

**John Strange Jocelyn, 5th Earl Roden, 3rd Baron Clanbrassil of Hyde Hall, 6th Baron Newport (1823 – 1897)**

*Crimean War and a possible scandal*

*This article is the ninth in my series of 'follow-ups' to my earlier article of November 2018, entitled Hyde Hall/Great Hyde Hall, in which I have been writing about the residents and owners of Hyde Hall, especially the Jocelyn family.*

John Strange Jocelyn was the second son of Robert Jocelyn, the 3rd Earl and his first wife Maria. Because his nephew, the 4th Earl died relatively young, unmarried and childless, it was John Strange who inherited the title of 5th Earl upon the latter's demise.

John Strange was born on 4 June 1823 at Tollymore House, Bryansford in County Down. He was educated at Harrow School. On 25 July 1851, at Hanover Square in London, John Strange married Sophia Hobhouse, the daughter of Baron Broughton of Broughton-de-Gyfford. Sophia was born in 1832 at Hanover Square. Bearing in mind that the Jocelyn family had property nearby, they may well have known each other earlier. They had just the one child, a daughter, Violet Charlotte Julia Maria, born on 2 June 1858; she died on 22 October 1922.



*John Strange Jocelyn in a portrait by Frederick Sargent from the 1870s*

John Strange was commissioned into the Army in 1851 and initially served with the 2nd Jager Corps, also known as the German Legion, a force which consisted mainly of German men and which was raised to fight in the Crimea. However, they were sent instead to South Africa. John Strange did not

go with them, though, as he was transferred to the Scots Fusilier Guards, where he was to finally attain the rank of Lt. Colonel. John Strange did, however, go on to serve in the Crimea with this regiment, landing there with them on 14 September 1854. He was present at the battles of the Alma (20 September), Balaclava (25 October) and Inkerman (5 November), although his regiment only had a major role in the first battle, where they lost 11 officers and 149 other ranks as casualties



*Scots Fusilier Guards parading at Buckingham Palace prior to embarkation for the Crimea*

John Strange was awarded the French Chevalier Legion d'honneur and the ottoman Order of Medjidie for his service in the Crimea.

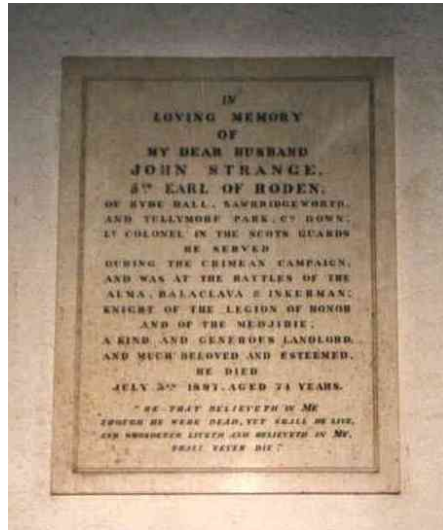


*Order of Medjidie*

After leaving the Army, he became Deputy Lord Lieutenant for County Down, but seems to have spent most of his time in London. In census returns he was living in Hanover Square in 1861, and in St. James, Westminster, in 1871.

On 9 January 1880, following the death of his nephew, John Strange inherited the titles of Earl of Roden, Baron Clanbrassil and Baron Newport. Somewhat sadly, with no male heir, he was the 3rd and last Baron Clanbrassil, the title becoming extinct on his demise.

John Strange died on 3 July 1897 at Hanover Square in London. He was buried at Great St. Mary's in Sawbridgeworth. Later a plaque was erected to him by his surviving wife and is can still be seen inside the church.



*Plaque inside Great St. Mary's church*

Despite being buried at Great St. Mary's church in Sawbridgeworth, there is little evidence that John Strange spent much time at Hyde Hall. He seems to have spent most of his life in London. However, it is interesting to note that in 1883 his recorded estates included 8,903 acres of land in County Down, 4,151 acres in County Louth, 1,134 acres in Essex and 408 acres in Hertfordshire.

Having no male heir, John Strange was succeeded as Earl of Roden by his cousin, William Henry Jocelyn, who is to be the subject of a later article.

John Strange's wife Sophia survived him and died at the age of 84 in 1916, still living in Hanover Square. However, she too is also buried at Great St. Mary's in Sawbridgeworth.



*Tombstone of John Strange Jocelyn and his wife Sophia*

As an afterword, it should be noted that there was a rumour which was prevalent at the time, that John Strange had an affair with the wife of Lord Randolph Churchill, which resulted in the birth of a son, John Strange Churchill, who was the younger brother of Winston Churchill. There appears to be little or no substance to this story, but the Churchill family were in Ireland at the right time and the similarity of the names is thought provoking.

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