

## Four Generations of the Storer Family in Hawksworth

- Including the founder of Nottingham General Hospital as well as a national expert on cattle breeding

### Dr John Storer (I)

The Storer family's association with Hawksworth began in 1805 when Dr John Storer married his second wife Lois Turner and her marriage settlement included Hawksworth Manor House plus several farms and cottages and land in the village. This property had been passed down from her father Hamilton Turner, rector of Hawksworth from 1736 to 1775, to her brother Creed Turner who died childless in 1804.



Dr John Storer was a leading physician of the age who founded the Nottingham General Hospital and Sneinton Lunatic Asylum, and he was also active in setting up the Vaccination Institution.

He was the first president and founder of Bromley House Subscription Library in Angel Row Nottingham and this full-length portrait is to be seen in Bromley House Library, Nottingham

A substantial amount of building and renovation work took place in Hawksworth funded wholly or partly by Dr John Storer. In 1813 part of the nave was re-built and there were new communion rails at a cost of £20. The south porch was removed and a new porch erected over the west door. In 1837 Hawksworth church was enlarged at his expense when the north aisle was built and other restoration work was carried out as commemorated by a plaque in the church.



Dr John Storer died in 1837 and is buried in Hawksworth church with his wife Lois. His name is commemorated in Nottingham through the John Storer Clinic on The Ropewalk. This clinic deals with various forms of addictions and substance abuse.

**Rev John Storer (II)**

John Storer the only son of Dr John Storer (I) and his wife Mary studied theology at Christ Church Oxford and graduated in 1808. He was appointed Rector of Hawksworth on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1808 by his father and his step mother Lois and he remained at the church for 29 years until his death.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 1809 Rev John Storer married Charlotte Wylde, the daughter and co-heiress of Rev Charles Wylde, rector of St Nicholas, Nottingham. John and Charlotte had three sons who became Rev John Storer (III) of Hawksworth (1811-1876), Dr Charles Storer of Lowdham Grange (1813-1891), and George Storer, MP of Thoroton Hall (1815-1888). Charlotte died at Sidmouth in Devon on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1816 age 25 and is buried there.

In 1819 Rev John Storer (II) married his second wife Elizabeth Whitmore, daughter of Thomas Whitmore of Apley Park Shropshire who was MP for Bridgnorth between 1771 to 1795. John and Elizabeth had four children born between 1820 and 1827, Mary Lois, Charlotte, Elizabeth and Thomas Whitmore Storer, the last three were born in Hawksworth.

Rev John Storer (II) died in Clifton in 1837 age 54, predeceasing his father by a few months and is buried in Hawksworth church. Elizabeth his widow died 25<sup>th</sup> May 1866.

**Rev John Storer (III)**

Rev John Storer (III) succeeded his father as rector in 1837 and was in Hawksworth until 1850.

He married Margaret of Helidon Northamptonshire.

The progress of the family was such that Rev John Storer (III) was a wealthy man, a JP and a prominent advocate of agricultural interests. In particular he was a noted authority on English wild white cattle, with his magnum opus "The Wild White Cattle of Great Britain: An Account of their Origin, History and Present State", being published after his death in 1879, edited by his son, another John Storer.

He resigned from Hawksworth to become rector of Combe Court in Surrey in 1850 where he had commissioned a substantial country house to be built. He died at Helidon in Northamptonshire on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1876.

## Biographical Details of Dr John Storer MD FRS (1747-1837)

### Family background

John Storer was born in 1747, the only son of Revd John Storer of Fossoway, Kinross and his wife Susan who was the daughter of John Stewart Esq of Foss in Perthshire. He was educated at the Grammar School in Stirling (1760-1762) with a Dr Doig and later at the University of Glasgow where initially he studied theology and then medicine. He became a Doctor of Medicine and joined the Army Medical Service as a surgeon with General Stewart's a Scottish regiment serving in Holland.

John Storer's service in Holland was honoured when William, Prince of Orange, conferred a medal on him (Chirurgien Storer of a Scottish Regiment) and the freedom of the cities of Holland for restoring to fitness a person found in a canal. The document associated with this event is dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 1777.

By 4<sup>th</sup> August 1777 John Storer had set up his medical practice in Grantham. In May 1781 he came to Nottingham and lived at Thurland Hall where he had his practice. He was a founder of the Nottingham General Hospital and became Consulting Physician Extraordinary (a life appointment as its first physician). He later founded and helped to operate the Sneinton Lunatic Asylum and he was active in the setting up of the Vaccination Institution. In an annual biography for the year of 1832, Dr John Storer of Nottingham is referred to as one of the first names of the profession (Longman 1832).

He was a member of the 'Town Class' of the White Lion Book Society in 1788-9 (see William Moore) and his name was found in 1896 on a book label of that Library from about 1815. He was also the first President of the Artisans' Library founded in 1824 and he became the first president of the Bromley House Subscription Library in 1816 and of the Medico Chirurgical society from 1828.

Dr John Storer's first wife was Mary Middlemore, the 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter and co heiress of James Douglas, MD, of Carlisle (3<sup>rd</sup> son of Sir William Douglas 3<sup>rd</sup> Bart of Kilhead) and his wife Mary daughter of Sir Patrick Maxwell of Springkell Bart. She was the widow of WR Middlemore Esq. of Grantham and Somerby Hall Lincolnshire (Middlemore).

William Middlemore was born about 1731, and apparently adopted a military career, as he was appointed Barrack Master in the Isle of Man, in January, 1766; he was of Carlisle at the time of his uncle's will, 1768. He died 7 March, 1772, and was buried in Grantham Church,

*"Here lies interred the body Of WILLIAM RICHARD MIDDLEMORE, late of Somerby Hall in this county, Esq., who departed this Life the 7th of March, 1772, in the 42nd year of his age. In memory of whom this monument was erected by his disconsolate Widow: He was Nephew and heir at law of JOHN MIDDLEMORE, Esq., late of Somerby Hall, aforesaid, who died abroad."*

The will of William Richard Middlemore, of Grantham, esquire, 18 April 1771, was proved on 3 March, 1772, by the two executors, his widow, Mary Middlemore, and David Webb, of Budge Row, London. To his wife he gave an annuity of £400 and his dwelling-house at Grantham. After her death that and all his real estate was to descend to his eldest son, John Middlemore, subject to legacies. To his sons William and George, he left £1,500. To his daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Helena, Jane and Catherine, he left £1,000 each and to David Webb, £100.

Dr John Storer and his wife Mary had one son John Storer who was Rector of Hawksworth from 1808 until his death in 1837. Mary Storer died on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1803, and was buried at Grantham.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 1805 John Storer married his second wife Lois Turner in Treeton in Yorkshire . She was the daughter of Revd Hammond Turner who had been the rector of Hawksworth and Lord of the manor. An 1805 indenture between Lois Turner spinster of Treeton York and John Storer, doctor of Nottingham describes the settlement of her property in Hawksworth. There were no children from this marriage.

### **The Bromley House Subscription Library**

In 1816 Dr John Storer founded the Bromley House Subscription Library at Thurland Hall (Whyllie). He was elected as the first President of the Bromley House Library at the first meeting held at his house, Thurland Hall, on 2nd April 1816. He was a subscriber from 5th February 1816 to 6th December 1841 and President until 6th April 1819. He was on the 1816 Committee to draw up rules, investigate building and appoint a librarian and he was also on the committee in 1817 and 1818. He was named on the Standfast Library Transfer Deed of 20th December 1816. He is also named as a Trustee of Bromley House in the minute and document of 1st April 1822. He signed the Library Rules (1816-1831) with his being the first signature. The Share Interest Book shows that a Dr Storer held four Bromley House Building Shares from 1831 to 1851. In 1818 insurance was arranged for the Nottingham Subscription Library with the Atlas Insurance Office in the names of John Wright and John Storer with books valued at £1000, furniture at £100 and the Standfast Library at £500 (16/1/1818).

John Storer resigned as President in 1819 (it was then a permanent appointment.) and an extract from report to the Subscribers presented at the Annual Meeting held on 6th April 1819 reads:

*The Committee have to express their most sincere regret at the loss which the Nottingham Subscription Library is about to sustain in Dr Storer's resignation of the office of President; acquiescing in this determination, they cannot avoid reflecting that the countenance and support given by Dr. Storer has been of the greatest importance to the success of this Institution, and that to his kind services must be attributed a great part of its present prosperity.*

*Resolved: That this meeting has received with great regret the intimation of Dr Storer's intention to resign the office of President; and that the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to Dr Storer for his kind and unremitting attention to the interests of this Institution.*

A little more than eighteen months later the Committee minutes for 2nd October 1820 recorded:

*A suggestion having been made that Mr Barber should wish to become a subscriber to the Library on the terms of painting a portrait instead of the usual sum paid for a share.*

*Resolved: That such offer shall be accepted and that Dr Storer shall be requested to sit for his portrait.*

At the next meeting on 6th November 1820 Dr Storer's reply, which was addressed to the Rev R.W. Almond was recorded:

*My dear Sir, In reply to the request you made to me yesterday in the name of the Committee and the Members of the Subscription Library, ' that I should sit to Mr Barber, junr. for my portrait to be placed in their Library, ' I am bound to receive that request in the spirit with which it was made, as a compliment to me, and as expressing the approbation of so respectable a body for the slender service I was able to render the Institution during the years I had the honour to occupy the Chair. I should ill deserve the distinction conferred by such approbation if I did not know how to value it. Yet I can declare unaffectedly that I am unconscious of any other merit than my warmest wishes in common with many others for the prosperity of the institution and my earnest desire that the collection of books might be found worthy of the pains and expenses bestowed in*

*forming it - I am aware that this is rather an argument in addition to the inducements by which I feel myself called upon to acquiesce in the request of so highly respectable a body, and which I now do with sincere gratitude for their obliging acceptance of my very imperfect services, and for the compliment intended me as a proof of it - and to you, Sir, my best thanks are due for the flattering terms in which their wishes were made known to me.*

*I am, Dear Sir,*

*Your most obedient Servt.,*

JOHN STORER.

Nottingham, 24th October, 1820.

This portrait was painted by Thomas Barber and this was taken in lieu of the artist's payment for joining the library on 3rd October 1820. Damage to the portrait because of dampness on the staircase was reported in 1827 and it was to be moved into the Committee Room on 2nd July 1827. In the following year it was varnished by Mr Wood and replaced on the staircase under the supervision of Mr Wakefield and John Pearson on 4th February 1828 (Russell, 1916). In 1908 the portrait was to be cleaned.

John Storer retired to Lenton Firs in Wollaton Park in 1828. In 1832 he wrote about Lenton Firs in a letter written to the Rev William Piggott:

*I live in a very pleasant retirement at Lenton Firs, built by Mr. Watson, hosier, and sold after his death. I retired from all professional engagements four years ago, except what I am able to perform in my own library, and which being so near Nottingham, I cannot avoid. In all other respects, except for the frequent visits of our nearest neighbours, we are much abstracted from the affairs of the world, and as becomes those of our advanced years, thinking, I hope, more of that world to which we are bound than of that in which we still linger.*

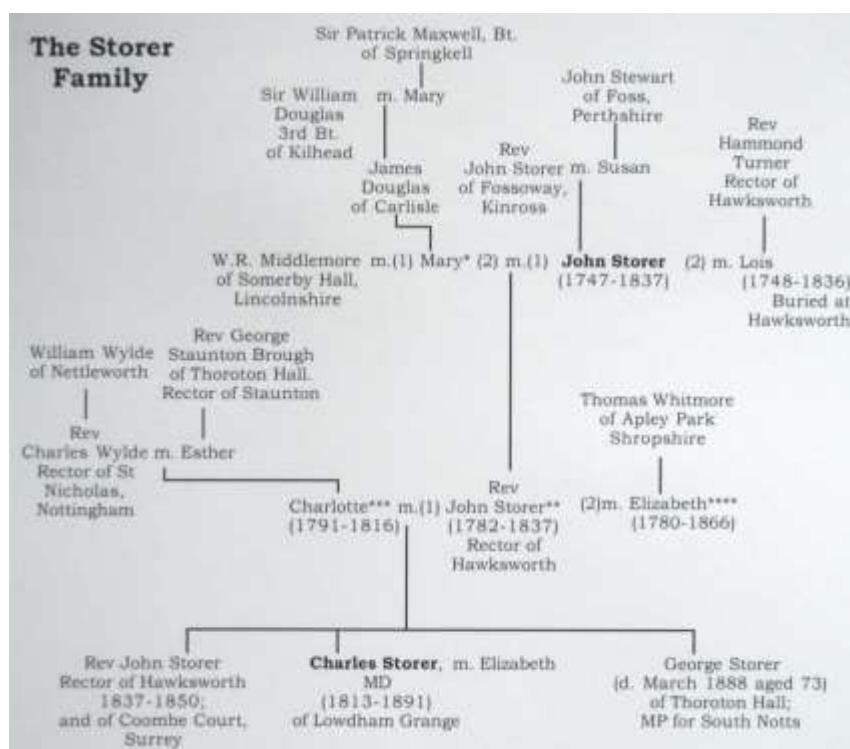
On 7th Feb 1836 Lois Storer died age 88 and was buried in Hawksworth church. The will of Lois Storer was written 29<sup>th</sup> June 1825 and proved 12th March 1836. John Storer died at his home at Lenton Firs on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1837 age 90 and was buried in a vault near the chancel of Hawksworth church (Mellors 1924). Probate for the will of John Storer was 6<sup>th</sup> November 1837.

The Nottingham Journal for 29 September 1837, nearly a fortnight after Storer's death printed the following letter:-

*Sir, I have read in your ' Journal ' of the last week, a memorial of the decease of Dr. Storer. I felt disappointed that your memoir did not contain, at the least, a few particulars of the history of one of the most useful men of his times, and, although a public man, one who avoided ostentation, and rather shunned than sought popularity - yet a distinguished benefactor to his town and county. It is true that the life of the Doctor has been extended to a length far exceeding that of his contemporaries, and most of those persons who took part in his useful exertions, or who were benefitted by his medical skill, or who were his personal friends, are gone before him into the invisible world: even his very respectable son who would have been best qualified to write his history is also no more here. I have understood that the Doctor's father was a minister in the Church of Scotland, and that he himself entered the Army as an Officer of the Medical Staff. With the circumstances which led to his settlement in this town I am not acquainted; but they were of so favourable a cast, that, united with his medical skill and respectability of character he was soon placed at the head of his profession, and he obtained the confidence of the principal families of the town and county, and of the general body of the medical profession.*

Dr. Storer's name ought to stand in connexion with the chief Charitable Establishments of this place he took a leading and active part in the founding and conducting of the General Hospital - an institution which has for many years been of inexpressible utility. He was actively engaged in the establishment of the Lunatic Asylum; and he was the father of the Vaccine Institution, by which the progress of that dreadful and destructive pest to society, the confluent smallpox, was arrested, and for a long time almost annihilated. He took an active part in the establishment of the Public Library (Nottingham Subscription Library); during many years he presided over the Auxiliary Bible Society of this town and county, and his patronage contributed very materially to the prosperity and usefulness of that Institution. As a member of Society, his character was unsullied, the voice of censure and of slander cannot touch him; as it respects men, the motto placed at the head of this paper truly describes him (*Pro Rege Lege Grege*). The habit of his mind was that of genuine humility; disdainful selfrighteousness. Example deserves to be imitated. The long duration of the life of this excellent man, his freedom from severe personal suffering, and the preservation of his intellectual powers to the last hour of his existence, may, I apprehend, be attributed under Divine Providence, to the regularity of his life, the habitual calmness of his mind, and the constant peace of his conscience; but this subject is worthy of the philosophical investigation of the Doctor's Medical friends. Source: Russell (1916).

The signature of John Storer



This genealogy is taken mainly from Godfrey (1907)

- \* Mary Storer died on 19/7/1803 and is buried in Grantham.
- \*\* Rev John Storer died at Clifton on 4/2/1837 aged 54 and is buried at Hawksworth.
- \*\*\* Charlotte married John Storer on 13/7/1809 at St Mary's, Nottingham. She died in Sidmouth on 29/1/1816 aged 25 and is buried there.
- \*\*\*\* Elizabeth Storer was born on 5/9/1780 and died on 25/5/1866.

The family claimed to be 18<sup>th</sup> in direct descent from Edward I.

<http://www.maximiliangenealogy.co.uk/maximilia/pafn1856.htm#37248>