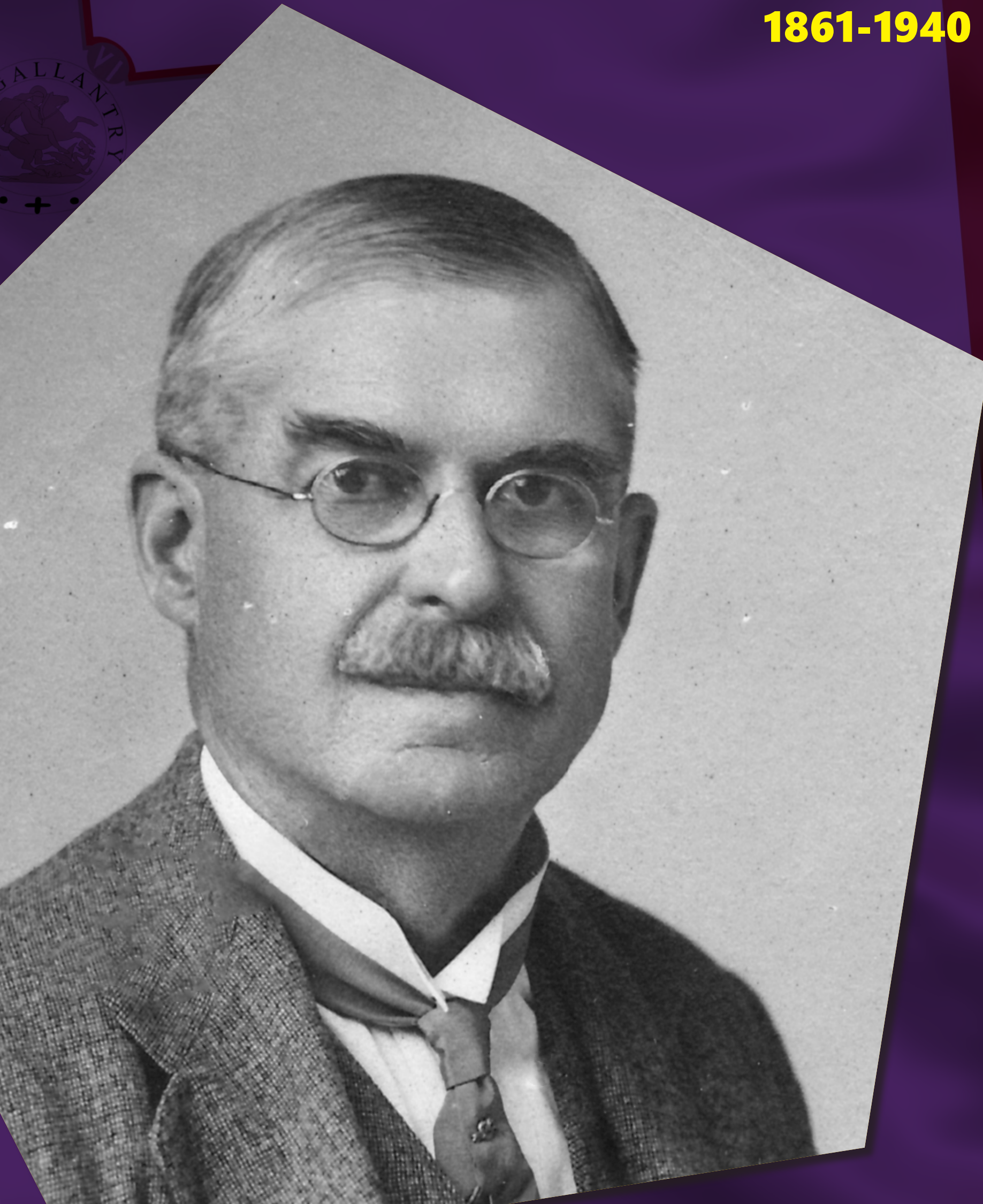


# GERALD STRICKLAND

## 1861-1940



### PROFILE

Gerald Strickland was born in Valletta on the 24 May 1861 to Walter and Louisa née Bonici Mompalao. Studying both in Malta and abroad, he graduated in law from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1887. In 1890, he married Edeline Sackville with whom he had eight children. After her death in 1918, he married Margaret Hulton on the 31 August 1926. On the 9 August 1927, he was appointed fourth Prime Minister of Malta, keeping office until the 21 June 1932. Lord Strickland passed away on 22 August 1940, aged 79, and was interred in the Cathedral at Mdina.

### POLITICS

In the 1888 election, Strickland was elected to the Council of the Government of Malta, representing nobility and property owners. Shortly after, he was nominated and chosen as Chief Secretary by the Colonial Government. Between 1902 and 1917, Strickland served as governor in various states within the British Empire. In 1917, he returned to the local scene and founded the Anglo-Maltese Party. Soon after, the party merged with the Maltese Constitutional Party, under his leadership, as the Constitutional Party. Strickland was Opposition Leader from 1921 to 1927, as well as between July 1932 and November 1933. After the 1927 election, he became Prime Minister of Malta with a majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly, made possible following an agreement with the Labour Party, known as the Compact. A primary project which was initiated during his premiership was the construction of St Luke's Hospital. The Constitutional Party lead by Strickland won six out of ten seats during the 1939 elections and he was thus appointed leader of the Council of the Government.

### OFFICE AND DUTIES

Strickland held various posts, including being elected member of the House of Commons in 1924. Through the years, he was Governor of the Leeward Islands (1902-04), Tasmania (1904-09), West Australia (1909-12) and New South Wales (1912-17) and founded the Progress Press which published *The Times of Malta* and *Il-Berqa*.

### OTHER INFORMATION

Lord Strickland was of noble birth, and in 1889, was appointed as Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George. Between 1928 and 1932, he was involved in the political-religious clash which led to the suspension of the Constitution in 1930. In May of the same year, there was an unsuccessful attempt on his life with three bullets shot at him, while he was in the Courts' building. A monument in his honour, by Antonio Sciortino, is at the Upper Barrakka, and streets were named after him in Ի'Attard, Իaž-Zabbar and Qala in Gozo.