

Kings Bromley and the Ionian Islands

The connection between Kings Bromley and Barbados is now quite well known, see 'Publications', but there is also a connection with Corfu, Paxos, Cephalonia and Zante.

John Newton Lane, who was Lord of the Manor of Kings Bromley from 1828 to 1869 had six sons who survived to adulthood: the four oldest were John Henry Bagot ('Harry'), Sidney, Cecil and Greville. In the Crimean War (October 1853 – February 1856), Harry, who was in the Coldstream Guards and Greville, who was in the Rifle Brigade, both served as regular officers. The regular army garrison on the Ionian island of Cephalonia was replaced, presumably so that it could fight in the Crimea, from beginning of 1855 to May 1856, by the Staffordshire Militia - in which Sidney Lane, who had trained as a lawyer, was a Captain. After the Militia left, Sidney stayed on for a while and for a few months became temporary 'Resident', or Governor, on the island of Zante. There is a British Cemetery just outside Argostoli on Cephalonia with a stone commemorating 21 men and 4 women of the 1st Kings Own Staffordshire Militia who died in 1855/1856 of cholera. It is interesting that militiamen could take their wives and daughters with them. This photo is courtesy of Historians' members Helen & Kev Price, whose favourite holiday destination is Cephalonia:

Near this Stone lie the remains of
the following non-commissioned officers, Privates and
Women of the 1st K. O. Staffordshire Militia
who died on the undermentioned dates:

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Serjeant George Grocott. | October 25th 1855 |
| Corporal George Simpson | Sept ^r 29th |
| Private George Bennett. | Augs ^t 28th |
| John Moran | October 1st |
| Augustine Cannon. | 3rd |
| James Evans | 11th |
| Edward Shown. | 13th |
| George Hill. | 15th |
| Samuel Morgan. | 22nd |
| Samuel Lloyd | 23rd |
| Samuel Hartshorn. | 24th |
| Moses Brettel | 26th |
| Thomas Morgan | Novemr. 2nd |
| Joseph Bratt | 16th |
| James Mellor | 19th |
| Common Welsh. | 21st |
| Jeremiah Devannagh. | 27th |
| Daniel Dix. | 29th |
| George Bate | December 16th |
| Thomas Deer | February 11th 1856 |
| James Caldwell. | April 16th |

- Also -

Susannah, wife of Edw. Causer Novem^r 11th 1855
Martha, do. of Rob^t Chell Decem^r 10th 1855
Elizabeth, do. of W^m Hawkins " 20th 1855
Elizabeth, do. of Corp. W Riley Febr^y 15th 1856

[the stone has fallen flat and is broken in two]



Cecil Lane entered the 1st. Staffordshire Militia in 1852, became captain in 1854, major in 1874, and lieutenant-colonel and colonel (retired) in 1875. Like Sidney, he proceeded with the Staffordshire Regiment to Corfu in 1855, and served there as aide-de-camp to Sir John Young, the Governor. He stayed on after the war in the Colonial Service and was Resident at Paxos from 1858 to 1860, and Resident on Cephalonia from 1860 until 1864 - at which time the Ionian Islands were ceded to Greece. He was created CMG in 1864 and received a pension from the Greek government. After this he came back to live at Kings Bromley Manor until Dec. 1876, when, at the age of forty, he married Adela Mary Bertie of Abingdon, daughter of the Hon. Frederick Bertie, fourth son of the fourth Earl of Abingdon. After their marriage they lived at Whiston Hall, Shropshire. They had three sons and a daughter. Two of the sons died in WW1 and are commemorated in the chancel of All Saints, Kings Bromley.