

Henry James Sir, H.E.

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Henry James. BGS image number P575747.

Timeline

Date	Details
1803	Born, Cornwall.
1825-1826	R.E. (Royal Engineers) 2nd Lieutenant 1826.
1827	Appointed to Ordnance Survey (geological work interested him).
1845	Appointed local Superintendent of Geological Survey of Ireland (on recommendation of Col. Colby).
1846	Resigned.
1846	Transferred to Admiralty, sent to Portsmouth as Superintendent of constructional works in dockyard. Promoted to Captain.
1847	Appointed Member of Commission for inquiring into application of iron in railway structures.
1848	Elected F.R.S.
1850	Returned to Ordnance Survey, divisional headquarters at Edinburgh.

- 1851 Appointed Associate Juror for naval architecture, ordnance etc - comprising class vii in Great Exhibition.
- 1853 Sent to Brussels on special service.
- 1854 Promoted to Brevet-Major.
- 1854 Director-General of Ordnance Survey.
- 1856 Arthur's Seat observations to obtain mean S.G. of the earth.
- 1857 Appointed Director of topographical and statistical department of War Office (staff combined with Ordnance Survey and placed under James's direction) - continued till severance of Ordnance Survey from War Department and transfer to Office of Works in 1870
- 1857 Promoted to Colonel.
- 1858 Member of Committee appointed by Council of Geological Society to revise the Greenough Geological Map.
- 1860 Knighted. James's principal work - photozincography. Introduced at Ordnance Survey office 1859. Attracted attention abroad.
- 1868 Major-General.
- 1874 Lieut. General.
- 1875 Resigned from Ordnance Survey.
- 1877 Died at Southampton 14th June.

Biographies and obituaries

Duncan, P.M. Obituary - Sir Henry James, F.R.S. [In Anniversary Address.]. Proceedings of the Geological Society in Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society. v. 34 p.34-35. 1878

[Henry James \(British Army officer\)](#) — Wikipedia article

[James; Sir; Henry \(1803 - 1877\); Knight Director General of the Ordnance Survey](#) Royal Society past Fellows

James, Sir Henry (1803-1877) surveyor, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/14606>

BGS archives

Ref No	Title	Description
GSM/DC/A/C/2/311	H James: Letter on use of iron in railways	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/33-35	H. James: Letter on his appointment.	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/35	H. James: Letter to F. McCoy.	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/82	H. James: Letter on building stones.	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/164	R. Kane: Letter to H. James.	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/185-187, 190, 210, 216-225	H. James: Letters on his resignation.	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/216	R. Kane: Mentioned in letter of H. James.	
GSM/DC/A/C/3/218	H.T. De la Beche: Letters: Ireland. James' resignation.	
GSM/DC/A/C/6/244	H James: Letter on re-engraving maps.	
GSM/DC/A/C/6/251-252	H James: Letter on surplus maps.	
GSM/DC/A/C/6/291	H James: Letter on credits on maps.	

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GSM/DC/A/C/11/135
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GSM/DC/A/C/25/24-25

H James: Letter on statistics of coal.
H James: Letter on defective maps.
H James: Letter on money for engraving.
H James: Mentioned in letter of T. Colby.
H James: Letters on his resignation.
H James: Annual Report, 1845-46.
H James: Letter on mineral districts to be mapped
H James: Letter on vertical sections.

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