

Owners of Maplewell Hall who are buried in St. Paul's churchyard

William Unwin Heygate

William purchased the Maplewell estate from Sir Charles Crompton in 1864. The Heygates had held properties in Leicestershire since the seventeenth century and their Leicestershire seat, Roecliffe manor, adjoined Maplewell. William was born in 1825 at North Mimms, Hertfordshire. He studied at Eton and Merton College, Oxford and in 1852, at the age of 27, he was commissioned a Cornet of Prince Albert's Own Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry. William's chosen profession was law and he became a barrister and Justice of the Peace and was also deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire. He also pursued a successful political career, as well as becoming a director of a railway in later life. In 1852 William married Constance Beaumont and the couple had four children – three born in London and one at Roecliffe Manor. William died at Dover in 1902, aged 76.

William only owned the Maplewell estate for 4 years, but the building of Maplewell Hall occurred during his ownership. The Hall replaced a farmhouse that had formed the heart of the estate for the previous century. The Hall was designed by architect C. Granville Barker and built in local stone windows and roofs.¹

with mullioned
Swithland slate



Gravestone of William Unwin and Constance Beaumont Heygate (By David Morley)

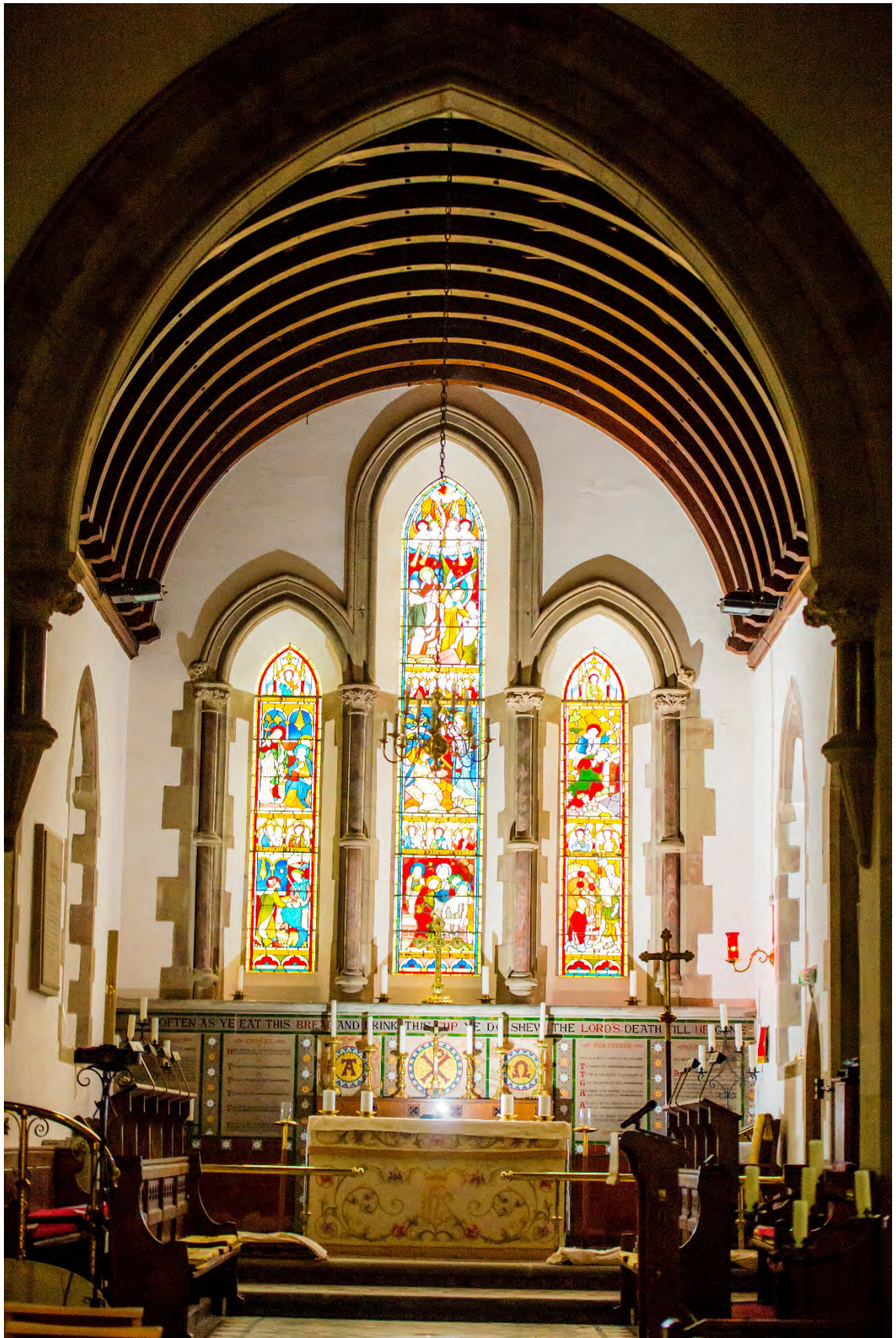
¹ Please see the banner and website page for 'The Heygate Family' for more information about other members of the Heygate family.

Charles Ashton

Charles owned Maplewell Hall 1868-75, or Maplewell Grange, as it was then known. Charles was born in 1838 in Bury, Lancashire and he moved in Leicestershire in his twenties. He married Ada Mary Hurst in Higham on the Hill on 23rd October 1867. He purchased Maplewell Hall and the couple moved in within a year of their marriage. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1870. It is not known what happened to Charles' wife, but on the 1871 census, Charles was listed as a widower. He continued to make alterations to the Maplewell estate, including adding outbuildings, dated 1871. In the same year, he also funded the chancel extension of St.Paul's Church in memory of his wife Ada Mary, at a cost of over £1000. He also dedicated the East window of the church to her memory, the first stained glass window to be placed in the church (1880).

Charles married for a second time in 1872 to Josephine Henty, in Epping, Essex. It is likely that the couple moved back to Maplewell shortly after their marriage, as their daughter Ada was born at Maplewell in 1873. Charles obviously loved his first wife dearly, as it appears that he named his daughter after her.

On 25th June 1875 Charles sold the Maplewell estate to William Henry Salt and by the 1881 census, he and his family were living in Aldenham, Hertford. They had had three more children by this time. Josephine died in 1911 in Dorset, aged 72. Charles married for a third time two years later in 1913, this time to Frances Isabella Anne de Satur, at Christ Church, Harrow. Charles lived until he was 82, dying in Bournemouth in 1920.



The Chancel and East Windows of St Paul's (By Beth Walsh)

Sir William Henry Salt (Baronet)

William owned Maplewell Hall from 1875 to 1892 and is buried along with his wife, Emma Dove Octaviana Salt (née Harris) at the rear of the church below the windows of the South Transept (Sir William paid for this to be built in 1880). William was born in 1831 at North Parade, Bradford. After completing his education at Huddersfield College and later Mill Hill School, London, William returned to Bradford to work for the family business. His father, Titus Salt, built Salt's Mill, a large textile mill and the village of Saltaire. Saltaire contained houses for mill workers, wash-houses, a hospital, library and a school for children of the workers.



'William Henry Street', Saltaire

In 1854 William married Emma Dove Octaviana Harris of Ratcliffe Hall, Leicestershire. The 1861 census shows William living at Rawdon, near Saltaire. It is not known when or why William left the family business, however, by 1871, he was living in Leicestershire, possibly to be closer to his wife's family. He had ceased all connection to the family business by 1873.

William and Emma settled at Maplewell in 1875 and in 1876 William became a baronet upon the death of his father. William continued to expand and improve upon the building work carried out by previous owners of Maplewell Hall, including the building of a clock turret in 1882. The couple had a son, Shirley and daughter, Constance and made Maplewell their home until 1892.

William fell ill in 1892 and died at Maplewell aged 60. The cause of death was listed as 'Intestinal Atrophy several months. Chronic diarrhoea. Exhaustion.', suggesting that he had suffered for many months. Emma left Maplewell after the death of her husband and the estate was sold in 1893, possibly to pay outstanding death duties. Emma moved to Heatherdone,

Elstead, Surrey and died there in 1904, however, her body was returned to Leicestershire to be interred next to her husband.²

William and Emma's gravestones are located close to the church, near the South Transept.



Gravestones of William and Emma Salt (By Beth Walsh)

Note that for some reason, Emma's gravestone incorrectly shows her date of death as 1905, rather than 1904.

Bohun Henry Chandler Fox

² Please see the banner and webpage for 'William Salt, Maplewell Hall and St Paul's' for more information.



In 1900, Thomas Ritchie sold Maplewell Hall to Bohun Henry Chandler Fox. Bohun was born in Churchover, Warwickshire in 1845, but by 1851 his family was living in Lutterworth as his clergyman father was serving as Curate of Peatling Parva. In 1873 he married Mary Emma Kemp in Hull and shortly afterward they moved to Lutterworth. The couple had three daughters, all born in the 1870s and Bohun was a solicitor, trading as ‘John and Bohun Henry Chandler Fox Solicitors’ in Lutterworth.

By 1900, Bohun was sufficiently wealthy enough to purchase Maplewell Hall, where he lived with his wife and three daughters. Bohun’s wife died in 1914 and one of his daughters also passed away in 1917. Bohun continued to live at Maplewell with his remaining daughter, Winifred, until he died aged 79 on 24th September 1924. Bohun, his wife, and their daughter, Edith, are buried in the cemetery opposite St Paul’s Church.

At the time of Bohun’s death, his daughter Alice had become Lady Cautley and Maplewell Hall was inherited by Winifred. Alice and Winifred commissioned a stained glass window for St Paul’s, in memory of their father. Winifred lived at Maplewell until her death in 1946 and may have embraced the introduction of new technology to Maplewell telephone under the Eaves 237.



– she appears in the directory from 1928 number Woodhouse

The commemorative window to Bohun Henry Chandler Fox in full and with focus on the dedication. (By David Morley)

We would like to thank Darren Harris for his kind permission to use his research material for this piece.

Information taken from:

Harris, D. *A History of Maplewell* (2009) [Taken from CD version of book].