

## The Lousadas of Sidmouth

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### Introduction

The origin of the Lousada family name is not entirely clear, but it seems to have come from Portugal. However, many of the Jews in Portugal who had the name Lousada (or Louzada) had come originally from Spain, so it is safest to say that the name is of Iberian origin. The branch of the family of interest to us is the one that moved to Barbados and Jamaica, and eventually settled in England. As we shall see later, the Lousada family played an important part in the development of Sidmouth, and it is this group that is of particular interest.

Researching the Lousadas is complicated because of the use of identical names for different family members. Even experienced researchers living in Sidmouth have faced this problem. For instance, the 2014 Annual Report of the Sid Vale Association reported (page 26) that ‘Julia Creeke kept the group updated through the year on her struggles to make sense of the Lousada family, confused by the fact that three Emanuel Baruh Lousadas were alive at the same time’. Another complication is the extent of intermarriage within the family.

Our study of the Lousada family is considerably eased, however, due to the existence online of a superb genealogical site, [www.barrow-lousada.org/](http://www.barrow-lousada.org/), assembled by some branches of the Lousada family. We have drawn heavily on the material presented there, but even they admit to having difficulties in establishing beyond doubt some parts of their family tree.

During the latter half of the seventeenth century some Lousadas started to seek naturalisation in England.<sup>1</sup> The first two Lousadas mentioned (David Baruch in 1664 and

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<sup>1</sup> W. S. Samuel, R. D. Barnett & A. S. Diamond, A List of Jewish Persons Endenized and Naturalised, 1609-1799, *Transactions & Miscellanies (Jewish Historical Society of England)*, Vol. 22 (1968-9), 111-144.

Abraham Baruh, Merchant, in 1672) are both shown as being from Barbados. Four others sought naturalisation in the 1600s: Antonio and Aron Baron (i.e. Baruh) in 1675, James in 1687, and Moses in 1694.

For researching the links to slavery, one major source of information is the Legacies of British Slave-Ownership (LBS) database of compensation payments made to British slave-owners after slavery was abolished in 1833. This database was prepared by a team from University College, London.<sup>2</sup> There are eight Lousada males recorded in that database, though only one of them, Emanuel Lousada (1783-1854), is listed as a successful claimant. All eight are included in the Lousada family tree shown below. In addition to the Lousada males in the LBS database who had links to slavery, their wives often came from slave-owning families. Thus there are several Barrows in the database with slave-owning connections to Barbados, several D'Aguilars with links to Jamaica, and several Da Costas with links to Jamaica and Barbados.

### **Jacob Baruh Lousada**

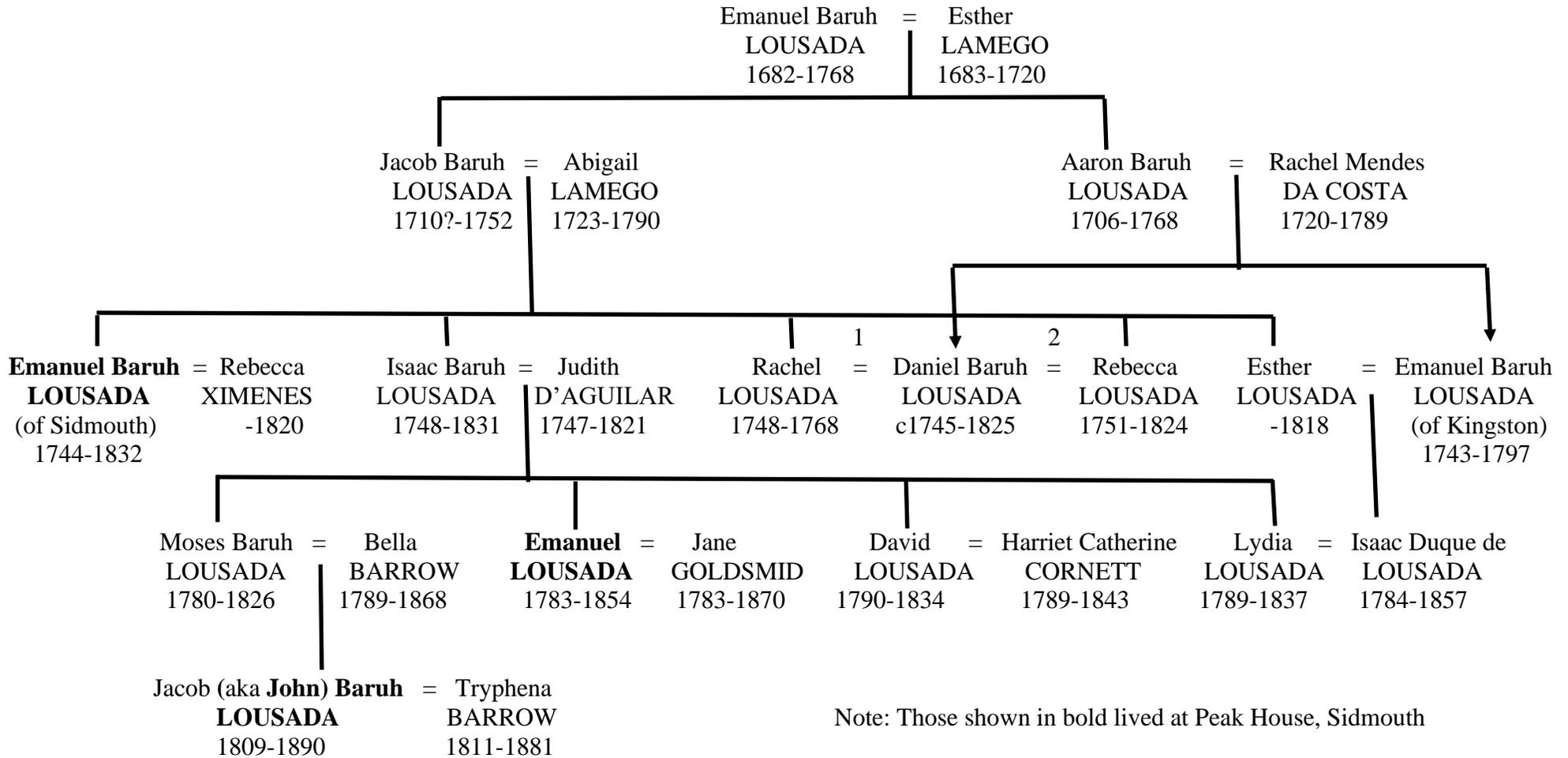
The family tree begins with Emanuel Baruh Lousada (d. 1768), who was born in Bridgetown, Barbados, in 1682. He married Esther Lamego, whose family came from Jamaica. He became a merchant, probably in Jamaica, with strong links to London.

He had two sons, Jacob Baruh Lousada and Aaron Baruh Lousada. Both appear to have been merchants. Jacob was living initially in Jamaica, but in 1743 he moved to London and married his first cousin Abigail, daughter of his uncle Isaac Lamego. The marriage took place

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<sup>2</sup> The Legacies of British Slave-ownership website is at [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs)

**LOUSADA FAMILY TREE**



at Bevis Marks synagogue near Aldgate, which has been described by the Sephardi Community as ‘the oldest and most splendid synagogue in Great Britain’.<sup>3</sup> The wealth and status of the family is signified by the fact that Jacob’s two sons (Emanuel and Isaac) and Aaron’s two sons (Daniel and Emanuel) all had their marriage ceremonies at Bevis Marks.

Jacob was probably active as a London merchant, but died in 1752. Both he and his wife were buried in the old Portuguese Jewish cemetery at Mile End, London. In his will dated 23 February 1748, his bequests included ten pounds to the synagogue at London (presumably Bevis Marks) and ten pounds each to the synagogues at Kingston and Port Royal.<sup>4</sup>

Jacob and Abigail had several children, including the two sons Emanuel and Isaac and three daughters (Esther, Rebecca and Rachel), while the children of Aaron Baruh and his wife Rachel Mendes da Costa included the two sons, Daniel and Emanuel, already mentioned. What makes the family tree rather complicated is the extent of the intermarriage between these two branches of the Lousada family. First, Daniel got married to his first cousin Rachel, but she died after three years of marriage. He then married another of the sisters, Rebecca. His brother Emanuel, for his part, married a third sister, Esther. In the next generation, one of the children of Emanuel and Esther, Isaac Duque de Lousada, married his second cousin Lydia, who was the daughter of Isaac Baruh Lousada.

Although the earlier generations of the Lousada family seem to have been strict followers of the Jewish faith, some later descendants converted to Christianity and several entered the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sephardi.org.uk/bevis-marks/> See also

<https://www.jewishlivesproject.com/profiles/emanuel-baruh-lousada>

According to these websites, a person named Moses Baruh Lousada was prominent as an early community leader of the London Spanish and Portuguese Jewish congregation, and founded the Sephardi synagogue in London in the 1660s, but he died before Bevis Marks was opened in 1701.

<sup>4</sup> ‘A record of the Jews in Jamaica, Appendix F’. Found at [www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com](http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com)

church. An example was the Rev. Percy Lousada, a son of David Lousada (d. 1834), whose death at Queen's Gardens on 7 September 1859, aged 36, was reported in the Gentleman's magazine.<sup>5</sup> Another interesting example is Mary Baru Lousada, a sister of John Baruh Lousada of Peak House (d. 1890) who married a Rev. John Bacon; three of their sons became clergymen in the Church of England.

### **Isaac Baruh Lousada**

A company of West India merchants (known as Barrow & Lousada) was set up in London sometime in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The founding partners were Jacob Barrow of Devonshire Square, London and Isaac Baruh Lousada. Jacob Barrow's family were from Barbados, and according to the LBS database he was a mortgage holder for two plantations in Barbados: Sandy Hill (St Philip) in 1790 and Ridgways (St Thomas) in 1794, but he died in 1795. The close association between the Barrow and Lousada families was cemented by the marriage in 1806 of Jacob Barrow's daughter Bella and Isaac's son Moses; and again in the next generation, Moses's son John married Tryphena, daughter of Bella's brother Simon Barrow.<sup>6</sup>

At some stage the younger generation took over the business of Barrow & Lousada, with the partnership being between Simon, son of Jacob Barrow, and the three Lousada brothers – Moses, Emanuel and David. But in 1823 David withdrew from the partnership, and two months later the whole partnership was dissolved.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Gentleman's Magazine 1859, Part 2, 427

<sup>6</sup> 'Barrow was a name that Christians and Jews in Barbados shared, the latter deriving it from the Hebrew name Baruch, which Sephardic Jews employed as a family name', Eli Faber, *Jews, Slaves and the Slave Trade: Setting the Record Straight*, (NYU Press, 1998), 320, footnote 86.

<sup>7</sup> London Gazette, 14 June 1823, 967

The Lousada family were both planters and merchants in Jamaica. They owned large plantations, including Banks in St Ann parish and Carlisle in Vere, which both produced sugar and rum. Ownership of these estates changed hands within the Lousada family over time.<sup>8</sup> Banks estate, which had over 100 enslaved people and around 50 livestock, was initially owned by Emanuel Baruh Lousada of Kingston (d.1797), on the Jamaican side of the family, but later the ownership was taken over by Isaac, and then by his sons Emanuel and David, along with their associate Simon Barrow. The Carlisle estate, which had around 200 enslaved people and often around 100 stock, was initially owned by Emanuel Baruh Lousada of Kingston (d. 1797). After his death Daniel owned it for a time, until his nephew Isaac Duque de Lousada (son of Emanuel, d. 1797) took it over in 1820, with his uncle Emanuel Baruh Lousada of Sidmouth (d. 1832) acting as the mortgage holder.

Isaac had married Judith D'Aguilar in 1771. He appears to have become a Freemason in 1820.<sup>9</sup> She died in 1821, and he died in 1831, and they were both buried at the Portuguese Jewish burial ground at Mile End. His legacies exceeded £85,000.

Isaac's eldest daughter, Abigail (1772-1833) – not shown in the family tree - appears to have been an extraordinary woman. Her obituary in the Gentleman's Magazine described her as 'a lady possessed of the best qualities of head and heart. She was endowed with superior talents; and her favourite studies were history, ancient and modern, natural history, and mathematics.'<sup>10</sup> She was in touch with other natural scientists of her day, and among her papers was a translation of Diophantus, regarded as the father of algebra.

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<sup>8</sup> Much useful information about Jamaica plantations can also be found at [www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com](http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com)

<sup>9</sup> See [synagoguescribes.com](http://synagoguescribes.com)

<sup>10</sup> Gentleman's Magazine 1833, Part 1, 283

## **Moses Baruh Lousada**

Moses was the eldest son of Isaac Baruh Lousada. Not much is known about him, but he appears to have been a merchant in London. He had several children, including John and Mary who were mentioned earlier.

One special document of interest involving him appears on the Barrow-Lousada website. It is a Deed of Manumission, executed in 1811, and witnessed by Emanuel Lousada (presumably his brother) granting freedom to ‘a brown girl slave named Mary Jane’, who had been consigned to Moses in 1810 by Mary Anne Thorne of Barbados. This is probably the same Mary Thorne in Barbados who, according to the LBS database, received compensation of £411 in 1836 for 23 enslaved people.

Sadly, Moses died in February 1826 under unfortunate circumstances. Bell’s Life in London and Sporting Chronicle, 5 March 1826 reported: ‘It appears that Mr Lousada, the broker, whose death we mentioned in our last, put an end to his own existence by cutting his throat. The fatal act was perpetrated in a warm bath, at Badler’s, in St Mary Axe, whither Mr Lousada had gone, with a razor.’ His depression at the time of his death seems to have been caused by two factors: the losses that he, like others, had recently sustained as a stockbroker, and the devastating blow to his status caused by his eldest daughter eloping with a clerk from his London office and getting married at Gretna Green in November 1825.<sup>11</sup>

## **The Lousadas of Kingston, Jamaica**

Aaron Baruh Lousada became a major merchant in Kingston, Jamaica. According to the LBS database, he is listed in the Jamaican Quit Rent books for 1754 as the owner of 140 acres of land in St John parish, but he was primarily a mortgagee of ‘slave property’.

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<sup>11</sup> [www.barrow-lousada.org.uk/mbl2.htm](http://www.barrow-lousada.org.uk/mbl2.htm)

In a recent publication, James Delle writes:

Many Jamaican planters depended on the island's wealthy urban merchants to provide them with the capital and credit necessary to improve their estates, acquire manufactured and luxury goods from Europe, or to purchase land and slaves. Importing the goods required to run a sugar estate in the style required by the planters, and to lend the money required to purchase such items, made Kingston merchants wealthy. Indeed, according to a study conducted by Trevor Burnard, several Kingston merchants left huge fortunes at their deaths in the 1770s – including such merchants as Aaron Baruh Lousada, a Jewish merchant and moneylender (£151,266).....<sup>12</sup>

Aaron Baruh Lousada died in 1768 and his wife Rachel in 1789. Both were buried at the Hunts Bay Cemetery in Kingston, Jamaica.<sup>13</sup> The tombstone for Aaron reads: 'Here lyeth the body of Aaron Baruh Lousada of Kingston, Merchant. A man so endowed by nature, so improved by education and experience with a singular penetration and strength of judgment.....'.<sup>14</sup>

His son Emanuel Baruh Lousada was a planter and merchant in Jamaica. According to the barrow-lousada website, he at one time owned several plantations, including Richmond, Banks, Knights and Carlisle. He had bought the Richmond sugar plantation in 1784, but sold it on to Jacob Israel Bernal in 1788.

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<sup>12</sup> J. A. Delle, *The Colonial Caribbean: Landscapes of Power in Jamaica's Plantation System*, (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 69-70. In 2019 Trevor Burnard was appointed Director of the Wilberforce Institute in Hull.

<sup>13</sup> R.D. Barnett and P. Wright, *The Jews of Jamaica: Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880*, (Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem, 1997).

<sup>14</sup> <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00001365/00001/60j> p. 28, listed as no. 158.

In 2017 a painting of his house in Kingston came up for sale in the United States. The National Gallery of Jamaica made an initial bid for it, but the painting finally sold for US\$80,000.<sup>15</sup>

On his death in 1797 Emanuel Baruh Lousada was reportedly memorialized in elegiac verse published by Jamaica's *Columbian Magazine or Monthly Miscellany*. His death was reported in the September issue of that magazine. He was buried at Hunts Bay, Jamaica.

While Emanuel seems to have spent his life in Kingston, Jamaica, his brother Daniel Baruh Lousada appears to have moved to London, and was almost certainly a merchant there, while for a time owning the Carlisle estate, mentioned above. There is a record that a 'Daniel B. Lousada, Merchant of Devonshire Street' became a Freemason in 1813.<sup>16</sup> He died in 1825.

Little is known about Isaac Duque de Lousada, a son of Emanuel Baruh Lousada (d. 1797), apart from the fact that at one time he was owner of the Carlisle estate (mentioned above). He was born in 1784 but moved to England as a young man, marrying his second cousin Lydia Lousada in London in 1807. It was only in 1848 that he adopted the title of 'Duc de Losada y Lousada' and obtained an elaborate document from the Spanish authorities with a grant of arms.<sup>17</sup> Gentleman's Magazine reported in 1857 that on 'Sept 16, at Maddox Street, aged 74, J de Lousada esq., Duque de Lousada' had died.

### **The Lousadas of Sidmouth**

Emanuel Baruh Lousada (d. 1832) was a West India merchant in London, but little is known about his activities there. He is best remembered for the part he played in the development of Sidmouth.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://nationalgalleryofjamaica.wordpress.com/tag/samuel-felsted/>

<sup>16</sup> See [synagoguescribes.com](http://synagoguescribes.com)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.barrow-lousada.org/Notes on the Lousada Dukes by a.htm>

In 1793 he purchased an initial 125 acres of land on the lower slopes of Peak Hill, Sidmouth, becoming the second-largest landowner in the valley. This was a risky step for him to take, because at that time it was unclear whether Jews had a right to own property. It was the first of several purchases of land that he made locally, and by 1796 he had built Peak House, a plain Regency building. A contemporary drawing of Peak Hill shows the house standing alone above the town. At the time it was described as ‘a delightful abode’ situated next to ‘a shrubbery full of fragrance and beauty’ which enjoyed ‘an unbroken view of the ocean’.<sup>18</sup>

Emanuel Lousada is often considered the founder of Sidmouth as a resort. It was previously just a small fishing port, but he set about developing a genteel yet exotic holiday venue. He is said to have built the first cottage orné, a large house dressed up as a cottage and often thatched with pretty bargeboards, which appealed to the holidaying aristocracy of the day. He was a brilliant publicist and attracted an ever-widening circle of grandees to build their own holiday houses a little above and away from the sea. In 1819 the Duke of Kent, the son of George III, and his wife spent several weeks in Sidmouth, along with their baby Victoria (later Queen Victoria). They stayed at Woolbrook Cottage, now the Royal Glen Hotel.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Rev. Edmund Butcher, *Sidmouth Scenery*, (J. Wallis, Sidmouth 1817) at DHC SC2546.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.artwarefineart.com/archive/gallery/sidmouth-beach-devon-looking-west-high-peak-and-peak-hill>. Among those attracted to Sidmouth was Admiral Sir Henry Digby who had commanded the *Africa* at the Battle of Trafalgar. In 1819 he bought Woodlands Cottage (now Woodlands Hotel) which was previously owned by the Lord Great Chamberlain, Baron Gwydyr.

He appears to have become a Freemason in 1784.<sup>20</sup> Beside residing in Sidmouth, he was a member of the Mahamad (governing body) of the London Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.<sup>21</sup>

Emanuel had married Rebecca Ximenes in 1770, but they did not have any children. He therefore made his nephew Emanuel Lousada his universal legatee and sole executor.<sup>22</sup>

Emanuel Lousada (d. 1854) made his fortune as a West India merchant in London. Initially Cliff Cottage was built for him in 1820 on the headland at the western end of the Sidmouth Esplanade, but in 1832 he inherited Peak House from his uncle and moved in there. Cliff Cottage was renamed Sea View in the late nineteenth century. It was eventually bought by the Sidmouth Urban District Council. The house was in poor condition and was demolished in 1934, when the surrounding area was developed as Connaught Gardens. In the 1830s Emanuel Lousada enlarged Peak House into something more elaborate than the original design. The enlargement and beautification of the house and gardens received extensive praise at the time.<sup>23</sup>

In 1836 Emanuel Lousada received compensation of £4,194 18s 1d for the 208 enslaved people on his Carlisle sugar and rum estate in Jamaica. He also received a share (with Simon Barrow) of the £2,536 18s 0d compensation paid for 120 enslaved people on his Banks sugar estate, also in Jamaica. His claim for a small amount of compensation in Barbados was also

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<sup>20</sup> See [synagoguescribes.com](http://synagoguescribes.com)

<sup>21</sup> W. D. Rubinstein, M. Jolles, and H. L. Rubinstein, *The Palgrave Dictionary of Anglo-Jewish History*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

<sup>22</sup> It seems likely that he also had Baruh as his middle name, but his name is usually written as Emanuel Lousada to distinguish him from his uncle.

<sup>23</sup> See for instance Theodore Mogridge, *A Descriptive Sketch of Sidmouth*, (J. Harvey, 1838), 42

successful. He was also a mortgage holder for Tempe & Nursery in Berbice, British Guiana, though no compensation record has yet been found.

He did much to develop Sidmouth as a popular resort. He was also active in public life, serving as High Sheriff of Devon in 1842/3, apparently the first professing Jew to serve as a county's High Sheriff outside London.

He supported various new railway developments, investing £5,000 in the Northumberland railway, £25,000 in the Exeter Great Western, £5,000 in London, Chatham and North Kent railway, and a further £12,500 in North Kent.

He had married Jane Goldsmid in 1807, but he had no children. During his life Peak House had become a social centre for Anglo-Jewry, and the vast number of bequests made in his will give a glimpse of these connections. When he died in 1854, he left £100,000, and his estate passed to his nephew, John.

John Baruh Lousada (d. 1890) thus became the third owner of Peak House. In 1832 he had married Tryphena Barrow. Their marriage had taken place, not at the Bevis Marks synagogue in London, but at Walcot Church in Bath. He continued to be a strong supporter of the local community, including being a churchwarden at his local church in Sidmouth.<sup>24</sup> He had hoped to develop a railway line to Sidmouth, and was chair of the committee that was set up to promote the cause, but his proposals received limited local support and he gave up on the idea.

John died in 1890 and Tryphena in 1881. Both were buried at Exeter Higher Cemetery.

Peak House was finally sold around 1877. Sadly, the original house was destroyed by fire in 1903, but it was rebuilt in Beer stone on a nearby site by Sir Thomas Dewey. It is a Grade

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<sup>24</sup> Peter Orlando Hutchinson was a frequent guest to events held at Peak House. His diaries (five volumes are held at the Devon Record Office) refer to Lousada's role as churchwarden (see entries for 28 April 1859 and 12 April 1860).

II listed building. The new house incorporated some of the Georgian features such as fireplaces and doors that had survived the fire.<sup>25</sup> During World War 1, the owner offered the house for use as a Red Cross Hospital. By 2019 it had been split into four flats.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/curious-devon-peak-house-tour-1-6301129>