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# Sir Frederick James Barthorpe JP (1857-1942)

by John W Brown

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An old photograph album has recently come to light featuring various views of a family enjoying summer holidays in the 1940s. Among the snaps is one of an elderly gentleman standing in the garden of his home, a large, impressive Victorian building. On closer examination the house would be familiar to members of the Streatham Society and the local Darby and Joan Club as it is *Woodlawn*, 16 Leigham Court Road, where both organisations hold their meetings. The man enjoying his garden is Sir Frederick James Barthorpe JP who was buried in West Norwood Cemetery on 5th March 1942 (grave 37,815, square 124).

Sir Frederick was Chairman of the Marconi International Code Company and Chief Joint General Manager of the London County and Westminster Bank Ltd., which later evolved to become the NatWest Bank. Among his many other positions he was a Fellow and President of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers. As an author he wrote such erudite books as *Consols and the Sinking Fund* and *Indian Currency - its first and second lines of defence*.

He played an active role in civic affairs, becoming an Alderman of the City of London in 1921, and on his retirement from the office of Sheriff of the City in 1925 he was knighted by King George V. He was due to become Lord Mayor of London, but sadly shortly before the time of his appointment, he became seriously ill and had to have an operation after which he was advised by his doctors not to take up the office as this would be detrimental to his health.

He attained the rank of Major in the 4th City of London Battalion of the London Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers. Although he retired from active service in 1911, he subsequently assisted in the raising of the 26th Service Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, known as the Banking Battalion, and was also involved with the National Guard Volunteer Corps.

Sir Frederick was a devout Catholic worshipping at the Church of the English Martyrs in Streatham. In 1926 he was honoured by the Pope who appointed him a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great for his services to the catholic church. He also received the Legion of Honour from President Doumergue of France.

