

**A letter by Ken Hyde in reply for a request for information on Francis Hyde and Lord Alfred Douglas. Dated 17 May 2017.**

Dear -----,

David Hyde, a cousin has passed your email about Francis to see if I can add anything further.

I know a little bit about Francis.

On the 1st November 1876 His father, the painter Frank Hyde, had married his first wife, Constance Mary Louise Felgate, who sadly died within a year

1881 Francis Hyde married Florence Ellen Louise Rowley at St Lukes Church, Kensington, on the 16th November 1881.

In December Quarter 1882 they had a daughter Florence Mina Georgie Lila Hyde.

In March Quarter 1884 Kensington registration district 1a160. they had a son, birth name Francis Angerstein Clarendon Rowley Hyde.

As the Clarendon Hydes were both extremely well connected to society, and very rich and influential, Francis who preferred to be called Frank, changed the order of his names and may have styled himself Frank Clarendon-Hyde, a name which would have impressed and carried respect and authority in all Francis's social and work interactions. He also seems to have called himself Francis or Frank Rowley Hyde Rowley being another prestigious family. The Denchworth Hyde family, from whom Frank was descended, was not related by blood to the Clarendon Hydes in any way.

In 1887 Frank divorced Florence because of her adultery with her cousin(s). A salacious scandal which was widely reported in the newspapers of the time. Florence counter sued for her husbands cruelty, but lost the case and Frank obtained custody of the children. Florence died three years later.

So Francis was brought up without the direct influence of his birth mother, something that had happened to Frank and to his father John Francis. As you know, in Victorian and Edwardian times, this was not unusual, given the perils for women of pregnancy and birth.

Francis father Frank, was a staunch Roman Catholic and the branch of the Hydes of Denchworth from whom he was descended (which can be proved genealogically back to at least 1220 ad) were recusants who had all held strongly and stubbornly to Catholicism through the many years of persecution. In England, a recusant was not allowed to hold any office of the crown, Navy, Army, Civil Service or to practice law. They were also fined, had lands and property confiscated and paid extra taxes when they died. This policy effectively removed a great deal of their influence from society and impoverished many Catholic landed gentry families. It is highly likely that Francis received a Catholic education at St Augustine's College, Ramsgate (Benedictine Monks) and you know of Lord Douglas interest in Catholicism.

1901 Here is some index information from the 1901 English census

Name: Frank Hyde Census Event Date: 31 Mar 1901 Event Place: Ramsgate, Kent, England

Civil Parish: Ramsgate Ecclesiastical Parish: Christ Church Sub-District: Ramsgate Registration District Thanet

Residence Note: Grange Road, Ramsgate

Gender: Male Age 17 Occupation: Schoolboy Relationship to Head of Household: Boarder

Birth Year: (Estimated) 1884 Birthplace "Italy British On Sub" Schedule Type 32 Page Number 8

It is worth noting that Francis is still at school aged 17.

Here is some information from the National Archives:-

(Despite the 1902 Education Act, secondary education remained the preserve of a few. Even by 1911, only 7.5% of 12 to 14 year olds went to secondary school. Not until after 1944 did secondary education become universally available. The statutory school-leaving age was fixed at 14 in 1921, going up to 15 in 1947, and then 16 in 1972-3)

So it would seem his father Frank is paying for Francis's further education.

1901 Here is his Father Frank Hyde's Census Data for the same date.

Frank Hyde Event Type Census: Event Date: 31 Mar 1901 Event Place: Shanklin, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, England, County - Hampshire Civil Parish: Shanklin Ecclesiastical Parish: Shanklin St Saviours On The Cliff Sub-District: Brading

Registration District: Isle Of Wight

Residence Note: Hope Road Gender: Male Age 52 Occupation: Living on Own Means Relationship to Head of Household: Head Male Birth Year: (Estimated) 1849 Birthplace: N K, Middlesex

Schedule Type 241 Page Number 37

He does not own this large house, but along with others is renting a suite of rooms.

He has a "boarder" living with him recorded as [Herbert E Stammivitz](#) but actually Stammwitz Boarder Male 21 London

I do not know what their relationship was. Perhaps he was an art pupil of Frank's. I can find no record of any paintings or engravings by Herbert or of any other socially reported information for his name. Herbert married in June qtr 1911.

1901 Francis elderly Grandfather, John Francis Hyde was living at Margate, Kent with his third wife and some of his children.

1905 London Gazette shows a record as follows:- 4th Battalion, The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) ; Francis Clarendon Angerstein Rowley Hyde, Gent., to be Second Lieutenant.

Dated 15th April, 1905 THE LONDON GAZETTE, MAY 30, 1905

Frank is 21 yrs old

1908 Frank has been declared a bankrupt in 1906 and is applying for discharge.

Clarendon Augustein Rowley (described in the Receiving Order as Rowley Hyde)

9, Victoria-street, Westminster, in the county of London

High Court of Justice in Bankruptcy Order 1391 1906

Application Feb 13 1908

Discharge suspended for two years.

Bankrupt to be discharged as from 13th February 1910

December 13th 1909 Discharged from Bankruptcy

1910 The Free BMD site GRO index shows the marriage of a Francis C.A.R. Hyde, Dec qtr 1910 Fulham 1a757 to either Patricia Maquire or Kate Weston. Only obtaining the certificates would reveal which of the two ladies became his wife.

In 1914 Francis is recorded as a being a lieutenant in the 4th Regiment of Foot, (Aged 30) Kings Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster Museum) one of the British Army's premier regiments. They hold some records on all officers who have served in the regiment. Here are details of his medal card from the National Archives. He appears to have been promoted to Captain and at some stage transferred to another regiment The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Reference: WO 372/10/139428 Description:  
Medal card of Hyde, Francis Charles Augustin Rowley  
National Archives

Corps	Regiment No	Rank
Royal Lancaster Regiment		Captain
King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry		Captain

Date: 1914-1920 Held by: [The National Archives, Kew](#) Legal status: Public Record(s)  
Closure status: Open Document, Open Description Access conditions: Normal Closure before FOI Act:

There is a record of a Francis Clarendon Angerstein Rowley Hyde marrying the exotically named Luna O. R. Ayton in December Quarter 1932 at Kensington registration district Kensington 1a401

Francis would have been 48

There is no record of Luna Ayton's birth or further marriage.

Free BMD records a death of a Luna Hyde aged 69 in Kensington registration district 1a214.

He seems to have been a bookkeeper (accountancy) in 1938 when he was declared bankrupt in his absence. Edinburgh Gazette 31st May 1938 reports:-

"Francis Clarendon Angerstein Rowley Hyde, lately of Flat 7, 41 Brunswick Place, Hove, Sussex, and whose present residence or place of business the petitioner is unable to ascertain, a Major (retired) in H.M. Army. and further reporting:-

HYDE, Francis Clarendon Angerstein Rowley, residing at 20, Hans Road, Knightsbridge, London, and lately residing at Flat 7, 41, Brunswick Place, Hove, Sussex, BOOK-KEEPER, described in the Receiving Order as a Major (retired) in H.M. Army. Court—HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.No. of Matter—284 of 1938.Date of Order—May 27, 1938.

Date of Filing Petition—April 13, 1938.THE LONDON GAZETTE, 3 JUNE, 1938

HYDE, Francis Clarendon Angerstein Rowley, lately of Flat 7, 41, Brunswick Place, Hove,

Sussex,

and whose present residence or place of business the Petitioner is unable to ascertain.

A MAJOR (Retired) in H.M. ARMY. Court—HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

No. of Matter—284 of 1938. Date of First Meeting—June 8, 1938. 11 a.m.

Place—Bankruptcy Buildings, Carey Street, London, W.C.2.

Date of Public Examination—July 7, 1938.ii a.m.

Place—Bankruptcy Buildings, Carey Street,

London, W.C.2. THE LONDON GAZETTE, 27 MAY, 1938

John Francis Hyde, Francis grandfather was living at 5 Lansdowne Square, Brunswick, Brighton, Hove, Sussex, in 1881 (English Census) Brighton, Hove, Sussex, England.

1939 Francis was 55 when WW2 commenced in September 1939 and it is therefore unlikely that he would have been engaged on active service.

The army lists for the appropriate years would confirm his rank and regiment.

1949 I did find this record, INTELLIGENCE CORPS. A.C.F. Section. (Army Cadet Force) The Christian names of 2nd Lt Francis Angerstein Clarendon Rowley HYDE (316691) are as now described and not as notified in Gazette (Supplement) dated 26th May SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 3 MAY, 1949

This is his true name as described in his birth records

Frank Hyde, Francis father, was an established and well known painter, illustrator and engraver, who is very likely to have moved in the upper reaches of society as well as more arty unconventional bohemian society.

I have looked at the indexes of the <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> for any society reports mentioning both Lord Alfred Douglas and Francis Hyde and could find nothing. However, using the search term "Rowley Hyde" brought up several newspaper reports where Francis was acting as a witness for Lord Alfred in a "Slander" case" in April 1914 . So there is a provable connection/friendship with Lord Alfred. Access to the full reports is available by subscription.

There may well be some records in the official UK Government archives - The National archives.

I do hope this information is of some small assistance to you in your researches and both David and I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to pass on any further information you may obtain about Francis

Best wishes for your continuing research,  
Revd Ken Hyde