

## JOHN LAMPLOW ROBERTS Esq

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

### **Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:**

1850-1851 (EP8ac) J L Roberts Esq., Wokingham (actually used OC23 1857)

### **Comment:**

John Lamplow (sic Samplow) Roberts baptised 1 September 1807 (the son of John Roberts and Lucy LAMPLOW married 6 February 1806) died in Wokingham 23rd March 1884 aged 76 years. He was buried at All Saints, Wokingham.

He was a solicitor, alderman, and Under Sheriff Deputy

The following vignette is rather pleasant: "The opening of the new Town Hall on 6th June 1860, was a splendid occasion, reported vividly in the London Illustrated News. Church bells pealed and the Rt. Hon Richard, Lord Braybrooke, High Steward of Wokingham, was met at the railway station by Mr F A Carrington, the Recorder of the Oxford Circuit, Alderman J L Roberts, attended by the Sergeant at Mace and members of the Corporation.

"There was a grand procession to the Town Hall for speeches and prayers at the opening ceremony. Afterwards, the procession marched to Alderman Roberts house where there was a spread for over fifty people.

"In the evening an introductory ball was held. The Main Hall was beautifully lit and decorated with flowers. All admired the Corporation's paintings and the large mirror presented by the Recorder (these still hang in the Town Hall). Music and dancing went on with great spirit until four o'clock in the morning".

Wokingham is a small market town and civil parish in Berkshire.

### **References:**

1. Wokingham Town: The Official Website of the Wokingham Town Council. <http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/townhall>
2. Family Search. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. <http://www.familysearch.org>
3. FreeBMD Home Page <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>
4. A guide to the magistracy and lieutenancy of Berks etc. John Lamplow Roberts. Publ: Risher & Johnson, Reading. 1860