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Territorial Association in 1908, the force became the 1st West Lancs Brigade RFA (TA). He retired from the Brigade in 1911 but in 1915, after his resignation as an MP he was appointed to the command of the Artillery of the West Lancs Reserve Division with the rank of temporary Colonel. In 1917 he was promoted to the honorary rank of Brigadier General. In 1918 he became Military Representative in Liverpool and served as Director of National Service for Lancashire and Cheshire. He remained a member of the West Lancs Territorial Association until 1948.

Meanwhile his brothers, Austin and William Francis were pursuing their careers. Austin became MP for Liverpool Toxteth from 1902 to 1910. Little else is documented about him.

William Francis had a prestigious legal career, becoming a QC in 1895 and holding the office of Presiding Judge of the Court of Passage between 1903 and 1948. He was appointed Recorder of Bolton in 1901-3, Bencher of the Inner Temple in 1905, and Justice of the Peace for Shropshire in 1916. He retired from the bench in 1948 aged 93 years and 9 months, which made him, at the time, the longest-serving judge in Great Britain. He was invested as a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire KBE in 1918 and promoted to Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire GBE on 3rd June 1929 and was henceforth known as Sir Francis. The GBE was the top rank in the Order of Honours, extremely rare and given out only for exceptional service. For his services to the judiciary he was raised to the peerage as 1st Baron Maenan of Ellesmere in the county of Shropshire in 1948. In later life he had a country house, Gadlas Hall in Shropshire, which he rented out to Charles de Gaulle's family during their exile in the Second World War. The Francis Taylor Building (1957), in the Inner Temple of the Inns of Court, was named in his honour. The use of Maenan comes from his mother's Kyffin ancestors, who lived in Denbighshire in the eighteenth century. The title died with him, as he had no male heir.

After the First World War, Gerald was Government Housing Commissioner for Cheshire and Lancashire and a member of the Home Office Committee, dealing with Liverpool labour disputes during the railway strike. He played a great part in Anglican Church affairs and in his work for ex-service men. Following his wife Bessie's death in 1922, Gerald

continued to live in Heswall for a short time. He remarried in 1927. His bride was Olive Adams, the widow of JJ Adams, Vicar of St Augustine's Liverpool and the daughter of William Hamilton of Belfast. She was five years his junior and they married in Birkenhead. The couple moved to Ashville Road by Birkenhead Park, where they resided until their deaths.



Kyffin Taylor House in Maghull, Lancashire

Throughout his life Gerald worked tirelessly for the relief of those suffering from epilepsy. Until 1938 he was chairman of the Liverpool Home for Epileptics in Maghull and remained a Trustee all his life. The home, which still exists, was renamed in his honour as 'The Kyffin Taylor House'. It is now a home for 29 elderly patients with dementia.

Gerald died aged 86 in Ashville Road, Birkenhead, on 11 December 1949. His widow, Olive, died in 1977.

Our thanks to Val Bowman for the photograph of the children in the grounds of Lingcroft. Her family home in the 1940s, and to Mr and Mrs O'Sullivan for the photo of Lingcroft.

Submitted by Roger Lane and Jenny McRonald (roger.m.lane@btinternet.com or 0151 342 9269) on behalf of the Heswall Society, which was established in 1953 "for the public benefit to conserve the heritage of the Ward of Heswall". For more details of membership and activities please call Roger Lane or visit theheswallsociety.org.uk