



## Colston Family at Roundway House

A Devizes' stately home facade that is no more.

For many years the Colston family reigned supreme at Roundway House and Charles Colston became the first when the title was created in 1916.

He held it until his death in 1925 when he was succeeded by his son the 2nd Baron, Edward, but it became extinct when he died in 1944, aged 64. Older Devizes people still remember the 2nd Baron, a tall, ex-Grenadier Guards Officer, who became a Brig-General. Wounded in both the South African and 1914-1918 Wars, he was a Home Guard Commander in the 1939-45 War.

His only child, Betty, died tragically in a fall from an upstairs room at the house in 1924, aged only 14. But his widow, Gladys, whom he married in 1904, lived on into her 80's, dying in London.

After the Second World War the family mansion was bought by Wiltshire County Council, and was later sold to a private developer, with the vast grounds.

The front portion of the house was demolished. But a larger rear portion remains, the present owner being Air Marshall Alan Franks.

In its heyday, Roundway Park was the venue for many events held by different Devizes organisations. Units of the Brigade of Guards camped there under canvas on occasions.

The first Baron Roundway was a keen horseman, and he provided the carriage and four horses which conveyed the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, when he visited Devizes to inspect the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in 1893. He also had a pack of hounds, the Roundway Fort Harriers.

The Colston crest was a dolphin, and the family motto was "Go and do thou likewise". Legend has it that when a member of the Colston family was at sea the vessel sprang a leak. Suddenly the inrush of water ceased by what seemed a miracle. When the vessel reached port it was discovered that a dolphin was wedged in the hole in the ship's bottom.

**OPC note:** Barony created 30 June 1916, extinct 29 March 1944

The family crest, near enough!

**Source:** Article c1987.

