

Edward Sandell — A Continuing Story

Don't you just love research! Just when you notice that the eureka moments are beginning to dwindle and you are starting to feel embarrassed by the singular topic of your conversation, something comes to light and sets you going again. And so it proved to be the case with Edward Sandell, whom I wrote about in last year's *Echo*. For his reappearance here, blame Barry Mapley for alerting me to other Sandell prints, and Geoff Higgins who, after faithfully answering my umpteen requests for genealogical searches, made the thoughtful suggestion that I take out my own subscription to *Find My Past*.

Edward Sandell was born on 30 August 1806 and baptised at St Luke's on 7 May 1809. Dismiss immediately the 1841 census record that he was 30. This census seems to have adopted the ridiculous measure of recording age to the nearest ten years. Edward's father, David, was a successful businessman who was admitted to the Company of Stationers on 12 March 1799, sponsored by his father Joseph. David was the 38th of 50 freemen in the Company, paying 46s.8d. for the honour. Edward therefore came from a reasonably well-to-do background, and so much of what I interpreted in last year's article as social climbing would appear to be more a case of his trying to attain the social standing within the Emsworth community that he had previously enjoyed.

One early reference to Edward Sandell appears in the *London Standard* of 9 July 1830. This carries a report of an appeal to the Court of Compensation, Southwark, against the level of the financial offer made in the case of the compulsory purchase of Edward Sandell's business premises at 283 High Street, Southwark. Edward was an oil and colourman and the order was in "compliance with the Act of the 10th of Geo IV, respecting the London-bridge approaches". Judging from the Court report, a careful and comprehensive set of business figures successfully managed to raise the compensation offered from £700 to £1,630.8s.0d. The same personal traits are evident in the advertisement in *The London Literary Gazette* of 7 August 1830 for "**The Artisan's Table** for immediately ascertaining the Amount of Wages due, calculated from Half an Hour to Twelve Days, in Ten Working Hours per day, at the progressive raises from Ten to Forty Shillings". The advertisement appears in the same place on a number of subsequent occasions, and judging by this he made money from the publication. At this point Edward is aged just 24, and is clearly an intelligent and educated man displaying the thoroughness and diligence required of a book-keeper and accountant, indeed a Public Accountant as he is destined to become at a later stage. His only other recorded publication *The Ready-made Ledger-Index* published in 1871 seems to confirm this assessment, a publication I fear is likely to forever lie at the Maastricht Treaty end of the spectrum of page-turnability.

So why did Edward Sandell come to live in Emsworth? Did his father send him away as the younger son to learn a trade? He had an elder brother called David, born in 1801, who presumably was first-in-line to take over their father's business. Perhaps this was the intention, but things did not work out that way, for David jnr went to live in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire and in the 1841 census was working in the Gasworks. By 1851 he had become Manager of the Gasworks and also an Alderman. Later he moved to Scarborough and died there in 1887.

This suggests that Edward Sandell probably came to Emsworth of his own volition to try to make his own way in life. Whatever the explanation, Edward was here a little earlier than I thought. The first record of Edward Sandell living in Emsworth occurs in *The Hampshire Advertiser*, 24 December 1836, announcing a lecture entitled *Calligraphy*, to be given at the Mechanics Institute, Chichester on 10 January 1837. He was certainly therefore in Emsworth in 1836. The article further reveals him to be Secretary of the Emsworth Literary Society (ELS), and so he may well have arrived as early as 1835 since it no doubt would have taken a little time to familiarize himself with the surroundings and people. There are numerous reports and advertisements concerning the ELS placed by Edward Sandell in the *Hampshire Telegraph*

over the six year period 1837-43, and this was not Edward Sandell's only voluntary position. In the *Hampshire Telegraph* of 22 May 1843 he placed an advertisement, as Secretary, announcing the AGM of the West Sussex & East Hants Friendly Society to be held at the Lamb Inn, Woodmancote. In the same edition he is announced as the Agent and Receiver of the Royal Exchange Insurance Co. for "Emsworth and adjacent parts". Presumably this was a remunerated position that unfortunately came too late for Edward as he was declared bankrupt just two months later.

The prints list for Edward Sandell has now increased to 12 from the eight declared in last year's article, and they are all, strictly speaking, lithographs. The appeal made last year clearly worked and so it is repeated again here. I'm still interested in discovering a complete list of Sandell's prints, and I believe more could exist for the reasons set out in the following.

Last year's article expressed an uncertainty about the reason for the publication of the prints, and in particular doubted that they were produced for a book. No. 12 on the list of Sandell prints ("St. Peter's Chapel") was therefore a somewhat important discovery, indeed a eureka moment. As can be seen Sandell intended to publish a set of views of Emsworth with this work (No. 12) being the frontispiece. This would also explain the similarity in the appearance of the prints 8, 9 and 11 ("Gosden Green, Sussex", "Her Majesty — Passing through Emsworth on her late visit to Portsmouth", and "Oldfield Lawn") in particular which I believe to have been produced as part of this project.

The prints now discovered reveal the depth of Sandell's collaboration with William Mitchell, who was the named artist on most of them. In fact the prints that do not carry Mitchell's name do not credit an artist at all, merely naming Sandell as the publisher. A closer examination indicated that such prints (1, 4 and 5) seem to have been obtained from particular sections of No. 6. Whether or not Mitchell produced print 6, I cannot say exactly as I have not yet seen an original version of it.

Some two years ago when I first became aware of the collaboration between Sandell and Mitchell, I tried to track down William Mitchell and got no trace. A few weeks ago I tried again with my new *Find My Past* package. No luck with the newspaper searches, and so I tried the 1841 census. Eureka! I printed out the census form and there at the top was Edward Sandell. I quickly checked to see if I had printed out the correct form. I had, so I looked a little further and to my surprise there Mitchell was. Not exactly next door, but next door but one to Edward Sandell. Sandell at No 19 Queen Street, Mitchell at No. 15. My embarrassment at the fact that I had missed this for so long was, however, tempered greatly by the thrill of the find. Guess what I'll be doing next. Don't you just love research!

Acknowledgements:

I wish to record debts of gratitude incurred in the writing of this article to Barry Mapley, Geoff Higgins, Margaret Rogers, Roy and Sheila Morgan and Linda Newell.

PS: I now have a sizeable working file on Edward Sandell, including a list of his published prints, a copy of which I will deposit in the Emsworth Museum ready for next year's opening.

A Clive Pugh

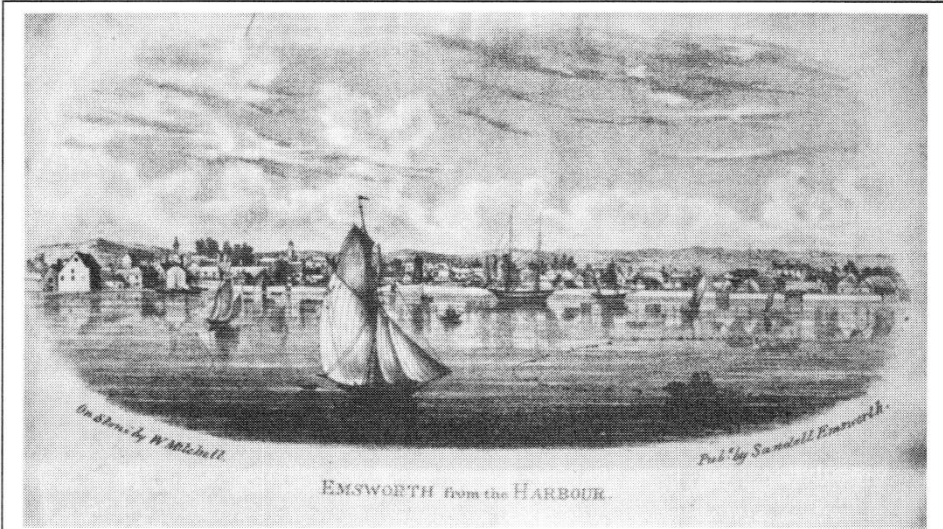


Fig 1 "No. 7 EMSWORTH from the HARBOUR"

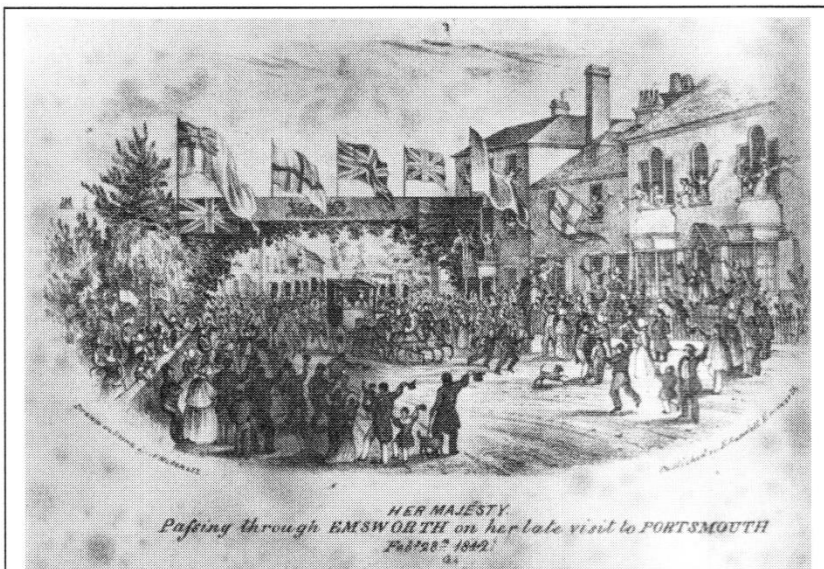


Fig 2 "No.9 HER MAJESTY passing through EMSWORTH on her late visit to PORTSMOUTH Feb. 28th 1842"