

## **SIR JOHN HOLDER, 1838-1923**

John Charles Holder, first baronet, of Pitmaston in the County of Worcester, was a Justice of the Peace, High Sheriff of Worcestershire in 1903, Deputy Lieutenant of the county, and a Knight of Grace of St John of Jerusalem. He was born on December 10th 1838, and married Geraldine Augusta Baynton on August 29th 1872; they had four sons and six daughters.

Sir John's father was Henry Holder, a brewer of Birmingham. After Henry's death, Sir John carried on the business, which was amalgamated with Mitchell's & Butler's in 1919.

Sir John was Chairman of the "General Hospital Building Committee", and gave generously of his time and money to build the new General Hospital in Steelhouse Lane, which in 1897 superseded the almost 120-year-old buildings in Summer Lane. In politics he was a pronounced Conservative, but had no desire to become a politician; although he served on the Councils of Balsall Heath and of Kings Heath, this was for only a short time, and he did not offer himself for re-election.

He was a benefactor of many charities, including the St John Ambulance Brigade and several hospitals. He was also Hon. Treasurer of the Lord Mayor's Relief Fund. A deeply religious man, he worshipped for many years at St Mary's Church, Moseley, and before that at Edgbaston Parish Church. He was a patron of the arts, and had a fine collection of paintings, some of which are now in our Birmingham Art Gallery.



*Sir John Holder*

He was an enthusiastic angler, and fished in most of the Scottish rivers. On one occasion he took nine salmon in one day with the same fly, the heaviest weighing 41 lb.

He was a very kind and much loved person, and it was a great loss to the city when he died in 1923.

*Ellen Wilkins*

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