

## Gloucester's Historic Characters.

96ce **Nerva** Domitian Assassinated and Nerva elected 65 years old

670ce **Osric** King of the Hwicce ,Anglo Saxon 670ce started  
St.Peter's Abbey  
**Kyneburga**

870-918 **Queen Aethelflaed** 870-918 led (Mercia) Brother Edward (Wessex)  
Daughter of Alfred the Great she ruled Mercia after Aethelred's death, negotiating a  
peace with the vikings after they surrendered to her at Leicester.

1086 **William the Conqueror (1st.)** Parliament and Domesday book.

1216-1272 **Henry 3rd.** Only Monarch crowned outside Westminster

1239-1307 **Edward 1st** Granted money for Blackfriars and Greyfriars.  
Enlarged and lived in Gloucester Castle.

1284-1327 **Edward 2nd** Murdered in Berkeley . Buried by us in Gloucester Abbey

1312-1377 **Edward 3rd.** Crecy      1330-1376 **Edward** (The Black Prince)

1367-1400 **Richard 2nd** Parliament in Glos.

1452-1485 **Richard 3rd** Granted Civic Status to Glos.

1491-1547 **Henry 8th** Visited with Ann Boleyn 1535

1533-1603 **Elizabeth 1st** Stayed in St.Nicholas' House ,Westgate St.

1495-1555 **Bishop Hooper** Executed in Gloucester 9th Feb 1555  
1600-1649 **Charles 1st**

1630-1685      **Charles 2nd**

1650-1702 **William 3rd (of Orange)**

1716      Discovery of spa in Cheltenham—————

1741-1813	<b>Thomas Raikes</b>	Governor of Bof E and friend of William Pitt PM First to issue bank notes instead of gold. Friend of William Wilberforce.
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## **Robert Raikes**

38 Southgate Street. 1736-1811

Visitors asked to see Mr Raikes the Printer

Fanny Burnley, diarist and dresser to Queen Charlotte wife of George III (Royal visit in 1788) anxious to meet him, much taken with him and looked on him " almost with reverence"

Promised to speak to queen about Sunday Schools " the joy with which he heard this was nothing short of rapture"

" An excellent man, I think of him with gratitude and mention his name with respect, almost bordering on adoration " Samuel Ryley, Theatre Manager

" Excessive vanity is a prominent feature of Mr Raikes character " Curate at St M de Crypt.

## **W E Henley**

1 Eastgate Street. August 1849

Developed TB and lost a leg at the age of 14.

A second bout saw him treated in Edinburgh to save his other leg. (Lister)

" A great glowing fellow, massive shouldered, big red beard, jovial, astonishingly clever with laughter that rolled like music"

" Presence felt in a room even if you went in blindfold" both from Robert Louis Stevenson

J.M.Barrie / R.L.Stephenson / Thomas Hardy / Rudyard Kipling /Joseph Conrad /Yeats etc. all friends

Championed Rodin who made a bronze bust of his head.

Master of my fate etc quoted in Casablanca by French policeman played by Claude Rains to Rick, Humphrey Bogart.

Henley Regatta = Thos Hardy, Kipling, Joseph Conrad, Yeats etc  
Invictus.

*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.*

## **Jemmy Wood**

7/10/1756 22 Westgate Street

"Don't thee give thy money to charity, it only makes for so many rogues" Jemmy's father.

Will became " a feeding trough for lawyers"

Money swallowed up, Bleak House ( case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce ) by Dickens.  
Dickens based scrooge on Jemmie.

## **Charles Wheatstone**

Westgate Street

(6 February 1802 – 19 October 1875), was an English scientist and inventor of many scientific breakthroughs of the Victorian era, including the English concertina, the stereoscope (a device for displaying three-dimensional images), and the Playfair cipher (an encryption technique). However, Wheatstone is best known for his contributions in the development of the Wheatstone bridge, originally invented by Samuel Hunter Christie, which is used to measure an unknown electrical resistance, and as a major figure in the development of telegraphy.

1834 Prof of Experimental Physics at Kings College London. Michael Faraday sometimes delivered his lectures. W Locked in a room once to stop him running off.  
Stagefright!

Party tricks with Florence Nightingale as accomplice

" If I had no other means of making a living I could go about the fairs with her and earn a good deal of money"

## **George Whitefield**

1714-1770

27/12/1714 The Bell Hotel Southgate Street

Crypt school, Oxford Uni.

Friends with the Wesley brothers.

First preached in Mary e Crypt.

very loud voice could preach outdoor sermons to 20,000

Went to America, crossed the Atlantic 13 times.

Founded Pennsylvania Uni. with his friend Benjamin franklin .Preached in Savannah and started the first Methodist church.

Bethesda orphanage. Oldest in USA (America's Barnardos)

Died in New England

The most famous man in the world.

Dr Squintum- crossed eyes, a sign of divine favour.

" Some swooned, not much regarded in Cheltenham "

Mesopotamia- boomed out to get attention ( must try that sometime!)

" I would give 100 guineas if I could say Oh like Mr Whitefield " David Garrick actor.

## **Button Gwinnett**

1735-1777

Baptised at St.Catherine's Church. was a British-born American founding father who, as a representative of Georgia to the Continental Congress, was one of the signatories (first signature on the left) on the United States Declaration of Independence. He was also, briefly, the provisional president of Georgia in 1777, and Gwinnett County (now a major suburb of metropolitan Atlanta) was named for him. Gwinnett was killed in a duel by a rival, Lachlan McIntosh, following a dispute after a failed invasion of East Florida

Gwynnett thought that as Governor he was superior to General McIntosh and ordered a disastrous invasion of Florida.

He lost his governorship and blamed McIntosh challenging him to a duel.

They were both hit by bullets but Gwynnett died of Gangrene after 3 days.

## **John Biddle**

Biddle studied at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, taking an M. A. in 1641.<sup>[4]</sup> At the age of twenty-six, he became headmaster of the Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester. The school had links to Gloucester Cathedral, and since he was obliged to teach his pupils according to the Catechism of the Church of England, he immersed himself in the study of the Bible. He concluded from his studies that the doctrine of the Trinity was not supported by the Bible, and set about publishing his own views on the nature of God.

He was imprisoned in Gloucester in 1645 for his views,<sup>[4]</sup> but released on bail. He was imprisoned again by Parliament in 1646 and, in 1647, while he was still a prisoner, his tract *Twelve Arguments Drawn Out of Scripture* was published. Henry Vane defended Biddle in the House of Commons, and he was released on bail in 1648.<sup>[2][5]</sup> After a short while he was again imprisoned, in Newgate, where he remained until amnestied by the 1652 Act of Oblivion.<sup>[4]</sup> Biddle and the MP John Fry, who had tried to aid him, were supported by the 1649 Leveller pamphlet *Englands New Chaines Discovered*.<sup>[6]</sup> Biddle was strongly attacked by John Owen.

In 1654-5 he was again in trouble with Parliament, which ordered his book *A Two-fold Catechism* seized;<sup>[7]</sup> Oliver Cromwell exiled him to the Scilly Isles, out of the jurisdiction of any hostile English Parliaments. He was released in 1658.<sup>[8]</sup> He was imprisoned once more, and became ill, leading to his death.<sup>[4]</sup>

A biography of Biddle by Joshua Toulmin was published in 1789.

## **John Stafford Smith**

March 1750. Cathedral baptism.

Composer of *Star Spangled Banner*. Anachreontic society

'...Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?...

### **Ivor Gurney**

3 Queen Street, Gloucester in 1890,<sup>[1]</sup> the second of four surviving children of David Gurney, a tailor, and his wife Florence, a seamstress.

He showed musical ability early. He sang as a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral from 1900 to 1906, when he became an articled pupil of Dr Herbert Brewer at the cathedral. There he met fellow composer Herbert Howells, who became a lifelong friend. Alongside Gurney and Howells, Brewer's third pupil at this time was Ivor Novello, then known as Ivor Davies. He also enjoyed an enduring friendship with the poet F. W. Harvey, whom he met in 1908. The most significant adult figures in Gurney's early life were the Rev. Alfred H. Cheesman, and two sisters, Emily and Margaret Hunt, who nurtured Gurney's interests in music and literature. Gurney began composing music at the age of 14,<sup>[2]</sup> and won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in 1911. He studied there with Charles Villiers Stanford, who also taught Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Marion Scott, Rebecca Clarke, Frank Bridge, Arthur Bliss, Howells and many others. Stanford told Howells that Gurney was potentially "the biggest of them all", but he was "unteachable".<sup>[3]</sup>

Gurney possessed a dynamic personality, but he had been troubled by mood swings that became apparent during his teenage years. He had a difficult time focusing on his work at college and suffered his first breakdown in 1913.<sup>[4]</sup> After taking a rest, he seemed to recover and returned to college.

Gurney's studies were interrupted by World War I, when he enlisted as a private soldier in the Gloucestershire Regiment in February 1915. At the front, he began writing poetry seriously, sending his efforts to his friend, the musicologist and critic Marion Scott, who worked with Gurney as his editor and business manager. He was in the midst of writing the poems for what would become his first book "Severn and Somme" when he was wounded in the shoulder in April 1917. He recovered and returned to battle, still working on his book and composing music, including the songs "In Flanders" and "By A Bierside". Sidgwick & Jackson accepted *Severn and Somme* in July, with publication set for the autumn. In the meantime, Gurney was gassed in September the same year and sent to the Edinburgh War Hospital, where he met and fell in love with a VAD nurse, Annie Nelson Drummond, but the relationship later broke down. There remains some controversy about the possible effects of the gas on his mental health, even though Gurney had shown some signs and symptoms of a bipolar disorder since his teens.<sup>[5]</sup> "Being gassed (mildly) [his parenthesis] with the new gas is no worse than catarrh or a bad cold," Gurney wrote in a letter to Marion Scott on 17 September 1917. After his release from hospital he was posted to Seaton Delaval, a mining village in Northumberland, where he wrote poems, including "Lying Awake in the Ward". His volume *Severn and Somme* was published in November 1917.

### **Sir Richard Whittington**

(c. 1354–1423<sup>[1]</sup>) was an English merchant and a politician of the late medieval period. He is also the real-life inspiration for the English folk tale *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. He was four times Lord Mayor of London, a member of parliament and a sheriff of London. In his lifetime he financed a number of public projects, such as drainage systems in poor areas of medieval London, and a hospital ward for unmarried mothers. He bequeathed his fortune to form the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington which, nearly 600 years later, continues to assist people in need.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **Judge John Powell**

1645-1713

In 1712 Powell presided over the trial of Jane Wenham, probably the last people convicted of witchcraft in England. Jane Wenham of Walkern, in Hertfordshire, had for years been accused by her neighbours of thievery, idleness, swearing, whoring, and witchcraft. In about January 1712 after a local farmer called Jane Wenham a "witch and a bitch", Jane complained to the local magistrate, who instructed the local vicar to deal with the issue. The vicar ordered the farmer to pay Jane a shilling, and told Jane to be less quarrelsome.

Jane was dissatisfied with the result and said that she would "get justice elsewhere". Later a servant of the farmer had fits and Jane Wenham was accused of witchcraft. She was searched for the devil's teats, and when none were found, she was asked to recite the "Lord's Prayer", and when she faltered in her recitation she was arrested and sent to Hertford jail to await trial.

The trial took place on the 4th of March 1712 before John Powell, who expressed his scepticism throughout the proceedings. At one point when it was alleged that Jane Wenham could fly, John Powell said "there is no law against flying". Despite his efforts Jane was convicted by the jury, and John Powell was required to sentence her to death. However, after pronouncing the sentence of death by hanging, he ordered that she should be kept safe. He then obtained a royal pardon from Queen Anne, and her release from prison. Because it was thought too dangerous for her to return to Walkern she was given a house on the estate of Colonel Plumer at Gilston. After Plumer died she was supported by the Earl and Countess Cowper on their estate at Hertingfordbury

## **Kyneberga**

Sister of King Osric, founder of St Peter's Abbey 681ce

It is said that a prestigious Royal marriage was arranged for the young Kyneburga, presumably involving her abandoning her nunnery in Gloucester. To avoid leaving the service of God, she fled into hiding in the city where she was taken in as the servant of a baker. The baker soon wished to adopt her, but his wife was consumed with jealousy and, when the baker was out one day, she murdered Kyneburga, chopped off her head and threw it into a well near the south gate of the city. When the husband returned home and called out to his maidservant, she replied from the well!

Kyneburga's body was taken up and buried near her Well. A chapel was built over the spot and it became a place of miracles. The lady was revered as a saint, pilgrims flocked to her side and the chapel became the centre of a major medieval hospital. Miracles did cease for a time, because of the irreverent behaviour of the lady's custodian, but Kyneburga's popularity was restored when Archbishop Courtenay ordered a new translation in 1390. When the hospital was finally suppressed, during the mid 16th century Dissolution of the Monasteries, Sir Thomas Bell, a wealthy local draper and MP, transformed the buildings into almshouses for six poor men and St. Kyneburga was all but forgotten.

## **Hubert Cecil Booth**

Hubert Cecil Booth (1871 - 1955) was a British engineer who and inventor of the first powered vacuum cleaner among other things.

H.C. Booth was born in Gloucester, England on July 4th, 1871. His father was a lumber merchant Abraham Booth, and he had five brothers. He went to Gloucester College and Gloucester County School and learned under headmaster of the school Reverend H. Lloyd Brereton. When he was 18, he passed the entrance examination and entered Central Technical College, later known as the City & Guilds Engineering College, London. His professor there was William Cawthorne Unwin and Booth spent three years there studying civil engineering and mechanical engineering. When he finished college (as a second in his class), he found a job at the firm of Maudsley, Sons & Field, in a firm that was at that time already famous for its engineers. Between 1884 and 1898 he designed Ferris wheels for amusement parks in London, Blackpool, Paris, and Vienna that had diameters from 83m to 92m. In 1899, he designed steel factory in Belgium. A year later he opened a consulting practice in London.

In 1901, he was present at a demonstration of (in his words) "an American machine" at the Empire Music Hall in London. This device was intended for cleaning of railway cars and consisted of an air pump that pumped the air out and blew the dust which worked for that time but didn't get rid of the dust. This didn't satisfy Booth, and he thought that a better solution should exist. He thought that if a filter is placed before the pump and air reversed, to enter the machine instead to exit it, a machine that could do a much efficient job could be built. So he decided to try an experiment: he laid a handkerchief on the seat of a restaurant chair, placed his lips on the handkerchief and sucked the air. When he saw how much dust have gathered on the handkerchief, he knew that his idea is feasible. What other patrons of the restaurant thought of this performance - history doesn't say.

Booth built a machine powered by an internal combustion engine. It used piston pump to draw air through flexible pipes and a filter made of cloth. It was a big machine, and it had to be drawn by horses. It stayed outside the building that it cleaned, and pipes were protruded through the windows to enter the rooms. People called it "Puffing Billy." His next vacuum cleaner was electric-powered, but it was still big to enter the buildings. In the next few decades, Booth founded British Vacuum Cleaner Company (BVCC) which offered cleaning services and whose Chairman and Managing Director he was. They had bright red vans which held vacuum cleaners (a term first invented by the company that marketed Booth's machines) and operated by uniformed operators. As big as they are these vacuum cleaners are predecessors of those that we use today and which work on the same principle.

## **Samuel Bowly**

March 1802-1884

Samuel Bowly was born in Gloucestershire (Bibury) but moved to Gloucester as a teenager and became a successful cheesemaker and Businessman in the city.

He was on the board of the Birmingham-Gloucester Railway company as well as the Gas,  
and Banking companies.

He campaigned against the corn laws but was much better remembered for his Temperance work and his advocacy of Slave Abolition. He was a leading player in a delegation to Parliament and Lord Melbourne (prime Minister) to abolish Slavery. He died in Gloucester at the age of 82 and is buried here.

Charlie Stayt BBC )

Yasmin Bannerman (Hollyoaks)

Alastair Cooke (Cricketer)

Simon Pegg (Actor)

John Taylor (15780 The Water Poet Wrote 150 publications and first to mention Shakespeare's death in print.

He also printed the first Palindrome.

**'Lewd did I live & evil did I dwell'** First palindrome in print.