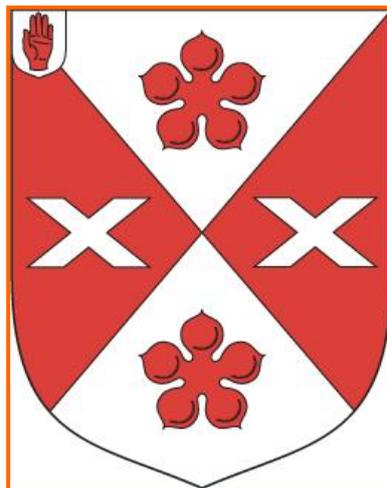


Sir William Agnew. Bt.



1880



Born: 21 October 1825

Died: 31 October 1910

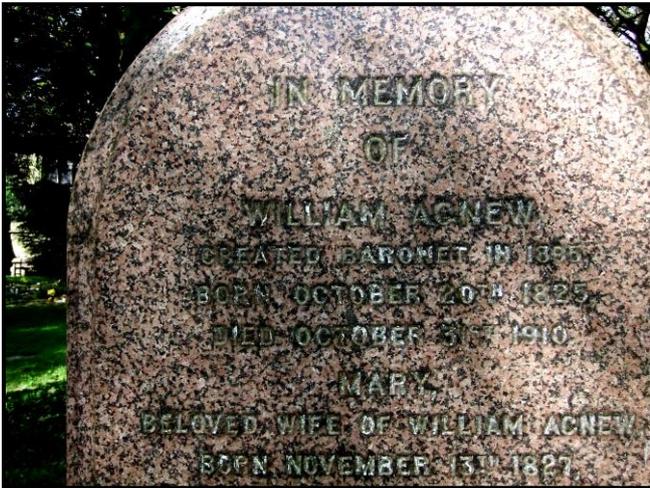
*ART DEALER
PHILANTHROPIST
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT*



THE AGNEWS

Thomas Agnew (1794 - 1871)

At the east end of the church, slightly towards the north side, stands a tall pink marble memorial stone, with a curved top. The inscriptions face eastwards, towards the motorway.



The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY
OF
WILLIAM AGNEW
CREATED BARONET IN 1895
BORN OCTOBER 20TH 1825
DIED OCTOBER 31TH 1910
MARY
BELOVED WIFE OF WILLIAM AGNEW
BORN NOVEMBER 13TH 1827
DIED SEPTEMBER 2ND 1892

The words 'Created Baronet' stirred a great deal of interest. Who was he? Why was he created a Baronet? Where did he live? Did he have a connection to the church? The church's Burial Register shows:

No. 1765	<i>11 Great Stanhope St.</i>	<i>Nov:</i>	<i>85</i>		<i>E Private Vault</i>
<i>William Agnew,</i>	<i>Mayfair</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>c. W. Montgomery Bromley</i>	
<i>Baronet</i>					
No. 1766					<i>H</i>

The date November 4th 1910 was the date of the burial. Charles William Montgomery Bromley was the Curate at St. Mark's, arriving here in 1906. He had previously been a Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, having gained his degree in Natural Sciences in 1900. For **William's** wife, **Mary**, the Register shows:

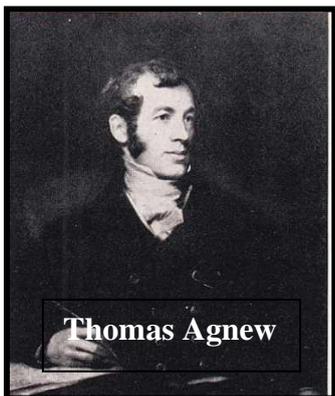
in the County of <i>Lancaster</i>		in the Year 1892.		
Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>1892.</i> <i>Mary Agnew</i>	<i>Timbridge Wells</i>	<i>Sept. 6th</i>	<i>64</i> <i>years</i>	<i>A. W. L. Laven</i>
No. <i>2273</i>				<i>E Private Vault</i>

It is quite probable that she was visiting friends or family at the time of her death. So **William Agnew** was a Baronet, living in Mayfair, with a large house and several domestics? His will, which was proven on 16 February 1911, gives us further details. He lived at 11 Great Stanhope Street, Mayfair. His effects were left to Sir George William Agnew, baronet; Charles Morland Agnew, print publisher; Walter Agnew, valuer; and Philip Leslie Agnew, director. The total value of his estate was £1,353, 592. 0s. 8d. [At today's values, this would equate to almost £160 million - Ed.].

So let us try to trace the life story of this gentleman, the 1st Baronet Agnew, of Great Stanhope Street, London, and explore answers to some of the questions raised above. The evidence is overwhelming that he is indeed buried in our churchyard. At this point, of course, we have started at the end of his life. We need to go back one stage further, to his parents, to appreciate fully how his life unfolded. In

some instances, it has been deemed preferable to copy material directly from sources, and within permissions, rather than to paraphrase or summarise.

William Agnew was born on 20 October **1825**, the son of **Thomas Agnew** and **Jane Garnet Lockett**. Thomas was born in Liverpool on 16 December 1794 and baptised at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on 17 January 1806. Jane was born in Manchester on 26 October 1801, and baptised at the Collegiate Church on 22 November 1801. He married Jane at the church of St. John, Manchester, by licence, on 19 February 1823. Both were of Manchester. Jane was the daughter and coheir of William Lockett (d. 1856), first mayor of Salford (1844-1845). **William** was born on 21 October **1825** and was baptised one month later. The couple were to have more children - a total of 7 sons and 6 daughters.



Jane (b. 25 August 1824; buried 11 January 1825 **RIP**);
Thomas (b. 20 November 1827);
Charles Swain (b. 15 July 1829; buried 8 March 1830 **RIP**);
John Henry (b. 20 November 1830);
Mary Jane (b. 3 July 1832);
James (b. 21 December 1833; buried 29 December 1833 **RIP**);
Laura (b. 16 November 1834);
Emily (b. 16 December 1835);
Charles Swain (b. 17 November 1836);
Alice Ann (b. 13 May 1838);
Albert (b. 13 January 1840);
Jane Emily (b. 16 December 1844).

All the children were baptised at the New Jerusalem Temple, Salford. On each occasion, the occupation of Thomas was recorded as Carver and Gilder. Their addresses changed, though - Gartside Street, Manchester; Ardwick Green; Islington, Salford; and Richmond Hill, Salford. Another notable member of the Salford New Jerusalem Temple included William Lockett, who was the church's treasurer, father of Jane Lockett and a wealthy Salford businessman. This portrait by J. P. Knight, R.A., is in the Peel Park Museum, Salford, to which he gave many pictures.

Thomas Agnew (1794-1871), who as a boy studied drawing and modelling in Liverpool, became a partner in 1816 of Vittore Zanetti, a dealer in clocks and opticians' wares, of Market Street Lane, Manchester. The firm soon took up picture dealing. Thomas Agnew was from 1835 sole proprietor of the concern, to which he added a print-selling and print-publishing branch. He served as mayor of Salford 1850-1. [During his tenure of office, he had the privilege of presenting the loyal address on behalf of the Corporation of Salford to Queen Victoria when she visited the borough in October 1851 - Ed.].

[Dictionary of National Biography].

The national newspapers covered Her Majesty's visit to Peel Park as follows:

The progress from Pendleton to the triumphal arch at the entrance of Salford was marked by every possible indication of loyalty which the assembled crowds could evince.

At the latter point, the Mayor of Salford, Mr Thomas Agnew, was in attendance; and as soon as the Queen had passed under the arch, the Royal carriage was brought to a stand, while the Earl Grey introduced the chief magistrate to the Queen. Mr Agnew then re-entered his carriage, and fell into the procession immediately before her Majesty's carriage. The Royal cortege then proceeded through Salford, in the direction of the Peel Park, under escort of a troop of the 16th Lancers.

The Royal cortege moved slowly through the park towards the pavilion, which it entered at ten minutes after eleven, amid the mingled cheers of the juvenile and adult population. Immediately on the arrival of her Majesty the company rose and made obeisance to the Queen. The Mayor of Salford, attended by the town clerk (Mr Gibson) now approached

the Royal carriage, and the latter gentleman read to her Majesty a loyal address. Her Majesty, in reply, expressed her high gratification at receiving the address of the inhabitants of the borough of Salford and the great pleasure it afforded her of seeing the attention that was paid to the education of the rising generation in the district as evidenced in the novel and interesting scene before her.

One young man who came to know **Thomas Agnew** was Charles Allen du Val, a notable Victorian portrait painter, photographer, literary critic, illustrator and writer. There is a website devoted to his life and works, produced by Stephen C. Askey, his great-great grandson, and this is how he describes the early business of Thomas Agnew.

***Thomas Agnew** (1794-1871) was born in Liverpool but moved with his family to Manchester in the following year. He was apprenticed to Vittore Zanetti, an immigrant Italian craftsman, carver and gilder. Zanetti built up a prosperous business at 87 Market Street Lane, in making mirror and picture frames, and manufacturing scientific instruments. By 1813 he had moved to larger premises at 94 Market Street Lane, having taken on **Thomas Agnew** as an apprentice. **Thomas Agnew** became a partner in 1816, and the firm of Zanetti & Agnew became high quality print publishers and established an exhibition gallery.*



Thomas Agnew, bust by M. Noble, 1853

*Vittore's son Joseph Zanetti had joined the business in 1825, and in the following year Zanetti & Agnew moved to a prime location at 14 Exchange Street. There the young **Charles Allen Du Val**, newly arrived in Manchester, was introduced to Thomas Agnew. The firm published many prints engraved from his paintings, greatly helping to establish his growing reputation.*

In 1828 Zanetti retired to his island estate in Lake Maggiore, and the business became Agnew & Zanetti. The junior partner Joseph Zanetti left in 1835, to set up his own firm in the same line of business.

*Meanwhile **Thomas Agnew** began to move the business away from craftsmen and print publishers into the business of dealing in pictures, primarily signed paintings by English artists. By then wealthy Manchester merchants and millowners began to collect works of art by contemporary painters. Thomas Agnew had judged the market correctly, and the business prospered. His two sons joined him, and in 1850 both were taken into partnership. The firm became Thomas Agnew & Sons, and opened a branch in London.*

*They continued to prosper, especially after being commissioned to collect works of art from all over the country for the **1857 Art Treasures Exhibition**, and carrying out the task with great success. The firm opened a branch in London, where they eventually concentrated their business as art dealers of international importance, and in 1923 the Manchester premises were closed.*

[www.charlesduval.org - Stephen C. Askey (editor)]

In 1838 Du Val was commissioned by **Daniel Lee** to paint a portrait of Daniel O'Connell, the Irish politician. This was a great honour for the young artist, but there was the difficulty that O'Connell would only allow one sitting lasting two and a half hours. Fortunately Du Val had the ability to work rapidly and he quickly caught the character of a sitter.

SPLENDID PORTRAIT OF DANIEL O'CONNELL,
ESQ., M.P.
MR. THOMAS AGNEW, Printseller and Publisher,
EXCHANGE-STREET, MANCHESTER, begs
to announce to the Nobility and Gentry of Dublin that
the Private View of the celebrated whole length original
Portrait of DANIEL O'CONNELL, Esq., M.P., painted
for Daniel Lee, Esq., by Charles Allen Duval, Esq., will
commence THIS DAY (Thursday), and continue
throughout the Next Week, at the NORTHUMBERLAND
HOTEL, EDEN-QUAY.
Cards of admission may be had at 110, Grafton-street,
the Office of THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL, and the Northum-
berland Hotel.

The portrait was a great success. In 1839, it was exhibited in Dublin by **Thomas Agnew** and advertised in the city newspaper *Freeman's Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser* on 14 February in that year. An engraving was made. Copies sold well and became very popular. This was the picture that brought instant success and fame to the artist.

It has already been noted that 'All the children were baptised at the New Jerusalem Temple, Salford'. The book *New Church Worthies*, by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bayley (1884), provides an great insight into the influence of Thomas Agnew within Manchester. In a chapter entitled '*MR. AGNEW, and Cheap Day Schools in Manchester, Salford, and the North*', extracts of which now follow, he wrote:

THE Cheap and Good Day School system having been commenced, and seen to be successful, in London, excited attention in Manchester. ...

Mr. Agnew became very zealous that a similar school should be established in Manchester, and called a meeting for the purpose of promoting that object. The minutes of that meeting in 1824, and subsequent proceedings, I possess in the hand-writing of my dear and life-long friend, Thos. Agnew, Esq., the founder of the great well-known artistic firm of Thos. Agnew and Sons, of London and Manchester....

Mr. Agnew was chief promoter, and was chosen secretary, an office he held for very many years. Passed unanimously: 'That this meeting, considering it of the greatest importance to instruct the youthful mind in the principles and doctrines of the New Church, is of opinion that a Day School, founded for this specific purpose, would be highly beneficial to the rising generation in this neighbourhood, and extensively useful to the Church at large'. ...

The New Church led the way in this great work. Mr. Agnew, who took the lead in the introduction of these admirable institutions in the North of England, had a most amiable disposition and an intense love of children. He had long fostered the Sunday School of the Temple, and was greatly beloved both by teachers and scholars. ...

His presence with the Rev. Mr. Hindmarsh at the annual treats of the school, when they were taken to Dunham Park in the packet on the Bridgewater Canal, was a time of great enjoyment. ...

He greatly popularised the school by taking untiring pains to train a select number of scholars to recite dialogues and appropriate pieces in poetry and prose. ...

The great interest Mr. Agnew felt in universal education, and especially in Sunday Schools, received its supreme enjoyment when the Queen and Prince Albert visited Manchester and Salford, in 1850. Mr. Agnew was Mayor of Salford that year, and he arranged that the royal visitors should have a sight possible only in Lancashire, then pre-eminently the land of Sunday Schools. ...

In Peel Park, which he had been mainly instrumental in obtaining for the town, and furnishing with an admirable Museum, he assembled 80,000 Sunday Scholars to sing before Her Majesty, and to have the pleasure for once of seeing the Queen. ...

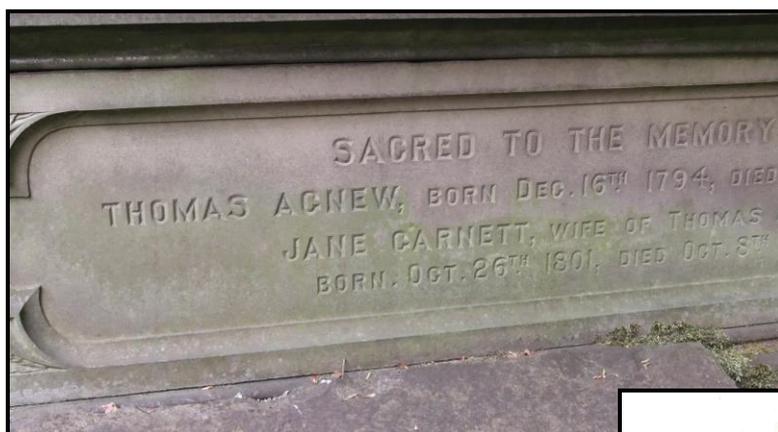
*It was a great day of delight probably for the Sovereign, certainly for the schools, and, I have good reason to know, for the benevolent New Churchman, **Mr. Agnew**.*

The National Censuses are always an excellent source of information. They started in a rudimentary way in **1841** and are still held every ten years. The entry for that year shows **Thomas** aged 40 and a Print Seller, with his wife **Jane** (35). The ages for that census were always rounded down, so Thomas, for example, would have been 40-44. They were living in Richmond Hill, Salford, with their children **William** (15), Thomas (13), John (10), Charles (4), Albert (1), Mary (8), Emma [or Emily] (6), Alice (3) and three Female Servants.

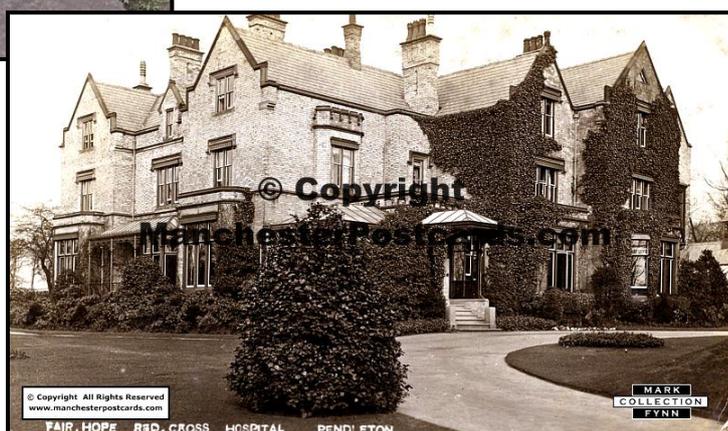
Sadly, some of the records for Salford and Manchester in **1851** suffered from water damage decades ago, so there is not a complete record for the family. However, fragments have survived showing Thomas (23), John (20), Mary Jane (18), Charles Swain (14), Alice Ann (12), Albert (11), and Jane Emily (7). Both parents would appear to be at the same address, since these are recorded as sons and daughters of the occupant, but the damage is too severe to identify names and an address. However, the pages on either side show that the address would have been Richmond Hill. Thomas was now a Printseller and Publisher.

By the census of **1861**, **Thomas** (62) and **Jane** (58) were living at Ash Lawn, Pendleton, with some of their children - Mary Jane (27), Charles S. (24), Alice Ann (22), Albert (21), Jane Emily (17), and two servants. His wife Jane was to die in the latter months of 1864. By 1863, the family had moved from Ash Lawn to Fairhope. Both houses were on Eccles Old Road, on a stretch familiarly called "Millionaires' Row". Fairhope became a Red Cross auxiliary hospital in World War 1.

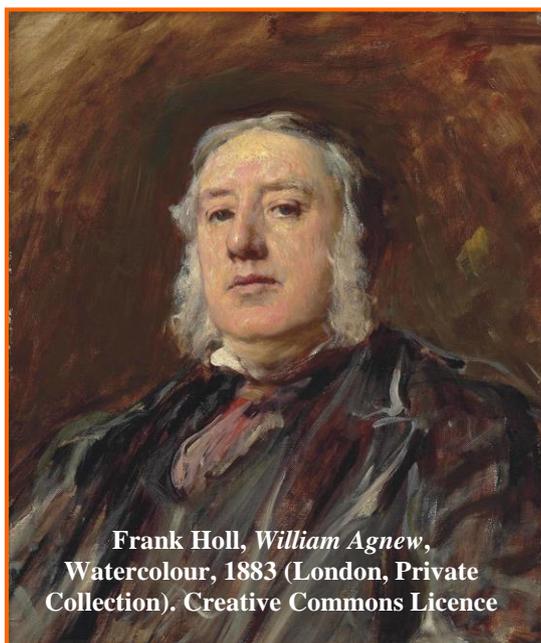
Thomas died on 24 March **1871**, a Printseller and Publisher, late of Fairhope, Eccles. His will was proved on 24 May and his effects, under £80,000, were left to Thomas Agnew, of Exchange Street, Manchester, Printseller and Publisher; William Agnew, of Exchange Street, Printseller and Publisher; and John Henry Agnew, of Mount Street, Manchester, Commission Agent, the Sons, Executors. Thomas was buried at St. Mark's on 29 March 1871 by the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, Vicar.



In the same vault, lie the bodies of three of his children: Jane Emily (16 Dec. 1844 - 3 April 1868); Albert (1840 - 1877); and Alice Anne (13 May 1838 - 7 October 1909). There are several other members of the extended AGNEW family buried in the churchyard at St. Mark's.



Sir William Agnew 1825 - 1910



Frank Holl, *William Agnew*,
Watercolour, 1883 (London, Private
Collection). Creative Commons Licence

William Agnew was, therefore, the first son of Thomas Agnew and Jane Garnet **Lockett**. Her father, William Lockett, had married Betty Garnett in the Collegiate Church of Manchester on 25 March 1799. Jane was baptised in the same church on 30 October 1803. William, being the first mayor of Salford (1844-1845), was a silk mercer who retired from business in 1831. He became a police commissioner in 1832, overseer in 1835, chairman of several important commissioners' committees from 1836, constable in 1837, guardian from 1840, boroughreeve in 1842, and finally Salford's first mayor in 1844. As a retired businessman and local politician, his name gradually entered the social milieu of that time and his patronage became evermore in demand. He was an example of how a man of relatively modest income could rise up the social and political ladder.

The baptism record for **William** shows ...

Baptism: 20 Nov **1825** New Jerusalem Temple, Salford.

William Agnew - [Child] of Thomas Agnew & Jane

Born: 21 Oct **1825**

Abode: Gartside Str. Manchester

Occupation: Carver & Gilder

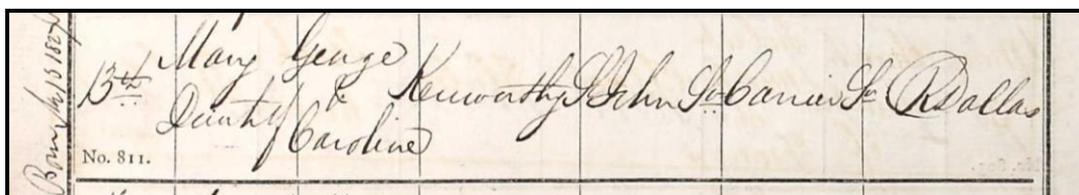
Baptised by: David Howarth

*Educated at the Rev. J. H. Smithson's Swedenborgian school, Salford, **William** and his younger brother Thomas (1827-1883), who adhered through life to their father's Swedenborgian faith, early joined their father's business, which rapidly developed under their control. They were partners from 1850, when the firm took the style of Thomas Agnew & Sons. Establishing branches in London (first at Waterloo Place and from 1876 at Old Bond Street), as well as in Liverpool, they had the chief share in the formation during the middle period of the century of the great art collections in the north of England and the Midlands—the Mendel, Gillott, and many others.*

[Dictionary of National Biography]

On 25 March **1851**, he married, by Licence, Mary Kenworthy, a daughter of George Pixton Kenworthy, of Peel Hall, Astley, Lancashire, England Their children were:

- Sir George William Agnew, 2nd Baronet (b. Salford 19 January 1852 – 19 December 1941)
- Mary Caroline Agnew, (b. 1853, married 1878, died 2 February 1888)
- Charles Morland Agnew (14 December 1855 – 23 May 1931)
- Florence Agnew, (b. 1858, married 1880, died 2 September 1890)
- Walter Agnew (29 April 1861 – 17 April 1915)
- Philip Leslie Agnew (b. Farthingstone, 30 June 1863 – 5 March 1938)



George Kenworthy was a Carrier, originally from St. John's Street, Manchester and was a tenant of Peel Hall at the time of the marriage. George had married Rebecca (Lansdale) in 1844 at Eccles Parish Church, having been widowed. He had first married Caroline Lees, a minor, by licence, at St. Mary, Manchester, on 20 September 1826. She was buried on 17 August 1842, aged 32, at St. John's. Mary was born on 13 November 1827 and was baptised on 13 March 1828 at St. John's, Manchester. George himself was also buried at St. John's on 15 September 1865, aged 62. His abode was St. John's Street. The Probate record for him states:

The will of George Pixton Kenworthy late of St. John's-street in the city of Manchester Gentleman, deceased who died 9 September 1865 at St. John's-street aforesaid was proved at Manchester by the oaths of William Agnew of the City aforesaid Printer and Publisher and Thomas Agnew of the City aforesaid printer and Publisher the Executors.

As always, a look at the censuses tells us a little about a family at a certain point in time. The census for **1851** was taken on the night of 30 March. Since this was only 6 days after their wedding, it is probably of no surprise that there is no trace of William and Mary.

Page 112.

1851. Marriage solemnized at *St. John's Church* in the Parish of *Manchester* in the County of *Lancashire*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
223	<i>March Twenty fifth</i>	<i>William Agnew</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Printer</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Thomas Agnew</i>	<i>Printer</i>
		<i>Mary Kenworthy</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Manchester</i>	<i>George Pixton Kenworthy</i>	<i>Carrier</i>

Married in the *City of Manchester* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *James* or after *W. H. Kenworthy* by *W. H. Kenworthy*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *William Agnew* in the Presence of us, *W. H. Kenworthy* and *Mary Kenworthy*

In the census of **1861**, **William** was staying at the Tavistock Hotel, Westminster. He was a Publisher, aged 35, married and born in Manchester. His wife Mary (33) was at home at Ash Lawn, with Caroline M. (7); Charles (5); Florence (3) and 3 domestics. George William was aged 9 and was a scholar at Seafield House School, Lytham.

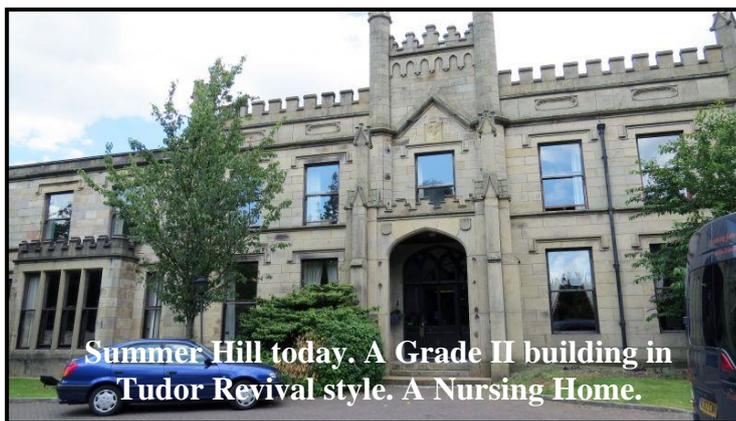
A summary of the three following censuses tells us where he had been resident, together with further details about his jobs. They also tell us about the domestic servants who worked at his homes and their number. These details give us a great impression of the growing status of **William Agnew**.

1871 census. William (45); Mary (42); George W. (19) undergraduate Cambs; Caroline M. (17); Florence (13); Philip Leslie (7); Albert Agnew, bro. (31); plus 7 servants. Picture dealer, J.P. 33 Eccles Road, Pendleton, Salford. Charles Morland (15) was now a scholar at Rugby School.

1881 census. William Agnew (55); Mary Agnew (50); Alice Agnew (40), annuitant; plus 12 servants. M.P., Magistrate and Publisher. 1 & 2 George Street, St. George, Hanover Square, Westminster.

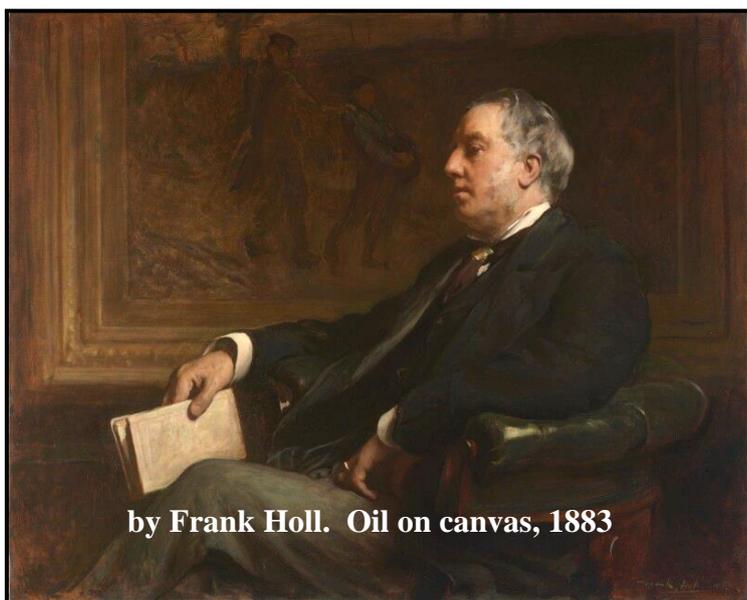
1891 census. William (65); Mary (63); plus 2 grandchildren Alexander Ogilvie (8) and Florence (3), both born in Marylebone. Publisher and J.P. Summer Hill, Pendleton. Plus 8 servants.

As a matter of interest, the three brothers George William, Charles Morland, and Walter also represented Cambridge University at rugby. The fourth son, Philip Leslie, went to Oxford University. At the time of his death, Sir William Agnew had been living at Great Stanhope Street, Mayfair, London. So, from this basic source, we can see that he was becoming a man of substance who, together with some members of the family, was driving the family-built firm of art dealers. For the interested reader, the lives of these four gentlemen were extremely fascinating.



Summer Hill today. A Grade II building in Tudor Revival style. A Nursing Home.

Much of the information which now follows has been collected from a number of sources. The firm opened its London gallery in **1860**, where it soon established itself as one of Mayfair's leading dealerships. Since then Agnew's has held a pre-eminent position in the world of Old Master paintings. It also had a major role in the massive growth of a market for contemporary British art in the late 19th century. In **2013**, after nearly two centuries of family ownership, Agnew's was purchased privately and is now run by Lord Anthony Crichton-Stuart, a former head of Christie's Old Master paintings department, New York. In that year, the following announcement was made: "**Agnew's Closing.** *With great sadness it has been decided to close the gallery on 30th April this year. This has been a very difficult decision to reach but the shareholders are unanimous in believing it to be the correct course of action*".



by Frank Holl. Oil on canvas, 1883

Agnew's, as it is commonly called, has long held a prominent position in the Bond Street trade in Old Master pictures. The founder's sons, Sir William Agnew, 1st Baronet (1825) and Thomas Agnew (1827), were pivotal in the firm's rise in London, where Agnew's first established itself in 1860. Broadly speaking, Sir William's line produced the in-house connoisseurs (most notably C. Morland Agnew [1855–1931]), while Thomas's son, W. Lockett Agnew (1858–1918), inherited his father's commercial flair.

It was **William Agnew** who shifted the gallery trade to Old Masters. As *The Times* noted in Sir William's obituary, "In 1877

the firm had built rooms in 39 Old Bond Street (later called 43 Old Bond Street), and when the succession of Old Master exhibitions, the example of Sir Richard Wallace and the Rothschilds, and the revived passion for eighteenth-century architecture and furniture had turned the taste of the new rich men back to the older art, William Agnew was ready to find the pictures".

Dennis Farr, in writing for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, said of him:

*An imposing man, **William Agnew** was a born actor (he always bid at auction in a top hat) and a most persuasive salesman; he was decisive and often bought ahead of the taste of his day. His business acumen was tempered by a personal charm and simplicity that endeared him to many, including the artists, musicians, politicians, and clients whom he*

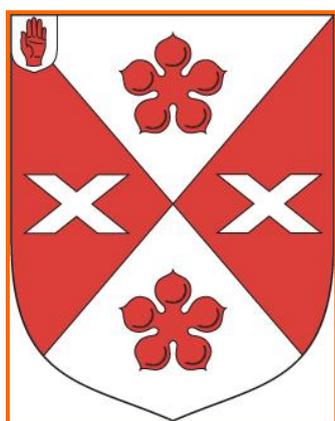
frequently entertained either at Summer Hill, Salford, or at Great Stanhope Street, London.

According to Giles Waterfield, (*Palaces of Art: Art Galleries in Britain, 1890-1890., 1991*), **Agnew** was "regarded as the prince of art dealers by his contemporaries. He conferred respectability on an activity which had been regarded as socially, at best, peripheral". He acquired and sold many major paintings, and Farr notes his "avuncular" relationships with such artists as John Everett Millais, Frederic Leighton, and Edward Burne-Jones; Farr also tells us that it was Agnew who encouraged one of his clients, Henry Tate, to found the Tate Gallery. Over sixty of his many sales to Lord Iveagh would also form the superb collection at Kenwood House in Hampstead. Vitally important too were Agnew's dealings with the wealthy industrialists who became patrons of the Birmingham Art Gallery. Another great Victorian enterprise in which he and two of his brothers were involved was the publication of *Punch* by Bradbury and Agnew. **William Agnew** and his brother Thomas Agnew were part-proprietors of *Punch* from 1870, and **William Agnew** became chairman of the magazine in 1890. He took a keen interest in *Punch*, was on terms of intimacy with members of the staff, and, as long as his health permitted, regularly attended the weekly dinner.

Aside from the art and publishing business, **William Agnew** became the Member of Parliament for South East Lancashire, **1880–1885**. In politics, he was a strong Liberal, and a faithful follower of Gladstone, whom he came to know intimately. In **1885**, he spoke in the House of Commons in support of the vote of £83,520 for the purchase of the *Ansi dei Madonna* by Raphael, and the portrait of *Charles I* by Van Dyck from the Duke of Marlborough for the National Gallery. He was next elected M.P. for the Stretford division of Lancashire **1885-1886**. It is interesting to note that in 1880 he succeeded Algernon Fulke Egerton to the constituency. This may help to understand why his ashes came to be buried here in Worsley, although his father was already interred here. Clearly the area and the church must have been close to his heart, given also that other members of his family were and were to be buried here.

Deeply identifying himself with the organisation of his party, he was one of the founders of the National Liberal Club, London, and was president of the Manchester Reform Club (where his portrait appears in the gallery of past presidents), which he also helped to set up. His interest in philanthropical and other enterprises, especially at Manchester, was wide and practical. He was also a patron of music. At one time he was fond of travelling and of yachting, and was a member of the Royal Clyde Yacht Club

He was created a Baronet, of Great Stanhope Street, London, on 2 September **1895** on the recommendation of Lord Rosebery. *The Edinburgh Gazette* on 4 October 1895 announced:



WHITEHALL, September 25, 1895.

The Queen has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Ireland, dated 2nd September 1895, to grant the dignity of a Baronet of the said United Kingdom unto William Agnew, of Great Stanhope Street, in the Parish of Saint George, Hanover Square, in the County of London, Esquire, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten.

Coat of arms

Per saltire Argent and Gules in pale two fraises and in fess two saltires couped all counterchanged. An Ulster Baronet's badge for difference.

His son, Sir George William Agnew (1852-1941), who assumed the Baronetcy on his father's death, bought the Rougham Hall estate in Suffolk in 1904-05, just a few years before the death of Sir William. Rougham Hall itself was bombed in 1940 and never restored; the ruins remaining on the estate, which still belongs to the current baronet.

Probate confirmed that he died in St. George, Hanover Square, London, on 31 October **1910**. He was of Great Stanhope Street, Mayfair. Effects of £1,353, 592. 0s. 8d. were left to Sir George William Agnew, baronet, Charles Morland Agnew, print publisher, Walter Agnew, valuer, and Philip Leslie Agnew, director. His body was cremated at Golder's Green.

DEATH OF SIR WILLIAM AGNEW.

Sir William Agnew, Bart., chairman of Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew, and Co., proprietors of "Punch," died at his residence in Great Stanhope-street, on Monday, after a short illness, at the age of eighty-five. Sir William was for many years the head of the firm of Thomas Agnew-and Sons, the world-famous art dealers; and for half a century he was a prominent, figure in the public life, and philanthropy of Manchester, and Salford. He was twice elected to Parliament - in 1880 for South-East Lancashire, and in 1885 for the Stretford Division. He was one of Mr. Gladstone's great friends; in fact, the G-O-M. once said that Sir William was his tutor in matters of art. Liberalism is under obligation to him for the active part he played in establishing and building the National Liberal Club. An art patron of the best type, Sir. William gave many a young artist and draughtsman his first great opportunity in life. Sir William is succeeded in the baronetcy, which was conferred on him in 1895, by Mr. George William Agnew, M.P., for West Salford. [The Flintshire Observer - Friday 4 November 1910.]

