

= Lloyd Kenyon , 1st Baron Kenyon =

Lloyd Kenyon , 1st Baron Kenyon PC SL KC ( 5 October 1732 ? 4 April 1802 ) was a British politician and barrister , who served as Attorney General , Master of the Rolls and Lord Chief Justice . Born to a country gentleman , he was initially educated in Hanmer before moving to Ruthin School aged 12 . Rather than going to university he instead worked as a clerk to an attorney , joining the Middle Temple in 1750 and being called to the Bar in 1756 . Initially almost unemployed due to the lack of education and contacts which a university education would have provided , his business increased thanks to his friendships with John Dunning , who , overwhelmed with cases , allowed Kenyon to work many , and Lord Thurlow who secured for him the Chief Justiceship of Chester in 1780 . He was returned as the Member of Parliament ( MP ) for Hindon the same year , serving repeatedly as Attorney General under William Pitt the Younger . He effectively sacrificed his political career in 1784 to challenge the ballot of Charles James Fox , and was rewarded with a baronetcy ; from then on he did not speak in the House of Commons , despite remaining an MP .

On 27 March 1784 he was appointed Master of the Rolls , a job to which he dedicated himself once he ceased to act as an MP . He had previously practised in the Court of Chancery , and although unfamiliar with Roman law was highly efficient ; Lord Eldon said " I am mistaken if , after I am gone , the Chancery Records do not prove that if I have decided more than any of my predecessors in the same period of time , Sir Lloyd Kenyon beat us all " . On 9 June 1788 , Kenyon succeeded Lord Mansfield as Lord Chief Justice , and was granted a barony . Although not rated as highly as his predecessor , his work " restored the simplicity and rigor of the common law " . He remained Lord Chief Justice until his death in 1802 .

= = Early life and education = =

Kenyon was born on 5 November 1732 in Gredington , Flintshire to Lloyd Kenyon , a country gentleman and Justice of the peace , and his wife Jane Eddowes . He was initially educated at a school in Hanmer ? it was written that " no man ever set out on his career with fewer advantages " than Kenyon . When he was 12 he was sent to Ruthin School , where he learnt French and Latin , and was considered one of the best students at the school . His knowledge of Greek was non-existent , and his scientific training minor ; " he was said to have believed to his dying day that the sun goes around the earth " . As a second son , he had initially considered joining the clergy , but instead decided on the law and spent 5 years working as a clerk to Mr W.J. Tomkinson , an attorney . He proved to be an excellent clerk , becoming a " rapid and accurate conveyancer " . Originally happy with the idea of being a simple attorney , after the death of his older brother it was instead assumed he would become a barrister , and Kenyon joined the Middle Temple in November 1750 . In February 1755 he left Tomkinson 's practice and moved to London , where he was called to the Bar on 10 February 1756 .

= = Career as a barrister = =

Without the education or connections that a university education would have provided he was almost entirely unemployed for several years . Kenyon instead lived off an £ 80 allowance from his father , and money from his richer relatives , spending the time watching Lord Mansfield conduct cases at the Court of King 's Bench . His early business was almost entirely conveyancing , and to make extra money he began to attend the Welsh Circuit , where Tomlinson 's contacts allowed him to pick up some small cases . After several years of this he also began attending quarter sessions at Oxford , Stafford and Shrewsbury , " where he was more successful " . While his work slowly began to increase , his main rise was due to his friendship with John Dunning , at the time a similarly near-unemployed barrister . In 1762 one of the leaders of the Northern Circuit died , and his work was given to Dunning ; as he found himself with too many cases , he gave many to Kenyon . In 1767 , for example , Kenyon dealt with 20 of Dunning 's cases . As a result of his speedy and efficient work attorneys began to employ him directly , and within 10 years he was making £ 3 @, @

000 a year just from opinions .

Kenyon 's next rise came about as a result of his introduction to the Duke of Richmond , who was struggling with Sir James Lowther for the control of several Parliamentary constituencies . Kenyon went with Richmond to Carlisle and Cocker mouth as his lawyer , and secured the constituencies for Richmond ; as a result , Richmond chose to employ Kenyon as his lawyer from then onwards . In 1780 he successfully defended Lord George Gordon for high treason , assisted by Thomas Erskine , and the resulting fame was enough to propel him further up the ranks of his profession and within the political sphere . At the same time he became friends with Lord Thurlow , and when the holder of the Chief Justiceship of Chester died that year , Thurlow ensured that it was given to Kenyon . The rise of Kenyon 's work in the Court of Chancery was also attributed to his friendship with Thurlow , who as Lord Chancellor was the head of the Court .

= = Political career = =

When Parliament was dissolved in 1780 , Thurlow ensured that Kenyon was returned as a Member of Parliament for Hindon . In April 1782 , on the formation of the Rockingham government , Kenyon was made Attorney @-@ General for England and Wales , despite having never sat in the lower office of Solicitor @-@ General or spoken in Parliament . As Attorney General he spoke on only one subject , on 18 June 1782 , in regards to the amount of money owed to the Exchequer by the Paymaster of the Forces . This provoked the opposition of Charles James Fox , whose father , Lord Holland , had profited greatly by that office ; Kenyon 's programme could have ruined Fox by making him liable for refunding his father 's profits as Paymaster . On the death of Rockingham Kenyon continued in his post under the Shelburne Ministry , but left office in April 1783 when that government fell to the Fox @-@ North Coalition . He instead allied himself with William Pitt the Younger , leading the opposition to the first Act of the new government and strongly supporting an opposition bill to reform the Exchequer . When the new government was dismissed on 19 December and Pitt took control , Kenyon was again made Attorney @-@ General . He again took the lead on the issue of the Paymaster of the Forces , and commanded that Richard Rigby , Paymaster until 1782 , " do deliver to the House an account of the balance of all public money remaining in his hands on the 13th day of November last " , something Rigby complained was against common practice .

In 1784 Thomas Sewell died , and , as was tradition , Kenyon succeeded him as Master of the Rolls on 27 March . Initially intending to withdraw from Parliament , Kenyon was persuaded to remain as an MP and Attorney General to increase Pitt 's majority . Having purchased the seat of Tregony he " was resolved to go the whole hog " , and became one of the strongest and most visible supporters of Pitt . With his contacts in Wales , he secured votes for several ministerial candidates in Welsh constituencies . In an attempt to have Charles James Fox removed as an MP he had Fox 's ballot challenged ; while this backfired , he was awarded with a baronetcy for the effective sacrifice of his political career . As a result of this controversy he stated that " legislation was a task to which he had by no means thought himself equal " , and stayed silent in Parliament for the rest of his life .

= = Judicial career = =

Having withdrawn from politics , Kenyon instead switched his focus to his job as Master of the Rolls . As a judge of the Court of Chancery he was required to deal with cases of equity ; though he was almost entirely unfamiliar with the Roman law it was based on , he had previously practised in the Chancery . He was not considered as good as his successor , Sir William Grant , but Lord Eldon wrote that " I am mistaken if , after I am gone , the Chancery Records do not prove that if I have decided more than any of my predecessors in the same period of time , Sir Lloyd Kenyon beat us all " . With the retirement of Lord Mansfield as Lord Chief Justice , Kenyon succeeded him on 9 June 1788 , and was made Baron Kenyon of Gredington , in the county of Flint .

Kenyon 's appointment was initially greeted with caution by his fellow barristers , who worried that , as he had practised in a court of equity rather than a court of common law , he might be unfamiliar

with the area covered by his new posting in the Court of King 's Bench . Despite this , he was noted as an excellent judge , although one who suffered from an " excess of zeal " in moral issues . One of his flaws was his defective education ; he was too proud to avoid exhibiting his ignorance . He was particularly noted for using Latin incorrectly , leading George III to say " My Lord ... it would be well if you would stick to your good law and leave off your bad Latin " . As a judge , Kenyon overruled the principles that a court of law could not consider trusts or a pecuniary legacy ; it was said that he " restored the simplicity and rigor of the common law " . After nearly one and a half decades as a judge , Kenyon died on 4 April 1802 in Bath .

= = Personal life = =

In 1773 he married his cousin , Mary Kenyon , with whom he had three sons ; Lloyd , who predeceased him , George , and Thomas . Kenyon was noted by John Campbell , 1st Baron Campbell as " a man of wonderful quickness of perception , of considerable intellectual nimbleness , of much energy of purpose , and of unwearied industry " , although Campbell noted that , thanks to Kenyon 's lack of a university education , he knew only " the corner of jurisprudence which he professionally cultivated ; he had not even the information generally picked up by the clever clerk of a country attorney " . He was noted as arrogant , despising things he did not understand and condemning any opinions he disagreed with regardless of his knowledge of them . He never attempted to reform the judicial system , and " his habits of sordid parsimony brought discredit on the high station which he filled " . Despite this , as a judge he was seen as " profound in legal erudition , patient in judicial discrimination , and of the most determined integrity " .