History of Victoria Park
Wirral Parks, Coast and Countryside

Victoria Park

Victoria Park was built on part of the lands originally owned by Mr John Ravenshaw who was the last man in Tranmere to have a large farm (300 acres).The park lands originally housed Tranmere Lodge in the 1820's and housed incumbents of St Catherine's Church Reverend James Newton (1824) and later his successor William Cleminson who left the lodge in 1847 to become the Rector of Waring. After this it became the property of John Ball, and he leased the property to Charles Ashton a customs official.

 In the 1850's Moses Margoliouth an Anglo-Jewish historian and author took the lease. Moses changed faiths and became a Christian and took the role of Curate at St Catherine's Church.

After Moses vacated the premises, the lease was taken by Victor Poutz. Victor was born in New Orleans in 1811 to Father Jean Paul Poutz, who had nine other children. Jean Paul was originally from An area called Arudy in France, in the Lower Pyrenees. He moved to America and traded as a general merchant (including slaves) and moved back to France in the mid to late 1830's.

Victor arrived in Britain (Liverpool) in 1838 and was a successful cotton merchant and general merchant and is rumoured to be one of the first cotton merchants dealing with the Southern American cotton fields, where he still had family. He traded from offices in 5 Rumford Place, Liverpool. He moved to Tranmere in 1852 and rented property in Stanley Street, as he was not yet a British citizen and couldn't buy property. In 1860 he received his nationalisation and became a British subject and moved quickly into the Tranmere Lodge. He built Arudy House (later to be called 'the Towers') in 1864-65 and stayed with his wife Silvey De Launay and 3 children (a fourth child died young) until he went bankrupt in 1870's and he and his wife moved to Alton Road. Poutz was an interesting fellow, a confederate sympathiser and president of the Southern Club (1863) a pressure group to try and goad the British Government to support the Confederates and raise funds for them.

VICTORIA GARDENS, BIRKENHEAD.

B.H.13

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WIRRAL