

BRACKENHURST HALL & FIELD MARSHALL, 1ST VISCOUNT ALLENBY.

There are two gravestones set into the floor of the Minster in the south aisle opposite the North Door. They commemorate Rev. Robert Cane and his wife Kitty Cowart Cane (nee Coats) who were the great grandparents of Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby



THE CANE FAMILY

Robert Cane (1755-1802) was christened at St Bartholomew's church, Welby, Lincolnshire the son of the Rev. Robert Cane and his wife Elizabeth née Drake. Robert followed his father into the church and became a Vicar Choral at Southwell Minster in 1798, a position he was to hold until his death in 1802. He married Kitty Cowart Coats at All Saints church, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire on 29th June 1784. Robert and Kitty had three children Sarah Ann (1788), Catherine Elizabeth (1790) and Thomas Coats born in 1800 all three children were christened at Southwell Minster. Robert Cane died 6th January 1802 and Kitty Cowart Cane died 16th September 1802 nine months after her husband.

Thomas Coats Cane studied at St John's, Cambridge and was ordained priest in December 1824. After a curacy at Upton he became Vicar of Kirklington in 1836; an incumbency he retained until his death. He was also priest in charge of Halloughton from 1840 until 1867. He married Mary Brettle at St James' Westminster, London on 28th May 1826 and two years later in 1828 he built Brackenhurst Hall as a family home. Thomas and Mary had nine children, seven boys and two girls. Their daughter Catherine Anne was their second daughter and fourth child; she was christened at Southwell Minster on 10th April 1831. The Rev. Thomas Coats Cane died on 15th February 1887 at Brackenhurst Hall. His wife Mary died in July of the same year; they were both buried in Halloughton churchyard.

Catherine Anne Cane married Hynman Allenby of Legsbourne near Louth, Lincolnshire at Southwell Minster on 3rd February 1859. Hynman was the son of Hinman* Raddish Allenby and his wife Elizabeth née Bourne, he appears to have been born in 1821 at Kenwick Hall which is just outside Legsbourne along the road towards Louth. (There is now a golf course at Kenwick Hall.) Hynman as the second son did not inherit Kenwick Hall but was left investments which enabled him to purchase Felixstowe Hall in Suffolk. Hynman died on 20th February 1878 and left this property to his wife Catherine Anne. She died aged 91 years on 31st October 1922 at Felixstowe Hall. Much of the land that had surrounded the house had already been sold to allow for the development of the town of Felixstowe and in 1923 the house was demolished and a public park was created from the remaining grounds.

Their second child and the eldest of their three sons was Field Marshal Sir Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, who was created 1st Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe in 1919 in recognition of his services during the First World War. He was born at Brackenhurst Hall 23 April 1861 and christened at Southwell Minster on 30th May 1861. He died on 14th May 1936 in London and his ashes were buried in the Warriors Chapel, now St George's Chapel, Westminster Abbey.

Brackenhurst Hall was extensively remodelled c.1890 for William Norton Hicking (d.1947) a co-founder, with his father, of G. & W. N. Hicking, a firm of lace bleachers and finishers in Nottingham. The Hall was used as a nursing home for soldiers during the Great War (1914-18). After the Second World War it was bought by Nottinghamshire County Council in 1948 and turned into an Agricultural College. In 1999 Brackenhurst College was merged with other colleges to become part of Nottingham Trent University.

D. R. Pitchford, November 2017

* The name Hinman or Hyman occurs as a Christian name in several generations of the Allenby family, the spelling varying from generation to generation. It was most probably the surname of an ancestor who married into the Allenby family.