

THE BATEMAN'S OF KNYPERSLEY

James Bateman set up his own engineering works, turning out all forms of mining machinery, being top class machines, in 1790, so good were the machines that in 1885 at Talk-On-The-Hill in Staffordshire, a mine pump for water was still working having been made in 1791., he dies in 1829.

This James Bateman acquired a large fortune, in 1810 he purchased Knypersley Estates and Manor at a cost of £37,000 he made one bid, to the executors of Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresleg, as it happened one of the trustees of the estate was named William Egerton of Olton, Ches; who was grandfather of Maria Sibylla Egerton-Warburton who 20 years later was the bride of James Bateman's grandson, James of Biddulph Grange House and she was mother of Rowland Bateman.

James the engineer never came to see his purchase but put it in the hands of his capable son John Bateman who came to live at Knypersley Hall with his wife Elizabeth Holt, they extensively renovated the Hall, installing a new wrought iron staircase (still in the Hall in 20th century), a beautiful Adam's decorated ceiling in the Drawing Room, and rebuilt all the outbuildings and the small private chapel there.

John Bateman was a deeply religious man, he made the name of Bateman much revered in the District, he was always very courteous to the poor and rich alike. He did much restoration to Biddulph Parish Church in 1834. John Bateman died in 1858 leaving his son James Bateman the estates

James Bateman (d.1858) became famous as an Horticulturist (Fellow of the Royal Society) growing and introducing Orchids to this country, he also built Biddulph Grange House 1838 (now a hospital) and laid all the gardens there, he

named one such orchid "The Knypersleyer" before building the grange, he used the gardens at Knypersley Hall as a model for the grange.

John together with his son James built, the Church, Parsonage (now "Fairhaven") Sunday Schools and rebuilt the Black-Smithy at Knypersley at a cost of £10,000. It was Jame's son Rowland Bateman who became a Missionary, Rowland was born at Knypersley Hall on 1st November 1840, where his parents were then living, until the Grange house was finished, Rowland had two brothers named John and Robert (Robert became an artist of note in later years) at the age of 14 years Rowland went to Brighton College with his elder and younger John and Robert; Rowland was home with his parents in 1853, when he attended a Sunday evening service with his parents, the curate took as his lesson Psalm 18, Verses 1 to 49 which was to be his favourite reading for many years. In 1859 he went to Magdalen College where he gained his degree of B.A., in 1864, three years later his Master of Arts degree.

The following is a letter sent to Rowland by his mother on gaining his B.A.,

Biddulph Grange,
Congleton

November 1st 1861

My Darling Rowley,