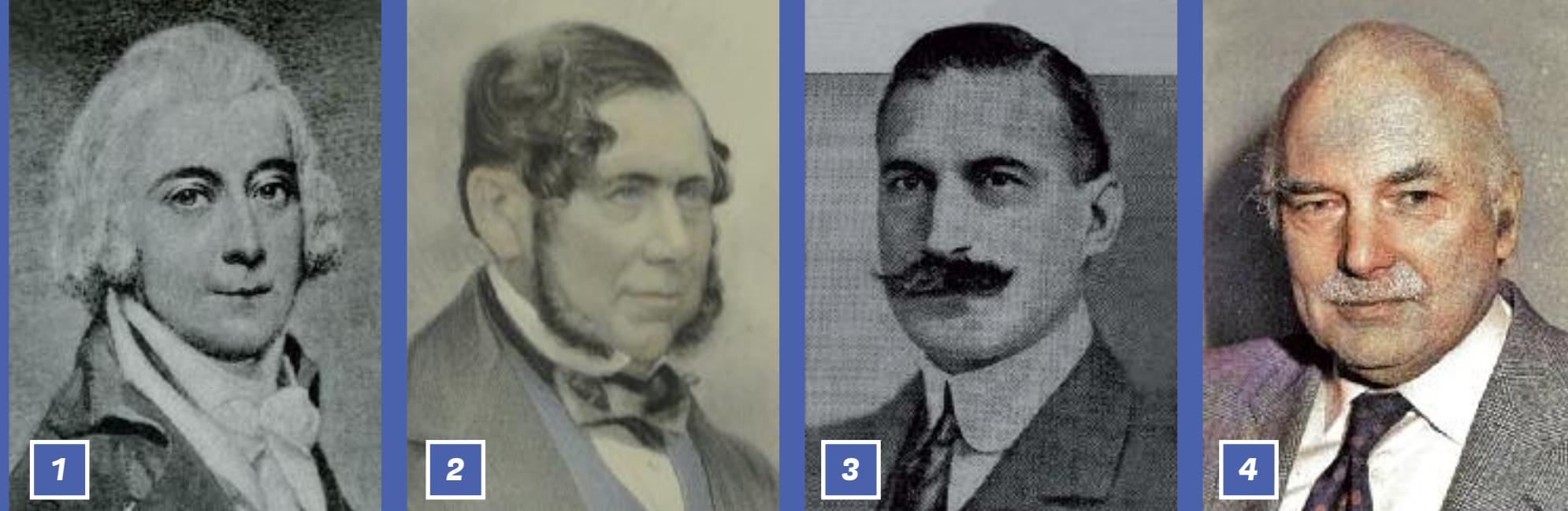


The Farnhams



For 750 years, through 21 generations, the Farnhams were Quorn's principal family and local squires. Robert de Farnham was first granted land in Quorn between 1243 and 1272 by Roger de Sumery, the then Lord of the Manor of Barrow upon Soar.

The Farnham Chapel

In 1392 John Farnham founded the Farnham Chapel on the south side of Quorn St Bartholomew's Church. It contains many impressive memorials and is one of the few private chapels within a village parish church that is locked and can only be opened with permission of the family trustees.

Two Branches of the Farnham Family

The family lived on the site of the present Quorn House, off Meeting Street. However, after John Farnham died in 1416 the estate passed to his grandson (Robert) and a legal battle ensued with a younger son, Thomas. As a result, one branch of the family continued at the Over Hall (Quorn House), and Thomas built the Nether Hall (Quorn Hall) on the north-east side of the village.

By the late 1600s the Nether Hall Farnhams had depleted finances and the Over Hall Farnhams had no male heir. In 1703 Sarah Farnham from the Over Hall married Benjamin Farnham from the Nether Hall and their son, Edward (born 1704) inherited the estate, so reverting to a single family line.

Scan here to play the audio for this board.



- 1 Edward Farnham (1753 - 1835), who built the present Quorn House in 1820.
- 2 Edward Basil Farnham MP (1799 - 1879).
- 3 George Francis Farnham (1859 - 1933).
- 4 E. George A. Farnham (1927 - 2015).

- 5 Inside the Farnham Chapel.
- 6 Quorn House (the Over Hall).
- 7 William Farnham (1855 - 1910) in 1887 standing outside Quorn House after making extensive improvements.

and was committed to a lunatic asylum. His assets were sold and Quorn House, with a large area of land, was purchased by Mountsorrel Granite Company. The house was almost immediately bought back by William's younger brother, George Francis Farnham, a successful stockbroker and local historian.

The 20th Century

When George Francis Farnham died in 1933 he left a large part of his estate for the benefit of the village and left Quorn House to William's grandson, Edward George Adrian Farnham (known as George), aged six. George married his wife Barbara in 1948 and like his antecedents held many public offices including with the County Council, the Health Authority and as High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire. George and Barbara brought up their family at Quorn House, but without rental income from an estate, maintaining the house was impossible and in 1993 they sold up and moved to Scotland. They were the last Farnhams to live in Quorn. George died in 2015.

William E J B Farnham (1855 - 1910)

In 1879 William Farnham inherited the family estate from his father Edward Basil Farnham. It was worth £180,000 (about £23 million at 2020 prices).

William enjoyed an extravagant lifestyle and was a generous benefactor to the village, instrumental in the building of the Village Hall and Rawlins School, providing a cricket ground and funding alterations to the Church, including two bells and the first organ.

In the early 1890s William went bankrupt

