

# **BALLADS OF OLD BIRMINGHAM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649085255

Ballads of old Birmingham by E. M. Rudlandd

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. M. RUDLANDD**

**BALLADS OF OLD  
BIRMINGHAM**



BALLADS  
OF  
OLD BIRMINGHAM

BY  
E. M. RUDLAND

WITH INTRODUCTION  
BY  
THE RT. HON. THE LORD MAYOR OF BIRMINGHAM  
(ALDERMAN W. H. BOWATER.)

HERALDIC ILLUSTRATIONS AND NOTES

BY  
A. RODWAY

LONDON  
DAVID NUTT  
17 GRAPE STREET, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.  
COPYRIGHT  
1915

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction .. .. .	ix.
The Song of the Midland Men .. .. .	1
The Death of King Kenelm .. .. .	3
Barr Beacon .. .. .	6
The Jennens' Millions .. .. .	8
William Fitz-Ansculph .. .. .	11
Staunchel, Thane of Witone .. .. .	15
Luck of the De Berminghams .. .. .	17
Henry Fitzgerold, Lord of Smethwick .. .. .	19
Sir Thomas de Erdington .. .. .	22
A Tale of the Lady Brade, Oldbury .. .. .	25
William de Birmingham .. .. .	27
Clodshale's Chantry .. .. .	30
Lady Isabel de Edgbaston .. .. .	32
Sir William de Parles .. .. .	34
Lady Joan de Botetort .. .. .	37
Lord John de Bermingham .. .. .	40
The Cursing of Frater John .. .. .	42
Our Lady's Well .. .. .	44
John Harpur .. .. .	46
Robert Arden .. .. .	48
Henry VI. at Yardley .. .. .	50
The Last Days of Anne, Countess of Warwick .. .. .	52
Edward Bermingham .. .. .	54
Nicholas Brome of Baddesley Clinton .. .. .	57
The Wooing of John Arden .. .. .	59
Leland in Birmingham .. .. .	62
Saint Barbara's Shrine .. .. .	64
John Rogers of Deritend, Martyr .. .. .	66
Sir Hugh Willoughby .. .. .	68
John of Feckenham, Rector of Solihull .. .. .	70
Sutton Park .. .. .	72
Sir Alexander Avenon .. .. .	75
The Arden Name .. .. .	77
The Warders of Maxstoke .. .. .	79

	PAGE
Sir Simon Mountfort, of Coleshill .. .. .	81
Edward Holte .. .. .	83
The Holding of Edgbaston Hall .. .. .	85
The Leaguer of Hawkesley House .. .. .	88
The Coming of Queen Henrietta Maria to King's Norton ..	90
The Battle of Birmingham .. .. .	92
Henry Gough of Old Fallings .. .. .	94
Dud Dudley .. .. .	97
The Plague in Birmingham .. .. .	100
The Berminghams of France .. .. .	103
Departure of Edmond Hawes of Solihull, .. .. .	106
In the Olden Days .. .. .	108
The Last of the Holtes .. .. .	110
The First Coming of William Hutton, the Historian, to Birmingham .. .. .	113
Ancheatt Greves of Moseley .. .. .	116
The Birmingham Riots .. .. .	118
The Ballad of Dr. Priestley .. .. .	120
James Watt .. .. .	122
Nelson in Birmingham .. .. .	124
The Ballad of Tom King .. .. .	126
The News of Waterloo brought to Birmingham .. .. .	128
The Forger's Wraith .. .. .	130
The Arrest of William Lovett, the Chartist .. .. .	132
The Folkthing on Newhall Hill .. .. .	135
Thomas Attwood .. .. .	138
Joseph Sturge .. .. .	140
The Shrine of St. Chad .. .. .	141
Tom Tiddler .. .. .	143
William Murdock .. .. .	146
John Baskerville .. .. .	148
Sir Josiah Mason .. .. .	150
Franchelie .. .. .	153
"Selig" Oak .. .. .	155
Lines Written at Nelson's Statue .. .. .	157
The Sons of Berm .. .. .	160
The Man of Us All .. .. .	162
HERALDIC NOTES .. .. .	i.

## INTRODUCTION

---

In commending a previous volume of Mr. E. M. Rudland's "Ballads of Old Birmingham" to those interested in the authentic history and legendary lore of the City, I remarked upon the thoroughness with which he had covered the ground and the ingenuity with which he had adapted the material to poetic use. Since then Mr. Rudland has found fresh subjects for his facile pen and has brought the series up to date by a tribute to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. The present volume may be described as the complete edition of the Ballads, although one hesitates to use terms of finality in regard to a prolific writer.

Mr. Rudland evidently finds Birmingham a fruitful field for the cultivation of romance. Because its Municipal history is modern and its material progress has been rapid, strangers are apt to imagine that our City has no past worth recalling. The acid in the air has eaten into the soft stone of which Old Birmingham was built, so as to cause our ancient landmarks to crumble away, even when they did not stand in the way of progress. One does not look for ruins in a manufacturing town whose motto is "Forward."



As a live dog is better than a dead lion, so is a busy street better than a ruined temple. One may enjoy reading verses about "Clodshale's Chantry" in this volume without any vain regret that the Parish Church of Birmingham contains few traces of the "one Parroch Church" which Leland saw in 1538. The tombs of the feudal lords of Birmingham are there, however, to remind us of the illustrious family which took its name from the Ham of the Bermings, and in later generations carried that name into Ireland and France, where it is still borne by their descendants.

Mr. Rudland's verses recall other ancient names that are associated with the soil now comprised within the City boundaries. Starting with the ill-fated King Kenelm, he has sung the praises and told the stories of most of our local worthies, not forgetting men of humble birth, like Sir Josiah Mason, who, in making their own fortunes, contributed to the making of Birmingham.

All the districts recently incorporated with the City have brought grist to the mill, and some of the places mentioned are still beyond the pale. Their inhabitants may join in the "Song of the Midland Men" even though they may not claim to be "Sons of Berm." But the book appeals in the first instance to the civic pride of Birmingham men, and if it inspires the rising generation with the civic

patriotism which distinguished their ancestors, it will not have been written in vain.

The heraldic illustrations and notes, which have been done with great care by Mr. Alfred Rodway, should arouse new interest in local heraldry. The poems should induce their readers to renew acquaintance with the details of local history they embellish, and indirectly lead them to make history for themselves. Mr. Rudland himself is practical as well as poetical. He is not content to make the City's songs regardless of who makes its laws. As a member of the City Council and Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee he is bearing his full share of the burdens which devolve upon the representatives of the ratepayers. The enlarged City gives greater scope for civic service, and if our leading citizens rise to the occasion, the achievements of the past will be but faint foreshadowings of a still more glorious future.

W. H. BOWATER.

