Contents

Unitarian Members of Parliament in the Nineteenth Century

A Catalogue

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Introduction

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMH</td>
<td>Andrew M. Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Thomas Baker, Memorials of a Dissenting Chapel (London, 1884)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B&amp;FUA</td>
<td>British &amp; Foreign Unitarian Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>BDMBR</td>
<td>Biographical Dictionary of Modern British Radicals, ed. J. O. Baylen and N. J. Gossman, 4 vols (Brighton, 1979-88)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boase</td>
<td>Modern English Biography, ed. Frederic Boase, 6 vols (Truro, 1892-1921)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
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<td>CC</td>
<td>County Council</td>
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<td>CL</td>
<td>Christian Life (London)</td>
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<td>C. of E.</td>
<td>Church of England</td>
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<td>CR</td>
<td>Christian Reformer (London)</td>
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<td>CW</td>
<td>Christian World (London)</td>
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Ditchfield  G.M. Ditchfield, ‘Manchester College and Anti-Slavery’, in Barbara
DL  Deputy Lieutenant
DLB  Dictionary of Labour Biography, ed. J. M. Bellamy and John Saville,
DWB  Dictionary of Welsh Biography down to 1940 (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, The Unitarian Contribution to Social Progress in England
(London, 1938)
I  Inquirer (London)
Johnson  Johnson Index of Unitarian Obituaries at Harris Manchester College,
Oxford
JP  Justice of the Peace
L  Liberal
McLachlan  Herbert McLachlan, The Unitarian Home Missionary College, 1854-
MCO  Manchester College, Oxford
MG  Manchester Guardian
MNC  Manchester New College
MR  Monthly Review
MU  Memorable Unitarians (London, 1906)
NELUM  North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission
ODNB  Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, ed. H. C. G. Matthew and
Brian Harrison (Oxford, 2004)
PC  Privy Councillor
Spears  Robert Spears, Record of Unitarian Worthies (London, [1876?]),
Thorne  R. G. Thorne, The House of Commons, 1790-1820, 5 vols
(London, 1986)
TUHS  Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society
Venn  J. A. Venn (ed.), Alumni Cantabrigienses, Part II, 6 vols (Cambridge,
1940)
UCL  University College, London
UHMC  Unitarian Home Missionary College
Watts  M. R. Watts, The Dissenters: Volume II: The Expansion of Evangelical
Nonconformity (Oxford, 1995)
WW  Who’s Who (London)
WWBMP  Who’s Who of British Members of Parliament, ed. Michael
Stenton and Stephen Lees, 4 vols (Hassocks, Sussex, 1976-81)
WWW  Who Was Who (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 Frush, Cleator, Whitehaven; Wray Castle, Windermere; and 29 Pont Street, SW.

RICHARD LANE ALLMAN
1813-
MP (L) for Bandon, June 1880-85
WWWMP. Not in Johnson.

THOMAS GAIR ASHTON
5 Feb. 1855 - 1 May 1933
MP (L) for Cheshire, Hyde, 1885-86
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’

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.


BENJAMIN BENYON
1765 (?) – 6 Nov. 1834
MP for Stafford, 1818-26


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)


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.


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.


Sir JOHN BOWRING
17 Oct. 1792 – 23 Sept. 1872
MP (L) for Kilmarnock Burghs, 1835-37

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).


RAWDON BRIGGS (Jun.)
d. 12 May 1858
MP (L) for Halifax, 1832-35
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 19th 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).

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).


EDWARD HOMER CARBUTT
1838 –
MP (L) for Monmouth District, 1880-86

JOHN BONHAM CARTER (Sen.)
1788 – 17 Feb. 1838
MP (Whig) for Portsmouth, 1816-38

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.

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).

SAMUEL CARTER
15 May 1805 – 31 Jan. 1878
MP (L) for Coventry, Mar. – Nov. 1868
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN
8 July 1836 – 2 July 1914
MP (L) for Birmingham, June 1876-85
   Birmingham, W, 1885-86
MP (LU) for Birmingham, W, 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
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).
Entrepreneur in Politics (New Haven, CT, 1994). Alan Ruston, ‘The Chamberlains and
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.
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


HENRY PEYTON COBB

1835 – 27 Jan. 1910

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


WALTER COFFIN

7 June 1785 – 15 Feb. 1867

MP (L) for Cardiff District, 1852-57


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 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).

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 (Henock, 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 Jingoese 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. Henock, 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).

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 Cossham
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. Cossham 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.


GEORGE COURTAULD
1830 – 29 Feb. 1920
MP (L) for Maldon, Essex, Dec. 1878 – 1885

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).


JOSEPH CROOK

1809 – 8 Dec. 1884

MP (L) for Bolton, 1852 – Feb. 1861


Sir EDWIN DURNING-LAWRENCE, Bart

2 Feb. 1837 - 21 Apr. 1914

MP (LU) for Truro, 1895-1906

Of private means. University College School, on 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 Councils.
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 Monkery 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).

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, 1st May 1848’ (I, 16 June 1849, p. 380).

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)


WILLIAM JOHNSON FOX
1 Mar. 1786 - 3 June 1864
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

BENJAMIN GASKELL
28 Feb. 1781 – 21 Jan. 1856
MP for Maldon, 1806 – Feb. 1807 (unseated on petition), 1812-26
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).
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.

WILLIAM DOWNE GILLON
d. 7 Oct. 1846
MP (L) for Falkirk Burghs, 1831-41

ROBERT HYDE GREG
24 Sept. 1795 – 21 Feb. 1875
MP (Whig) for Manchester, 1839-41
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 ennable 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).


Sir EDWARD JAMES HARLAND, Bart
15 May 1831 - 24 Dec. 1895
MP (C) for Belfast, N, Aug. 1889 – Dec. 1895

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).

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.

ALEXANDER HENRY
1783 - 4 Oct. 1862
MP (L) for Lancashire, S, December 1847-52.

Sir BENJAMIN HEYWOOD, Bart
12 Dec. 1793 – 11 Aug. 1865
MP (L) for Lancashire, 1831-32
Trusted, 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 Andrews, 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

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
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 Athenaenum, 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.


ODNB. WWBMP.

Sir BENJAMIN HOBHOUSE, Bart
29 Mar. 1757 – 14 Aug. 1831
MP (Whig) for Bletchingley, 1797-1802
Grampound, 1802-06
Hindon, 1806-18


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 (Colombia, 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

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
WWBMP.

Sir JAMES ALFRED JACOBY
1852 – 23 June 1909
MP (L) for Derbyshire, Mid, 1885-1909

CHARLES HERBERT JAMES
16 June 1817 – 3 Oct. 1890
MP (L) for Merthyr Tydfil, 1880- c. Feb. 1888
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).*


**COURTNEY STANHOPE KENNY**

18 March 1847- 18 Mar. 1930

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


**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. Life governor 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).


Sir JAMES KITSON, Bart
22 Sept. 1835 – 16 Mar. 1911
 MP (L) for Yorkshire, West Riding, S, Colne Valley, 1892-1907

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
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 Roselyn 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

**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.  

**FRED MADDISON**  
17 Aug. 1856 – 12 Mar. 1937  
MP (L) for Sheffield, Brightside, Aug. 1897 – 1900  
Burnley, 1906 – Jan. 1910


Sir MOSES PHILIP MANFIELD
26 July 1819 - 31 July 1899
MP (L) for Northampton, Feb. 1891 – 1895
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


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.

GEORGE MELLY
1830 – 27 Sept. 1894
MP (L) for Stoke-upon-Trent, Feb. 1868 – 1874
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
Father James Milnes a Dissenter (Thorne 4, p. 597). No firm evidence of membership of Westgate Chapel found, but likely.

ROBERT PEMBERTON MILNES
20 [or 28] May 1784 – 9 Nov. 1858
MP (Tory) for Pontefract, 1806-18
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).

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.


CHARLES PAGET
29 Sept. 1799 – 13 Oct. 1873
MP (L) for Nottingham, July 1856 – 1865


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)


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

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

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)


RICHARD PEACOCK
1820 – 3 Mar. 1889
MP (L) for Lancashire, SE, Gorton, 1885 – 89


MARK PHILIPS
4 Nov. 1800 – 23 Dec. 1873
ROBERT NEEDHAM PHILIPS
20 June 1815 – 28 Feb. 1890
MP (L) for Bury, 1857-59, 1865-85

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 thought to have 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. 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. Steinhart 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 cooperation 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)

JOHN PINKERTON
1845 – 4 Nov. 1908
MP (Home Rule) for Galway City, 1886-1900
School of Joseph McFadden, Unitarian minister, Ballymoney (WWBMP 2). Listed as Unitarian (CL, 16 July 1892, p. 337).

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. LLD. 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 secretarship, 1882, when the appointee, Lord Frederick Cavendish, was assassinated. Prosecuted his Phoenix Park

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.
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
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,
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
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
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
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)

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;
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. LL.D., Victoria University, 1895. Published Social Duties
(1867), anticipating Charity Organisation Society policy; Local Government and Taxation
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.
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.

Sir HENRY ENFIELD ROSCOE
7 Jan. 1833 – 18 Dec. 1915
MP (L) for Manchester, S, 1885-95


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).


**Sir BERNHARD SAMUELSON, Bart**
22 Nov. 1820 – 10 May 1905
MP (L) for Banbury, Feb. – Apr. 1859, 1865-85
Oxfordshire, Banbury, 1885-95
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)


Sir CHARLES ERNEST SCHWANN (later SWAN), Bart
25 Jan. 1844 – 13 July 1929
MP (L) for Manchester, N, 1886-1918


CHARLES PRESTWICH SCOTT
1846 – 1 Jan. 1932
MP (L) for Lancashire, SW, Leigh, 1895-1906

**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)*

**JOHN BENJAMIN SMITH**
1794 - 15 Sept. 1879
MP (L) for Stirling Burghs, 1847-52
Stockport, 1852-74

**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. Admiring 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.


Sir JAMES STANSFELD
5 Mar. 1820 – 17 Feb. 1898
MP (L) for Halifax, 1859-95
Lifelong supporter of Northgate End Unitarian Chapel, Halifax (J, 26 Feb. 1898, p. 136). Mother was Emma, daughter of John Ralph, minister of Northgate End. Father an active


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

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


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, Lancastrian 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 J, 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

**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)

**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.


_ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF MEMBERS_  

JOHN PENNINGTON THOMASSON  
9 May 1841 – 16 May 1904  
MP (L) for Bolton, 1880-85  


THOMAS THORNELY  
1 Apr. 1781 – 4 May 1862  
MP (L) for Wolverhampton, 1835-59  
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.


JAMES ASPINALL TURNER
1797 - 28 Sept. 1867
MP (L) for Manchester, 1857-65


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.


*ODNB. WWBMP.*

**ARTHUR JOHN WILLIAMS**

1836 – 12 Sept. 1911

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


*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.
BENJAMIN WOOD
1787 – 13 Aug. 1845
MP (L) for Southwark, June 1840 – 1845
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.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD
21 July 1781 – 3 Oct. 1843
MP (Whig) for Lancashire, S, 1832-35
Kendal, 1837 – Oct. 1843
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
JOHN WOOD
4 Nov. 1789 – 10 Oct. 1856
MP for Preston, 1826-30

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,


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.


JOHN ASHTON YATES
1781 – 1 Nov. 1863
MP (L) for Carlow Co., 1837-41

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.

Supplementary List of Supposed Unitarian MPs

PETER AINSWORTH
24 Nov. 1790 – 18 [19?] Jan. 1870
MP (L) for Bolton, 1835-47

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.

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).


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. Favourd 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.

WWBMP (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.

WWBMP. Boase. Not in Johnson.
THOMAS BURT
12 Nov. 1837 – 13 Apr. 1922
MP (L) for Morpeth, 1874-1918
Not in Johnson.

JOHN BONHAM CARTER (Jun.)
13 Oct. 1817 – 26 Nov. 1884
MP (L) for Winchester, 1847-74
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

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.


Sir FRANCIS ALLSTON CHANNING
1841 – 20 Feb. 1926
MP (L) for Northamptonshire, 1885 – Dec. 1910


Sir JOSEPH COWEN
10 Feb. 1800 – 19 Dec. 1873
MP (L) for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1865 – Dec. 1873

**JOSEPH COWEN**

1831 – 17 Feb. 1900  
MP (L) for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Jan. 1874 – 1886  

**JAMES SHARMAN CRAWFORD**

1812 – Apr. 1878  
MP (L) for Co. Down, 1874 - 78  
Graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, 1833 (G. D. Burtchaell and T. U. Sadleir (eds), *Alumni Dublinienses* (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  
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
EDWIN BROCKLEHURST FIELDEN
1852 – 31 Mar. 1942
MP (C) for Lancashire, SE, Middleton, 1900-06
Manchester, Exchange, 1924-35

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). WWWBMP 2. Not in Johnson.

JOHN SNOWDEN HENRY
1824 – 30 Oct. 1896
MP (C) for Lancashire, SE, 1868-74

**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 Roxburgh 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.


**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
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.

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.
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)

MATTHEW DAVENPORT HILL
6 Aug. 1792 – 7 June 1872
MP (L) for Hull, 1832-35
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).


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

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).

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.


**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


**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
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.

WWBMP 2. Not in Johnson.

Sir GEORGE PHILIPS, Bart
24 Mar. 1766 – 3 Oct. 1847
MP (Whig) for Ilchester, 1812-18
Steyning, 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), Steyning (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.


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).


WILLIAM CONYNGHAM PLUNKET

1 July 1764 – 4 Jan. 1854

MP for Midhurst, 1807

Dublin University, 1812-27


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).

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, Gloucester.
Reputedly Unitarian (AMH), but no evidence found.

GODFREY BLUNDELL SAMUELSON
3 June 1863 – 3 Nov. 1941
MP (L) for Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean, July 1887 – 1892

HENRY BERNHARD SAMUELSON
30 Sept. 1845 -
MP (L) for Cheltenham, 1868-74
Frome, Nov. 1876 - 1885
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.

JOHN SARGENT
25 Jan. 1750 – 9 Sept. 1831
MP for Seaford, 1790-93
Queenborough, 1794-1802
Bodmin, 1802-06
Said to have attended Essex Street Chapel, but probably transiently.

BENJAMIN SMITH
28 Apr. 1783 – 12 Apr. 1860
MP (L) for Sudbury, 1835-37
Norwich, May 1838 - 1847
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
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.

HENRY STRUTT
20 May 1840 – 26 July 1914
MP (L) for Derbyshire, E, 1868-74
Berwick-on-Tweed, April - c. June 1880

Sir THOMAS NOON TALFOURD
26 Jan. 1795 – 13 Mar. 1854
MP (L) for Reading, 1835-41, 1847 – July 1849


JOSIAH WEDGWOOD
1769 – 12 July 1843

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

SAMUEL WHITBREAD
17 Jan. 1764 – 6 July 1815
MP (Whig) for Bedford, 1790-1815
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
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