

# SOUTHAMPTON CITY LIBRARIES CLIPPINGS FILE

CLASS B106	HEADING	SOURCE Hampshire Independent	DATE 26/03/1859
DESCRIPTION Col. Eyre John Crabbe K.H.		NOTES	



## DEATH OF COL. CRABBE.

Our obituary records this week the death of this highly-respected and esteemed gentleman, who, in early life, was actively engaged in the service of his country, and who has latterly adorned the extensive circle in which he moved in the neighbourhood of Southampton by his unceasing endeavours to promote the good of those by whom he was surrounded.

Colonel Eyre John Crabbe, K.H., served in the Peninsula from January, 1810, to the 31st of December, 1812, and again from June, 1813, to the end of the war, including the whole of the retreat to the lines of Torres Vedras; battle of Busaco; the advance from the lines to Guarda; first siege of Badajoz; siege and storm of Ciudad Rodrigo; siege and storm of Badajoz; battle of Salamanca; capture of Madrid, and subsequent retreat through Spain; battles of Nivelle, Nive, Vic, Tarbes, Orthes, and Toulouse, and the whole of the various minor affairs during that period. He was wounded on the 15th of March, 1811, at Foz d'Arouce, when commanding a party which drove a French piquet from the said village. He was wounded again at Toulouse, when attacking the Fête de Pont. He has received the war medal, with eight clasps, for the following battles and sieges:—Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Colonel Crabbe was promoted to Major on the 31st January, 1828; to Lieut.-Colonel, 6th November, 1841; and to Colonel, 28th November, 1854; and retired on full pay from the 74th Foot, on 1st May, 1846.

Since Col. Crabbe's retirement from the army he has resided in the vicinity of Southampton, where he has taken an active part in fulfilling the duties attaching to the position of a County Magistrate, and his career on the Bench has always been marked by a degree of courtesy and kindness to those who were brought in contact with him which will cause his loss to be deeply regretted and lamented.

In politics the gallant Colonel was a Conservative of the old school, and of late years his leisure has been to a great extent devoted to furthering the cause of his party, in the promotion of whose interests he took a great delight. When in 1852, the re-election for Southampton of the Liberal Members, Sir Alexander Cockburn and Mr. Willcox, was opposed by two Conservatives, Mr. Baillie Cochrane and Mr. A. A. Vansittart, the Colonel took a prominent part in the contest, and endeavoured, by his personal influence, and in his position as Chairman of the Conservative Association and Election Committee, to resuscitate in Southampton the hope which it was feared by many of his party was forlorn, and which was so proved to be by the result. The memorable "Great Conservative Banquet," at the Riding School in 1852, for the purpose of introducing Messrs. Cochrane and Vansittart to the constituency, found a willing and enthusiastic chairman in Col. Crabbe, who, having alluded to a friend as "an excellent old Tory," assured his hearers that, though he had not then lived amongst them for any lengthened time, "his heart had always been Conservative from his earliest days. He had served in his younger days under the great Conservative Captain, the Duke of Wellington, and when under him he gained his medals. Their motto was obedience, discipline, and good conduct; and it was a sight which he never expected to have seen, such as 700 people sitting down to dinner, and joining in one glorious cheer for the Conservatism of old England." The result of the election, adverse as it was to the gallant Colonel's views, did not in the least damp his ardour in endeavouring to further the cause with which he had identified himself, but the Liberal party always found in him an honourable and upright opponent, and, whilst his course was marked by a consistency which showed how deeply rooted were his opinions, he invariably extended to others the right of freedom of thought and liberty of action, and, consequently, he never made a personal enemy.

The gallant Colonel has, however, other claims to be regarded as a valuable member of society, for in private life his character was most exemplary, and his charity and munificence knew no bounds. It would be difficult to enumerate the acts of kindness which have marked the career of him who is now no more during the period he has resided in the village of Highfield. Every good object was encouraged, every philanthropic movement promoted with a

spirit of alacrity and zeal which should serve as an example to him who would succeed, as Col. Crabbe has done, in earning for himself the laurels of fame as much by his devotion to the service of his country, as by his benevolence in private life. It was, however, to the prosperity of the Royal South Hants Infirmary that the efforts of the deceased gentleman were mainly applied, and to those who have for a long series of years watched his unwearied devotion to its interests, and who have attended with equal regularity to

himself the numerous meetings of the Committee of Management over which he presided, the announcement of his death will be received with the deepest sorrow and regret. Under his auspices has our Infirmary attained its present position; by him and by the members of his family have its coffers been replenished again and again; and it is to him and his worthy and amiable lady that the Institution is mainly enabled to point to the success of the various bazaars which in years gone by furnished the Committee with those munificent sums which placed them in a position to increase its benefits and to extend its advantages. Whilst, therefore, the old soldier regards with a thrilling interest the history of his gallant chief, and ponders over the dangers through which he passed by flood and field, the civilians amongst whom he has more recently mixed can point to the fruit of his labours in this locality in the relief of the sick and the suffering, and in the succour which has been extended to the destitute and the oppressed. Could we picture the numerous instances in which, by the means supplied owing to the exertions of Col. Crabbe, an afflicted parent has been restored to his family, a beloved child to its parents, and a near and dear relative to those whose loss would have deprived them of the means of subsistence—could we pourtray how often, through his instrumentality, the pangs of anguish have been removed, and the results of science have been brought to bear to relieve the numerous ills to which flesh is heir—could we tell of the tear being wiped from the eye of the orphan, and health and happiness taking the place of pain and anguish—we should, we think, raise a prouder, a nobler, and a more lasting memorial to the fame of the deceased, than even that which he acquired by his glorious exploits in the battle field, and the courage by which his career was marked.

The gallant Colonel was ever active in forwarding the cause of religious education, and rendered great support to the parochial schools at Highfield, besides availing himself of every opportunity to promote the welfare of the Church of which he was a member; but if it is intended that there should be some lasting monument of his great works amongst us, we hope it will be in connection with the Infirmary, the Institution with which he more particularly identified himself, and to which it will be difficult to find a more willing and zealous supporter.

The deceased gentleman was also an ardent friend of the Hampshire Horticultural Society, whose exhibitions were always well supplied from his extensive conservatories with the choicest of nature's gifts. Indeed, in his nursery the botanist could find ample food for reflection and study, whilst the less scientific could not fail to be enchanted and delighted with the rich display of flowers and plants, of every hue and variety, which were there collected. Let us hope that this collection will not now be scattered, but that it will be preserved as hitherto to form one of the chief attractions of our Horticultural exhibitions.

The gallant Colonel was last year added to the Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Southampton, but his declining health prevented him from taking upon himself the more active duties attaching to the position.

His death has cast a gloom over the whole district, for by it the poor have lost a friend, and the aristocracy one of its most prominent and worthy members, but of him it may be said that the good which he has done lives after him, and we earnestly pray that others may spring up to emulate his transcendent virtues, and to follow in his footsteps. *Requiescat in pace!*

The funeral is to take place (D.V.) this day (Saturday) at twelve o'clock. The deceased will be interred in the burial ground of the church at Highfield, to which he was greatly attached, and in the welfare of which he took a lively interest from the time it was commenced building in 1847. He has filled the office of Churchwarden during the last seven years, under the incumbency of the Rev. G. S. Fitzgerald. It was the expressed wish of the deceased that his funeral should be strictly private, and confined to the members of his family, but the County Magistrates, having expressed a great desire to accompany his remains to their last resting place, as a mark of their respect and esteem for him, this has been acceded to. Several of the gentry, both of the town and neighbourhood, have requested that their carriages might follow, but this has been declined, in accordance with the deceased's wishes.

We have no doubt that the Incumbent of Highfield will allude to the event in his sermon on Sunday morning, when it is probable that there will be a numerous congregation.