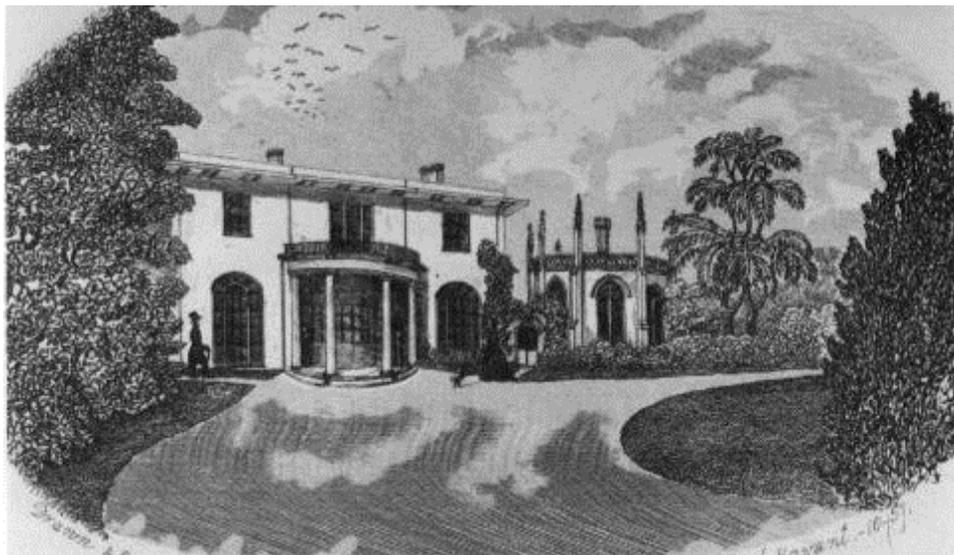


Timeline of Leigh Park History

Volume 1



The first Leigh Park House from an 1854 engraving by William Pink

Early history and events during the ownerships of:

William Garrett (1800-1819)

Sir George Thomas Staunton Bt. (1819-1859)

The Lynch Staunton Connection (1859-1861)

William Henry Stone (1861-1874)

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£3

Borough of Havant History Booklet No.97

Read also Borough of Havant History Booklets:

A History of Leigh Park and the Hamlet of Leigh

A Brief History of Stockheath

Farms in the Leigh Park Area

William Henry Stone and the Leigh Park estate

Lt. Col Sir Frederick Wellington John Fitzwygram, Bart.

Captain Sir Frederick Loftus Francis Fitzwygram, Bt. M.C.

Timelines of Leigh Park history Volumes 2 and 3

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Timeline of Leigh Park History

Early History

The origins of the mediaeval hamlet and tithing of Leigh are difficult to determine.

Palaeolithic (before 10,000 BP) – A single flint found near to Little Leigh Farm. (BP – before the present era, defined as being before 1950.)

Mesolithic (10,000 BP-5000 BC) – Eleven shallow pits that may have been hut or shelter sites with flint implements found near to Wakefords Copse.

Neolithic (5000-2150 BC). Flints plus pottery fragments found near to Wakefords Copse.

Bronze Age (2150-500 BC) – Flints and pottery found near to Wakefords Copse.

AD 43-410 – Roman road constructed from Havant to Rowlands Castle.

Roman period buildings, possibly a farmstead, and artefacts found near to Wakefords Copse.

Middle Ages (Mediaeval) – AD 400-1600 – Land listed in the Saxon Charter of AD 935, King Athelstan to Whihtgar, minister. Possible settlement.

1236 – earliest known documentary reference to la Lye (old English: lēah, but as lēah means both ‘wood’ and ‘clearing, its sense in this instance is uncertain.

c.1545 – Menghams (Ryderslond) – Lord & Lady Lumley (Jane, eldest daughter of Henry, Earl Fitzalan) – land forming part of the honour of Arundel and later parcel of the manor of Hayling.

1560 (10 November) – 126 acres (Menghams) conveyed to William Aylmer.

1665 – Hearth Tax – 16 properties chargeable – 8 properties not chargeable. Chargeable include Francis Aylmer for 7 hearths and Robert Higgins for 3 hearths.

1717 – Francis Higgins – Yeoman of Leigh

1767 (20 April) – Bond of Indemnity, between Francis Higgins and Charles Webber for the purchase of a Copyhold Estate at Leigh and the ‘Reversionary Rights’ and 9 acres of land, Messuage, Barn & Gateroom, within the Manor of Havant for the sum of £340.

1781 (29-30 June) – Assignment of Menghams (126 acres) in trust by way of lease and release, for the residue of a term of 1,000 years. Thomas Aylmer to Joseph Franklyn for £3,422:

All those closes or inclosed grounds, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, waters, tenements, known by the name of Menjams or Menghams.

1783 (23 May) – death of Rear-Admiral Charles Webber R.N. of Leigh House.

1783 (8 October) – Surrender of the Copyhold Estate at Leigh by Ann Webber (widow of Charles Webber) to Samuel Harrison.

1791 – Thomas Milnes map of Hampshire records Harrison Esq. of Lee (Leigh).

1783-1792 – New house built on site by Samuel Harrison. Walled Garden, stables and coach house still survive from this period.

1792 (7 May) – Samuel Harrison surrendered his copyhold at Leigh to Sir John Frederick, Bart.

1792 (21 September) – Admission of Captain Thomas Frederick R.N. to Copyhold Estate at Leigh:

Messuage, Barn, Gateroom and three closes or parcels of land containing in the whole by Estimation nine acres with House newly erected by Samuel Harrison.

1792-1800 – Detailed map of Leigh showing Leigh House held by Captain Thomas Frederick R.N. and showing all those who held copyhold and freehold land in the vicinity.

1799 (8 November) – Death of Rear-Admiral Thomas Lenox Frederick

William Garrett (1800-1819)

1800 (January) – the Copyhold Leigh Estate (about 9 acres) and Freehold land (c.22 acres) held by Ann Frederick acquired by William Garrett for £480.

1800 (January)

For Sale

The entire Neat Household Furniture, and Genuine Wines, belonging to the late Rear-Admiral Frederick, at Leigh House, Havant – including two Hogsheads of choice Madeira, three Hogsheads of excellent old Port, and one Hogshead of high flavoured Sherry. (Hogshead – 300 litres or 66 imperial gallons)

1800 (10 February)

As to the leasehold lands called Bondfields, formerly copyhold of the Manor of Southton Hayling purchased of William Garrett. All that one Messuage, one Barn and 30 acres of land called Bondfields with the appurtants lying in the parish of Havant within the manor aforesaid.

1800-1808 – Acquired almost all the Copyhold land (belonging to the Manor of Havant) situated close to the Leigh House Estate.

1801 – William Garrett appointed Sheriff of the County of Southampton (Hampshire).

1802 – Leigh House substantially remodelled and rebuilt by Southampton architect John Kent:

The House is most judiciously planned, substantially built, the architectural decorations chaste and highly finished, marked by peculiar elegance in the design, and a particular attention to unite comfort and convenience, in the higher, as well as the subordinate arrangement of every domestic office, and in every respect calculated for a large or moderate Establishment. 1819 Sales Catalogue

1803 – William Garrett formed and took command of the 'Loyal Havant Volunteers' (3 companies of 63 men) – contributing between £200 and £300 to kit out the men of the corps.

1807 – Garrett acquired all of the freehold land close to Leigh House, from the estate of the late Joseph Franklin (d.1805) – 126 acres, including Leigh Farm, for £4,600 (Menghams).

1808 (June) – William Garrett elected Vice-President of the South Hants. Agricultural Society for the year.

1809 – Havant and Emsworth Volunteers disbanded.

1815 (15-16 February) – Richard Bingham Newland conveyed the lease of the Manor of Havant to William Garrett for £2,878 – he had already acquired by this date all of the Copyhold land around Leigh House.

1816 (September) – William Garrett advertises the sale of the Leigh Estate in the national press and decides to move to The Crescent, Bath, where he dies in 1831.

1817 (30 June) – Garrett puts his vast collection of wine up for sale – 400 dozen bottles.

1817

Leigh House has always attracted the notice of strangers from the peculiar neatness of its appearance, its forest scenery, and its rich and interesting views of the sea. It stands upon a gentle eminence in a park of four hundred acres of hill and dale, ornamented with timber and plantations. All that wealth could command, or art supply, has contributed to embellish the beautiful domain. The house is substantially built, neatly finished, and comprises every comfort and conveniency in its domestic arrangements. The shrubberies are laid out with taste; and from its numerous wood walks, at different points, are seen many interesting objects of the neighbourhood. The view of Havant Thicket from the hermitage, clad with ivy, upon the mount is of a more sedate kind, highly interesting from its deep shade in summer, its beautiful tints in autumn, and serving as a contrast to the more brilliant views of the sea and its islands. The gardens are planned with great judgement, and furnished with pinery, hot-house, green-houses and stoves, and surrounded with shrubberies and walks communicating in all directions. The farm buildings, dairy embellished with old china, and pheasantry adjoining, are detached from the mansion, and contribute by their nice arrangement to render the estate one of the most delightful residences in the country.

Walter Butler, *Topographical Account of the Hundred of Bosmere*

1818 (8 May) – Garrett negotiated the sale of the Leigh Estate to John Julius Angerstein (1735-1823) for agreed price of £47,350. Angerstein moves in to Leigh House October 1818.

1818 (October)

Havant Church

The Lord Bishop of Winchester has granted his Lordship's faculty to John Julius Angerstein, Esq., of Leigh House, near Havant, to erect a gallery in the Parish Church of Havant, for the use of himself and family, and to the future occupiers of Leigh House.

1819 (27 February – Vice Chancellor's Court: Garrett v. Angerstein, and Angerstein v. Garrett. Verdict (after three days); allegations of dry rot inside Leigh House; Angerstein not compelled to go ahead with the purchase.

1819 – Publication by William Garrett of *Letters Addressed to William Garrett, Esq., Relative to the State of Leigh House.*

Sir George Staunton

1819 (20 July) – first visit of Sir George Staunton to the Leigh Park Estate:

I must tell you that I found that this is the same Estate which was sold 2 years ago to Mr Angerstein and returned upon the Owner's hands on account of the supposed defect of the dry rot. You see, however, that the owner is able to give every proof to the contrary, and I am therefore not sorry such an imputation should exist, as one may hope that the Estate will be sold the cheaper on that account.

Sir George Thomas Staunton to Lady Staunton (mother), 21 July 1819

1819 (August) – William Garrett officially advertises the sale of the Leigh Estate in the national press. The Estate at Leigh under Garrett at this time measured 828 customary acres (a customary acre was from one fifth to two thirds larger than a statute acre).

1819 (7 August) – Staunton received survey on condition of Leigh House.

1819 (25 September) – Sir George Thomas Staunton Bt. signs a preliminary agreement for the purchase of the Leigh Estate after receiving a survey of the sound condition.

1820 (1 January) – Gave purchase money of £22,000 and received deeds from William Garrett and leasehold of the Manor of Havant:

By indentures bearing date the 31st December 1819 and 1st January 1820, William Garrett conveyed the manor with its rights, members, and appurtenances, to hold the same to the said Sir George Thomas Staunton, his heirs and assigns, during the lives of Richard Prior, Richard Bingham Newland the elder, and Richard Bingham Newland the younger, and the life of the longest liver of them, subject to the rent, covenants and exceptions contained in the lease of 14th April 1784.

Court Rolls of the Manor of Havant

1820 (10 January) – Took possession of Leigh House.

1820 (January)

Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., the purchaser of Leigh Park, has very seasonably distributed to the poor of Havant, a quantity of coals; and to cottage tenants and others residing in the neighbourhood of Leigh Park 20lb of beef to each person.

Hampshire Telegraph, 24 January 1820

1820 (15 February)

Accession of King George IV

It was Sir George's privilege as Lord of the Manor, to proclaim the King's accession in Havant, which he did with due solemnity.... and speedily ingratiated himself with the inhabitants of Havant by providing them with limitless beer with which to drink the health of George IV on his accession to the throne.

William Butler, Steward to Sir George Staunton

1820 (26 May)

Admission of the trustees of Sir George Staunton to the Mansion House of Leigh Park, conservatory, outbuildings, gardens, and land on the surrender of William Garrett.

This gave confirmation of the Copyhold land under the Manor of Havant to Staunton.

1821 – Alterations made to house and further land purchases for £5,650, including Havant Farm of 175 acres.

1822 (August)

The tenants of Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, in this County, were gratified at the last audit, by the worthy Baronet's ordering a return of 25% to be made on their respective rents; which were fixed, not exceeding two years since, at what was then considered a fair rental.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 5 August 1822

1823 (20 March) – Donation to the Royal Asiatic Society 2,610 books and folios on China by Sir George Staunton. Staunton co-founder of Society.

1823 (June) – Death of Jane, Lady Staunton – buried Marylebone Church, 24 June.

1823 – Sent Grapes and Melons to friends – would be from Garrett’s Greenhouse and Melon Ground.

1824 – The building of The Temple (Doric Temple) on the highest point of the estate as a family memorial, probably designed by Sir George Staunton himself, with a large memorial urn at its centre from designs by Lewis Vulliamy. When completed the Temple contained dedications to Staunton’s parents and further dedications to more distant relations and friends (*Sacrum Parentis et Amices*). In the following years 25 busts were added in total in a semi-circle around the urn.

1825 (15 June)

On Wednesday last a young woodcock, about half-grown, was taken alive, in Havant Thicket, by Richard Nattle, gamekeeper to Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park. It is a beautiful bird, the plumage being complete, and it is very rare to be met with in that neighbourhood, at this season of the year.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 20 June 1825

1826 (21 June) – The Bishop of Winchester renewed the lease of the manor to Sir George Staunton.

1826 – Sir George Staunton resigns his seat as M.P. for St Michael’s, Cornwall, (closed borough) – resigned seat on support for Roman Catholic emancipation. He had held this seat since 1818.

1827 (2 February) – Enfranchisement of the Manor of Havant:

By indenture of bargain and sale enrolled in the Court of Chancery, and bearing date the second day of February in that year, the Bishop of Winchester, under the powers of various Acts then in force for the redemption and sale of the land-tax, and enabling bodies corporate to sell portions of their manors and estates, in consideration of the sum of £2,075 1s. 9d. and with the consent of the Commissioners specially appointed under the Redemption Acts, conveyed the manor with its right, members, and appurtenances to Sir George Staunton, his heirs and assigns, for ever discharged from all incumbrances, except tithes.

1827 – Wakefords Cottage burnt down – replacement gamekeepers cottage built (1828). Only remaining Staunton cottage still surviving on estate.

1827 – Leigh Park House interior totally refurbished and newly furnished.

1828 – Realignment of the Havant to Horndean Road – 1¾ miles to the east side of the farm – Roman brass key found – 3½ inches in length.

1828 – Conservatory enlarged and Ice House in Great Copse built.

1828 – New North and South Lodges built to design of Lewis Vulliamy.

1828 – The first recorded fruiting of the banana (*Musa*) at Leigh Park.

1828 – Work starts on Leigh Water.

1829 – *A Poem on Leigh Park, The Seat of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart.* by James King – published amounting to 53 pages.

1829 – Built two new vineries.

1829 – Stockheath (West) Lodge built – connecting a grass drive to the estate.

1830 (28 January) – Oil painting produced by Joseph Francis Gilbert of the Temple. First in a series of watercolours and oil paintings of the Leigh Park Estate commissioned by Sir George Staunton of Gilbert.

1830 – The Shell House (Staunton Memorial) was built on the old Middle Thicket Lane and covered in shells from Hayling Island. The building, designed by Lewis Vulliamy, is hexagonal in shape and was based on the design of the Chichester cross. By 1836 Staunton was using the shell house as a museum of curiosities for such items as a stuffed crocodile and examples of Roman pottery and other objects found close by and objects collected by Staunton.

1830 – The Beacon, one of the few follies to survive was built in the style of an ionic temple to a design by Lewis Vulliamy. It was largely built with material from the demolished Purbrook House. It features a lotus flower on the roof designed to allow a flagpole to be placed there. The roof is domed and supported by eight Doric columns.

1830 (28 January) – Watercolour and oil painting of the Temple by Joseph Francis Gilbert. Staunton, over the next decade commissioned Gilbert to paint scenes of the estate.

1830-1832 – Sir George Staunton M.P. for Heytesbury, Wiltshire (pocket borough abolished 1832 – Reform Act).

1831– The upper portion of the Seven-oaks Lawn was formed and planted.

1831 – Retirement of Sir George Staunton’s Head Gardener George Hall – replaced by Robert Wilson.

1831 (28 December) – death of William Garrett in London.

1831 – The Cross House built by designs by Lewis Vulliamy. Built close to the Shell House and demolished under William Stone.

1832 (2 April) – Gothic Library built with foundation stone laid by the architect Lewis Vulliamy. It was originally attached by way of a corridor as a wing to the Staunton mansion and is octagonal in shape and designed on the plan of a Gothic Chapter-house. The interior was very ornate, as illustrations of the period show, but the crowning glory of the library was surely the stained-glass windows, which depicted the genealogy of members of the Staunton family over the previous centuries. When the windows were placed in the library it does appear that they caused quite a stir as is mentioned in the *Morning Post* of 30 December 1833:

Leigh Park, near Havant, Hampshire, the seat of Sir George Staunton, Bart., presents the finest gems of art perhaps in the world. Persons far and near have been to see the magnificent windows of stained glass.

1832 (31 August)

Canning Obelisk

50 feet high, and is inscribed to the memory of the Right Hon. Sir George Canning... an ornamental termination to a natural avenue in Havant Thicket.

Sir George Staunton, 1836

1832 – Laid out North and West Gardens – area north and west of the walled garden – formerly shrubberies under Garrett.

1832 – The Chinese Bridge – One of the garden features that still survives, the Chinese Bridge, a three arched brick built structure, was built as a bridge from the east side of the lake onto Cottage Island. The bridge originally had Chinese gateways, over which were displayed four inscriptions in Chinese characters:

LIN CHEE WHA YUEN (Thicket) (Water) (Flower) (Garden)

HAN FA MEI KIAO (Chinese) (Style) (Ornamental) (Bridge)

TSING TSIN YEU WAN PIN (Please to enter) (Amused) (Ramble) (Heath)

GAN JOU YEE (Peace) (Wishes) (Accomplished)

1832 – The Chinese Boathouse was built – the third Chinese structure around the lake, built to an original Chinese design. It was inscribed on the roof with four Chinese characters, which may be thus translated: LIN CHEE CHEU SO (Thicket) (Water) (Boat-house)

1832 – Sir George Staunton and Lord Palmerston both elected for the new parliamentary seat of South Hampshire.

1833 – Publication of the Lewis Map of the parishes of Warblington, Havant and Bedhampton showing the extent of the Leigh Park Estate.

1833 – Staunton again enlarged Conservatory – 60ft. long, 40ft. wide 14ft. high.

1833 (23 September) – Dinner at Leigh Park for Queen of Portugal, Dona Maria II and Duchess of Braganza (Queen Mother) and Captain Charles Napier R.N. of Merchistoun Hall, Horndean.

1833 – The Rosary formed (near Temple Lawn):

The Rosary is semi-circular, and divided into segments by small gravelled paths. It was formed in 1833, and the roses were imported in that year from Mr Calvert's nursery at Rouen.

Sir George Staunton, 1836

1833 – Sir George Staunton purchased Middle Park Farm (191 acres) from the estate of the late James Brown for £4,000.

1833 – Sir George Staunton has his portrait painted by notable portrait painter Sir George Hayter.

1833 – Sir George Staunton had his portrait painted by Sir Martin Archer Shee, the President of the Royal Academy.

1833 – ‘Leigh Park Scenery 1833’ – Two further oil paintings of the Leigh House (from the south east and south west) and other watercolours including the Gothic Library.

1834 – Clock-tower added to Coach-house – possibly moved by William Stone to his new coach-house.

1834 – New Peach House and Greenhouses built.

1834 – Sir George Staunton started to form an Arboretum at Leigh Park.

Arboretums, we are happy to find are gradually rising up the private grounds of gentlemen in the different parts of the country. There is an arboretum forming at Wardour Castle and one at Leigh Park, near Havant, the seat of Sir George Staunton.

J.C. Loudon, *The Gardener's Magazine* Vol X, 1834

1834 – The Kiosk built – one of the most charming of all the garden follies, the ornamental Kiosk (Turkish Summerhouse) was added close to Leigh Water on the left hand-side of the lake. It featured an onion dome surrounded by small Minarets. Staunton records in his *Notices of Leigh Park* that:

It is ornamented within with English caricatures of 1806, and French caricatures of 1802. The Turkish inscription over the entrance, in gold characters, was obligingly furnished by a friend, and may be translated as follows— Garden for peace and harmony design'd, in the name of God, the merciful and kind.

1834 (January) – Donation by Sir George Staunton of £20 to the poor of Bedhampton.

1834 – The addition of a stone terrace at the west end of the colonnade, in front of the conservatory, about 140 feet in length.

1835 – 114 different species of plants recorded in conservatory.

1835 (January) – Staunton defeated in Election for South Hampshire – Palmerston blamed Staunton for the defeat – Staunton blamed Palmerston.

1835 – Hexagon Summer House built – situated near Leigh Water it was described by Sir George Staunton himself as:

This seat, three sides of which are open, and three closed, is ornamented with three Chinese bamboo blinds; on one of which is represented the Paeonia Montan, and on the other two are inscribed Chinese verses, descriptive of spring and autumn. In the centre is the following motto from Horace:

Hoe erat in votis: modus agri non ita magnus,
Hortus ubi, et tecto vicinus jugis aquæ fons,
Et paulum silvæ super his foret.

1835 – The Corinthian Bridge built – it was described by Sir George Staunton in 1836 as: *a brick bridge, of one arch, surmounted with a Corinthian Portico, and placed across the chief outlet.* Although Greek in design, the Corinthian Bridge, erected in 1835, was one of the most elegant of structures around the lake. As Staunton said himself it was taken from a design in Papworth's Garden Architecture. Although Greek in style the Corinthian Bridge was very similar to a design by the British architect and new garden designer John Buonarotti Papworth who in 1823 published: *Hints on Ornamental Gardening Consisting of a Series of Designs for Garden Buildings etc.* The Corinthian Bridge was functional as it was placed across the chief outlet of the lake where the water would naturally flow into a water course on the north western side of the lake.

1836 – Leigh Water finally completed – covering three and a half acres.

1836 – *Notices of the Leigh Park Estate, 1836* published. Believed to have been written by Sir George Staunton himself, it is a guide of the interior of Leigh House and the gardens and pleasure grounds.

1836 (March) – donation of £25 for the purpose of erecting a new Market House in Havant.

1836 – The Chinese Fort was built and was probably one of the most unusual of all the follies around the gardens. Built towards the latter years of the work on the lake, the design was based on a military fort Staunton would have seen in China. Built with Purbeck stone the walls were around three feet thick. Staunton recorded it in his *Notices of the Leigh Park Estate* in 1836 as:

The Fort Island, upon which a battery has been built of Purbeck stone, pierced for nine guns, and displaying, on a red pole, the Imperial yellow Flag of China.

1836 – The Look-out built – probably from designs by Lewis Vuliamy, and was a small terrace built upon arcades. It was built primarily as a viewpoint of the lake or Leigh Water as it was known, which in 1836 had culminated with Staunton finishing the improvements to the lake and this part of the gardens. It was reached by a series of steps and commanded a view of the lake and the surrounding woodland. The area beneath the terrace was paved with red, white, and black pebbles from Emsworth. In the words of Sir George Staunton himself it was:

A small ornamental terrace, upon arcades, with access by a flight of steps to the right which was erected this year, in order to obtain a more commanding view of

the ornamental water and the woodland scenery which surrounds it. The space beneath the terrace is paved with red, white, and black pebbles, from the beach at Emsworth; and the seats on it are so placed as to be partly shaded and sheltered by the floor of the terrace.

1837 (July) – The Election Column erected – it was a later addition to the north garden. It was placed on the lawn between the Temple and the lake in 1837. It was designed to record the victories, as well as the losses, that Sir George Staunton partook in the various parliamentary elections that he stood in up to this date. We do get a very good description of the column from an article printed in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* of 30 July 1837:

Another interesting memorial has recently been added to the numerous objects of attraction that adorn Leigh Park, the favourite retreat of Sir George Staunton, Bart. It is a column raised to the victories and the reverses which have happened to Sir George in his electioneering contests in this county during the last six eventful years. The first side of this column is devoted to a recognition of the 1,530 gallant Reformers who secured Sir George's return for the Southern Division of the county in 1832. The next side records his defeat, and along with it his grateful recollection of the 1,474 honest and true men who stood by him to the last. The third side is made tributary to the devotion of the 2,080 voters who supported him in 1837, in his endeavour to restore the independence of South Hants; and the fourth to the worth and virtue of the honest electors, who rewarded his toils and sacrifices by returning him, without a contest, the unpledged Member of their independent Borough. The memorial is a very interesting one, and as, we are sure our readers will agree with us in thinking, exhibits at once both the good taste and the good feeling of this excellent gentleman.

1837 (August) – Defeated at election for South Hampshire – supported by his friend Admiral Sir John Acworth Ommaney of Warblington Lodge (Ommaney had been a junior officer on the *Lion* during the McCartney Embassy). Staunton coming third in the poll.

1837 (August) – £200 donated by Sir George Staunton towards new church at Redhill (Rowlands Castle).

1837 (10 January) – Appointment of Alexander Scott as Head Gardener. Scott was instrumental in establishing the gardens and pleasure grounds into the excellent standard they reached.

1838 – Portrait of Sir George Staunton by George Swandale. In 1840 the original painting was given by Staunton to the people of Portsmouth and hung in the new Town Hall. It was subsequently moved to the new Guildhall and was destroyed during the Second World War due to enemy bombing.

1838 (January)

Sir George Thomas Staunton has, with his accustomed liberality, given £50 to be distributed in coals among the poor in the parishes of Havant, Warblington, Bedhampton, and Hayling; in addition to which motives of charity, he is employing a number of labourers on his estate at Leigh Park, who would otherwise be out of employment.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 8 January 1838

1838 (February) – Elected unopposed for the Borough of Portsmouth after the death of John B. Carter.

1839 (January) – Sir George Staunton gave his annual gift of coal to the poor of Havant.

1839 – New Pine Pits in the walled garden and old pinery changes to vinery (Staunton's Diary).

1839 – Work starts on the new Stove House with the demolition of Garrett's old Stove House and part of the original north wall of the kitchen garden. Work continued until 1853.

1840- Sir George Staunton spoke up in Parliament against the support of the Opium Wars (1839-42)

1840 (December) – Sir George Staunton printed a ten page pamphlet on the various notices within the Temple, as well as a Staunton genealogy entitled: *Tablets in the Temple. Leigh Park, 1840*. On page four of the pamphlet Staunton recorded:

Sixteen years have elapsed since this little Temple was dedicated, and it may easily be imagined that many near and dear friends and relatives have been lost during the interval, whose names would most worthily grace this record: but it has been thought best to open no new sources of sorrowful recollection, and by closing the list, to take advantage of the operation of the lenient hand of time, in gradually and happily removing the somewhat too sombre character of such memorials.

1841 – The Statue of Flora placed in the pleasure grounds – luckily an illustration of the statue survives, thanks to one of the earliest photographs of the second Leigh Park House. The photograph of her has her standing close to the water on Cottage Island, holding a bunch of flowers, a pose which can be found in many statues of her. In the photograph she is seen looking up the hill towards the new Leigh Park House. It is feasible that she may have stood in another position in the grounds but it appears she disappeared when the cottage on Cottage Island was demolished to clear the view from the new house.

1841 – Main work completed on the new Stove House.

1842 – Sir George Staunton and Alexander Scott (Head Gardener exhibit at the Royal Horticultural Society *Musa Cavendishii* (banana): *The heaviest bunch weighing upwards of 40lbs for this a gold (Banksian) medal was awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society.*

The Gardener

1842

Three different varieties of banana fruiting at Leigh Park (M. Cavendishii, M. sapientum, M. sapientum dacca.

Notes on the different Kinds of Banana cultivated at Leigh Park by Richard Carter, Under Gardener, 1842.

1842 – The statue of Diana, goddess of trees and vegetation, was installed by the lake. It stood near the Turkish Summer House on the eastern side of the lake. She is depicted in Gilbert's last watercolours he did for Sir George Staunton. It has been stated that it may have been a copy of the "Diana of Versailles" which is now in the Louvre in Paris, which it is possible that Staunton once saw Diana holds a stag with her left hand while with her right hand she draws an arrow from a quiver behind her shoulder. It is unclear what happened to the statue after Staunton's death but it does appear it disappeared from view during William Stone's ownership of the estate.

1842 – Leigh Park Estate map ordered by Sir George Staunton. Produced and surveyed by I.T. and C. Lewis.

1843 February

Horticultural Society

The ordinary meeting was held on Thursday 16 February 1843. Sir George Staunton exhibited a stem of the Sugar Cane, 20 feet high, grown at his seat, Leigh Park, Hampshire, and apparently to as great perfection as in any part of the West Indies.

John Bull, 18 February 1843

1843 – In Parliament supported Ashley's (Lord Shaftesbury) motion against the opium trade.

1843 – *Musa Cavendishii* (banana): *largest bunch exhibited in England upwards of 129lbs* – Meeting of Horticultural Society of London, 3 October 1843.

1843 – Leigh Park Farm To be Let – 420 acres of Arable and Pasture land:

The farm is well adapted for a Dairy Farm, having (in addition to the large proportion of pasture land) extensive rights of herbage upon Havant Thicket and the wastes of the manor, to which the lands adjoin. The House, Buildings, and Yards are convenient and in a good order.

Hampshire Telegraph, 5 June 1843

1843 – Tithe Map of the Manor Of Havant produced (including the estate map of Leigh Park and apportionment) by I.T. and C. Lewis of Winchester.

1843 – Sir George Staunton added two more statues to the pleasure grounds, believed to have come from his visit to Italy – statue of Fidelity and Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and gardens. Unfortunately no information can be found on them.

1843 – Staunton added another floor to the Look-out.

1844 – Staunton made changes to the Temple of Friendship.

1844 (30 April) – Exhibited *Cyrtopodium punctatum* (first flowering of this orchid in England) at the Royal Botanic Garden.

This noble plant, equalling in beauty and luxuriance, the native specimens, was an object of general admiration, and reflected the highest credit on Mr. Scott, Sir George Staunton's gardener. It was rewarded by a Gold Banksian Medal, the largest prize ever given for a single plant.

Gardeners' Chronicle, 17 May, 1844

1844 – Sir George Staunton remitted rents for his Irish tenants at Clydagh House, Galway, for two years during the Irish famine (built 30 new cottages for tenants).

1845 (17 April) – Publication of Robert Glendinning's excellent article *Garden Memoranda – Leigh Park, Havant* in the *Gardeners Chronicle*. The article covers Glendinning's visit to Leigh Park with details on visiting the Stove House, other greenhouses and the pleasure grounds giving one of the best ever descriptions of Staunton's gardens.

1845 (September) – (Royal Horticultural Society Show) – Mangoes:

From Mr Scott, gardener to Sir George Staunton, were three ripe Mangoes. It was mentioned that this is believed to be the second instance of this highly esteemed fruit having been ripened in England. The other instance was that of the late Lord Powis. The specimens now produced were nearly the same size and of a better variety (Alphonso) and abundantly proved that with proper care this tropical fruit can be brought to table. They were beautiful specimens of growth. A Knightian medal was awarded for them.

The Gardeners' Chronicle, 6 September 1845

1845 – Enlarged stove house and added lobby.

1845 – Lithograph by Day and Hague produced of the interior of the Gothic Library.

1846 (January) – Sir George Staunton looking back at Leigh Park after 26 years of ownership:

I think I have been peculiarly fortunate in my selection, The Leigh Park Estate is of a size suited to my means, at an easy day's journey from London, and half-way between the popular watering-place of Brighton and Salisbury, the place of my birth, and the residence of the greater portion of my maternal relations. The situation is healthy; the views, including that of the sea, are beautiful; and although the mansion is of a modest size, and the park not large, the character of the property has been much raised by the addition of a handsome Gothic library, by the construction of numerous hot-houses and conservatories, famed for the successful cultivation of rare flowers and exotic fruits, and by the very great extension of the pleasure grounds, generally admired for their picturesque views and various decorations.

The society of the neighbourhood consists mainly of retired officers of the Navy, gentry of moderate income, and resident clergy; and its tone is unquestionably

much better suited to my habits and character than that which is met amongst the great sporting and agriculture proprietors of Yorkshire and Dorsetshire. Memoirs of the Chief Incidents of the Public Life of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., 1856

1846 (September)

Sir George Staunton, Baronet, M.P.

This benevolent and truly kind-hearted gentleman, arrived at Clydagh, in the County, one of his Irish Estates, on Wednesday the 26th ultimo, and was received by his grateful tenantry in a manner worthy of him and them. He at once set about attending to the wants of all those living under him, and afforded ample relief to everyone standing in need of it. He told the people to make use of whatever potatoes remained sound, and to keep their corn for their own support during the year, as it was not his intention to require the payment of rent from any of them. We need not say that this conduct elicited the warmest gratitude of the peasantry, who expressed their feelings of thankfulness to their benefactor and protector. Sir George represents the important town of Portsmouth, and well may the Constituency be proud of him.

Galway Mercury, 5 September 1846

1846- Sir George Staunton installed Statue of Hebe and Tripod installed on Front Lawn. It may have been a copy of Antonio Canova's 'Hebe pouring Nectar'.

1847 (January)

At Leigh Park bananas are now common, and, although not high flavoured, they form an important addition to our list of hothouse fruits. Five different varieties have been fruited here, but of those perhaps Musa Cavendishii is the most useful. But a magnificent growing variety cultivated here (under the name of Musa maxima merely for distinction, and in the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens known as the St Helena Banana) where it can have room for its noble foliage, superior to any sort yet introduced. The foliage of this variety rises to the height of 30 feet, and the clusters of excellent fruit are from 80 to 130lbs weight, and in quality equal, if not superior to that of Musa Cavandishii; like that variety it keeps some time, whereas some of the sorts very soon rot when grown in a moist stove. Remarks on Cultivating Tropical Fruits for the Table.

By Mr A. Scott C.M.H.S., Gardener to Sir George Staunton, Bart, M.P., F.H.S. (Communicated Jan 12, 1847), *The Journal of the Horticultural Society of London*, Vol. 2, 1847

1847 (January)

Of the kinds that are fruited here at Leigh Park, perhaps the Mango is the only one entitled to the character of a first-rate fruit; but others are equal, if not superior, to several of our common kinds, independently of their being the produce of species belonging to very distinct tribes of plants, and thus interest and variety is added to the dessert, which ought always to give them a strong claim on our attention, even if it should ultimately be found that but few of the more rare tropical fruits excel those usually cultivated for the table.

Remarks on Cultivating Tropical Fruits for the Table. By Mr A. Scott C.M.H.S., Gardener to Sir George Staunton, Bart, M.P., F.H.S. (Communicated Jan 12, 1847), *The Journal of the Horticultural Society of London*, Vol. 2, 1847

1847 (May)

Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, in consideration of the present high price of provisions has laudibly raised the wages of his numerous labourers; those in receipt of 12s. to 14s. per week; and those in the receipt of 14s. to 15s 6d. per week. It should also be mentioned that these labourers occupy cottages belonging to Sir George, at a rental considerably below that usually paid for such class of cottages on other estates.

Hampshire Telegraph, 29 May 1847

1847

The Mangosteen House built

The mangosteen (Garcinia mangostana) is a tropical evergreen tree which can grow between 6 and 25 metres tall with purple fruits, sweet and tangy, juicy, somewhat fibrous, with fluid-filled vesicles (like the flesh of citrus fruits. By 1849 it was recorded that the mangosteen at Leigh Park was 10 feet high.

Journal of the Horticultural Society of London, 1849 – Alexander Scott, 29 January 1849.

1847 (June) – Sir George Staunton donates a Palm to William Hooker at Kew which had outgrown the stove house at Leigh Park. Kew records show that the palm arrived in a framed case 40 ft. long.

1848 (January)

Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, gave £20 worth of coal to the poor of Havant, on Christmas Eve; it is an annual donation, and much looked forward to by the poor of this neighbourhood.

Hampshire Telegraph, 1 January 1848

1849 (June)

Opening the Gardens – Leigh Park Gardens

We have been requested to correct a wrong impression, which has gained some currency in this locality, relative to the delightful grounds, of our borough member, Sir George Staunton, at Leigh Park, being thrown open to the public indiscriminately on the ensuing Coronation day. We are authorised to state, that while any respectable person or party, however humble their station, may enjoy the pleasure of perambulating Sir George's grounds, any day except Sunday, simply on applying to the gardener (Mr Scott), whose invariable courtesy and attention is well known to very many who have experienced it, yet it should be distinctly understood, that very large parties cannot be admitted on public holidays, for reasons which will at once be apparent to every reflective mind.

Hampshire Advertiser, 23 June 1849

1850 – Sir George Staunton gave land in New Lane to provide for a new parish burial ground with one acre for the Church of England and a quarter acre for Dissenters.

1850 – Sir George Staunton had the *List of Busts in the Temple, Leigh Park* printed. At this time it totalled 24 busts of friends and people he admired. One extra bust was added in 1853.

1850 – Staunton records in his diary that he enlarged the Arboretum, one of the last projects to take place in the gardens.

1850 (September) – Leigh Park Farm – Sale of Live and Dead Stock:

100 Head of Horned Cattle, 400 Sheep, 20 Horses and Colts, and agricultural implements. Mr Edward Wyatt is instructed by Mr Lasseter, who is quitting, to sell by Public Auction, on the premises, on Friday and Saturday September 27th and 28th, 1850 – All the valuable Live and Dead Farming Stock on the Leigh Park Farm.

Hampshire Telegraph, 17 August 1850

1850 (September) - Royal Horticultural Show, 3 September 1850 (Regents Street) - Award - Knightian Medal:

To Mr Scott, Gardener to Sir George Staunton, Bart., F.H.S. for some forced Late Admirable Peaches, remarkably large, fine, and some ripe Mangoes. One or two of the latter were somewhat injured by travelling, but the others were unblemished, and beautiful examples of this kind of fruit. It was stated that the tree which produced them never failed to ripen a good crop of Mangoes every year.

Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vol. 5, 1850

1850 - Sir George Staunton was visited by Sir William Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. No doubt the talk centred on the Victoria Amazonica lily which Kew had and Staunton added to his collection in 1852.

1851 - The census of 1851 shows that Alexander Scott, the Head Gardener, employed 14 men under him; James Carter, the Bailiff/Gamekeeper employed 12 men and 3 boys. No doubt further outside staff were recorded. Sir George Staunton is not recorded being at Leigh Park at the time of the census.

1852 (4 February) - Staunton announced he was to stand down as Member for Portsmouth at the end of the present Parliament.

1852 (December) - Sir George Staunton finally retired from Parliament as a Member for Portsmouth.

1852

Kew Gardens - Palm House

*We must now turn our attention to some of the numerous objects in the Palm-House, a structure especially intended for the cultivation of the "Princes" of the vegetable kingdom, but by no means wholly confined to them. The Palms constitute, however, a splendid and striking feature of its vast area, and are seen to most advantage from the gallery above. The two loftiest Palms in the House are kinds of Cocoa-nut, of which one (*Cocos plumosa*) is an old inhabitant of these Gardens, and the other (*Cocos coronata*) was recently presented by Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., having been transported, though of so vast size, by railway, from that gentleman's seat, Leigh Park, in a case 42 feet in length.*

Kew Gardens; or, A Popular Guide To the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew by Sir William J. Hooker, 1852.

1853 – Stove House finally finished with the addition of the Lily House to hold the Victoria Amazonia or Victoria Regia Lily.

1853 (January) – Sir George Staunton donated a further collection of Chinese books, numbering 613, to the library of King's College, London.

1853 (2 February) – Duke and Duchess of Northumberland visited the garden at Leigh. The Duke of Northumberland had one of the three Victoria Regia Lilies at his home at Syon House.

1853 (28 August) – First flower of the Victoria Regia Lily at Leigh Park.

1854 – Engraving of the Look-out by William Pink of Emsworth.

1854 (28 June)

Coronation Day Anniversary

The charming gardens of Sir George Staunton, Bart., at his seat, Leigh Park, Havant, were thrown open to the inspection of the public, and were crowned by hundreds, who fully appreciated the kindness of the proprietor.

Hampshire Chronicle, 1 July 1854

1854 (December)

Mangosteen House:

It is well known that the mangosteen, both in the tropical fruit-house at Syon, preserved with great care by the Duke of Northumberland and at Leigh Park by Sir George Staunton, the plants have produced their flowers – for the first time we believe, out of the western portion of the Malay Archipelago.

Gardeners' Chronicle, 23 December 1854

1854 – First photograph of Leigh Park House (South View), c.1854 by Thomas Biggs.

1855 (June) – First record of the failing health of Sir George Staunton:

Sir George Staunton, we regret to learn has during the last few days been suffering from severe indisposition. He was however better yesterday.

Morning Post, 20 June 1855

1855 (November)

Sir George Staunton has taken apartments at Pegg's Royal York Hotel, Brighton, where he intends to remain for a considerable time.

Brighton Gazette, 15 November 1855

1856 (January)

Sir George Staunton, Bart., this week gave to the poor of Havant £20 worth of coals. This is an annual donation of the worthy baronet, and ever has been since he resided in the neighbourhood.

Hampshire Telegraph, 12 January 1856

1856 – Publication of *Memoirs of the Chief Incidents of the Public Life of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart.*, 1856

1856 (6 November) – Letter from Sir George Staunton to John Bridger Clarke (farmer-tenant) concerning pestilence at Leigh Park Farm. *Sir George is very sorry he is too unwell to see Mr Clarke.*

1856 (5 August) – The last entry in Sir George Staunton's Diary for Leigh Park reads: *Photograph Drawings of the hot houses.* Unfortunately these have not been traced.

1856 (December)

Sir George Staunton still occupies apartments at Pegg's Royal York Hotel, Brighton. Sir Robert Fitzwygram, Bart., (brother of Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Fitzwygram is among the latest arrivals at Pegg's Royal York Hotel.

Brighton Gazette, 23 December 1856

1857 (January)

During the inclemency of the season, and feeling the suffering of the deserving poor, Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, Havant, has generously ordered to be distributed among them 400 bushels of best coal to those belonging to Havant, and has also give £10 to each of the clergymen belonging to Bedhampton, Warblington, and Hayling, for distribution at their discretion among the deserving poor of their respective districts.

London Evening Standard, 12 January 1857

1857 (December)

Sir George Staunton is, we are sorry to learn, suffering from severe indisposition.

London Evening Standard, 4 December 1857

1857 – Engraving on stone of Leigh Park House by William Pink of Emsworth.

1858 (September)

Floriculture

Our readers will see by a notice in our advertising columns that specimens of the Agave Americanæ (American aloes) are now in flower at Leigh Park, the residence of Sir George Staunton, Bart. The worthy baronet allows his gardens and grounds to be inspected by all who have a taste for floriculture; and rarely does the florist find so perfect a collection as that of Leigh Park. The two aloes now in flower are upwards of 24 feet in height. They each consist of a single stem, rising abruptly from the centre of the plant, quite bare for about 10 feet, and then adorned with a profusion of flowers to the summit. But the aloes form but a small portion of the attractions of Sir George Staunton's interesting collection, which, under the presiding genius of Mr Alexander Scott, who for many years has had the entire arrangements of the plant-houses and grounds, has attained so high a celebrity in the floral world.

Hampshire Telegraph, 25 September 1858

1859 (January)

Sir George Staunton has arrived at Pegg's Royal York Hotel, Brighton.

Morning Chronicle, 6 January 1859

1859 (January)

Sir George Staunton, Bart., independent of having placed £10 in the hands of the clergymen of the parishes of Warblington, Bedhampton and Hayling Island, for distribution among the poor of their parishes, made a donation of twenty pounds' worth of coal to the poor of Havant parish. This is an annual donation to his own immediate parishioners, and has been for these forty years past.

Hampshire Telegraph, 15 January 1859

1859 (10 August) – Death of Sir George Thomas Staunton, in his 80th year, at his residence of 17 Devonshire Street, Portland Place, London. Buried Kensal Green Cemetery (beneath Dissenters' Chapel).

1859 – Sir George Thomas Staunton Bt. – Excerpt from his obituary in the proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London, Vol. IV, Sessions 1859-60.

... After his return to England, Sir George purchased a house and landed property at Leigh Park, Hampshire, where he afterwards resided during a part of every year. For some time he had the honour of representing South Hants in Parliament. He afterwards represented Portsmouth, and continued to do so until he resigned the charge a few years before he died.

After being finally re-established in England, he occupied himself but little with any of the pursuits of his early life; though it may be that his knowledge of botany had partly led him to the laying out of an extensive garden, with numerous hothouses and conservatories full of the rarest trees and plants.

Although his life was prolonged until he had entered on his 79th year, he was always of a delicate frame, and not capable of great physical exertion. Others observed in him a peculiar shyness and awkwardness of manner, of which his education affords an adequate explanation. But with this he on various occasions displayed great moral courage and determination...

There were two main beneficiaries of Sir George Staunton's Will, his cousins: George Staunton Lynch (1798-1882) inherited Clydagh House Estate, Galway. Due to terms of will became George Staunton Lynch-Staunton – d. Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Captain Henry Cormick Lynch (1801-1859) of the East India Company Madras Infantry inherited London home and Leigh Park Estate and £10,000.

Staunton also bequeathed life annuities of: *£50 to my present Head Gardener Alexander Scott, £30 to James Quinn, my under-gardener and £20 to James Carter, my late second gardener. All domestics and other under gardeners were to receive a year's wages.*

The Lynch Staunton Connection (1859-1861)

1859 (22 September) – Death of Captain Henry Cormick Lynch at Leigh Park from typhus – buried at St Faith’s Church, Havant. Leigh Park Estate and London house passed to the eldest son of Captain Lynch, George Staunton Lynch-Staunton (1839-1924)

1859 (4 October)

Whitehall

The Queen has been pleased to grant to George Staunton Lynch, of Clydagh in the county of Galway, her Royal Licence and authority in compliance with the will of his cousin Sir George Staunton, Bart., deceased, henceforth to take the surname of Staunton in addition to and after his present name of Lynch and to bear the arms of Staunton. Such name and arms to be borne by his issue.

London Gazette, 4 October 1859

1859 (4 November)

Advertisement

... of furniture and ornamental articles of Sir George Staunton, Bart., Deceased, the house being sold (17 Devonshire Street).

The Times, 28 October 1859

1859 (2 December)

The Queen has been pleased to grant to George Staunton Lynch, of Leigh Park, in the county of Hants., Esq., eldest son of Henry Cormick Lynch, of the same place, Esq., deceased her Royal Licence and authority in compliance with the will of his cousin Sir George Staunton, Bart., deceased, henceforth to take the surname of Staunton in addition to and after his present name of Lynch and to bear the arms of Staunton. Such name and arms to be borne by his issue.

London Gazette, 2 December 1859

1860 (24 February)

The Service of Silver and Silver Gilt Plate of the late Sir George Staunton, Bart.: Messrs Christie, Manson, and Woods respectfully give notice, that they will Sell by Auction, at their great Rooms, 8 King-street, St. James-square, S.W., on Friday Feb. 24, at 1 o'clock precisely, by order of the Executors of the Late Captain Lynch, the valuable Service of Silver and Silver-Gilt Plate of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., deceased, removed from his late residence in Devonshire-street.

The Times, 3 January 1860

1860 (24 February)

The Collection of Pictures of the late Sir George Staunton, Bart.

Messrs Christie, Manson, and Woods respectfully give notice, that they will Sell by Auction, at their great Rooms, 8 King-street, St. James-square, S.W., on Friday Feb. 24, at 1 o'clock precisely, by order of the Executors of the Late Captain Lynch, the valuable collection of Italian, Flemish, Dutch, and French pictures, formed by Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., deceased, removed from his late residence in Devonshire-street.

The Times, 3 January 1860

1860 (July)

Leigh Park Estate

The Pleasure Grounds in immediate connection with the Mansion, are most beautifully laid out in the gardenesque style, the undulation of the surface contributing largely to the beauty. The North Flower Garden is most remarkable for its choice roses. Connected with this is the West Flower Garden with the finest specimens of Pampas Grass, Yuccas, Arunda Donex or reeds, giving it a distinct Oriental character; the arboretum, is studded with noble specimens of rare and valuable trees of very fine growth including: araucaria, cedars, cryptomeria, cypress, and taxodiums.

The Times, 14 July 1860

1860 (17 October)

Leigh Park Estate for sale

The Very Beautiful Residential Freehold Estate distinguished as Leigh Park, for many years the favourite seat of Sir George Staunton, Bart. Seated on gently rising ground in a Beautiful Wooded Park, approached from the Road by Lodge Entrances and Carriage Drives. Delightful Pleasure Grounds and Gardens of unrivalled beauty, ornamental Woods and Plantations adorned with the Charming Lake, with three Islands, handsome bridges, summer houses, boat house etc. Several valuable Farms, at Havant and Bedhampton, with capital homesteads and suitable buildings, detached Land at Havant, the whole forming an Estate of nearly one thousand acres which will be sold at Auction on 17th October 1860.

The Times, 3 October 1860

The Leigh Park Estate not sold at this sale.

1861 (26 January)

Leigh Park Estate For Sale

The very beautiful Residential Freehold Estate, and Landed Investment, distinguished as Leigh Park, together with the Manors of Havant and Flood, and comprising a capital mansion, seated in a finely-timbered park, delightful pleasure grounds, and gardens of unrivalled beauty, ornamental woods and plantations, several valuable farms, capital homesteads and suitable buildings – forming a domain of about 1,000 acres.

Messrs Farebrother, Clark, and Lye have received instructions from the Trustees under the will of the late Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., to sell at Garraway's early in the spring, the above beautiful Freehold Estate (unless previously disposed of by private contract).

The Times, 26 January 1861

1861 (April) – 1861 Census for Leigh Park House has Charlotte M. Lynch (widow of Captain Henry Cormick Lynch) as Head of Household, along with her eldest son George S. Lynch-Staunton (Landed Proprietor, age 21), another younger son, and four daughters with six indoor staff recorded.

1861 (22 July) – Sales Particulars include:

The mansion, for many years the favourite seat of the late Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., is seated on gently rising ground, in a beautiful wooded park, approached from the road by two lodge entrances, with carriage drives, and is of handsome elevation, brick built, and faced with Southampton tiles on three sides, with portico entrance to the eastern front, and a colonnade to the south front, and contains numerous principle and secondary bed-chambers, entrance hall with niches for statuary, loft and elegant drawing room, highly finished, with windows opening to the lawn, embracing the most charming sea and land views; communicating is a smaller drawing room, similarly furnished, capital dining room opening to conservatory and orangery, breakfast room, billiard room, study, corridor, and a beautiful Gothic octagon-shaped library with stained glass windows and highly decorated ceiling, ample domestic offices, with spacious cellarage in the basement. There are good coach-houses, stabling, laundry, and other out-buildings. The pleasure grounds, in immediate connection with the mansion, are most notably beautifully laid out in the gardenesque style, the undulation of the surface contributing largely to their beauty. In the foreground of this delightful picture is the charming lake, with three islands, handsome bridges, summer houses in the English, Turkish, Swiss and Chines styles, boat-

houses, etc.; extensive pleasure ground, interspersed with winding walks, numerous rustic summer-houses, shaded retreats, a beautiful and classic Temple and grotto; large park studded with majestic oaks, beautiful lime, birch, cedar and elm trees; plantations, numerous copses, with shooting paths, pleasure rides and drives.

William Henry Stone

1861 (31 July) – The Leigh Park Estate finally acquired by William Henry Stone for £60,000.

1861 (7 October)

Leigh Park, near Hampshire

Furniture and Effects of the mansion, Grand Pianoforte, Billiard Table, Chinese Paintings, Lanterns. And Screens, Saddle and Harness Horses, Carriages, Waggon, Carts, Iron Park Roller, Six Alderney Cows, Ten Fat Pigs, and numerous Effects. Messrs Farebrother, Clark, and Lye, having disposed of the Leigh Park Estate, the property of the late Sir George Staunton, Bart., are instructed to Sell by Auction, on the Premises, on Monday, October 7, and following days, at 12 for 1 each day, the Furniture and Effects of the Mansion: comprising a rosewood drawing room suite, covered in crimson India silk, of chairs, sofas, couches, curtains, valuable clocks, noble chimney glasses and mirrors, full-compass grand pianoforte in mahogany case, satinwood and rosewood cabinets and tables, bookcases, ornamental items, 500 volumes of books, Chinese paintings, prints, and imperial lanterns, richly ornamented screens, figures and banners, mahogany dining tables, chairs, sideboard, Brussels and Turkey carpets. In the principal and secondary bedrooms mahogany and four-post bedsteads etc.

The Times, 21 September 1861

1861– Retirement of Alexander Scott – Former Head Gardener to Sir George Staunton. New Head Gardener Thomas Davies age 25. Thomas Davies was soon replaced by George Young who had acted as Head Gardener for William Stone at other properties.

1861 (20 August)

Visit to Leigh Park by Sir Charles F.J. Bunbury

On the 20th we went (from Oaklands, Purbrook) with Minnie and Sarah (Napier), and saw the beautiful gardens and grounds of Leigh Park, formerly Sir George Staunton's, but lately sold to a Mr Stone.

The collection of tropical plants in the hot-houses is one of the finest that I have ever seen in this country (Kew excepted), both for the number of plants and for their beauty and vigour of growth. I noticed particularly a magnificent Allamanda, covering a great space, and loaded with gorgeous gold coloured flowers like those of an Echites; Nelumbium speciosum (Lotus flower), very fine,

with many of its curious seed vessels; Victoria Regia in flower; Rice in flower; those grand ferns, Angioptoris erecta, and Asplenium marginatum, in high perfection, and many other beautiful ferns.

Memorials of Sir Charles F.J. Bunbury (Diaries and Correspondence), 1893. (Sir Charles, a well-known naturalist and diarist, was visiting Lady Napier, a relative of his at Oaklands, Purbrook. Lady Napier was the widow of General Sir Charles Napier who died at Oaklands, 29 August 1853).

1861 (18 September)

Brighton and Sussex Floricultural and Horticultural Society Show

In the entrance hall was a fine collection of ornamental plants exhibited by Mr Young, gardener to W.H. Stone, Esq., Leigh Park Havant, with remarkable fine foliage, particularly the Corypha australis, Levistona humilis, the cocoa nut tree, Cocoa nucifera, Chamcerops humilis, Draconna arborea, and the beautiful Cyanphyllum, quite seven feet high, also a beautiful fern Cyathea dealbata.

Sussex Agricultural Express, 21 September 1861

1862 (6 May)

Leigh Park Farm

Important Sale of Live and Dead Farming Stock: 'Mr Edward Wyatt has received instructions from Mr Clarke, who is quitting, to Sell by Auction on the Premises of the above Farm, on Tuesday, the 6th May next, at Eleven o'clock, a very superior bay Cart Stallion, 1 years old, a quiet and good worker, 20 Cart and Nag Horses and Colts, 30 Alderney and other milk and in calf cows and heifers, 240 Down couples, 160 ewe and wether Down tegs, waggons, dung carts, ploughs, harrow, rollers, scarifier, mowing machine by Burgess and Keys, 4-horse power portable thrashing machine, haying machine, harness, and the usual agricultural implements.

Hampshire Telegraph, 26 April 1862

1862 (August)

Gosport and Alverstoke Horticultural Society Show:

The exhibitors were very numerous and extended over a circle of upwards of ten miles, and among some of the choice productions in foliage plants, ferns and mosses, specimen plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables, were shown by Mr W.H. Stone of Leigh Park, Havant. Mr Stone succeeded in taking no less than ten first prizes.

Hampshire Telegraph, 30 August 1862

1862 – William Stone establishes a Cricket pitch and Pavilion at Front Lawn within the Leigh Park Estate. Stone was a keen cricketer himself and played in several games at Leigh Park. The pitch and pavilion were situated on what is now Front Lawn Recreation Ground.

1862 (5 August) – First recorded cricket match at Leigh Park (Front Lawn):

Havant v Emsworth

On Tuesday, the return match of the Havant v Emsworth Cricket Clubs was played at Leigh Park, near the former town, when Havant won by 95 runs. The batting of Messrs. Carter, Sen., and Goldsmith was particularly good, as was the bowling of Mr Diloway.'

Hampshire Telegraph, 9 August 1862

1863 – Work began on the new mansion in the spring of 1863, with the site of Staunton's Temple of Friendship, the Look-out, and the bridge to Temple Lawn being demolished and cleared to make way for the new house. The site picked was the highest point of the estate overlooking Staunton's lake or Leigh Water as it was previously known. Views could be seen of Havant Thicket and beyond and also towards the sea and Hayling Island and the Isle of Wight. New carriage drives were also laid out and other garden features such as the Rosary and Moss House were swept away for this purpose. The architect being Richard William Drew and the Builders Messrs Rogers and Booth of Gosport.

1863 (4 May) – Leigh Farm (Prospect Farm) – Stone added another farm to the estate, namely Leigh Farm, or as it became known as Prospect Farm, situated to the east of the Home Farm. He paid £2,548 3s. 8d. to Thomas Pemberton and the Estate of the late Ebenezer Johnston. The farm at the time of the sale measured a little over 117 acres and abutted onto the estate of Leigh Park.

1863 (19 September) – William Henry Stone appointed magistrate for the County of Hampshire.

1864 (April) – William Stone put himself forward as a candidate in the Liberal interest in the upcoming election which would take place on 12 July 1865. The Borough of Portsmouth sent two representatives to parliament and as well as the retiring Sir Francis Baring the other sitting member being the Conservative Sir James Elphinstone who won the 1857 election.

1864 (11 May) – Letter to the Electors of the Borough of Portsmouth:

Gentlemen,

Your respective member, Sir Francis Baring, having decided shortly to retire from Parliament, I take the first opportunity, upon my return to England from a foreign tour, of declaring my intention to offer myself as a candidate for the representation of your Borough at the next Election. In taking this step, I have the sanction of numerous influential members of your body, and I look with confidence for the support of the Liberal Electors of Portsmouth. Though personally unknown to many of you, I venture to hope that, residing as I do in your immediate neighbourhood, I may not be considered even now as altogether a stranger, and that I may have frequent opportunities of becoming better known among you. My political principles are Liberal; and if, honoured with a seat in Parliament, I shall give a general, but independent, support to Lord Palmerston's government. I am in favour of a gradual extension of the suffrage to all persons qualified to make an intelligent and independent use of the privilege. I am an advocate of religious toleration, in the fullest sense of the phrase, and as a warm friend of the Established Church, I hold that her true interests require a liberal policy, alike towards her own members and those who differ from her. I consider that the continuence of peace will be best secured by the maintenance of our naval and military defences in a high state of efficiency. Consistently with this object I advocate the greatest possible economy in our public expenditure, with a view especially to the diminution of those burdens which press heavily upon the poorer classes, or hamper the operation of commerce. In our relations with foreign countries I am in favour of a policy of non-intervention, to the fullest extent compatible with the honour of our country as a first-class power. I hope to have an early opportunity of giving you a fuller explanation of my views, and of answering any enquiries which you may think proper to address me.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant

W.H. STONE

Leigh Park,

11th May, 1864

Hampshire Telegraph, 14 May 1864

1864 (28 June) – Coronation Day – Leigh Park Gardens open to the public. From 1864 the gardens were opened to the public on special holidays, such as Coronation Day, of which fell on 28 June, and Whit Monday on a regular basis. Annually a fete was held, but not always with a smooth outcome as of the first visit of the Portsmouth Ebenezer Temperance Society on Coronation Day 1864 proved. This must have been such a special day as between 600 and 700 carriages were put on for between 11,000 and 12,000 people from Portsmouth who had arrived at Rowlands Castle by train for the fete. Unfortunately, allegations of admission charging reared its ugly head and letters to the editor of the *Hampshire Telegraph* were written by both Stone and the committee of the Temperance Society to put the matter right.

1864 (30 June) To the Editor of the *Hampshire Telegraph*: The Temperance Fete in Leigh Park:

Sir,

In answer to various enquiries will you allow me to state in your columns that the charge for admission to Leigh Park on the coronation-day, reported to have been made by some of the party who had come there by my invitation, was made wholly without my knowledge, and contrary to my wishes.

I remain,

Your obedient servant

W.H. Stone

Dulwich Hill, 30 June, 1864

1864 (2 July)

The Temperance Fete in Leigh Park

The committee of the Portsmouth Ebenezer Temperance Society being anxious to gather their friends together, and at the same time, assist their Society's funds, and thinking that Leigh Park would be a somewhat central spot and place of considerable attraction to their friends and the public, they made application by letter to W.H. Stone, Esq., the present proprietor, asking for the exclusive use of the said park and grounds for Coronation day for the benefit of the temperance society. Mr Stone, in reply, courteously expressed his readiness to comply with the committee's request. On the reception of this letter the committee immediately made the necessary arrangements, securing a special train etc. In order to reimburse themselves for various matters of outlay, such as booth, band, printing, etc., the committee made a small charge for admission to the park, viz: adults, 6d., children, 3d. : a course of conduct frequently done elsewhere under similar circumstances, and which the committee believed they were fully warranted in going in this case. It appears, however, that some persons who went to the park

and had to pay for admission were displeased thereat, and since made a complaint on this point to Mr Stone, he stated that while he cheerfully gave sanction to the temperance committee to the use of his park for the fete, it was not in his thoughts at the time that any charge would be made for admission. We therefore, desire herewith to state our regret that we have in anyway acted other than Mr Stone designed, but we conscientiously aver that we had every belief our course of conduct was in perfect harmony with his intentions, and if any portion of the public have been pained at the small charge made for admission, the blame does not in any way rest with Mr Stone but with us, out of our misconception.

Hampshire Telegraph, 2 July 1864

1864 (16 July) – Advertisement for bricklayers at Leigh Park to help with the building of the new mansion:

Carpenters and Joiners are Wanted, Messrs Rogers & Booth, Gosport. Also Bricklayers wanted at Leigh Park, Havant.

Hampshire Telegraph

1864 (October)

Twelfth Sussex Westbourne Rifles

The Corps enjoyed the hospitality of their worthy Captain, William Henry Stone, Esq., of Leigh Park, Havant.

Brighton Gazette, 3 November 1864

1864 (2 November) – William Stone marries at St Peter's Church, Bishops Waltham, Melicent Helps, the daughter of Sir Arthur Helps of Vernon Hill House, Bishops Waltham.

1864/65 – Beginning of the Enclosure of Havant Thicket – By 1870 Stone had total control of all common land in Havant Thicket and the Havant area.

1865 – New mansion finished – built in the Gothic style and 'adapted from the 14th century' the new mansion was built in mostly red bricks with Farleigh Down stone for the dressings The ashlar work in the hall were of chalk from Portsdown Hill, with shafts of Devonshire marble with a roof of plain tiles. A detached laundry block was built close to the mansion of which the shell of it still survives. The total cost to build was £13,000. The mansion is best described from an article in the *Builder* magazine of 17 March 1866:

Mansion, Leigh Park, near Portsmouth

The inhabitants of Portsmouth and its neighbourhood have long been familiar with the beautiful grounds and conservatories of Leigh Park, through the kind liberality of Mr W.H. Stone, their representative in Parliament. The ungraceful stuccoed building erected on one of the least attractive sites in the Park, which until lately served for the residence, will be remembered.

About three years since the proprietor decided to abandon the old house and build a new residence on a site overlooking the lake and commanding views over the Isle of Wight and some of the most beautiful scenery of the south coast; and in the spring of 1863 the new mansion was commenced. We give a view of the eastern front, showing the principal entrance and the hall, which is carried up the full height of the building. The general arrangement of the principal rooms and offices will be seen on reference to the ground plan; above it are two floors of bedrooms, to which access is given by corridors similar to that on the ground plan. The nurseries are placed over the offices, with which they have a communication independent of the principal and back staircases. The centre portion of the tower is filled with cisterns for the supply of hot and cold water, which are carried to all parts of the building.

The materials used for the walls are red bricks, and Farleigh Down stone for the dressings. The roof is covered with plain tiles; both bricks and tiles being made on the estate. The arcades and ashlar work in the hall are of chalk from Portsdown Hill, with shafts of Devonshire marble. As much as possible throughout the building native materials have been used, the chimney pieces being of serpentine, alabaster, or Devonshire marble.

At present the house is approached from the old entrance on the Portsmouth-road; but it is intended to form a new one near to Rowland's Castle. The house is warmed throughout on the hot-water system by Messrs Weeks.

The work has been carried out by Messrs Rogers & Booth, contractors, of Gosport, from the designs of Mr R.W. Drew, of Storey's Gate, Westminster.

1865 – The coach-house and stables, which still stand on Durrants Road/Petersfield Road, were erected simultaneously with the Mansion, and were in character therewith, they were conveniently situate within two or three-minutes' walk, and screened by well grown trees.

1865 – Demolition of Sir George Staunton's mansion – the Gothic Library was retained as a garden feature.

1865 (28 June)

Foresters' Excursion to Leigh Park

Nearly 5,000 persons availed themselves of the excursion to Leigh Park on Coronation Day, the profits of which are to be devoted to the funds of the Juvenile Foresters' Society (Portsea, Landport and Southsea District). The Juvenile members were regaled with tea, plum cake etc., in the park free of charge. The band of the 4th Hants. (Havant) Rifle Volunteer Corps was present, and gave every satisfaction.

Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette, 1 July 1865

1865 12 July) – Election for the Borough of Portsmouth – The result of the election was a victory by Stone with Stephen Gaselee second and Sir James Elphinstone third with the Hon. James Bruce in fourth place: Stone 2164; Gaselee 2103; Elphinstone 1677; Bruce 1559.

1865 (July)

South of England Horticultural and Floricultural Society Show

The exhibition was in every respect a magnificent one, and its enchanting appearance was not a little added to by a collection of choice ferns, stove and green house plants, and cut flowers from Leigh Park, the seat of W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P. The cut flowers from Leigh Park were of the choicest descriptions, while the collection of fruit from the same estate, consisting of a delicious pineapple, and dishes of nectarines and peaches – the latter, the largest we remember ever having seen, were most tempting.

Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette, 22 July 1865

1866 (17 March)

The Builder on Saturday devoted its usual large wood engraving to a view of the beautiful mansion recently erected at Leigh Park, near Portsmouth, by W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P., for that borough. It certainly adds to the fame of the architect employed, Mr. R.W. Drew. We are told that the inhabitants of Portsmouth and its neighbourhood have long been familiar with the beautiful grounds and magnificent conservatories at Leigh Park, through Mr. Stone's kind liberality.

Chichester Express and Sussex Journal, 20 March 1866

Visit to Leigh Park, Summer 1866

The seat of W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P. for Portsmouth, is one of the most beautiful and attractive places in the vicinity of Hayling. It is about one mile and a half to the northward of Havant. It was formerly the property of Sir George Staunton, Bart., from whose representatives it was purchased about six years ago by Mr Stone, who has added largely to the estate, and after pulling down the former mansion, has erected an entirely new one on a more commanding site, from the designs of Mr R.W. Drew, Architect of London. This house is of red brick with stone dressings, and commands extensive views in every direction. The principal apartments are spacious, and the general design in the highest degree effective. When the conservatory, lodges, and stables are completed, the entire cost of the buildings will exceed £20,000.

With a rare degree of liberality, Mr Stone throws his grounds open to the public inspection on the first and third Mondays in every month, by tickets, which are obtained on application to the Royal Hotel, Hayling and the Bear Hotel, Havant. They are also opened to the public on holidays and other special occasions; and that the privilege is highly valued by the residents of Portsmouth and the neighbourhood is shown by the fact that on Whit Monday in the present year no fewer 20,000 persons visited the grounds, whilst on Coronation Day (28 June 1866) the number present was about 14,000. Of course the great number of these belonged to the working classes and here as elsewhere the same testimony is borne to the good and orderly conduct of these gatherings of the people. Not a flower is plucked, nor a tree or shrub injured.'

T.E. Jones, *Guide to Hayling Island*, June 1866

1866 (8 May) – Admission to the Public to Leigh Park (to the editor of the *Portsmouth Times & Naval Gazette*):

Sir – May I trouble you for a small space in your newspaper under the following circumstances:-

The number of visitors to Leigh Park during last summer was so great that I am obliged to make some regulations for the admission in future. It will save my gardener a great deal of time and trouble, and will I hope not materially restrict the convenience of those who may wish to visit my grounds, if I request them to come for the future on certain fixed days, viz., the first and third Monday in each month. Admission will be by tickets, which may be procured at the Portland and Southsea Pier Hotels, at the Dolphin, Portsmouth, the Bedford, Landport, and the

Bear, Havant. These tickets will, of course, be gratuitous, and will be given to any respectable person applying for them. I am very glad to give every reasonable facility to all persons who may wish to visit my grounds, but it is almost impossible to carry on the management of a large garden in the summer, when parties have to be shown over it all hours of the day. I hope that it will be understood that this arrangement is not made with any wish to place a check upon visitors, but simply for the convenience of all parties. I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. Stone,

Dulwich Hill,

Dulwich,

May 8th 1866.

Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette, 12 May 1866

1866 (October)

The statue of Medea by Story, the American sculptor, has just arrived in England from Italy, and has been lent by the owner, Mr. Stone, M.P., for the Loan Exhibition in Southampton. Crowds of people are going to the exhibition daily to see it.

Dorset County Chronicle, 11 October 1866

1867 (April)

A Visit to Leigh Park

I recently accompanied a friend to the gardens appertaining to Leigh Park, near Havant, Hampshire, the residence of W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P.; and amidst the varying lights and shades of an April day, passed a few hours most agreeably amongst the objects of Nature's handiwork which are met with there.

The neat little town of Havant, lying on the South Coast Line, about seven miles from Portsmouth, is easily accessible to holiday-seekers, and the attractions of the Park are fully appreciated in summer by visitors from miles around. The entrances to the place are from the Portsmouth turnpike road; that which afforded us ingress is about a mile and a half from Havant, and is provided with a handsome lodge, the architectural design of which is the first evidence of taste which attracts the eyes of a stranger. After entering at this place, and following a carriage drive winding amongst "ancestral trees," we came to a slight wire fence separating the shrubberies and precincts of the mansion from the park without. Passing this, my attention was first arrested by a curious looking building of which the masonry, grey with age, proclaimed its antiquity. A most intelligent guide who accompanied us through the grounds informed us this was the old library, the present mansion being a modern erection, and occupying a different site from that of the old house. The library is a beautiful octagonal building, and its eight oriel windows contain excellent paintings relating to the Staunton family,

to whom the estate formerly belonged. The harmonious blending and richness of the colours in these windows is very attractive to the eye, and skilful workmanship displayed in the carved surroundings enhances their beauty.

Passing out of the kitchen garden, through the shrubberies, we soon arrived at the new carriage drive, on one side of which is a thickly-planted border of Rhododendrons, and on the other a neat plantation of choice Conifers on a well-kept piece of turf. We continued our walk along this winding and ornamental drive towards the mansion, which is about 350 yards north-west of the kitchen garden. A new conservatory, a lofty and imposing structure, graces the south front of the mansion. Being unfinished, there is nothing worthy of remark here, save the extensive and lovely landscape which is opened to the view, bounded by the hills of the Isle of Wight, and with the sea in the foreground. Hayling Island is distinctly seen, and right and left is spread a panorama of picturesque scenery as beautiful as any in this country. A narrow spiral staircase conducts from this conservatory to a vaulted corridor, open to the west on the lowest level on the west front. This is designed as a promenade on rainy days. From this corridor we passed onto the green turf before the house. It is an elegant edifice, very unlike the general massive and stately architecture employed in England. The style is pure Swiss, with all the gables and terraces prominent as a mountain chateau.

Altogether Leigh Park is a very charming place; and as Mr Young, is continually making improvements, in which he is warmly supported by the owner of the estate. I have no doubt that in the course of time it will become one of the finest residences in England.

George Newlyn, Journal of Horticulture & Cottage Gardener, Vol. X11, 13 June 1867

1867 (May) – Visit to Leigh Park and the Statue of Medea

Mr Stone, M.P. for Portsmouth has opened his park and pleasure grounds at Leigh Park, near Hayling Island, in Hants., to the public twice a month. Last Coronation Day they were visited by 14,000 persons. Leigh Park House cost £13,000 in rebuilding, and the estate comprises 2,500 acres. Amongst the statuary at Leigh Park is the American sculptor Story's famous statue of Medea.

Illustrated London News, 25 May 1867

1867 (July) – A Sunday School Treat:

On Monday the children of the Sunday School in connection with the Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Southsea, had their annual summer treat in Leigh Park, which was thrown open to them through the kindness of Mr W.H. Stone, Esq.'

Hampshire Advertiser, 27 July 1867

1868 (March)

Bedhampton School owes its origin to two men, namely the Rev. St John Alder, former Rector of Bedhampton, and William Stone. At his death in 1864 the Rev. Alder left a legacy towards the cost of erecting schools for the parish. This amounted to £101 0s. 9d. and was paid to William Henry Stone on 18 March 1868. The reason for this was that Stone was providing the rest of the money towards the new school and also providing the land which it would be built on. The architect chosen was Richard William Drew, who designed Leigh Park House, and no doubt the bricks were made at the brick yard at Leigh Park. The design of the building reflects closely to both the style of the Town Hall in Havant and even has a passing look of Leigh Park House about it. It was built on the corner of Bedhampton Road and Kingscroft Lane, the contractor being Mr Stallard, carpenter and builder of Havant. The school officially opened on 16 March 1868 with 73 children admitted and the building was enlarged in 1873 at a cost of £376. It was further enlarged in 1895 to hold 185 children.

1868 (1 April)

Leigh Park, Havant

To the Editor of the *Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette*

Sir, as Saturday, the 11th of April, is likely to be a holiday with many of the inhabitants of Portsmouth, and as there will be no doubt many visitors in the town, I have thought that some of them may like to visit the grounds at Leigh Park on that day. I shall be much obliged, therefore, if you will allow me to announce through your columns that the grounds will be open to the public on Saturday, the 11th, in addition to the usual days in April.

*W.H. Stone, 1 April 1868.
Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette, 4 April 1868*

1868 (22 October) – the Havant Town Hall Company Ltd was formed under the chairmanship of William Stone and a group of twelve directors with Charles Longcroft as Solicitor. William Stone contributed £500 to the cause with a further amount totaling £2,000 raised in 400 £5 shares. In 1869 the company purchased for £150 a plot of land, part of the large East Town's End Field, owned by Richard Scott, situated at the corner of the Retreat (Town Hall Road) and the former Turnpike Road (East Street), close to the new Hayling Branch Line Railway. Richard William Drew, again was commissioned to draw up plans for the new building. The building work started in late 1869 and the work was finished by the end of January 1870 at a cost of £1,500. The building, in brick, stone and tile was built in the pseudo-Gothic style and has a strong resemblance to Drew's other design, Leigh Park House. No doubt, again the bricks and tiles were made at the brickyard at Leigh Park. The builders being John and Mark Hillary of Andover.

1868 (15 August) – William Stone’s Address To the Electors of the Borough of Portsmouth:

Gentlemen,

During the three sessions of Parliament, of which I have had the honour of representing you I have to the best of my ability, discharged the trust committed to me in the accordance with the principles which I have always professed. For a considerable portion of this time the Government has unfortunately, as I think, been in the hands of a Conservative minority; but the Liberal party have nevertheless been able greatly to influence the course of legislation. The abolition of compulsory Church Rates, and of flogging in the Army, may be instanced as measures carried by us in spite of strenuous opposition.

The Reform Act of 1867, though inadequate in its redistribution of seats, and encumbered by unnecessary and mischievous disturbance of our rating system, was yet a grand triumph of Liberal principles. It should never be forgotten that this measure, as enlarged and approved by the House of Commons, has hardly anything in common with the unsatisfactory Bill brought by the Government.

The feebleness of the Scotch, and particularly of the Irish, Reform Acts shows the disadvantage of the legislation under a Government unable to enforce its own ideas, and unwilling frankly to adopt those of others. The proposed annexation of Gosport to Portsmouth would have unjustly diminished your share of electoral power; and my colleague and I successfully opposed it before the Select Committee.

I have deeply regretted the distress caused by the extensive discharge of Dockyard artisans. While admitting that this measure may have been to some extent unavoidable, I cannot but think that a little forethought might have greatly mitigated the severity of its effects.

The present and most unsatisfactory relations between the people of Ireland and the Government make it the first duty of our statesmen to seek for the causes of dissatisfaction and their remedies. I consider that a Church Establishment maintained by the state for the religion of a small minority is a real and reasonable ground of discontent. To prove this it seems only necessary to imagine a similar institution maintained in England under similar circumstances.

I earnestly desire the spread of Protestantism in Ireland, and I am a sincere friend to the Church of England: I do not believe that the one will be checked or the other endangered by the disestablishment of the Irish Church; and I regard the cries of “No Popery” and “The Church of England in danger” as altogether inappropriate at the present crisis. I intend to offer myself to you for re-election, in conjunction with my present colleague with whom I have happily been able to agree on almost all important questions. If I am again honoured by your confidence, I shall continue in the course which I have hitherto followed; and shall give an independent but decided support to the great Statesman who now heads the Liberal party.

Measures for the improvement and extension of public education, particularly of the poorer classes; for nationalising our great Universities; for the fairer adjustment of the burdens of local taxation; for greater economy in our national expenditure; improved administration of the poor rates, reform of the great administrative departments of Government, and for many other useful ends, will probably be brought before the new Parliament, and will have my zealous support, in furtherance of the two great objects, individual liberty and national progress.

I am Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant,

W.H. Stone

Leigh Park, 15 August 1868

1868 (September)

Horticultural Jottings

I saw some magnificent rhododendrons at Leigh Park this summer; they were planted in groups on the border of a very fine piece of ornamental water, and there was one large bed of them on the island in the centre of the lake. The effect produced, when looking down upon them from the terrace in front of the house, was very fine, for the colours were all blended, and this is a point to be attended to when you mass these shrubs.

Bells Weekly Messenger, 19 September 1868

1868 (4 September) – a daughter Melicent, named after her mother, was born at Leigh Park to William and Melicent Stone and baptised at St Faith's church in Havant on 22 October 1868.

1868 (7 November – 17 December) – General Election – Prior to the new election on 18 November 1868 for Portsmouth Stone had only spoken four times in the House before it was dissolved and this shows that he was not a prominent parliamentary figure. As a biography, written after his death, stated of his time as an M.P he:

...amply justified the confidence which was reposed in him by his electors. He was not by any means what could be called a "showy member", for he never considered it part of his vocation to be constantly occupied in adding his quota to the interminable flow of "words, words, words", which ascend daily into the empyrean from the floor of the Lower House of Legislation. Yet when he felt that the occasion warranted it, he was never at a loss in a point of oratorical power. A crisp and epigrammatical speaker, he could hit hard when he liked, and he also

knew how to pay a graceful compliment. He was always perfectly fearless in his remarks, yet thoroughly fair, and no one was more anxious than he that his opponent should have a good chance of obtaining an impartial hearing.

1868 (18 November) – William Stone returned to Parliament as the second member for Portsmouth but he had quite a fight to keep his seat. Sir James Elphinstone, the lone Conservative topped the poll with 5,276 votes, Stone was second with 3,797 with his Liberal colleague Stephen Gaselee third on 3,703.

1868 – William Stone built the North Lodge opposite the Staunton Arms public house. This was the only lodge Stone built. With an entrance and drive through the woodlands to the house it gave access to the estate from the Horndean/London direction.

1869 (21 July)

Annual Excursion

The members and friends of the Portsea Island Young Men's Christian Association held their annual excursion on Tuesday, at Leigh Park. By the kind permission of W.H. Stone, Esq. M.P., and the exertions of Mr Young, head-gardener, tea was provided in the gardens, and the use of the library granted for the occasion. Invitations were sent to the respective societies at Ryde, Gosport, and Fareham. After tea various sports were indulged in, and the friends retired at a reasonable hour, having spent a day of rational enjoyment not to be forgotten.

Hampshire Telegraph, 24 July 1869

1869 (7 August) – Cricket Match at Leigh Park between two Hampshire Newspapers:

Hampshire Independent v Hampshire Telegraph

This match, fourteen aside, was played at Leigh Park, Havant, on Saturday, The Independent batted first, and the bowlers opposed to them were Melson, Salter, and Baker, with Bone as wicket-keeper. The principal scores were made by Simmonds 58 (not out), Hayter 11, and A.J. Dyer 11, the innings closing at 101, The Telegraph then went in to the bowling of Hayter, Garratt, and Hunt. Salter batted well for 13, and the wides and a few singles brought the score up to 21, eleven out of the fourteen getting duck's eggs." The Telegraph followed their innings, and lost five wickets for 28 runs, Salter again batting well for 13. The Independent were the winners on the first innings.

Hampshire Advertiser, 11 August 1869

1869 (September)

Havant Supper

On Friday last the employees and workmen on the Leigh Park Farm, numbering between 70 and 80 sat down to their annual supper at Leigh Farm. Mr Carter (Farm Baliff) took the chair, supported by Mr Young (Head Gardener). The loyal and complimentary toasts were drunk, coupled with the name of Mr W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P. and family. A most pleasant evening being spent by all. The following day a match of cricket was played by men between "Single and Married," the former proving victorious.

Hampshire Telegraph, 29 September 1869

1869 (December)

Mr. W.H. Stone, M.P. as an Inventor

Although the invention is at present in an incomplete state, it gives us much pleasure to announce our member, Mr W.H. Stone, as the inventor of a plan for watering cattle during their transit by railway. Though by an Act passed last session of Parliament railway companies are compelled to provide water for animals on the request of the consignor, yet from the trouble which is involved under the existing arrangements the cattle during their transportation from place to place are frequently neglected, and a great amount of suffering ensues. The great merit of Mr Stone's invention consists in the fact that it utilises the ordinary cattle trucks, which can be made available at a small cost. Mr Spencer Smith, engineer, Holborn, London, has carried out the plans of Mr Stone, and on Wednesday week a trial took place at the Holloway Station of the Great Northern Railway. The apparatus was tested with the sanction of the committee which is now enquiring into the subject of feeding and watering of cattle on journeys under the instruction of the Privy Council, and in the presence of Professor Simonds, of the Veterinary Department, and Capt. Tyler, R.E. A cistern holding 40 gallons of water, is fixed at one end of an ordinary cattle truck (outside). Under this cistern is fixed a small supply cistern, to which are attached pipes running up the sides of the truck. On each side are five outlets to the pipes, to which india-rubber pipes are fixed, and attached to these are round tin pans, of ten inches in diameter, and three inches in depth. When the cattle require to be watered these pans are placed on the floor of the truck. This is done from the outside, there being sufficient room for them to pass between the floor and the lower rail. The water is then turned on from the upper cistern, and having risen to a proper height in the pans, is shut off by a ball valve. As the cattle drink the water keeps running in, the ball valve preventing it from flowing over. The cattle having been watered, the

pans are taken out, and hung up outside the truck, sufficiently high to keep the india-rubber pipes quite tight. Although the subject is still under the discussion of the committee, yet as friends of the beast, we hail with satisfaction every movement calculated to alleviate the suffering animals undergo when travelling by railway, whether the promoter be that estimable lady Miss Burdett Coutts, or Mr Stone, who is himself a large landowner, and as a matter of course intimately connected to farmers and stockbreeders.

Hampshire Telegraph, 18 December 1869

1870 – Watercolour of Leigh Park House painted by Rowlands Castle painter Charles Rogers Cotton.

1870 (June)

Fareham and South Hants. Horticultural Society Show

As usual Mr. W.H. Stone's contribution to the show was large and exceedingly good in every point, the specimen plants especially being admired for their rarity and beauty, while the exotic ferns were considerable above the average and took first prize.

Hampshire Telegraph, 25 June 1870

1870 (July)

The first match of cricket of this season was played in Leigh Park, on Monday and Tuesday, between the Priory Park, Chichester, and the Havant clubs. A large pavilion has been erected in the park by W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P., which greatly adds to the comfort of the players, and increases the obligation the Havant club are under to Mr Stone, who has always placed his beautiful ground at their disposal. The match terminated in the defeat of the Havant Club, the Priory Park scoring 106 in the first innings against their 31; and in the second innings got the 65 to win, with two wickets down.'

Hampshire Telegraph, 23 July 1870

1871 (April) – Census – William Stone and his family were not at Leigh Park on the day of the census, instead they were recorded at Stone's other country property – Casino House, Dulwich Hill, a property he inherited from his father.

1871 (28 June)

Coronation Day

The Portsmouth Temperance Society took their annual excursion to Leigh Park, which was kindly lent for the occasion by W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P. The beautiful grounds, hot-houses, conservatories, etc., were thrown open to the public from two till seven o'clock. No less than 8,000 persons went by train from this town (Portsmouth) to avail themselves of such an excellent opportunity of enjoying themselves, and the trains as they left the Landport Station, were crowded to excess.

Hampshire Telegraph, 1 July 1871

1871 (July)

Chichester Horticultural Society Show

The beautiful collection of ornamental foliage plants brought by Mr. Young, gardener to W.H Stone. Esq., M.P., Leigh Park, was the cynosure of all eyes. We noticed especially beautiful grown examples of alocasia metallica, phorium tenax variegata, new caladiums, thrinax elegans, etc. Among the ferns were superb specimens of alsophila guanensis, davallia and cybotium princeps.

Hampshire Telegraph, 5 July 1871

1872 (17 May) – Death of George Young at Leigh Park after a short illness at the age of 56, head gardener to William Stone. He was replaced as head gardener by George Jobson.

1872 (May)

Good Templar Demonstration at Leigh Park

The Independent Order of Good Templars, which we may say is in a most flourishing condition in this borough, numbering as it does six lodges, held a grand demonstration at Leigh Park, the seat of Mr. W.H. Stone, M.P., on Whit Monday. A number of trains ran from Portsmouth to Havant during the afternoon, and all were more or less crowded with members and friends of the Order, and ordinary holiday keepers. Not only was the park thrown open to visitors, but Mr. Stone kindly allowed the public to enter his splendid gardens and conservatories, and these attracted a large number of persons.

Hampshire Telegraph, 22 May 1872

1872 (August) – During 1872 cricket season William Stone played twice more for the Havant Club in two matches against Portsmouth Garrison, In the first match which Havant lost he scored one and two runs in the two innings. He had much better success in the drawn match on 21 and 22 August where he scored two runs in the first innings and twenty one in the second.

1873 (February) – In parliament William Stone seconded the address in answer to the Queen's Speech, read in the Queen's absence by the Lord Chancellor in the Commons at the Opening of Parliament. The address was moved by the Hon. C.G. Lyttleton and seconded by Stone, as some have said the highlight of his political career. This was followed by a dinner given by W.E. Gladstone, the Prime Minister, at his residence on Carlton House Terrace. *The London Illustrated News* also ran in February a report on his political career up to that date:

...a steady Liberal voting generally, if not always, with the present Government. As a member he has been generally unobtrusive seldom, if ever, originating any motions of his own or amendments in measures, but he is understood to be a very good 'business member' as the phrase goes.

1873 – William Stone puts a one and a quarter mile avenue or drive through the woodlands, starting near to the house in the north-east direction. A bathing lake and pavilion are also added towards the top of the drive.

1873 (June)

Grand Amalgamated Fete and Gala of Foresters and Druids

Those possessing no desire to engage in any of the numerous amusements wandered through the gardens and conservatories, which had been liberally thrown open on the occasion, and we have no doubt the attention paid by the crowds of the visitors to the valuable English and exotic specialities, and to the warnings of the large number of Mr Stone's workmen, who politely, yet firmly, interfered whenever they saw anything to justify interference, will have the effect of inducing that gentleman to continue to afford the people of Portsmouth and the surrounding neighbourhood, the opportunity of visiting his seat, and enjoying rambles through his well -appointed gardens and greenhouses. The flowers did not appear so thoroughly forward as they were this time last year, but they still looked beautiful and their delicious fragrance pervaded the whole of the grounds. The large and carpet-like lawn was taken advantage of by a large number of the visitors as a resting place, and the beautiful prospect of the lake and island and the new drive through the wood was much admired by all.'

Hampshire Telegraph, 4 June 1873

1873 (4 September) – The last cricket match William Stone himself played in was an intriguing game made up of a team from the Leigh Park Estate versus eleven men of the nearby Stansted Estate at Leigh Park on 4 September 1873. No doubt Stone captained the Leigh Park team and the then owner of Stansted, George Wilder, captained his team. Over the two innings Stansted were victorious by nine wickets.

1873 (27 September)

On the 27th ult. the annual harvest home took place at the farm at Leigh Park, when between 70 and 80 of the employees on the estate of Mr W.H. Stone, Esq., M.P., sat down to an excellent supper provided by Mrs. Carter. The chair was taken by Mr. Carter, supported by Mr. Jobson, etc. After the cloth was removed the usual toasts were given, and the health of Mr. and Mrs Stone and family was drunk most enthusiastically; also of Messrs Carter and Jobson. On the following day a general holiday was given, in which all enjoyed themselves in a game of cricket in the beautiful park.

Hampshire Telegraph, 11 October 1873

1874 (26 January) – Parliament is dissolved – William Stone leaves Parliament for the last time.

1874 (3 February) – William Stone stands again for the Borough of Portsmouth in the election. Unfortunately Stone loses the election coming third of four candidates: Elphinstone 5,927 votes; Hon. Thomas Bruce, 5,879; Stone, 4,646; Portal, 4,588. The two conservative nominees took the first two positions with Stone and his colleague William Portal losing out. A doggerel verse sang to the tune “Pop goes the weasel” was popular after the election at Portsmouth:

*Elphinstone's at the top of the poll,
Bruce is close behind him.
Stone's gone home to shut up his park
And Portal's gone to find him.*

1874 (4 February) – William Stone’s Farewell Address:

To the Liberal Electors of the Borough of Portsmouth

Gentlemen,

On public as well as personal grounds I regret the result of yesterday’s Election, which has deprived me of the Honour of representing you in Parliament, and has placed the Borough for the first time in many years in the hands of the Conservative party.

It only now remains for me most heartily to thank those many friends who have so kindly and consistently supported me during the past eight years, and especially during the recent contest.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

W.H. Stone,

Portsmouth, 4 February 1874

1874 (25 May)

Druids’ Fete at Leigh Park

Those who spent their afternoon at Leigh Park on Monday could not possibly have been disappointed. It was there that the Druids, by the kind permission of W.H. Stone, Esq., held their gala and athletic sports, which were patronised by holiday folk from all parts, including not a few from London. Everything in the park appeared in excellent condition. The magnificent conservatory adjoining the house was of course, locked up, but the gardens and hot houses, where the plants are brought to such wonderful perfection by Mr Jobson, the gardener, were thrown open. In the hot-houses we noticed some splendid foliage plants, orchids in bloom, melons, and a handsome Victoria Regia, which was very much admired. The lake in the valley, which is over-looked by the house, presented a very pretty appearance, with its banks covered with fine rhododendrons, in full bloom and other flowers. Numerous enquiries were made by admirers of the place as to the truth of a rumour to the effect that Mr Stone had sold the park; but it was ascertained that there was not the slightest foundation for such a statement, although it was explained that the rumour might have arisen in consequence of a small farm in the neighbourhood, known as East Leigh, having been advertised for sale by auction a short time since.

Hampshire Telegraph, 27 May 1874

1874 (3 August)

Leigh Park, Havant

Those who took there day's outing in the beautiful grounds surrounding Mr. Stone's residence at Leigh Park had every opportunity for enjoyment, for not only was the ride from Portsmouth a pleasant one amid the standing sheaves of new cut corn, but the estate itself was in splendid condition. All the greenhouses, hothouses, and forcing places were thrown open to the general public, save those where the fruit was too temptingly within reach; and the display of flowering plants, both in colour and variety, was rich and rare. In the upper Park, near the house, the Forresters of the Portsmouth district held a fete, but the attendance could be scarcely considered satisfactory, although several hundreds of visitors, were of course, present.

Hampshire Telegraph, 5 August 1874

1874 (8 August) – First preliminary notice for the upcoming Sale of the Leigh Park Estate in the local press.

1874 (August)

The Leigh Park Estate

A distinguished and exceedingly Valuable and Compact Freehold Manorial Domain, almost entirely land tax redeemed, delightfully situate in one of the most favourite parts of the county, in the rural parishes of Havant and Bedhampton, within one mile and a half of the town of Havant, where there is a junction station on the direct London and Portsmouth, and London, Brighton and South Coast Railways, with a good service of trains, and thence within two hours' ride by rail from the Metropolis. The Estate is also about seven miles from Portsmouth, and nine from Chichester, Petersfield, and Fareham. The Mansion is in the pointed Gothic style of architecture, adopted from the 14th century, and presents a handsome structure, in red brick, with stone dressings. It is approached by carriage drives, terminating with lodge entrances in various styles, and commands extensive views of the Isle of Wight and the surrounding picturesque sea and island scenery, the varied beauties of which can scarcely be over-rated. It stands on high-ground, in an undulating and well wooded park of about 300 acres, and was erected about ten years since from the designs and under the superintendence of an eminent architect, in a most substantial manner, the woodwork being principally of oak, and finished in excellent taste. It contains twenty four principal and secondary bed and dressing rooms, besides nursery, ladies-boudoir, two bath-rooms, noble hall with gallery, elegant drawing room, communicating with a spacious conservatory, morning room, library, study,

dining and billiard rooms, smoking room in the tower, and well-arranged servants' apartments and domestic offices in the wing of the building, with good cellarage under, excellent stabling for about fifteen horses, carriage houses etc., all in perfect order and well supplied with water. The gardens and pleasure grounds of about 30 acres are artistically laid out in sloping lawns with parterres, terrace walks, and arcades, of a very beautiful character, embellished with well grown timber in almost endless variety, including unusually fine specimens of rare trees and shrubs. An ornamental lake, with rustic bridges and islands planted with rhododendrons, adds to the charm of the demesne. There are also large fruit and vegetable gardens, a Victoria Regia house with an exceedingly fine specimen, a complete range of hot and succession houses, with vineries, pine pits, peach and orchard houses, fernery, and numerous superior cottages. The Estate comprises a total area of nearly 1,900 acres. The Mansion and about 1,400 acres, which include the Park and the Home and Middle Park Farms, are in hand. Of this area the celebrated woodlands, called the Thicket comprises about 700 acres, with a broad avenue of a mile and a quarter, opening from the Mansion, with many miles of beautiful turf drives and rides.

Hampshire Telegraph, 29 August 1874

1874 (21/22 August) – The Leigh Park Estate purchased by Col. Sir Frederick Wellington John Fitzwygram. His sister Selena Frances Fitzwygram acted as his hostess at Leigh Park.

1874 (23 October)

Leigh Park

This beautiful freehold estate in South Hants., the property of Mr W.H. Stone, the late Liberal member for Portsmouth has been purchased by Col. Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Bart., by Private Contract and therefore the Auction advertised for Wednesday, the 28th inst., will not take place.

Western Gazette, 23 October 1874

1874 (28 October) – Sales Particulars of the aborted sale of the Leigh Park Estate included:

Leigh Park House

The Interior of the Mansion is arranged as follows:-

On the Upper Storey: Nine Bed Chambers (one of which is used as a Smoking Room), Water Closet, and Housemaid's Closet, with taps for hot and cold water. The Rooms on this floor are principally 10ft. High. A Passage leading to a Bed Chamber in the Tower and Staircase to two Rooms over.

First Storey: Principal Bed Chamber, about 24 ft. 6 ins. By 20ft, communicating with a smaller Bed or Dressing Room. Ladies Boudoir, about 19 ft. 6 ins., exclusive of bay, by 19 ft., with enlarged window, communicating with a smaller Bed or Dressing Room, and two other Bed Chambers. Another Best Bed Chamber, about 23 ft. 6 ins. by 13 ft. 6ins., communicating with a smaller Bed or Dressing Room, and three other Bed Chambers. Bath Room, fitted with fire place and Bath with taps for hot and cold water; Housemaids Closet with sink and taps for hot and cold water, and a Water Closet. The Rooms on this floor are about 11 ft. high On the Half Descent are Corridors leading to a Water Closet and Bath Room, fitted with a fire-place, and Bath with taps for hot and cold water, also Butler's and Footmen's Sleeping Apartments, approached by a separate Staircase, beyond which are Large Day Nursery, communicating with a Night Nursery, two Bed Chambers, Water Closet, and Housemaid's sink with taps for hot and cold water, all of which can be shut off and are approached by another Staircase. The Rooms are in the wing of the Building and about 10 ft. high.

Ground Floor: The Grand Hall, about 29 ft. by 27 ft. and 28 ft. high, from which ascends the Handsome Main Staircase Carved in Oak,

Having open fire-place with carved stone chimney piece, three handsome traceried windows, and lofty panelled ceiling delicately decorated in colours. Crossing the Hall is an Arcade of three pointed arches, moulded and executed in Chalk with Marble Shafts, supporting Corridor of First Floor which forms a gallery to the Hall, with Oak Front designed in moulded panels.

The Reception Rooms comprise, An Elegant Drawing Room, about 30 ft. by 19 ft. 6 ins. (exclusive of bay) with embayed window, the paper to walls richly gilt in insects and flowers.

Library: about 28 ft. 6 ins. by 19 ft. 6 ins. With panelled ceiling and three windows, and fitted with oak bookcases specially designed.

Three Rooms are divided by a corridor with sliding doors, and when thrown together give a total length of about 72 feet, and communicate at the Drawing

Room end by three French windows with a Conservatory, about 44 ft. by 20ft. With tessellated floor and Flower Beds, and semi-circular projection forming super-heated portion for delicate flowers. The Lanterns of the Roof having Ornamental Arches resting on iron-columns. A covered way from Conservatory gives access to the Promenade. Between the above Reception Rooms is another Porch.

Entrance From the Terrace: with tessellated floor and panelled ceiling.

A Capital Dining Room: about 30 ft. by 20 ft., with embayed window, serving door with serving Lobby adjoining, and recess for sideboard, the ceiling panelled in oak.

A Cheerful Morning Room, about 18 ft. 6 ins. By 17 ft. 6 ins., a light and lofty Billiard Room. About 32 ft. (including bay) by 18 ft. 6 ins., one of the windows forming raised access for seats.

A Study, or Magistrate's Room, with Water Closet adjoining, Cloak Closet, and Gentleman's Lavatory with taps for hot and cold water and Water Closet adjoining. The before-described Rooms on the Ground Floor are about 14 ft. high, and decorated in good taste, the principal windows are of plate glass, and the Rooms next Terrace Walk fitted with French sashes giving easy access thereto.

The Domestic Offices are well arranged, and all in the wing of the Mansion, Butler's Pantry, with strong Closet, sink, dressers and cupboards, Still Room with sink with taps for hot and cold water and presses; Linen Closet adjoining with presses, Housekeeper's Room, Store Room adjoining with fire-place, Servants' Hall, Kitchen fitted with range, hot plate and closets, gas stove, dressers, and serving door, Pastry Pantry with slate shelf, paved scullery with range, sink and copper, Housemaid's Closet and Maidservant's Water Closet; also an entrance for luggage and another for Tradespeople.

There are Electric Bells from the principal Rooms, and Speaking Tubes to various parts of the Mansion.

The Stable Buildings were erected simultaneously with the Mansion, and are in character, therewith, they are conveniently situate within two or three minutes' walk, and are screened by well grown trees,

They comprise: Eight Stalls and Five Loose Boxes, with iron fittings, two Carriage Houses, (one of which is heated by hot water), each to hold four Carriages, boarded Harness Room with fire-place, Water Closet, Coal Store, covered Watering Place, and Manure Enclosure, also two Large Lofts and Men's Room over, the whole surmounted by an Ornamental Turret with Clock, and enclosed by a wall with folding gates. Underneath the Yard is a very large Tank of Water

Head Coachman's House with Dairy, Bake-house with Brick-oven, Wash-house with Copper and Garden.

1876 (28 September) – Although now not resident at Leigh Park William Stone in this year still gave in trust a five-acre field he still owned in New Lane known as Lower New Lane Field:

Upon trust for the encouragement of the good and careful cultivation of land by persons of the labouring classes resident in the parish of Havant and providing out of the land hereby conveyed so far as the same will extend small plots of land for persons of the labouring classes resident in Havant who may be willing to take them at a fair rent.

THE LATE
WILLIAM HENRY STONE, ESQ., DL., J.P.,

THE death of Mr. W. H. Stone, who died suddenly on November 7th, 1896, has deprived Surrey of one of the most vigorous of its public workers. This gentleman comes of a very old county family, being descended from Nicholas Stone, who was an important landowner at Framfield Sutton in the seventeenth century. Mr. Stone was born October 8th, 1834, and was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had a distinguished career, gaining a first class in Classics and a Wranglership. He was made a Fellow of Trinity in 1859.

A staunch Liberal in politics, Mr. Stone contested the seat for the town of Portsmouth in 1863 and was successful in his candidature, retaining his seat until 1873, and during that time he amply justified the confidence which was reposed in him by his electors. He was not by any means what could be called a "showy member," for he never considered it part of his vocation to be constantly occupied in adding his quota to the interminable flow of "words, words, words" which ascend daily into the empyrean from the floor of our Lower House of Legislation. Yet when he felt that the occasion warranted it, he was never at a loss in point of oratorical power. A crisp and upigrammatical speaker, he could hit hard when he liked, and he also knew how to pay a graceful compliment. He was always perfectly fearless in his remarks, yet thoroughly fair, and no one was more anxious than he that his opponent should have a good chance of obtaining an impartial hearing.

In 1801 Mr. Stone was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Surrey, and took an active part in registration work in the Reigate Division. Always an exceedingly busy man, he belonged to numerous public companies and trusts, and managed to perform thoroughly and well a vast quantity of work which might easily have alarmed a less methodical or capable gentleman.

The question of education had always possessed great interest for Mr. Stone, for he held that it is one of the most important of the time. He was a Governor of Harrow School and also of Dulwich College, and was Deputy-Chairman of the Board in each case. He was a Governor of the Central Foundation Schools, London; Chairman of the Council of the Girls' Public Day Schools Company, Limited, and also of that for the Boys.

In addition to holding such important positions, Mr. Stone was well known in the financial world as the Deputy-Chairman of the London and County Banking Company, Limited, besides which he was also a Director of several other prosperous public companies.

Although he was never associated with Surrey as one of her Parliamentary representatives, Mr. Stone prominently identified himself with the political life of the County, and was for some years President of the Guildford Central Liberal Association. Even after resigning that position he by no means ceased to exercise considerable influence with the Liberal County Party.

Mr. Stone was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Surrey in 1801; he was, too, a Deputy-Lieutenant for the County, and a Justice of the Peace for Hampshire. Formerly he commanded a Volunteer Corps in West Sussex, and was for many years Chairman of the Committee of the Female Orphan Asylum, Beddington.

Mr. Stone's residence was Lower House, Thursley, Godalming. Between 1861 and 1874 he lived at Leigh Park, Havant, and afterwards at Norbury Park, Dorking, and Lea Park, Godalming. He married Melicent, daughter of the late Sir Arthur Helps, K.C.B. His clubs were the Athenæum, United University, and City Liberal.

The County of Surrey with Illustrated Biographies, 1896

