



Longleat House

### **Lord Edward Thynne 1807-1884**

Lord Edward Thynne was an interesting character, with a notorious life style and was on one occasion refused entry to Longleat House (see above) his father's home, because of his bad behaviour and ever increasing debt, which his father was always paying off. Edward was born on 23rd January 1807.

After a short career as an army officer, he sat in the House of Commons for two periods, separated by 26 years, and opposed parliamentary reform on both occasions. A duellist and philanderer who outlived his two wives, Thynne gambled away his own wealth and that of his first wife. In 1881, the aged Thynne was described by *Vanity Fair* magazine as a "hoary old reprobate".

The novelist Emily Eden described him in a letter at that time as "totally unlike all the Thynnes I ever saw —full of fun and dashes out everything that comes into his head"

He had physically attacked his first wife Elizabeth Mellish who he married in 1830, and spent her marriage settlement on presents for various mistresses. His second wife was Celia Gore daughter of the novelist Catherine Gore, he married her in 1853. However in 1872 he called at the London home of Lord Townshend and eloped to France with his wife Clementina. In 1881 Lord Townshend got his revenge and accosted Thynne on the road between Laverstock and Salisbury, but was convicted of assault at Salisbury Petty Sessions. He was ordered to pay a fine of £500 (£44,000 in 2015) but the consensus of opinion was that Thynne deserved thrashing earlier and that his injuries should have been worse.

In January 1884, Thynne fell ill with rheumatic gout. He died on 4th February at his home The Hill, Laverstock.