

# THE NAMES BEHIND THE HOUSES

**CARR** - Named after Dr. William Carr, who was born near Leeds in 1814. He was educated at Leeds Grammar School and articled to a surgeon in York. In 1836 he joined a medical practice at Blackheath and trained at University College Hospital. He went into practice with Dr. Barnett and managed to gain Queen Victoria's trust, and she later gave him a cheque for £50 in aid of the formation of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, now known as Epsom College.

Dr. Carr supported the formation of the College strongly and this is illustrated by the fact that he put more money into it than any other member of the Council. Sadly, Dr. Carr died in 1877 and did not live to see the College Foundation Scholarships fund completed but, in his lifetime, he contributed £1000 himself and aided in raising a further £4000. (Obituary, 'Epsomian' 1877, page 34) Carr house was one of the first group of boys' houses founded in 1883.

**CRAWFURD** - Named after Sir Raymond Henry Payne Crawford (1865 - 1938). Raymond Crawford was educated at Winchester College and New College, Oxford. He was Sub-Dean and Dean of the Medical Department of King's College. He was a brilliant teacher and became Director of Medical Studies. He was Chairman of Epsom College, an institution in which he took the deepest possible interest, and he worked hard for its advancement. In 1915 he was invited to join the Council of Epsom College; he was Chairman of the Epsom College School Committee, 1918-21, Vice-Chairman of the Council, 1921-3, and Chairman, 1923-36. For Epsom College he did much: he wrote scores of letters on its behalf, collected large sums of money, raised the standard of scholarship in the school, planned the biological block, and almost single-handed raised sufficient money to enable the school to build and equip, in 1931, one of the finest sanatoria in the country, the cost of which was £27000. Crawford was originally a boys' day house, but it changed to become a girls' boarding house from 2001.

**FAYRER** - Joseph Fayrer was born in 1824, the son of Commander R.J. Fayrer, RN. At the age of 16 he joined the West Indian Mail Steam-Packet as a midshipman. His interest in medicine was aroused by an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Bermuda. He went to Charing Cross Hospital in 1844 and after qualification as M.R.C.S. in 1847 he served briefly in the Royal Naval Medical Service. Later he gained experience of war surgery at Palermo during the Sicilian Revolution. In 1856 he was the only doctor present at Lucknow, in India, when that town was besieged by the Mutineers. In 1882 he was Chairman of the College Council during the disturbances in the school, after which he was prominent in reorganising the school on the house system. In 1896 he was given a baronetcy for his work in India. By then he had an extensive private practice in England. He died in Falmouth in May 1907. (See 'The Practitioner', July 1977 Vol 219) Fayrer House was originally a Junior School house, but was allowed to grow up into a full house in the 1920s.

**FOREST**- Robert Forest was a prosperous resident of Vauxhall who supported at least one school in that region. In the 1851 Census he is listed as a 'Slate, Stone, Tile and Lime Monarch'. He and his wife, Catherine, had no children and devoted a considerable fortune to charitable causes. He was Vice-President of Epsom College between 1860 and 1861 and was a major benefactor and endowing the Forest Scholarship given to the most promising Academic entering the College at 13. A stained glass window in the College Chapel is his memorial. Forest House was one of the first group of boys houses founded in 1883.

**GRANVILLE** - Named after the Earl Granville who was President of the College between 1865 and 1891. He was Gladstone's Foreign Secretary. Originally Granville House was called 'Gilchrist' in honour of the 'Gilchrist Scholarship' given to able boys studying medicine at university. Unfortunately, just a year after the house was founded, the Gilchrist Scholarship was withdrawn because our boys wanted to go to Oxford or Cambridge rather than just to London medical schools, to which the scholarship was limited. The House was therefore renamed just a year after it was founded in the first group of houses in 1883.

**HOLMAN** - Sir Constantine Holman was born at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex in October 1829. In 1847 he was apprenticed to Drs Thomas and Peter Martin in Reigate. One of these surgeons, Thomas Martin involved him in the Surrey Medical Benevolent Society, through which he met the founder of Epsom College, John Propert. He studied at Guy's Hospital, Edinburgh and Paris and became the first local doctor to have received formal training in the new skill of anaesthesia. He joined the practice at Reigate in 1852, was very prominent in the BMA (Gold Medal 1904), the Obstetrics Society of London, the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society and on the Council of Epsom College. In 1887, when the school was in financial difficulties, he became treasurer, influencing the Council to establish a proper accounting system and to introduce a Rifle Corps, Fire Brigade, a Chemical Laboratory, and a Lecture Theatre. He acquired additional land for the College, increased the number of day boys and resigned, after 19 years as Treasurer, a school house named after him commemorating his services. Knighted for public services in 1904, he died in 1910. (Obituary 'Epsomian' 1910 page 4; Scrapbook 1910 page 48). Holman was originally a Junior School house, but was allowed to grow up into a full house in the 1920s.

**PROPERT** - The founder of the College, who had the idea to provide a school for the sons' of Doctors and Pensioners. He was born in July, 1793 in Blaenpistill, near Cardigan and was educated at the local Grammar School. He trained as a surgeon and was for a time a naval surgeon. He later developed a large practice in Cardiganshire, where he became Chairman of the Cardigan and Carmarthen Railway. His energy and perseverance led to the development of the Royal Medical Benevolent College. The foundation Stone was laid in July, 1853 by Earl Manvers on behalf of Prince Albert, who was ill at the time. Building began and two years later in 1855, Prince Albert and The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) formally opened the houses for pensioners and the School. In 1867 the name "Epsom College" was already being used officially and it was also no longer exclusively for the sons of doctors but even now a link with the medical profession is retained. Propert was one of the first group of houses created in 1883.

**RAVEN** — Named after Dame Kathleen Raven, DBE, FRCN who was a governor (Member of Council) of Epsom College. Dame Kathleen was born and raised in Coniston in the Lake District, sister of Ronald Raven, who was for many years Chairman of the College Council. Born in 1910, Dame Kathleen trained in nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Qualifying in 1946, she was Ward Sister and Night Superintendent during the Second World War. In 1949 she was appointed Deputy-Matron of Leeds General Infirmary, becoming Matron there in the same year. She was a member of Council of both the Royal College of Nursing and the General Nursing Council before becoming a member of the Central Health Services Council. In 1958 she left the LGI, to become Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health. After retirement in 1972, Dame Kathleen took on the heavy burden of advising an international health care company in setting up Health Services in foreign countries along British lines, while at the same time she was a member of the Civil Service Commission. Dame Kathleen died in 1999, the House being founded immediately afterwards as a

girls' day house. Originally in the Terrace, it took over accommodation originally owned by Craford as a boys' house.

**ROBINSON-** Named after Dr. Henry Robinson who was Treasurer of the College between 1952 and 1960. A scholarship sponsored by MIA Ltd. was named after him. The house was founded for day boys in 1966, taking over accommodation in the Old Infirmary (now the John Piper Art School) from Hart-Smith, the last junior boys' house.

**ROSEBERY-** Named after Archibald John Primrose, the fifth Earl of Rosebery and a College Benefactor. He was one of the largest landowners in Britain, owning the Durdans estate just outside Epsom, as well as Mentmore Towers and many other homes. He was a friend of Queen Victoria, a prominent racehorse owner and owner of Derby winners. He was British Prime Minister between March 1894 and June 1895 when he was forced to resign by ill-health. He was President of the College over many years, visiting the Chapel regularly in his wheelchair on Sundays (when he was wheeled up to sit beside the Headmaster. Rosebery was the first separate day boys house, founded in 1926, though day boys had enjoyed a less formal existence ever since the founding of the College.

**WILSON-** Named after Sir Erasmus Wilson who provided a lot of money for the College. He built Wilson House, which was the Headmaster's house. This was first separate school house, founded in 1873. Parents of pupils wishing to enter it would have to pay slightly higher fees to live in Wilson 'directly under the Headmaster's eye'. The resulting profit was used to supplement the Headmaster's salary in the days when, as a charity, the school could not afford to pay enough on its own to attract a good candidate. Erasmus Wilson was the first professor of Dermatology at London University. He gave evidence in the government enquiry which finally abolished flogging in the British Army. He is best known for paying for the removal of 'Cleopatra's Needle' from Alexandria and its epic transportation to the Embankment in London. Obituary, 'Epsomian' 1884 pp21-2 Wilson House was a boys' house until the introduction of co-education throughout the school in 1996, when it became the first house to admit junior girls.

**WHITE-** Named prosaically after the white house in which it was founded in 1976, White House was the first house to admit girls. At first only 16 strong, White House expanded during the 1980s into its present accommodation on the Terrace. It remains unique in admitting only Sixth Form girls.