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*The Jewel of*  
 Flintshire.

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## The Glynnes of Hawarden

BY W. E. B. WHITTAKER

(Read 14th March, 1905)



WE are accustomed to think of nationalities by their distinctive types: Russia by its nobles; France by its peasants; Germany by its students; America by its business men; and Italy, perhaps, by its organ-grinders. But there is a representative type which is distinct from all these—the English country gentleman. He has no prototype in neighbouring countries. He is not noble; neither is he *bourgeois*. Being, in most cases, of long descent, with the assured position of generations, he has no need for recourse to any form of modern self-advertisement. In the main he is content to live out his life worthily and well on his estates, managing them, caring for his people, quarrelling with parish councils, and hunting. His obstinacy, love of sport, good nature and generosity, endear him to all hearts save that of the demagogue. And through the ages, it is his figure we most frequently meet in the pages of English literature: as the Squire of Chaucer; the Duke (in "As you Like it") of Shakespeare; the Sir Roger de Coverley of Addison; and so on. Our national representative (in foreign as well as home caricature) is John Bull, who is, obviously, of the country.

It is of a family of such I propose to read a short paper to-night. All this preface may seem paradoxical, when I say that this family, the Glynnes of Hawarden, was Welsh and not English in its origin. Yet, by their marriages into English county families, and their choice of England as a home, they became in every way English and not Welsh.

The family of Glynne of Glynllifon is, according to many authorities, of great antiquity. The Sergeant was of royal descent from Edward III., through the Stradlings of S. Donat's Castle, in Glamorganshire. The number of claims of descent from that monarch one hears of, makes one sometimes think despairingly that he must be responsible for half the families in England. Of the Welsh royal descent of the Glynnes, I will not speak, leaving that complicated work to more competent hands.

It is understood that they are descended from Cilmin Troed Ddu (Cilmin of the Black Foot), chief of the fourth of the fourteen tribes of North Wales. There is a tale told of Cilmin, which runs as follows: "Cilmin had engaged, with the assistance of a Magician, to steal the books of a pernicious Demon, and had nearly escaped vengeance by crossing the middle of a running stream; but he was overtaken before his left leg had passed the limit, and falling into the water, the limb was blasted and turned black; and this circumstance has been commemorated in the family of Glynllifon, and made the centre of the field on their Coat of Arms."<sup>1</sup>

John Glynne (the future Sergeant), who, perhaps, ought to be looked on as the first of the family, was born at Glynllifon, in Carnarvon, in 1603. He was

<sup>1</sup> Willet, p. 28.





W. B. Jones, Photo

Van Dyck, Portr. (?)

Sir John Glynn, Kt., Chief Justice  
(in early life)



W. B. Jones, Photo.

Sir John Glynn, Kt., Chief Justice  
(1602—1666)

the second son of Sir William Glynne of that place, a knight of much local renown, who had represented the county of Carnarvon in the Parliament called in 1593; and had acted as sheriff for the same county in 1619. Sir William's wife was Jane, daughter of Sir John Griffiths, of Carnarvon, knight.

John went to Westminster School (a rather long journey in those days). It is a pity that none of the letters he possibly wrote to his parents have survived to tell us how the little Welsh boy was treated at the great English school. From Westminster he went to Hart Hall (now merged in Hertford College), Oxford, where he matriculated on November 9th, 1621, aged 18. Here again we have no information as to how he spent his University days. He remained up three years, at the end of which he took his degree. Four years before, Sir Julius Cæsar, Master of the Rolls, had written to the Lord Mayor of London asking for the reversion of an attorney or clerk-sitter's place in the Sheriff's Court, for a Glynne. It is quite probable that this refers to John Glynne. In June 1628 (a year full of moment in the political world, for in it Buckingham was assassinated, and Eliot began his campaigns against the government) Glynne was called to the Bar. It is natural that a young and ardent Welshman, starting life at such a time, should associate himself with one or other of the great parties; and so it was with Glynne. With that eye to the main chance, by which he was to be distinguished throughout his busy life, he chose the party most likely to gain him advancement in the world, the Puritan party. From Hilary Term 1633, when he argued his first reported case, until 1640, when he entered Parliament, his life is merely that of a hard-working barrister. Soon

after the former year he was appointed Steward of Westminster; and later still, he obtained the reversion of the Office of Keeper of Writs and Rolls in the Court of Common Pleas.

In 1639 his public career may be said to commence. In the election of March that year, he was returned by two constituencies, those of Westminster and the Borough of Carnarvon. There is no evidence to show for which of these two places he sat. It scarcely matters, for in October 1640 he was re-elected for Westminster. From the outset of his parliamentary career onwards, we find him sitting on various committees, a great number having to do with religious questions. A month after his second election, he was on a committee of inquiry on the conduct of Sir Henry Spiller, a justice of the peace, who, rightly or wrongly, was suspected of undue leniency towards Popish priests. Other committees were those on "ship-money"; on the course of procedure in the Exchequer; the administration of laws against recusants; misdemeanors of county officials; on the new canons that had been lately issued by Convocation, which the Commons, desiring excuses for trouble, had pronounced to be in opposition to the fundamental laws of the realm; and on the part taken in them by Laud, now fast approaching his end. Last, but not least, he was on the commission held on Sir John Eliot and the other members, who had had the great good luck (for it made them heroes) to be fined and imprisoned for resisting, twelve years before, the adjournment of the House at the order of the King. During the year 1640, a certain Thomas Goodman, a proved Jesuit, had been tried and found guilty of high treason; and the King, with nothing particularly wicked in view, reprieved him. The Commons, on the assumption that







Anne, daughter of Sir John Glynne, Chief Justice, and wife of  
Sir John Evelyn, of Leigh Place, Surrey, Bart.

everything done by the King must of necessity be bad, appointed representatives for the purposes of a conference with the Lords. Glynne was the member to have the management. The result was unsatisfactory.

The important case of Glynne's early life was approaching. The great attack of the Parliament on the King was drawing near. Strafford, a man who, by his success as a ruler in such a country as Ireland, deserves to rank among the world's greatest men, had by that very success, and because he was royal in mind and action, incurred the indignation of that collection of malcontents, miscalled the "People of England in Parliament assembled," and otherwise called the Long Parliament. Pym, by virtue of his bitterness and enmity, public and private, was the soul of the anti-Strafford movement. With great rapidity the matter came to a head, and Strafford was impeached in January 1641. The committee of managers for the Commons consisted of Pym, Hampden, Whitelocke, Stroude, Lord Digby, Oliver St. John, Sir Walter Earle, Sir John Clotworthy, Jeffrey Palmer, Sergeant Maynard, and Glynne.

The impeachment consisted of ten articles, none of which was sufficient to secure a just condemnation. Twist the charges how you would; alter the meanings of words in the most approved manner; suborn witnesses, and you might gather a great deal of discreditable matter, but not an honest conviction. Glynne's voice was not heard in that crowded court until the third article was being debated. He conducted the case from that place to the ninth article, and spoke more or less on all the remaining articles. The 12th of April was fixed for the final summing-up. Strafford,

alone, friendless, deserted even by that being he had given his life to serve, did more for his cause by his final speech, personal and pathetic as it was, than by all his previous calmly-reasoned arguments. He spoke in the vindication of his honour, ending with a reference to his children: "Were it not for the interest of these pledges, that a saint in heaven left me, I should be loth, my lords —"; and here he was overcome. His heartfelt emotion broke down the barriers in all hearts, even those of his enemies. When he sat down there was hardly a dry eye in the room. But afterwards came the speech of Glynne, merciless and cool as an iceblast, and carefully avoiding any personal reference. His speech was long (it covers thirty folio pages in Rushworth) and carefully balanced. He argued that, though "the acts alleged might not amount to treason *per se*, yet, taken as a whole, there was a treasonable intent; and that the essence of treason was intention not perpetration."<sup>2</sup> His calm reasoning won the day. Strafford was attainted and executed; and with the death of this true gentleman Glynne had scored his first triumph. His victory marked him for advancement in the future.

In 1643 he was made Recorder of London. Identified for some time past with the Presbyterian party, he now formally took the Covenant, thereby definitely enrolling himself in the ranks of the King's enemies. However, with all his care and forethought in keeping friendly with the powers that be, he occasionally made a false step. He was one of the eleven Presbyterians sequestered by the army in 1647. In the following year, still at loggerheads with Cromwell, he was cast into the

<sup>2</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Vol. xxii., Article on Glynne.





Sir William Glynn, First Baronet ( — 1689)

Tower; from which he was released and readmitted to the House later in the year. Glynne's part in the closing scenes of the tragic drama acted in the Great Rebellion was not one of any particular distinction. He was one of the Commissioners appointed to treat with Charles at Carisbrooke Castle. The King, now seeing the end had come—that he must either live an inglorious life as a mere figurehead, ruled by whatever party happened to be in power, or else die a martyr's death—wisely, perhaps, chose the latter. In consequence, the Commission came to nought. Here Glynne's active part in the rebellion ends. He was one of the fortunate but much ridiculed members turned out of the House by Colonel Pride, who, to add to the personal sting, appears to have been a countryman of Glynne's; as it is suggested Pride was born in County Pembroke.

In 1654, Glynne was created one of the Lord Protector's sergeants-at-law, and later in the year a Judge of Assize. His work for the next two years consisted chiefly of trying conspirators against the Protector. Among others he tried John Gerard, for plotting to kill His Highness; and in 1655 he sat at Exeter to try the famous Colonel Penruddocke, whom he found guilty of treason. In the same year he reached the climax of his legal life, when he was appointed Lord Chief Justice of the Upper Bench. Now in high favour with Cromwell, he devoted all his energies to continue in that state. When the question of Cromwell's assuming the crown and majesty of a King arose, Glynne discovered that, in his inner consciousness, he approved of monarchy, though he cared little as to whether it was hereditary or not. While in this loyal state, he supported the petition addressed to Cromwell, advising him to accept the magnificent unrest of a

crown. He even made a speech to the Protector on the subject, which served its author well on a different occasion.

In 1659, alarmed at the signs of approaching change, he hastily resigned his judicial state, thinking, like Brer Rabbit, it was best to "lie low." And when the King came to his own again, Glynne, with the tact which was his secret of success, lost no time in printing and distributing his speech in favour of monarchy, delivered, as it was, with the intention of pleasing the King's greatest enemy. His Majesty King Charles II. found on his return that it was a much better policy to make friends of his father's enemies than to cut off their heads. To say the least of it (though to Charles it meant a great deal), it saved him trouble; and, above all, possessing a sense of humour, the situation amused him. The King probably realised the grim humour of the situation, when Glynne presented him with a copy of a speech that four years before had done service on a quite different occasion. But Glynne, always prosperous, continued his happy course under the changed conditions. Almost immediately after the Restoration, he was created a King's serjeant; and one of his first acts as a royalist was to prosecute Sir Henry Vane, a former friend and colleague. In 1661 he took part in the coronation procession. The irrepressible Mr. Pepys, who watched the cavalcade from afar, voices the popular opinion of Glynne and his colleagues in the following words:—

"Thus did the day end with joy everywhere; and, blessed be God, I have not heard of any mischance to anybody through it all, but only to Serjeant Glynne, whose horse fell upon him, and is like to kill him, which people do please themselves to see how just God is to punish the rogue at such





Penelope, wife of Sir William Glynne, First Baronet



a time as this; he being now one of the King's sergeants, and rode in the cavalcade with Maynard, to whom people do wish the same fortune."

The following couplet, intended, it has been inaccurately said, for an edition of "Hudibras," shows also a like spirit:—

"Did not the learned Glynne and Maynard  
To make good subjects traitors strain hard?  
Was not the King by proclamation  
Declared a rebel through the nation?"<sup>3</sup>

But popularity was the only possession Glynne lacked. He had succeeded in making his name, and rarer still, his fortune. He owned estates at Henley in Surrey (he was knighted in November 1660, as Sir John Glynne of Henley Park); at Bicester in Oxfordshire; and Hawarden in Flintshire. This latter estate he acquired by purchase, before the Restoration, from Sir Roger Twisleton and others, by arrangement with Charles, Earl of Derby, heir of the late Lord of the Manor. It is unlikely that he ever lived in Hawarden.

Sir John died at the comparatively early age of sixty-four, on Thursday, November 15th, 1666, at his London house, in Portland Row, Lincoln's Inn Fields. In his Will he directed that his funeral expenses should not exceed £500. I am aware, of course, that funerals were conducted on a more elaborate scale than obtains now; but, surely, a sum of money equivalent to at least £1,500 of our modern coin was a rather large charge, even for the gorgeous days of the 17th century. He was buried under the altar of S. Margaret's Church, Westminster; and contemporary chroniclers say his funeral was graced by the presence of three Heralds.

<sup>3</sup> The first couplet appears in Aubrey's "Brief Lives," Vol. I., p. 137. Both couplets appear in the Neville MSS.

Sir John had married, about 1630, Frances, eldest daughter of Arthur Squib (one of the Tellers of the Exchequer, and later, by Sir John's influence, Clarenceux King of Arms), by whom he had issue seven children :—

1. William ; of whom later.
2. Thomas ; inherited under his father's will "all those my houses, lands, tenements, etc., with the appurtenances called Lightwood, together with all that I purchased of Mr. Whitley, situate and being in the County of Flint and elsewhere ; and all my lands, houses, tenements, and hereditaments in the Counties of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire whatsoever." He lived in Lincoln's Inn, and died unmarried in 1685, leaving his lands in Flintshire and Carnarvonshire to his niece and god-daughter Frances, daughter of his brother William (1), to whom he also left £1,900, and all his plate in trunks at Ambrosden.
3. Frances ; died an infant.
4. Jane ; married Sir Robert Williams of Penrhyn, Bart., nephew and heir of John, Lord Archbishop of York, and sometime Keeper of the Privy Seal.
5. Margaret ; died an infant.
6. Anne ; married, in 1664, Sir John Evelyn of Leigh Place, in Godstone, Surrey ; created Baronet May 29th, 1660. She was his second wife, and he behaved badly to her. In his Will, dated April 24th, 1671, dying without issue, he bequeathed his property to his mistress and her heirs forever.
7. Frances ; married William Champion, of Combwell, Esq. (son of Sir William Champion—slain at Colchester—by his wife Grace, daughter of Sir William Parker, by his wife Philadelphia, daughter of Henry Lord Dacre), who died September 20th, 1702. By Frances he had two sons and six daughters.

Sir John Glynne married secondly, Anne, daughter of John Manning, of London and Cralle, in the County of



John, son of Sir William Glynne, First Baronet



Sussex, and widow of Sir Thomas Lawley, Bart., by whom he had :—

1. John, of Henley Park ; married Dorothy, daughter and heiress of Francis Tilney, of Bolerwick (? Hampshire), and had issue :—

(1) Anne ; died unmarried.

(2) Dorothy ; married, at Wanstead Church, Sir Richard Child, afterwards Viscount Cablemain and Earl Tilney.

John Glynne died in 1672.

2. Mary ; married Stephen Anderton, of Eyworth, Esq., who was created a Baronet, January 9th, 1664, and died January 9th, 1707-8. She died February 25th, 1668.

And here we leave the Sergeant. He had worked hard all his life, under unfavourable circumstances, and had made it a success. Starting a comparatively poor man, he ended a landed proprietor. Starting a friend of the party in power, he ended in the friendship of the powers that be. He was created a knight ; his son a baronet. And we may rest secure in the belief that had he lived to see another change, the words of the old song would still have applied :—

“ And this is law, that I’ll maintain  
 Until my dying day, Sir ;  
 That whatsoever King shall reign  
 I’ll be the Vicar of Bray, Sir.”

We now come to the first baronet. He was not a man of any considerable talent or ambition. When at Jesus College, Oxford, he was one of that gorgeous and now almost extinct class of individuals, the gentleman commoner. In 1661, at the general distribution of honours, he received a baronetcy. He had taken his degree in 1656, and had sat for Carnarvonshire in

Richard Cromwell's Parliament. His father presented him with his land at Bicester, about 1660.

About this time the Glynnes appear to have decided that life in England, especially in the south, was infinitely preferable to life in Wales. There is no trace of Sir William ever having set foot in Hawarden; and it is clear he never thought of living there. So settled in intention does he seem to have been, that he built a house close to the church at Ambrosden, where he had acquired property. White Kennett, who had received considerable attention from the Glynnes, speaks of the new house with much awe, and more commendation. The baronet's sole connection with Flintshire lies in the fact that he served his year as Sheriff in 1673. By his wife Penelope he had issue four sons and five daughters:—

1. William; second baronet.
2. Stephen; third baronet.
3. John (heir to his uncle Thomas Glynne); died unmarried, and was buried at Bicester.
4. Catherine; married Thomas Lister, of Whitefield, Northampton (cupbearer to Queen Mary II.), and had one daughter, Barbara, who died in February 1740, having married: first Sir Alveburg Holt (who died 1729); and, secondly, Thomas Brynks, Esq., of Carnarvon.
5. Frances; born 1663, heiress to her uncle Thomas' Flintshire estates. Dying intestate, her brother Sir William became her heir. She was buried at Bicester, January 5th, 1718.
6. Penelope; who married: first, a Mr. Arnold; and, secondly, a Mr. Higgins. And now we reach the only interesting member of this extremely dull generation:
7. Elizabeth. Whether she tired of the parental, or rather fraternal, restraint, or whether the deadly dulness of the life drove her to temporary madness, tradition sayeth not. But one fine morning she ran away from her eminently respectable home, and married an attorney of no prospects and





Catherine, daughter of Sir William Glynne, First Baronet, and  
wife of Thomas Lister, Esq.

*W. B. Jones, Photo.*



less money. White Kennett here, as elsewhere, voices the sentiments of the family in a letter to Dr. Charlett,<sup>4</sup> in 1699. He says "that it is a great trouble to Sir William [this is her brother, the second baronet] and all his family, that the second virgin sister was lately married, at Ailesbury, to some little retainer of the law, without any advice or knowledge of her friends. I think his name is Crackenthorpe, a north country man." And now White Kennett makes a quite original conclusion, or at least he thinks it original: "I conclude either she is caught or he, or perhaps both, as commonly is the case in such hot and hasty marriages." The remaining sister—

8. Anne; born at Ambrosden, April 18th, 1680; married, in the orthodox and uninteresting way, her cousin, Edward Hill, of Teddington, Esq. (son of William Hill and Anne Evelyn, his wife). She survived her husband many years, and was buried at Hawarden, in 1740.

Her father (Sir William) died in 1689, and was buried, with his father, in S. Margaret's, Westminster.

His son William, who succeeded as second baronet, was born in 1662, and was, therefore, twenty-seven when his father died. In common with the majority of the male members of the Glynne family, he was educated at Oxford, which constituency he represented in Parliament in 1698. White Kennett says of him that he was a man of letters, very wellread. His sole claims to that distinction appear to be that he was made a D.C.L. of Oxford (in April 1706), and that he instituted White Kennett himself to the living of Ambrosden, and Bernard Gardiner to that of Hawarden. This latter ecclesiastic affords a striking example of the good old pluralist days. At the time of his presentation to Hawarden, he was Warden of All Soul's, Keeper of the Archives, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. All but the latter of these posts he retained until his death in 1726.

<sup>4</sup> Arthur Charlett, D.D., Master of University College, Oxford, 1692-1722.

Sir William Glynne was the first of his family to take any particular interest in Hawarden, as we find from the churchwardens' accounts that he built a family pew in the gallery of the church. He also was present, once or twice, at the meetings of the Grammar School feoffees. He married, at S. Giles'-in-the-Fields, on July 5th, 1688, Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Evelyn, of Long Ditton, Bart. (a first cousin, once removed, of the diarist). By her he had a son and a daughter:—

1. William; born at Long Ditton, June 27th, 1689; took M.A. at Oxford, July 16th, 1713; and was a Fellow of All Souls. He died, and was buried at Bicester, in June 1719.

2. Mary; born and died 28th April, 1698, at Long Ditton.

Sir William himself died in 1721, and was succeeded by his brother Stephen. The succession was by no means an unalloyed joy, as the estate was heavily encumbered; the Oxford farms alone being mortgaged for £23,000. He decided, in the end, to sell the Oxfordshire property, and retire to Flintshire. This he did in 1723. However, at Hawarden there was no house fit for residence on his lands, the old castle being in a state of hopeless ruin. The difficulty was surmounted by his renting Broadlane Hall from the Conways. It was this house that came into the family, by marriage, eight years later, and on the site of which the present Hawarden Castle stands. He married Sophia, daughter of Sir Edward Evelyn, and sister of Mary Lady Glynne, and had issue five sons and four daughters:—

1. Stephen; fourth baronet.

2. Francis; born October 26th, 1700; of Queen's College, Oxford; matriculated July 12th, 1720; B.A. February 19th, 1724-5; in Holy Orders; Rector of Hawarden from September 30th, 1726, until his death, February 8th, 1727.



Sir William Glynne, Second Baronet (1662-1721)

*W. B. Jones, Photo.*



3. William ; born at Merton, and interred at Bicester.
4. William ; fifth baronet.
5. John ; sixth baronet.
6. Sophia ; born January 1693 ; married Richard Belasyse, eldest son of Colonel the Hon. Thomas Belasyse, son of Lord Fauconberg. In her widowhood she lived at Hawarden, where she died in 1779.
7. Penelope ; born April 26th, 1699 ; married, November 1st, 1724, Sir William Wheler, of Leamington, Bart. She died January 23rd, 1739-40.
8. Maria ; born October 17th, 1702 ; married Captain John Welden, son of Sir Walter Welden, of Rahenderry, County Kildare, Bart.
9. Catherine ; born August 22nd, 1716 ; died January 1739 ; unmarried.

The year 1729 was an unlucky one for the family, the succession changing twice within its bounds. In April Sir Stephen died, and was followed in July by his eldest son and successor, Stephen. The title and estates now fell to the second son, William. Of him tradition has a tale. In 1728 there lived at a house called "Diglane," within a stone's throw of Broadlane, a family named Crachley. It is understood that they were descended from a member of the Sequestrating Commission which came to Hawarden during the Commonwealth. Consequently, though they had acquired land and money, they had no position in the district. At the time of my tale, by far the most interesting member of the family was one of the daughters, Rebecca, a young and beautiful girl. William Glynne must have seen her almost daily ; he could hardly ride out of his father's gates without catching a glimpse, and, perhaps, more than a glimpse, of her graceful form flitting about in the orchard, or among the roses and the yew hedges of the trim quaintly-laid Dutch garden. In church his

eyes would unfailingly rest on the big square pew of the Crachleys; or, rather, on one of the occupants of that pew, who, perchance, would reward him with a glance, but more probably attended strictly to the service, with demure mien and downcast eyes.

There is a proverb which would have us believe that familiarity breeds contempt. It may be so; in which case this must be the exception to prove the rule, for their acquaintance ripened into friendship, and their friendship into what they called "love." One fine spring morning William Glynne took his fate into his hands, and told his father. His father, thunderstruck at the possibility of (to him) such a *mésalliance*, decided that his son's education was incomplete, and forthwith sent him off to make the "grand tour," with a clergyman to act as dragon and mentor. While staying at Aix-la-Chapelle he succeeded to the title and estates. His next act was curious. One thinks that few months would elapse before Hawarden rang with wedding bells; but it was not to be. As a minor, he appointed his own guardian, in a document of which this is a part: "Being now an infant, about the age of twenty years, I have nominated, elected, and chosen, the Rev. John Fletcher, Rector of Hawarden, to be the Guardian of My Person and estate until I shall attain the age of twenty-one years; and I do hereby promise to be ruled and governed by him in all things touching my welfare; and I do hereby authorize and empower him to take possession of all and every my messuages, &c.; and to have, receive, and take my rents, &c."<sup>5</sup> It is surely an unusual thing for a youth of nineteen or twenty, having gained his liberty, to voluntarily resign it. In August

<sup>5</sup> Neville MS.







William (1689-1719), son of Sir William Glynne, Second Baronet

*W. B. Jones, Photo.*

1730, one month after attaining his majority, and one year after his brother's death, he was attacked by small-pox, to which disease he succumbed at Aix-la-Chapelle. As to Mistress Rebecca Crachley, she in all probability married quite happily, and no doubt completely forgot her early love-story.

By the death of Sir William, the fourth and youngest son (who had previously no hopes and expectations, other than those usually assigned to a younger son) succeeded to the title and estates. In some ways Sir John Glynne is the most interesting member, excepting the chief justice, of this not very interesting family. He did no startling deeds; he was not a profligate, nor a spendthrift, nor anything that usually constitutes interest in a man. His life was that of a typical English county gentleman, who, in the words of Nelson, "Feared God, honoured the King, and hated a Frenchman as he would the devil."

Sir John did not follow his brother's example in the lottery of marriage, but married at nineteen, a girl aged fourteen. She was Honora, daughter of Henry Conway, Esq., and Honora Ravenscroft, heiress of Broadlane. By this marriage, which, young as the parties were, turned out an extremely happy one, the worthy baronet more than doubled the family estates.

In his twenty-second year, he determined to contest the Flint Boroughs with Sir George Wynn, of Leeswood, Bart. Many are the tales still told, in and about Hawarden, as to this famous election. Sir John is reputed to have driven, in a coach and four, through Flint, scattering guineas broadcast through the windows. The accounts go on to say that rotten eggs were the most substantial gifts he received in return. It is

an actual fact that not only did he lose the election, but £34,000 as well. The worthy squire was so annoyed at his defeat, that he speedily petitioned Parliament, charging Sir George with bribery and corruption. In those days, "when Walpole spoke of a man and his price, and nobody's honour was overnice," it was the man who spent the most who won the election; therefore it was quite logical of Sir John to consider his opponent more corrupt than himself.<sup>6</sup> His petition read as follows:—

"The humble petition of Sir John Glynne, Baronet, Sheweth that on the Sixth day of May last came on the election for a Burgess to serve in the present Parliament for the Borough of Flint, at which your Petitioner and Sir George Wynne, Baronet, stood candidates. That the two Bayliffs of the said Sir George Wynne did proceed in taking the poll with the utmost partiality against your Petitioner, rejecting several legal votes duly tendered for him, admitting several for the said Sir George Wynn who had no foundation or right. That for the better effecting their unjust purposes, the said Bayliffs did carry on the said Poll in a most dilatory and vexatious manner never before practised, protracting the same for ten days, and obliging almost every man to answer upon oath to many captious and frivolous questions concerning his qualifications, which your Petitioner conceives to be illegal and arbitrary. That notwithstanding the said endeavours to procure a majority for Sir George Wynn, it appeared upon casting up the Poll so taken by the Bayliffs, that there was a majority of twelve votes for your Petitioner, the same being so declared in open Court by William Owen, one of the said Bayliffs, the other having withdrawn himself, for real or pretended sickness. Yet without entering into any further scrutiny, or offering any reason for disqualifying or setting aside one vote given for your Petitioner, and entered upon

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Henry Taylor informs me that this assumption was quite correct, as Sir George Wynne spent £35,000 in the same election. The total amount, according to Mr. Taylor, spent by the two squires on each man, woman, and child in the Borough was about £450.





Sir Stephen Glynne, Third Baronet ( —1729)

*W. B. Jones, Photo.*

the said Poll, the said Bayliffs have presumed and taken upon themselves, in a private and clandestine manner, to make a return of the said Sir George Wynn, in manifest wrong to your Petitioner; in violation of the right of the Electors of the said Borough, settled and declared by a resolution of the last House of Commons; and in open defiance of the many good laws made to prevent false returns of members to serve in Parliament. Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prays this Honourable House to take the premises into consideration, and give him such and so speedy relief therein as to your great wisdom shall seem meet." <sup>7</sup>

This petition created quite an unusual stir in the House. Counsel and witnesses were heard on both sides. It was found very hard to decide which was the more corrupt. The debates continued over many days, the House divided three times, and the end of it all was that Sir George Wynn was exonerated, and confirmed in his great wickedness.

Rich though the Glynnes were, the loss of such a large sum as £34,000 crippled them for years to come. Sir John gave up his ideas of political life, and resigned himself to a quiet country existence, looking after his estate. His life henceforth, with two notable exceptions, was like a gently running stream; a journey of unbroken placidity. His remaining days, many as they were, he dedicated to the management of his lands. The most fitting description of Sir John, "Good Sir John" as he was fondly called, would be found in the pages of the *Spectator*, in the person of Addison's notable Sir Roger de Coverley. Even though

"He lived in that past Georgian day,  
When men were less inclined to say  
'That Time is gold,' and overlay  
With toil their pleasure."

<sup>7</sup> Neville MS.

At the commencement of Sir John's ownership the estate was bare and treeless; covered with rotting farms, and unprofitable pastures. The trees had been sold for £6,000 in the year 1666. This bareness he set to work to remove, by judicious planting. In 1739 he did much in this way, enclosing a deer park, and stocking it with one hundred head of deer.

A little incident, happening in the year 1745, shows that his blood had not entirely cooled down. He was still youthful; or, what is in many peoples' minds synonymous with youth, he was foolish and rash. In 1745, England was ringing with news of him whom some called Charles Prince of Wales, and others "the Young Pretender." Few openly owned him but many secretly. Among the few who owned him Prince was Sir John Glynne; but, like the latter class, entirely in secret. It appears that, in company with the Rector Williams of Hawarden, he drank the Pretender's health kneeling on the bowling green of the Stag's Head Inn,<sup>8</sup> Hawarden. They probably thought their act passed unnoticed; but a certain Madam Hatrell was watching them. She saw the interesting sight of the two most respectable gentlemen in the parish on their bare knees, drinking to Prince Charlie. Thinking others might possibly be interested, she conveyed information to the authorities; and the unfortunate servants of the White Rose were speedily removed to London. After the obliging customs of the day, they were left in prison for three dreary months, probably forgotten, until one day they appeared before the Privy Council. In the absence of proof, they received pardons for all they

<sup>8</sup> On the site of which the house of E. B. Roberts, Esq., M.D., is now situated.







Penelope, daughter of Sir Stephen Glynne, Third Baronet, and wife of Sir William Wheler, Bart.



Sir John, Sixth Baronet (1712–1777), and Honora, Lady Glynne

might have done. One reason for the absence of evidence was that the Hawarden people had taken strong measures to show their disapproval of Madam Hatrell's action. They smashed her furniture and windows, and hinted that they would be pleased to do the same to her if they had the chance. She, not unwisely, disappeared, and consequently was not available as a witness.

Four years later, we hear of a benevolent action of the baronet. In 1630, Ralph Brereton, a citizen of London (late of Chester), and related by marriage to the Whitleys of Aston, left among other bequests a "sum of two hundred and fifty pounds to purchase a yearly dole for ever for the poor of Hawarden Parish, in the County of Flint." This charity was administered for over a century by the Whitley family in a just and lawful manner. For some years before 1744, however, Robert Whitley (at that time head of the family) withheld payment altogether. Consequently, Sir John Glynn, the Rector, and the Churchwardens, took the case into Chancery, where, after the usual waste of time and money, a decree was issued. It is unnecessary to print the entire document (it covers reams of parchment); but, after deducting all the repetitions, its condensed form lays down laws for the future administration of the fund; stating how often it is to be paid; who is to receive it; and dozens of other details; ending, in a manner common to such documents, with a list of fees. Sir John Glynn and a friend of his stepped in and paid a considerable portion of the more pressing demands; but, with all this, the remaining charges were so heavy as to cause the charities to be received only once in ten years for some time to come.

About 1750, Broadlane Hall, the home of the Glynnes, became quite uninhabitable. "The old house stood about one hundred yards south of the site of the present edifice. It was composed of wood and plaster; having two gables projecting on each side of the entrance, with a long wing extending eastward, which was only two stories high, having rows of windows, of nine windows each; the frontage towards the south must have had considerable extent. No trace now remains of the old building, several fishponds having been filled up."<sup>9</sup> Because of its dilapidated state, and the great expense necessary to adequately repair it, Sir John decided to build a new house; and he notes, proudly, in his diary that, in 1752, the "first stone of the new house was laid, and" the place "inhabited within three years from that time." The new mansion was a square red-brick block, with white corner-stones and window-sills. This old house is now incorporated in the modern Castle, being the central block of that building.

In 1753, when Kyffyn Williams, then member for the Flint Boroughs, died, Sir John succeeded him, and represented that constituency in the five following Parliaments. There is no reason to believe that he distinguished himself in the House. It is probable that he never spoke. In company with other crusted Tories, one imagines him keeping his eye on the game laws; on those "monstrous wicked Whigs"; and, above all on those sly wretches the French. His parliamentary duties no doubt suffered from his domestic affairs, as he had fourteen children; and it is possible to take that fact in the light of a trouble as well as a blessing.

<sup>9</sup> Neville MS.



The Rev. Sir Stephen Glynne, Seventh Baronet (1744–1780)

*W. B. Jones, Photo.*



If Sir John had lived in these days he might have a word or two to say on the unemployed question; for in 1740, or thereabouts, famine seized the neighbourhood of Hawarden. The Lord of the Manor, ever thoughtful, made work for the starving people. He had them construct a kind of amphitheatre, made of turf, surrounded by several platforms, rising one above the other. This still exists; and, except for its semicircular form, it reminds one, by its shape, rather of Dante's conception of Hell.

In 1769, Sir John suffered acutely by the loss of his devoted wife. After three years he decided to remarry. His choice, much to the disgust of his sons, fell upon Miss Augusta Beaumont, governess to his daughters. The family opposition to this match was of such intensity that the preparations had to be made in the most cautious manner. He did not actually flee away to Gretna Green, for when a man reaches the age of sixty, he prefers to manage affairs in a more comfortable and less romantic way. The marriage took place by means of a licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury. At midnight on the 27th March, 1772, the Rev. Evan Ellis, Vicar of Kilken, performed the second marriage ceremony in the library of Hawarden Castle. The witnesses were William Glynne and Honoratus Leigh Thomas, a surgeon of Hawarden, who achieved posthumous fame through having, at one time, employed the famous or infamous Lady Hamilton as a nurse-maid.

After five years of life with his second wife, Sir John died, quite suddenly, on the 1st of June, 1777. "On the evening previous to the burial, his body was removed to the church, where it was placed in state in the vestry-room; which, being hung with black and lighted up,

was open all the night to the public. There were torches dispersed about the church, and at the porch."<sup>10</sup> Many hearts must have been heavy in Hawarden on the day the body of their beloved master was laid to rest.

His widow, desiring to remove herself as far as possible from the enmity of her step-children, never occupied the jointure-house at Rhyddan, but retired to Bath, where she too consoled herself by a second marriage, her husband being Peregrine, son of Sir William Courtenay, who died in 1786.

I have already said that Sir John had fourteen children by his first wife. Of the five sons one died an infant; two served His Majesty in the two services; another entered Holy Orders; and the youngest did nothing, except quarrel with everybody, suffer many disappointments, and die at the age of thirty-eight. Of the nine daughters five married more or less happily; one died an infant; and three died spinsters at advanced ages.

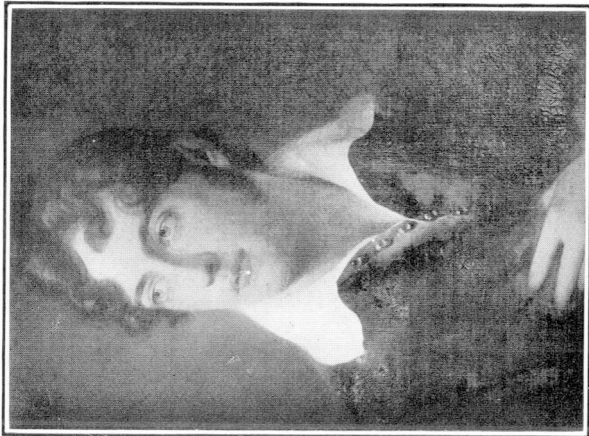
1. John; born and died November 16th, 1732.

2. John Conway; born January 3rd, 1740; educated at Eton and Queen's College, Oxford, where he matriculated on December 14th, 1762. He was a lieutenant in General Crawford's regiment at the taking of Belleisle, in 1761; and afterwards lieutenant of dragoons in Ireland. He had a company in the Flintshire Militia; and in 1765 was a Deputy-Lieutenant for the County. He married Sarah, daughter of Charles Crewe, Esq. (an uncle of the first Lord Crewe), and died, without issue, May 16th, 1774; eight days later he was buried at Hawarden.

3. Stephen; the seventh baronet.

<sup>10</sup> Neville MS.





*W. B. Jones, Photo.*

*Stammers, Port.*

**Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Eighth Baronet**  
(1780—1815)



*W. B. Jones, Photo.*

**The Hon. Mary, wife of Sir S. R. Glynne,**  
Eighth Baronet



4. William; born June 3rd, 1746; was lieutenant of marines in 1776; and died the next year, unmarried.
5. Harry Conway; born October 1st, 1754; and died in 1755.
6. Francis; born March 14th, 1752; and died in 1799.
7. Honora; born February 7th, 1733; died, unmarried, February 1764.
8. Sophia; born July 22nd, 1736; married John Yorke, of Richmond, Yorkshire, Esq.; died, without issue, April 29th, 1764.
9. Penelope; born December 10th, 1737; married November 6th, 1766, William Earle Welby, of Denton, in the County of Lincoln, Esq. (created a baronet January 27th, 1801); she died 1771.
10. Anne; born and died 1747.
11. Anne; baptized at Hawarden, 4th May, 1749.
12. Frances; born January 28th, 1751; married the Rev. Randolph Crewe, Rector of Hawarden.
13. Lucy; born January 26th, 1756; married, at Bath, James Gordon, Esq.; died and was buried at Hawarden May 24th, 1814.
14. Mary; born April 26th, 1759; married, at Bath, Simon Gordon, Esq. (brother to the above).

The heir to the title was Stephen, the seventh child. Born on 12th May, 1744; he was educated at Queen's College, Oxford, where he matriculated on December 14th, 1762. He entered Holy Orders, and when the Rev. Richard Williams vacated the living of Hawarden, by dying, he was instituted.

The following tale is told of the Rector Williams. In early life he and the late Sir John Glynnne were close friends; so close that when the living was at the baronet's disposal, he bestowed it on his friend, subject to a certain agreement. This agreement was, that when Sir John should have a child of sufficient age to take

Orders, Mr. Williams was to find the work too much for him and to retire gracefully. This arrangement gave him at least, a good twenty-three years of work. When, however, twenty-nine years later (in 1767), the time came for him to fulfil his promise, Mr. Williams, suffering from a very bad memory, could not recollect ever having made this agreement, and sturdily refused to move; and he waited until death removed him, three years later.

The Reverend Sir Stephen Glynne married, in 1779, Mary, daughter of Richard Bennett, of Farmcott, in Shropshire. This marriage brought another estate into the family, which proved a heritage of woe to a future generation. Less than a year after marriage, Sir Stephen was spending part of the hunting season with the Earl of Stamford, at Enville. On the 1st April, 1780, after a sharp run, he ruptured a blood-vessel, and died.

His only child, a boy, was born posthumously, on the 19th of May following. This period before his birth led to rather curious complications in the parish. Francis, the only surviving brother of the late baronet, in the absence of a direct heir, immediately assumed the title and responsibilities. The death of Sir Stephen had, of course, deprived Hawarden of a Rector; and Francis, as undoubted patron, intended to present a certain Mr. Kenrick, the curate; Lady Glynne was equally determined to present the Rev. Randolph Crewe. On the 19th of May she gave birth to a child, happily a son, and Mr. Francis Glynne received another disappointment. Within an hour of birth the child was christened Stephen Richard, and placed his mark and put his seal to the presentation.



*W. B. Jones, Photo.*

Sir Stephen (Ninth Baronet), Henry, Catherine,  
and Mary Glynne, at Audley End



*W. B. Jones, Photo.*

Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Ninth Baronet  
(1807 - 1874)



Sir Stephen Richard was brought up at Farmcott; and educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. As soon as he came of age, he removed to Hawarden, where he lived for the rest of his days. He inherited a deep love of hunting, which caused him to build stables at Hawarden. With Thomas, third Lord Foley, he kept a house at Melton, from which they hunted the "shires."

Lustre is attached to his name as a speaker at agricultural dinners. He was one of those honey-tongued orators, who can convince farmers that England is not going to the dogs, and that no return is necessary on their rent. Though labouring under the disadvantage of being fatherless, he became one of the most christian-living of men. Great popularity was his lot through life; so great that, when death overtook him, the newspapers could find no new virtues to praise; they had all been praised before. In 1806 he married, at S. George's, Hanover Square, Mary, second daughter of Richard, Lord Braybrooke.

Though he was such an upright man, Sir Stephen was an amateur architect. The romantic spirit, revived by Mrs. Radcliffe, fostered by Horace Walpole, was brought to its height by Scott, and to this spirit Sir Stephen fell a victim. Sir John's comfortable red-brick house became mean in his eyes. It is true that the old place had no particular beauty; but it is possible that the present mansion has less. In 1809, Sir Stephen employed Nash, the architect of Buckingham Palace, to design him a castle. The existing block was greatly added to, and the entire building cased in stone. The result is plain to the eyes of the world. Speaking of the windows alone, the Hon. the Rev. George Neville, brother-in-law to Sir Stephen, says: "The lower ones,

which light the library, are larger and of more finished design than the others; but none of them are in pure correct architectural taste."

In 1815, Stephen Richard Glynne died somewhat suddenly, at Nice, on the 11th March. His children were:—

1. Stephen Richard; ninth and last baronet.

2. Henry; born September 29th, 1810; educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he matriculated, November 6th, 1828, aged eighteen. For some years he was in the cavalry; later he was in Parliament; and finally, he entered Holy Orders, and was presented to the living of Hawarden, in 1838. In 1855 he received a Canonry of S. Asaph. On October 14th, 1843, he married the Honourable Lavinia, daughter of William Henry, Lord Lyttelton, and had issue, with others who died young—

(1) Mary;

(2) Gertrude Jessy; married 21st October, 1875, George, Lord Penrhyn, and has issue.

The Rev. Henry Glynne died July 29th, 1872.

3. Catherine; born January 6th, 1812; married July 25th, 1839, in Hawarden Church, W. E. Gladstone, Esq., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and had issue. She died 14th June, 1900.

4. Mary; born July 22nd, 1813; married, the same day as her sister, George William, Lord Lyttelton, and died in 1857.

The two daughters became great beauties as they grew into womanhood; and many were the surmises, as to their future prospects, ventured on by the world of society. The Duke of Cambridge was one of the suggested candidates. In some year shortly before her late Majesty's succession, Prince George of Cambridge was staying at Hastings. At the same time the Glynne family was in residence, occupying a house close by that





Catherine Glynne, wife of the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone



of the Prince. After a short time he was to be seen riding daily on the Downs, in the company of the "beautiful Glynnes," as they were called. I believe the standing bet, at such clubs as White's and Arthur's, was "Which will he marry?" As we know, he married neither. The elder met, both at Hawarden and abroad, that "rising hope of the stern and unbending Tories," William Ewart Gladstone. In 1838 or 1839, the Glynnes were staying in Rome, and Gladstone visited them; and they married in 1839.

And now I have come to the last of the line, Sir Stephen Richard, the ninth baronet. Born in 1807, he was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, at both of which places he met W. E. Gladstone. From 1832 to 1837 he sat as a Liberal for the Flint Boroughs; and from 1837 to 1847 for Flintshire. The story of his life is rather a sad one, the major part of it being spent in paying debts accumulated by an unfortunate mining venture. Iron was discovered on his Shropshire property; and, urged by a too hopeful agent, he determined to work it, with the result that, in a short time, he was involved to the extent of £250,000. With great courage, Sir Stephen determined not to sell the Hawarden property. A quotation from a letter written by Mr. Gladstone will show how it affected Sir Stephen:—"But the first effect was that Sir Stephen had to close the house (which it was hoped, but hoped in vain, to let); to give up carriages, horses, and, I think, for several years his personal servant; and to take an allowance of £700 a year, out of which, I believe, he continued to pay the heavy subvention of the family to the schools of the parish, which was certainly counted by hundreds." Since that time, with the help

of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Lyttelton, the greater part of the enormous debt has been cleared off.

Sir Stephen's great hobby, or, calling it by a more honourable name, his life's work, was the inspection and description of old churches. During his life he inspected and made architectural notes on 5,530 churches in England. These notes, in many manuscript volumes, are now preserved in S. Deiniol's Library. Hawarden.

For many years he was Lord Lieutenant of Flintshire. In June 1874, Sir Stephen died of heart disease, in Bishopsgate Street, London. He was buried by his brother, in Hawarden Churchyard. In conclusion, I may, perhaps, be allowed to quote Mr. Gladstone a second time:—"My brother-in-law," he writes, "was a man of singular refinement, and as remarkable modesty. His culture was high, and his character one of deep interest. His memory was, on the whole, decidedly the most remarkable known to me of the generation and country. His life, however, was retired and unobtrusive; but he sat in Parliament for about fifteen years, and was Lord Lieutenant of his county."

The estates (Henry Glynne having died in 1872) went, by arrangement, to Mr. Gladstone's eldest son, William Henry, in the rights of whose son they are at present vested.

There is no heir male of the Glynne family; and the heir general is Miss Mary Glynne, eldest daughter of the Rev. Henry Glynne.

Sir Gervas Powell Glyn, of Ewall, in the County of Surrey, Bart., is the representative of the Glyns of Glyn Llyvon, as the heir male of William Glyn of that



Mary Glynne, wife of G. W., Lord Lyttelton

*W. B. Jones, Photo.*



place, great-grandfather to Chief Justice Glynne. Sir Richard George Glyn, of Gaunts, in the County of Dorset, Bart., and Frederic, Lord Wolverton, represent a *cadet* branch of the House of Ewall.

Quarterly of four: 1st and 4th argent, an eagle displayed, with two heads, sa.: 2nd and 3rd argent, three brands ragulé, sa.: fired ppr.: on an inescutcheon of pretence, argent; a human leg, coupé at the thigh, sa.

Crest: An eagle's head erased sable; in the beak a brand ragulé fired ppr.

*The following Note on the Engraving of Broadlane Hall has been contributed by MR. H. B. DUTTON, who has also defrayed the cost of reproduction of the engraving:—*

The picture of Hawarden Castle is reproduced from an engraving by W. H. Toms, after a drawing by Thomas Badeslade, dated 1739. This Thomas Badeslade was an engineer, who had been engaged on the work of the "New Cut" of the River Dee (which is seen in the background), and which had been opened in the year previous to the date of the picture. *John Boydell* was born at Dorrington, in Shropshire, in 1719, grandson of the Vicar, and the son of a land-surveyor there, who, in 1730, came to Broadlane as agent to the Hawarden estates. He remained in his father's office till 1739, when he came across the engraving of Hawarden Castle, which appeared to him so exact a representation of a place with which he was well acquainted (having often compared it on the spot), that he determined to abandon the practice of land surveying, and so left his father, to risk his future fortune on the graver. To accomplish this end, he walked up to London, at the age of 21, and bound himself apprentice to Mr. Toms, the engraver of the picture which had afforded him so much pleasure. He, himself, became a celebrated engraver, and patron of fine arts; and discharged the office of Alderman and Sheriff of the City of London; and

in 1791 was elected Lord Mayor; dying in the year 1804, and of his age 84. The firm founded by John Boydell still exists in London as Messrs. Graves & Co., Fine Art Publishers, and the present head of which is Mr. Boydell Graves; so that the influence of this picture may be traced the origin of one of London's most celebrated firms.

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