

Ernest Marston Rudland

Rudland was born at 15 St Paul's Road in Balsall Heath on 27th April 1875. He was educated at King Edward's Grammar School, Five Ways and later trained in chartered accountancy, beginning his career in 1897. During the First World War he was placed in financial charge of a group of Government factories. He was elected to Birmingham City Council in 1907 and resigned in 1918. He was Honorary Treasurer at the Nerve Hospital from 1914 to 1944 and also at the United Hospital from 1940 to 1948. In addition, he was President of the Central Literature Association and a Life Governor of Birmingham University. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society. He retired in 1941. He was also a keen writer and poet, first published in 1903. Many of his works are held in Birmingham Central Library, amongst them his biography of the Oliver Cromwell (1952). Before moving to Moseley Rudland lived at 4 Edgbaston Road in Balsall Heath. From 1907 to 1930 he lived at 36 St Agnes' Road, Moseley and from 1931 to 1952 at 134 Anderton Park Road. In 1953 he moved to Ross-on-Wye, dying there in 1958. There is a plaque to Rudland in St Nicholas's Church, Kings Norton.

As a 16 year old (in 1978) venturing into work for the first time at Birmingham Central Library, I was given the task of indexing and filing a vast collection of engraved portraits of the great and good from all walks of life. These engravings all dated from the seventeenth to early twentieth century and had been amassed over many years by Rudland. The Marston Rudland collection is now located in the Local Studies Department of Birmingham Reference Library.