

# CHARLES PAXTON MARKHAM (1865-1926)



Charles Paxton Markham was the eldest son of Charles and Rosa Markham.

On his father's death in 1888, aged 23, Charles was elected to the board of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, a position he held for the rest of his life.

In 1889 Charles purchased Broad Oaks Foundry - the oldest ironworks in Chesterfield – which would later become 'Markham Engineering' and go on to produce the tunnelling shields used in the construction of not only the London Underground and Mersey Tunnel, but also parts of the Paris and Moscow Metros.

Charles married Margaret 'Daisy' Jackson, daughter of Thomas Jackson, of Clay Cross Coal and Iron Works. They made their home at Ringwood Hall even after the inheritance of Tapton House after Rosa Markham's death in 1912.

Charles served on the Chesterfield Corporation for 25 years and was mayor on three occasions. In 1911 he focused his efforts on the slum clearance in the town centre and provided substantial funds for the regeneration of the 'dog kennels', the decaying and overcrowded houses and yards to the south of the Market Place. In recognition of his work he was made an Honorary Freeman of Chesterfield.

In 1925, a year before he died, Charles Paxton Markham gave his entire 200-acre Tapton estate to the Borough Council. In a letter to the Mayor he wrote "*...I trust that it may be useful as a Museum or Institute in other ways for the benefit of the inhabitants of Chesterfield.*"