



Albert Day 1833 to 1916

Mayor of Hythe 1898

Alderman and J.P

### **Early Life**

Albert Day was born in Hythe on 15 July 1833 into a family long established in the town, his grandfather having moved there from Christchurch, Hampshire, in 1810. By 1851, aged eighteen, Albert was already in employment as a servant in Stade Street, Hythe, beginning a working life that would steadily progress upward.

Susannah Marshall was born around 1836 in Saltwood, Kent, the daughter of Henry Marshall, a gardener, and Mary Marshall. In 1851, she was living with her parents and siblings near Saltwood Green, just north of Hythe, in a working family household typical of rural Kent. Her upbringing was rooted in a close-knit village environment.

### **Marriage**

Albert Day and Susannah Marshall married on 11 May 1859 in Ramsgate, Kent. Their marriage lasted more than half a century, spanning the height of the Victorian era and into the Edwardian period. Together, they built a stable family life in Hythe during a time of significant social and economic change.

## Occupations and Business Life

Albert began his career in service but soon trained as a carpenter, a skilled trade that formed the basis of his livelihood. By 1861, he was listed as a carpenter, and over time, his occupation evolved into that of builder and contractor. His work brought increasing financial stability, and by 1891, he was described as living on “own means.” In the 1901 and 1911 censuses, he appears as a Retired Builder, indicating a successful working life and modest prosperity.

## Property Holdings

Lloyd George Domesday (Valuation records) show that Albert Day and members of the Day family owned a cluster of working and rental properties in Hythe, particularly around Stade Street, Albert Rd, High St, and much more. These included cottages, small dwelling houses described as “habitations,” shop premises with living accommodation, and service buildings such as yards, stables, and coach houses, as well as allotments. These were modest working-class and trade properties rather than large or elite residences.

Albert owned the properties in Windmill Row (known as Buggy Row).

### Folkestone Express August 11 1888

**Context:** A meeting of Hythe Town Council discussed public health and housing conditions at Windmill Row, Hythe.

**Property:** The cottages were workers’ housing, originally 18 tenements, now 15 occupied, housing about 60 people.

**Sanitation:** Only five shared closets for all residents; Dr. Robinson recommended one closet per house.

**Subsoil and drainage:** Complaints were noted; Dr. Robinson expected improvements from ongoing drainage works.

**Building condition:** The owner was substantially rebuilding or improving the cottages.

**Next steps:** Dr. Robinson deferred final judgment until the works were complete and promised a further report.

**Council action:** The report was to be sent to Councillor Albert Day, identified as the owner of the Windmill Row cottages.

**Windmill Row** nicknamed “Buggy Row,” was filthy. Its 16 houses, originally built for Royal Wagon Train workers, had ladders instead of stairs, huge chimneys, four taps, no sinks, and six outdoor toilets. Despite complaints from sanitary inspectors in 1849, the landlord made no improvements, though most residents were working and simply needed affordable housing.

Despite the squalor, most residents were employed rather than paupers; they lived there due to a total lack of other affordable housing in Hythe.

Condemnation: Although Sanitary Inspectors complained as early as 1849, the town council didn't condemn the buildings until 1904. *Source Anne Petrie*

Census & Marriage Timeline		
Date	Location	Household Details
1851	Stade St, Hythe	Albert Day (18), working as a Servant.
11/05/1859	Ramsgate, Kent	Marriage of Albert Day and Susannah.
1861	Stade St, Hythe	Albert (28), Susannah (21), Mary (2 months), and Aunt Charlotte (70).
1871	St Leonard's Rd, Hythe	Albert (38), Susannah (34), Henry (8), Florence (4), and Emma (1).
1881	York Cottage, Park Rd	Albert (48, Carpenter), Susannah (44), Henry (18, Pupil Teacher), and Emma (11).
1891	St Leonard's Rd, Hythe	Albert (58, Own Means), Susannah (54), Henry (28, Theology Student), and Emma S (21).
1901	York Cottage, Hythe	Albert (68, Retired Builder), Susannah (64), Mary (40, Daughter), and Emma S (31, Daughter).
1911	York Cottage, Albert Rd	Albert (78, Retired Builder), Susannah (74), Mary (50), and Emma C (41).

### **Civic and Public Service (Summary)**

Albert Day served on Hythe Town Council for nearly two decades and was elected Mayor of Hythe from November 1898 to November 1899, chosen from among the town's senior councillors (Jurats). During his mayoralty, he presided over the 1898 Venetian Fete on the Royal Military Canal, personally contributing to its decoration. He also served as a Guardian of the Elham Union Workhouse and trustee of St Bartholomew's and St John's Hospitals, reflecting his active role in local governance. However, his public life was sometimes controversial, with contemporary discussion criticising the condition of properties he owned, particularly working-class housing, highlighting the tensions between business interests and civic responsibility in Victorian Hythe.

## **Family**

Albert and Susannah's married life was centered entirely in Hythe. They lived first in Stade Street, later in St Leonard's Road, and eventually at York Cottage on Park Road (later Albert Road), where they resided for over thirty years. Susannah gave birth to eight children. Mary and Emma remained at home into adult life, while Henry became a pupil teacher and later a student of theology. Florence married Frederick Worthington -coach builder and is buried in Saltwood -died in 1912. Four infant daughters — Bertha Elizabeth, Annie Maria, Minnie Alice, and Helen Wilhelmine — died in infancy, reflecting the high child mortality of the period.

## **Later Life**

By 1911, Albert, aged seventy-eight, and Susannah, aged seventy-four, were living quietly in retirement at York Cottage with their daughters Mary and Emma. Albert had withdrawn from physical labour, while Susannah remained the central figure of the household. Their lives reflected a journey from modest working origins to stability and respectability within their community.

## **The death of Albert and his wife.**

Susannah Day died on 28 March 1916. Albert Day died only a few days later, on 2 April 1916, aged eighty-three, after a short illness. Their deaths so close together brought a double bereavement to the family. Albert's funeral at Hythe Parish Church was well attended, clergy officiated, and the Town Council recorded a formal vote of sympathy, with the Town Hall flag flown at half-mast.

### *St Leonard's Churchyard*



## Burial and Family Plots

Albert and Susannah are buried together in Plot 572 in St Leonard's Churchyard, Hythe. Also in that plot are Henry Day (Albert's uncle) and Anne Friend, Susannah's sister. Their four infant daughters are buried in Plot 578, who died young: Bertha Elizabeth, Annie Maria, Minnie Alice, and Helen Wilhelmine.

Other Day family members from the earlier Christchurch branch are buried in Plots 576 and 577, while Plot 731 holds further extended family connections, illustrating the long-standing presence of the Day family in Hythe.

## Probate

DAY Albert of 27 Albert-road, Hythe Kent, died 2 April 1916; Probate London 3 May to the reverend Henry Albert Day, clerk, and Mary Susanna Day, spinster. Effects £3880 11S. 10d. and Mary Susanna Day, spinster. Effects £3880 11S. 10d.

## Summary

Their story also reflects the realities of the period: the importance of family networks, the losses of infant children, the role of tradesmen in local government, and the tensions surrounding working-class housing and public health reform. His estate at death in 1916, valued at £3,880 11s. 10d. confirms that he died as a man of comfortable means, firmly within Hythe's respectable property-owning class.

Together, Albert and Susannah's lives sit at the intersection of family endurance, business enterprise, and public service in a growing nineteenth-century seaside town.

=====  
=====