



James Kennedy Jackson, Rose Cottage

James Kennedy Jackson, a solicitor based at 8 Castle-lane, Belfast, was a Coroner for Belfast and Co Antrim and a Commissioner of Affidavits (*Dublin Almanac and General Register of Ireland, 1849*), also Deputy Clerk of the Crown.

Northern Whig - Saturday 17 September 1842, page 3

TO THE BURGESSES OF BELFAST.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING observed that Mr. JAMES K. JACKSON has published an Address, putting forward his claims to the situation of Town Clerk of Belfast, now held by me, which it is not my present intention to vacate, and from which the new law does not, and I trust the new Corporation will not, remove me — I beg leave to say, that I shall always endeavour to fulfil the duties of my office, so as to make my removal unnecessary; and I request the gentlemen who may be elected to Corporate Offices, to abstain from pledging themselves to support the claims of any Candidate, who may, in so unusual a manner, offer himself for a situation in which there is not at present, and perhaps may not be, a vacancy,

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY.

Belfast, 15th September, 1842.

Following the Reform Act of 1840, Ireland's old municipal corporations were replaced.

This summary is from *The growth of a City: the Belfast Corporation and Council archive in PRONI* by Ian Montgomery (Familia 2015):

'Belfast was to be governed by a new Town Council of 10 aldermen and 30 councillors elected from five wards by male householders owning property valued at £10 or more. The council, which took office in 1842, selected a mayor annually and one-third of the councillors retired each year. They were to appoint a town clerk and a treasurer who were not to be the same person and other officials as required. Standing committees, reporting to the full council, oversaw the routine work of the new body.'

Alexander Montgomery didn't last long – but nor did James K Jackson get his way.

This excerpt is from a report of the first election of members to the new body.

‘Belfast Corporation and Appointment of Mayor, etc.’

Dublin Weekly Nation, Saturday 05 November 1842, page 5

THE TOWN CLERKSHIP

The subject of appointing a Town Clerk was next brought forward.

Mr. A. Montgomery said he hoped he had discharged the duties of town clerk, during the time he was in the office, in a way that had given satisfaction. He had spared no exertion to have everything properly done. He was willing to act as clerk should they think fit to continue him, but as that was not likely to be the case, he was quite prepared to retire, and would be ready at any time to give any assistance to his successor that might be necessary, in order to his understanding the matters connected with the proceedings which had already taken place.

Mr. Samuel Nelson, T.C., then moved that Mr. John Bates be appointed town clerk to the corporation of Belfast.

The motion was seconded by Mr. S. G. Fenton.

An amendment to this was moved by Mr. Thomas L. Stewart, to the effect that Mr. James Kennedy Jackson be appointed to the situation.

This amendment was seconded, but when put from the chair, was lost by a large majority. The original motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Samuel Thomson moved that the meeting adjourn till Monday next, at twelve o’clock.

Mr Jackson’s wish was finally granted when, on 11 July 1855, he was appointed Town Clerk at a special meeting of Belfast’s Town Council held in the Town Hall, Police Buildings. (ref. *Belfast Commercial Chronicle*, Thursday 12 July 1855, page 2)

Belfast Morning News - Tuesday 27 May 1862, page 2

DOG LOST.

A LITTLE White Skye TERRIER DOG, answering to the name of “TIM”, was taken from Rose Cottage, Ballyhackamore, near Sydenham, on Thursday Evening last. Any Person retaining him after this Notice will be prosecuted.

Belfast Morning News - Monday 24 July 1865, page 3

DEATH OF MR. JACKSON, CORONER — We regret to learn that Mr. Jackson, one of the coroners for the county Antrim, and Deputy Clerk of the Crown, died at his residence, Rose Cottage, Ballyhackamore, on Thursday evening.

Belfast Morning News - Monday 24 July 1865, page 2

DEATHS.

July 20, at Rose Cottage, Ballyhackamore, James Kennedy Jackson, Esq., of Belfast, solicitor. His remains will be removed from Rose Cottage, at eleven o’clock a.m., for interment at Holywood, on Monday, the 24th inst.
