

Gloucestershire Village has three MP's

The village of Tibberton near Gloucester; a parish with a population under 400, is rendered famous by the late election, from three gentlemen resident there being selected to serve in the coming parliament. Mr W. P. Price. of Tibberton-court having been returned for the city of Gloucester: Captain W. E. Price, for the borough of Tewkesbury; and Sir David Wedderburn, Bart., for South Ayrshire – all in the Liberal interest.

Reported in the Berkshire Chronicle 1868.

The 1868 United Kingdom general election was held between 17 November to 7 December 1868. It saw Gladstone's Liberals increase their majority to 116 seats.

This was the first general election to be held after the passage of the Reform Act 1867, which enfranchised many male householders, thus greatly increasing the number of men who could vote in elections in the United Kingdom. It was the first election held in the United Kingdom in which more than a million votes were cast; nearly triple the number of votes were cast compared to the previous election in 1865.

This was the last general election at which all seats were taken by only the two leading parties, although the parties at the time were loose coalitions and party affiliation was not listed on registration papers.

William Philip Price



William Philip Price (1817 – 31 March 1891) was an English timber merchant and Liberal politician who sat in the House of Commons in two periods between 1852 and 1873 and lived in the splendour of *Tibberton Court*. Price was the son of William Price of Gloucester and his wife Frances George, daughter of Phillip George of Bristol. He was educated privately.^[1] He ran a successful timber company, and was also involved in the Railway industry, being a director of the Midland Railway Company.^[2] In 1840 he became a director of the Gloucester Banking Company, and was later made the chairman in 1865.^[3] Price was a Deputy Lieutenant and J.P. for Gloucestershire and in 1849 was made High Sheriff of Gloucestershire.

In July 1852 Price was elected Member of Parliament for Gloucester. In 1857 his re-election was investigated for bribery, and it was found that his agents had been bribing voters, although he himself was not aware of it. He was unseated in 1859.

Price was re-elected MP for Gloucester in the 1865 general election but left parliament in May 1873 to become a railway commissioner. Price is one of the few Member of Parliament to be made both Steward of the Manor of Northstead and Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds.

Price married Frances Ann Chadborn, daughter of John Chadborn of Gloucester.

William Edwin Price



William Edwin Price (10 January 1841 – 10 February 1886) was an English Liberal Party politician who sat in the House of Commons from 1868 to 1880. At the 1868 general election Price was elected as the Member of Parliament for the borough of Tewkesbury. Price was the son of William Philip Price, M.P. for Gloucester. He was educated at Eton College, at University College, London graduating BA in 1859, and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He served in the 36th Regiment of Foot until his retirement in February 1865. He was a captain of the Royal South Gloucester Militia, and of the 3rd Gloucester City Rifle Volunteers.

Captain Price did not marry until ten years later, on 29 July 1878: he married Margaret Phillips, the daughter of the M.P. for Bury, and actually settled at Hillfield, Wotton Pitch in Gloucester. His son Morgan Philips Price was later a (Labour) M.P.

He was re-elected in 1874 general election, however, for Captain Price, nemesis was following in the wake of his third election victory. As M.P. he did not merit an excessive number of mentions in the index of the *Tewkesbury Register*. His own agent, solicitor F.J. Brown, had chided him in 1879: "*Are you not somewhat lazy as an M.P.? I hear that you are going to visit the Danube when the Severn ought to be as much interest to you*".

By 3 July 1880 a writ was moved for a new election, and then he was subject to an anonymous letter in the newspaper stating that he had been convicted of bribery and corruption in April 1880 but his election was declared void following conviction of bribery and corruption on 29 June 1880. Despite his political downfall, it was announced that he had been promoted to Major in the *Royal South Gloucestershire Militia*.

Moreover, he was involved in the 1885 election campaign when he addressed a Liberal party meeting. Price died at the age of 44 in 1886.

Sir David Wedderburn, 3rd Baronet - In office 1868–1874



David Wedderburn was the second son of Sir John Wedderburn, 2nd Baronet, and Henrietta Louise Milburn inheriting Meredith in Tibberton from his mother. His grandfather, Sir David, had had the title of the Wedderburn Baronet restored to the family, following the Jacobite rising of 1745 and the subsequent regain of fortune via the slave sugar plantations of Jamaica. He studied law at Trinity College, Cambridge and was called to the Scottish bar as an advocate in 1861. He succeeded to the title upon his father's death in 1862, his elder brother John having died in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He was a justice of the peace for Midlothian and a captain in the Midlothian Yeomanry.

He was elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament for South Ayrshire in 1868, holding the seat until 1874.

He was then elected for Haddington Burghs in an 1879 by-election resigning in 1882 by becoming Steward of the Manor of Northstead.

In April 1873, he visited Victor Hugo in Guernsey. He confessed his republican convictions to the great French poet, but added: "If I said that aloud, I would not be re-elected".

He travelled widely, returning to India as an adult, and visiting the United States, Canada, China, Japan, Java, Iceland, South Africa, and throughout Europe. His travel journals and his political writings were edited and published after his death by his youngest sister, Louisa Jane, assisted by her husband Edward Hope Percival. He wrote for *The Nineteenth Century* and *The Fortnightly Review*, two of the most prominent periodicals of the time.

He lived at Inveresk Lodge, south of Musselburgh. He never married. On his death in 1882, the title went to his youngest brother, William Wedderburn, one of the founders of the Indian National Congress and owner of Meredith in Tibberton.

He is buried in St. Michael's churchyard in Inveresk.

Compiled from extracts from Gloucestershire County Council archives, Tewkesbury History.org and Wikipedia.

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