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Parliamentary Election promotion committee of Mr Seymour Fitzgerald
Horsham June 16th 1865

In the 1865 election Robert Henry Hurst Jnr. won by 5 votes, then after a dispute this was changed to 2 votes. This was unlike earlier elections as there was very little bribery of voters with no little treats or extravagances as both men were short of money. Mr. Hurst was paying off family debts and Mr. Fitzgerald was being hounded by creditors having spent a vast amount on previous elections.

Seymour Fitzgerald 1818-1885 was the illegitimate son of an Irish statesman William Vesey Fitzgerald MP for Clare so was not eligible to inherit the title. He bought the Holbrook Estate from Mr Robert Hurst (former Horsham MP) who put his Estate up for sale in 1844 then went abroad without resigning his parliamentary seat to escape his debts. The Estate was sold with the suggestion that whoever bought it would become the parliamentary representative in Horsham.

In 1847 Mr Fitzgerald stood as the Conservative MP for Horsham against John Jervis Liberal but lost. The results however were overturned on petition and another Conservative candidate won the by-election in 1848. The 1847 election was seen at the time as Horsham's most corrupt election and Henry Burstow named it '*One of the most notoriously drunken and corrupt elections in the United Kingdom.*' Fitzgerald was successfully elected in 1852 and maintained his position until this election in 1865 when he lost to R. H. Hurst the younger. Mr Fitzgerald was then made Governor of Bombay (Mumbai) and in 1867 was made a privy councillor and a Member of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of India and in 1868 he was knighted. He was probably the most highly acknowledged MP Horsham has ever had. He was elected MP again in 1874 but became Chief Charity Commissioner and had to give up his seat to Hurst in 1875.

On the promotion committee were:

Henry Aubrey Fletcher: 4th baronet (14/9/1835-19/5/1910). He was the Conservative member for Horsham 1st April 1880-1885 and for Lewes 1885-1910. He was the eldest son of Sir Henry Fletcher 3rd baronet and Emily Maria Browne. He succeeded to the baronetcy 6/9/1851. He was in the army before he went into politics. In 1903 he changed his name to Henry Aubrey to reflect his inheritance from the Aubrey estate. He died without heirs.

In 1864 he gave £10.00 towards St Mary's Church restoration fund and his wife gave £1.00. The average was £1.00 to £10.00. His obituary was in the local paper on the 28th January 1911. He was then living at Ham Manor Angmering. The title to the Aubrey Estate came to him through his great great grandfather. In 1885 he was appointed to the post of Parliamentary Groom-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria. In 1900 he was created a C.B. and in 1901 he was appointed to the Privy Council. In 1859 he married Agnes, daughter of Colonel Sir John Wilson C.B. They had no children.

Charles Scrace Dickens Esq. : He was a man of substance in Horsham. He had land in St Leonards Forest, where he and his friends used to hold coursing events. In 1864 he gave £100.00 for St Mary's restoration fund. His family gave £200.00 in all.

C G Eversfield
Thomas Sanctuary Esq
C.S.S. Dickens Esq

Major John Aldridge: owned most of St Leonards Forest and had been the Conservative member for Horsham in 1868.

Major Pocock

John Braby, Esq

William Lintott , who died in 1878, founded a wholesale grocery business in the Carfax. When he died his son William ran it and lived in North Parade. His mother was Sarah Childs. A. Bernard Lintott born in 1675 is likely to be a relation and he established a publishing dynasty at the beginning of the 18th century. His granddaughter married a Sir Henry Fletcher.

J.Rawilson

John Thorpe

Henry Figg

James King who was a maltster and came to Horsham about 1860 to trade at the Maltings in the Bishopric. In 1870 he amalgamated with Satchells Brewery and gradually acquired the whole of their interests. He then traded under the name of King and Son later King and Sons.

William Lintott junior

Henry Allberry

H. P Thorpe

William Aldridge

Thomas Jull

W.M.Stanford

Robert Botting

John Stanford: A John Stanford had a pram and cycle shop in East Street early in the 19th century.

Thomas Mann was a Patent and Medicine Vender and Proprietor of Manns improved cough medicine. In Windrum's History of Horsham he was called a famous Horsham Chemist.

Henry Wells

Resources:

Albery W. 1927 *A Parliamentary History of Horsham 1295-1885 Longmans: United Kingdom*

Albery, W. 1947 *A Millennium of Facts in the History of Horsham and Sussex 947-1947*

Knight, J. 2006 *Horsham's History Volumes 1,2,3.* Horsham Museum Society

Neal, K. 1975 *Victorian Horsham The diary of Henry Michell 1809-1874*

Burstow, H. 1911 *Reminiscences of Horsham* Published by the Free Christian Church Book Society
Worthing Road, Horsham.