

South Molton & District

Local History

The Medical Hall and Alexander Henley Attwater

Alexander Henley Attwater was born on 9th December 1821 at Newington Butts, London. He was the son of Alexander Henley Attwater, Attorney and Anne (Faulconer) Noakes. He married Malena Ellen Treatt on 10th January 1845 at Littleham, Exmouth, Devon. It is unclear when he first came to South Molton but a daughter, Malena Ellen Ann Attwater was born at South Molton towards the end of 1845 (the birth was registered December Quarter). Two sons followed, Alexander Henley (Sept. Quarter 1847) and Louis Falconer^{stet} (April 1849).

On April 11th 1849, his daughter Malena died aged 3 years and 6 months, to be followed three months later by his son, Louis who died on July 20th 1849 aged 3 months. The following year, on November 5th 1850, his wife Malena died aged 25 years. (Information from "South Molton Churchyard Gravestones" - researched by David Ryall and published by South Molton Archive & Local History Society).

The 1851 census records Alexander Henry^{stet} Attwater as a widower aged 29, occupation "Medical Chemist". His address is given as Broad Street, South Molton. Also living in the household are Thomas Chippen Attwater, his brother, aged 20, occupation "Apprentice", Mary Meldon, unmarried aged 40 (Housekeeper) and Fanny Bawden unmarried aged 19 (Servant). The 4-year-old Alexander Henley Attwater was listed as a scholar living on Barnstaple Street with several other scholars – the head of the household is schoolmistress, Eliza Stanbury.

On 30th December 1851 Alexander married Elizabeth Lukey Huxtable, daughter of Robert Huxtable who was a draper who traded from a shop in Broad Street, he later also became a wine and spirits retailer. The couple then settled down to married life at Medical Hall, Broad Street, South Molton.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON


Application Number 3709 B

Registration District <u>of Bideford</u>							
1851. Marriage solemnized at <u>The Parish Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Bideford</u> in the County of <u>Devon</u>							
No.	When married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence at the time of marriage	Father's name and surname
1	30 th December	Alexander Henley Attwater	of full age	Widower	Chemist	Southmolton	Alexander Attwater
2		Elizabeth Lukey Huxtable	of full age	Spinster	-	Market Place	Robert Huxtable
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by me This marriage was solemnized between us, <u>A. H. Attwater</u> in the presence of us, <u>James Jones</u> <u>E. L. Huxtable</u> <u>Ann Cook</u> <u>Theophilus Jones</u>							

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Marriages in the District above mentioned.
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 15th day of September 1851.

MB 249214

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 43 of the Marriage Act 1849. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.
 CAUTION:—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses a falsified certificate as true knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution.

 549189

Children of Alexander Henley Attwater and Elizabeth Lukey Huxtable:

Elizabeth Ann Lukey Attwater
Louis Faulkner Attwater
Harry Huxtable Attwater
(Augustus) Frederick Wm Attwater
Ellen Jane Attwater

born Jan 1853 – married Lewis Rigsby Jerred, 1879
born June 1854 – married Sarah Laver, 1878
born April 1855 – married Eliza Johns, 1888
born Sept. 1857- married Mary Ann Page, 1879
born Nov. 1858 – married Charles Keeping, 1882


The South Molton Peace Record, published in 1856, which describes the celebrations that took place in the town at the end of the Crimean War gives the following description:

Medical Hall was beautifully decorated with flowers, evergreens and flags and a large Banner, with white background and black border “To our Fallen Heroes”



The South Molton Peace Record, published in 1856

Attwater's
Sheep



Infallible
Composition,

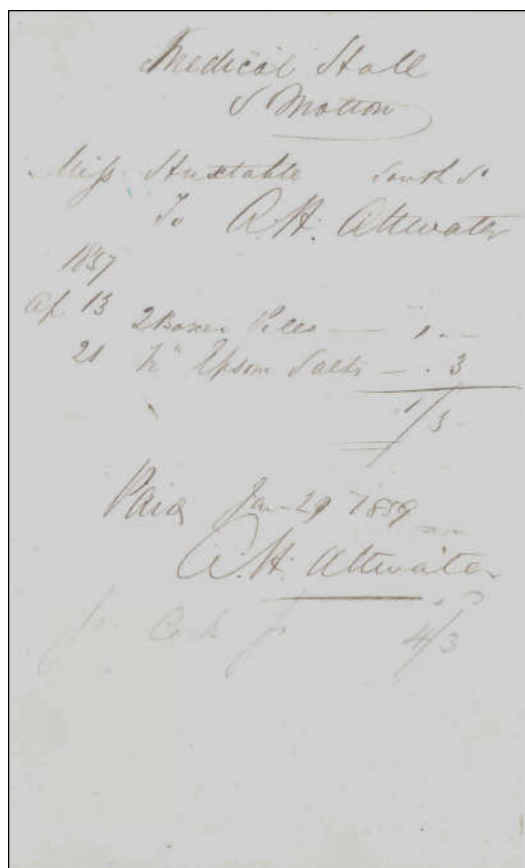
For the prevention of Ticks, Lice, and all Vermin found both in Sheep and Lambs. This preparation has stood unrivalled for many years, (both at home and abroad,) and which not only prevents the attack of the Fly, but very much improves the quality of the Wool. It will resist any action of weather, as nothing can destroy the smell. It is purely a Chemical combination, and requires no boiling before used, and is the Cheapest and Surest preparation ever brought before the public!

PREPARED ONLY, BY
A. H. ATTWATER,
Medical Hall, South Molton,
Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.
SOLD IN PACKETS 8d. EACH.

P.S. Horse and Cattle Medicine of every description constantly on Sale.
A. H. Attwater, strongly recommends his Cleansing Drenches for Cows after calving, which never ought to be omitted.

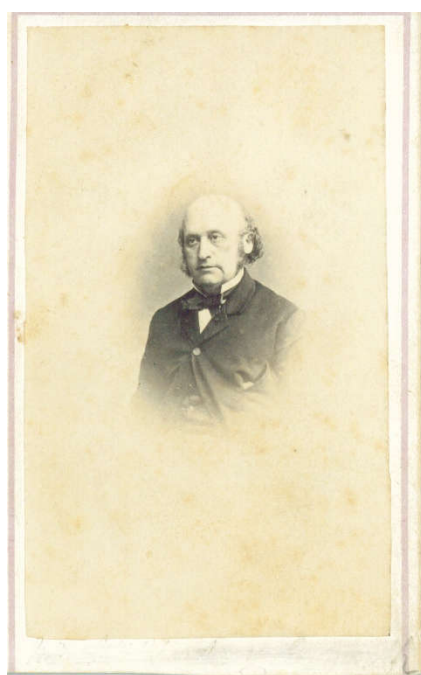
The Billings Directory of 1857 has the following two entries under SOUTH MOLTON:

- ❖ Under Classifications of Physicians and Surgeons – Attwater Alexander H., Square
- ❖ Under Alphabetical List of Clergy, Gentry etc., - Attwater Alexander Henley, surgeon and chemist; agent to the Legal and Commercial Life, and Manchester Fire Insurance Companies, Square.



The 1861 census for South Molton records Alexander H Attwater as married, aged 39 – occupation Surgeon MRCS England. He is living with his wife Elizabeth aged 44, his sons Alexander Henley aged 13, Louis Faulkner aged 7, Henry Huxtable aged 6, Augustus F. W. aged 3 and Ellen Jane aged 2, plus two female domestic servants aged 50 and 10. Their Address is given as East Street.

During the early 1860s Alexander Attwater and his family moved from South Molton. The 1881 census records the family living at Mill Head, Bampton, Devon. Alexander's occupation is given as Surgeon and his age as 59.



Alexander Henley Attwater



Elizabeth Lukey Attwater née Huxtable

Alexander Attwater died aged 84 (the death was registered at Tiverton ref: 5b 297). The South Molton Gazette dated February 24th 1906 printed the following obituary:

“Dr. Attwater developed an extensive medical practice in South Molton. He superintended a dispensary known as Medical Hall. About 1860 he moved to Dulverton.”

FUNERAL OF DR ATTWATER, AT BAMPTON.

The funeral took place at Bampton Churchyard on Saturday of the late Mr. Alexander Henley Attwater, M.R.C.S. The deceased was a native of South Molton, where, after obtaining his degree at Middlesex Hospital, and obtaining further experience at Guys, he started and developed an extensive practice. He also superintended the Dispensary, known as "The Medical Hall," and took a great interest in public affairs. In 1860 Mr. Attwater removed to Dulverton, and, besides having a large private practice there, he was also Medical Officer to the Board of Guardians. In 1868, he started a practice at Bampton, where he remained until 1893, when he retired. Subsequently he resided for some time in Exeter, but about two years ago returned to Bampton, where he passed away on Sunday last in his 85th year. He leaves three sons and two daughters.

The funeral on Saturday was attended by Dr. Downe, of Bampton; Dr. Sydenham, of Dulverton; and several Freemasons, deceased being a P.M. of the South Molton Lodge. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Attwater (son and daughter-in-law), Bampton; Mr. and Mrs. Keeping (son-in-law and daughter), Exeter; Miss Attwater (granddaughter), and Master Attwater (grandson). The Rev. W. Harpley officiated, and the body was buried in a grave beside that of Mr. Attwater's wife, who predeceased him several years since.

The photographs of Alexander Henley Attwater and his wife Elizabeth Lukey Attwater née Huxtable, their marriage certificate and the copy of the invoice are published courtesy of Keith Stait-Gardner who is the 2nd great-grandson of Robert and Ann Lukey Huxtable.