

## **Major Frederick William Butler M.C. J.P. 1867 -1941**

**Mayor 1909-1910,1926,1930,1936**

Frederick William Butler was born in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in 1867. He moved to Hythe in 1893.

In 1902, he commenced business as an estate agent in Bank Buildings, High Street, the old-established business of Messrs. Cobay Bros. Ltd., following the death of the only surviving member of the family, the late Mr. Robert Cobay (an ex-Mayor of Hythe).

### **HIS ARMY CAREER.**

From 1883 until 1887, Alderman Butler was a volunteer in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and from 1908 until Easter, 1914, commanded the Folkestone Company of the Kent Cyclist Battalion. The outbreak of the war saw him among the first local men to join the colours.

In September 1914, he enlisted in the 3rd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, and served with that unit in France from April 1915 until December 1916. On the 1st January, 1917, he was transferred to the Royal Tank Corps and served with that branch of the service until the cessation of hostilities.

Alderman Butler gained the rank of Major before his transfer took place and retained it until he was demobilised. He was second-in-command of his original battalion.

In April 1916, Major Butler was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service during the fighting in front of the Hohenzollern Redoubt (more familiarly known as "fighting for the crater"). He was twice mentioned in dispatches, the first time in December 1915, and again in 1918.

While he was in France, his business was carried on with the assistance of a brother.

### **TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' MUNICIPAL WORK.**

The mayor-elect served on the Hythe Town Council for 25 years (excluding the war period) and represented the East Ward throughout that entire period. When he was Mayor in 1910, he attended the Coronation of H.M. King George V, thereby holding the ancient title of a Baron of the Cinque Ports. Within a few months of his return from France, he again resumed his seat on the Council. In 1923, he was elevated to the position of Alderman and was re-appointed as such the following year.

Alderman Butler's family was a widely scattered one. A stepson was in San Francisco, and a son was in Edmonton, Canada. His youngest son served with the Palestine Police, and his eldest daughter was in North Manitoba.

Alderman Butler was a Justice of the Peace for the Borough for five years. Reverting to his municipal activities, he was Chairman of the Rating and Valuation Committee, which carried out the revaluation of the Borough, Chairman of the Canal Committee, and Chairman of the Joint Town Planning Committee. He was Clerk to the Saltwood

Parish Council, a past Captain and member of the Committee of the Hythe Golf Club, was on several occasions Captain of the Hythe Bowls Club, was for many years with the Seabrook Estate Company (the owners of the Golf Links and the land adjacent, which was, from time to time, largely developed), was Clerk to the St. Bartholomew's and St. John's Hospital Trustees, Secretary of the Hythe Building Society, President of the Hythe Conservative Club, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Council of the Borough of Hythe Conservative Association, a great friend of the British Legion, a Vice-President of the Hythe Football Club and the Cinque Ports Angling Society, and a member of the Hythe and Cinque Ports Clubs.

Mrs. Butler was Chairman of the local Branch of the Borough of Hythe Women's Conservative and Unionist Association from the end of the war.



FOLKESTONE HERALD, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1930.

Reported in The Dover and County Chronicle, Saturday, February 4, 1911

HYTHE.

**A disastrous fire broke out at Clyne House**, the residence of Councillor F. W. Butler (Mayor of Hythe), at 7.30 on Monday evening; the whole of the building was destroyed. The fire broke out in the nursery owing to a candle being knocked over and igniting the curtains. The upper part of the house being of pitch-pine, the flames spread with extraordinary rapidity, and soon the whole was involved. The damage was estimated at £600. The whole of the furniture in the upper rooms was destroyed, but that in the lower portion was saved. The whole was covered by insurance. The fire was extinguished by 1.30, but it broke out again between 2 and 3 o'clock the next morning. The men of the Brigade left in charge were able to deal with it and put it out.

### North Road Fire



The remains of Clyne House, North Road, photographed the day after it was destroyed by fire on 30 January 1911. The house was occupied at the time by F. W. Butler, Mayor of Hythe at this time. The premises were rebuilt, and Miss M. H. Fuller was the next occupant, but as can be seen in the modern photograph, the house is currently empty.



*Thank you to Martin Easdown and Linda Sage for allowing HLHG/HCS to use their pictures*



The Bay View development, consisting of 10 luxury apartments on North Road in Hythe, was completed around October 2016 on the plot where Clyne House once stood.

## Early Life and First Marriage (Minnie Bishopp)

- **October 1867:** Frederic William Butler is born in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
- **1876:** Minnie Bishopp is born.
- **1881 Census:** Minnie is living with her family at 19 Bartholomew Street.
- **1891 Census:** Minnie is working as a servant for George Wilks of Church Avenue.
- **April 1895:** Frederic marries Minnie Bishopp in Hythe.
- **October 1895:** Their first daughter, Gwendoline, is born.
- **1900:** Their second daughter, Marjorie, is born.
- **1901 Census:** Frederic (33) and Minnie (25) are living at 3 Castle Road, Hythe, with Gwendoline (5) and Marjorie (8 months).
- **1905:** Minnie Butler dies at the age of 29.

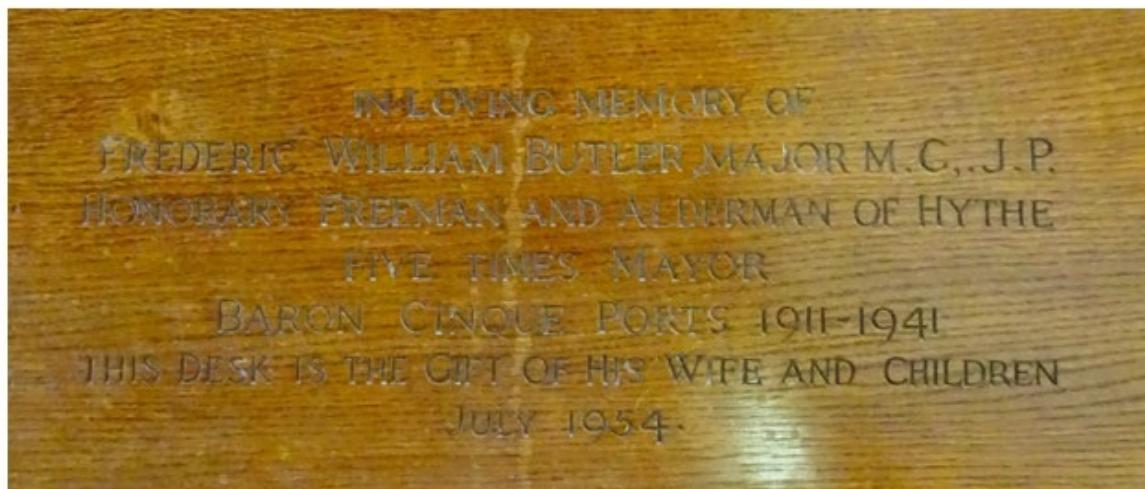
## Second Marriage (Louisa Ann Mackay)

(She had two sons from her previous marriage.)

- **September 16, 1906:** Son Neil Coen Butler is born.
- **December 27, 1907:** Frederic (a 40-year-old widower) marries Louisa Ann Mackay (a 33-year-old widow) while living at 3 Castle Road.
- **1909–1910:** Frederic serves as the Town Mayor of Hythe, Kent.
- **January 1911:** Frederic's house catches fire while he is at a Town Council meeting. Mrs. Butler rescues the children; the roof and top storey are destroyed.
- **1921:** Frederic is living at 19 Castle Road and working as an estate agent.
- **March 21, 1941:** Frederic dies at age 73 at Kench Hill Nursing Home, Tenterden.
- **1961:** Louisa Ann Butler dies at Balgowan Nursing Home and is buried in Saltwood.
- **1980:** Neil Coen Butler passes away.

## General Career Facts

- Served on the Hythe Town Council for nearly 40 years.
- Served as Mayor of Hythe during two coronations.
- Held the titles of Major and Baron of the Cinque Ports.
- Resided at The Mount, Cannongate Avenue, Hythe.



*Desk, front pew, St Leonard's church*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
FREDERIC WILLIAM BUTLER MAJOR M.C.J.P.  
HONORARY FREEMAN AND ALDERMAN OF HYTHE  
FIVE TIMES MAYOR  
BARON CINQUE PORTS 1911-1941  
THE DESK IS THE GIFT OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN  
JULY 1954