

## EDWARD SANDELL – Emsworth's Forgotten Illuminary

I first came across Edward Sandell when I acquired a lithograph of Westbourne Church about five years ago (figure 1). There was no date for the print although I guessed, and have subsequently concluded, that it was produced around 1840. What really struck me was the imprint "Published by Sandell. Emsworth" for I was not aware that there ever was a publisher of prints in Emsworth, particularly at that time.

My next meeting with Edward Sandell was a year later in Emsworth Museum. I was stewarding there on a particularly slack day, and so I wandered into the permanent exhibition room and into the PG Woodhouse area. Much to my surprise I discovered (it is well tucked away) a second Sandell lithograph, this time an original print of Warblington Church (print 1 listed on page 4).

It is in the same style as the previous print, and sufficient to conjecture that they might be part of a series of lithographs of local churches marking the consecration of St James' Church in Emsworth. This conjecture has only recently been dismissed by my acquisition of an original Sandell lithograph of Warblington Castle (figure 2) that is in much the same style as the previous two. No church theme there then.

So who was Edward Sandell? The first mention I have been able to find is on the Tithe Map of 1838, where he is recorded as living in a house owned by Townsend Cox which is now the Sue Ryder Shop. The Tithe map simply records this as a house with no indication that it was a business premises. Indeed there is no mention of a business in the Warblington Church marriage record of 3rd April 1839, where Edward Sandell is described as a "bachelor of full age", a "schoolmaster of Emsworth", and son of David Sandell, a wholesale stationer in London with a business that I have found was certainly trading before 1824. Also on this marriage register Edward Sandell's spouse is recorded as Martha Sheerman, "spinster of full age", "milliner of Emsworth", and daughter of "Isaac Sheerman" a "cordwainer". From the

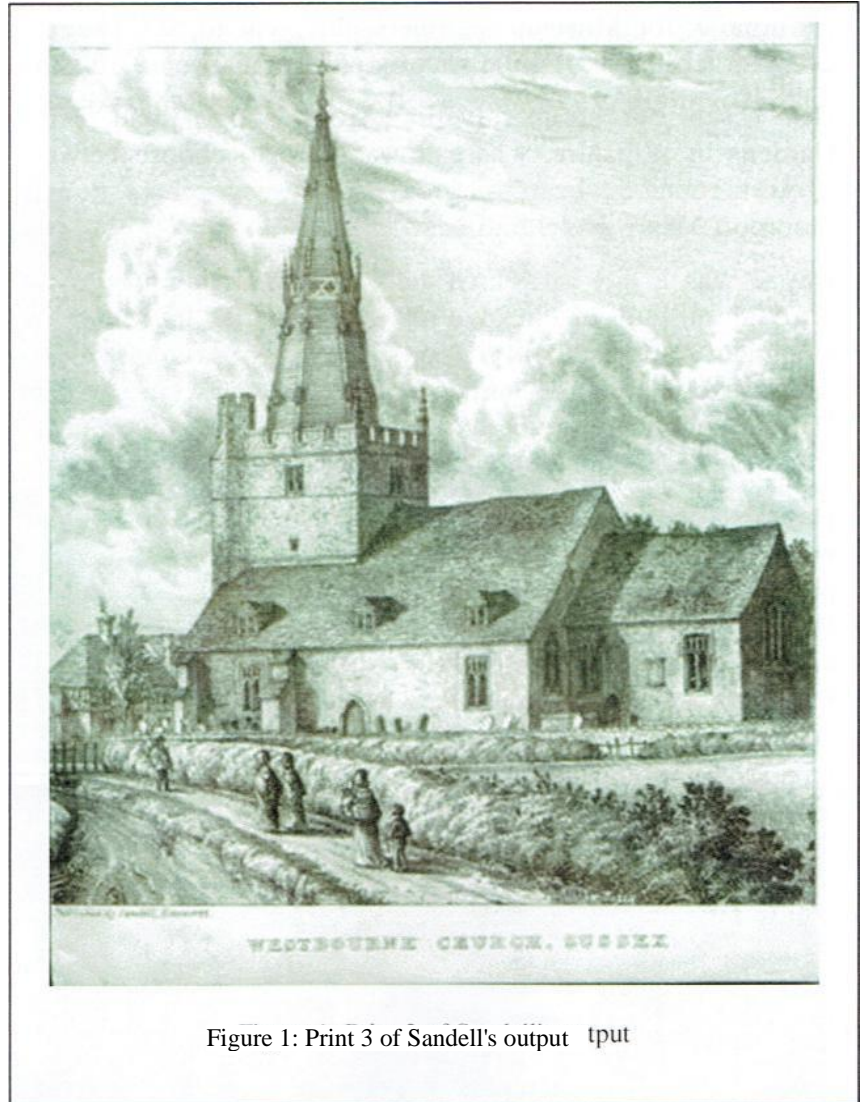


Figure 1: Print 3 of Sandell's output

Warblington Church records there is notice of the baptism of a son, David Edward Sandell, on 5th April 1840 (Edward Sandell is recorded again as a schoolmaster), only to be followed by notice from the same source of the child's burial on the 11th April, 1840 at age 16 days. The Hampshire Telegraph of 13th April 1840 (p.4, col.7) reports the death at Emsworth of David Edward Sandell, "infant son of Mr. Sandell, stationer" as occurring on 6th April. Note, amongst all this, that there is the first mention of Edward Sandell having a business interest rather than a profession, it being the same as his father's based in London. The death of a child so young was undoubtedly a sad, potentially disastrous, event for Edward and Martha Sandell but not unusual for the times. What is unusual for the time, I believe, is for notice to have been inserted in a newspaper. This would have come at some cost for Edward Sandell, but social aspiration is a strange thing.

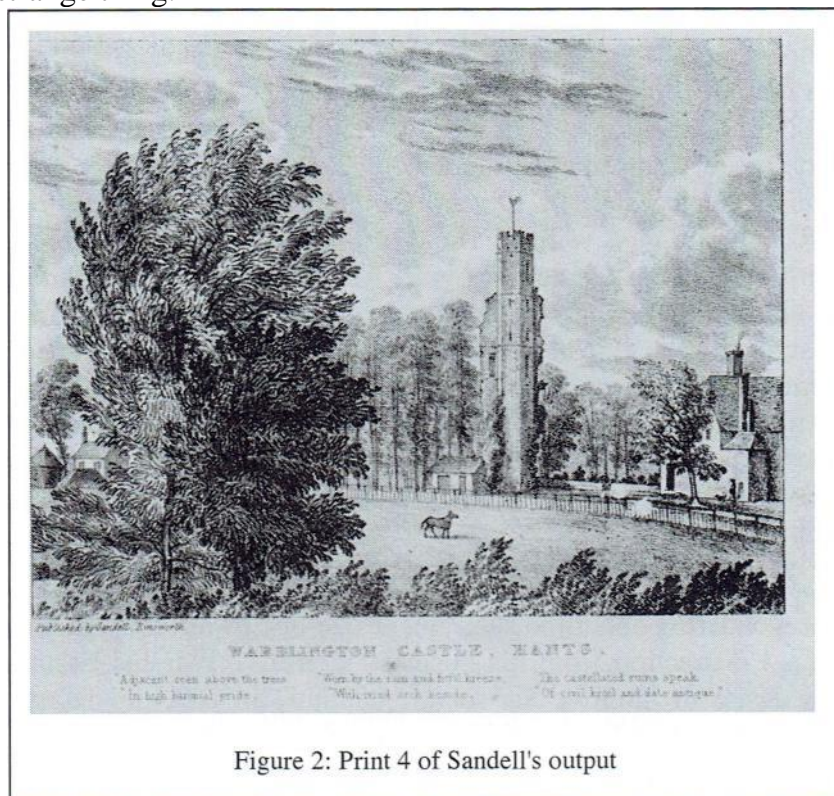


Figure 2: Print 4 of Sandell's output

The marriage and subsequent events do seem to have determined Edward Sandell to try to elevate his standing within the local community, for in the 12th October 1840 (p.4, col.6) issue of the Hampshire Telegraph, it is reported that Sandell has become the Secretary to the Emsworth Literary Society. Actually the report names "E Sandril" as taking on this role, but it is clear from a subsequent Hampshire Telegraph report of 26th October 1842 that this is incorrect and it is intended to be Edward Sandell.

The Emsworth Literary Society has been described by Malcolm Walford in the Emsworth Echo, November 2011, it and appears to have been a vibrant forum. Clearly Edward Sandell was not the only person who could be accused of using the Society for ulterior motives. Indeed, as Walford reports, Sir George Staunton's appointment as patron was eyed with enough suspicion as to warrant an open letter to be written to the Hampshire Telegraph on 22nd December 1834 by the Secretaries of the Society refuting all accusations concerning the appointment. As regards the Society, Walford reports that in 1837 a "pair of handsome globes" had been donated, and that the Telegraph editor opined that this was an example that should be followed by the gentry of the neighbourhood. In part it was, for the Hampshire Telegraph of 19th April 1841 carried a report that Sir George Staunton had donated 84 coloured maps to the Society. The Emsworth Literary Society certainly did possess some valuable artefacts, and it would be nice to know what happened to both it and them.

All appears to be going well for Edward Sandell in 1841, for he is recorded in the census of that year as living at a different address, this time in Queen Street at probably what is today recognised

as number 19. He is living with his wife Martha and they have one son, aged one month and singly named as Edward. Furthermore Edward Sandell Snr declares a business interest, rather than a profession, he being now listed as a stationer. However it is the fourth listed resident on the census return who is of most interest, it is a servant named Ann Oliver. Now that is a real sign of social aspiration or progress, but which is it?

In 1842 Sandell also seems to be making progress within the community of Emsworth's new Church. He publishes the "Notice of Intention to Segregate the Congregation along Gender Lines" which is reproduced on p.6 of "St James' Church, Emsworth, 1840-1990" by Keith Vignoles. I question whether this was a real business deal, or just a voluntary deed? It is a natural question given what is about to happen.

Also in 1842 Sandell produces his most well-known print, that of the meeting between Queen Victoria and the Duke of Wellington in Emsworth in the Dolphin Quay area of what is now Queen Street (print 7 listed on p.4). This image has been much reproduced and on many of them Sandell's imprint has vanished, but if you look around the Emsworth Museum's several copies of the print (all modern reproductions), the odd one or two show Sandell's name. The probable reason for this is not difficult to guess for in late 1842 disaster strikes Edward Sandell Snr. There is a report in the Hampshire Telegraph of 31st July 1843 (p.3, col.6) concerning the "Assignment of personal estate of Edward Sandell, Bookseller, to William Hayley Mason, Bookseller of Chichester, and William Hood of London, for equal benefit of themselves and all other creditors". Edward Sandell has gone bankrupt and at this point the signal from Edward Sandell flatlines. The blip appearing in the 1844 Emsworth Trade Directory where Sandell is described as a "Bookseller and Stationer" is clearly an erroneous result caused by long production deadlines of the Directory. This bankruptcy is the most probable reason why Sandell's name disappeared from his Queen Victoria/Duke of Wellington print. Until the late 19th century it was common practice for anyone purchasing, or obtaining printing plates in any other way, to remove previous names and publishing details and publish subsequent prints as their own work if there was the least perceived commercial opportunity.

For some little while I was left wondering about the subsequent fate of Edward Sandell. Was his first son's death a significant distraction from his business interests? Was his business judgement compromised by a desire to improve his social standing? In fact, did he even possess such ambitions as I have conjectured here? What happened to him post - 1843? It is only on this last question that I have been able to find some answers albeit with some difficulty, for in the 1851 census he is recorded erroneously as Edward Sandall (an error independently repeated in the West Sussex Records Office catalogue) and living with his wife Martha in Putney, along with five sons and one daughter. The two eldest sons aged 9 and 8 are registered as being born in Emsworth. The third son was born in Lambeth, the fourth son and only daughter were born in Brixton, while the fifth son was born in Putney. Edward Sandell is described as a Book Keeper and Stationer, and for the first time it is seen that he was born not in Emsworth but in St Lukes, Middlesex. It is probable therefore that sometime, after his bankruptcy in 1843, he returned to London to take up a position, if not the reins, in his father's wholesale stationary business that is recorded as still operating from Sherbourne Lane, London around 1847/8. One further point of interest from this 1851 census return is that there is one servant recorded as living in the household. Seems that Edward Sandell is once again upwardly socially mobile!

It is clear from my findings that it was only during the relatively short period 1840-2 that Edward Sandell could have published the three lithographs detailed above. However, despite the briefness of his time as a stationer in Emsworth, it turns out that he published many more than these three, and a list of those I have been able to discover is presented below. In fact Edward Sandell appears to be a

relatively prolific publisher of prints of the immediate Emsworth locality and there may well be more prints than I have been able to unearth. It is strange for example that I have been unable to discover one of St James Church Emsworth (clearly I would be delighted if any reader of this article were able to furnish further information). Quite what Sandell's motives were in producing such prints are not entirely clear to me. They do not seem to have been produced for a book and there hardly appears to be a profitable independent market for such output. In short they do not appear to have been a sound business opportunity. Perhaps, therefore they were produced more for grace and favour, part of an attempt to gain status within the community, and maybe this is at the root of his financial problems of 1842/3.

Sandell's prints are now quite scarce and as a consequence relatively valuable. Their real value however is in the information they carry since they provide some of the earliest illumination of the Emsworth area. Having had such a brief flowering as a print publisher, it is clear that Edward Sandell never became an Emsworth luminary, if such was his goal, but who would deny him status as a great il-luminary of the town and its environs?

### **Prints Published by Edward Sandell (i.e. Sandell's output):**

1. "Warblington Church", "published by Sandell, Emsworth", c.1840 (see the framed original print in Emsworth Museum stock). (n.b. this and item 3 are very similar in style)
2. "Westbourn Church, Sussex", "published by Edward Sandell, Emsworth, Hants", "... on stone by William Mitchell", c. 1840. (A reproduction of this landscape view can be seen in the West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, but note that their catalogue entry refers to "E Sandall")
3. "Westbourne Church, Sussex", "published by Sandell, Emsworth", c.1840. (n.b. this and item 2 are very similar in style). (An original print containing this portrait view can be seen in the West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, but note that their catalogue entry refers to "E Sandall")
4. "Warblington Castle", published by Sandell, Emsworth, c. 1840 (a copy of an original print in the collection of the author, is shown)
5. "Emsworth from the Harbour", drawn by W Mitchell, published by Edward Sandell, c. 1840 (see R Whitfield "A History of Emsworth", fig 32, p. 40).
6. "Gosden Green Windmill" drawn by W Mitchell, published by Edward Sandell, c. 1840 (see R Whitfield "A History of Emsworth", fig 38 p 43).
7. Print of Victoria and Albert's visit to Emsworth entitled "Triumphal Arch – Dolphin Quay", published by Sandell, Emsworth, 1842 (can be seen in various reproductions on the walls of Emsworth Museum).
8. "Leigh Park", published by Sandell (see Hampshire Public Records Office, Item Searching No.TOP151/2/1)

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