

**Robert Viscount Jocelyn, 4th Earl of Roden, 2nd Baron Clanbrassil
of Hyde Hall. (1846 – 1880)**

Absent from Sawbridgeworth, but a working peer

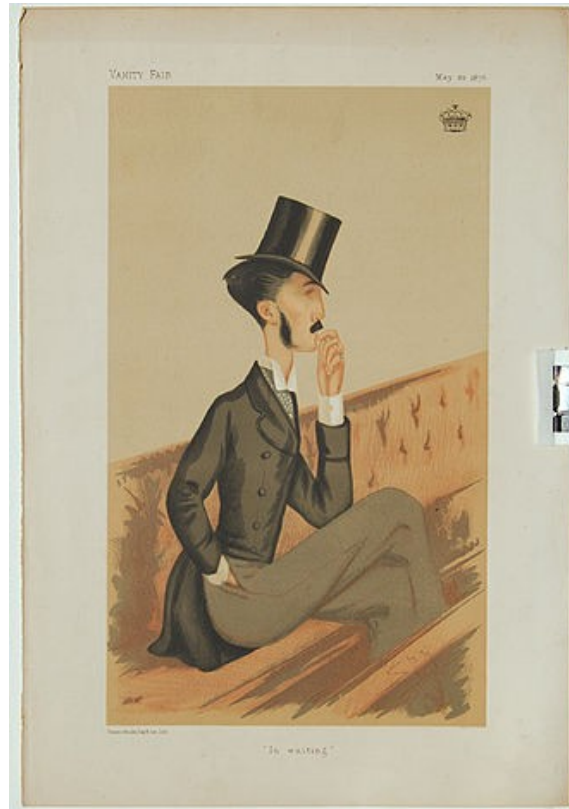
This article is the eighth in my series of 'follow-ups' to my earlier article of November 2018, entitled Hyde Hall/Great Hyde Hall, in which I have been writing about the residents and owners of Hyde Hall, especially the Jocelyn family.

Robert Jocelyn was the eldest son of Robert Viscount Jocelyn and Frances Elizabeth (Clavering-Cowper), and the grandson of the 3rd Earl of Roden (who was the subject of an earlier article dated August 2019). Because his father, the Viscount, predeceased the 3rd Earl, it meant that Robert became the heir of the 3rd Earl and inherited the title as 4th Earl of Roden on his grandfather's demise.

Robert was born on 22 November 1846 at Hanover Square in Westminster. In the census return for 1851, he was resident at 22 Bruton Street, Westminster. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating with a BA in 1868.

Upon his graduation, Robert was commissioned into the Army in 1868 as a Cornet in the 1st Life Guards. He became a Lieutenant in 1869, before retiring from the Army in 1871. He did, however, maintain some links with the military, becoming a Captain in the Hertfordshire Yeoman Cavalry, at that time a reserve unit. Robert never married and did not become an MP.

On 20 March 1870, following the death of his grandfather, Robert inherited his titles and became 4th Earl of Roden and 2nd Baron Clanbrassil. The latter title gave Robert a seat in the House of Lords at Westminster, where he was to be highly active. From 1874 until his untimely death in 1880, Robert was a 'Lord-in-Waiting' for the Conservative Party. This was the equivalent to the modern-day 'Government Whip' and he had the same duties.



A caricature by Sir Leslie Ward of Robert Jocelyn as a Lord-in-Waiting, from the magazine 'Vanity Fair' published in 1876

On 9 January 1880, Robert Jocelyn died at Menton in the South of France (not far from Monaco) and was presumably buried there. He was only 33 years old. At the time, it was popular with the aristocracy to overwinter in the vicinity of Menton. The climate is pleasant, even in January and February, and Queen Victoria and the future King Edward VII were both regular visitors to the town. Even today there can be a large English presence there and the town has many overtones of the aristocracy and the English, such as road names and buildings displaying English coats of arms.

As with his grandfather, the 3rd Earl, Robert Jocelyn's connections to Sawbridgeworth are somewhat tenuous. He was the owner of Hyde Hall from 1870 until his death ten years later. However, he is not recorded as living here on any census return, and there is no definite record of his visiting the town. Nonetheless, his Captaincy in the Hertfordshire Yeomanry suggests that on occasion he did reside at Hyde Hall, if only on a temporary basis.

Being unmarried with no heir, Robert was succeeded as Earl of Roden by his uncle, John Strange Jocelyn, the subject of a later article.

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