

## **Plan# 286**

**HOWLETT, Marianne Elizabeth (MI-5-286-501)**

**HOWLETT, Marianne Elizabeth (MI-5-286-502)**

**HOWLETT, Edith Alexandra (MI-5-286-503)**

**HOWLETT, James Warnes (MI-5-286-504)**

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*In sacred & loving/ memory of/ Marianne Elizabeth/ for three short years the devoted wife of/ James Warnes HOWLETT/ who died November 19th 1864/ aged 27 years/ "When thou didst call me to resign/ what I most prized ne'er was mine/ I only gave thee what was thine/ Thy will be done."/ Also of/ Marianne Elizabeth/ youngest child of the above/ who died April 12th 1871/ aged 6½ years/ Also of/ Edith Alexandra/ second daughter of/ James Warnes and Marianne Elizabeth HOWLETT/ who died December 17th 1892/ aged 29 years/ Also of the above/ James Warnes HOWLETT J.P./ The "father of Hove"/ who died August 23rd 1911 aged 83.*

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James was born and bred in Norfolk and qualified as a solicitor in 1849. He moved to Brunswick Place in Brighton in 1857 and joined a legal firm. He was one of the original Hove Commissioners who were responsible for the regulation of the town and improvements to facilities and streets. James felt strongly that Hove should be kept independent of Brighton and in 1873 took a leading part in a parliamentary contest to keep Hove independent – which was successful and a full local government for the whole of Hove was set up. However, two years later Brighton Corporation presented another Bill for Hove's annexation. James then felt that he had no choice but to resign as solicitor to the Stanford family, who owned much of Hove, as they were in favour of the annexation.

This second move to join Hove to Brighton also failed, thanks in a large part to James's fighting tenacity. It made him a local hero and a popular piece of doggerel went: "Howlett and Hove, names almost synonymous; since Howlett's sharp moves made Hove autonomous."

Lady Louise Loder (wife of Loder MP) gave Howlett the unofficial title of Father of Hove. James laid the foundation stone of the old Hove Town Hall, his name was inscribed on its bell and James came up with Hove's motto – Floreat Hova.

A bit of a workaholic, it was said of him: "Mr Howlett was a gentleman who could do twice as much as any other man in the same amount of time".

He retired as Chairman of the Hove Commissioners in 1892, the year also of the tragic death of his daughter Edith. She "met with a mishap while being driven in a London cab, and afterwards complained of dizziness. That night she was seen falling from the third floor of her father's residence in Brunswick Place."

Apparently, James was a tall, gaunt figure with one eye and who kept a fine cellar. He became Alderman in 1898 and on 12 January 1911 he was created the first Honorary Freeman of Hove.

He died later that year leaving an estate valued at just over £121,000.

There is still a firm of solicitors in Brighton called Howlett Clarke.

(Thanks to Margaret Haynes for conducting research for this)