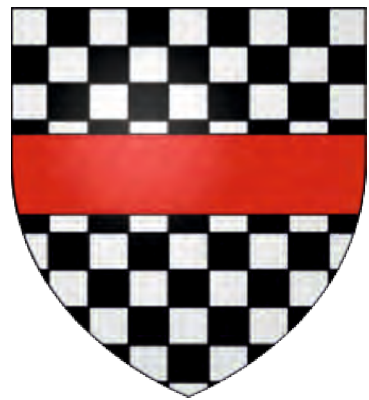


THE ACLANDS

Like the Grenville's and Arundel's they are an ancient family but not of Norman descent but English (Saxon). The first reference to the name was in 1155 when Hugh Aclan was the owner of a small farm at Landkey, near Barnstaple, now known as Acland Barton. They prospered and increased the amount of land, probably by their ability to have to sons who married heiresses who had lands as part of their dowry.

By 1560 they had acquired Holnicote where the main branch of the family lived. Like the Grenville's and Arundel's they were Royalists and were penalised when the Commonwealth replaced the monarchy in the mid 1600s, however this was re-balanced when the monarchy was restored and a Baronetcy was awarded. An important marriage also occurred at this time when Margaret Acland married into the Arundel family of Trerice.



During the 18th century three large estates in Somerset came into the family by marriage and resulted in the name Dyke being added to Acland.

In 1787 the 9th Baronet Thomas Dyke Acland married Henrietta Hoare. Sir Thomas died nine years later leaving his widow and four children with the eldest, Thomas, only being 7 years old.

Lady Acland, left with four young children and the responsibility for the estates, was determined to secure a better future for Thomas and a firm foundation for when he attained the age of majority. This she did with the help of family, lawyers, trustees, bailiffs and friends, also ensuring that Thomas had proper principles based on a religious upbringing which installed the need to be punctual, diligent and to avoid the evils of debt and drink and to be outward in his relations within society.

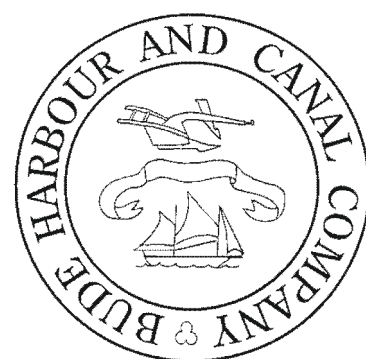
Sir Thomas was well educated having attended Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford. He left in 1807 and when he reached his 21st birthday in April 1808. he married his 3rd cousin Lydia Hoare. They had met 4 years earlier and it was soon agreed that they should marry when he was 21. His wife won her mother-in-law's approval by showing herself to be modest, natural, capable and compliant.

Having reached the age of majority his life changed completely. In minority he was limited with his finances but now found he had £10,000 per year and was not answerable to anyone but had the responsibility for all the estates which covered huge areas of land from the



Bristol Channel to South Devon and, of course, the inherited Cornish manors of Efford, Thurlibeer and Trerice from the Arundel's.

Sir Thomas and Lady Acland made Killerton the main family home and raised their ten children there. They also spent some of their time at Holnicote on Exmoor, Somerset.



So what of Bude in the early 1800s - talk of a canal had died away, the continued war with France suppressed any development of note. Sir Thomas would have been aware of the early canal plans and when those ideas were proposed again in 1818

he was in the right place just at the right time.

The proposals of James Green in 1818 led to the formation of the Bude Harbour & Canal Company in 1819. Sir Thomas was one of the main share holders and owned land in Bude and other areas where the route of the canal was planned.



In the 1819 Act there were included provisions which gave protection to Sir Thomas in relation to the use of his land, his right to create his own basin and wharves and in prescribed circumstances to receive compensation.

Although Efford or Ebbingford Manor was now his property, in 1808 it was held on a long lease by Col. Wrey l'Ans and was not available to occupy until 1840.



Ebbingford was later presented to the Church of England for use as a vicarage after a 'Chapel of Ease' was created on Acland land, above the canal to the west during 1834-35.

Sir Thomas and family eagerly sought a premise to use when visiting Bude. He solved this in 1829 by the reconstruction of delapidated buildings in an area near the sea lock. This created 'Efford Cottage' which became the seaside home he wanted. The 'East' and 'West' cottages which were adjacent were for his resident housekeeper and accommodation for friends and visitors. All this work was done by his architect friend George Wightwick.



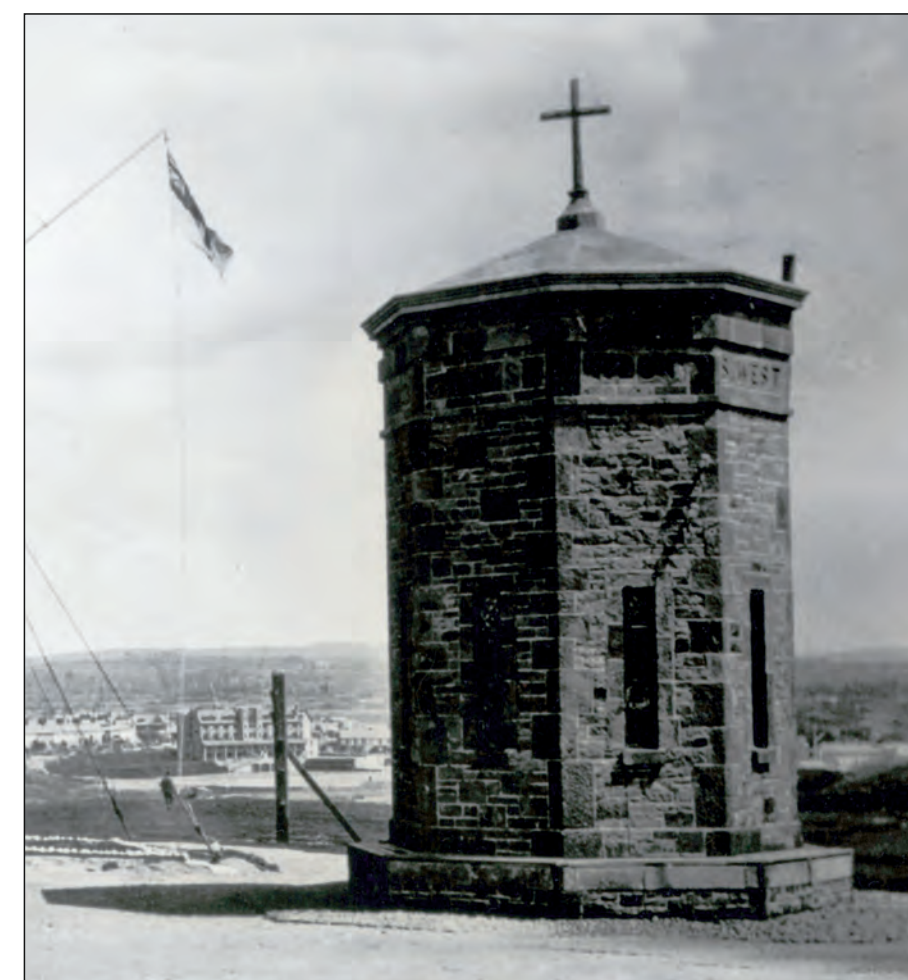
The completion of the canal and its start of operation in 1823 encouraged Sir Thomas to start developing his land in Bude.

Between 1825 and 1850, Sir Thomas caused the following developments on his land at Bude:

- New hotel 'The Falcon' to replace the old coaching Inn.
- Cottages for canal workers, now part of Falcon Terrace.
- Start of construction of houses adjacent the canal, now Breakwater Road.
- Construction of bridge over River Neet and the start of cottages in what is now The Crescent.
- Created woodlands on the rising ground to the west of canal basin to provide a windbreak.
- Erect a Storm Tower overlooking the harbour to provide protection for the men watching out for shipping. This tower was moved in about 1900 because of coastal erosion but was not aligned with the compass points as was the original.

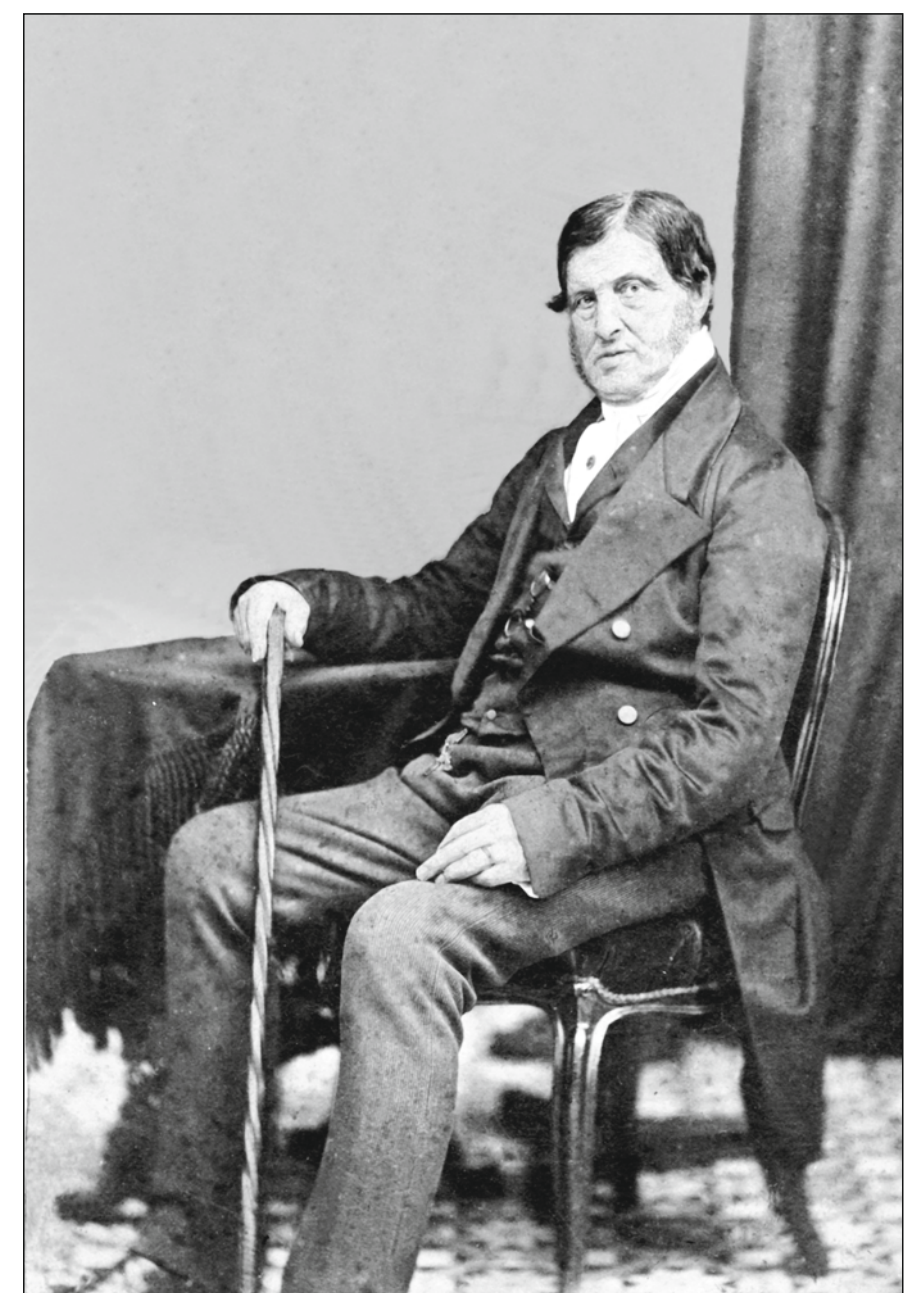
Coincidentally, in this year (2019) advice has been given that the tower is again in danger of erosion to the cliff within the next ten years and enquiries are already under way with a view to raising funding in

order to move the tower to a safer position to preserve this landmark - well, that's 'Plan A' at the moment!



- When the Breakwater was rebuilt provided new stone from his estate at Trerice. He added a bathing pool for men at the end of the Breakwater, known as 'Tommy's Pit'.

- Gave land for the building of a school in Bude which operated until 1985 when new schools were built at Broadclose, Bude.

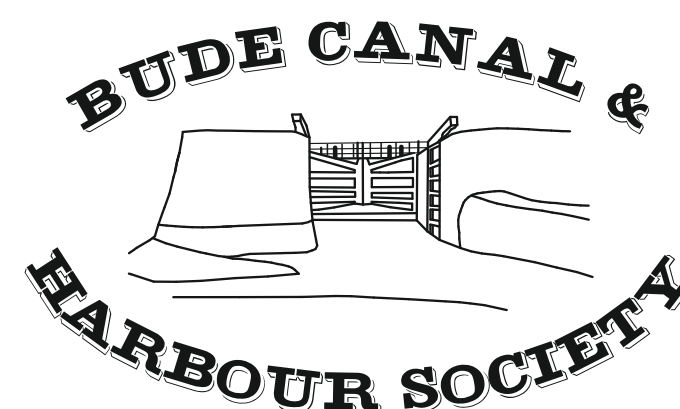


Sir Thomas was a landlord in Bude for 63 years. During his life he served as a Conservative member of Parliament for almost 40 years, firstly for Devon and later for the new North Devon Constituency.

His wife died on 23rd June 1856 and he then spent more time at Bude with his daughter and son-in-law at Efford Down as he seemed to find solace there.

He died at Killerton in July 1871 at the age of 88 years when he became known as 'The Great Sir Thomas', a fitting title for the man who had activated the catalytic effect of the construction of the canal and created the start of the infrastructure for the growing 'hamlet' of Bude Haven.

Based on the booklet 'Aclands & Budehaven' by Kathleen Beswetherick and information researched from records kept at the Archive Centre, The Castle, Bude.



Bude Canal & Harbour Society 2019