

Freemen of the County Borough of Middlesbrough

‘Old Board’



The information contained in this booklet relates to the people listed on the County Borough of Middlesbrough Freemen of the Borough Board which is located in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, also known as the 'Old Board'.

Some of the older records have been lost and it has been difficult to find out why some of those listed received the Freedom of the Borough. Research is still ongoing, so hopefully further information may come to light.

Any items from the civic collection or photos/paintings linked to the people who received Freedom of the Borough are featured in this booklet.



William Fallows – 9 March 1886



Portrait of William Fallows Esq at his desk painted by Charles Napier Kennedy. First suggestion of a painting was at a council meeting 26 November 1880 by Alderman Willman (then Mayor). Presented with the portrait of Joseph Pease on Jubilee Day 6 October 1881.

Civic Collection

Background Information – William Fallows JP (1797-1889)

One of the first Commissioners for the town 1841-1842 and 1842-1848

Elected a member of the Middlesbrough Town Council 1853

The first elected Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough 9 March 1886

William was born at Sleights near Whitby on 10 December 1797. In 1805 he moved to Stockton and was educated at the Blue Coat School. He became an apprentice to an iron and timber merchant in 1820 and was Secretary of the Stockton Mechanics Institute in 1825. Following his apprenticeship he became a Ship Broker in 1827 and was Shipping Agent for the Stockton and Darlington Railway Company. In 1830 he was sent to Middlesbrough to supervise coal shipments and became Middlesbrough's first Harbour Master and later formed the Middlesbrough and London Shipping Company which ran a service from 1830 - 1837. He was the inspiration behind the system of navigational lights developed on the River Tees in the 1830s. In 1832/3 he moved to Middlesbrough. He had acquired one of the first plots of land on sale by the Middlesbrough owners in Commercial Street. It was from his premises that Middlesbrough's first postal service was operated. He then moved to Southfield Villas. He built the first place of worship for the Unitarians in West Street in 1833. In 1835 he was Assessor for land tax in the new township of Middlesbrough and under his Chairmanship he established a unit of the Poor Law Union in 1836. William was involved in the funding of the re-establishment of the parish church of St Hilda's which was rebuilt in 1836 at a cost of £2500. In 1838 Middlesbrough's first school opened in Stockton Street with William Fallows as Chairman of its Board of Managers. The following year he bought his first house in Middlesbrough as Trustee of the newly formed Middlesbrough Tug Company. In 1841 he was Chairman of the North Riding Justices of the Peace and Twelve Commissioners were appointed to act as Middlesbrough's first Local authority. William Fallows was subsequently elected. In 1853 the Town received its Charter of Incorporation and William Fallows was elected as one of the first Town Councillors as their Chairman. Fallows suggested that Gladstone should visit Middlesbrough in 1862 and he came on 9 October of that year when he called Middlesbrough 'An infant Hercules', a phrase which has gone down in history. His last public duty was when he attended the opening of the new Town Hall, by the Prince and Princess of Wales, some months before his death. He died in Middlesbrough, aged 92, on 14 August 1889 at his home in Southfield Villas.

Raylton Dixon – 14 January 1890



Background Information - Sir Raylton Dixon JP (1838-1901)

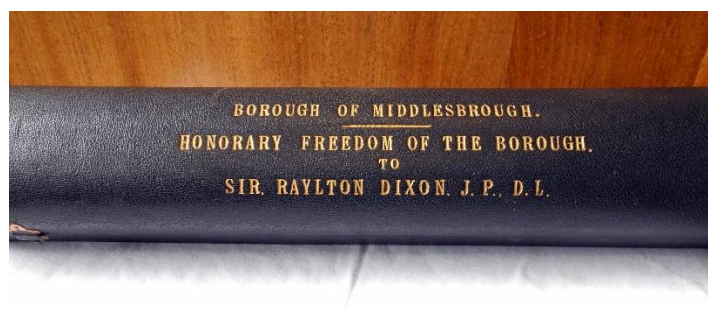
Councillor for North East Ward 1868-1874, 1879-1888

Resigned the "Distinction" 2 February 1895

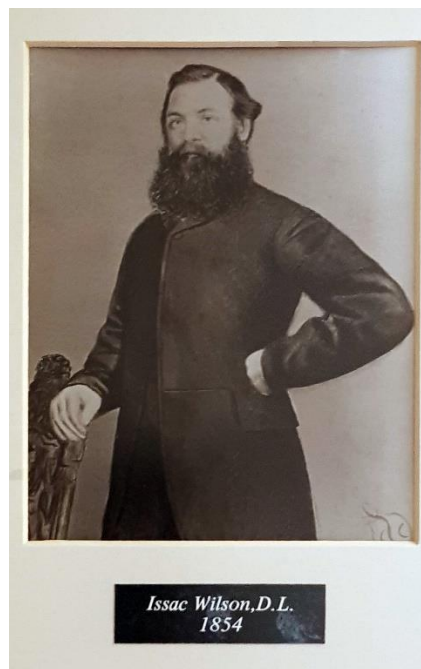
County and Borough Magistrate, Member of the Board of Guardians, Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Member of the Tees Conservancy Commission

Raylton was born on 8 July 1838 in Newcastle, son of Jeremiah Dixon of Balla Wray, Ambleside. He came to Middlesbrough in 1859 to work at Backhouse & Dixon Iron Ship Builders and joined the Institute of Naval Architects in 1868. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1872 and stood as a Conservative in the General Election of 1885, he came second polling 4,035 votes. In the same year he bought Gunnergate Hall and lived there until his death. Raylton was Knighted in the New Year's Honours List of 31 December 1889. A portrait of him by Pettie RA was presented to the Town Hall collection and is still displayed in the Municipal Buildings. He died on 28 July 1901 at Gunnergate Hall and is buried in Marton churchyard.

Civic Collection - The portrait was presented to Sir Raylton Dixon in recognition of his services to the Borough of Middlesbrough 1888-1890, painted by Pettie R A. The Civic Collection also contains the scroll he was presented with at the Freedom of the Borough ceremony.



Isaac Wilson – 26 July 1892



Background Information - Isaac Wilson DL JP (1822-1899)

Improvement Commissioner 1845-1846

Alderman 1853-1857

Isaac Wilson, born 16 February 1822, in Kendal, Westmorland. He was related to the Pease family and in 1841 came to Middlesbrough where he managed a pottery in Commercial Street. Later, with Edward Gilkes, he established the Tees Engine Works at the corner of Commercial Street and Grey Street. The firm manufactured locomotives and other products for railway engineering on Teesside and in 1865, merged into a larger concern known as Hopkins, Gilkes & Co. Wilson was also a director of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. In 1850 he moved to Nunthorpe Hall. He contributed to the building of a school for 35 children in Nunthorpe in 1855 and was largely responsible for its maintenance. Wilson became involved in local politics and in 1854 became Mayor of Middlesbrough. He was elected at a by-election in July 1878 as Member of Parliament (MP) for Middlesbrough and held the seat until he stood down from the House of Commons at the 1892 general election. He was President of the Teesside Chamber of Commerce from 1879 to 1887. He died in 1899 and Nunthorpe Hall was subsequently occupied by Joseph Albert Pease MP.

William Bulmer – 14 March 1894



Background Information - William Bulmer (died 1901)

Councillor for West Ward 1871-1877

Alderman 1877-1908

Committees:- Chairman of Parks Committee 1896, General Purposes & Parliamentary, Asylum, Ferry, Sanitary, Hackney Carriage, Plans,

Member of the Board of Guardians

William was an Engineer and Dock Superintendent and lived at South Villa, now Marland Buildings on the Longlands roundabout. He became an Assistant Dock Manager and opened the Hampton Court Style maze in Albert Park on 10 August 1894.

Sir Lowthian Bell Bart – 2 November 1894



Background Information – Sir Lowthian Bell Bart

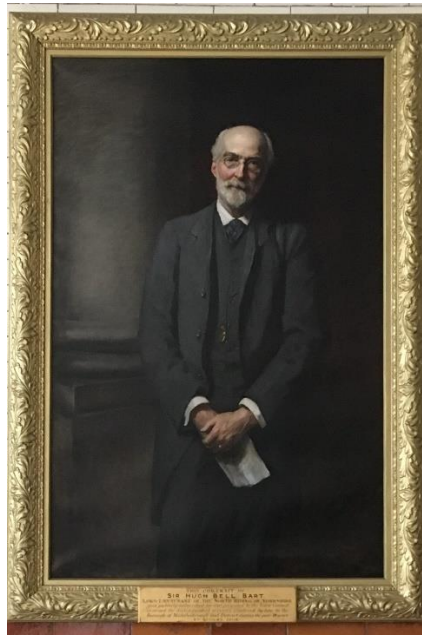
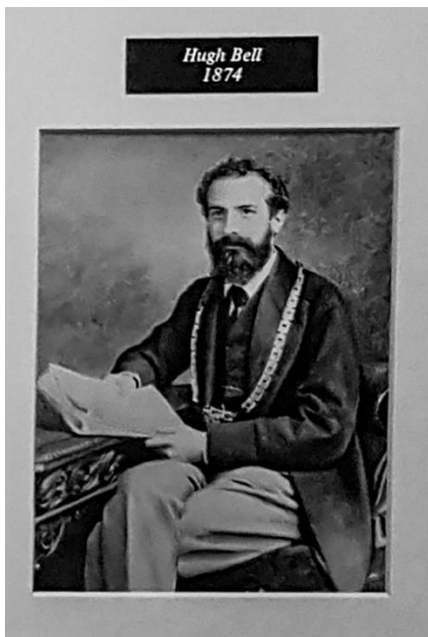
The fifth person to receive the Freedom of the County Borough of Middlesbrough was Sir Lowthian Bell Bart who was awarded freedom on 2 November 1894. A portrait of Sir Lowthian Bell Bart FRS 1826-1904 is hung in the Civic Suite in the Town Hall. It was painted by Henry Tamworth Wells RA and was presented in 1894 by Joseph Whitwell Pease MP on Tuesday 13 November in the Council Chamber at 3.00pm. Joseph Pease was Chairman of the Sir Lowthian Bell presentation committee.

It was presented to the Corporation of Middlesbrough by friends in Great Britain, Europe and America as a record of their high esteem and to commemorate his many public services and those researches in physical science by which he has contributed to the development of the staple industries of his own country and the world.

The portrait of Sir Lowthian Bell Bart is in a 4ft6" x 3ft6" gilt frame and was painted by Henry Tamworth Wells RA, the painting was presented in 1894 by Joseph Whitwell Pease MP on Tuesday 13 November in the Council Chamber at 3.00pm. Joseph Pease was Chairman of the Sir Lowthian Bell presentation committee. Presented to the Corporation of Middlesbrough by friends in Great Britain, Europe and America as a record of their high esteem and to commemorate his many public services and those researches in physical science by which he has contributed to the development of the staple industries of his own country and the world.

Civic Collection - Portrait of Sir Lowthian Bell Bart FRS presented to the Corporation of Middlesbrough 4ft6" x 3ft6" in gilt frame

Hugh Bell – 2 November 1894



Background Information - Sir Thomas Hugh Bell Bart CB DL JP (1844-1931)

Councillor for West Ward 1870-1877

Alderman 1877-1907

Mayor 1883, Mayor 1911 (completed the year of office after the death of Sir Samuel Sadler)

Sir Thomas Hugh Bell was Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding of Yorkshire from 1906, a post he took up following the resignation of the Marquis of Ripon, he held the post until his death in 1931. He was also Sheriff of the County of Durham. He was also a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County of Durham. He was the Mayor of Middlesbrough on three occasions, 1874, 1883 and 1911, the last time being the few months of office left after the death of Sir Samuel Alexander Sadler who died while in office. During this last term as Mayor he arranged for Middlesbrough's Coat of Arms, which had been in use unofficially since 1853 to be legally registered with the College of Heralds. (The original framed parchment and sealed grant is on display in the Erimus Heritage Room)

Sir Hugh Bell was also a Magistrate of both County Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire. He was born at Walker on Tyne on 10th February 1844, and attended Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh, Scotland and later studied chemistry for three years at Paris and Gottingen. He entered his father's office in 1862, and moved to Port Clarence in 1863, by 1880 he was control of Bell Brothers Ironworks Co. Ltd. He built a new basic open-hearth steel making shop in 1901 to use local iron ore.

In 1923 Bell Brothers were completely amalgamated with Dorman Long and Company. He lived at Rounton Grange, near Northallerton, a house designed for him by the eminent Victorian architect Philip Speakman Webb, a contemporary of the leading light of the Victorian Arts and Crafts movement, William Morris. Webb also designed the Bell Brothers company offices in Zetland Road, Middlesbrough, just across the road from the railway station. These are Webb's only office buildings, and are still in existence and now listed Grade Two. He also designed for Bell the works buildings and offices at the ironworks at Port Clarence. He married firstly Mary Shield, who died in 1871.

His daughter from this marriage, Gertrude Lowthian Bell, was the famous diplomat and Middle Eastern explorer, who was also a contemporary of T. E. Lawrence, (Lawrence of Arabia.). His second wife, Florence

Olliffee, whom he married in 1876, was the daughter of the physician to the British Embassy in Paris. She was the author of the great pioneering work of social study of the Victorian period, now regarded somewhat as a model enterprise in the field of sociology, entitled aptly "At the Works, the study of a manufacturing town". The work was published in 1907, after a study carried out during the course of over thirty years. During that time she visited the homes and families of over a thousand workingmen of the town, making meticulous notes about their everyday lives and situation.

Sir Hugh was one of the largest iron-masters and colliery owners in the North of England, he was a director of Bell Brothers, of Brunner, Mond and Company, and also of The North Eastern Railway Company, the Channel Steel Company, Hordern Collieries, and Pearson and Dorman Limited.

He was also a member of the committee that developed the Science Museum in London and was the President of The Iron and Steel Institute from 1907 - 1910. He was a member of The Board of Trade from 1916 and advised a committee on the development of the iron and steel industry after the First World War. He was a member of the Tees Conservancy Commissioners for over fifty years and was their Chairman from 1903- 1931. He was also the Chairman of the Middlesbrough Water Board, Chairman of the School Board and Chairman of the Library Committee. He was a Governor of Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, and a member of the Senate of Durham University.

He received honorary degrees in law from the universities of Oxford, Leeds, Sheffield, and Durham and he was awarded the Bessemer gold medal in 1926.

Civic Collection - Portrait of Sir Thomas Hugh Bell, Lord Lieutenant of North Riding of Yorkshire is in an ornate gilt frame 6ft x 3ft - Currently on Loan to the Science Museum in London. This portrait of Sir Hugh Bell Bt, Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding of Yorkshire was publicly subscribed for and presented to the Town Council to record the distinguished services rendered by him to the Borough of Middlesbrough and District during the past 38 years on 4 August 1908.



Ivory handled Silver Fish Slice with the Handle Inscribed "Hugh Bell Grange Road Schools 1890" London 1800.

Samuel A Sadler – 13 July 1897



Background Information - Samuel Alexander Sadler MP JP P.VD (1842-1911)

Councillor for Middle Ward 1874-1880

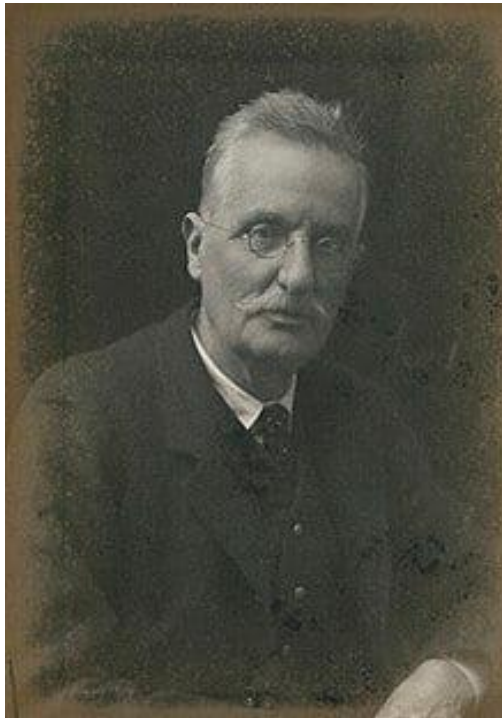
Alderman 1880-1901

Committees:- Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, Chairman of the Tees Port Sanitary Authority, Member of Tees Conservancy Commission, Member of the Board of Guardians, President of the Cleveland Naturalists Field Club

Samuel was the third son of James Sadler Esq JP of Langley Hall near Birmingham and was educated privately and went to University College. In 1860 he joined the Volunteers and commanded the 1st Volunteer Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was made Honorary Colonel. He came to Middlesbrough in 1869 and founded the large chemical works on Cargo Fleet Road. He also founded works in Barrow (Ulverston), Portsmouth, Sunderland, Carlton and Lanchester. He owned Malton Collieries, near Durham and Etherley Grange Colliery, Bishop Auckland and was Chairman and Managing Director of the Bearpark Coal and Coke Co, Durham. In 1877 he resigned office of Mayor to stand in the General Election and in 1878 contested the Borough for the Conservative Party. From 1880-1911 he was a council member (North Ormesby Hospital) and Justice of the Peace for Middlesbrough, the North Riding and the County of Durham. He was also President of the Middlesbrough Amateur Swimming Club. Samuel opened Middlesbrough Swimming Baths on 23 October 1884 and introduced baseball to Middlesbrough in 1890. In 1897 as Mayor he laid the Foundation Stone of the Empire Theatre on 4 November, presented a peal of bells to St John's Church, was conferred VD by HM Queen Victoria and opened an operating room and two new wards at the North Riding Infirmary on 2 April. He was elected as the first Conservative MP for Middlesbrough on 2 October 1900 and was subsequently knighted in 1905. He died on 28 November 1911 during his term of office as Mayor of Middlesbrough (Sir Hugh Bell completed the year from 7 September).

Civic Collection – Portrait of Sir Samuel Alexander Sadler in a heavy gilt frame 8ft x 6ft. Over 24 years' service to the Corporation especially as Mayor of Middlesbrough during Diamond Jubilee Year. Painted by Frank Bramley RA 1898. Presented to him in 1907 at a meeting in the Town Hall for his political favours.

Arthur John Dorman – 11 October 1904



Background Information - Sir Arthur John Dorman

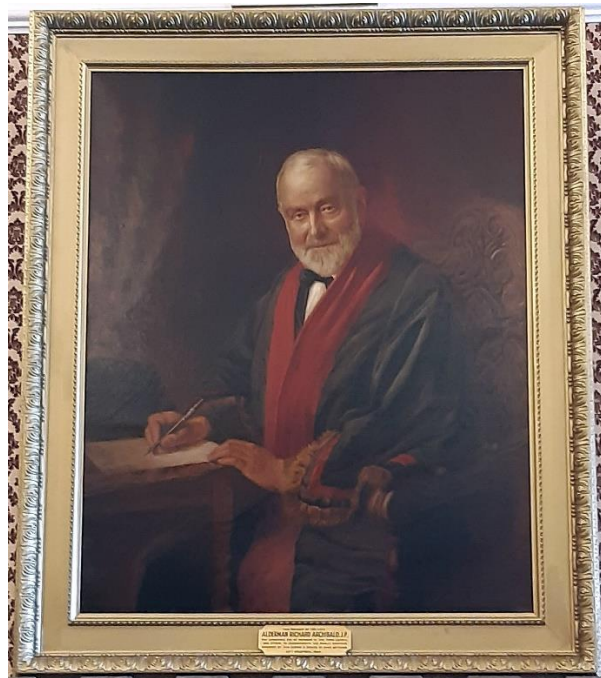
Sir Arthur was councillor for the North West Ward from 1880-1882 and the founder of Dorman Long & Co.

He was born in Ashford in Kent on 8th August 1848 and moved to Teesside in 1870. He married Clara Lockwood of Stockton in 1873 and they went on to have four sons and three daughters. In 1904 he gave the Dorman Memorial Museum in memory of his son who was killed in the second Boer war in South Africa. He was created a Baronet in 1923 and died on 12th February 1931 at Grey Towers, he is buried at Nunthorpe.



Civic Collection - Silver mounted Ivory Maul 5.1/2" x 2.1/2, maker C.B. & S. Sheffield 1907 presented to AJ Dorman on the laying of the foundation stone of the congregational church in Nunthorpe on 2nd August 1911.

Richard Archibald – 8 March 1910



Background Information - Richard Archibald JP (1838-1924)

Councillor for Middle Ward 1872-1881

Alderman 1881-1886

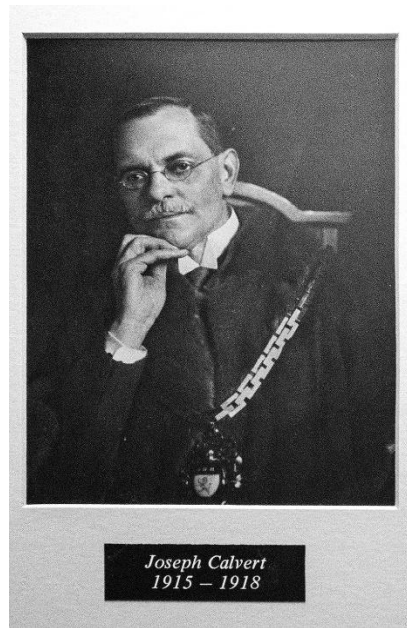
Councillor for West Ward 1886-1889

Alderman 1889-1923

Richard was born in 1891 in Perthshire and was the son of a farmer. He opened a draper's shop in 1862 at 2-8 Sussex Street - Wright & Archibald. He helped to found the Young Men's Temperance Brigade in Linthorpe Mews which later became known as the Middlesbrough & Cleveland Boys Brigade. They had a brass band until 1900. He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1904 and in 1910 opened the department store Wrights Tower House. In 1924 a portrait was presented to Middlesbrough Council which still hangs in the Council Chamber today. He was a Presbyterian and a member of the Temperance Society. During the First World War he knitted socks for the troops. Archibald School (named after him) was planned in June 1911 & opened in 1913, on land donated by him to the Education Committee. He died whilst attending a Church Service when on holiday at Crieff, Perthshire. After his death his son gave 26 pieces of Linthorpe Ware Pottery to the Dorman Museum.

Civic Collection - Portrait of Alderman Richard Archibald JP painted by Frank S Ogilvie - Gilt frame 5ft x 4ft – on wall in Council Chamber. This portrait of the later Alderman Richard Archibald JP was subscribed for by members of the Town Council and other to commemorate the public services rendered by him during a period of over 50 years, 22 December 1924.

Joseph Calvert – 7 November 1919



Background Information - 1914-1918 Sir Joseph Calvert JP (1853-1931)

Councillor for the Grove Hill Ward 1902-1919

Alderman 1919-1931

Mayor 1915-1918

Committees: First Chairman of Gas & Electricity 1911, Chairman of Education, Chairman of Middlesbrough & Stockton War Pensions, Chairman of Tees Valley Water Board

He was born in Middlesbrough on 22 June 1853 and was educated in Berwick on Tweed & Middlesbrough. He was linked with many religious, social & business organisations on Teesside. He became Commercial Manager in the Mineral Dept at Bolckow, Vaughan & Co. He was a Colliery owner & merchant with Joseph Walton, MP and Director of Carterthorne Colliery Co Ltd. & West Durham Wallsend Colliery Co Ltd. Joseph was also a member of Northumberland & Durham Colliery Owners' Assoc and the committee of Cleveland & Middlesbrough Liberal Association. He was President of many organisations including Middlesbrough Free Church Council, South Durham & Cleveland free Church Federation, Sunday School Union and the Teachers' Training Class. He was a Member of the executive of the Northern Counties Education League, the Northern Counties' Home Training of the Blind Association, the Exec Committee of the Yorkshire Sunday School Union and the Middlesbrough Musical Union. He was Treasurer of the Middlesbrough Town & Sailors Mission and a Land Commissioner. He was appointed to the Commission of Peace and on 9 November 1918 had the unique handover of being Mayor for the fourth time. He was given Freedom of the Borough on 7 November 1919 and at this meeting the Mayoress (Lady Calvert) presented 11 robes and cocked hats to be worn by Alderman on all Civic occasions. They were of black corded silk with red velvet facings and trimmings of musquash fur. The hats were black silk braided. The members of the council and officials presented the Mayoress with a diamond ring in an inscribed silver casket. At the presentation, Alderman Forbes paid tribute to her Public Service, sentiments echoed by Councillor T Thomson MP. On Peace Day, 9 July 1919 Joseph was presented with a tank by Brigadier General Blair (Tees Garrison Commander). His wife opened the Parkside Maternity Hospital in 1920 for which she had largely been responsible for establishing and in 1921 she became one of Middlesbrough's first two female magistrates. Joseph was knighted in 1923 and sadly died on 31 October 1931. The funeral was held at Grange Road Methodist Church. He is buried along with his wife in Linthorpe Cemetery.

Thomas Dormand Stewart – 6 November 1924



Background Information - Thomas Dormand Stewart JP 1854 - 1946

Councillor for the Linthorpe Ward 1911 - 1927

Mayor 1920

Thomas was born in North Shields on 8 October 1854 and went on to own Stewart's clothiers. In 1924 he lived at "Tyreholm" in Linthorpe and went on to open Stewart Park on 23 May 1928 (a gift from him). He died 12 June 1946 aged 91 years.



Civic Collection - Thomas Stewart Cup.

Silver, Birmingham hallmark for 1920.

Maker W.N. Ltd. Vase shape, two scroll handles 7" high on black plinth

William Joseph Bruce – 3 April 1925



Background Information - William Joseph Bruce OBE JP (1856-1938)

Councillor for South & Acklam Ward 1886-1902

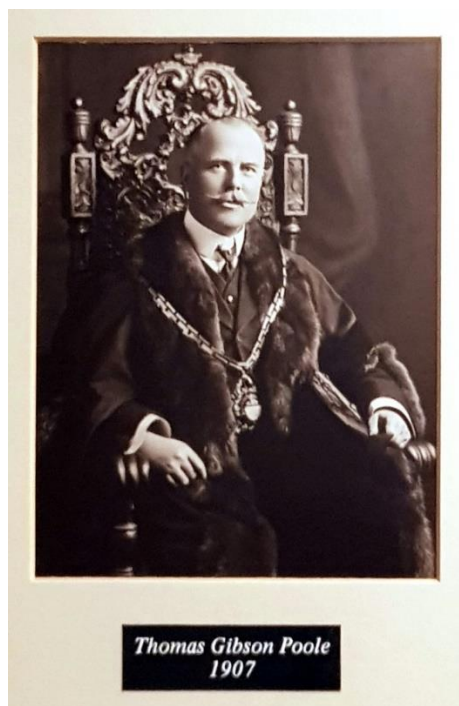
Alderman 1902-1938

Committees - Finance, Streets, Plans, Fire Brigade, Hackney Carriage, Contagious Diseases (animals) Act, Electric Lighting, Cemeteries, Asylums, Stores, Watch, Sanitary, Sanatorium, Gas, Ferry, Park and Free Library.

William was born on the corner of William Street & Linthorpe Road in 1857 and was educated at Dr Grieve's School (old Midland Bank). He worked in the Borough Accountants Office, followed by six years in the architect's office before joining his father's business. He was a Churchwarden at St Barnabas Church and a Governor of North Riding Infirmary. In 1877 he joined the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Durham Light Infantry as a Private, rising to rank of Colour Sergeant, retiring after 12 years. He finally retired from business in 1894 and accepted a commission in the 1st North Yorkshire Volunteer Artillery. In 1898 he was presented with piece of Silver after the Smallpox epidemic. On 23 February 1914 he opened the Tuberculosis hospital. The key used for this is in the Civic Silver collection as is the

OBE presented for Services during the Great War. These, and other mementos were presented by his widow. William laid the foundation stone of Fleetham Street new school on 26 April 1937 and was presented with a ceremonial mallet by Messrs Benjamin Peel, who were the contractors. This mallet is also in the Civic Silver collection. He died in 1938 after being the first person from Middlesbrough to hold the office of Mayor. He was also known as the "Father of the Council". In 1939 commemorative panelling was erected to his memory in the nave & the porch at St Barnabas Church.

Thomas Gibson Poole – 13 April 1932



Background Information - Thomas Gibson Poole VD JP (1860-1937)

Councillor 1896-1910

Alderman 1910-1937

Committees: Chairman of Parliamentary & General Purposes 1919; Ferry; Public Assistance, 1930; Finance, Streets, Plans, Sanitary, Sanatorium, Gas, Ferry, Park, Free Library, Fire Brigade, Hackney Carriages, Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, Electric Lighting, Cemeteries, Asylum, Stores, And General Purposes.

Thomas was born in Dudley in February 1860, the son of a contractor. His father was Thomas Gibson Poole, 2.2.1830 - 6.4.1889. He came to Middlesbrough with his parents as a small boy and lived at "Claremont" Linthorpe. He was a watchmaker by profession and his first business was in Wilson Street, then a jewellers shop on Linthorpe Road. He joined the British Army and reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Thomas was also chairman of Middlesbrough Football Club. On 22 June 1932 Mrs Poole opened the Grey towers Sanatorium called Poole Sanatorium. He was knighted on 20 February 1935 in the New Year's Honours List. He was also a Member of the Tees Conservancy Commission and Chairman of the Tees (Newport) Bridge Committees. Thomas died on 18 June 1937.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday 13 April 1932 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Alderman & Lieut-Col T Gibson Poole. The following Resolution was proposed:

"That this Council in pursuance of the Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act, 1885, do hereby confer upon Alderman and Lieut Col T Gibson Poole VD, JP, the Honorary Freedom of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, in recognition of the eminent services which have been ungrudgingly rendered by him during his lengthy public career in many capacities and also in further recognition in munificence in purchasing and presenting to the Town of Middlesbrough the magnificent residence and estate adjoining, known as Grey Towers Nunthorpe, for the purpose of a Tuberculosis Sanatorium to be known as "The Poole Sanatorium" and as a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens, and we do hereby admit Alderman and Lieut Col T Gibson Poole VD, JP, as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough."

Miss Edith J Carter (Mrs Carter-Owen) – 26 May 1934



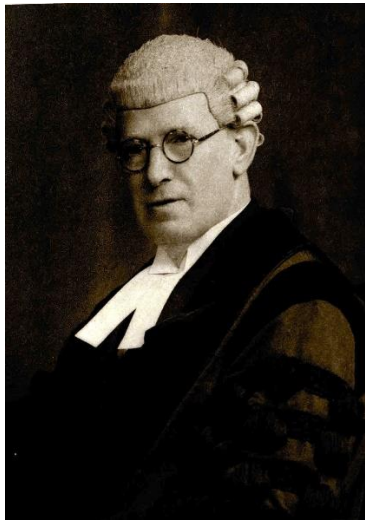
Background Information – Miss Edith J Carter

The 14th person and the first woman to receive the Freedom of the County Borough of Middlesbrough on 26th May 1934 was Miss Edith J Carter (Mrs Carter Owen). She was the daughter of the 43rd Mayor, Thomas Carter. In 1926 she fulfilled her father's wish when she founded the Carter Bequest Hospital. The casket she was presented with is in the Civic Silver collection. She also gave the Dorman Museum a choice plaque of Linthorpe in 1942.



Civic Collection - Silver casket with the leopard's head corners on bracket feet with enamelled arms and 2 enamelled panels of Town Hall and Carter Hospital 12" x 7" high. Inscribed: "Miss E.J. Carter Freedom of Middlesbrough 1934". Maker - C.B. & S Sheffield 1933.

Preston Kitchen OBE – 23 September 1936



Background Information – Preston Kitchen OBE

The 15th person to receive the Freedom of the County Borough of Middlesbrough on 23 September 1936 was Mr Preston Kitchen CBE. Preston Kitchen was born on 26th December 1879. He was given both the O.B.E. and C.B.E. for his service to local government.

In November 1909 he was listed as assistant town clerk when he joined the Orde Powlett Lodge of the Freemasons and was living at 47 Ayresome Street, Middlesbrough. He drew up the bye laws for visitors to the Dorman Museum in 1925. He retired as Town Clerk in 1946 and died on 17th March 1963.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday 21 September 1944 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Alderman J Wesley Brown, JP. The following Resolution was proposed:

“That Preston Kitchen, Esquire, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, being a person who has rendered eminent services to the County Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 259 of the Local Government act, 1933, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, as a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by the Members of the Council and by his fellow citizens and in appreciation and acknowledgement of the eminent, faithful and devoted services rendered by him to the Borough during the period of 25 years as Town Clerk, the Silver Jubilee of which appointment he celebrated on the 30th June 1936. He has also held many other offices connected with Local Government. During his prolonged and honourable term of official service he has always been distinguished by his unflagging zeal and industry, by his unfailing courtesy and patience, and by his unremitting kindness and assistance to Members of the Council and other bodies, both collectively and individually.

With unremitting care he has attended to the welfare and government of the Borough in which he has taken an active part in promoting its prosperity; he has generously given of his time and ability for the good of the community. His devotion to the public interests, his wise and valuable counsel, his integrity of character and his constant endeavour to maintain a high standard of civic life have gained for him the unvarying respect of the inhabitants of the Borough.

The Members of the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, desire to express their gratitude to Mr Preston Kitchen for his untiring services in the interests of the Borough.

That a Certificate of Admission as an Honorary Freeman be presented to Preston Kitchen, Esquire, OBE, in a suitable casket.”

John Wesley Brown – 21 September 1944



Background Information – John Wesley Brown (1873-1944)

Councillor for the Linthorpe Ward 1919-1937

Mayor 1932 (74th)

Alderman 1937-1944

Committees:- Chairman of Finance for 25 years and Chairman of Education for 16 years, Middlesbrough Food Control Committee, Tees Newport Bridge

John was born on 9 June 1873 in Middlesbrough and was educated at Southend School. He was Governor of Cleveland And South Durham Institute for the Blind, Council Of The Durham Colleges In The University Of Durham, North Eastern County School Barnard Castle, Court And Council of Leeds University and Tees Conservancy Commissioner. From 1922 to 1923 he was elected as MP for Middlesbrough East Division and opened the North Ormesby Branch Library on 20 March 1927. He lived at 104 Rockcliffe Road, Linthorpe in 1932 and officially opened Acklam Hall as a school on 27 July 1936. John was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1937 and moved to 75 Cambridge Road, Linthorpe in 1941. He died on 8 November 1944.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday 21 September 1944 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Alderman J Wesley Brown, JP. The following Resolution was proposed:

“That Alderman John Wesley Brown, JP, being a person who has rendered eminent services to the County Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 259 of the Local Government act, 1933, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow in recognition of the eminent services which have been ungrudgingly rendered by him during his lengthy public career in many

capacities, and in particular the outstanding service he has, without stint, rendered to the Town Council of Middlesbrough as: _

Member of the Town Council since 1919;

Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough (East Division) 1922-1923;

Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Middlesbrough Corporation for 25 years;

Chairman of the Education Committee of the County Borough of Middlesbrough for 14 years;

Mayor of the County Borough of Middlesbrough 1922-3;

And as a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by the Members of the Town Council and by his fellow citizens.

He has generously given of his time and ability for the good of the community. His devotion to the public interests, his wise and valuable counsel, his integrity of character and his constant endeavour to maintain a high standard of civic life have gained for him the unvarying respect of the inhabitants of the Borough.

The Members of the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, desire to express their gratitude to Alderman J Wesley Brown, JP for his untiring services in the interests of the Borough.

That a Certificate of Admission as an Honorary Freeman be presented to Alderman John Wesley Brown, JP in a suitable casket."

George Absalom Carey – 26 June 1946



Background Information - George Absalom Carey 1852-1949

George was the 17th person to receive the Freedom of the County Borough of Middlesbrough on 26th June 1946. George was Councillor for Marsh Ward from 1899-1921 and an Alderman from 1921-1946

He was Chairman of Parks Committee 1923-1929 (opening of Stewart Park), Finance, Streets, Plans, Fire Brigade, Hackney Carriages, Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, Electric Lighting, Cemeteries, Asylum, Sanitary, Sanatorium, Gas, Ferry, Parks, Free Library, General Purposes.

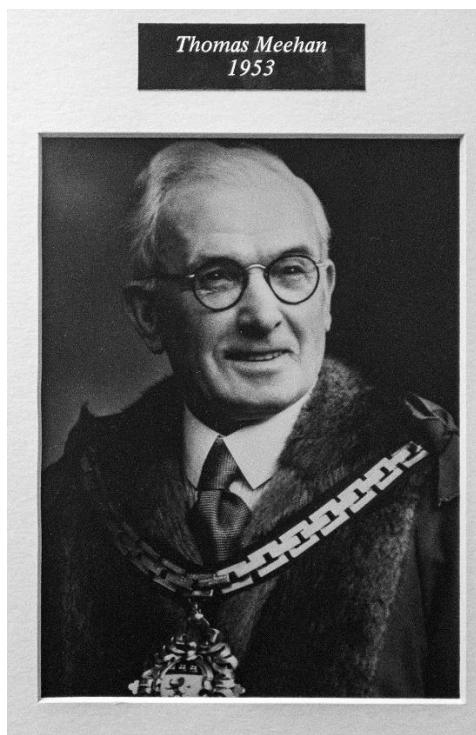
He was born on 9 October 1852 and went on to become a Schoolmaster, Insurance Superintendent, prominent member of the Trades Council and influential Labour leader. He died on 16 March 1949 and had lived at 1 Kensington Road, Middlesbrough.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday 26th June 1946 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to George Absalom Carey. The following Resolution was proposed:

“That George Absalom Carey, Esquire being a person who has rendered eminent services to the County Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 259 of the Local Government Act, 1933, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most Honourable Distinction which it is their privilege to bestow in recognition of the Eminent Services which have been ungrudgingly rendered by him to the Town Council of Middlesbrough from the time he became a Member thereof in 1899, and continuing during his tenure of office of Councillor from 1899 to 1921, and as Alderman from 1921 until his resignation in April 1946. During that period he earned the friendship and respect of all with whom he came into contact; his Humanity, Tolerance and Wholehearted Desire to be of Help to his fellow citizens, young and old, endeared him to all, and it is the desire of the Members of the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the County Borough, to express their Gratitude and Esteem in this signal manner.

That a Certificate of Admission as an Honorary Freeman be presented to George Absalom Carey, Esquire in a suitable Casket.”

Thomas Meehan OBE – 2 February 1949



Background Information - Thomas Meehan OBE JP (1886-1954)

Councillor Cannon Ward 1921 - 1943

Deputy Mayor 1940

Alderman 1943 - 1957

Father of the Council 1953

Chairman:- Chairman of the Watch & Licensing

Thomas was born in Cannon Street on 9 February 1886. In 1934 he played a major part in negotiations with Durham County Council over the Newport Bridge. He was awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours List on 1 January 1943. As Trades Union Leader, (Divisional Officer of Iron & Steel Trades Federation for the North East) Thomas went with other Union Leaders to Russia as a representative of the North East Coast Section of the ISTC in 1945. He married in 1951 and lived at 53 Adam Street, Middlesbrough in 1953. In the same year he read the Centenary Proclamation at Cargo Fleet Lane.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday 2nd February 1949 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Alderman Thomas Meehan. The following Resolution was proposed:

"That Alderman Thomas Meehan OBE, JP, being a person who has rendered eminent services to the County Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 259 of the Local Government Act, 1933, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most Honourable Distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, in recognition and appreciation of these services which have been ungrudgingly rendered by him during his lengthy public career in many capacities, particularly the outstanding services he has rendered to the Town Council as a Member thereof since 1921, and the untiring devotion given without thought of self in the interests of industry in the area, such honourable distinction being a mark of the high esteem in which he is held by the Members of the Town Council and by the Citizens of this County Borough, who acknowledge and

appreciate how greatly he has given of his time and ability for the good of the community without thought for his own personal gain and convenience.

His long and honourable connection with the Trades Union movement, his skill and ability as a negotiator, his clear vision and sincerity of purpose, recognised both locally and nationally, have added to the exceptional merit of the services he has rendered to the community.

The Members of the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, for whose well being he has worked so assiduously in many and diverse spheres, desire to honour him in this way.

That a certificate of Admission as an Honorary Freeman be presented to Alderman Thomas Meehan OBE, JP in a suitable casket."

John William Welch – 2 May 1956



Background Information - John William Welch JP (1876-1960)

Councillor for the St Hilda's Ward 1927 - 1949

Alderman 1949 - 1960

Committees:- Chairman of Public Health 24 November 1948; Parks

John was born on 13 June 1876 in Middlesbrough and went on to become the first Roman Catholic to be Mayor. In 1945 he became Chairman of the Food Control Committee, General Secretary of the old National Union of Builders & Labourers and Chairman of the Hospitals Committee in November. He was widowed in 1946 and was made President of Middlesbrough Trades and Labour Council and lived at 89 Oxford Road, Linthorpe. John died 22 November 1960 and is buried in Thorntree Roman Catholic Cemetery.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday 2nd May 1956 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Alderman John William Welch, JP. The following Resolution was proposed:

"That Alderman John William Welch, JP, being a person who has rendered eminent services to the County Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 259 of the Local Government Act, 1933, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most Honourable Distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, in recognition and appreciation of these services which have been so wholeheartedly rendered by him during his lengthy public career in so many capacities, particularly the outstanding services he has rendered to the Town Council as a Member thereof since 1927, and as Mayor of the Borough in 1946/47; remembering particularly the service given ungrudgingly without thought of self for the benefit, wellbeing, succour and health of the inhabitants of the Borough, and acknowledging with gratitude the time devoted to and the ability displayed in representing this Council not only locally but in national circles, where he has upheld the dignity and interests of Middlesbrough and secured the esteem of all.

His long and honourable connection with the Trades Union movement and his leadership and sincerity of purpose have added to the exceptional merit of the services he has rendered to the community and earned the high regard with which he is universally held.

The Members of the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, for whom he has worked so long and so assiduously in many and diverse spheres, desire to honour him in this way.

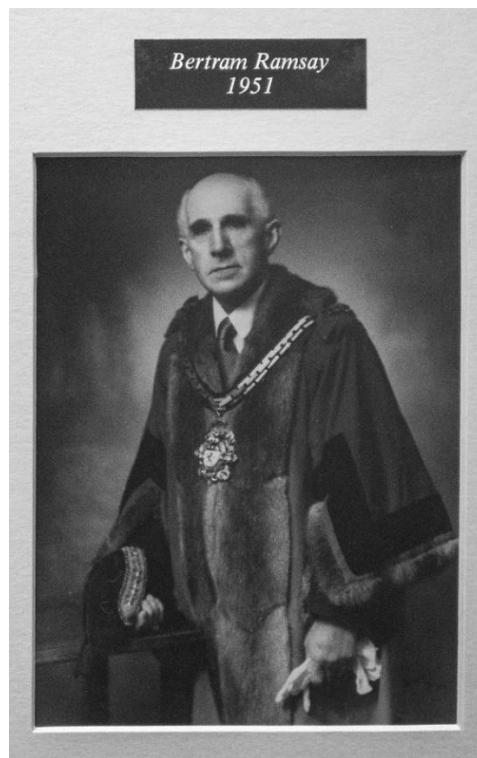
That a Certificate of Admission as an Honorary Freeman be presented to Alderman John William Welch, JP, with an inscribed piece of Silverware."

Civic Collection - Silver round bowl with square base and entwined snake handles, gadroon lip and arthenion applied frieze. Mounted with enamelled arms 12" wide 10" high. Raised on square plinth with silver plate inscribed: "Alderman J.W. Welch Freedom of Borough of Middlesbrough 1956" Maker M.N. & W.B. - London 1922

9 ct gold and enamel Middlesbrough Ex- Mayor's Pendant inscribed on back "J.W. Welch 1946-47", maker W.J. Dingley Birmingham 1947.



Bertram Ramsey – 5 March 1958



Background Information – Bertram Ramsey CBE

Councillor for the Vulcan Ward 1928 – 1936, 1937 - 1945

Alderman 1945 - 1966

Chairman of Finance Committee and Education Committee

Member of the National Executive of the ISTC

Bertram was born in Middlesbrough and held various offices in the British Iron and Steel and Kindred Trades Associations and the Iron and Steel Confederation. He was also Tees Conservancy Commissioner. In 1939 to 1945 he held a position in the Manpower Board during the War. His wife was a school teacher and they had a son Alan W Ramsey who died in June 1953. He retired from the Steel works in 1958 and lived at 27 Thornfield Road, Linthorpe. He was awarded the CBE in the New Year's Honours List of 1 January 1960.

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday 2nd May 1956 to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to Alderman John William Welch, JP. The following Resolution was proposed:

“That Alderman Bertram Ramsey, being a person who has rendered eminent services to the County Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 259 of the Local Government Act, 1933, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, the most Honourable Distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, in recognition and appreciation of these services which have been so willingly given by him during a long public career in so many capacities, remembering his work, locally and nationally, in the iron and steel industry, and particularly his membership of the Town Council for almost thirty years, in the course of which he not only upheld with dignity the high traditions of the office of Mayor during his occupancy thereof in 1951/52, but

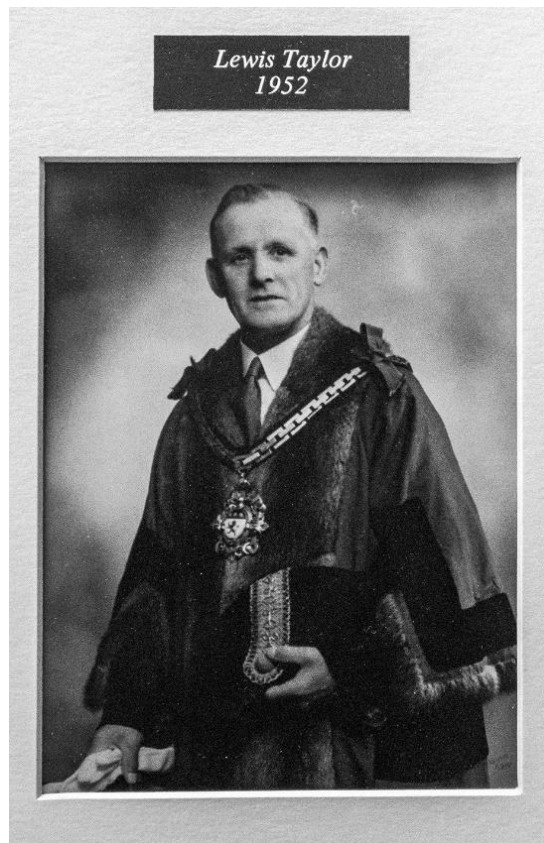
also has been a most able and worthy Chairman of the Education Committee and of the Finance Committee.

Whilst these two very important aspects of the civic life of the town have been his particular concern, his interest in the betterment of his native town and the welfare of its inhabitants has been wide and diverse and, being imbued with a sincere spirit of service, he has given generously of his time and ability without thought of personal gain or advancement.

The Members of the Council, on behalf of the inhabitants of the County Borough of Middlesbrough, being mindful of his untiring and eminent work, desire to honour him in this way.

That a Certificate of Admission as an Honorary Freeman be presented to Alderman Bertram Ramsey, with an inscribed piece of Silverware."

Lewis Taylor – 30 March 1967



Background Information - Lewis Taylor (died 1983)

Councillor for the Cannon Ward 1938 - 1949

Alderman 1949 - 1968

Committees:- Chairman of Electricity 1948

Lewis was the first dockworker to be Mayor and was also a First Aid instructor and Coal Teemer. From 1933-1940 he was the Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen Branch and a member of the NUR Branch of which Tommy Farthing was Chairman. In 1955 he lived at 19 Marton Burn Road and died on 23 May 1983.

Louisa Burton – 30 March 1967



Background Information – Louisa Burton (1890-1972)

Councillor for Grove Hill Ward 1945-1949

Alderman from 1949-1968

Committees:- Chairman of Children's, Chairman of Health, Chairman of Maternity (Nov 1945)

Louisa was the first female Mayor of Middlesbrough and became a Freeman of the Borough in 1967. On 21 January 1953, as Alderman, she read the Centenary proclamation of the Charter of Incorporation at Longlands Road/Marton Road junction. She was Director of Middlesbrough Co-Operative Society until 1937 and later was Vice-Chair. Louisa lived at 71 The Vale, Grove Hill and was married to George Burton who played for Middlesbrough FC, they had no family. Louisa died in September 1972.

Background Information – Michael O'Sullivan (1909-1978)

Councillor for the St Hilda's Ward 1948 - 1968

Michael was born in Mitchelstown, Ireland in 1909 and educated at Mount Melleray; University College, Dublin; Irish College, Rome; St Patrick's College, Thurles. He was ordained on 10 June 1934 for the Diocese at the Cathedral, Thurles and from 1934-1967 served at Cathedral, Middlesbrough. He was made an Administrator in 1943 and made Canon of Chapter in 1944. Michael was first elected to the council on 26 December 1948. He was Vicar General & Domestic Prelate in 1956 and his father T O'Sullivan died in July of the same year. From 1967-1978 he was Parish Priest, Sacred Heart, Redcar and in 1969 was Provost then Prot. Apostolic in 1971.

With Monsignor Peter Storey he cycled out from Middlesbrough and found the derelict Lady Chapel at Osmotherley in 1942 which has since been restored.

Michael died on 6 May 1978.