

PLATE V



MAJOR F. M. E. KENNEDY, C.B.

Major F. M. E. Kennedy, C.B., D.L.

FRANCIS MALCOLM EVORY KENNEDY, who died on 28 January 1945, joined the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1917, had served on the Society's Council as a County Council representative since 1937, and had been an Honorary Secretary since 1938.

He was the fifth son of Tristram Kennedy, M.P. for County Louth, and had inherited many characteristics from a long line of northern Irish ancestors; but the knowledge of the ways and traditions of Somerset—used so effectively and for so many years in the county's service—had come to him through his mother, the only daughter of Lt.-Colonel George Templer Graham, D.L., of Cossington, near Bridgwater. She had married Tristram Kennedy in 1862.

It was in 1891 that Francis Kennedy joined the Somerset Light Infantry. He served on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897 and 1898, and received the Mohmand Medal; was gazetted Captain in the Worcestershire Regiment in 1900, and served in South Africa from 1900 to 1902. From February 1901 to May 1902 he was Adjutant to the 16th Battalion M.I., and was promoted Brevet-Major in August 1902, and received the Queen's Medal. In 1908 he retired, but subsequently joined the West Somerset Yeomanry.

The years that followed were given to work in Somerset—work made unique by the quality of his personality, by his capacity for organization and attention to detail, and by his breadth of vision. He was Secretary of the Somerset Territorial Army Association from 1911 until 1923. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1914, was elected an Alderman of the Somerset County Council in 1916, and in 1917 received the C.B. in recognition of services during the Great War.

Major Kennedy married, in 1925, Lucy Caroline, eldest daughter of the Rev. T. H. Gregory of Whalley, Lancashire.

During his membership of the County Council, Kennedy served on many committees. For twenty years he was chairman of the Staff Committee; for some fifteen years, chairman of the Sandhill Park Sub-Committee; from 1917 a County Council representative on the Standing Joint Committee; and he was chairman until his death of the General Purposes and Finance Committee, relating to the maintenance of the Somerset Constabulary.

His interest in genealogy was shown by a book on *A Family of Kennedy of Clogher and Londonderry*, published in 1938.

Before the last war, Kennedy purchased the building on the Polden Hills, which was erected as a museum by the antiquary, William Stradling, and it was his home for several years before he lived at Kingston.

In the present war he organized the Somerset Comforts Fund of which he was Chairman.

On 12 November 1944, Francis Kennedy saw his seventy-fifth birthday. He died at Crossways, Kingston, and was buried in Kingston churchyard. The Somerset Archaeological Society has lost by his death an able adviser and a true friend.—A. W. V-N.