

Lucy's account of her father, WHC Lloyd

“ The Reverend William Henry Cynric Lloyd, M.A., in his later years Archdeacon of D'Urban, Natal, South Africa, was the fourth son of a Welsh father; and remained an ardent Welshman to the end of his life. His mother was English, from the midlands, and a lineal descendant of Charlemagne. Mr Lloyd was born on the 13th of January, 1802, at Woodstock near Oxford, where his father was staying for the hunting. In early youth, he attended Mr Carmalt's boarding school at Putney. Later he studied at Jesus College, Oxford, and gained his M.A. degree.

It had been originally intended that he should take orders and become a clergyman in Wales; and, as a preparation for this, he devoted some time to the study of the Welsh language. As a schoolboy, he was known by the name of “Bishop” in his family circle.

While at Mr Carmalt's school, he had become acquainted with the family of the Reverend John Jeffreys, Rector of Barnes, Surrey; and after his ordination, he was, for a time, Curate to Mr Jeffreys. Later, he was appointed Rector of Norbury, Staffordshire, and Vicar of Ranton, a parish seven miles distant from Norbury.

On the 3rd of July, 1832, he married Lucy [page 2] Anne Jeffreys, one of the younger daughters of the Reverend John Jeffreys of Barnes. She died on the 14th of February, 1843, leaving him with four young children, the youngest of whom was only a month old.

On the 23rd of May, 1844, he married again. His second wife was Ellen, second daughter of the late Reverend Henry Norman, Vicar of Moreton, Staffordshire.

Before his first marriage, Mr Lloyd had considerably enlarged and improved the Rectory at Norbury, which had been a kind of small farmhouse when he originally went to live there. This outlay, however, hampered him considerably as time went on; and, in 1848, he gave up both his livings in England, and accepted the Colonial Chaplaincy of Natal; a country which, at that time, was accounted a very inexpensive place to live in.

In January, 1849, he set sail, with his wife and seven children, in the East Indiaman, “John Line”, for the Cape of Good Hope. The voyage was more than 80 days in duration; and, during the delay which occurred at Cape Town, before a vessel could be found to convey the party to Natal, his eighth child (and seventh daughter) was born. Mr Lloyd finally reached Natal in June of that year, and, with the exception of a few visits to the Cape and to England, resided at D'Urban until his death, which took place on the 3rd of January, 1881, a few days before his 79th birthday [page 3].

During his tenure of Norbury, various improvements were effected in Norbury church; and a Chapel of Ease was erected in the adjoining hamlet of

Knightley, about two miles from Norbury and situated in the Parish of Gnosall. In Knightley, on either side of the Church, a day school for boys and girls and a residence for the school master were also built. Mr Lloyd laboured untiringly for the education of the people, and for the improvement of cottages and public roads; not to mention his activity as a magistrate.

At D'Urban, where upon his arrival no English Church was to be found, he worked with great zeal to bring about the building of the original St. Paul's Church. The completion of this, caused him much joy and thankfulness.

Mr Lloyd was six feet high, and of a commanding presence. He was a truly hospitable and kindhearted man, a friend to all who were in trouble and distress. His lively faith, and his deep reverence for sacred things were strongly marked features of his character. His voice was clear and powerful, and in his readings of the Church Services a rare pleasure to listen to. In politics he was a liberal, what, in those days, used to be called a "whig". He was, throughout his life, a most loyal subject."