

The Newcastle Courant
Friday, June 19, 1868

DEATH OF RAJAH BROOKE.

Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., late Rajah of Sarawak, died on Thursday morning at Barrington, in Devonshire. Probably no Englishman in the present century has had a more varied and eventful career.

Sir James Brooke was the only surviving son of the late Mr Thomas Brooke, of Widcombe, an old civil service *employe* of the Hon. East India Company in Bengal. He was born in 1803, and was formerly in the military service of the company on the Bengal establishment, and was severely wounded at Rungpoor in the Burmese war, after which he returned to England for the benefit of his health. The late Sir James subsequently visited China, and on his return from that country undertook an expedition at his own cost to Borneo, where he assisted the Malay Rajah, Muda Hassam, in suppressing the insurrection. He shortly afterwards became Rajah of Sarawak, and exerted himself in arresting piracy, facilitating European commerce, and introducing some degree of civilisation among the Dyak tribes, as well as Christianity among that barbarian community. He was appointed by her Majesty's Government Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Labuan, when that island was taken possession of by the British Government in December 1847, and held that office till February 1856; and was also Commissioner and Consul-General to the Sultan and independent chiefs of Borneo. In recognition of his distinguished services, he was created in 1848 a Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Order of the Bath, and in the previous year received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from the University of Oxford. For the last few years he had been resident in England, and for many months past has suffered from indifferant health. His death will be lamented by a very large circle of friends.
