

SIR HUGH EVELYN, BART

PORTRAIT OF A DICKENSIAN ECCENTRIC

Peter Maggs

Charles Dickens created some of the most memorable characters in English literature. Their names were taken from people he knew or had seen on shop fronts or in the newspapers. Their characters too he copied, notably Harold Skimpole from *Bleak House*; his none too flattering portrait was based on the poet Leigh Hunt. It seems likely then, that had Dickens known more of the history of Sir Hugh Evelyn - who shared many characteristics with Mr Micawber from *David Copperfield* - he too would have figured in one of the novels, albeit with an amusingly altered name. In fact the life of *Little Dorrit's* father William, who spent decades in the Marshalsea Prison, may well have been inspired by the 1843 newspaper reports of Sir Hugh and the length of time he had spent in a debtors' prison.

It was said of Hugh that in his youth he was one of the 'leaders of the fashionable world', associating with the Prince of Wales (the future George IV), the playwright Sheridan and the radical politician Charles James Fox.¹ His cousin, Sir Frederick Evelyn, was definitely in the Prince's 'set', and may have provided Hugh's route into Society. But Hugh was given to extravagant rhetoric and precipitate action and he turned profligacy into an art-form. He left a trail of legal and financial wreckage that took more than 30 years to sort out after his death.

Hugh Evelyn, born in 1769 in Totnes, Devon, was the fourth son and youngest of nine children of Charles Evelyn and Philippa Wright.² Philippa Wright was the daughter of Fortunatus Wright, the Liverpool privateer, and his second wife Mary Bulkeley. Hugh was a direct descendant of John Evelyn (1620-1705), diarist and writer and author of *Sylva*, a pioneering work on tree cultivation,

who was himself, the great grandson of another John Evelyn who had brought the formula for gunpowder into England.³ Hugh's great grandfather, yet another John Evelyn, was an MP, Commissioner of the Customs, and Fellow of the Royal Society; he was created first baronet of Wotton by Queen Anne.

In 1812, John Evelyn's grandson Sir Frederick Evelyn, 3rd baronet, died without issue, and the title passed to Sir Frederick's first cousin once removed, his nearest male relative, one more John Evelyn, Hugh's elder brother. When Sir John Evelyn, 4th baronet, died childless and insane in 1833, the title passed to Hugh. The family fortune though, did not. To quote from the history of the Evelyns:

It was owing to the insanity in this branch of the family, that the Wotton and Deptford estates were not left to him [John], or his brother [Hugh], or any of his sisters.⁴

Whether or not Hugh Evelyn was insane like his elder brother is a moot point; he was certainly more than a little eccentric, and it may be that at least some of his behaviour stemmed from the gross injustice, as he saw it, of being denied his rightful inheritance.

Hugh's father, Charles, had died when Hugh was only two or three years old, and his cousin, Sir Frederick took charge of his education. Hugh was sent to a series of good schools, from all of which he ran away. Eventually his conduct led to him being forbidden entry to either of Sir Frederick's houses, and after a spell in the north of England, he joined another cousin, Captain Meadows, as midshipman in the Royal Navy en route to the West Indies. He soon tired of that and feigning ill

health, and with Captain Meadows' permission, he returned to England as a cabin passenger in a merchantman. Sir Frederick then tried to get him a cadetship in the East India Company's army, which he refused, at which point Sir Frederick gave up. The *History of the Evelyn Family* describes Hugh's life at this point:

'By his plausible stories he had cunning enough to raise money from annuity and *post-obit* mongers, and had no other visible means of subsistence.'⁵

Some details of Hugh's life during this period can be pieced together from press cuttings. In 1790, a sale of his household furniture was held at the Session House, Guildford, Surrey.⁶ Items included many pieces of furniture, 'Seve' and Dresden porcelain, original paintings and rare prints, a large Turkish carpet and pistols and fowling pieces. He was 'Leaving off Housekeeping' at the age of only 21; how he had accumulated all of these expensive possessions given his lack of financial resources is a mystery. Possibly they were the result of a legacy; more likely, he bought them all on credit...

The following year, Hugh appeared to have spent the proceeds - or they were used to pay off debts - because he was in need of a job. And, not one to undersell himself, he placed a notice in the *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, addressed to the 'Nobility, Clergy [and] Gentlemen of the counties of Devon, Surrey and Kent'.⁷ He solicited:

'... interest and recommendation through the Right Honourable William Pitt [the Prime Minister] to Government to some place or other of employment either by a place in waiting at [the Court of] St James or in some one of the public offices worthy of my acceptance as a young man of one of the oldest families in these counties ...'

He had, he said, lost the friendship of Sir Frederick and Lady Evelyn for 'quitting the Royal Navy in consequence of ill health...'

Then it seemed that he struck lucky. On Friday 18 May 1792, both the *Diary* and the *Morning Herald*, reported that Hugh Evelyn, of Great Mary-le-Bone Street, Cavendish Square, had

married 'Miss Sykes', daughter of Sir Francis Sykes.⁸ Eliza Sykes would have been a great catch for Hugh and would have solved his financial problems; her father had made a fortune in the East India Company in Calcutta.⁹ Unfortunately, the following day the *Diary* retracted the story as 'being without the least foundation', and this is confirmed by Sir Francis' entry in the ODNB in respect of his daughter.

The next year, 1793, Hugh posted an advertisement in *The Star* admitting that he was broke.¹⁰ He was now in Carlisle¹¹:

'I ... have to apologise for my want of money...The truth is, I have no money at present...I have been too good natured, lent my money, which has never been returned ...'

He then proceeded to offer to sell a reversionary interest of 3% Consols¹² on £8,750, equivalent to £260 per annum, a legacy left to his brother John, which would come to Hugh on his brother's death provided that he had no children! In order to encourage any potential purchasers to expect a reasonably quick return on their investment, he added that his brother was a lieutenant in the marines, 35 years old, and had had the 'small pox'.

Lieutenant-General William Evelyn, sometime MP of Helston, was the uncle of Hugh's father, Charles Evelyn. He died unmarried in 1783 and left the interest on £5,000, placed in 'Government or land securities' to his nephew's eldest son John for life. This legacy formed the bulk of Hugh's 'reversionary interest'. The will further directed that after John's death, and in the absence of any children, the money should pass to the next oldest brother Charles (the other brother, Edward, had died in infancy). On Charles' death, and if he too were childless, the money went to the youngest son, Hugh. Since Charles had died, unmarried, in the East Indies in 1784, Hugh was the next in line.

Hugh's eldest brother John, had been a lieutenant in the Royal Marines, but in 1794 he shot a post boy dead for no known reason. He escaped the hangman's rope by being declared insane, and was put under restraint. John Cowling, Dr of Physic, declared that John's lunacy was of the

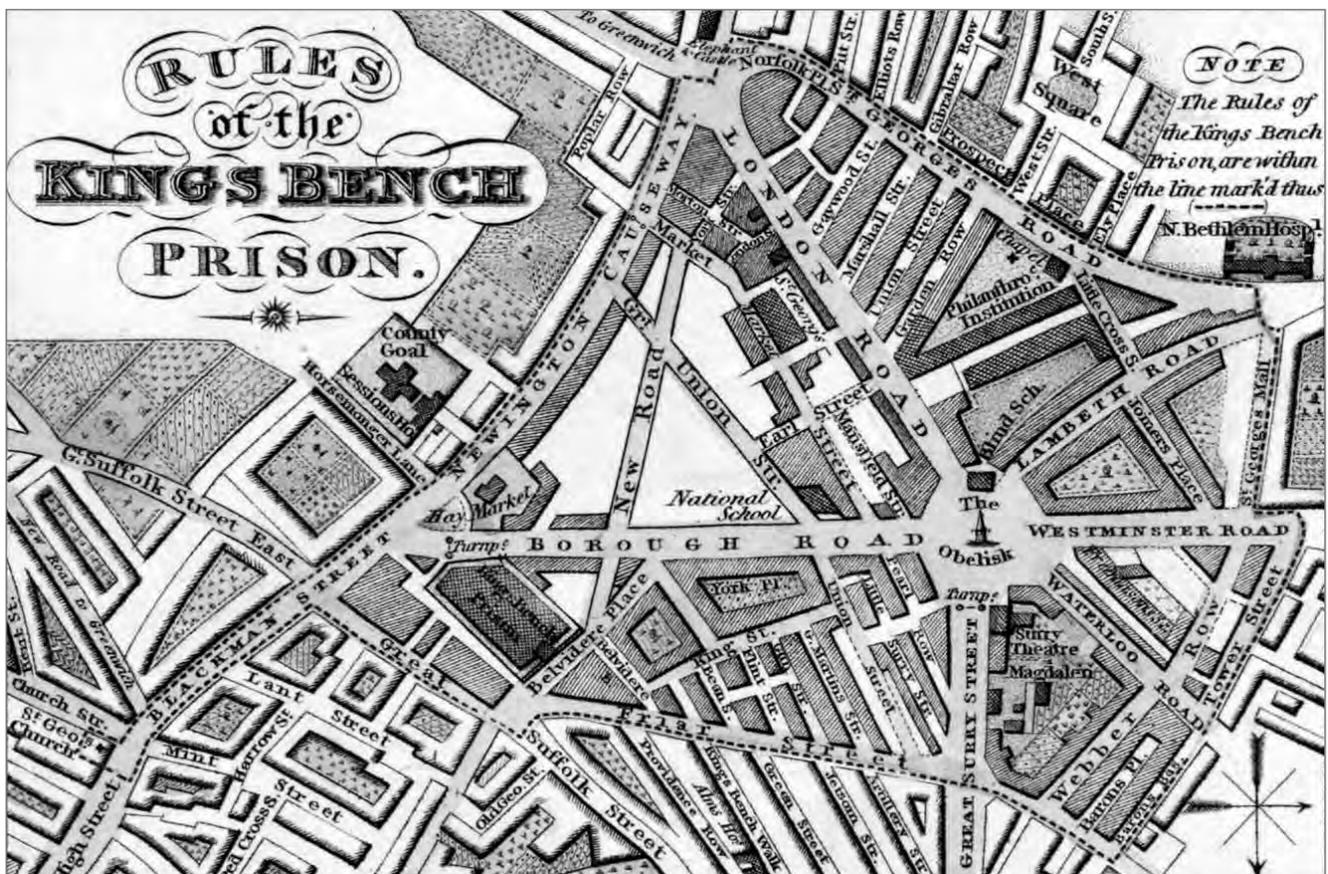
‘maniacal, violent, dangerous and destructive kind...’, and John was held in a private asylum in Blackley, Lancashire, run by John Edwards.¹³ His half-pay of £38.8s.7d. as a lieutenant in His Majesty’s Marines continued to be paid and helped support him in the asylum.¹⁴

With John, unmarried, in prison, and unlikely ever to be released, Hugh was now heir apparent to the inheritance, but he was unhappy with the administration of General Evelyn’s will. Perhaps he thought that since John was a ‘lunatic’, the payments should be made to him as the next in line - which would have happened, had John been hanged. In any event, sometime in the early 1800s, he had posters printed and displayed around the city of Westminster offering a reward for the apprehension of the said executors, William Strode and William Godeschale¹⁵, on charges of forgery and perjury.¹⁶ Both gentlemen were wealthy, and William Strode had Hugh charged with libel. He was found guilty, fined, and committed to King’s Bench Prison until the fine was paid and he had ‘... given proper security for his future behaviour.’

Since he was unable to pay the fine or provide security for his good behaviour, he stayed there for ‘... some years ...’ His cousin, Sir Frederick, did not desert him however, and sent him a small weekly allowance via one of the warders and that, together with clothes from his relatives, ‘...which very soon found their way to the pawnbrokers’, allowed him to live a life of sorts.

Hugh Evelyn had been committed to prison, but the circumstances could have been far worse. King’s Bench prison was in Southwark at the east end of Borough road. It was a very liberal establishment for those who could afford it, which is odd, considering that being in debt generally implies a lack of ready cash.

In 1815 a committee appointed by parliament to enquire into the state of the King’s Bench, Fleet and Marshalsea prisons had reported that the Marshal of the King’s Bench Prison, William Jones, who was not paid a salary, netted an average annual income of £3,270.¹⁷ The prison contained 200 rooms, 192 of which were let, unfurnished, for 1s. per week.



*The Rules of King’s Bench Prison, published by W Belch circa 1830; note that south is up in the map.
© British Library Board (Maps Crace Port. 16.49).*

The remaining eight, so-called 'state rooms', were let for 2s 6d. The prison was a microcosm of London life, with butchers and greengrocers, a tailor, a barber, a coffee shop and *ten* locations where liquor could be purchased.¹⁸ Emoluments on the sale of alcohol alone provided the marshal with an annual income of £872, but it was the application of the 'Rules' that was the golden goose. At the time of the committee's report, 440 prisoners were within the walls - together with another 180 women and children, but there were another 220 persons, prisoners, who were allowed to reside *outside* the prison. These persons enjoyed the benefit of the 'Rules of King's Bench Prison', an area of Southwark, circumference about two and a half miles, with the prison at its north-eastern corner. Taverns, alehouses and places of 'public entertainment' were excluded from the Rules, although with the Marshal's permission and the payment of a fee, the prisoner could live anywhere within the boundaries.

Fees from prisoners making use of the Rules provided the Marshal with an annual income of £2,823. If the prisoner was in debt for more than £100, a fee of eight guineas was payable with four guineas for each succeeding £100.¹⁹ It was possible to take the Rules for the day - in this case the fee was 4s.2d., together with a three guinea bond, 'renewable every term' assuring the prisoners' return. The government committee established that no roll-call of prisoners within the prison was taken, and that a prisoner might be absent for a year or more before anyone found out. It is likely therefore that the Rules were similarly poorly enforced. Hepworth Dixon reported a case where a sheriff's officer found someone boating at Cowes whom he had taken to the King's Bench Prison only a few days before.²⁰ It was common practice, Dixon said, for debtors to make 'little trips - by indulgence', to 'Richmond, Gravesend, Hampton Court, and elsewhere with their friends'. The 'indulgence' was a fee or tip paid to the turnkey.

Whether or not Hugh used the Rules of King's Bench while he was in prison is not known, but he did make the acquaintance there of the widow of an officer who, '...[gave] him much assistance, and much good but useless advice...' In 1809 William Strode died (William Godeschale had

died in 1802), and some time later, Hugh Evelyn was released from prison. In 1812 his cousin Sir Frederick died, and the baronetcy went to Hugh's insane brother John.

In 1816, Hugh placed an advertisement in *The Times* thanking the 'Duke and Duchess of Gloucester [*sic*]' for sending him £20 for distribution amongst the 'most needy' debtors in the King's Bench prison. His address was given as 42, West Street, West Square which is just outside the Rules, although West Street abuts St George's Road which is inside the Rules. If Hugh was occupying the corner house, he could have been within the Rules, and the nature of the notice suggests that he was still a prisoner; on the other hand he might have been released, moving just outside the Rules to emphasize his liberty, but wished to demonstrate his largesse to the world by philanthropy to his ex-fellow prisoners.²¹

The lady who befriended Hugh in prison, Henrietta Harrison, married him in 1815 at St John, Smiths Square (outside the Rules), and eventually they went to live in Great Bookham taking her household furniture with them. It is likely that Sir Frederick's widow, Lady Mary Evelyn, continued to provide Hugh with some support, since she left him two guineas a week in her will - she died in 1817. Hugh and his new wife soon got themselves in debt in Great Bookham, Surrey, and their goods were seized by creditors.

In February 1817, Hugh threatened James Taylor, the managing clerk of his cousin's solicitor, William Bray, with a loaded pistol if he refused to deliver some papers to him.²² Hugh was arrested and would have been charged with a felony except that although loaded, the gun had not been primed and had no flint. He was bailed and then attempted to get a magistrate's order to compel the papers to be given to him, but this was thrown out.²³

In the early 1820s, Hugh brought a suit in Chancery against a cousin, yet another John Evelyn.²⁴ This John Evelyn had been acquainted in the East Indies with Hugh's brother Charles, who had been a lieutenant in the East India Company, and had died at sea in 1784. Charles died intestate, and John, a relative and creditor,

was appointed locally to administer his affairs. Hugh, forty years after the event, was claiming that he, Hugh, was entitled to Charles' estate. John Evelyn, now in his eighties and having trouble remembering the events of forty years previously, pointed out that Charles' funds were used to recompense him, John, to the tune of nearly 5,000 'Sicca Rupees' owing to him.²⁵ The outcome of the case was not recorded, but it is a measure of Hugh's desperation for money and grip on reality, that he should have initiated an action with such a remote chance of success.

In October 1824, Hugh's sister Philippa, who had married Wilbraham Liardet, died, and in February 1825 Hugh put a notice in *The Morning Post* describing himself as assignee to the late 'Philippa... Liardet... [and] great grandson of Sir John Evelyn, Bart...' giving notice to any tenants of the Evelyn estates at St Paul's, Deptford, not to pay any rents due until 'my rights and interests have been legally determined.'²⁶

Hugh had narrowly escaped prison for the episode with the pistol, but it seemed as though he almost had a wish to get behind bars again. Later in 1825 he succeeded. He brought an action against William Bray, his (Hugh's) sister Frances Louisa, who had married a clergyman John Griffith, and several others, as William Bray said,

'... mixing them up with several other defendants with whom neither of them had any connexion whatsoever ...'

The action was dismissed with costs of £30. Naturally, Hugh was unable to pay, and was committed once more to King's Bench Prison where he stayed for the next *eighteen years*, supported by the 2 guineas a week provided by Lady Mary's will.

Now Hugh definitely did take the Rules. A letter he wrote in 1828 was addressed from 21 Alfred Place, Southwark. Alfred Place was on Newington Causeway just north of the Elephant and Castle, at the southern vertex of the Rules.²⁷

The letter does appear to show that Hugh Evelyn's mind had become detached from reality. It was

addressed to the Sussex coroner and written in the form of a writ:

'You will immediately proceed with a juror [*sic*] of good and sufficient gentlemen in your county of Sussex ...'

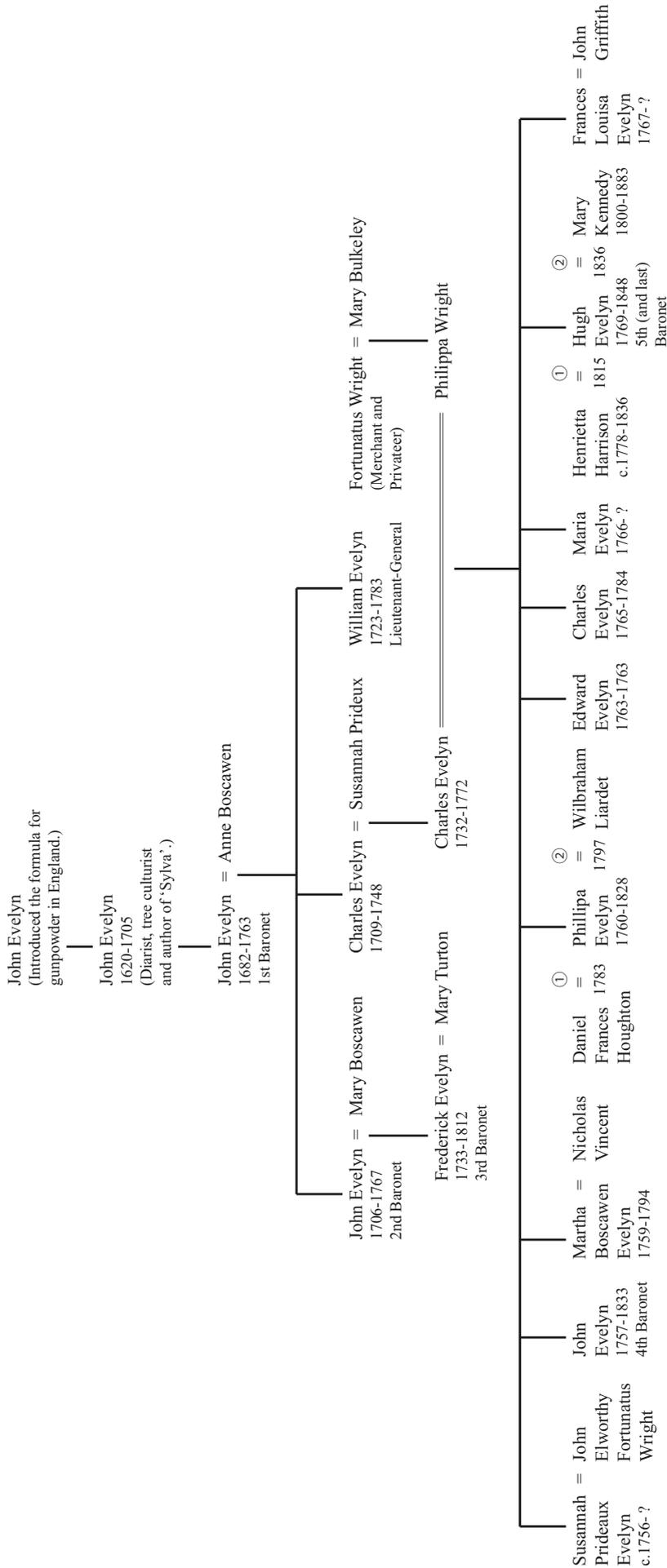
It commanded the coroner to investigate the death of his (Hugh's) sister Philippa Liardet; the body was:

'... at present a corps [*sic*] in the stable detained from Christian burial whom we have reason to believe was murdered ...'

Furthermore, he alleged that the murderer was the daughter-in-law Caroline, who was married to Philippa's son, Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet. There is no question of the date; it was quite legible in the letter and the envelope was endorsed with an unusually clear Post-Office stamp. No inquest was ever held, and this is not surprising since Hugh's sister Philippa had already been dead and buried for four years...

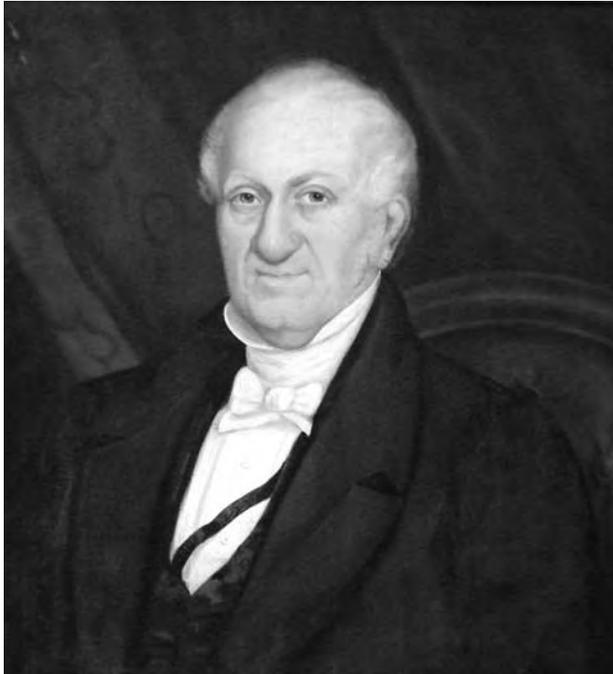
In May 1833, after 38 years spent in private lunatic asylums, Hugh's brother John died, and Hugh, a prisoner in King's Bench, finally became the fifth baronet of Wotton.²⁸ He should also have inherited the interest from General William Evelyn's will, except that it is clear from a later court action, that he had already succeeded in selling the benefit on.

A few months later, Hugh, now Sir Hugh, was implicated in an event providing further evidence of his delusional state of mind. A solicitor, Mr F Dickens, was charged with embezzling a bill of exchange from a Rev E Martin.²⁹ They had become acquainted in King's Bench Prison where Rev Martin had been a prisoner, and Rev Martin claimed that six weeks previously, he had been appointed to the living of Paignton in Devon (archdeaconry of Totnes, where Hugh had been born), by Sir Hugh Evelyn. Hugh was, of course, also a prisoner in King's Bench. The value of the living was £3,600, but Sir Hugh had given it to him without payment!³⁰ Clearly, his new status as a baronet had completely gone to his head. At the time of the case, Rev Martin had yet to take possession of the living since he had



The Evelyn Family, Baronets

not the funds to enable him to travel to Devon. No doubt if or when he ever did get to Paignton, he would have found that the living was actually in the gift of the heirs of Rev J Templar and Sir S Northcote. It had only been instituted the previous year, and the *Clerical Guide* of 1836 shows Robert Gee to have been the incumbent.³¹



Sir Hugh Evelyn.

In July 1836, Hugh's wife Henrietta died, and was buried at South Repps, Norfolk. Assuming that Hugh and his wife were still together, what were they doing in Norfolk? In April of the same year, Louisa Baker was sent to prison for six months for stealing two damask napkins from Sir Hugh Evelyn in South Repps.³² If he really was there, and the napkins were not just stated as his property having actually been stolen from his wife, then he was stretching the Rules of King's Bench to breaking point. He certainly exceeded them in November of the same year, because he then married another widow, Mary Hathaway, in St Martin-in-the-Fields.³³ Mary Hathaway was 36, Hugh was 67.³⁴ Mary was, presumably, charmed by Sir Hugh - he had a way with words - and no doubt the prospect of becoming Lady Evelyn was irresistible.

By June 1838, they had moved to Darlington Place, Borough Road; this was Hugh's address when he made his will. He was still there a year

later when his address was referred to by his nephew James Smethurst in a petition to parliament.³⁵ Borough Road lies right in the centre of the Rules of King's Bench.

By the summer of 1839 though, the honeymoon with his new wife was definitely over. Hugh had assigned the dividends on the legacy of Sir William Evelyn to a creditor even though the terms of the will made it clear that that was not allowed:

'... the testator's desire being that Sir Hugh should not have the power to deprive himself of all subsistence.'³⁶

Since the legacy allowed the dividends to be paid either directly to Sir Hugh, who had been declared an insolvent debtor, or to his wife or children in the event of 'alienation' (assignment), Lady Evelyn applied to have them paid directly to her. The action was opposed by the assignee and the judge declined to rule without a bill. Evidently Lady Mary had lost patience with her bankrupt and profligate husband. Whether or not she succeeded in the action is not known.

In the 1841 census, Hugh was living with his wife, step-daughter and at least one servant at Melina Place, Westminster Road, at the western vertex of the Rules. He continued to be mentioned in the press in court proceedings related to his insolvency and imprisonment. In 1843, in a report from the Insolvent Debtor's Court, it was said that 'he had neglected for a long time to file a schedule', the implication being that had he done so earlier, he could have been released. Finally, in November of the same year, when it was mentioned that Sir Hugh and Lady Evelyn were separated, he was released. Sir Hugh, who was now so feeble he had to be supported between two persons (he was 75 years old), 'tottered out of the court' a free man after 18 years.¹ He had spent about a third of his life in the King's Bench Prison in at least two separate terms. Indeed by this time, the prison had been renamed 'The Queen's Bench', then 'The Queen's Prison', following Victoria's succession.

Almost the final chapter in Hugh's extraordinary life happened in July 1848, when the ruling in a Chancery case, *Burley v Evelyn*, declared that that

element of General Evelyn's will, with Hugh as final legatee on the death of his brother John was, 65 years after the general's death, void:

'He [General Evelyn] has, however, so expressed his intention [in his will] that the law will not allow it to prevail.'

The £5,000 reverted to the 'personal representative' of Sir Frederick Evelyn, who was General Evelyn's heir.

Sir Hugh Evelyn died on 11 September 1848 at Forest Hill, Sydenham. He was 79 years old. Since he had no son to pass the title on to, the baronetcy became extinct. He was buried in the family vault at Wotton. As a result of the legal and financial confusion surrounding his affairs, probate on his will was not granted for another *30 years*. In the event it was hardly worth waiting for, since the effects were under £100. However, conscious of his status until the end, Hugh had requested that:

'my station in life might be noted with a Hatchment and with Escutcheons on the hearse ...'

Sir Hugh was dead, but his financial affairs rumbled on. In 1853, Mr Burley, Sir Frederick Evelyn's personal representative, brought an action against the assignee of the interest on General Evelyn's will - Hugh had succeeded in selling his reversionary interest to a Mr Thomas Barton, and the court ruled that he had to pay 'the balance' to Mr Burley.³⁷ It was further reported that the creditors of Sir Hugh Evelyn, had received about 8s in the pound (40%).

Then in 1880, 32 years after his death, a most extraordinary case came before the Court of Chancery.³⁸ In *Evelyn vs Evelyn*, Sir Hugh's widow, Mary, who was now 80 years old, brought an action against William John Evelyn and Edmund Boscawen Evelyn,

'... to recover possession of large estates in Middlesex and Kent, on the ground that her late husband was the heir at law of the late Francis [*sic*] Evelyn, and that Captain George Evelyn [who was at Waterloo], the father of the defendants, who was born

in 1791, and held the estates till 1829, when he died, and was succeeded in possession of the estates by the defendants, his sons, was not the legitimate son of one John Evelyn, of Wooton [*sic*].'

Frances Evelyn was Hugh's youngest sister, but she had married John Griffith, and it was an action against her, among others, that had led to Hugh's 18 year stay in the King's Bench Prison. Elsewhere, it was stated that the inheritance was claimed through two separate lines. In any event, the action was resolved the following year. Mary stated through her counsel, Mr Aston Cross that:

'She had discovered that she had been acting under a mistaken belief, [and] stated her unqualified regret that the charges in the statement of claim had been made ...'

The defendants, 'considering the age and circumstances of the plaintiff', declined to seek costs.³⁹ On 5 May 1883, Lady Mary Evelyn died at the age of 83.

For around ninety years Hugh Evelyn's profligacy, grandiloquent actions and extravagant expectations - in respect of his 'rightful legacy' - had kept several generations of clerks, solicitors and barristers and at least one generation of prison warders, in gainful employment; the legal actions continued for more than thirty years after his death. In the whole of his life it is doubtful whether he did more than a few months' work - as midshipman on a British Naval vessel in Nelson's time. Admittedly it was described as 'rough service', but it put him off the idea of ever earning a living.

Still, if it were not for personalities like Hugh Evelyn, Charles Dickens would have been hard pushed to come up with interesting characters. Anyone who claims that there could not possibly have been people like Wilkins Micawber in real life, simply has to look at the life of Sir Hugh Evelyn (1769-1848), 5th and last Baronet of Wotton.

I am most grateful to Sir William Arbuthnot for permission to reproduce his portrait of Sir Hugh Evelyn, also to the British Library for permission to reproduce the Rules of King's Bench Prison, © British Library Board (Maps Crace Port. 16.49).

Notes

1. *Freeman's Journal & Daily Commercial Advertiser*, 11 November 1843.
2. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. The extensive online genealogy of the Wright family, indicates that Philippa's first name was *Philadelphia*.
3. ODNB.
4. *History of the Evelyn family*, Helen Evelyn, London, Eveleigh Nash, 1915. Quotations, unless otherwise attributed, are taken from this work.
5. *Post-obit* describes a type of bond where money is lent in the anticipation of an inheritance following the death of a named person. Hugh's inheritance expectations derived from the will of his great uncle, William Evelyn.
6. *World*, 14 October, 1790.
7. *Morning Post & Daily Advertiser*, 26 September, 1791.
8. The paper is named *The Diary* or *Woodfalls Register* in the British Library; *The Diary*, Friday 18 May 1792.
9. ODNB.
10. *The Star*, 8 June, 1793.
11. He had been sent there by his cousin in an attempt to keep him out of trouble...
12. Consols - British Government securities.
13. National Archives, C 101/167.
14. 20 shillings (s) = one pound (£); 12 old pence (d) = one shilling.
15. In General Evelyn's will, the executor's name was 'William Man Godshall'.
16. The sequence of events is a little uncertain; the story of the libellous posters was related by William Bray, Sir Frederick Evelyn's solicitor. If William Godeschale's name was on the posters, the event happened before December 1802 when the probate of his will was granted. Elsewhere (NA, C 101/167), it was stated that Hugh was still in King's Bench in 1812, and the 1816 advertisement thanking the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester for £20, implies he was also in prison then.
17. House of Lords Sessional Papers 1801-1833, Vol 74 (1814 -1815).
18. *Sketches in London*, James Grant, London, W S Orr & Co, 1838.
19. A guinea = £1.1s, or 21s.
20. *The London Prisons*, Hepworth Dixon, London, Jackson & Walford, 1850.
21. This notice is ambiguous as regards Hugh's status, but the balance of probabilities suggests that he was a prisoner. He may have been taken back to prison as the result of an unrecorded debt.
22. *Morning Post*, 3 February 1817.
23. It was from a memorandum of William Bray, written in 1831, and quoted in the *History of the Evelyn family* that much of the detail of Hugh Evelyn's history comes. William Bray had been charged by Sir Frederick with providing Hugh with an allowance while he was in King's Bench Prison.
24. The National Archives, 1824, C 13/2905/12; 1825, C 13/2909/34.
25. A 'Sicca Rupee' was a coin freshly minted; one Rupee was 179.666 grains of silver. With a shilling, in 1815, equivalent to 87 grains of silver, 5,000 Rupees was worth around £500.
26. *Morning Post*, 3 February 1825.
27. East Sussex Record Office, SHE/2/6/11.
28. Was this, I wonder, the first time that a baronetage had passed from one prisoner to another?
29. *The Examiner*, 22 September 1833.
30. What is meant here by the 'value of the living' is that the right to propose the vicar or rector to the bishop for the living, known as the Advowson, had a value of £3,600, i.e. it could be bought and sold for that amount. The annual income a vicar could expect from the Paignton living from tithes etc was in the region of £500 in 1836.
31. *The Clerical Guide and Ecclesiastical Directory*, London, Printed for J G & F Rivington, 1836.
32. *The Bury and Norwich Post*, 13 April 1836.
33. The church of St Martin-in-the-Fields is at the north-east corner of Trafalgar Square; north of the river and well outside of the Rules of King's Bench.
34. The Evelyn Family History notes that Mary was the relict of James Hathaway, a merchant in London. A James Hathaway, Coal Merchant in London, did die in 1836, but there was no mention of a legacy to a wife, so Mary may have brought no money with her.
35. 18 years later, James' brother, Thomas Smethurst, was to gain notoriety as the 'Richmond Poisoner', when he was convicted of poisoning his bigamous wife Isabella Bankes. He mentioned his uncle, Sir Hugh Evelyn, in a letter to *The Lancet*. My book *Smethurst's Luck* details his story, and it was the research for the book that uncovered the details of Sir Hugh Evelyn's extraordinary life.
36. *Morning Post*, 30 July 1839.
37. A later report stated that 'the balance' was £130. *Daily News*, 11 and 23 November 1853.
38. *The Standard*, 5 March 1880.
39. *The Liverpool Mercury*, 30 March 1881.

Peter Maggs

Email: pnd.maggs@gmail.com
