

Sir Thomas Michael Blake Crawley-Boevey, 8th Baronet

By David Hogg



Sir Thomas Hyde Page by John Northcote.

Sir Thomas Michael Blake Crawley-Boevey, 8th Bart was born on 29 September 1928. He always liked to be called Tim Boevey. He was a modest and self-effacing man with a keen sense of humour.

He was the son of Sir Launcelot Valentine Hyde Crawley Boevey and Elizabeth Goodith Innes. He married Laura Coelingh Van der Eyken the daughter of Jan Pouwels Coelingh Van der Eyken of Wassenaar in Holland on 16 February 1957 at Flaxley Church in Gloucestershire. Very sadly Laura died in London in July 1979 at the age of only 47.

He was educated at Wellington College in Berkshire. During his National Service he gained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in 1947 in the Durham Light Infantry. He went on to St John's College, Cambridge where he gained his M.A. He was a shipping agent between 1952 and 1961. He was with the Consumer Association between 1961 and 1982. He succeeded as the 8th Baronet Barrow of Highgrove in Gloucestershire, on 4 July 1968.

He was editor of Money Which between 1968 and 1976. Judy Tillotson was his Assistant Editor. He was the Editor of Which Magazine from 1976 to 1980 and Editor in Chief of Which Magazines from 1980 to 1982. He wrote the book 'Buying and Selling and Owning Shares', published 1987. He then wrote the book 'Finance Your Future', published 1989. While working at Which, he was asked by an Art Gallery in London if he would like to purchase the Portrait of Sir Thomas Hyde Page by James Northcote for £2000. His father said that this portrait was being sent from Flaxley Abbey to an exhibition in Birmingham where he had a copy made. He told the family that the painting which came back was the original. In fact it was the copy. Sir Launcelot had sold the original to raise money. This was not discovered until after his death. The original painting was purchased by Richard Lord Wraxall and now hangs at Tyntesfield.

Sir Thomas's eldest daughter Mary Albinia married Sir Thomas Crawley-Boevey, third baronet (1769 -1847); his granddaughter Matilda Blanche Crawley-Boevey married William Gibbs. In the portrait Sir Thomas is holding the plans for a well for Fort Languard, at the mouth of the River Orwell in Suffolk. The Fort is shown to the rear of the painting on the left.

In 2003 Tim married his long term partner Judy Tillotson in Cambridge. My wife and I met Tim and Judy in Southern India in 2010. I had promised Mary that while on holiday I would not talk about Tyntesfield. We were having dinner together in the hotel at Mysore and Mary said our surname is Hogg, what is yours? Tim replied Crawley Boevey and of course the link with Tyntesfield was obvious.

I remember too going with Tim and two friends to have afternoon tea with Lord Wraxall in 2012. Eustace said to Tim, 'let's have a talk about the Crawley Boeveys,' and took him over to the grand piano. Eustace was an accomplished pianist. Tim saw the portrait of Janet Louisa Gibbs beside the piano.



Left: Janet Louisa Gibbs with George Abraham by James Archer 1875

He said to Eustace, 'Don't you think that this portrait should go back to Tyntesfield?' Lord Wraxall replied, 'I don't think my children will want it so perhaps it should.'

Well, after Eustace died the painting did indeed come back to Tyntesfield – all thanks to Tim.

Tim lived in Cambridge. He died on Tuesday 9 March 2021.

The children of Sir Thomas Michael Blake Crawley-Boevey, 8th Bart. and Laura Coelingh are Thomas Hyde Crawley Boevey born 26 June 1958, and William Walstan Crawley Boevey born 30 May 1960.

Right: Tim and Judy in Southern India 2010. Photo by David Hogg, Included by Permission of Judy Crawley-Bovey.

