

General Sir John Summerfield Hawkins RE (1812-1895)

2d Lt 12 Dec 1834; Lt 10 Jan 1837; 2d Capt 1 Apr 1846; Capt 1 April 1852; Lt Col 12 Aug 1858; Col 1 March 1868; Col Com 28 July 1884. Army: Major 14 June 1858; Col 12 Aug 1863; Maj Gen 6 March 1868; Lieut Gen 1 Oct 1877; Gen 1 July 1881, retired K.C.M.G.

Chief Commissioner of the British North American Boundary Commission, 1858-1869, with rank of Capt., promoted to Col 1866. Here 1858-1862. Died at Malvern 10 Jan 1895.

Probate: Hawkins Sir John Summerfield of St Leonards, st James Road Great Malvern Worcestershire. Lieutenant-General on the retired list of Her Majesty's service and colonel-commandant of Royal Engineers KCMG. He died 10th January 1895.

Probate: London 15th March to Edmond John Lemoyne Twynam honorary- colonel on the retired list of the Bengal staff corps and the reverend Arthur Hawkins clerk. Effects £22,919 3s 8d, resworn September 1895 £28,130 4s 7d.



DEATH OF GENERAL SIR J. S. HAWKINS

It is with very great regret that we chronicle the death of General Sir John Summerfield Hawkins, K.C.M.G., of St. Leonards, Malvern. Sir John was at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday. The following day he suffered from cold, which grew rapidly worse, and on Tuesday the patient's condition was considered serious. Pneumonia developed, and during Wednesday Sir John's medical advisers held out but the faintest hopes of his recovery. Their worst fears were realised in the small hours of Thursday, when their patient passed quietly away. Sir John had attained the ripe age of 78, and bore his years remarkably well. He was the only son of Lieut. John Hawkins, R.N. Born in 1816, he early in life evinced a partiality for a military life, and in December of 1834 received his first commission in the Royal Engineers. So recently as the 12th of last December Sir John was present at the dinner of the Malvern Battery of Artillery Volunteers, and in responding to the toast of the Army referred with pardonable pride to the length of his military career, and to the fact that that happened to be the 60th anniversary of his connection with the Army. Though never in an actual engagement, Sir John had a varied military experience, and was for many years in India. In 1863 he retired with the rank of Colonel, and early in the seventies he came to Malvern and lived for some years at the Link. In 1877 he was

gazetted General, and in the same year he was elected a member of the Malvern Local Board. Sir **John** was one of the members of the North American Boundary Commission, and in recognition of services rendered in this way he in 1881 received from her Majesty the distinguished order of St. Michael and St. George. The chairmanship of the Malvern Local Board became vacant at this period by the death of Mr. Chance, and Sir **John** was the unanimous choice of the members for the appointment, to which he was each year re-elected down to 1883. The water scheme in that year engaged a good deal of attention, and as Sir **John** did not find himself in agreement with his colleagues on this important matter he, in May of that year, relinquished the chairmanship, and also resigned his membership of the Board. In the former position he was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. Grundy, then Head-master of Malvern College. During Sir **John's** long connection with the Local Board he was much more than an ornamental member. He threw himself with characteristic energy into all the work of the Board, and thorough independence of thought and action was shown in all his work. Sir **John** did not confine his interest in public affairs to his own town. He took an active part for years in county business, magisterial and otherwise, and in the work of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid and Wayfarers' Relief Societies. He was in 1883 elected an alderman of the Worcestershire County Council, and served upon two or three of its committees. In politics Sir **John** was a strong Conservative. He was chairman of the Great Malvern branch of the West Worcestershire Conservative Association, and was a frequent speaker at local political meetings. He was a member of the Board of Management for the National Schools, and for the past three years had been chairman of the committee of the Malvern Club. He was most regular in attendance at Petty Sessions, and was a liberal helper of all local philanthropic agencies. Two of his sons are in the Army. Major **John Hawkins**, Royal Horse Artillery, went through the Egyptian Campaign in 1882, and is now stationed in India. Captain W. F. **Hawkins** who was in the Soudan Expedition in 1884-5, is now with the Royal Engineers at Singapore. The third son, the Rev. H. **Hawkins** has a living in Gloucestershire, and there are two daughters. Mrs. **Hawkins** died about 18 years ago. She was a daughter of Mr. D. H. Kelly, of Kelly Castle, County Galway.