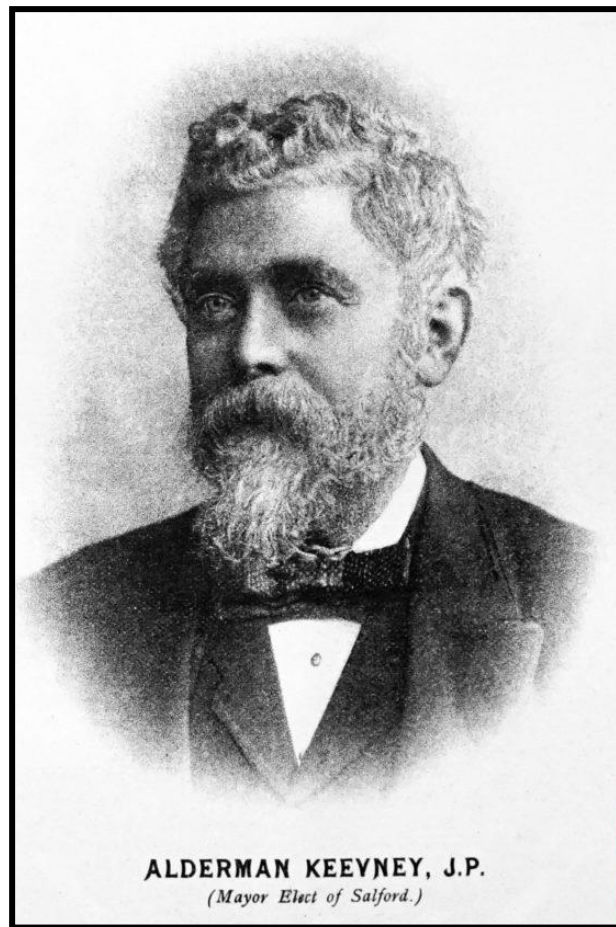


Peter KEEVNEY



Born: 21 February 1833, Ireland

Died: 4 June 1895

*TEA MERCHANT
MAYOR OF SALFORD*



Peter KEEVNEY



All that can be said with any certainty about the early life of **Peter Keevney** is that he originated from Ireland. Various censuses for the U. K, which give his birth place, simply state Ireland. Beyond that, we only know one other piece of information, taken from the marriage register (1863) of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Farnworth; and that is that his father was named William Keevney and he was a Farmer.

Just to leap ahead 62 years, he was buried in the churchyard, in plot J1053. The Burial Register records:

No. 235					
j 1053	Peter Keevney	Ash Villa Higher Broughton	June 7 th	62 Years	F.H. Hooley (Minister)
	No. 236				

In **1853**, Peter Keevney had settled in Farnworth, Bolton where he joined the tea business of H. Duffy. (by courtesy of ecclesoldroad.uk).

The first official record of him being here in England was the census of 1861:

1861 census: Dover Street, Farnworth
 Peter Keevney Lodger Un 28 Tea Dealer b. Ireland

This was the home of a cotton spinner and his wife.

Just two years later, **Peter Keevney** married Mary Jane Dearden on 19 August **1863** at Fletcher Street Wesleyan Methodist, Bolton. The marriage register gives more detail:

Marriage: 19 Aug **1863** Wesleyan Methodist, Farnworth, Lancs.
Peter Keevney - 30, Tea Dealer, Bachelor, Farnworth
 Mary Jane Dearden - 29, Preceptor, Spinster, Farnworth
 Groom's Father: William Keevney, Farmer
 Bride's Father: Robert Dearden, Cotton Spinner
 Witness: John E. Dearden; E. Dearden; Joshua Hindley; M D? Bond
 Married by Licence by: Elijah Jackson Minister, David Crossley Depy. Registrar

He appears to have taken a very strong interest in local politics, since, in **1867**, he was a member of the Exchange District Committee in Manchester, responsible for the election of and canvassing for the nomination of a mayor for the city.

By the time of the next census, **1871**, **Peter** and Mary Jane had had three children: Robert William (born c. 1865); Marion (born c. 1867); and Lizzie Maud (born c. 1869).

1871 62 Bolton Road, Pendleton

Peter Keevney	Head	M	38	Tea Dealer	b. Ireland
Mary	Wife	M	37		b. Manchester
Robert	Son		6		
Marion	Daur		4		
Lizzie	Daur		2		

Henry Dearden Bro 24 Painter

On Friday 30 October **1874**, local newspapers reported that he had been nominated as one of four candidates for the St. Thomas Ward of Pendleton, to represent the Conservative Party. There were 2 members of the Conservative Party and 2 members of the Liberal Party standing at that election. At the election in early November, he came third.

Then, sadly, the *Manchester Courier* announced in its Notices column, on Thursday 22 March **1877**, the death of his son.

KEEVNEY - On the 19th inst. at Arnold House, Blackpool, Robert William, only and beloved son of Peter Keevney, of 62 Hawthorne View, Pendleton, aged 12.

The church burial register recorded:

Burial: 22 Mar **1877** St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire.
Robert William Keevney
Age: 12 yrs.
Abode: Blackpool
Buried by: Mulgrave

Eventually, he managed to get a toe-hold into politics. On Friday 2 November **1877**, the local press announced that he had been nominated to represent St. Thomas's Ward, Pendleton.

1881 census: 5 Eccles Old Road, Pendleton

Peter	Head	M	48	Tea Dealer (6 men,7 girls,3 boys)
Mary	Wife	M	47	
Marion	Daur	S	14	Scholar
Lizzie	Daur	S	12	do.

Burial: 12 Aug 1887 St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire, England

Mary Jane Keevney -

Age: 53 yrs.

Abode: Eccles Old Road, Pendleton

Buried by: W. G. Harland

1891 census: 15 Northumberland Street, Broughton

Peter	Head	W	58
Marian	Daur	S	24

+ 2 servants

Between the years **1891** and **1893** Peter Keevney, served as mayor of Salford. He in fact served two consecutive terms. The *Manchester Evening News* of Monday 9 November **1891** reported his first appointment as follows:

*At a meeting that day of the town council of Salford the retiring mayor Mr. Alderman Walmsley proposed the election of Mr. Alderman **Peter Keevney** Mayor of the borough for the ensuing year. He stated that Mr. Keevney, the requisition in whose favour had been signed by every member of the Council, had been member of the Council for fourteen years, he had been a regular attendee at the meetings, he had taken eloquent part in the discussions, and had shown himself a man of great business capacity. He was capable of taking broad views, and he always showed the courage of his convictions - a very important qualification in a man who was called upon to fill so important a public office. Mr. Alderman McKerrow, in seconding the motion, said Mr. Keevney had the*

respect and esteem of every member of the Council. If there were two qualities more apparent than another in Mr. Alderman Keevney they were his courage and his honesty. It might be that to some he appeared to be somewhat aggressive in character, but at bottom he had always shown himself to be a man of great geniality of disposition. Although he might discharge the duties of the chair with great severity, they might depend upon him always tempering justice with mercy. They anticipated that during Mr. Keevney's mayoralty they would have a time of usefulness, of comfort, and of encouragement.

The new Mayor, in returning thanks for the honour conferred upon him, reviewed the present position of the borough, and said the most impartial observer must be struck with Salford's progress and enterprise. Parks and libraries had been multiplied, new baths erected, postal arrangements improved, and a court of quarter sessions established in their midst. In addition to these advantages, the borough had just cause for pride in the near completion of its magnificent sanatorium, the finest building of the kind in the country, the total cost of which would be about £60,000. The new Technical School also, upon which they proposed to spend another £60,000, would be replete for the equipment the youth the borough for.

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, a newspaper named *The Manchester Weekly Times*, was published in the city. One feature of the children's column within the paper was a club called the 'Guild of Gentleness run' by 'Uncle Oldman', who wrote about how he was assisted by his fairy called Laughaway. **Peter Keevney** was a member of that Guild - one of many notable dignitaries.

Following the death of his wife, and having retired from civic duties, he continued to play an active rôle in community life. The *Manchester Courier*, on Saturday 9 March **1895**, carried an article entitled WESLEYAN BAZAAR IN MANCHESTER - 'a bazaar in aid of the fund for the building of a new Church, in Cheetham Hill. It was opened at noon on Thursday, at St. James's Hall, in this city, by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Alderman E. Lloyd). As stated in the programme, the present church has been an important centre of church life and work for more than half century, but it is ill adapted to the habits and needs of the present day. A new building was absolutely necessary to provide for the needs of modern church life and enterprise'. **Peter Keevney** was mentioned as having attended and given his support to the bazaar.

The Kelly's Directory trade directory for **1895** gave his address as Ash Villa, Northumberland Street, Higher Broughton. The splendid website www.ecclesoldroad.uk has published online the following résumé of **Peter Keveney**.

Peter Keevney (1833-95) was a tea and coffee merchant and businessman. Conservative in politics, he became the Chair of the West Salford Conservative Association, served as a councillor for the St. Thomas ward and was an Alderman and Mayor of Salford on two occasions. Born in Ireland the son of a farmer, Keevney was originally Roman Catholic, later becoming a committed Wesleyan Methodist. Keevney was closely associated with the rebuilding of the imposing Brunswick Wesleyan Methodist church (1880) on Broad Street, the Wesleyan Chapel (1880) at Irlams o'th Height, and the Cheetham Hill Wesleyan Chapel where he was a benefactor. He took on a series of civic and business rôles, including serving as president of the Salford Ragged Schools, Ellor Street, opening the reading room at the former Pendleton Old Hall in Charlestown in 1895, and chairing the Manchester and District Tea Merchants Association.

He married Mary Jane Dearden, the daughter of a Farnworth cotton spinner. The Keevneys moved to Pendleton, initially living on Bolton Road and later at Grange Villas, 5 Eccles Old Road. Keevney set up his tea blending business, *The North of England Tea Company* on Broad Street with offices on Corporation Street, Manchester and in London.

In 1885, as his business prospered, Keevney built a purpose built blending warehouse on Cobden Street, Pendleton, to the designs of the architect, Henry Lord, a fellow Conservative councillor. A full description of this building, which still exists, was included in *Manchester Faces and Places* in 1891. The article goes on to describe the admirable working conditions of the female workforce but falls short of revealing the *minutiae* of the blending and mixing methods employed. Not surprisingly Keevney's teas were imported from India, China and Ceylon. (www.ecclesoldroad.uk)

Then, suddenly, in **1895**, he died. The *Manchester Evening News*, Tuesday 4 June 1895, reported his death on the same day.

DEATH OF ALDERMAN

*Great regret will be felt in official and commercial circles in Manchester and Salford on the news spreading that Mr. Alderman **Keevney**, ex-Mayor of Salford, died from pneumonia shortly after noon to-day at his residence, Ash Villas, Higher Broughton. His death was altogether unexpected. The alderman was present at a meeting of the Salford Council on Friday, and there was then nothing in his appearance to indicate that he was suffering from a fatal malady. Few men were better known or more highly respected in Salford. He was of a genial disposition, blunt, hearty, and generous, and filled the office of Mayor of Salford with great distinction in the years 1891-2, 1892-3. His hospitality was on the most lavish scale; he won golden opinions from all classes of people, and was untiring in his devotion to public work. No man commanded more of the confidence of the ratepayers, and no-one maintained and advocated his opinions with greater ingenuousness and candour.*

*Over twenty years ago, Mr. **Peter Keevney** began business in the tea trade in the town of Farnworth, near Bolton. Removing to Pendleton soon after, he rapidly extended his business, until the North of England Tea Company, Manchester, of which he was the sole proprietor, became one of the best known houses in the trade. He held the office of chairman of the Manchester and District Tea Merchants' Association.*

*He first sought to enter the Salford Council in 1875, contesting St. Thomas's ward. On the first occasion he suffered defeat, but two years later he won the seat and retained it until 1886, when he was promoted to the office of alderman. In politics an ardent Conservative, Mr. **Keevney** was chairman of the West Salford Conservative Association and played a prominent part in securing the return of Mr. Lees Knowles. He was of Irish descent; possessed a fair share of the wit and humour for which Irishmen are famous, and when he was carried away by the strength of his feelings his speech was tinged with a delightful brogue.*

Sadly, the gravestone no longer exists. The inscription etched onto the headstone would have read:

In loving memory of **PETER KEEVNEY** J.P. of Salford, who died June 4th 1895, aged 63 yrs, "Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God even thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." Psalm XLV.8 Also **MARY JANE** beloved wife of **PETER KEEVNEY** who died August 9th 1887, aged 53 yrs. Also of **ROBERT WILLIAM** their eldest son who died March 19th 1877, aged 12 yrs. (Plot J1053).

His funeral at the church on 7 June was a huge affair. The *Manchester Courier* on 8 June 1895 carried a very full report:

THE LATE ALDERMAN KEEVNEY

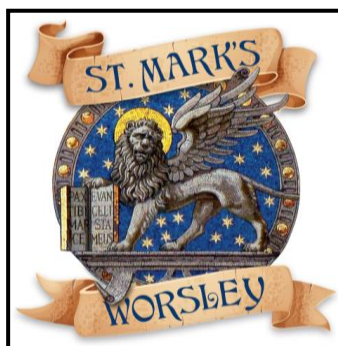
*The remains the late Mr. Alderman **Peter Keevney** were interred noon yesterday at Worsley Church. The cortège left the late residence of the deceased, Ash Villa, Higher Broughton, at half-past 10 o'clock. The coffin, which was borne on a Darley car, was literally covered with floral emblems of affection and regret sent by relatives and friends. The car was drawn by four beautiful Belgian horses. At the head of the procession were the Mayor (Alderman Richard Mottram), wearing his chain of office, to which were attached many pieces of black crape; and the Town Clerk (Mr. Sam. Brown). In nine carriages following that containing the Mayor and the Town Clerk were Alderman Walmsley, Alderman Bowes, Alderman Hall, Alderman Jenkins, Alderman B. Robinson, Alderman W. Robinson, and Alderman Sharp; Councillors Balderstone, Boyes, Comev. Frankenburg, Griffiths, Hale, Hardeastle, Holland, Jackson, Johnson. Linsley, Luckman. Mansfield, Meakin, Openshaw, Roper, Rudman, Worsley, and Richardson; the Chief Constable of Salford (Commander Scott), the Mayor's Chaplain (the Rev. Fergus Hill); Messrs. W. Russell, B. Ainsley, J. Lanyon, R. B. Crankshaw, and F. Moss. Preceding the Mayor's carriage was a posse of the Salford police. At a point near Pendleton Town Hall the Salford police gave place to a detachment, under the control of Inspector Jones, of the County Constabulary. Following the Darley car was the private carriage of the deceased with drawn blinds. The mourners, who came next, in 10 carriages, were Miss Keevney (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Clapham (daughter and son-in-law), the Rev. F. W. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Hind, Mr. Pearson, Mrs. Morrell. Mr. George Kay, Mr. Hough, Mr. A. Morrell, Mr. W. Clapham, Mr. J. Clapham, Mr. J. Cooper, Mr. A. Kay, Mr. George Garlich. Dr. Cox, Mr. A. T. Morris, Mr. T. L. Farrar (legal adviser), the Rev. D. C. Ingram, the Rev. T. Allan, Rev. D. A. d'Mouilpied, the Rev. Dr. H. J. Pope, the Rev. Dr. Marshall Randalls, the Rev. W. Jackson, the Rev. John Shipman, the Rev. H. W. Jones, the Rev. G. C. Cutting, the Rev. J. Hammond. Mr. R. Jacques Mr. W. Foulds, Mr. Percy Rydings, and the servants of the household. Next came a number of representatives of public bodies, including Alderman Sir John J. Harwood, Alderman Stanley, the Rev. G. Hammond, Mr. G. Bolton, Mr. A. Rawlinson; Mr. Stanley, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. W. Oliver, Mr. J. W. Pallttt. and Mr. B. Royle (representing the Wesleyan Church, Cheetham Hill); Mr. J. Haworth, Mr. C. W. Poyser, and Mr. P. Jackson (representing the Wholesale Tea Traders' Association). Private carriages were sent by Mr. W. H. Holland, M.P., Mr. R. Neill, jun., Mr. W. Dreydel, Mr. J. Clapham. Mr. W. Clapham, Dr. Crosby, Mr. R. Dempster, Mr. Sam Holland. Mr. G. C. Mandleberg, Miss Winterbottom, Sir W. H. Bailey, and Mr. G. C. Haworth. Altogether there were 37 carriages in the procession. In the church, and at the graveside, we also noticed Mr. J. G. Grove, Mr. W. H. Talbot (Town Clerk, Manchester), Mr. R. Hankinson, Mr. Roe Rycroft, Mr. C. J. Cooper, Mr. W. Beresford. Mr. Crossley, Mr. J. Scholes, Mr. W. Stubbs, Mr. J. Hastings. Mr. R. Morris, Mr. W. Gee, Mr. W. Watson, and Mr. Ridley Armstrong The members of the Salford Corporation lined the footpath leading from the road to the church porch, and through this living avenue was borne shoulder high the coffin with its pall of lovely flowers into the sacred edifice, the Mayor and the Town Clerk walking at the head, immediately behind the officiating clergyman and the choristers. The sight was at once very impressive and touching. After the mourners had passed into the church, the members of the Town Council and other friends and admirers of the deceased followed. The service was fully choral, and was conducted by the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson (vicar). In the course of the. service the hymns "Now the labourer's task is o'er" , and "Hark, hark, my soul, angelic songs are swelling" were sung. The lesson was read the Rev. J.W. Macdonald. The inscription on the outer coffin was as follows: "**Peter Keevney**, born 21st February 1833: died June 4th, 1895." At the close of the first part the service, the remains were borne to their last resting place - the family vault on the west side of the churchyard - the "Dead-March" from Saul performed on the organ as the solemn cortège left the church. In the vault were deposited the remains of the late Alderman's wife eight years ago. The grave was lined with moss, thickly interspersed with sprays of maiden hair fern, and*

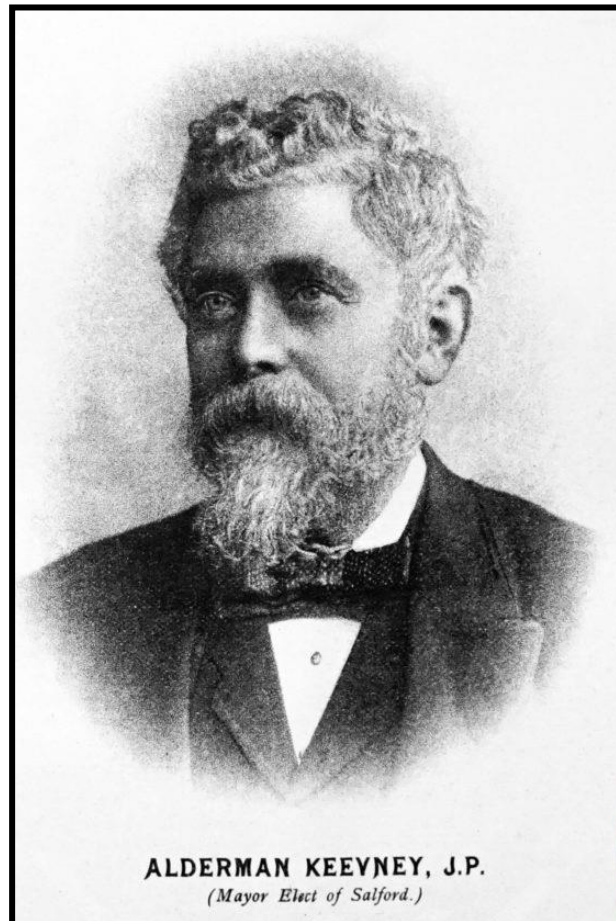
choice flowers, and it looked very beautiful. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. John Satterfield and Co., of this city.

WILL:

*KEEVNEY Peter of 15 Northumberland Street, Higher Broughton, Salford, of 28 Deansgate, Manchester, and of 66 Mark Lane, London, Tea Merchant, died 4 June 1895 at 15 Northumberland Street. Probate **Manchester** 29 June to Maria Kevney, spinster, Lizzie Maud Clapham (wife of George Herbert Clapham) and Alexander Thomas Morris , aerated water manufacturer. Effects £34,613 17s. 1d.*

Both daughters survived their father. Marian Kevney (died 1908) married Isaac H. Holden in 1905 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Cheetham Hill, and Lizzie Maud married George Herbert Clapham, a Jeweller and Silversmith, in 1890 in Prestwich.





Born: 1833 Ireland

Died: 4 June 1895

*TEA MERCHANT
MAYOR OF SALFORD*

Paul R. Speakman 2020