

Obituary from the Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate Local newspaper

November 20th 1920

DEATH OF MR E. GARNET MAN J.P.

A DISTINGUISHED AND HONOURED RESIDENT

INCIDENTS OF A REMARKABLE LIFE

We regret to announce the death of Mr Edward Garnet Man J.P., of Halstead, Riviera, Sandgate. The deceased who was eighty-three years of age, passed away peacefully and suddenly on Sunday last at his son-in-law's residence at Godalming, whilst on a visit. He was in many respects a remarkable and versatile man.

Born at Halstead Hall, Kent, he was the son of the late Commander H.M.S. Man, RN. He was educated at the Royal Naval School of Eltham. Called to the Bar in 1865 he subsequently became Government Advocate in British Burma and Assistant Commissioner of Sontals Pergunnahs. His other activities included serving as an Intelligence Officer in the 3rd Irregular Sikh Cavalry in Bengal. He also acted as Hon. Secretary to the Indian famine relief fund (1874), during the Indian Mutiny.

Mr Garnet Man was a great traveller, his journeyings including nineteen voyages up and down the Red Sea, besides voyaging twice in a sailing ship round the Cape. It is recorded by him that on going through the Bay of Biscay the ship on which he was sailing encountered a terrific hurricane, with the result that several men were lost overboard. So desperate were the straits of the vessel that the captain called for volunteers, and Mr Garnet Man, although without knowledge of seamanship, offered his services. He became an efficient sailor, and before the vessel touched port he could furl a sail high up in the rigging.

The deceased was an accomplished writer, and he acted as correspondent of "The Times" during the Perah War. In the later years of his life he turned his active and well trained mind to literature, amongst the works that emanated from his pen being "Papal Aims and Papal Claims", "Santalia and the Sonthals" etc. He was a frequent contributor to the Press, and many of his letters appeared from time to time in "The Herald".

No stronger upholder of the Church and State could be found than the late Mr Man, and he was a licensed diocesan lay reader (Canterbury Diocese) up to the time of his death. Deceased was a constant worshipper at St Paul's, Sandgate, and in his capacity as a lay reader he recently (in the absence of the Vicar) read through the whole of the prayers, whilst on another occasion he preached an eloquent sermon, which was distinguished by its beauty of expression and breadth of Christian thought. He rendered other services to the Church.

Something of his religious views may be found in the following extract of a lecture he gave before the Folkestone Theosophical society on "Immortality and Identity after death". "I feel satisfied," he said "that science does not clash with divine revelation.

This has stood the test of 2,000 years, and still flourishes. Without its aid, however, I feel incapable of proving identity after death. With its aid all trouble disappears and I appeal to the well known lines of the Dying Christian as an example of the power of religious conviction on the question of identity which reigns in the mind of the believer.”

The world recedes, it disappears
Heaven opens to my eyes
Mine ears with sounds seraphic ring
I mount, I fly
Oh death, where is thy sting
Oh grave, where is thy victory?”

Mr Garnet Man was a member of the Conservative Party, and many a fine speech has he delivered on behalf of the Constitutional cause. He was a member of the Primrose League and in days gone by was looked upon by that organisation of a veritable tower of strength.

Deceased was a splendid sportsman and was accounted as a good a judge of a hunter as any man in his day. As gentleman jockey he sat in the saddle well, and found true enjoyment in faking his mounts clean over the hurdles. He was widely known as a splendid whip, and often tooled a team of horses with unerring skill in connection with a coach running between London and Richmond. One of his proudest possessions – and he had many beautiful works of art – was a coach horn presented to him on behalf of the Surrey Sessions XI by Mr R. A. Gillespie, Secretary of the Surrey Sessions Coaching Club in 1879. This presentation was made in recognition of a notable and gallant achievement when he was driving a four-horse coach loaded with passenger guests in the neighbourhood of Westminster Bridge. The team took fright, but the late Mr Man kept his head and safely tooled his horses through the maze of traffic in masterful style and again got them well in hand. Those on the coach considered that Mr Man had saved their lives.

On occasions he drove a four-horse coach from Folkestone to Canterbury and back besides other places in the vicinity. He was also fond of cycling.

The late Mr Man was for some years Chairman of the Justices for the Elham Division, a position from which he retired in December 1919. He was also Justice for the county of Surrey.

By his death the district loses one of its most distinguished residents. He was a lovable man, full of geniality and good feeling towards his fellows. In his magisterial capacity he always leaned towards mercy and his kindly advice to those appearing before him was not always given in vain. To his relatives, deep sympathy is tendered on their loss of one who was loved and esteemed by all who had the pleasure of his friendship and acquaintance.

The funeral took place at Woking Crematorium on Thursday, the service being conducted by his youngest son the Rev. M. J. Man (Vicar of St Peter's, Maidstone). The mourners included deceased brother, Mr G. O. Garnet Man, and his sons, who are in England viz., Mr E.J.F. Garnet Man, Lieutenant Colonel H.W. Man, D.S.O.,

C.B.E., and many relatives and friends. The ashes were buried at the old family residence at Halstead, Knockholt, Kent.

REFERENCES AT ELHAM PETTY SESSIONS

At the fortnightly sitting of the Elham County Bench on Thursday appropriate reference was made to the death of Mr Garnet Man. Whilst all present stood, the Chairman (Sir Clarence Smith) said he was sure all wished join him in expressing deep regret at the death of the late Chairman of the Bench. Mr Garnet Man presided over that court for a number of years, and all who had had business there would agree that he brought to the discharge of his duties great ability and singular determination to get to the bottom of the case, so that no injustice should be done. He had the great advantage of a thorough legal training and experience, and that stood him in good stead. He had led a full, strenuous and successful life. He was a good man and had gone to his rest full of years, accompanied by that which should accompany old age, honour, love, obedience and a troop of friends.

Mr V.D. de Wet (solicitor) said he had known Mr Garnet Man since he was a boy, and curiously enough, his (the speakers) father's last case was one in which he had an honourable opponent in Mr Garnet Man. He desired to associate himself with all that had been said.

