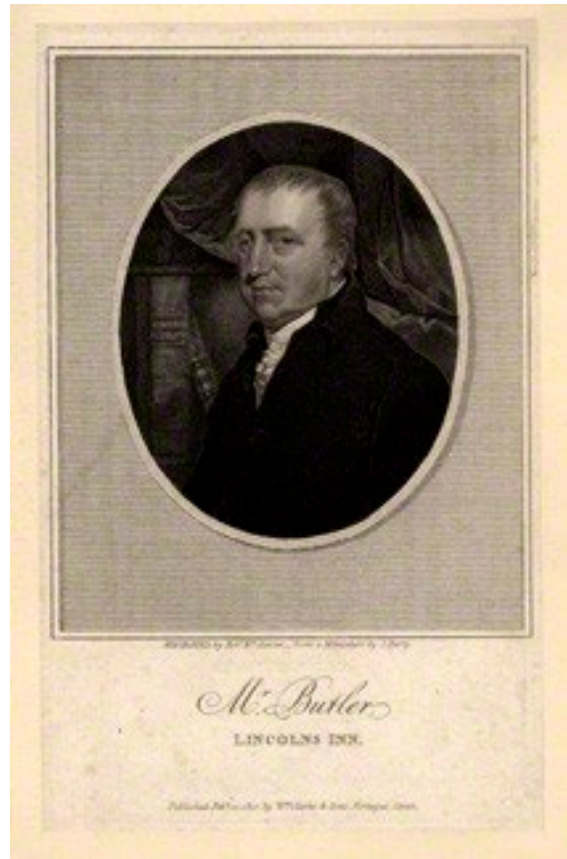
On Impresssing Seamen 1777

Life of Erasmus 1825

Historical Memoirs of English, Scottish, and Irish Catholics 1819-22

He died on 2 June 1832 in Great Ormond Street.

Address: 44, Great Ormond Street Russell Square; 12 New Square, Lincoln's Inn (both addresses in Boyle's Court Guide 1821).



Charles Butler by Robert William Sievier, in National Portrait Gallery

Butterworth, Joseph (1770 - 1826), politician and philanthropist, was born in Coventry on 12 August 1770.

He moved to London as a young man to learn the book trade, concentrating in particular on law books. He founded the legal publishing firm which still carries his name. In 1801 he published *A General Catalogue of Law Books*.

He became MP for Coventry from 1812 to 1818 and then for Dover from 1820 to 1826.

He was also a noted philanthropist and his house was often used as a philanthropic meeting-place. Frequent visitors included Lord Liverpool and William Wilberforce (both RAS members). He was a Methodist and one of the founders of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

He died on 30 June 1826 in Bedford Square.

The RAS library has

An account of the American Baptist mission to the Burman Empire: in a series of letters, addressed to a gentleman in London / by Ann H. Judson. (1827) which contains material by Butterworth.

Address: 7, Bedford Square (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

Buxton, Thomas Fowell MP (1786 - 1845), politician, brewer, abolitionist and social reformer, was born on 1 April 1786 in Castle Hedingham, Essex.

His father, also named Thomas Fowell Buxton, died when he was six years old. He was educated at a school in Greenwich run by Charles Burney (member of the RAS). He studied there until he was fifteen. In 1803 he entered Trinity College, Dublin.

His mother, Anna Hanbury, was a Quaker and the daughter of a brewer. She introduced her son to the Gurney family of Earlam Hall, Norwich. Buxton became close to Joseph John Gurney and his sister, the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry. Buxton married Hannah Fry, their sister, in May 1807.



Thomas Fowell Buxton, by W. Hall 1835

He entered the Hanbury brewery (Truman, Hanbury & Co., based in Brick Lane, in the East End of London) and became partner in 1811. He eventually bought out the Hanburys and renamed the brewery Truman, Hanbury, Buxton & Co.

In 1818 he was elected MP for Weymouth, provided financial support to Elizabeth Fry's prison reform movement and published *An Enquiry, Whether Crime and Misery are produced or prevented by our present system of Prison Discipline*. He also campaigned against the death penalty, successfully restricting the number of crimes punishable by death from more than 200 to just eight.

Later he took up the cause of anti-slavery which he would fight for throughout his life. He helped set up the Anti-Slavery Society and took over as leader of the movement in Parliament when William Wilberforce (also a member of the RAS) retired. He saw the Anti-Slavery Bill passed in 1833. David Livingstone was much influenced by his ideas that the African slave trade could be countered by commerce and the spread of Christianity. In 1839 Buxton published *The African Slave Trade and Its Remedy*.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and a member of the Athenaeum in 1824. He was founding chairman of the RSPCA, which he helped set up in 1824 with William Wilberforce and others. He was created baronet in 1840.

Following a gradual decline in health, Buxton died on 19 February 1845 in Northrepps Hall, Norfolk.

Address: Spitalfields' Brewery; (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 his address was 54 Devonshire Street, Portland Place).