

George BIRCH



G. BIRCH & CO.,
ISLINGTON TOOL WORKS, ISLINGTON GROVE,
SALFORD.

MAKERS OF
High-class AMATEUR LATHES,
Planing, Shaping, Milling,
Drilling, and Wheel-cutting
Machines.

COLD-SAWING MACHINES
For Brass, Iron, and Steel, a speciality.

**Complete Plant for Wire-
mattress Making.**

Wheel Cutting, Straight and
Circular Dividing, Index Plates
made or drilled to order.

SPECIAL LATHES AND OTHER TOOLS
FOR ELECTRICIANS, ETC.

Born: 15 October 1842

Died: 26 December 1900

*MANAGER OF STEEL WORKS
MACHINE TOOL MAKER*



George BIRCH – (1842-1900)



In Memory of
GEORGE BIRCH
of Pendleton
born October 15th 1842
died December 26th 1900
Also FRANCES ANN
the beloved wife of GEORGE BIRCH
born March 9th 1843 died March 27th 1893
(j 1063b)

1842: Birth of **George Birch** in the 4th qtr. **1842**, in Bowling, Yorks., the son of John Birch and Ann Dixon.

1851 census: 413 Wakefield Road, Bowling.

John Birch	Head	M	28	Iron Refiner
Ann	Wife	M	27	
George	Son		8	Scholar
Elizabeth	Daur.		4	At home
James Wm	Son		5 mo.	

1861 census: Cross James St., Bradford West End.

George Birch	Boarder	18	Accountant's Clerk
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[Home of Edward Harland and his family, painter and paper hanger, employing 13 men].

1871 census: 11 Monsall Lane, Newton Heath.

John Birch	Head	M	48	Steel Converter
Ann	Wife	M	47	
George	Son	S	28	Steel Converter
Sarah	Daur.		12	Scholar

1873: Marriage of **George Birch** and **Frances Ann Crossley** in the Manchester Reg. District

1881 census: Bank Lands, Workington.

George Birch	Head	M	36	Manager of Steel Works	b. Bowling
Frances A.	Wife	M	36		b. Broughton

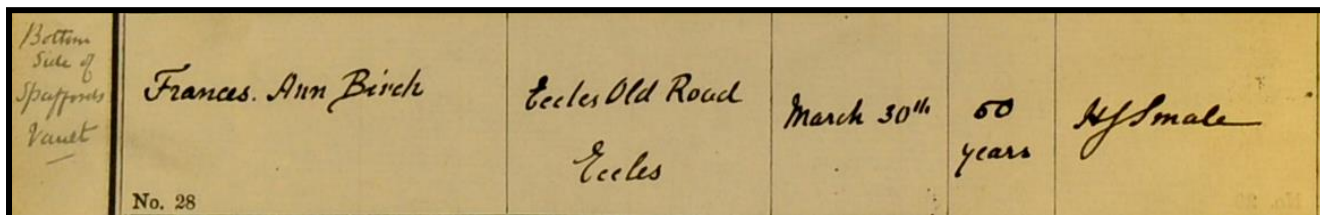
+ 1 servant

1891 census: 3 Brentwood, Seedley, Salford.

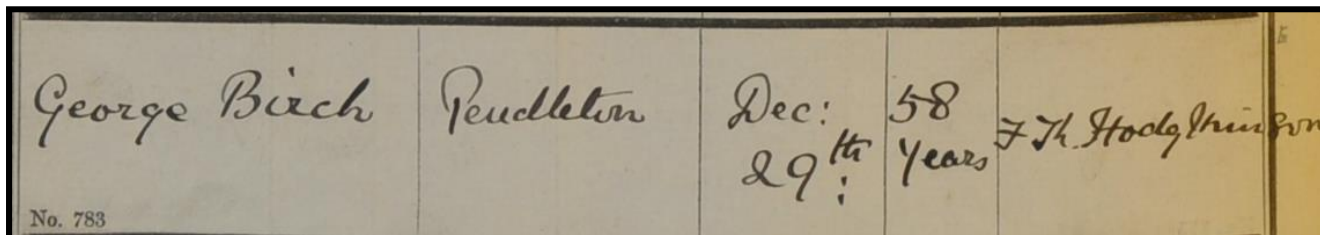
George Birch	Head	M	48	Machine Tool Maker	b. Bowling
Frances A.	Wife	M	48	(Paralysed through injured spine)	b. Lr. Broughton
Clara Crossley	S-in-law	S	35	Visitor	

+ 1 servant

1893: Death of **Frances Ann Birch** on 27 March **1893**, aged 50 years. She was buried at St. Mark's on 30 March 1893, 'at the bottom side of Spafford's vault'.



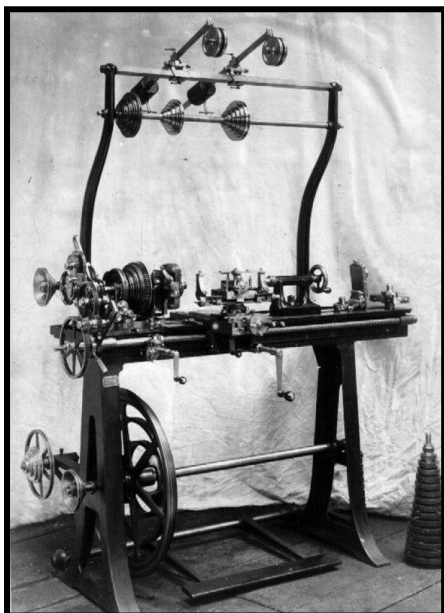
1900: Death of **George Birch**, aged 58 years, on 26 December **1900**. He was buried at St. Mark's on 29 December 1900.



WILL.

BIRCH George of 3 Brentwood Eccles-old Road Pendleton Lancashire engineer and tool-maker died 26 December 1900 Administration **London** 16 January to Emma Robinson (wife of Thomas Fletcher Robinson) and Sarah Hull (wife of William Dennis Hull). Effects £7758 5s. Resworn December 1901 £6339 8s. 7d.

[Both Emma and Sarah were sisters of George Birch].



George Birch (1842-1900)

[Birch lathe, circa 1884-1889]

During the 1870s, while working as a manager at the Railway Steel and Plant Company in Newton Heath (Manchester, England), Birch met two of the best-known ornamental turners in the area, William Hart and Jesse Lowe. In 1884, he founded Birch & Company in Salford, Manchester, U.K. and formed a team with Lowe who provided many of the ideas that Birch put into production.

While Birch made ornamental lathes and a complete variety of related apparatus, that was only a small part of the many types of machines the company produced for industry. Birch turning equipment was known to be a robust, high quality, improved version of standard OT equipment, but at a premium price. Only

nine ornamental lathes are known to exist, along with two special short bed versions only for medallion work.

[https://ornamentalturning.net/victorian_era_maker-birch].



G. Birch & Co.

of Bloom Street, then Islington Tool Works, Salford, Manchester. Small but highly innovative makers of high quality machine tools, including Ornamental Turning lathes.

Founded by **George Birch** (1842-1900).

Birch had been a manager at the Railway Steel and Plant Company in Newton Heath in the 1870s, when he became acquainted with a local ornamental turner, Jesse Lowe. In **1884**, he founded G. Birch & Co, making machine tools with input from Lowe.

1885 Advert: 'Lathe and Vice. - A good opening for an IMPROVER: must have some experience in Electrical or Philosophical instrument making.- G. BIRCH and Co., Bloom-street, Salford.

1887 Exhibited Self-acting Slide-surfacing and Screw-cutting Foot Lathe, fitted with various appliances for plain and ornamental turning. Foot Power Milling Machine. Hollow Mandrel Electrician's Lathe. Amateur's Work Bench. Small Tools case.

1903 Description of a sophisticated automatic machine for cutting spur, bevel and worm wheels. The machine was made in several sizes to cut gears from 2ft. diameter and 9in. wide up to 8ft. diameter and 13in. wide.

1904 they were also making machines for more brutal tasks, including circular saws up to 36 inches diameter for cutting risers off hard steel castings. They also made machines for automatically sharpening circular saw blades up to 66" diameter. Another line was a cylindrical grinding machine for internal and external work, parallel and tapered, taking up to 14" diameter and 6 ft long. They also made complete plant for producing wire mattresses.

1905 Description and illustrations of a 7" centre height toolroom lathe

1911 Made a versatile 4.5" centre lathe for the use of a captain of an ocean-going liner.

1912 Lathe bed design featured in 'Machinery'

1913 Sale of plant and equipment, following voluntary liquidation of G Birch & Co., included 24 lathes, 5 planing machines, 5 dilling machines, shaping, slotting, milling, slot drilling, gear cutting, grinding machines, etc. Also 22 HP National gas engine and gas producer plant.

Location

The company occupied a small site in the area of central Salford between Chapel Street and the railway serving Manchester Victoria. The 1915 OS map shows a small tool works at the corner of Islington Grove and Grove Place, in a largely residential area. Latterly it was by no means a prosperous area. The works shared three of its walls with terraced houses, and the ground area was no more than about 100 ft by 100 ft.

[v. Grace's Guide]

Upon Birch's death in **1900**, the company passed to his four sisters and his brother-in-law, Thomas F Robinson, who was possibly the works manager. This seems to have continued for 11 years until the firm was bought by Ernest Hollings, an engineer from Bolton, but this arrangement appears to have been unsuccessful and the company was wound up in 1913.

