

**AN INTRIGUING 4 CLASP CRIMEA TO A MAN WHO PUBLICLY CLAIMED AND LECTURED IN THE USA OF WINNING THE VICTORIA CROSS DURING THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.**



CRIMEA 1854, 4 CLASPS ALMA, BALAKLAVA, INKERMANN, SEBASTOPOL 'S. M. V. R. GURNEY \*',

Victor R. Gurney emigrated to the USA in 1873 and worked as a clerk but also made a name for himself, dressed in uniform and giving public lectures on his experiences during the charge of the Light Brigade as a Cornet (later Captain) of with 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars, claiming that for his actions, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

No man with this name served in the Crimea or Indian Mutiny with the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars, or any other Regiment. Possibly an ex soldier who was going under an alias but clearly not a VC winner and it must be assumed his entire story was just that a story. Gurney, if that was his real name, latterly lived at Arden, Orange County, New York and died there on 10 October 1893.

The other medals belonging to Gurney have appeared on the market, the Mutiny medal being named in the same style "CORT V. R. GURNEY" (pic with research)

20  
 New York City  
 2/11/89  
 Aver

Master F. Dearborn

My Dear Young friend  
 I cheerfully comply with your  
 request - I would state I was  
 in receipt of many such from  
 various parts of the country,  
 you wish the date of the  
 Battle, it occurred on October  
 25<sup>th</sup> 1854. in the Crimea,  
 a part of Southern Russia.

I enclose you herewith a copy  
 of poem written by Lord Tennyson  
 Hop to remain  
 Yours truly &c

Capt. Victor R. Gurney &c  
 one of the Balaklava Six Hundred.

LETTER WRITTEN BY GURNEY TO A YOUNG FAN!

Morton and Eden November 2006 Lot 743, consisting Turkish Crimea 1855-56, British issue, engraved (S.M. V.R. Gurney Balaklava Oct. 25. 1854), very fine; offered with a named trio of contemporary miniature medals, comprising Crimea 1854, 4 clasps Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann, Sebastopol, Indian Mutiny, 1 clasp Central India, and Turkish Crimea (S.M. V.R. Gurney 8th Husars and variations) Ex J. Coolidge Hills Collection circa 1900

### HE WON THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Death of Valentine Gurney, Who Was in the Charge at Balaklava.

Capt. Valentine E. Gurney, one of the four remaining survivors of the famous Six Hundred who made the charge at Balaklava, died on Tuesday night at the Presbyterian Hospital. He had been a sufferer from Bright's disease for years. He was removed to the hospital on Sept. 20.



VALENTINE GURNEY.

Capt. Gurney was born at Exeter, Devonshire, England, sixty-three years ago. At the opening of the Crimean war he was a cornetist in the Eighth Hussars. When the Light Brigade made their famous ride Gurney won for his gallantry the Victoria Cross, the highest honor that can be conferred on a British soldier. At this time he was only 24 years of age. He also received honorable mention for distinguished services at the engagement at Bulganak. A number of testimonial medals were presented to him before he left England, which were treasured up to his death.

Capt. Gurney came to this country in 1873, and had lived here ever since. He was for several years connected with the Russell & Irwin Manufacturing Company. He was not successful in his business career, and was in no regular employment during the last few years of his life. He was befriended by a few Englishmen in the city who were familiar with his history, and was practically dependent upon them during the past few months. Capt. Gurney was a large, powerfully built man, and when dressed in his uniform presented a distinguished appearance. He leaves a wife and two daughters, who live at Arden, Orange



Condition GVF, contemporary engraved naming. Sold with copied research including articles on Gurney, obituary, copy letter etc