

Research on Andalusia and William. Notes taken from the Times newspaper, Cornish newspapers, the book 'A radical aristocrat - Sir William Molesworth' by Alison Adburgham, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and a few bits and pieces found on the internet and whilst researching for Prideaux at the Redruth Archives.

Andalusia before William

Her father was James Bruce Carstairs. He was buried in the Molesworth family vault at Egloshayle church. He died whilst visiting Andalusia and William at Pencarrow on the 10th of September 1845 aged 75. Andalusia erected a tablet in the church as a memorial to him. On this tablet she said that her father was the sole surviving member of the family of Sir James Bruce, Baronet of Kinross.

There might have been a connection between her father's family and Sir James Bruce Baronet, but it would have been through the female line and hard to prove. Her father was simply an Esquire i.e. a Mr. Late in life Andalusia tried twice to prove the connection with the Baronet's family and employed 2 different men to do the research but they could not find a definite link.

Andalusia's mother was called Andalusia and it's likely that her maiden name was Grant hence Andalusia being called Andalusia Grant Carstairs. Andalusia's his father was not wealthy, but he was educated. Andalusia passed the exam to enter the Royal Academy of music on the 27th of June 1824 aged 15. She was therefore born in 1809 and was a year older than William. At the time when she entered the Royal Academy of Music, she was living with her family at 41 Hart St. Bloomsbury. Hart street is now called Bloomsbury way.

The Royal Academy of music had only been founded in 1823 the year before Andalusia was accepted to study there. She became great friends with Dickens' sister Fanny, who also was at the Royal Academy of music. Andalusia's first appearance on stage was in an Academy concert on the 5th of June 1826 in their concert rooms at Hanover square. Then on the 2nd of June 1827 she had her debut on stage at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden. Critics said she had a good and well-trained voice, but she sang in a scientific way. Perhaps this meant she lacked emotion when she sang. In October 1827 she tried her hand at acting and singing at the same time. The critics said she could sing but not act.

Mr Temple West was a subscriber to the Royal Academy of music from the year it started. He went to Royal Academy concerts. His subscription was 100 Guineas.

Temple West may also have seen Andalusia perform in Bath. In 1830 she sang with John Braham a 'Grand performance of sacred music' in the Bath Assembly Rooms on Christmas Eve. When she sang in Bath in 1830 there was a Mr West listed in the programme as singing in the chorus, perhaps this was Temple West. However, Temple West was a frequent patron of the Assembly Rooms, attending from his home in Worcestershire. The West family lived at Mathon Lodge in Mathon Park near the Malvern Hills. The village of Mathon is now a suburb of Malvern.

Andalusia stayed in Bath for 3 months performing in concerts. Temple West Esquire was listed as one of the patrons of her last concert in Bath which was held on the 23rd of March 1831 at the Pump Rom. When Andalusia returned to London, their engagement was announced and they married on the 2nd of June 1831 at Saint George's Square, Hanover. Temple West was approximately 60 years old when he married Andalusia. He was rich and this was probably the reason she married a man 3 times her age. She did not continue to perform after she had married Temple West. They divided their time between London, Mathon Lodge and Bath. Temple West died in Bath in 1839 on the 13th of April of apoplexy in the Pump room. In his Will, Temple West had left *'to my dear wife all my real and personal estate, goods, chattels and effects.'*

Andalusia rented out Mathon Lodge set up a new home in Mayfair. She had her clothes made by fashionable dress makers and hired a coach for this season. She lived in Half Moon Street in London. After 5 years Andalusia met William Molesworth.

The engagement

William introduced his mother and sister to Andalusia as soon as they, i.e. his mother and sister, arrived in London in April 1844. There is no record of when Andalusia and William actually met, but clearly in April 1844 they were on friendly terms. On April the 6th 1844, he noted in his diary that he took his mother, his sister Mary and Mrs T West to see a production of William Tell. Then on the 18th of April they all went to the Italian opera. On the 30th of April he took Mary and Mrs West to the Botanic Gardens in Regents Park where *'the weather was cold from an easterly wind'*.

At this time Pencarrow was being improved, the estimate for which was £4,720. The work included: -

- A new roof
- New plaster to the outside walls
- The old Elizabethan part of the house pulled down and rebuilt
- Every room, except 2, to be repapered
- The creation of an alcove in what was to become after his marriage to Andalusia, the Music Room
- The installation of the wood panelling from Tetcott
- A new entrance hall made in the library.

On June the 3rd 1844 William's mother had a party at her London house at which Andalusia sang. On the 9th of June 1844 William recorded in his diary *'Determined to propose to Mrs West and informed my mother of my intention to do so.'* On the 10th of June he did propose to Andalusia and they decided they would be married in four weeks' time. On the 10th of June he wrote in his diary about the engagement, although it ranked in importance alongside other quite ordinary events that day: - *'Dined with the Wightman's, went to the Polish ball and proposed to Mrs West.'* She accepted straight away.

On the 13th of June William was introduced to Andalusia's brother in law, Admiral sir John West and his wife. On the 14th of June he was introduced to Andalusia's parents, Mr and Mrs Carstairs, who also lived in London. On the 16th of June his mother gave a dinner party for William and Andalusia. So, it would seem that the new couple were embraced or at least welcomed as company by their respective families.

Mrs Grote, a friend of William's who wrote a book about William and she fell out with him over Andalusia. William believed that she didn't like Andalusia. Mrs Grote claimed that she did but William accused her of saying less than complimentary things about Andalusia in company. Mrs Grote wrote in the book that *'the relatives of William speedily imparted their extreme dissatisfaction to me on account of the disparity which it seemed existed between Mrs West and himself in respect birth and connections'*. So, it would seem that Mrs Grote agreed with the family.

The wedding

No notices were put in the Times about the wedding.

The wedding was planned for the 9th of July. Before the wedding William travelled down to Pencarrow to see how the restoration work was going on. He travelled on the 24th of June 1844 by the newly opened Great Western Railway to Exeter, then by Mail coach the next day to Bodmin, and then he hired the Post Chace to take him the last few miles to Pencarrow. When he had arrived, William found that Pencarrow was not fit for habitation. He wrote to his sister Mary, from Pencarrow, saying *'Pencarrow most uncomfortable. Fit only for Miss Dietz and Ailsa, who concern themselves with killing the disturbed rats.'* Miss Dietz was Lady Molesworth personal maid i.e. his mother's Lady's maid.

William decided that Costislost, a Molesworth property nearby lived in by the Steward of the Pencarrow Estates, John Lakeman and his family, would do. It is not known where Lakeman family went but William decided that Costislost *'would do very well for our residence till we can inhabit Pencarrow.'* He then promptly went back to London.

On the 7th of July 1844 the marriage settlement was drawn up. It stated that Mrs West having become the owner of Mathon Lodge in Worcestershire on the death of her previous husband Temple West, with freehold lands, this would now become the property of William. Andalusia was to have £1000 a year spending money. The settlement was signed by John Temple West (Admiral and Andalusia's brother in law who lived in Barkley square in London),

the Reverend Hugh Molesworth (first cousin of William and his heir), the Reverend Gilbert West and Thomas Woollcombe (a friend William's and a solicitor). The Mathon estate was sold in 1845 and William was paid £10,500 for it. So, financially he did well out of this marriage.

On the day of the wedding William's entry in his diary was very matter of fact: -
'Married at St George's Hanover square (about 10:00 o'clock) to Andalusia Grant West. Breakfasted with Sir John and Lady West; left town by the 2:00 o'clock train and arrived Exeter about 10:00 o'clock in the evening, where we spent the night.'

William's diary for the 10th of July i.e. the first day of his married life, simply lists the cost of the journey from London to Exeter.

The day after arriving at Costislost they went to see the renovations at Pencarrow. Things must have improved since William saw Pencarrow before the wedding because that same week they entertained William's cousin, Hugh, the Reverend Molesworth, to dinner at Pencarrow. The odds of Hugh still inheriting the Pencarrow estate, despite William's recent marriage, were high. Andalusia's first marriage had been childless. She was 36 when she married William and was older than her new husband.

Whilst William and Andalusia were at Costislost, Andalusia's things were transferred from Half Moon street to William's house in Lowndes Square in London. His sister, Mary, was commissioned to make this house a little less like a Bachelor residence. When Andalusia and William returned to London in September 1844, they launched on a redecoration of the Lowndes House. The interior was painted, many rooms were wallpapered, new cupboards were built, new carpets were bought along with new soft furnishings. William's mother and sister Mary were meanwhile removing their things from Pencarrow.

At the end of September William and Andalusia went back to Costislost so William could supervise work on the gardens. From Costislost, in October 1844, William wrote to his friend, Mrs. Grote: -
'My wife and myself get on admirably. I am perfectly satisfied with my choice, and that I have selected a sensible, amiable and agreeable woman with whom I shall live most happily. In short I am more than ever persuaded that I am a wise and prudent man.' Clear praise for his wife but not exactly romantic. Shortly after the above letter to Mrs Grote, William fell out with his friend.

Andalusia had a different temperament to William. She loved music, people, and parties. She was merry, outgoing, tireless in the pursuit of pleasure, extravagant, she loved jewels and beautiful clothes. She was ambitious for herself to be a society hostess and for William to be a great statesman, possibly to be a member of the cabinet, even to get a peerage. Andalusia was keen to entertain and to return, hospitality. On the 14th of November 1844 they left Costislost for Pencarrow. In December 1844 they went to a house party at Whitiford where they stayed two nights. William wrote in his diary: - *'An agreeable party, most of whom my wife invited to Pencarrow, heartily regardless of the means of accommodating them.'*

1845

In early spring 1845 they returned to Lowndes Square in London and William let it be known he would like to return to parliament. The vacancy came up in Southwark and William stood as an MP. Andalusia joined him at the hustings. William was in favour of: -

- the repeal of the corn laws
- he favoured free trade
- an extension of the ballot and secret ballots,
- parliament to be called every 3 years,
- the reform of the House of Lords,
- universal education,
- religious emancipation,
- colonial self-government,
- justice for Ireland (it was the time of the famine).

William won the election and became the MP for Southwark.

1846

Sir Robert Peel introduced his corn laws and customs bill in the parliament on 22nd of January 1846. It was passed. Early in the New Year of 1846 Andalusia and William returned to London ready for parliament to sit on 22nd Jan 1846. William booked an Opera box for 15 nights from April to July at a cost of £157.0.0. They hired a pair of horses at £23.2.0 a month. William bought Andalusia a diamond bracelet, costing £65, for her birthday. Andalusia spent £172.13.0 and then £45.16.9 with the couturiere, Madam Devy.

On top of that expenditure she bought a purple velvet gown from the same lady, cost unknown. William also ordered new clothes. He also liked to dress well.

When Andalusia entertained at Lowndes House, they hired a French cook. For the first few months that spring there were dinners for approximately 10 people. Such guests as: -

- Lord and lady Vivian
- The Earl of Lovelace & Lady Lovelace. Lady Lovelace was the only legal child of Lord Byron. She was also a talented mathematician and became great friends with William, who also was a mathematician. Lady Lovelace died in November 1852.
- Miss Quentin Dick
- Monckton Milnes
- Sir John and Lady Easthope. He was MP for Leicester and proprietor of the Morning Chronicle.
- Set Edward Bulwer Lytton an author.
- Lady Morgan.
- In return invitations poured in for the Molesworths. On one evening William noted in his diary that *'they dined with Colonel and Mrs Chaloner, then went to a musical party at Mrs Gibson's, then to a ball at Mrs Matheson's, then myself to the House'* i.e. Parliament.

On the 1st of May 1846 they went to a private view at the Royal Academy to see their water-colour portraits by Alfred Edward Chalon. These portraits now hang at Pencarrow at the bottom of the back stairs. As well as dinners and Andalusia gave concerts at their house. William's diary noted on the 18th of June 1846 *'concert at home. Great crowd. Everything went off well'*. They had hired singers and a pianist for the occasion. They gave lavish refreshments afterwards.

The year of 1846 was a time when William and Andalusia had an expanding social life. They liked to attend the Opera and their names regularly appeared in the Court Circular pages of the Times.

Monday 1st June 1846 The Times Court Circular

'Her Majesty's Theatre – there were present on Saturday evening at Her Majesty's Theatre their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.' And lots of other members of the nobility and Sir William Molesworth and Lady Molesworth.

Monday 15th June 1846 The Times Court Circular

'Her Majesty's Theatre – There was present at her Majesty's Theatre on Saturday evening, Her Majesty Queen Adelaide... Prince Louis Napoleon' ... and many other members of the nobility and Sir William Molesworth and Lady Molesworth.

Monday 6th July 1846 The Times Court Circular

William and Andalusia were once again present at Her Majesty's Theatre.

1846 Francis, William's surviving brother died. His other brother Arscott had died in 1842. Both brothers died at the age of 28. Neither had children.

Francis was 21 when he sailed to NZ. He sailed, not only with his brother's blessing, but with his positive encouragement. He travelled on the ship called the Oriental, which sailed on 10th September 1839. Francis did not travel alone. James Bryant and his new wife Mary (Pollard of Bodmin) travelled on the same ship. James Bryant was one of the gardeners at Pencarrow. Once in NZ, James Bryant sent plants and trees back to Pencarrow and

William had them planted in the gardens. Other young tenants from the Pencarrow (from Washaway in particular) and Tetcott estates also travelled out on this ship. Another Pencarrow servant who travelled to NZ (with Francis) was John Tucker. His job is unknown. William Corbett was William's head Gardener at Pencarrow. Corbett's son, William, sailed for New Zealand in November 1842, a month after his mother died. He arrived at Port Nicholson (now called Wellington) in April 1843. He was employed by Francis Molesworth. When Francis returned to England, Corbett stayed in NZ. (In the summer of 2019 his ancestors came to Pencarrow. They were on holiday from NZ.)

After only 4 years in NZ, Francis was injured by a falling tree in 1844. He returned to England for medical treatment but died, as a result of his injuries in 1846. He got back to England from NZ on 11th June 1844, the day after William proposed to Andalusia.

There is a portrait of Francis in Government House in Wellington, along with the other island pioneers.

They stayed in London for the Easter recess then in August went to France for a holiday. The cost of their hotel stay at La Havre was £985. This was a large sum but the holiday was not a total success. William wrote in his diary: - *'Frascati's Hotel is a large and ill managed establishment. On the whole, however, we managed to make ourselves tolerably comfortable.'*

They bought a cockatoo and a parrot for Andalusia whilst in France. These 2 birds caused so much disruption in the hotel that McLean, William's manservant, was sent back to England with them. Andalusia loved caged birds. She also had a caged bullfinch at home.

They returned to England and on to Pencarrow leaving Le Havre on the 14th of September 1846 and arriving at Pencarrow on the 25th of September 1846. They didn't stay long and went back to London for the autumn session in parliament. They were back at Pencarrow at the beginning of December. Andalusia invited many guests to Pencarrow. There was heavy snow which prevented the guests from leaving until the 17th of December. On the 21st of December 13 new guests arrive for Christmas. Most of them left on the 30th of December. So, it was a very busy time at Pencarrow. William's mother and sister were of the party and they stayed until the 21st of January. William and Andalusia returned to London on the 24th of January 1847.

1847

The winter of early 1847 was bitterly cold so they decided to go to Brighton rather Pencarrow at the end of March for a 4 day break. It snowed.

In London Andalusia went, weekly, to the opera. William was often too busy to accompany her, so she took other guests. They both continued to entertain and be entertained. One high point was the invitation to the Mayor's Entertainment for her Majesty's Ministers.

Monday 19th April 1847 The Times Court Circular

'Royal Italian Opera – Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert honoured the performance at Convent Garden Theatre on Saturday last with their presence. 'There were also present ... Sir William Molesworth, MP and Lady Molesworth'. ... Along with many other nobles, Lords and Ladies and Sirs.

Friday 30th April 1847 The Times Court Circular

'A deputation of the Southwark Improvement Commissioners consisting of Sir William Molesworth, MP...' (and 4 others) waited on the Commissioners of the Metropolitan Improvements yesterday. ...'

The Times Newspaper Thursday the 13th of May 1847

'Dinner for her Majesty's Ministers

Yesterday the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress gave a sumptuous entertainment to Her Majesty's Ministers and their ladies, and a distinguished company at the Mansion House.

The banquet took place in the Egyptian Hall which has seldom contained and more brilliant assemblage.'

Approximately 200 sat down to dine. The assembled company included Sir William Molesworth and Andalusia.

'The following was the bill of fare: -

Turtle and iced punch

Salmon, turbot, fried fish

Sideboard: - petit paté

Chickens, capons, turkey poult, larded; hams and tongues, ornamented; ribs of lamb, raised ornamented pies, lobster salads, prawns, chantilly biscuits, ornamented trifles, noyau and maraschino jellies, pine, strawberry and Italian creams; Genoese pastry, Swiss and Venice meringues, chantilly tartlets, creamed tarts, Nesselrode puddings, plovers eggs.

Removes: - Haunch mutton, chine mutton, sirloin beef, currant Jelly, ducklings, goslings, leverets, turkey poult, peafowl.

Desert: - hot house grapes, apples, strawberries, oranges, pears, dried fruits, Savoy and almond cakes, mixed cakes, brandy cherries, preserved ginger.

Ices: - pine, raspberry, strawberry, orange, millefruit etc.

The dinner, which did great credit to the caterers, was provided by Messrs Ring and Brymer, of Cornhill.'

Friday 21st May 1847 The Times

'Surrey Dispensary – The anniversary dinner of this charity took place on Tuesday evening, at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge. Mr. Charles Allen Young, Treasurer of the Society, took the chair, in the absence of Sir William Molesworth.'

This charity had been in existence since 1777 and since then had helped 244,182 people. In the year of this article the charity had helped 4,697 people.

The Times newspaper Monday the 21st of June 1847

Sir William and Lady Molesworth attended the Royal Italian Opera on the previous Saturday evening i.e. Saturday the 19th of June 1847.

In 1847 William signed the lease on a much grander residence in London, 87 Eaton Place, along with 1 Lyall Mews. In their opinion the house needed much redecoration. It was a corner house and therefore larger than the other houses in Eaton Place. It was sold when Andalusia died in 1888. 1 Lyall Mews was the stabling for the house. Before they moved in William had a Conservatory added to the back of the house, at a cost of £40. He also spent £1266 on improvements.

So, in the summer of 1846 and into 1847 Andalusia and William continued to entertain at Lowndes Square. One of the guests was the author of *Vanity Fair*, William Thackeray. Thackeray was also entertained by the Molesworths at Eaton Square. In a letter to a friend on the 10th of July 1848 and by then William and Andalusia were in Eaton Place, Thackeray wrote *'I was a little late for the magnificent entertainment of my title friends, Sir William and Lady Molesworth on Saturday and indeed the first course had been removed when I made my appearance. The banquet was sumptuous in the extreme and the company of the most select order. A delightful concert followed the dinner and the whole concluded with a sumptuous supper, nor did the party separate until a late hour.'*

When Parliament ended in summer 1847 they closed up Lowndes Square for the last time, and on 12th August they caught the train to Exeter and from there went on to Pencarrow.

When they returned to London Eaton Square was still not ready, so they decided to visit Dover, found it boring, went on to Brighton and found that boring too, so they went back to London. Back in London they stayed at 85 Eaton Square with a friend, George Moffat, a Radical MP, and there William gave up smoking cigars. He found his health was the better for it.

They spent Christmas of 1847 at Pencarrow and in the New Year they received the news that 87 Eaton Place was ready.

1848

In April 25th and 26th 1848 Andalusia and William went to Derbyshire and stayed at Hardwick Hall as the guests of the Duke of Devonshire, although the Duke was not there during this visit. The invitation came about because William had sent the Duke a complete edition of Hobbes (11 volumes in English and 5 in Latin). William had written about Hobbes and collected together his works. The visit included a tour of the gardens at Chatsworth, including the hot houses. The tour was given by Joseph Paxton! William concluded: -
'Thought my own garden at Pencarrow superior in beauty and form. Was, however, much pleased with the grand conservatory.'

Charles Dickens was on Andalusia's guest list for the first time in the summer of 1848. The link with Dickens came through his sister, Fanny, who studied at the Royal School of Music at the same time as Andalusia and they became friends.

In the summer of 1848 they left London for Pencarrow on the 31st July, for the first time being able to travel by train all the way to Plymouth. The GWR line from Exeter to Plymouth had been completed in 1847. His mother and sister also travelled to Pencarrow the next day, 1st August. In the summer William's beloved horse, Conrad, had to be shot because he was old and suffering. In his journal William said of the horse: -
'In 1844 it was on his back that I chiefly courted my wife, riding alongside her carriage in Hyde Park, by the Serpentine River.'

William was an indulgent husband. In October 1848 he gave Andalusia a torquoise bracelet, which cost £45. In November she went to Brighton for a holiday whilst he stayed in London for Parliament. He sent her with spending money.

1849

As usual when in London they entertained often and continued to go to the opera: -

The Times newspaper Court Circular 23rd of May 1849

Royal Italian Opera at Covent Garden.

Sir William and Lady Molesworth attended the opera on the 22nd of May.

They usually went to Pencarrow for Christmas but in 1849 they went to Paris on 24th December. In total the trip cost £5,827. Andalusia went shopping! £1,676.5.0 was spent on clothes for Andalusia. He also bought her a bracelet for £50 and a muff which cost £250. Whilst in Paris they hired a piano. At one point during the holiday Andalusia was unwell. They had a French doctor to examine her but they also brought their doctor over from London. They certainly lived extravagantly.

1850

William returned to London and Parliament on 7th January 1850. Andalusia returned four days later. She was not a good sailor and did not enjoy the crossing.

In London William and Andalusia were invited to balls, river parties, receptions and late night suppers. All this being entertained and entertaining in their turn, along with attending Parliament was very tiring. New guest names appear on the guest lists for Eaton Place. Names such as: -

- Duke of Devonshire
- Marquis Lansdowne
- Lord Palmerston
- Earl of Granville
- Lord and Lady Ashburton
- Lord and Lady Londesborough
- Mr and Mrs Disraeli
- Edwin Landseer
- Richard Ford, who was married to William's sister Mary

It did seem that William was getting closer to the ruling political elite, despite being a Radical, largely courtesy of his ministerial position.

The Times newspaper Thursday the 14th of March 1850 Political Reunions

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were guests of Lady John Russell at 'the 2nd of a series of 3 assemblies last night, at the official residence of the Premier, in Downing Street.'

There was a distinguished guest list including the Duke of Wellington who arrived 'by the garden gate before 11 o'clock.'

1851

As in the previous year, 1851 saw the couple invited to some prestigious gatherings in London: -

The Times newspaper Monday the 17th of February 1851 Political Reunion

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were invited to an evening party by Viscountess Palmerston. They were not invited to the dinner just to the evening party.

'After the banquet the Noble Viscountess had an assembly which was very numerous attended by the leading members of the aristocracy and core diplomatique.'

The Times Monday the 3rd of March 1851

Lady Palmerston's assembly

'Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston entertained a distinguished party at dinner on Saturday evening at their mansion in Carlton Gardens.'

In the evening the noble Viscountess received a very numerous circle of the fashionable world.'

Guests included the Duke of Wellington, the Greek, the Russian, the Swedish, the Prussian ministers and the minister from the Netherlands. Also included were the Belgium minister, the Sardinian and Bavarian ministers.

Guests also included the Duke of Argyll, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, Viscount and Viscountess Torrington, and a long list of MPs which included Sir William and Lady Molesworth.

The Times newspaper Banquet for her Majesty's Ministers Thursday the 10th of April 1851

'Last night the Lord Mayor received Her Majesty's Ministers, and a number of ladies and gentlemen invited to meet them, at dinner at the Mansion House, where arrangements for the occasion had been made such as to indicate the Chief Magistrate's high consideration for so distinguished a party.'

Guests included Sir William and Lady Molesworth. They had a sumptuous dinner and approximately 200 guests sat down to eat. They were entertained by the band of the Coldstream Guards. There were among many toasts, one to Prince Albert and much positive comment made about the forthcoming Great Exhibition.

The Times newspaper Thursday the 5th of June 1851

'Madam Bunsen's assembly'

'On Tuesday evening Chevalier and Madame Bunsen held an assembly at the Prussian Legation in Carlton Terrace.'

Guests were entertained by a German pianist, an 11-year-old violinist, who played with his left hand and a German singer who, according to the Times sang too loudly. Sir William and Andalusia were amongst the guests.

1852

William and Andalusia continued to receive prestigious invitations but sometimes there was a subtle distinction made between them and the more high-ranking guests in that they, the Molesworths, were not invited to the dinners but to the ball or music event afterwards: -

The Times newspaper Monday the 9th of February 1852

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston had a dinner party on Saturday evening at their mansion in Carlton Gardens. There was a long and distinguished guest list. The dinner was followed by an evening party. Sir William and Andalusia were invited to the evening party but not to the dinner.

On December 1852 William wrote to his Aunt Caroline Molesworth, to say that he had been appointed First Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings. This gave him a seat in the Cabinet. In this role he was responsible

for the Royal Palace, all public buildings and offices, except the Ordnance and Admiralty, and all the parks in the capital.

1853

Almost immediately after taking office William and Andalusia were invited to stay at Windsor Castle, February 3rd – 5th 1853. The Queen liked Andalusia and William liked Prince Albert. He wrote of Albert: -
'I found him to be agreeable with a pleasing manner.'

Other treats were in store for William and Andalusia because of William's new ministerial position: -

The Times newspaper Thursday the 12th of May 1853 Grand Ball at the Foreign Office

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were among the many distinguished guests at the Grand Ball given by the Countess of Clarendon at the official residence of the Foreign Secretary in Downing Street.

1854

And the invitations continued to come in 1854.

The Times newspaper Monday the 13th of February 1854

'Sir William and Lady Molesworth entertained at dinner, on Saturday, the Earl of Aberdeen and a distinguished party of friends.'

The Times newspaper Monday the 27th of March 1854 Banquet for Her Majesty's Ministers at the Mansion House

On the guest list for this occasion, the Times only lists Lady Molesworth and not Sir William as well.

In the summer of 1854 Andalusia and William went to Scotland. William was given the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh.

1855 the year of William's death

The year started well. William and Andalusia continued to enjoy their London life.

The Times newspaper Imperial guests Thursday the 19th of April 1855

Windsor the 18th of April 1855

'The Queen held a Chapter of the Order of the Garter at 3' o'clock this afternoon in the Castle, for the purpose of investing his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French with the ensigns of this most Noble order.

The Queen gave a State dinner in the evening.

The magnificent service of gold plate was used on this occasion.

After the banquet the Queen and Prince Albert, the Emperor and Empress, with the Royal family and Her Majesty's guests, retired to the Drawing Room, where the Queen received the evening party.'

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were invited to this evening event, where there was a concert to entertain the guests.

The Times newspaper the Queen's Drawing Room Thursday the 3rd of May 1855

'The Queen held a Drawing Room yesterday afternoon in St James's Palace. It was the 2nd this season and was numerously attended. The following had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty.

Mrs Bagot Gosset by Lady Molesworth.

(Not sure whether this Lady Molesworth was Andalusia or William's mother. Likely to be William's mother, as Andalusia wasn't introduced formerly at court until 1881.)

The Times newspaper Thursday the 17th of May 1855 Banquet to Her Majesty's Ministers

The Lord Mayor and Mayoress once again gave a banquet for all Her Majesty's Ministers and this time the banquet was held in the Egyptian room. Lord Palmerston was the Prime Minister on this occasion and there were 270 guests
'The Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests the Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth and Lady Molesworth' were amongst the guests.

William's death was reported in the Times newspaper. His sister, Mary, had no doubt that Andalusia had been negligent and had contributed to his death, if not caused it. Mary felt that the doctor should have been called in sooner and that in the end their attention came too late. The newspapers do say he had the best of medical attention, but do not comment on whether this attention came too late.

When he first became ill it was assumed to be exhaustion from the session in Parliament. He was too ill to go to Pencarrow. Andalusia suggested Brighton where he could live quietly and recuperate. Life was not quiet in Brighton as so many friends were invited to call and to dine. Then back in London Mary said she had to beg Andalusia to call the family doctor, Elliotson, which Andalusia did.

Mary wrote to her friend, Lady Zetland, before William died: -

'The last act of the tragedy is nearly played out and William will soon be no more. He is ill unto death and all hope is gone. For the last six weeks he had been ailing from violent bilious attacks, but as no skilled medical advice was called in, I hoped, although uneasy, there was nothing amiss and that these attacks proceeded from an over excited system. Still last week I begged Lady Molesworth would send for Elliotson Ferguson. On Monday this advice was acted on.' [Ferguson came and pronounced William gravely ill.] 'On Tuesday I came up. I asked that Elliotson might be called in. On Wednesday Elliotson said all hope was gone.'

Monday 22nd October 1855 The Times

Alarming illness of Sir William Molesworth

We deeply regret to hear of the alarming illness of Sir William Molesworth, Secretary of State for the colonies. The Right Hon baronet had been ailing for some little time, but it was only a week ago that the state of his health began to occasion any anxiety to his numerous friends. Dr. Ferguson, Dr. Elliotson and Mr. H.O. Johnson have been in constant attendance upon him in Eaton Place; but we are very sorry to say that their report is such as to give cause for the gravest apprehensions. His arduous duties at the Colonial Office and the anxiety of his mind during this momentous period of his official life have, it is feared, principally contributed to impair the health of this distinguished statesman. We are very sorry to add that, in answer to inquiries made at a late hour last night, we were informed that the Right Hon baronet was gradually sinking, and that little or no hope remained of his recovery.'

Tuesday 23rd October 1855 The Times

The Late Sir William Molesworth

'This distinguished statesman expired at a quarter past 12 yesterday. His death, if we are correctly informed, was the result of a low gastric fever.'

William's burial and Will

William requested that he be buried in a sunny spot *'in my grounds under the clear sky.'* He specifically said he did not want to be buried in the family tomb. Andalusia did not honour this request. She had him buried in Kensal Green cemetery in London in a mausoleum which she had built a few years after he died. Initially one assumes he just had an ordinary grave in the cemetery..

In his Will, William bequeathed Andalusia the leasehold on 87 Eaton Place, all the furniture therein along with all the plate, china etc, including the wines. The £1,000 a year was to continue, and she was also given a legacy of £10,000. He left £1,000 annuity to his sister Mary and £50 annuity to his servant Duncan Maclean. He also left Pencarrow to Andalusia until she died and then to Mary. The Rev. Hugh Molesworth became the 9th Baronet but because of William's Will he did not benefit from the wealth generated by the Pencarrow Estate, neither did he get the smart London residence. He died in 1862, long before Andalusia who died in 1888. Hugh's brother, Paul, became the 10th Baronet. He died in 1889, so also did not inherit Pencarrow. The 11th baronet, Lewis died in 1912 before moving into Pencarrow. Mary had died in 1910.

William was much missed at Pencarrow and the surrounding area and there, several years later even talk of erecting, in his memory, a lasting monument. Also and perhaps a little surprisingly, it would seem that Andalusia was liked by her tenants.

The Royal Cornwall Gazette Friday the 15th of January 1858

The Wadebridge Farmers' Club Annual Dinner, Tuesday last, approximately 90 at the dinner.

The chairman of the Wadebridge Farmers' Association rose to his feet and raised a toast to the widow of the late Sir William Molesworth.

'It is great satisfaction to know that those whom he left behind and whom he loved, take equal interest in this society. I find that the widow of Sir William Molesworth is a warm supporter of this club. It becomes us to offer her our sincere thanks for the interest she takes in this society and also in the welfare of this town and neighbourhood, and we hope that those thanks will be conveyed to her Ladyship. I beg to propose the health of Lady Molesworth. (Cheers)

The Reverend Sir Hugh Molesworth, baronet. I rise again gentlemen to thank you for having drunk the health of Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow. I need not tell you that Sir William Molesworth instituted this club in 1841; and from that time until his lamented death, he was its Patron. Lady Molesworth takes the same interest in the club that Sir William did. During the last years of Sir William's life his time was so much taken up in serving his country in another way, that he was not able to devote himself to his tenantry as might have been wished. Not so however with his widow. I can see many around me who can bear testimony that both by her visits to their houses, and the courteous manner in which she receives them at Pencarrow, she shows the deepest interest in the welfare and the comfort of her tenantry. It is with great pleasure I return you thanks on her behalf. (Applause)

William's cousin, Hugh, the 9th Baronet, did not enjoy that title for long after William died. Hugh died in 1862: -

The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser Friday the 10th of January 1862

'We announce, with much regret, the sudden death of the Reverend Sir Hugh Henry Molesworth, baronet, which took place at his residence, the Rectory St. Petroc Minor on Monday last, in the 43rd year of his age. We are informed that Sire Hugh was seized with paralysis on Saturday. He became worse and died at 2 am Monday morning.'

Sir Hugh married in July 1856 Beatrice Anne, daughter of Prideaux Brune Esquire and he has no male heir.

'He will, we believe be succeeded in the baronetcy by his brother Paul William, who took Holy Orders and at one time held the living of Tetcott, which he resigned to follow travel and the study of art.'

On the subject of a memorial to Sir William Molesworth

The Cornish and Devon post Saturday the 25th of February 1905

'At the annual meeting of the Wadebridge Mercantile Association a letter was read out from Mrs. Ford of Pencarrow, sister of the late Sir William Molesworth, on the subject of a memorial to that statesman.'

The committee then decided and passed a motion to appoint a special committee to pursue the scheme that was agreed at a similar meeting in 1903 four such memorial.

(Clearly, they weren't rushing to get on with the memorial)

The West Briton and Cornish advertiser October the 3rd 1907

'In the Parliament House at Ottawa (Canada) will be found a marble bust of Sir William Molesworth treasured with grateful feelings by Canadians because of Sir Williams Colonial services. There is no public memorial to him in Cornwall.'

The letter, written to the newspaper by W.T. Lawrence, goes on to suggest that the Cornish really should have a memorial to Sir William Molesworth.

Andalusia after William

Andalusia's account book shows she started entertaining again at Eaton Place, 7 months after William died.

Andalusia's friendship with George Byng, 7th Viscount Torrington, was seen by the society of the day, as a liaison rather than just a friendship, particularly when she travelled to and around France with Torrington in October 1856. Lord Torrington was married.

Through Lord Torrington Andalusia became friendly with the Prince and Princes of Wales in the late 1870s, and the Queen once had one of her Ladies in Waiting enquire after Andalusia's health.

Lord Torrington

He was Governor of Ceylon 1847-1850. Back in England he became Lord in Waiting to Prince Albert 1853-59 and then to the Queen, 1859-1884. He died 1 August 1885 aged 71. Andalusia left everything to his nephew and heir. Andalusia left in her Will: -

'My estate, property and effects real and personal unto the Rt. Hon. George Stanley Byng, Viscount Torrington.' He was the 47 year old nephew and heir of the 7th Viscount Torrington, Andalusia's great friend. This nephew died a year after Andalusia and the fortune he inherited from her went to his 3 year old son, George, who became the 9th Viscount Torrington. Som the Molesworths saw the bulk of William's wealth go to a 3 year old stranger. Between 7th and 9th of July there was a 3 day sale at Christie's of the valuable contents of Eaton Place. The total sum raised was £11,062.10.10. Then the house was sold, leasehold. Then there was another auction of the less valuable belongings. This sale raised another £929. All this went to the Torrington family.

After his death the Prince of Wales wrote a letter of condolence to Andalusia: -

'I offer you my sincerest condolences on the loss of one whom I know had been your intimate friend for so many years.'

It was Lord Torrington's influence that brought Andalusia closer to the Monarchy: -

The Times Court Circular Friday the 6th of May 1881

'The Queen's Drawing Room. Her Majesty the Queen held a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon.

The following presentations to the Queen were made, the names having been previously left at the Lord Chamberlain's Office and submitted for Her Majesty's approval.

The Honourable Andalusia Molesworth by the Marchioness of Salisbury.'

Many hundreds of people were in attendance including Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Princess Beatrice, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Leopold and His Highness the Nawab Nazim of Bengal.

Lady Molesworth was already well known in London society for her evening parties and these she continued to give, often with Lord Torrington by her side. Lady Dorothy Neville was a frequent guest at Eaton Place and she wrote in her Reminiscences: -

'The way in which Lady Molesworth managed to get anyone of exceptional brilliancy or interest, no matter what rank or nationality, to come to her parties was quite wonderful.'

There were also lavish house parties at Pencarrow: -

At Pencarrow the house parties included the Prince and Princess of Wales, Empress Eugenie and Napoleon III. They also included musicians, singers and literary guests – Dickens, Charles Lever, Thackeray and Tennyson. On one occasion the Duc and Duchesses d'Aumale were coming to Pencarrow. The Duc was the 5th son of King Louis-Philippe of France. Lady Molesworth and the other guests went to Bodmin Station to greet these French visitors. At the station Andalusia remembered that one of the Waterloo banners was in the bedroom that had been readied for the Duc and Duchesse. She sent a groom galloping back to Pencarrow to remove the banner.

Andalusia did not neglect the tenants at Tetcott and Pencarrow: -

Royal Cornwall Gazette Friday the 19th of October 1883

'Lady Molesworth paid a visit to her Tetcott property after an interval of some years and invited her tenantry to dinner. There was a very large attendance, and Her Ladyship, who was accompanied by Viscount Torrington, ... (and other friends) met with a hearty reception. The toast of her health was proposed by Mr. T. Oliver, who in the name of the tenantry referred to the liberality and consideration with which they had been met by Lady Molesworth in the past bad seasons for agriculture, and the good feeling which existed towards her. The toast was received with cheers, and Lady Molesworth, in responding, thanked her tenants for the kind and friendly expressions and spoke of the great pleasure it gave her to meet her tenantry, and of her desire for their prosperity and happiness. Her Ladyship's speech was greeted with loud cheers. In the evening the school children of the parishes of Tetcott, Clawton and Luffincott were provided, by Lady Molesworth with an excellent tea.'

Andalusia's death in 1888 was reported both in the Times and local newspapers: -

The Royal Cornwall Gazette 24th of May 1888

Obituary

Death of Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow

‘A social loss, creating a gap in London society which will not readily be filled up, and which will be keenly felt by a numerous and widely spread circle of sympathising and sorrowing friends, was, says the Morning Post, caused on the 16th by the decease of Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow, after a severe and lengthened illness, borne with patience and with fortitude.

Andalusia Grant Carstairs was born in the very early years of the present century. A tablet, placed in Egloshayle Church by Lady Molesworth, to the memory of her father, is inscribed as follows: - ‘Sacred to the memory of James Bruce Carstairs Esq., the last surviving member of the family of Sir James Bruce, Baronet of Kinross N.B. He died at Pencarrow on the 13th of September 1845 aged 75 years. This tablet is erected by his affectionate daughter Andalusia Grant Molesworth.’

Like her friend and contemporary leader of London society the late Lady Walgrave, who predeceased her by a few years only, she was not one of those born in the purple and the early portion of her life was passed amidst artistic surroundings. Gifted by nature with a beautiful soprano voice, a passion for music and possessed of none of that wealth with which in afterlife she was so liberally endowed, she studied music at an early age with a view of the future adoption of a professional career; but before she had the time to make for herself that artistic reputation which her talent would no doubt have assured her, she married Mr. Temple West of Mathon Lodge, Worcestershire and set aside altogether the intention of making a musical profession. Mr. Temple West, who was many years the senior of his young and handsome wife, died a few years after his marriage and Mrs Temple West, after remaining a widow for several years, married in 1844 the late Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth, Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1855 and who died in the autumn of that year. It was then, in the position of the wife of this well-known Minister and Statesman that the late Lady Molesworth first displayed that energy, tact, knowledge of the world and brilliant ability which, coupled with a combination of kindness of heart and consideration for the feelings of others, not only at once riveted her claim to become a leader of society, but at the same time enabled her to surround herself with a circle of warm and closely attached friends, who stood by her to the last, and will mourn her memory now that she is no more. The opportunities afforded by her brilliant marriage with Sir William were of a nature and description which the late Lady Molesworth was not the woman idly to let slip. For forty years she took a constant part in all the doings of society and naturally became a conspicuous figure in that world to which she entirely devoted herself. Her life was successful and happy.

She was a most kind landowner and took the warmest interest in the welfare of all on her Estates. Her household were devotedly attached to her. She never missed an opportunity of charity and especially of kindly help to struggling artists. In her social relations she had the rare quality enjoyed by few of being sincerely the friend of her friends and as such retained their affection to the last. Many who grew to know her best under her own roof and also received the ample and amiable hospitality of Pencarrow, have many memories to cherish and sincere reasons for mourning the loss of one whom it was impossible to know well without adequately esteeming her fine qualities and kindly disposition.

The late Lady Molesworth left no children to inherit the family Estates of Pencarrow in Cornwall and Tetcott in Devonshire, which we understand are to be held for life by Mrs Ford, a sister of the late baronet and subsequently passed to the heirs male of the Molesworth family.

Two years ago, Lady Molesworth was seized with a severe chill in Paris and only returned to England to suffer from its consequences. Her strong constitution battled for a long time with the ailment and although in the autumn of 1855 she was almost dying at Eastbourne, she returned to London and at Christmas last was able to receive a few friends at dinner. Since then her health gradually gave way and slowly, she sank until Wednesday afternoon, when after ten days of unconsciousness, she breathed her last at 4 o'clock. Through her long illness she was visited by many friends and the Prince of Wales, who, in the hour of sickness and adversity never forget bygone days, was one of the most frequent. Lady Molesworth leaves a record that will be preserved for the sake of a sweetness of disposition and cordial hospitality that never made default. A high minded and generous woman throughout her long life, she made many friends in all stations and from her genuine worth held them to the last.

The funeral of Lady Molesworth took place in London on Saturday. At Wadebridge, where great respect was felt for her Ladyship, all the shops were closed from 11:00 until 1:00 and at private dwellings blinds were drawn.’