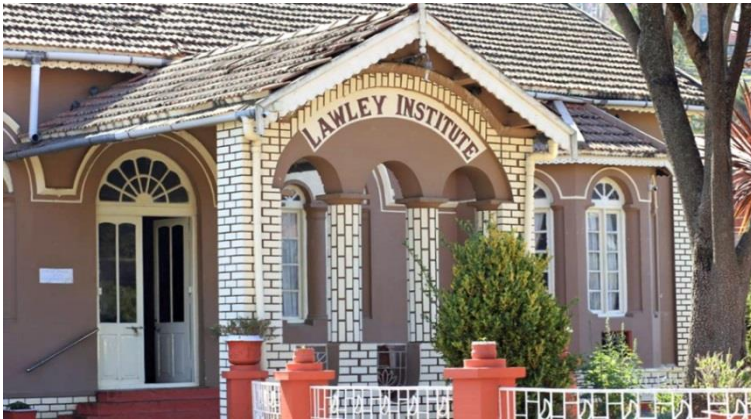


# The Lawley Institute, Ootacamund (Ooty)

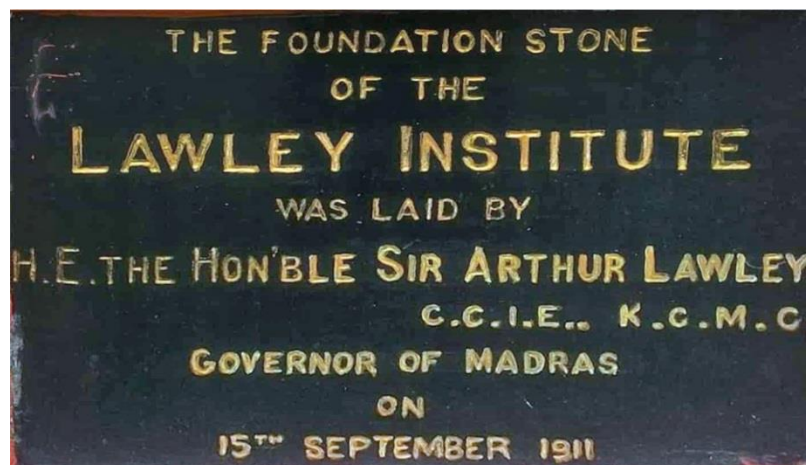


Lawley Institute is a popular heritage club in the heart of Ooty town, dating back to 1911, it has been catering to its members keeping pace with the modern times such as the luxurious and antique rooms, cypress hedges enthralling flower sides, healthy environment, cosy bar, fine dining, meeting halls and ambient services.

A Century ago stringent British rules restricted the ambitious Indians from being members in any Club in the little town of Ooty. Having vested interest in the various attractions of the Queen of Hill Stations the thoughtful erstwhile Maharajah of Bobbili also the then Prime Minister of Madras state took the initiative in the formation of a trust exclusively for the Indians by magnanimously donating a sum of Rs 30.000/-.

Thus came to being on the 15th day of September 1911 in the ambience of the little town the Lawley Institute with physical and intellectual recreations perpetuating in the memory of his Excellency the Honourable Sir Arthur Lawley G.C.I.E., K.C.M.C Governor of Madras.

The foundation stone was laid in 1911 named after Sir Arthur Lawley, then the Governor of Madras.



The trust deed clearly specified the facilities to be provided to the Indian residents, the membership was classified as resident, non-resident and temporary Government servants posted in the Nilgiris District.

These By-laws enabled both government officials posted at Nilgiris as well as company executives to enjoy the benefits of the club.

Till date it is a matter of pride to state that the elected and nominated members are running the club and are preserving and protecting the club properties in the same century style with only a change of making ladies also as permanent member.



On 28 December 1905 Sir Arthur Lawley was appointed Governor of Madras. He took office in March 1906. His elder brother Beilby Lawley held the post in the early 1890s. During his time in office the Madras Legislative Council was reformed and enlarged. He made many tours of the region and met with people in all walks of life in schools, prisons, hospitals etc. The Madras Estates Land Bill was passed and he introduced reforms to bring Indians into the government of Madras. He promoted the building of railways, encouraged modern farming practices and industrial development. In 1910 there was an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition in Mysore. He inaugurated the Giffard School block of the Women and Children's Hospital in Egmore in October 1911, and opened the Lady Lawley Nurses Home on 1 November 1911.

In 1912 having finished his term of office in Madras, he was sent to North America to encourage the Canadians to build Dreadnoughts for the Royal Navy and to visit the USA where he

made speeches in New York, Washington, Philadelphia and Chicago. During WW1 he worked for the British Red Cross in Boulogne and Mesopotamia. After the war he was involved in the founding of the International Red Cross and in many ventures abroad.

Sir Arthur Lawley was the 8th of 9 children, and the 4th of 5 sons. He was briefly 6th Baron Wenlock from June 1931 until his death on 14 June 1932.