

**Major General Sir Charles Walters D'Oyly, 1822-1900, Creator of Newlands, Charlton Marshall.** Part 1 of a 3 part article by Mark Churchill.

Sir Charles, as I think he was usually referred to in the village, came to Charlton Marshall in 1880 after a military career in India. He and his second wife, Lady Elinor, took a significant part in village and district life as would have been expected of people of their status.

Sir Charles was ninth baronet of Shottisham, Norfolk, having succeeded to the title in 1869 on his father's death, and was himself succeeded by his half-brother Sir Warren Hastings D'Oyly in 1900.

Sir Charles was born in India in 1822. His father and uncle were both senior civil servants of the East India Company. He and his younger brother George were sent home to Sherborne School where, I am told, his name can still be seen boldly carved into the lid of one of the old desks which have been incorporated into windowsills. His address in the Sherborne Register is given as Steepleton House Blandford (the estate on Steepleton Bends north of Stourpaine) which the family were leasing at the time from the Pitt Rivers family. From Sherborne he went to the East India Company's Military Seminary at Addiscombe in Surrey and his military career began in India the day before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 1842.

In India on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1855, Charles married Emily Jane Nott and the following July their daughter Mary Lushington D'Oyly was born. Charles was in charge of a Government Stud Depot at Haupper near Meerut; this comprised some 1800 young horses being bred for army use. In 1857 the Indian Mutiny broke out and Charles and his little family, together with other Europeans, were forced to make an overnight escape from their home. Emily, who was pregnant, went into premature labour and a stillborn son was delivered; sadly Emily also died and mother and son were buried together. Leaving little Mary with another family, Charles made his way back in an unsuccessful effort to save the stud.

*All my history articles can be read on [www.charltonmarshall.org.uk](http://www.charltonmarshall.org.uk)*

**Major General Sir Charles Walters D'Oyly, 1822-1900, Creator of Newlands, Charlton Marshall.** Part 2 of a 3 part article by Mark Churchill.

A summary of Charles's military career is found on a large brass on the north wall of the church in Charlton Marshall. Research by the late Captain Tim Ash has noted one or two discrepancies in the detail. Charles married his second wife, Elinor Scott, in 1867; there were no children from this marriage. They returned to England in 1872 and lived at Steepleton House. Sir Charles retired from military service two years later and by 1880 they had bought a ten acre plot in Charlton Marshall and built Newlands on a part of it that had been known as 'Sunny'.

Sir Charles, and his uncle of the same name, were both accomplished amateur artists and their paintings still appear from time to time in specialist auctions. An internet search on the name brings up quite a selection. There are Indian scenes, rural scenes around Charlton Marshall, and humorous sketches of Indian and military life, among others. I was told by a lady who worked at Newlands that an attic room with roof lights had been a studio.

In 1881 the household included a cook, parlour maid, house maid, kitchen maid, coachman and groom and I was told that in the 1930s there was still 'a full staff'. The appendage 'Manor' was added to the name 'Newlands' in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and recently it has been renamed again as 'Newlands Manor House'.

In common with Thomas and Sarah Horlock Bastard of Charlton Manor, and Henry and Augusta Huntley of Charlton House, Sir Charles and Lady Elinor hosted teas for village children, provided coal to the poor in harsh weather, responded to appeals of various kinds, and were active in church life. They gave newspapers and magazines when the schoolroom was opened in the evenings as a reading room and Lady Elinor held Mothers Meetings at Newlands. For a while Sir Charles was Chairman of the Blandford Cottage Hospital Committee of

Management and his wife is often mentioned for gifts to the hospital such as fruit, flowers, vegetables, 'old linen', toys and a bath chair.

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**Major General Sir Charles Walters D'Oyly, 1822-1900, Creator of Newlands, Charlton Marshall.** The final part of a 3 part article by Mark Churchill.

Sir Charles supported many organisations in Blandford including the Literary Institution, the St John Ambulance, and the Constitutional Club. He also sat regularly as a magistrate at the Blandford Court of Petty Sessions and it is interesting to see in the reports of its proceedings the names of residents of Charlton Marshall who appeared before him from time to time. Inevitably when the Blandford Literary Institution started an art class he was involved in it and in 1894 he supervised the arrangements for a Grand Indian Bazaar put on by the Constitutional Club; Lady Elinor was one of the stallholders.

It is no surprise that when Charlton Marshall's first Parish Council was formed in 1894, Sir Charles was unanimously elected its Chairman and probably few, if any, are aware that the iron gates inside the church porch were given by Lady Elinor after the restoration work of 1895.

The following is taken from the tribute to Sir Charles in the parish magazine in August 1900 by the curate Rev John Cattle. *By the death of Sir Charles D'Oyly, which occurred after a long illness at Newlands on the evening of July 11<sup>th</sup>, the parishioners of Charlton, and many others will feel that one of the best of men has been taken away. His circle of friends was so large, his sympathies so widespread, and his sphere of activity and usefulness so extensive that the number of notices of his death which have appeared is not surprising. But his memory claims our respect and esteem, especially as a resident in Charlton, where for many years he has spared no pains and no expense in any way that he thought calculated to promote the welfare of his adopted Parish ... I have always found (him) to be an ever ready and generous, ever sympathetic and unassuming helper ... his affable unfailing courtesy, conciliatory address and sound and respected judgement were invaluable factors in securing co-operation ... "Do nothing that is evil" was his family motto, but he took a higher standard in life ... his habitual practise (sic) to do everything that was good.*

Lady Elinor continued to live at Newlands until her death in 1914 and she is buried with Sir Charles just inside the entrance of the old cemetery in Charlton Marshall. (*All my history articles can be read on [www.charltonmarshall.org.uk](http://www.charltonmarshall.org.uk)*)