

The twenty-first birthday of Charles John Henry Mundy (1808 – 1882)

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On Monday the 22nd ult. Charles John Henry Mundy, Esq. the only son of Charles Godfrey Mundy, Esq. of Burton Hall, having completed his 21st year, the day was celebrated at Burton with great festivities, which, though unostentatious in their character, evinced the highest degree in their arrangements and details the liberality, kindness and warmth of feeling, of genuine English hospitality.

So reads a report in the *Derby Mercury* of 8th July 1829.

Preparations would have been going on for weeks, and we can imagine the excitement in Burton. A beast had already been slaughtered and butchered, and this, along with a quantity of ale, had been shared among the poor of the parish on the preceding Saturday. On Sunday the children from the Sunday Schools of Burton and Walton along with their teachers – 200 in all – had attended divine service followed by a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding and on the morning of the big day, the Burton and Prestwold bellringers were treated to a dinner at the village inn (now the Greyhound), and a portion of ale was given to every poor person in Walton.

At three o'clock the party began. Tents and an awning had been erected in front of Burton Hall and 150 people sat down to an excellent dinner, with wines and desserts.

This was not a grand social occasion when the Mundy family entertained the gentry, the guests were their tenants and yeoman farmers from Burton and Walton. Mr and Mrs Packe from Prestwold were invited and also the Rev Augustus Packe and the Rev and Mrs Williams, along with a few other local dignitaries.

Mr Mundy had recently had an accident and wasn't well enough to preside so his place was taken by Mr Cradock 'whose social talents and attention to the guests added a zest to the conviviality of the party'. There were several toasts which no doubt also contributed to the 'conviviality'.

Dancing began at eight o'clock. Mrs Mundy, her daughter Sophy and her ward Caroline Shirley, along with her friend Mrs Gell from Hopton Hall, all joined in the dancing

... which continued with spirit and cheerfulness till 12 o'clock, when the company separated, most highly gratified with the kind attention and hospitality they had received from their liberal-minded hosts.

The event was reported in several papers but none of them say anything more about Charles John Henry, and we don't even know that he was at Burton on 22nd June 1829, so we need to redress the balance, and add a few words about the man himself.

Charles John Henry Mundy was born at South Ormsby in June 1808, his parents were Charles Godfrey Mundy, second son of Francis Mundy of Markeaton Hall in Derbyshire, and Harriet Massingberd, only child of Charles Burrell Massingberd of South Ormsby in Lincolnshire and heir to the ancient Barony of Scrope of Masham. He had two sisters, Harriet and Sophy.

In 1811 his father inherited the Burton estates from John Noon, and the family moved to Burton Hall. His sister Harriet died in her teens, but when he was nineteen his father was appointed guardian to the wealthy Caroline Shirley, granddaughter of Earl Ferrers, and Caroline came to live with them at Burton.

Within five years of the festivities described above, Burton Hall was put up for sale due to his father's ill-health and financial problems.

Like his father and both grandfathers, Charles John Henry studied at Oxford, and after his time there he travelled extensively throughout Europe. A proposed marriage to Caroline Shirley was unacceptable to the courts, and in 1838 he married Elizabeth Susan, the fifth daughter of John Young of Westridge in the Isle of Wight. They were blessed with two sons and three daughters.

In 1863, he assumed the name of Massingberd-Mundy by Royal Licence and in 1864, following the death of his mother, he inherited the South Ormsby estates.

Charles John Henry Mundy died in London on 19th February 1882 and was buried at South Ormsby five days later.

South Ormsby remained in the Massingberd-Mundy family until 2012 when Adrian John Godfrey Massingberd-Mundy died.

However, the name lives on; South Ormsby is renowned for its fine Lincoln Red beef and its Massingberd-Mundy gin.

Further information about the Massingberd and Mundy families can be found on-line and in *People and Places of the Wolds* (Wolds Historical Organisation 2020).