

Plan# 15A

GUNNING, George (MI-1-15A-24)

In memory of/ George GUNNING/ son of the late George GUNNING/ of Frindsbury in Kent, Esq./ He served in India/ In the 17th Regt. of infantry/ in the Peninsula/ In the 9th Regiment of Infantry/ and also in the 1st (Royals) Dragoons/ Commanded a troop of that regiment/ at the battle of Waterloo/ June 18th 1815/ Where he was severely wounded/ He died at Brighton/ January 2nd 1849/ aged 65 years.

Family crest on gravestone with French wording translating as "Honest without fear".

George Gunning was the son of George Gunning JP and DL of Kent.

Gunning junior was born at Frindsbury, Kent on 19th December 1783 and christened there on 22nd January 1784. He served in India in the 17th Regiment of Infantry in the Peninsula, in the 9th Regiment of Infantry and also in the 1st Royal Dragoons. He commanded a troop of the Regiment at the Battle of Waterloo. On 18th June 1815 he was severely wounded and came to live in Brighthelmstone. George attained the rank of Lieutenant and, after his injury, he was put on half pay of His Majesty's 1st Regiment of Dragoon Guards.

George was married at Margate on 24th November 1831 to Sara Tourney Bargrave, who was born in 1784 and was the widow of the distinguished Naval Commodore Sir Thomas Staines KCB KFM KOC of Dent de Lion. (Sir Thomas has been the first British Naval Officer to discover, on Pitcairn Island in the Pacific Ocean on 17th September 1814, the descendants of the Bounty mutineers).

Unfortunately, Sara died just two months after marrying George, on 25th January 1832 and was buried at Margate. George did not remarry and produced no children.

George Gunning junior presented a petition to the House of Lords for the appointment of Church Wardens. He was also instrumental in revising the Corn Laws, which state that "A fixed duty of not less than two shillings a bushel of grain to be paid immediately it is imported", by which means fraud would be prevented. He considered that the duty of oats in proportion to wheat would give proper protection to the Irish farmers and promote the general interest of the Kingdom. He also amended the Lythe Lawes, by a fixed percentage of all real rents, "The present mode of payment being UNJUST as it is UNWISE, and on a due examination by their Lordships it will be found that it checks improvement, paralyses industry, promotes pauperism and tends to destroy the virtuous spirit of meritorious exertion of the labouring poor".

He lived in Hanover Crescent until his death on 2nd January 1849 of a diseased heart. He was 65 years old.

Researched by Mr D Manville of Brighton, a Friend of St Peter's Church.