

Ebie MURRAY



This memorial to a lady named **EBIE MURRAY** is a little unique. It bears her name and a reference to her husband appears at the side of the plinth but nothing else - no places or dates for her. Furthermore, a search through the parish records found nothing recording her death. So, who precisely was she? The name EBIE does not appear anywhere, nor does the name of her husband. (Plot C63)

She was, in fact, ELIZABETH GRAY. Sadly, since she was born in Australia, little can be found of her early life. Furthermore, it has proved difficult to identify accurately her father, Charles Gray, Esq. Hence, any information found has been piecemeal. The reference to her husband, who is not buried here, reads:

*Also In Devoted Memory of **JOHN RIGBY MURRAY** Born 13 March 1857 Died 13 January 1946 "Let thy loving spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness".*

The Birth Index, 1837-1917, for the State of Victoria, Australia, shows that Elizabeth Gray was born in **1863**. Her father was Charles Gray and her mother's name was Elizabeth Sharp, and that she was born in Queenscliff. Her parents had married in **1857** in Victoria. (I) It would appear that Elizabeth had a sister **Annie** (1858-1943) who was born in Portland, Victoria.

1850. Marriage solemnized at <u>St Peter's Church</u> in the Parish of <u>St James</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
127	<u>November 10th 1880</u>	<u>Charles James Rowe</u>	<u>full</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Barista in law</u>	<u>22, Park Road Garden</u>	<u>Charles Rowe (deceased)</u>	<u>Gentleman</u>
		<u>Annie Gray</u>	<u>full</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>19 Holland Park Terrace</u>	<u>Charles Gray</u>	<u>Gentleman</u>
Married in the <u>Church of St Peter</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>License</u> or after <u>—</u> by me, <u>R. J. Frost D.D. Vicar</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Charles James Rowe</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>John Douglas</u>		
		<u>Annie Gray</u>				<u>Anna Smith</u>		

In the census of **1911**, **Annie** was a widow (52), living at 18 Pelham Crescent, South Kensington. She had a son, Felix Charles, aged 25, single and a Stockbroker, born in Paddington. She also had 3 domestics in attendance. She died on 15 December **1943** and an announcement read:

ROWE. On Dec. 15, 1943, in London, ANNIE, widow of Charles James Rowe and dear mother of Felix Rowe, Surrey Lodge, Henley-on-Thames, and eldest daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Gray, of Victoria, Australia, aged 85 years. Service at St' Luke's Church, Chelsea, S.W.3, on Monday Dec. 20 at 11 am. Flowers to John Nodes Funeral Service, 181 Ladbroke Grove, W.10.

Her will was proved at Llandudno on 22 January **1944**, her address being given as the Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, and her effects were left to her son Felix Charles Rowe, squadron leader, R.A.F.V.R. Felix was born on 24 January 1886, baptised at Emperor's Gate Presbyterian Church, Kensington, and his father Charles James was recorded as a merchant.

(II) She also had a second older sister, **Emily**. She was born in Caramut, Victoria, in **1860**.

1889. Marriage solemnized at <i>Christ Church</i> in the Parish of <i>Padobington</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
167	June 3 rd	Leonard William - Sedgwick	29	Bachelor	Merchant	2 Gloucester Terrace W	Leonard William - Sedgwick	Doctor of Medicine
	1889	Emily Gray	28	Spinster		40 Gloucester Place W	Charles Gray	Gentleman

Married in the *Christ Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after *Banns* by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *Leonard William Sedgwick* } in the Presence of us, { *Andrew John Lodge* }
 { *Emily Gray* } { *John Rigby Murray* }
Robertson
Near of Bromley

In the census of **1911**, she was living (aged 50) with her husband (51) at the Farm House, Oxhey Road, Oxhey, Barnet., with 3 domestic servants. Leonard was a Retired Merchant, living on his own means. They had no children.

The announcement of her death read:

SEDGWICK. On Dec. 2, 1950, at 5 Abingdon Court, W.8, EMILY (Fatima), widow, widow of Leonard William Sedgwick, and last surviving daughter of Charles Rowe, of Nareeb-Nareeb, Victoria, Australia, aged 90 years. Funeral, St. Jude's Church, Callington Road, S.W.5, Thursday Dec. 7, at 2pm. Flowers to John Nodes and Sons, Ltd., 181 Ladbroke Grove, W.10.

It was reported on Saturday 3 July **1880**, in the journal *The Colonies and India* that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray attended the Seventh Annual Conversazione of the Royal Colonial Institute at the South Kensington Museum on the 24 June. It was the largest gathering the Institute had held, with over 1,400 guests.

The Morning Post for Wednesday 30 March **1881** carried a Court Report:

The Court Circular contains the following: Her Majesty the Queen held a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon. ... The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and the other members of the Royal Family, entered the Throne Room shortly after three o'clock. ... The following presentations to the Queen were made, the names having previously been left at the Lord Chamberlain's office and submitted for her Majesty's approval: ... Miss Emily Gray by her mother, Mrs. Charles Gray, and Miss Ebie Gray, by her mother, Mrs. Charles Gray.

The *South London Press* on Saturday 13 November **1886** printed a report on a musical evening, which clearly showed a talent for singing:

BAUMANN HABITATION. On Thursday evening a concert to celebrate the first return of Mr. A. A. Baumann to represent Peckham in Parliament was given in St. Mary's College, under the auspices of the habitation of the Primrose League bearing the name of the hon. gentleman. There was a numerous assemblage of. ... The musical arrangements were under the direction of Mr. W. Hedgcock, and the general superintendence of the entertainment was entrusted to the capable hands of Mr. Alfred Savage, Mr. Fergusson Fawcett, and Miss Beatrice Borland, hon. secretaries of the habitation The concert opened with the pianoforte duet Reve d'Or, valse brillante," successfully interpreted by Mrs. Bird and Miss Maris, after which Miss Ebie Gray contributed a faithful and expressive rendition of "Fond heart, farewell". ... Miss Gray responded to an encore for an exceedingly attractive rendition of "Bid me good-bye".

This talent of hers was further highlighted in an advertisement printed on Wednesday 29 December 1886 in the *Morning Post*, featuring a concert to be given on 5 January in the Lyric Club, New Bond Street, in aid of the winter charities of St. Luke's, Camberwell. A number of artistes kindly volunteered their services and tickets could be obtained from the vicar, or from **Miss Ebie Gray**, 40 Gloucester Place, Hyde Park.

1887. Marriage solemnized at <i>Christ Church</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Paddlington</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
101	July 20 th 1887	<i>John Rigby Murray</i>	30	Bachelor	<i>Stickler</i>	<i>Littleswood Worsley Manchester</i>	<i>Benjamin Rigby Murray</i>	Gentleman
		<i>Elizabeth Gray</i>	24	Spinster		<i>40 Gloucester Place</i>	<i>Charles Gray</i>	Gentleman

Married in the *Christ Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Charles Ridgeway* or after *Banns* by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John Rigby Murray* and *Elizabeth Gray* in the Presence of us, *Charles James Rowd* *Charles Ridgeway*

Their marriage was announced in the *Morning Post* on Thursday 21 July 1887:

MURRAY-GRAY. On the 20th inst., at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, by the vicar, the Rev. Charles Ridgeway, John Rigby Murray, younger son of B. Rigby Murray, Esq., of Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire, N.B., to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Charles Gray, Esq., of 40 Gloucester Place, Hyde Park, London, and Victoria, Australia.

The Daily Telegraph of Saturday 10 May 1890 reported:

The Court Circular contains the following: Her Majesty the Queen held a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace this (Friday) afternoon. ... The Queen, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal family, entered the Throne Room shortly after three o'clock. ... The following presentations to the Queen were made: amongst the dozens of names mentioned were Mrs. Charles Rowe, by Mrs. John Rigby Murray.

The only census which contains both names as husband and wife is the 1891 census. Their address at that time was Hopelands, The Avenue, Pendleton.

John Rigby Murray	Head	M	34	Stockbroker	b. Lancs., Manchester
Elizabeth	Wife	M	28		b. Australia, Victoria
Keith Rd.	Son		2		b. Eccles

+ 1 nurse, and 3 domestics.

The Manchester Courier for Tuesday 4 October 1892 had to announce her death:

MURRAY - On Sunday, October 2nd, at Hopelands, Eccles, near Manchester, Ebie, the dearly beloved wife of John Rigby Murray.

On the anniversary date of her death in 1893, the same newspaper carried a memorial In Memoriam in the morning edition.

Burial: 6 October 1892 St Mark, Worsley.

Elizabeth Murray

Age: 29 yrs.

Abode: Pendleton
Buried by: F. K. Hodgkinson

<i>Mrs Miss Green C 63</i>	<i>Elizabeth Murray</i> No. 2283	<i>Pendleton</i>	<i>Oct 6th</i>	<i>29</i> Years	<i>F. K. Hodgkinson</i>
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In her will, proved in London on 4 February **1893**, she left her effects of £560 to her husband. Her date of death was confirmed as 2 October and her address was Hopelands, Eccles.

John Rigby MURRAY

Baptism: 5 April 1857 St. Thomas, Ardwick, Lancashire.

John Rigby Murray - Son of **Benjamin Rigby Murray & Jane Finnan**

Born: 13 March 1857

Abode: Polygon Ardwick

Occupation: Cotton Spinner

Baptised by: N. W. Gibson Rector

Benjamin Murray and George (twins) were born on 24 June 1822 at Chowbent, to George and Jane Murray, and were baptised that same year at Chowbent Unitarian Chapel.

Benjamin Rigby Murray and **Jane Finnan Whigham** married at Tolbooth Church, Edinburgh, on 23 January 1846.

1851 census: Polygon, Ardwick.

Benjamin Rigby Murray	Head	M	28	Cotton Spinner	
Jane F.	Wife	M	32		
Jane Rigby	Daur.		19 mo.		
Georgina H. E. Whigham	Vis.	S	21		b. Scotland
Matilda Jane Whigham	Vis.	S	21	(Twins, sisters of Jane F.)	

+ 3 servants.

1861 census: The Polygon, Ardwick.

Benjamin Rigby Murray	Head	M	38	Cotton Spinner	
Jane F.	Wife	M	40		
Jane R.	Daur.		11	Scholar	
Eliza	Daur.		9	Scholar	
Katherine	Daur.		8	Scholar	
George	Son		6	Scholar	
Margaret	Daur.		5	Scholar	
John	Son		4		

+ 1 Governess b. Germany
+ 9 servants

1871 census: Polygon, Ardwick.

Benjamin Rigby Murray	Head	M	48	Cotton Spinner emp. 825 men	b. Manchester
Jane F.	Wife	M	52		b. Scotland
Eliza R.	Daur.	S	19	Scholar	b. Manchester
Catherine R.	Daur.	S	18	Scholar	b. Manchester
George R.	Son	S	16	Scholar	b. Manchester
Margaret R.	Daur.		15	Scholar	b. Manchester
John R.	Son		14	Scholar	b. Manchester
Jane R. Villiers Stuart	Daur.	M	21		b. Manchester
Henry J. R. Villiers Stuart	S-in-law	M	24	Captain unattached Major of Militia	b. Middx.

+ 1 Governess b. Odessa, Russia
+12 servants

In each of the children's names above, the initial **R stood for Rigby.**

<p>Murray, John Rigby, born at Ardwick, co. Lanc, 13 March, 1857; 2s. Benjamin Rigby, arm. NON-COLLEGIATE, matric. 17 Jan., 80, aged 22 (from Eton); migrated to TRINITY 80, B.A. 83, M.A. 86; bar.-at-law, Inner Temple, 84.</p>
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1881 Scotland census: Parton Place, Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland.

Benjamin Rigby Murray	Head	M	58	
Jane F.	Wife	M	60	
Margaret Rigby	Daur.		25	
John Rigby	Son		24	Law Student

+ 8 servants

On 24 January **1901**, the *Manchester Courier*, following the death of Queen Victoria two days previously, carried the following report:

MANCHESTER STOCK EXCHANGE CLOSED.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY.

*There was full attendance the Manchester Stock Exchange at the usual time for commencing business, but no prices were called. A telegram was sent to the London Stock Exchange asking what was being done there in consequence of the Queen's death, and at 11 20 the reply came that the London Exchange was being immediately closed. **Mr. John Rigby Murray**, the chairman, addressed a few remarks to the assembled members, with reference to the sad event, and read a telegram expressing the sympathy of members of the Manchester Stock Exchange with the Royal Family in their bereavement, this message of condolence being then despatched to Marlborough House. The members' then dispersed.*

1901 census: Buxton House, Fairfield, Buxton.

John Rigby Murray	Head	W	44	Barrister at Law; Employer
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+ 3 domestics

Also in the **1901** Scotland census: Parton Mansion, Parton.

Benjamin R. Murray	Head		78	Living on Own Means
Elizabeth R.	Daur		49	

+ 1 nurse
+ 7 servants

Parton Row is the name of the cottages rebuilt in **1901** by the laird, **Benjamin Rigby Murray**, of Parton House. One was used as a library and reading room. The clock tower was added to an existing byre but later converted to a communal laundry. In later years the building nearest the hall was the village shop and post office and was the home of Sam Callander (1922 - 2012), who devoted much of his life to promoting the memory of James Clerk Maxwell.



Murray also built the village hall in **1908** with the motto over the entrance " *Floreat Partona* ".

Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland: A Survey of Scottish Topography, Statistical, Biographical and Historical, edited by Francis H. Groome

*From the middle of the 15th to the middle of the present century Parton barony was held by the Glendonwyn family; now it belongs to **Benjamin Rigby Murray**, Esq. (b 1822), who owns 1256 acres in the shire, valued at £1217, 6s. per annum. His seat, Parton House, is situated on a rising ground, with fine old trees, 1³/₈ mile ESE of Parton station, and commands a fine view of Loch Dee,*

Benjamin Rigby Murray died on 4 July **1901** at Parton, Kirkcudbright. His will was confirmed by George Rigby Murray and was sealed in London on 26 August. He was buried in the Parton Kirkyard.



'In loving memory of Jane Finnan, wife of B. Rigby Murray, of Parton, died 31 May 1891 And of Benjamin Rigby Murray, of Parton, died 4th July 1901'.

"He giveth his beloved sleep."



Whereas **Ebie Murray** was buried in St. Mark's Churchyard, **John Rigby Murray** was buried on the family estate in Scotland, in Parton Kirkyard.

*In devoted memory of **John Rigby Murray**, of Parton, born 13th March 1857, died 13th January 1946.*

"Let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness."

The Scotsman announced the death of **THE LATE MR. JOHN R. MURRAY OF PARTON** . The death occurred suddenly at Ravenswood , Annan , of Mr. **John Rigby Murray**, proprietor of Parton estate and mansion house, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. Mr. Murray, who was 88 years of age, was educated at Eton and Oxford. He was called to the Bar, but never practised. For many years he was connected with the Manchester Stock Exchange, and for a period was president. He is survived by his wife and one son.

MURRAY John Rigby of Ravenswood St. Johns-road Annan Dumfriesshire died 13 January 1946 Confirmation of Keith Richard Murray Rutherford Clark Gillespie writer to the Signet and Alec Knox solicitor. Sealed **London** 24 April.

The *Manchester Evening News* later reported that **John Rigby Murray**, former President of the Manchester Stock Exchange, had left £102,359 in his will.

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Murray's Mills, built by earlier Murray industrialists

Cottages in Parton Village, built by a later Murray

Along with James senior, his brother **Benjamin Rigby Murray** (1823-1901) inherited the A & G Murray cotton business after their father George died in **1855**.

The cotton-spinning mill of A & G Murray is one of the most important surviving steam-powered cotton mills in the world. It was established in the Ancoats area of Manchester during the final years of the 18th century, and was amongst the first cotton mills ever to have been designed specifically to house steam-powered spinning mules, providing a new and powerful dimension to factory-based textile manufacture. The book *A and G Murray and the Cotton Mills of Ancoats*, by I. Miller (2007) details the comprehensive survey of the mill and the remarkable, but little studied, industrial townscape of Ancoats, and is presented for both specialists and general readers.

Murrays' Mills is a complex of former cotton mills on land between Jersey Street and the Rochdale Canal in the district of Ancoats, Manchester, England. The mills were built for brothers Adam and George Murray. Many of the buildings have been restored today.

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On 8 November **1902**, **John Rigby Murray** had also married **Beatrice** Sydney Jane Margaret **Roberts** at All Saints Church, Knightsbridge.

B4902. Marriage solemnized at <i>All Saints' Church in the Parish of All Saints, Knightsbridge in the County of London</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
385	<i>Eighth</i> <i>November</i> <i>B 1902</i>	<i>John Rigby</i> <i>Murray</i>	<i>Full</i> <i>age</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Gentleman</i>	<i>7 Trevor Square</i> <i>S.W.</i>	<i>Benjamin Rigby</i> <i>Murray (dec'd)</i>	<i>Esquire</i>
		<i>Beatrice Sydney</i> <i>Jane Margaret</i> <i>Roberts</i>	<i>Full</i> <i>age</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	—	<i>31 New Cavendish</i> <i>Street. W.</i>	<i>Randal Howland</i> <i>Roberts (dec'd)</i>	<i>Baronet</i>
Married in the <i>All Saints' Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <i>Banns</i> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>John Rigby Murray</i>		in the presence of		<i>J. M. Roberts</i> <i>L. Wood.</i> <i>George Murray</i> <i>W. G. Richards</i>		

The Morning Post on Wednesday 10 September **1902** had already given advanced notice that "A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between **John Rigby Murray**, younger son of the late **B. Rigby Murray**, of Parton, Galloway. N. B., and **Beatrice**, younger daughter of the late **Sir Randal Howland Roberts, Bart.**, of Brightfieldstown, County Cork".

1864 June 2 nd Born April 5 th No. 22 1864	Beatrice Sydney June Margaret	Sir Randal Howland Elizabeth Mary	Roberts	17 Mildridge Rd Villas	Baronet	<i>R. Murray</i>
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1871 census: 33 Brompton Square, Kensington.

Randall H. Roberts	Head	M	34	Bart; Ret. Army Officer	b. Ireland
Eliza M.	Wife	M	30		b. East India
Nina M.	Daur.		8	Scholar	b. Middlesex
Beatrice S. J. M.	Daur.		6	Scholar	b. Middlesex

+1 Governess

1880 U.S. Federal Census. 616 Seering Street, Boston, Mass., USA.

Now here is a strange thing! Beatrice did not appear in the British census of 1881. And this is because the family at that time was overseas - in America.

Roberts Randal	White	M	45	Artist	b. England
Roberts Eliza	White	M	40	Keeping House	b. India
Roberts Walton	Son	S	21	Artist	b. India
Roberts Nina	Daur.	S	18		b. England
Roberts Beatrice	Daur.	S	16		b. England

1891 census: 19 Old Quebec Street, St. Marylebone.

Elizabeth L. Roberts	Lodger	M	50	Living on own means	b. India
Beatrice S.	Daur.	S	24	Living on own means	b. London

1902: 8 November. All Saints' Church, Knightsbridge.

John Rigby Murray, Widower, and of full age, married Beatrice Sydney Jane Margaret Roberts, Spinster, of full age. This was 10 years after the death of **Ebie. Beatrice** was the second daughter of Sir Randal Howland Roberts, 4th Baronet, and Lady Elizabeth.

1911 census: 4 The Broad Walk, Buxton.

Lady E. M. Roberts	Head	W	71	(5 children; 3 died)	b. India, Ahmedabad
Beatrice Murray	Visitor	M	46		b. Paddington

1911 census: 14 Leinster Gardens, Paddington.

John Rigby Murray	Head	M	54	Barrister
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+ 2 visiting actresses and 4 servants.

ROBERTS or MURRAY Beatrice Sydney Jane Margaret of Ravenshill Lockerbie died 3 September 1957 Confirmation of Ethel Maud Bird and Gladys Ella Smith and Robert Smith. Sealed London 17 October.

Sir Randal Howland Roberts was a very surprising gentleman in many ways - given that he had served in the Crimea and during the Indian Mutiny. But that must be for another time and place!!

Ebie MURRAY



1887. Marriage solemnized at *Christ Church* in the Parish of *Paddington* in the County of *Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
101	July 20 th	John Rigby Murray	30	Bachelor	Stickmaker	Littlewood Works Marshfield	Benjamin Rigby Murray	Gentleman
	1887	Elizabeth Gray	24	Spinster	—	40 Gloucester Place	Charles Gray	Gentleman

Married in the *Christ Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *—* or after *Banns* by me, *—*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *John Rigby Murray* } in the Presence of us, { *B. Rigby Murray* }
 { *Elizabeth Gray* } { *Charles James Rowd* }

Born: c. 1863, Victoria, Australia

Died: 2 October 1892

WIFE OF JOHN RIGBY MURRAY