

LOTHIAN

The only connection with Marr College to Lothian would seem to originate from the distinguished politician who presided over the launch of the new Marr College in 1935. Philip Hendry Kerr, 11th Marquis of Lothian-1882-1940, was a high ranking politician, Diplomat and Newspaper editor. He was private secretary to Prime Minister, David Lloyd George from 1916-1921 and succeeded a cousin in the Marquisate in 1930. Born in London, his mother was formally Lady Anne Fitzalan-Howard and the eldest son of Major General Lord Ralph Kerr, 7th Marquis of Lothian. Educated at the Oratory School in Birmingham before completing his schooling at New College Oxford, he later entering parliament as a Liberal. He was appointed the Companion of Honour in 1920, while following a career in journalism as director of United Newspapers and in 1930 entered the Lords. He went on to be appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Lothian the following year and later appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster by Ramsay MacDonald.

He was well known in the UK for his views on Hitler. He travelled to Germany, to meet Hitler in 1935 and again in 1937, firmly believing Hitler was being treated unfairly under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, he was also convinced Hitler's problem lay not with the UK, but with Austria. When Germany militarised in 1935 Westminster was poised for war in Europe, he was famously heard to remark that it was no more than 'the Germans walking in their own backyard'. However when Hitler violated the Munich Agreement by occupying Czechoslovakia in 1939, he had a change of heart about Hitler.

The Marquis of Lothian never married, his closest friend was Nancy Astor, well known female political activist and when he died in 1940, he left his vast estate to the National Trust.