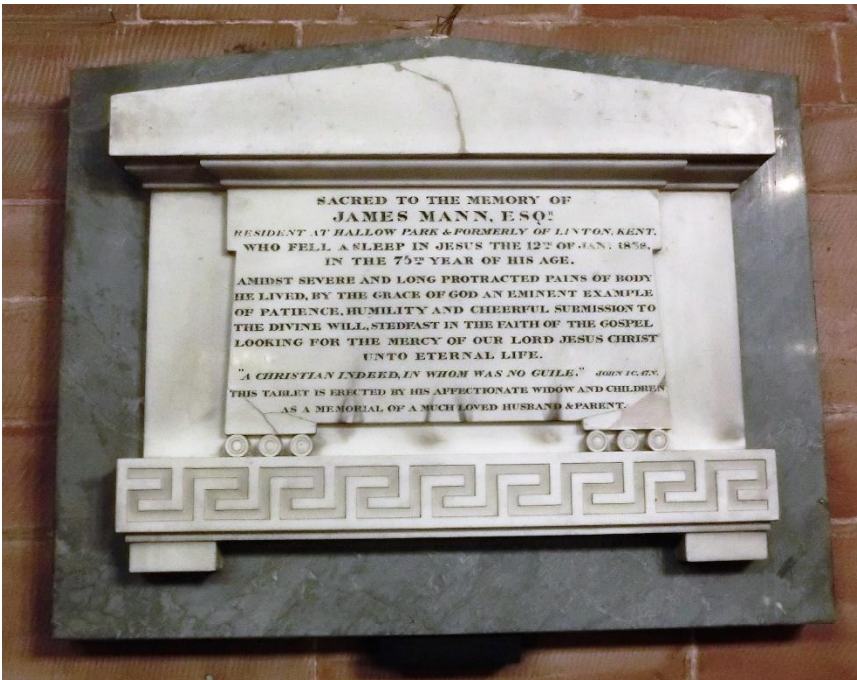


JAMES MANN (1763 - 1838) - HALLOW PARK 1829-1838



James Mann was the son of a wealthy, well-connected, but unusually named Edward Louisa Mann and Sarah Coleman aka Wright an Essex farmer's daughter. Edward does not seem to have ever married and was living with Sarah Coleman at the time of his death at Linton Place, Linton in Kent. He also had a daughter by Sarah Coleman and in his will proved in 1776 Sarah, Mary and James - who was still a minor aged about 13 - were the main beneficiaries. Linton Place was entailed to the eldest legitimate heir and so passed to Edward's brother, Sir Horatio Mann M.P and then to his nephew Sir Horace Mann son of Galfridus Mann. Amongst bequests left to Mary and James was his property on Tortola Island, in the British Virgin Islands. This island was badly damaged in Hurricane Irma in 2017.

The Manns were friends and distantly related to the Walpoles. From Horace Walpole's letters we know that despite some initial opposition from Sir Horace Mann concerning James illegitimacy, Sir Horace gave his blessing to his daughter Lucy's marriage to her cousin James Mann. Sir Horace Mann had borrowed £6,000 from Edward Louisa Mann and James and his sister Mary received the interest still owing on that money as part of their inheritance.

James Mann remarried in 1818 in Somerset. His second wife was Henrietta Elizabeth O'Brien, the daughter of Lady O'Brien, formerly of Dromoland, Co. Clare. James and Henrietta lived at Bath, where their son Lucius Edward Mann was born in 1821. They later moved to Leighton House, Wiltshire, before settling at Hallow Park in about 1829 as sub-tenants of the 3rd Earl Beauchamp.

At the moment very little more is known about James Mann except that he was a wealthy man who married and had children by each of his two wives. He was about sixty-six when he moved to Hallow Park and it is his wife Henrietta who features in several articles in the local newspaper. In 1833 she gave £5 to a subscription in Worcester for the Irish (Protestant) Clergy. She was a member of the Worcestershire Horticultural Society and is mentioned in connection with the Exhibitions for 1834 and 1835. In 1834 she won prizes in the competition of the general subscribers for her vegetables and extra Honorary prize for her red Roses and Balsams. She was successful again in 1835 with her Balsams, Marigolds and also Cockscombs (Brain Celosia or Wool plant) and later with her Hardy Annuals at the Autumn Exhibition.

James Mann died on 12 January 1838 and the contents of Hallow Park were sold by auction in October. "All the valuable and costly furniture of the above genteel Residence, together with all China, Glass, Cellar of Fine old wine, Melon and Cucumber frames; Ricks and farming implements and numerous other effects."

The witnesses to James Mann's long will were his son William's father-in-law Richard Spooner a banker and John Crane Nott of Park Farm, Hallow. The bequests which seem to have been tied up in settlements and trusts amounted to more than £35,000 which has the buying power of nearly £2 million today.