

## **B G Lampard-Vachell**

Benjamin Garnet Lampard-Vachell was elected as a member of Hampstead Hockey Club on 16 September 1921. He had already been capped by Wales in the 1919-20 season and played against England and Scotland, at right back.

He represented Gloucestershire from 1911 to 1914. He played in the Cambridge University Freshmen's match in 1913. He was given a place in two of the University trial games in 1913-14. He toured in Germany and Denmark with Mr. A. E. Y. Terrestrial's XI of Oxford and Cambridge Wanderers during the Easter of 1914.

On the outbreak of war later that year, when the playing of club hockey came to a halt, he had to wait until the 1919-20 season, when he was given a trial in the Cambridge University Seniors' match. He also took part in the University trials in the following season. When apparently on the brink of a place in the Light Blues' team, it was discovered that he had exceeded the residential limit at Cambridge and he was not qualified to play for them.

This led to his decision to join Hampstead. He was then by then playing county hockey for Glamorgan, which he continued from 1920 until 1923 and in all the international matches for Wales. He was appointed captain of Wales in 1924, by when he had won eight caps.



*Lampard-Vachell on the left with the ball and Sholto Marcon (Gold medal winning Olympian in 1920) to the right.*

He was distinguished in that he played with a pince-nez or sometimes wearing spectacles but this is reported not to have interfered with his general play. He was known as a fine tackler, with rare judgment and rapid recovery if beaten by a forward, being tolerably speedy. He was also known as a strong and clean hitter of the ball.

He is reported to have enjoyed playing against England's forwards, as this was something he did in his ordinary club hockey at Hampstead. There is little doubt that he had the good fortune to be playing alongside such a master of back-play as Jack Bennett: able to improve his own game by watching the renowned English international in his methods.

In October 1923, *Hockey News* reported that he was "well set up, of fine physique, very dashing in his play, fast on the ball and a sound and judicious hitter, the Welsh International has developed his game until he is undoubtedly one of the leading full-backs in the four countries".

He went on to win 26 caps for Wales that, in equivalent terms today, would be in the region of 250 matches. On one occasion as captain, he opposed England under the captaincy of Jack Bennett, causing Hampstead Hockey Club to pass a resolution at its committee meeting held on 4 March 1924:

*That this Committee congratulates Messrs J H Bennett and B G Lampard-Vachell upon the honour again of being selected as captain of the English and Welsh XI's respectively and that the Hon Sec be instructed to convey the terms of this resolution to the gentlemen indicated.*

Lampard-Vachell's family story is a little unusual. According to the 1851 census returns, Charles Vachell junior was born in Exeter in about 1785 and William Vachell was born in Cardiff in about 1789. Charles and William were both druggists, who later acquired land and property in Cardiff and elsewhere. They both served as councillors and later became aldermen of the city of Cardiff. Further property was acquired in and around Cardiff by the younger son, William Vachell and later by his son, Frederick Charles Vachell that passed to Loder Wilkins Tanfield Vachell.

But by 1900 this line of the Vachell family had moved away from Glamorgan. As Loder Vachell had no son, he left his property to the son of his housekeeper, Benjamin Garnet Lampard, but on condition that he changed his name to Lampard-Vachell, which he did by deed poll, the record of which was published in the *London Gazette* of 8 September 1914.

**BENJAMIN GARNET LAMPARD-VACHELL,**  
heretofore called and known by the name of Benjamin Garnet Lampard, of "Lansdown Park," Bath, in the county of Somerset, Gentleman, hereby give public notice, that on the 18th day of August, 1914, in compliance with the last will of Loder Wilkins Tanfield Vachell, deceased, dated the 18th day of August, 1905, I assumed and adopted and determined thereafter on all occasions whatsoever to use the surname of "Vachell," in addition to the surname of "Lampard," but as my last and principal surname; and I hereby give further notice, that by a deed poll, dated the 18th day of August, 1914, duly executed and attested and enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court, on the 20th day of August, 1914, I declared that I had determined to assume and thereafter to adopt and use the surname of "Vachell," in addition to the said surname of "Lampard," and as my last and principal surname.  
—Dated the 18th day of August, 1914.  
**BENJAMIN GARNET LAMPARD-VACHELL,**  
late Benjamin Garnet Lampard.

When at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Lampard-Vachell was involved in archaeology, reported upon by the *Daily Express*. With an assistant, he uncovered three coffins in the ruins of Beaulieu Abbey, in the New Forest. One contained the skeleton of what is believed to have been a soldier killed in battle during the Wars of the Roses.

In the First World War, he was a technical officer in the Admiralty and Air Ministry in the War Department. He later trained as a barrister and was admitted to Middle Temple in 1920. He then pursued a political career. The 1923 general election led to a hung parliament and following the collapse of a short-lived minority Labour government, another general election was held in October 1924. Lampard-Vachell was selected by the Conservative party as its new candidate for the seat of Wednesbury, north west of Birmingham, and one of the oldest parts of the Black Country. Despite a drop in the Labour vote, Alfred Short MP held the seat by a slim majority. Lampard-Vachell polled 17,832 votes and reduced the Labour majority from 1,019 to 338.

The Club Had confirmed its support of its member's candidature. After the result, Lampard-Vachell responded to the Club on 3 November 1924.

Telephone 683.

13 SELWYN GARDENS,  
CAMBRIDGE.

3.11.24.

Dear Byatt,

Please thank the  
Committee & members of the Hampstead  
Hockey Club for the letter of good  
wishes they sent me at the  
General Election.

I am sorry I have had to  
disappoint you - I presume now  
you will institute your threat

He thanked the Committee and members for their good wishes and expressed his sorrow in disappointing them, presuming that they would now institute their threat and relegate him to the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI! He said that he did not mind "as long as I get my game of hockey on Saturday afternoon that at least is one criterion now that I have been beaten at the polls".

He considered standing in the 1929 election in the South Molton constituency in rural Devon. However he is reported to have stood aside in favour of George Lambert MP, who had lost his seat at the 1924 General Election to the Conservative candidate but regained it in 1929.

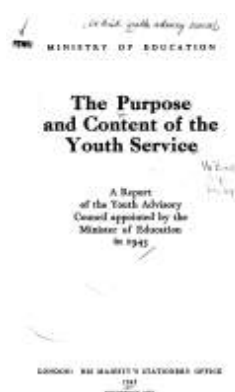
In 1932, he took up residence at Weare Gifford Hall in Weare Gifford, a village located between Bideford and Torrington. His first wife had died in 1931 and he re-married, moving into the Hall and renting it from the Fortescue family.



It was not the end of his political ambition. In 1935, he was selected by the North-West Devon Conservative Association as the Conservative Party candidate at Barnstaple in North Devon, defending the seat from Sir Basil Peto, who had held it for the Conservatives in the 1931 General Election, with a majority over the Liberal party of 1,710. He faced the same Liberal Party candidate, Richard Thomas Dyke Acland, but on this occasion the seat fell to the Liberals, with a small majority of 454.

After the Second World War, in which he served as an RAF Pilot Officer, Lampard-Vachell turned to a career in education and became more involved in local politics. In 1944 he was appointed Sheriff of Devon, the Queen's representative for the County, with judicial, ceremonial and administrative functions. He became Mayor of Torrington and a local Justice of the Peace.

He was a member of the Youth Advisory Council that sat in 1943 and in 1945 published a report that examined the nature and shape of the Youth Service after the War. A second Report *The Purpose and Content of the Youth Service* followed shortly. In contrast to the first, it was considered largely to be factual and descriptive and was more theoretical and speculative.



In 1956, the University College of the South West of England that had come into being in 1922 was granted a Royal Charter by the Queen on a royal visit on 8 May and so became the University of Exeter. Lampard-Vachell had for several years served as its Treasurer and subsequently, in the words of the Charter:

*Our trusty and well beloved Benjamin Garnet Lampard-Vachell, Esquire, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, Barrister-at-Law, shall be a first Pro-Chancellor.*

Numb. 40774



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TUESDAY, 8 MAY, 1956

Whitehall, May 8, 1956.

The following Address was presented to The QUEEN to-day by the Chancellor of the University of Exeter on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new building of the Arts Faculty of the University by Her Majesty:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, the Court, the Council, the Senate and all the Members of the University of Exeter, present our humble duty to Your Majesty and extend to Your Majesty and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh the most loyal and affectionate welcome on this Your visit to the site of our young University. We offer to Your Majesty our most grateful thanks for the grant of Your Royal Charter and for the signal honour which Your Majesty has been pleased to confer upon us by presenting the Charter to us by Your own hand. We are proud that the University which, as the University College of the South West, was honoured by visits from members of Your Majesty's Family in the past, should start its new and expanding career so auspiciously.

The University is very fortunate in being able, so soon after its foundation, to begin the construction of a new building of outstanding importance. It is doubly fortunate that this building is being inaugurated by an act so gracious and propitious as the unveiling of its Foundation Stone by Your Majesty. For this also we desire to express our deepest gratitude. This new building, which will house the departments of the Faculty of Arts, will assist the University to take its full share in the advancement of learning and the pursuit of truth. The Universities of Your Majesty's Realm have set high standards. In striving to attain them, every member of the University will be encouraged by Your Majesty's interest. It will be the constant endeavour of each one of us to serve Your Majesty with loyalty and devotion throughout Your Reign, which we pray will be long, happy and peaceful.

Mary Devonshire, Chancellor.

B. G. Lampard-Vachell, Pro-Chancellor.

J. W. Cook, Vice-Chancellor.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

It gives me great pleasure to be here with my husband to-day and to receive this Loyal Address from you, as Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and such a warm welcome from its members.

Nearly a century ago a son of Devon, Sir Stafford Northcote, urged that Exeter should be made a centre of education for the west of England. His good advice was followed, and that imaginative proposal has been so expanded that this University now serves not only the people of the South-West, but the whole country, and also contains many students from overseas, including representatives of most of the countries of the Commonwealth.

It has one great natural advantage in its beautiful site, which enables students to live and work in a most agreeable environment. I feel confident that when the plans for its further fine buildings have been completed this new University will play a prominent part in widening the frontiers of knowledge—a duty for which the West Country, with its long traditions of exploration and discovery, is specially fitted.

To you, as the first Chancellor of the University, I extend my good wishes for a long and successful term of office in prosiding over its destinies. My family, like yours, has had a constant interest in it since its foundation. The first building was begun in 1865 in memory of the Prince Consort. One of the wings of this Royal Albert Memorial College was opened, at the end of the last century, by the then Duke of Devonshire and another by my grandfather, King George the Fifth, as Duke of York. More recently, your brother, Lord Salisbury, held for ten years the office of President of the University College of the South-West, and to-day I have come here to hand over to you, my Mistress of the Robes, as its first Chancellor, the Royal Charter which incorporates the University of Exeter.

This is the third University—Southampton and Hull being the others—to be founded in my reign. I think that this bears striking witness to the increase in the facilities for higher education which are being provided throughout the Kingdom—a development which has its counterpart in the Colonies and in the other countries of the Commonwealth. I am glad to know that the advantages of University life and the opportunities for advanced studies and research are being made available to a constantly growing number of young men and women both here at home and overseas.

There is a great need in the world to-day for technical and scientific education, but, side by side with that, it is important to maintain the study of the humanities, in which Britain has for centuries held an honoured name. It will, therefore, give me great pleasure to unveil the foundation stone of the new building of the Faculty of Arts in this University.

Finally, to mark the occasion of my visit to you, I am happy to name the road on which I have just traveled The Queen's Drive.

I now deliver to you the Charter which founds the University of Exeter.

Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street, S.W.1.

7th May, 1956.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has this day appointed Gerald Wellington Williams to be Steward and Bailiff of Her Majesty's Three Hundreds of Chiltern.

He became Chairman of the Devon Education Committee. In July 1956, as an alderman, Lampard-Vachell was supporting the introduction of comprehensive or bilateral schools (as they were called) in Devon and the Minister of Education was prepared to concede in Parliament that a case might be made for approving them in rural areas instead of secondary

modern schools. Lampard-Vachell had particular concern for adaptations or revisions required to suit the rural economy.

He was a member of the Central Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of Lord Crowther in 1956 requested to review the education of children between the ages of 15 and 18 that resulted in *The Crowther Report – Fifteen to Eighteen*. This eventually led, in 1972, to the raising of the school leaving age to 16 (and under which the word *numeracy* was coined).

Between 1956 and 1957, he was President of the Association of Education Committees and in 1959 he chaired the Advisory Sub-committee on Further Education for Agriculture that produced two reports in 1960 and 1961.

It is not known for how long Lampard-Vachell stood as Pro Chancellor but he died in April 1965. A school in Barnstaple that has a special place locally as a school re designated in 2004 for pupils aged 7 to 16 experiencing learning and associated and complex difficulties, is named after him.

One of his greatest interests was ornithology. He is reported to have had a large collection of eggs and was active in bird watching activities. In 1937, when Mayor of Torrington, he published *Wild Birds of Torrington and District* that was re-published seven years later and he donated all receipts to the Torrington Hospital.

He was also a founder member of the Lundy Field Society and became its chairman from 1947 to 1951, when pressure of other work forced him to resign. Lundy Island had a few tortured early years that were a period of continual financial worry. This was brought about, for the most part, by the need for substantial repairs to the Old Light. Fieldwork continued, however, with an archaeological survey begun in 1955 and the first mist-netting of birds in 1958. Its future was only essentially secured when acquired by the National Trust in 1969 after a significant donation by Sir Jack Hayward and the agreement of The Landmark Trust to operate the island under a 60 years' Lease.