

FIFTH AND SIXTH LORD RENDLESHAM

Their Contribution to the Early Years of Framlingham College

The Rt Hon Frederick William Brook Thelluson 1840-1911, fifth Baron Rendlesham in the Peerage of Ireland, of Rendlesham Hall, was appointed to the Corporation of the College in 1875 and succeeded Sir Edward Kerrison as third President in 1886. Like his predecessor he was an Etonian. Lord Rendlesham's ancestor was Swiss and came to London from Geneva as an ambassador. His son, Peter, made a fortune in London as a merchant and married an English wife. His son settled in Ireland and became the first Baron in the Irish ascendancy so was not in the House of Lords.

The fifth Lord Rendlesham was Conservative MP for East Suffolk for 11 years and at various times he held a large number of public offices in Suffolk and was the most widely known and liked man in the county. Lord Rendlesham was Vice President of the Corporation for a few months in 1886 after the death of Sir Edward. Lord Rendlesham gave £50 to the appeal to "continue the school" in late 1886 after it was in debt by some £3,000.

On Scott-White's resignation as Headmaster in 1887 after only five years in post, the Governors considered 135 candidates and it was painfully evident that if a mistake were made they would be fraught with serious consequences. Hence the Governing Body confided to Lord Rendlesham the task of examining the candidates qualifications and credentials.

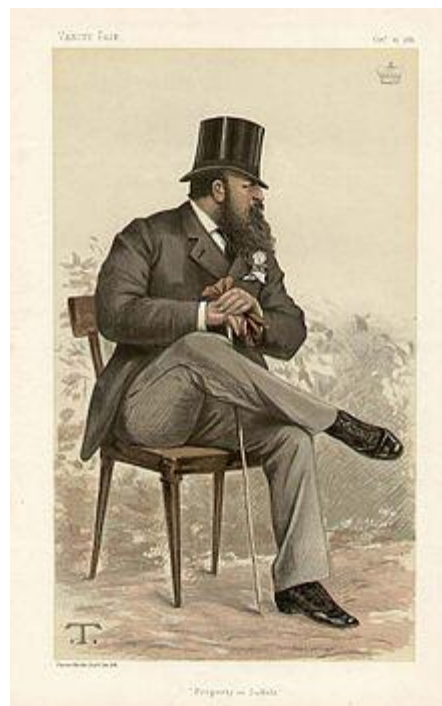
Lord Rendlesham took credit to himself in after years for having been principally instrumental in making what proved to be a historic appointment and recalled: "The School needed not just one of scholarly attainments but one who could sympathise and take part in the pastimes of the boys." Hence the Rev Dr Oliver Digby Inskip MA was appointed as Headmaster and Chaplain and served the School for 26 years.

After Queen Victoria died in 1901, a Suffolk memorial was proposed to honour the dead Queen. Lord Rendlesham and 7 others jointly signed a Notice in the press to found a Queen Victoria scholarship at the Albert Memorial College and hoping for £5,000 to produce a reasonable annual sum. Only £1,915 was raised (under 40%). A second amendment by G H Garrett to the Proposition for £20 a year was approved as the Garrett family had provided most of the funds received.

Lord Rendlesham was Chairman at Speech Days in 1874, 1889, 1892, 1897, 1902 and 1905 to 1910.

Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett had a diverting allusion to Lord Rendlesham: A Suffolk vicar often added words to his Lessons and Psalms and once said: "King of Kings, Lord of Lords; there's a many sort of lords: Lord Rendlesham! What is he? Nothing but a poorr earrthly worrum; that's not the Lord we have here."

The sixth Lord Rendlelsham was appointed to the Corporation in 1913.



* The picture of 5th Baron is a caricature by Theobald Chartran in Vanity Fair in October 1881