

Church Memorials in St. Mary's: a correction.

Following on from the text of the memorial to John Potter and his descendants, the sentence :

"Beatrice Webb, wife of Sidney, was the well-known daughter of Richard Potter"

should read

"Beatrice Webb, wife of Sidney, was the well-known granddaughter of Richard Potter (1778-1842)"

Beatrice was born in 1858, the daughter of Richard Potter (1817-1892), who was the son of Richard Potter (1778-1842). The following text explains the relationship.

Herewith her grandfather's details:

Richard Potter (1778-1842)

b.31 January 1778 Tadcaster, Yorkshire, England;

baptized 27th March 1778, Tadcaster, Yorkshire (Parish Registers).

d.13.07.1842, Penzance, Cornwall, England.

M.P. for Wigan from 10th December 1832-1839.

1802 opened a warehouse at No.5, Cannon Street, Manchester, with his older brother, William, and a capital of £ 14,000.

married 25.09.1815 Wigston Magna,Nr. Leicester, Leicestershire, England, **Mary Seddon**,

b.08.12.1793 Cromford, Derbyshire, England;

d.1874. Baptized 16th December 1793 in Matlock Bath Chapel (Independent Denomination)

founded 1785.

Her parents were described as being of Cromford in the Parish of Wirksworth. Ref. Glenorchy Independent Chapel Baptisms 1785-1836.

Her christening date was given as 13 September 1796 (at the same time as that of her brother, Samuel) ref. Parish Registers for Wirksworth and Middleton-by-Ricksworth, Derbyshire, England 1608-1899.

In both registers her date of birth is given as 8th December 1793.

She was the daughter of William Seddon (b. London 1747, d. Leicester 1816) of "The Elms", Gt. Wigston, Leicester & of his wife, Sarah Norton.

In 1871 she was living in Paddington, London.

Richard Potter MP (1778-1842) was the brother of **Sir Thomas Potter** (1773-1845), MP and first Mayor of Manchester (1838). They grew up on their father's farm at Tadcaster, North Yorkshire and collaborated both in business and politics in Manchester. They helped found the Manchester Guardian newspaper in 1821, which became The Guardian in 1959 to reflect its national distribution and news coverage. The Potter brothers also founded the Times(Manchester), later called the Examiner and Times, and established the wholesale house in Manchester trade which became known as "Potter's". This place became a rendezvous for political and philanthropic reformers. In 1830 Richard Potter joined a group campaigning for parliamentary reform. The group proposed that the seats of rotten boroughs convicted of gross electoral corruption should be transferred to industrial towns. In 1831 Absalom Watkin (fl 1807-1861) drew up a petition asking the government to grant Manchester two Members of Parliament. As a result of the 1832 Reform Act Manchester had its first two Members of Parliament. Richard Potter was returned as Liberal MP for Wigan in 1832, 1835 and 1837. He later unsuccessfully contested Gloucester. His political views earned him the nickname "Radical Dick". **Richard Potter's son, also called Richard**, was

President of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada and Chairman of the Great Western Railway (1817-1892), and his granddaughter **Beatrice Webb** (1858-1943), daughter of his son Richard, was a prominent social reformer and wife of fellow reformer Sidney Webb, Baron Passfield (1859-1947). His publications include: "To the independent inhabitants of the Borough of Wigan" (1831). Archives held at the London School of Economics.

HIS SON:

Richard Potter (1817-1892)

b.23.07.1817 Sandy Bank Lane, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, d.11.01.1892
Standish House, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (or Box House, Minchinhampton, Stroud)
Christened in Manchester.

Ed. Clifton & University College, London. Called to the Bar 1840. Met his wife in Rome whilst on the Grand Tour. Chairman of the Great Western Railway from 1863 to 1865 and President of the Grand Trunk Railway, Canada.

Gloucester timber merchant: made huts for the troops during the Crimean War.

married 13.08.1844 St. Mary the Virgin, West Derby, Lancashire.

Lawrencina Heyworth b.22.10.1821 Yew Tree, Walton on the Hill, Lancashire.

baptised 23.01.1825; d.1882

Residence: 1861 Moreton Valence, Gloucestershire.

Standish House, Randwick, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

HIS GRANDDAUGHTER:

Beatrice Potter (1858-1943)

b.22.01.1858 Gloucester, d.30.04.1943, Liphook,
Hampshire. Prolific Author.

English socialite, economist and reformer. Helped in the organisation of the Fabian Society and in the establishment of the London School of Economics. Ashes interred in Westminster Abbey.

married 1892 **Sidney James Webb**, 1st Baron Passfield of Passfield Corner,

b.13.07.1859, d.13.10.1947. Ashes interred in Westminster Abbey.

Also a founder member of the Fabian Society in 1884. Secretary of State for the Colonies and Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in Ramsay MacDonald's second Labour Government. Professor of Public Administration LSE 1912-1927.

Beatrice Potter

10th August 2013