

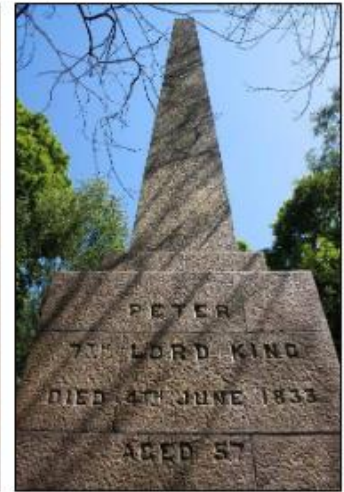
## 'The Forgotten Monument'

By Haley Jenkins, Editor

Lost and forgotten in a nettle-infested woodlands of Brooklands College, is the Locke King Monument. First re-discovered in 1973 by a group of students, the monument remains hidden away, mostly unknown except to local historians and woodland conservationists. The inscription on the Monument reads: *Peter 7<sup>th</sup> Lord King Died 4<sup>th</sup> June 1833 Aged 57*. According to the 1973 article, the other two sides bare the inscriptions to Peter J. Locke King (died 1876) and Hester Lady King (died 1873), but these sides are now almost wholly inaccessible due to the wild nettles. Lord Peter King (1776-1833) was the 7<sup>th</sup> Baron of Ockham, educated at Eton College and Trinity College in Cambridge, he succeeded his father Peter King in 1793. He was a Whig Politian, but somewhat of a reclusive, rarely participating in debates save for two: supporting Lord Holland in his inquiry into the failed expedition into the 'Low Countries', to oppose the Habeas Corpus Suspension Bill or the bill to prolong the suspension the Banks of England and Ireland's cash payments. He published one pamphlet entitled: *'Thoughts on the Restriction of Payments in Specie at the Banks of England and Ireland'* in 1803. King married Lady Hester Fortescue on 26 May 1804, and had two daughters and more famously, two sons: William King (who became Earl of Lovelace in 1838) and Peter John Locke King, the father of Hugh Locke King who would go on to build the Brooklands motor racing track and the aviation field in Weybridge.

The best start to the path is shown below by the red circle. Between the concrete strip behind the old 'Mansion House' as it is known by students and between the Performing Arts building, there is a track leading into the woods. This editor recommends keeping to the left path, circling around the back of the college and surrounding estates. Keep to the left (tip: the sound of trains on the railway should be to your left) and keep on going. Beware, the ground is uneven and you possibly require mosquito repellent, as the monument has often been heavily guarded by such local wildlife.

**Please Note:** this information gained from *Dictionary of National Biography (1885-1900), Volume 31*, and available at Weybridge Library: *Reminiscences of Weybridge* by E. Lovelock / *The Locke Kings* by B.F.J. Pardoe' produced by the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society, 1969; and *A Short History of Weybridge* by M.E. Blackman and J.S.L. Pulford.



(Top Left) Peter King, 7<sup>th</sup> Baron King of Ockham, portrait by John Linnell from 1832. National Portrait Gallery. (Top Right) Locke King Monument by local photography Lewis Jenkins. His photographs are available in The Riverside Arts Centre, Walton. Bottom: Google Maps.