

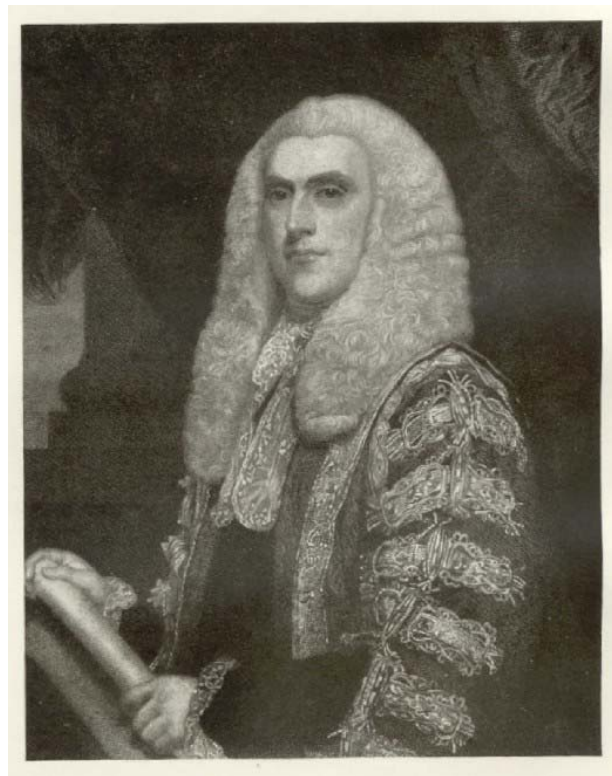
Henry Addington (1757 - 1844) was born in London. He was the son of Dr. Anthony Addington, a medical doctor who had practiced in Reading, and was later involved in the treatment of King George III's 'madness' (see info sheet 66).

Henry was educated at Cheam School, Winchester College, possibly at Reading School, and Brasenose College, Oxford. In 1784 he was called to the Bar and entered Parliament as MP for Devizes. He served as Prime Minister from 1801 to 1804. In 1805 he was made a lord as Viscount Sidmouth.

He had two country houses just east of Reading, first Woodley Lodge and later Erleigh Court. There is evidence that in 1805 he owned Grove House in Sonning. This is where Villeneuve, the French Admiral defeated at Trafalgar was held for a time by the British government.

In 1798 Addington was made High Steward of Reading and given the freedom of the Borough. The same year he raised the Woodley Militia to help in the defence of the country in case of invasion by Napoleon.

Henry and his wife gave the land on which the Royal Berkshire Hospital was built. They also endowed St. Peter's church in Earley and gave their name to several roads and buildings in the town.



Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth,
1757 - 1844
Print from *Erleigh Court and Its Owners*.

References:

Life of Henry Addington, First Viscount Sidmouth, by Philip Ziegler, Collins 1965.

Erleigh Court and Its Owners, by Ernest Dormer, Poynder, Reading 1912

Both available at Local Studies, Reading Central Library.

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