

Notable People – who have influenced St Peter Port

Peter Le Lievre (1812-1878)

One of Guernsey's most renowned artists, Peter Le Lievre was a man of considerable creative ability. Born in St Peter Port, educated at Elizabeth College - later becoming one of its directors, he lived his entire life at the modest terrace house No.17 Hauteville which he shared with his two sisters. While managing the family wine business from 1848, he served in the Militia becoming Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Guernsey Artillery in 1868. A warden of the Town Church, he also designed the two lighthouses at the entrance to the harbour. His brilliant watercolour paintings and fine pencil drawings can be seen at Castle Cornet and the Guernsey Museum.

Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

The great French romantic poet, writer, painter and politician lived in exile in Guernsey from 1855 to 1870. After renting No.20 Hauteville, later to become the home of his devoted mistress, Juliette Drouet, he purchased No.38, Hauteville House. And it was here that he wrote some of his most famous works: *Les Misérables* (1862), *Les Travailleurs de la mer* (1866), which is set in the Guernsey he loved, and *L'Homme qui rit* (1869). His family home in Hauteville was open house to many eminent visitors during his lifetime and remains accessible to the public now through the courtesy of its present owners, the City of Paris.

Thomas de la Rue (1793-1866)

Born into a family of eleven children at Le Bourg in the Forest parish, Thomas de la Rue was apprenticed at the age of ten to the St Peter Port printer, Joseph Chevalier. After only one year as editor of the local newspaper, *Le Publiciste*, he started his own newspaper, *Le Miroir Politique*, at the age of twenty. Having learned his trade at first hand, including the art of illustration using engraved steel plates, he left for London in 1816. There he established the high quality and innovative business which was to achieve an international reputation for printing postage stamps and paper currency. In recognition of his many achievements, which included the introduction of new inks and printing techniques, he was created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in France in 1855.

John Wilson (1780-1866)

Recognised as one of the most accomplished architects associated with the development of St Peter Port after the Napoleonic Wars, John Wilson is believed to have come from England around 1813, remaining in practice in Guernsey until about 1831. His signature on contemporary plans for defence projects suggests that he began his career as a military draughtsman and continued such commissions alongside his private work. Equally adept in the classical and gothic styles, his outstanding work is associated with Fountain Street and The Markets, the church of St James the Less, Elizabeth College and alterations to the Royal Court and Town Church. Several excellent private houses also display Wilson's distinctive style, the most outstanding being Castle Carey. He returned to England and retired from a post at the Royal Arsenal in 1845.

Daniel de Lisle Brock (1762-1842)

Educated first in Alderney as a pupil of the minister Isaac Vallat and later at Richmond, Surrey, Daniel de Lisle Brock completed the continental grand tour before returning to Guernsey. He was first elected a St Peter Port Constable and then Jurat in 1798. He became an untiring champion of the island's historic charters and privileges, representing the Royal Court and the States in London against repeated attempts by government to interfere in Channel Islands' rights. Becoming Bailiff in 1821, he continued the fight to resist parliamentary interference; he successfully defended the right of islanders to be tried in their own courts and to continue to export grain to England without restrictions. In public works, he supported the expansion of the harbour and the reformation of Elizabeth College. At his funeral, thousands of islanders lined the route in tribute to his lifetime achievements.

William Le Marchant (1721-1809)

One of the most illustrious and influential of Guernsey families, whose descendants held office as Lieutenant-Governors, Bailiffs, Jurats and Crown Officers from as early as the 14th century, the Le Marchants were associated with, or gave their name to, several prominent buildings in St Peter Port. William was elected a Jurat in 1754, and appointed Bailiff in 1770. In his desire to place his relatives in positions of authority, he antagonised the Jurats of the Royal Court and the Constables of St. Peter Port in long-running disputes which were only resolved by the Privy Council. In an eventful career that was further marked by personal feuds which led to court actions between himself and members of his own family, William Le Marchant eventually handed over office to his son Robert in 1800.

Osmond Priaux (1805-1891)

The son of Joshua Priaux, who had purchased Candie House and its extensive gardens in 1859 from the family profits in shipping, commerce and privateering, lived for most of his life in Cavendish Square, London. After reading law at Cambridge, he grew wealthier through shrewd investment and built up a vast collection of books. He devoted his time to the study of Guernsey and particularly the history of the island's oldest families. In 1871 he transferred Candie House to the States, granting a lifetime tenancy to the Bailiff, Sir Peter Stafford Carey, and in 1880 established an endowment to fund the library which was eventually set up in his name and opened to the public, together with the pleasure gardens, in 1889. The urn containing his ashes is displayed in the library.

Ferdinand Tupper (1795-1874)

A nephew of Sir Isaac and Daniel de Lisle Brock, and brother of Jurat Henry Tupper who was instrumental in the development of St Peter Port Harbour, the establishment of the submarine telegraph link with England and the erection of the Hanois Lighthouse, Ferdinand Tupper is remembered as the first Guernseyman to write an authoritative and thoroughly researched history of the Bailiwick. In a short period from 1845 to 1854, he produced the biography of his distinguished uncle in the *Life and Correspondence of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock*, the *Chronicles of Castle Cornet* featuring the Civil War siege, and finally his major work, *The History of Guernsey and its Bailiwick*. In 1848,

he inherited the family home of Les Côtils which he sold on to his brother, Henry.

Visit Guernsey wishes to thank Colin Partridge for collating this information (originally for St Peter Port Trails booklet 2003)