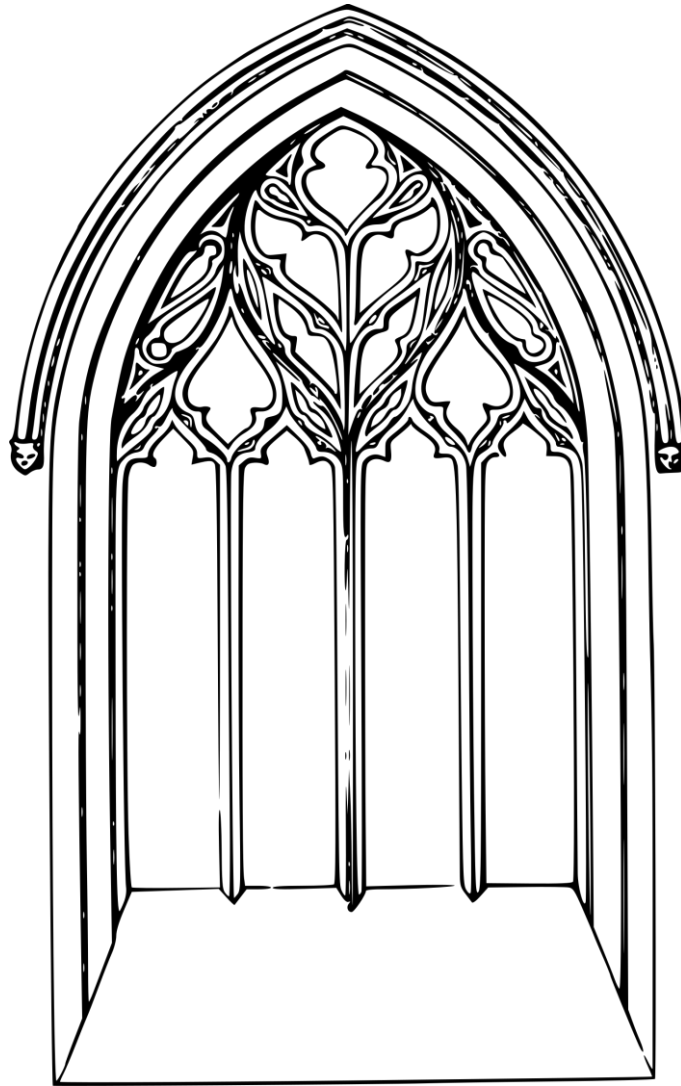


WORSLEY WORTHIES

- volume 2 -



The funerals, obituaries and lives of
some buried in the churchyard
of St. Mark, Worsley

Paul R. Speakman 2017

SAMUEL HIGGINBOTTOM (1877 - 1887)

Samuel drowned in a pond near Roe Green, on his way from school. The tragedy was recorded in the Parish Magazine of April **1887**:

*There was a very lamentable occurrence at Worsley on Wednesday, March 16th. A little boy, named **Samuel Higginbottom**, of Roe Green, was drowned in a pond between the Vicarage and Roe Green, on his way from school, at mid-day. The little fellow had ventured, in company with other boys, on some ice, which proved treacherous. We are sorry to say that we cannot, with one marked exception - that of a plucky boy, who did all he could to effect a rescue - comment the bigger boys who witnessed the accident. Perhaps it would be as well to say here what steps are usually recommended to be taken to restore animation in cases of drowning, as we fear complete ignorance of what ought to be done prevailed on this sad occasion.*

The article in the magazine then went on to explain the steps and measures to be taken in cases of drowning, stressing two points in particular: to restore breathing, and then circulation and warmth. Samuel was buried by Lord Mulgrave on 19 March. The burial record shows that he was 10 years old.

This is clearly a very tragic case of the death of a young boy, probably playing with friends on his way home from school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to give any accurate details of his immediate family, since the name was a common one at that time in the area.

PETER NIGHTINGALE (1814-1874)

Peter was baptised on 7 June **1814** at the (Cathedral) Church of Manchester, the son of Peter (a Coal Merchant) and Katherine (née Llewellyn).

Peter and Emily (Foulkes) were married in 21 March **1850** by Licence at St. Mark's. Shortly after, in **1851**, they were living at Wardley Hall. Peter was a Farmer of 240 acres and employed 10 labourers. They had 5 servants. In **1861**, Peter (47) and Emily (33) were living at Wardley Hall, Swinton, a Farmer of 200 acres. Their children present were Peter (8), Katharine (6) and John (2).

By **1871**, they were still living at Wardley Hall. Peter (now 56) was a Farmer and Coal Proprietor and Emily was 43. Peter (18), Katherine (16), Edward (8), Emily (7), William (4), Margaret (1), 2 in-laws and 2 servants. the Duke of Bridgewater purchased the estate of Wardley Hall in 1760 and it remained in the hands of the Bridgewater trust until 1903.

Peter died on 7 October **1874** at Lady Hill. His will, with two codicils, was proved on 26 November 1874 and his effects were left to his wife, Emily. Emily died on 20 March **1876** at Springfield House, Chichester. She was formerly of Lady Hill, Worsley. Her will was proved by Peter, her son, and the Rev. Francis John Wrottesley, also of Chichester, and former curate of St. Mark's.

In the vault are buried: Peter Nightingale, 14 October 1874, in his 61st year; Emily, his wife, 20 March 1876, in her 49th year; Katherine, their daughter, 18 April 1910, aged 56; Emily, their daughter, 7 May 1857, in her 24th year; John, their son, 14 September 1900, aged 56; William, their son, 20 July 1947, aged 80; and Peter, their eldest son, 1 April 1916 (aged 62-Ed.).

Peter has the distinction of being one of the first Church Wardens of Worsley, and served from 1851 to 1873.

PETER RASBOTHAM (1809-1871)

A stained-glass window stands in the south-west corner of the church, facing westwards. A brass plaque can be seen on the inside wall beneath the window, bearing the surname Rasbotham, although the reference in the magazine to his death refers to the family as Ramsbottom.

The Parish Magazine of May **1888** described the installation of the window in this way:

The new stained glass window has been as a happy coincidence put into its place, and will thus be remembered in connection with the Dedication Festival of 1888. We cannot speak too highly of the window. At first sight it is a great contrast to the rich deep colour of the east window; but the clearness of the figures, and the chaste effect of it as a whole, makes it a beautiful addition to a beautiful House of God. The brass at the base bears the inscription:- "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Peter and Rebecca Ramsbottom, this window is placed by their children in thankful remembrance of a happy childhood. A.D. 1888". The subject of the window is of Christ blessing little children.



Peter Rasbotham (sic) died on 8 March **1871**, aged 62 and was buried at St.Mark's on 11 March. He was formerly of Brompton Square, London. His wife, Rebecca Tate, died on 31 July 1887 at Birkdale and was buried, also at St.Mark's, on 3 August 1887, aged 75 yrs. They married on 18 August **1836** at St.John's, Manchester, and later had 6 children. The marriage was by licence, with Peter being of the parish of St. James, Westminster, and Rebecca being of Salford. He was private secretary and comptroller to the Earls of Ellesmere.

The census of **1851** shows that he was born in Standon, Staffs. (He was baptised at Standon on 6 November **1808**). He was 42 years of age, married to Rebecca (38) and was Private Secretary/Comptroller to the Earl of Ellesmere. Rebecca (née Tate) was born in Salford. At that time, they were living as lodgers in the township of Liscard, Cheshire, with 2 children.

By **1861**, the family was at Mill Brow, Worsley, with Peter (52) and Rebecca (48), and also Peter (20), Dorning (19), Mary (14), Lever (11) and Lucy (8). The five children (in order) were each born in Brompton; Brompton (Middx.); Cobham, Surrey; Worsley, Lancs., and Walton-on-Thames,

Surrey. Peter was listed as a Private Secretary and Life Assurance Agent. Peter junior was an articled clerk to a solicitor and Dorning was a Commission Merchant's Clerk.

The eldest son, Peter, was born on 26 September 1840 and baptised at St. George, Hulme, on 20 November 1840. Mary, however, though born in Surrey, was baptised at the Chapelry of St. Mark on 14 June 1847. Lever was baptised at St. Mark's on 25 October 1849 by B. W. Johnstone. They had other daughters, Annie, who was baptised at St. Mark's on New Year's Day 1852, and Lucy Dora, baptised on 15 June 1853.

A number of their family were buried at St. Mark's. Young Peter was buried on 6 February 1864, having drowned on 2 February at the Queen's Landing. Lever was buried on 27 April 1866, aged 16.

In July 1849, a young 16-year old boy came to Worsley, having moved in those years from the north-east, to London, and thence to Newton-le-Willows with his sickly father. He had already shown an inclination to painting and had followed courses during his time in London. His father having returned to London for hospital treatment, the young boy stayed in Manchester, and on 2nd August wrote to his father that he intended to come to Worsley

"I intend to go down to Worsley in the course of two or three days with my drawing of the church. I hope that I may see the Earl or the Rector."

MANCHESTER, November 18th, 1849.

*MY DEAR FATHER, It is the old prologue "I went to Worsley" again, but I am happy to be able to add that the performances on this occasion were of a very novel kind. Upon my arrival at the hall, I enquired for the steward, **Mr. Rasbotham**, and was informed that he had gone to his own house in the village. I immediately repaired thither. He was at dinner. The servant undertook to announce my name, and returned with the kind answer that I was to have something to eat and drink, and that he (**Mr. Rasbotham**) would see me afterwards. I had a capital dinner (at tea-time) of roast beef, boiled salary, bread, potatoes, &c. The servant then told me that **Mr. Rasbotham** was waiting for me...*

*This (sketch of Shakespeare), together with a portrait and some smaller drawings, I took with me to show him. He took them into the dining-room to let the company see them, and asked me what would be the price of a copy of the Shakespeare. I scarce knew what to ask but at last I said ten shillings, which I did not consider too much, as there is four good days' work on it, besides materials. He said he would see about it. He then said that the Earl did not see how he could be of any assistance to me with regard to a situation, but he would consider the matter. In the meantime his lordship wishes me to do a drawing of the Church for him in pencil. Now for the grand climax, the last scene of all. **Mr. Rasbotham** put his hand into his pocket and asked if a trifle would be of any service to me, at the same time putting into my hand half a sovereign. I thanked him almost with tears in my eyes, so kindly and considerately was the action performed, took my leave and walked home praising God for His great goodness in having found me at least a temporary friend.*

Then, on 27th November, he wrote again to his father, whose illness was now incurable.

*"I went to the Hall yesterday, the day appointed. I was shown in to **Mr. Rasbotham**, whom I found seated at his desk writing. Upon my entrance he rose, and bade me good morning. I returned his salutation. We then proceeded to business. He seemed to like the view of the Church very well and took it in to show his lordship. He returned with the gracious information that his lordship was very well pleased with it, and that I was to execute two more views of the hall, to be sent down to the house in London, 10 Belgrave Square, where they intend proceeding on Friday. He then gave me 2 for the view of the Church, and I consider that I was exceedingly well paid. I am glad that I left the Shakespeare with **Mr. Rasbotham**, this time he told me he should consider the ten shillings he gave me as an equivalent for it. I gratefully acceded. "*

This young man's name was **Frederick James Shields** (1833-1911), who became a well-known British artist, illustrator and designer, and who was deeply impressed by pictures in the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition of 1857. He became closely associated with the Pre-Raphaelites through Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Ford Madox-Brown. The rector mentioned above must have been Charles Cameron. For the two drawings, the Earl of Ellesmere paid the boy the (then) fabulous sum of five pounds, and he also drew the portraits of several of the servants at the Hall for five shillings a head. After this, his career developed immeasurably. More can be learnt of him in *The Life and Letters of Frederic Shields* by Ernestine Mills.

WILLIAM MILLINGTON (1809-1887)

The Parish Magazine of November 1887 printed the following notice:

We have to chronicle the death of perhaps the most well-known and most highly-respected of Worsley old residents - Mr. William Millington. The Vicar administered the Holy Communion to him on Friday, and he died on Sunday morning, October 23rd. Mr. Millington has not long survived his wife. We have not space for the purpose, otherwise we could fill a long page with a record of Mr. Millington's virtues. His accomplishments as a musician, and his marvellous store of information, are well-known.

William was baptised at St. Mary's, Eccles, on 16 April **1809**, the son of Benjamin Millington of Worsley, a sawyer, and Mary, his wife. At the time of his death, he was a Foreman Millwright, living at 9 Barton Road. His wife had died about a year earlier and she too was buried at church. William had married Martha Swarsbrick at St. Mary's, Eccles, on 12 October **1831**, by licence. Together they had 10 children, two of whom became teachers.

In the **1851** census, William was 41 and Martha was 43. Mary (18), Benjamin (17), Elizabeth (15), Martha (12), William (10), Emma (7), Simon Hilton (5) and Charles Edwin (2). Emma was atwin with brother Robert. Ten years later, in **1861**, most of them were living together in the village, and William was a millwright. In 1861, William (52) and Martha (53) were living in the village of Worsley. With them were their son Benjamin (27, a widower), Elizabeth (25), Emma (17), Simon Hilton (15), Charles Edwin (12), Frederick Handel (9) and William Johnson Millington (3, grandson).

By **1871**, William (62) was a Foreman Millwright. Martha was with him (63), together with Elizabeth (35), Frederick H. (19) and William J. (13). They were living at 67 Barton Road, Worsley. In **1881**, William (73) and Martha were together at 9 Barton Road, with just Annie Moorhouse (17, a scholar, born Yorkshire) and a domestic servant.

He died on 23 October and was buried at St. Mark's on 26 October **1887**, aged 78 years. Martha, his wife, was buried the previous year on 9 August **1886**, also aged 78. He left his money to his son William Millington, also a millwright, of Yard Cottage, Worsley.

PETER KEEVNEY (1832-1895)

The inscription on the memorial reads:

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 annointed 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

ROBERT WILLIAM their eldest son who died March 19th 1877 aged 12 yrs.

WILL: KEEVNEY Peter, of 15 Northumberland Street, Higher Broughton, Salford, of 28 Deansgate, Manchester, and of 66 Mark Lane, London, tea dealer, died 4 June 1895, at 15 Northumberland Street. Probate Manchester 29 June to Marian Keevney, spinster, Lizzie Maud Clapham (wife of George Herbert Clapham) and Alexander Thomas Morris aerated water manufacturer. Effects £36,000+.

Peter was born in Ireland about **1832**. He first appeared in Britain in the **1861** census aged 28, a lodger at Dorn Street, Farnworth, tea dealer. Shortly after, he married Mary Jane Dearden at Fletcher Street Wesleyan, Bolton, on 19 August **1863**. By **1871**, he was living at 62 Bolton Road, Pendleton, still a tea dealer. He was 38, Mary Jane was 37, and they had children Robert W. (6), Marion (4), and Lizzie M. (2). By **1881**, they had moved to 5 Eccles Old Road, Pendleton. Peter now employed 6 men, 7 girls and 3 boys. The surname was variously being spelt.

In Kelly's Directory of 1895, he was a J.P. of Ash Villa, Salford.

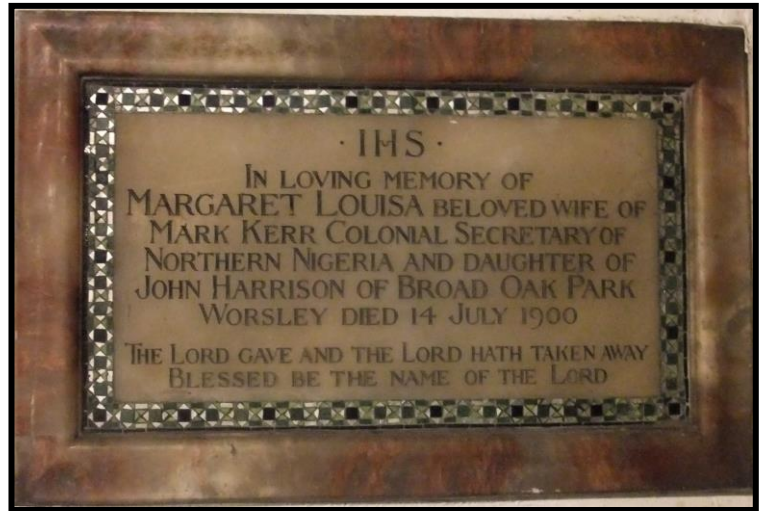
MARGARET LOUISA KERR (1863-1900)

In the north-east corner of the church, near to the organ screen, there is a commemorative plaque on the wall which reads:

Ilmo MARGARET LOUISA beloved wife of MARK KERR Colonial Secretary of Northern Nigeria and daughter of JOHN HARRISON of Broad Oak Park, Worsley, died 14th July 1900. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Margaret Louisa was buried in the churchyard on 19 July **1900**. She was 35 years old and the burial record shows that her address was May Croft, Melcombe Regis, Devon.

In the census of **1861**, her family was living at 77 Coventry Road, Aston, Birmingham. Her father, John, was 33 years old, married to Ann (28), with children John B. (4), Lizzie A. (3) and Stephen N. (2mo.). Margaret was baptised on 27 November **1862** at Holy Trinity, Bordesley, Birmingham, to John Harrison and Anne (née Burchmore). They had married in Lancashire in 1855, but Anne died in Kings Norton in the middle of **1873**, age 41. John then married Julia Hunter in **1875**, in Aston, Birmingham. By **1881**, the family was at 16 Vicarage Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.



John was now 53, and his second wife, Julia, was 50. Lizzie Ann was 23, Stephen Norton (20), **Margaret Louisa (18)**, Stanley George (16), Arthur Henry (14) and Gertrude Ellen (12). All were born at Birmingham and their mother was Anne. The father, John, was a Commercial Traveller.

In **1891**, the family was now living at St. Leonards, Broad Oak Park. John was a Manchester Merchant in the Home Trade and was 63. Julia was 59, Arthur H. (24) and Gertrude E. (22). By **1901**, John was living at St. Leonards, Worsley, aged 73, and was a Cotton Cloth Merchant. Julia (who was born in Macau, China) was 70. Their son John B. was now 44 and was a Government Analyst, based in British Guiana, and Martha E. (possibly the wife of John B.) was 46. She had been born in Barbados and was a British Subject.

John Harrison died on 14 June **1906** and his address was 'Summerland', Holly Road, Wilmslow. His effects of £40,000+ were left, in part, to Stanley George Harrison, Engineer, and Arthur Henry Harrison, Manufacturer. His wife, Julia, may have died in mid-1905, at Bucklow, Cheshire.

Margaret Louisa married Mark Kerr on 7 December **1892** at St. Mark's. He was 'of the Colonial Service' and his father Thomas Kerr was the 'Late Governor of the Falkland Islands'. Thomas Kerr, C.M.G., was Governor of the islands 1880 - 1886, and 1887 - 1891. He died in 1907, aged 89. The Honourable Thomas Kerr, C.M.G., was British Colonial Secretary (1875) to the Island of Barbados, a Member of the Legislative Council of the Colonial government, and a judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands

On August 31, 1843, in the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels, Bridgetown, Barbados, Thomas Kerr, planter of Saint Joseph parish, married Frances Ann Toppin. The Archdeacon of the Diocese of Barbados himself performed the ceremony. In 1890, Bishop Waite Hockin Stirling and Governor Thomas Kerr laid the cornerstone of Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Stanley.

He died at his residence, 'Abingdon', in Dayrells Road, Bridgetown, Barbados, aged 89 years, and was interred in Westbury Cemetery on August 5, 1907. In Thomas' will, (d. 4 Aug 1907), he left his effects to Mark, a retired civil servant.

REGINALD FROUDE COULES (1855-1926)

Reginald Froude Coules was born **1855** at Kempford, Glos., and was baptised there on 25 December 1855 to Henry Coules (schoolmaster) and Mary Anne (schoolmistress). Henry and Mary Anne Tovey were married in the 2/4 of 1855 at Clifton Registry Office, Glos. In the census of **1861**, they were living at the school. Henry was 26, Mary Anne was 27, and their children were Reginald (5), Blanche (3), Florence (1) and Elinor (3mo.). All the children were baptised at Kempford - Blanche (20/6/1857), Reginald (25/12/1855), Florence Mary (22/6/1859), Elinor (31/1/1861), and later Annie Beatrice (3/2/1866). Sadly, Henry had died early in 1870, aged 34. Henry was baptised in the parish of Siston, Glos. on 7 September 1834, the son of Abraham (a coachman) and Harriet.

In **1871**, Mary Anne was 38 and was living at Whelford, Kempford, with Florence Mary (11), Eleanor (9), and Annie (5). Reginald's whereabouts have not yet been established. However, it would appear that he was Organist at St. Mark's from 1872. He matriculated at New College, Oxford, on 18 October 1875, aged 19. There, he was a pupil of Dr. John Stainer.

In **1881**, he was 25, and in the census he was living as a lodger at the Vicarage, with the Earl of Mulgrave and staff, his occupation being given as Organist of Worsley Church.. Ten years later, in **1891**, now aged 35, but still single, he was listed as a Professor of Music, and resident at the Aviary as a Boarder.

His name appeared in the Manchester Guardian of 29 July **1892** for successfully passing exams. at Trinity College London, in the Second Division with Honours. He received the letters F. C. O. Later, on 21 April 1893, it was reported that he had passed the exams. for the Associated Board at Senior Grade.

NEW YEAR
74. Father, Let me Dedicate.
L. TUTTIETT, 1825-97. (Dedicatio Anni.) R. F. COULES, 1881.

See also: Holy, holy, holy, 15. Christ is made the sure foundation, 97.
Built on the Rock the church, 46. Now thank we all our God, 98.
In the Cross of Christ I glory, 85. God is love: His mercy brightness, 142.
A mighty fortress is our God, 95.

Then, in **1894**, R. F. Coules married Emily Beechey, April 1894, at Downham, Hilgay, Norfolk. Their Banns had been read at Hilgay on 25 March, 1 April and 8 April. She was the granddaughter of St. Vincent Beechey, former incumbent of St. Mark's. The second readin of them was by St. Vincent Beechey. By **1901**, they were living at High Lea, Worsley. He was a Teacher of Music (45) and she was 24. They had children St. Vincent Froude (5, baptised 27 April 1895), Blanche Katherine Froude (3, born 4 Sept. 1897) and an infant son under 1 month old (this was Reginald Edward Froude Coules, born 18 March and baptised at St. Mark's on 27 April). Prior to her marriage, Emily had been living for some while with her maternal grandparents on Mill Brow. Her own father, Edward Beechey - third son of St. Vincent Beechey - had emigrated to Philadelphia.

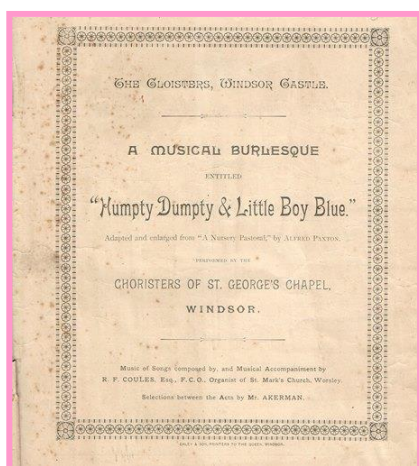
In **1911**, the family was living at Egerton House, Worsley. Reginald was 55, Emily was 34, and the only child with them was Blanche, 13. The young boy Reginald Edward Froude Coules had died aged 16 months, and was buried in the churchyard on 16 August 1902.

R. F. Coules died on 1 May **1926** and was buried on 4 May in the churchyard. In his will, his effects were left to his son, St. Vincent Froude Coules, Barrister-at-Law, and Robert Hugh Bindloss, Accountant. When Emily died on 31 October **1932**, her home address was then Hilgay, Stratford Way, Watford, though she died at Watford Peace Memorial Hospital. Her effects were left to her surviving son. Reginald Froude and Emily are buried in the churchyard, with their son R. E. F. Coules, aged 1yr. 5mo.

The Musical Times – 1 March 1884.

Eccles, Near Manchester – On Monday Evening, the 4th Ult., the members of the District Vocal Union Under the conductorship of Mr. R. F. Coules, FCO, Organist to the Earl of Mulgrave, gave an Open Evening in the Town Hall. The programme was an attractive one, including Dr. Stainer's Cantata St. Mary Magdalen, and a miscellaneous selection of glees, part-songs, etc. ... Mr. Coules played two pianoforte solos, and was much applauded. There was a large and appreciative audience. The District Vocal Union has only been established twelve months.

The *St. George's Chapel Archives*, Windsor, holds a copy of 'A Musical Burlesque', entitled "Humpty Dumpty & Little Boy Blue," donated to it in 2015.



Under the direction of Sir Walter Parratt, Organist at St George's Chapel from 1882 to 1942, choristers were expected to work hard to produce the exacting standard of music expected of them in the Chapel. However, even in the Victorian period, they were allowed the occasional lighter diversion. We know, from a programme donated to the St George's Chapel Archives and Chapter Library in 2015, that in the early 1890s the choristers took part in a musical burlesque performed in The Cloisters, Windsor Castle. Entitled 'Humpty Dumpty & Little Boy Blue', it was based on a 'A Nursery Pastoral' by Alfred Paxton, adapted for the Windsor choristers with music composed by R. F.

Coules, F.C.O., Organist of St Mark's Church, Worsley.

The programme is undated but we can assume that the performance took place sometime between April 1891 and January 1893 since W. Layton (who played Tommy Stout) was a chorister from April 1891 to 1896 and W. Colyer (who played Humpty Dumpty) was a chorister from November 1889 to January 1893.

[by permission of Dr. Clare Rider – St. George's Archives]

References to both the church and its organist appeared in a book 'Dictionary of Organs and Organists,' by Frederick W Thornsby, 1921. It states that the organ was built in 1881 by Young. It consisted of 3 manuals, 31 sp. Stops, 7 couplers, with an electric bellows. The organist at the church was R. F. Coules, F.R.C.O.

He also wrote a hymn entitled 'Splendour of the Thoughts of God' in the early part of the 20th century, but no copies, as yet, have been found. The hymn shown above, *Dedicatio Anni*, was written in 1881 and is a Dedication of the New Year to God the Father.

The inscription on the memorial reads:

REGINALD FROUDE COULES May 1st 1926 aged 69 yrs. EMILY wife of REGINALD PROUDE
COULES died 31st October 1932 aged 56 yrs. REGINALD EDWARD FROUDE COULES
13th August 1902 aged 1 yr & 5 mths .

SAMUEL CHATWOOD (1833-1909)

Whilst researching the life of R. F. Coules, the burial of Samuel Chatwood came to light, because Mr. Coules had played at his funeral. The newspaper article describing the funeral appeared in *The Bolton Journal* of 10 December **1909**.

The funeral of Mr. Samuel Chatwood took place on Monday when he was interred in the Family Vault at St. Mark's Churchyard, Worsley. The service was conducted by Rev. T. Harrison. Deputation representing the firm formed a procession at the Village Post Office from Manchester staff, Bolton office staff and Heads of Departments. There were six carriages:-

- 1. Mr. and Mrs. S.R. Chatwood, Son and Daughter-in-law*
- 2. Mr. and Mrs. Cumming-Craig, Son-in-law and Daughter*
- 3. Mr. S. R. Chatwood, Junior, G. A. and A. B. Chatwood, Grandsons*
- 4. Miss Chatwood, Granddaughter, Mrs. Burton and Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Nephew and Niece*
- 5. Simeon Chatwood, Nephew, Miss Unsworth, Niece*
- 6. Miss Walker, Mr T. J. Murray and Dr. Scowby (Worsley)*

The organist, Mr R.F.Coules FRCO played Chopin and Beethoven's Funeral Marches.

In **1905**, Samuel's wife, Jane, died at their home High Lawn, Worsley, and was buried at Worsley Parish Church. She left her money, £1747.12s.10d., to her daughter Lucy Helen, who, at 34, was unmarried. However, on the 17 January **1906**, she married William Cumming-Craig, the manager at Chatwood's London, at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London. Samuel retired and went to live in Windermere but on a visit to a friend, Mathew Cocker, of Oswaldtwistle, he died on 2 December **1909** and was buried in Worsley Churchyard with his wife.

The burial records on LAN-OPC show:

<p>Burial: 21 Aug 1905 St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire Jane Chatwood Age: 76 yrs. Abode: High Lawn, Broad Oak Park, Worsley Grave: D 216 Buried by: W.J. Clarke</p>	<p>Burial: 6 Dec 1909 St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire, Samuel Chatwood Age: 76 years Abode: 48 Rhyddings Street, Oswaldtwistle [sic] Buried by: Thos. Harrison</p>
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The obituary from *The Bolton Evening News* on 2 December 2 1909 reads:

Death of Samuel Chatwood, founder of the firm of Chatwood & Co., safe makers. Deceased was in his 79th year and had attained a world wide reputation for safe making, recieving orders from many distant countries. In the early days of the firm Mr Chatwood engaged in the severest tests regarding burglary and fire resisting, in which the high quality of the Chatwood safe won for the firm considerable eminence.

The obituary from *The Bolton Journal* of 3 December 1909 read:

The death took place yesterday of Mr. Samuel Chatwood, founder of the firm of Chatwood & Co., safe makers. The deceased gentleman who had attained the ripe age of 77 was well known in many parts of the country. The business of the firm was established in Bark St. by the deceased half a century ago. Here, it was carried on for a lengthy period and some years later the firm secured larger premises in Foundry St. As makers of safes and strongrooms, Messrs Chatwood attained a worldwide reputation and executed orders in many countries. In the early days of the firm, Mr. Chatwood engaged in tests of the burglar and fire resisting qualities of his manufactures, which won for the firm much eminence in the country.

Samuel was born on 27 September **1833** at Edenfield to Samuel and Ellen Chatwood (née Hunt). They had married in 1828. The father was a wheel wright. Their son Samuel was baptised on 22 December at the Chapelry of Edenfield. In the census of **1851**, Samuel was resident at 4 Market Place, Stockport. He was a lodger there and was an apprentice.

Then, on 27 September **1859**, he married Jane Livesey by licence at St. John, Blackburn. At that time, however, Samuel's address was Cornwallis Street, Liverpool. He was advertising Hold-fast and Fire resisting safes at his works at 65 Cornwallis Street, Liverpool. He was also an Agent for Simpson Sewing Machines of America. By **1861**, his residence was 16 Houghton Street, North Meols, Southport, a respectable middle-class district which is now known as Chapel Street, and he was aged 27. His wife Jane was 30 and they had their first child with them, James R. aged 8 months. The census reveals that he was a Manufacturer of Iron pieces and Sewing Machines. His business was already employing 13 men and 5 boys. He was also said to be a Methodist Local preacher.

Much of the following about his business life, and some details of his private life, has been charted by Denis O'Connor in his work *Samuel Chattwood: Banker's engineer: An account of the Chattwood Safe Co. Ltd 1854 -1963*. This was part of the Certificate in Local History Course, Extra Mural Dept., University of Manchester, 1979. *The London Gazette* has dozens of entries under his name, all of which relate to either his business companies or various patents which he lodged.

On 2 February **1860**, he took out his first patent for a complete sewing machine named "Paragon ." It was at this time that the Bolton address first appeared - The Manufactory, Liver Street Works, Bow Street, Bolton. There was also a showroom at 22 South John Street, Liverpool. By **1861**, the sewing machine business disappeared when it was announced that William Dawes, who was a Civil and Mechanical Engineer, who had managed the Coalbrookdale Ironworks in Shropshire for 5 years as chief engineer, was joining the company and that it would be now known as Chatwood and Dawes. By **1862**, this arrangement ended near the end of year when Mr Dawes returned to the Midlands to take up a position with another safe firm, but the name was not changed until **1864** when it became the Chatwood Patent Safe and Lock Company.

In **1868**, Samuel was in a train accident on the 31 October when he caught the 12.45 train from Manchester to Bolton with a friend. When the collision occurred, he sustained bruises and a cut near his eye, inflicted by his friend's top hat. As a result of this accident, he claimed that his sight and hearing had been impaired and his doctor sent him to Ben Rhydding, near Ilkley, to recuperate. He decided to sue the railway company (Lancs. and Yorks. Rly) for £10,000 and the case went to court, where there was a lot of conflicting expert medical evidence about the extent of the injuries and their long term effects; but in the end Samuel was awarded £2000

By **1871**, Samuel (37) was living at 5 Wentworth Place, Bolton. He was with his wife Jane (42) Albert Beardsall (9), Samuel Rawsthorne (6), Arthur Brunel (4) and Lucy Ellen (1).

Then, in **1873**, tragedy struck the family.

Report from **Bolton Journal - 31 May 1873**

Shocking death of Bolton gentleman's son from an explosion of gunpowder

On Saturday morning a shocking, and what has since terminated in a fatal accident, occurred in the house of Mr. S. Chatwood at Bodmin Cornwall. Mr. Chatwood's four children, Albert, 12, Samuel, 9, Arthur, 7 and a daughter, the youngest of the family were in the drawing room and Albert was amusing himself by throwing small portions of gunpowder from a flask he held in his hands, which had been incautiously left about by a

Mrs. Fell, into the fire. After he had been thus engaged for a short time, the flames (of the fire) communicated with the powder in the flask and a terrible explosion occurred. Albert was the most severely injured owing to his holding the flask, the thumb of the right hand being lacerated, the joint dislocated and the skin between the fore and middle fingers was also lacerated. He was not thought by a medical man - Mr. Couch - to be in danger of his life. Arthur was near Albert and escaped with two wounds to his legs. The other two children were least hurt, escaping with slight scorching such as Mr. Couch did not consider required much attention. The above facts were conveyed to Mr. Chatwood, who was in Bolton, by letter from Mr. Couch, received on Monday. Mr. Chatwood, however, received a telegram on Sunday informing him of the melancholy event, but too late for him to leave for Bodmin by train. On Monday a second telegram was received conveying the sad intelligence that Albert had expired from exhaustion.

The young Albert buried in Bodmin Cemetery on the 25 May 1873.

By **1881**, the family address was 14 Wentworth Street, Little Bolton. Samuel was now 47, Jane (50), Samuel Rawsthorne (16, a student) and Lucy Helen (11, a scholar). Their son Arthur B. was a scholar at Giggleswick School. Samuel was a 'Banker's Engineer and Managing Director of Chatwood's Safe Co., Ltd., employing 123 men and 26 boys. The term Banker's Engineer had become a popular way of describing safe makers in the Victorian era. On 12 January **1885**, Samuel Rawsthorne Chatwood (22), a Safe Manufacturer of Drinkwater Park, Prestwich, married Martha Ward (22) of Railway Station Bolton, at Holy Trinity, Bolton.

Ten years later, in **1891**, the family was at Irwell House, Drinkwater Park, Prestwich - Samuel (57), Jane (62), Arthur Brunel (24) and Lucy Helen (21). Lucy was a student at Owens College, and Arthur B. was a Banker's Engineer Undergraduate. In **1901**, the Chatwood family was now living at High Lawn, Broad Oak Park, Worsley - Samuel (67), Jane (72) and Lucy Helen (31, b. Bolton). Samuel was a Civil and Mechanical Engineer, born in Edenfield. In **1905** Samuel's wife, Jane, died at their home at High Lawn and was buried at Worsley Parish Church. She left her money to her daughter Lucy Helen, who at 34 was unmarried. However, on the 17 January **1906**, she married William Cumming-Craig, the manager at Chatwood's, London, at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London. Samuel retired and went to live in Windermere, but on a visit to a friend, Mathew Cocker, of Oswaldtwistle, he died on 2 December **1909** and was buried in Worsley Churchyard with his wife.

Samuel Chatwood, an industrialist greatly influenced by the ideas of Robert Owen and the co-operative movement strong in the mid-1800's, began making safes in the late 1850's at a factory in Bolton and subsequently moved to Shrewsbury (in 1926). Although control of the company passed to Hall and Pickles, the steel merchants, the Chatwood name survived until 1956. Chatwood claimed he was not merely another lock and safe maker, but a bankers' engineer; consequently his company never produced domestic locks at all.

[Chubb Archive online]

Chatwood Safe Company

In partnership with William Dawes, Samuel Chatwood started manufacturing safes as Chatwood & Dawes in 1861. Chatwood's vision was to produce safes of superlative quality and strength. The partnership broke up in 1862 with Dawes moving to work with rival safemaker George Price of Wolverhampton. Chatwood's factory was at Bow Street in Liverpool and traded under the name of "Chatwood Patent Safe & Lock Company". The locks for his safes at that time were being made by the highly skilled and famous Charles St. Aubin, who also, in his time worked for George Price and Milner.

Although best known as a maker of safes, he was an engineer of wide knowledge and experience, and in his earlier years was recognised as an inventor in many fields of engineering. While devoting most of his time to his business, he found time to produce improvements in steam-hammers, engines, boilers, mechanical stokers, mining and colliery plant. He also invented an hydraulic balance for direct-acting lifts, which, in a modified form, was very widely used. He was an associate member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and of several other scientific bodies. He was elected a member of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1877.

ALGERNON FULKE EGERTON (1825-1891)

The Hon. Algernon Fulke Egerton (31 December **1825** – 14 July **1891**), formerly known as Algernon Leveson-Gower until 1833, was a British Conservative politician from the Egerton family.

Algernon Fulke Egerton was the third son of Francis Egerton, 1st Earl of Ellesmere, younger son of George Leveson-Gower, 1st Duke of Sutherland. His mother was Harriet Catherine, daughter of Charles Greville, while George Egerton, 2nd Earl of Ellesmere, and the Honourable Francis Egerton were his elder brothers.



In October **1838**, he entered Harrow School, and from there he went to CHRIST CHURCH, Oxford, in October

1843, aged 17. He gained a B.A. in **1848** and was a Fellow of ALL SOULS from **1849** to **1863**.

Algernon Egerton entered the House of Commons for South Lancashire in **1859**, a seat which he held until **1868**, and then represented South-East Lancashire from **1868** to **1880**. He later represented Wigan from **1882** to **1885**. He held office under Benjamin Disraeli as Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty from 1874 to 1880.

Algernon Fulke married Alice Louisa, daughter of Lord George Cavendish, on 22 January **1863**. Their marriage was announced as follows:

St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. 22 January 1863, by the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, A.M., the Hon. Algernon F. Egerton, MP for South Lancashire, and third son of the first Earl of Ellesmere, to Alice Louisa, eldest daughter of Lord George Cavendish.

The London Gazette of 6 June **1885** announced that he was to become Honorary Colonel of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, having lately been Lieutenant - Colonel Commandant.

Algernon and Louisa had two sons and seven daughters:

- Margaret Louisa Egerton (b.15 July 1864 St. James, Westminster - 17 October 1949). On 10 October 1901, she married George Chichester May at Holy Trinity, Chelsea, the son of George Augustus Chichester May, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland.
- Blanche Susan Egerton (b.15 December 1865, St. James, Westminster - 1 November 1940).
- Katherine Alice Egerton (b.24 July 1867 London - 13 December 1962).
- Sybil Mary Egerton (b.1869 - 27 August 1873).
- George Algernon Egerton (bp. 1 December 1870 Worsley – 13 May 1915).
- Violet Ellinor Egerton (bp. 26 July 1872 Worsley - 6 March 1968) married Frederick Walter Stephenson (d. 19 May 1944) on 27 January 1914.
- Mary Florence Egerton. (bp. 14 Oct. 1874 Worsley - 29 May 1962)
- Ralph Greville Egerton (b. 27 November 1876 London - 9 January 1877).
- Evelyn Harriet Egerton (bp. 9 Dec 1879 Worsley - 3 November 1964).

4 of these children were baptised at Worsley. Sybil Mary Egerton was buried in the churchyard on 1 September 1873. She was 4 years old.

The following transcription is taken from *The Manchester Guardian* of 20 July 1891:

THE LATE HON. ALGERNON EGERTON

The remains of the Hon. Algernon Egerton, whose death occurred on Tuesday at Belgrave Place, London, were interred on Saturday afternoon in a private grave on the south-easterly side of

Worsley churchyard. Mr. Egerton had survived his father - the first Earl of Ellesmere - thirty-four years. For over thirty years he took an active part in local, political and county affairs, and the marks of respect shown to his memory were numerous. As acting trustee for the Bridgewater Trust he was personally well known, and his genial personality gained him many friends. Expressions of sympathy with the bereaved family were visible on every hand: flags at half-mast floated from the Bridgewater Offices, Walkden; the Town Hall, Eccles; the Barton Union Offices, Patricroft; the various churches, local Liberal and Conservative clubs, and the public buildings throughout the Eccles division. The body was conveyed from London by the midnight train on Friday, and it arrived at London Road station, Manchester, at 5.45 on Saturday morning. The funeral arrangements, which had hitherto been conducted by Messrs. Gillow of Oxford-street, London, were now taken in hand by Messrs. Oliver and Atcherley, of St. Ann's Square, in this city. The body was conveyed in a hearse to Worsley, and on arriving at the parish church of St. Mark it was carried into the edifice and placed on a bier (covered with a violet pall) just below the chancel steps. The introductory prayers to the Burial Service were read by the Vicar (the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson), and this was followed at eight o'clock by a private communion service. Amongst the family who attended these services were Admiral F. Egerton, the Marquis of Normanby (Canon of Windsor), the Countess of Ellesmere, and Mr. George Egerton (son of the deceased). At the funeral service in the afternoon the handsome church, built by Scott, which provides sitting accommodation for over 900 worshippers, was crowded in every part., and the walls running through the graveyard were lined with people, amongst whom were a large number of the official staff and employees of the Bridgewater Trust. The service in the church was full choral, the musical portion being conducted by Mr. R. F. Coules, F.C.O., the devotional service by the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson, whilst the closing sentences of the Burial Service were read at the graveside by the Rev. the Marquis of Normanby. The hymns "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "Jesus lives, no longer now" were also sung in the church. The remains were followed to the graveside by Admiral and Mrs. Egerton, Mr. George Egerton, the Misses Egerton, Lord and Lady Ellesmere, Viscount Brackley, the Marquis of Normanby, the Earl of Strafford (the last surviving trustee of the Bridgewater Trust), Colonel Cavendish, Mr. and Mrs. Brand, and Mr. Victor Cavendish, M.P. The grave was profusely decorated with lilies, violets and forget-me-nots, and the sides of the grave were lined with ivy, moss and the leaves of ornamental plants. The outer coffin was of polished oak, with massive brass mountings, and bore the following inscription - "Algernon Fulke Egerton, fourth son of the First Earl of Ellesmere; born 31st December, 1825, died July 14 1891, aged 66 years." The coffin was borne to and from the church by four foremen from the Worsley Yard, four colliery managers, four estate workmen, and a collier from each of the following coalpits:- Brackley, Bridgewater, Mosley Common, and Ashton Field. The local clergy were represented at the funeral by the Rev. H. J. B. Armstrong, incumbent of St. Andrew's, Eccles Parish Church; the Rev. F. Sardeson, curate of Eccles Parish Church; the Rev. Charles Heath, Walkden; the Rev. M. Munroe, Little Hulton; and the Rev. R. Harland, Leigh. The Lancashire County Council was represented by Mr. Jacson [sic], vice chairman; Alderman W. W. B. Hulton, Alderman Forrest and Councillor Ermen. The following were also present:- Captain Heaton (private secretary to Lord Ellesmere), Mr. T. T. Smith (private secretary to the deceased), Messrs. J. W. Maclure, M.P., [plus numerous members of local political associations, local boards and councillors - Ed.], members of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry; Worsley Volunteers; Mr. Macdonald Blair (Parliamentary agent to the deceased); Rev. H. R. Hopwood; Church of England Temperance Society; Mr. Joseph Roscoe, Master of Worsley Yard. Mementoes of respect in the shape of wreaths, crosses, anchors, and bouquets were sent by Lord and Lady Ellesmere, the Dowager Countess of Ellesmere, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Egerton, the Marquis of Normanby, the Misses Katherine and Violet Egerton, the Misses Mabel, Alice, and Beatrice Egerton, Lord and Lady Egerton of Tatton, Lady Annette and the Misses Trafford, the members of the Manchester Conservative Club, the Eccles Division Conservative Association, and many other local associations and individual friends.

Yesterday morning at St. Mark's, the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson, vicar of Worsley, made a touching allusion to the loss which the parish, and the district generally, had sustained in the death of the Hon. Algernon Egerton.

Algernon Fulke Egerton died on 14 July **1891**, aged 65, and was buried at St. Mark's four days later. His wife survived him by fourteen years and died in March **1905**. He had been a Church Warden 1884 to 1891.

PHILIP FRUEN (1862-1889)

His parents are believed to have been Charles Fruen (1824-1866) and Hannah (Knapper) (1827-1866). Charles had died on 19 May 1866 at New Bridge Street Workhouse, Manchester, and Hannah on 27 April 1866. They were married at Biddulph Parish Church, Staffs., on 15 March **1850**. In the 1851 census, Hannah (though married) was a lodger at Mill Street, Buglawton, Cheshire, a Silk Piecer. They then had 6 children - Elizabeth (1852-1916), Ellen (1853-1931), John (1856-1912), Charles (1859-?), Philip (1862) and Sarah (1865-1871).

Philip was born early in **1862**. He later appeared in 2 censuses: **1871** and **1881**. In the first, he was an inmate at the Swinton Industrial School, aged 9. Birthplace was unknown. In the second, he was a Collier, aged 19, living as a boarder with Charles and Mary Fox and family, at 9 Chaddock Road, Boothstown. The fact that both parents had died (1866) will partially explain why he was at these two addresses for the censuses. Philip moved from the Industrial Schools in Swinton to the Mosley Common Pit. And then ...

The UK: Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index shows that Philip was *'injured by a large flat stone falling from the roof at the bottom of his place in the Crombouke Mine. It appears to have been considered safe half an hour before when the fireman was with him. No cracks or breaks being noticeable'*.

*'The **Crombouke** is a seam from 2 feet 6 inches to 4 feet 6 inches, of good quality coal in the west and corresponds to the Roger mine in central Manchester. The Crombouke mine at Worsley thins out and is known as the Albert at Pendleton, The Crombouke mine at Pendleton is found below the Albert. This mine is understood to have been part of Mosley Colliery'*. (Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1861, by Edward Hull). The colliery was owned by the Bridgewater Trustees. It would appear that the accident occurred on 10 February 1885, whilst he was resident with Charles Fox. Between 1850 and 1914, more than 90,000 were killed in British mines.

Philip was baptised at St. Mary, Ellenbrook, on 4 March **1885**, at age 23, by the Rev. John H. Whatmough. His address was Vicars Hall Lane. This was about 3 weeks after the mining incident. The Parish Magazine of July **1889** reported that his name had appeared on the sick list for over 4 years and, as a result, his name was familiar to its readers. The account stated that *"a fall of roof occurred in the pit and Fruen was crushed beneath it, and was carried home in a helpless state. It was found that his back was broken, and he was totally deprived of the use of the lower parts of his body. His adopted parents determined that he should remain with them as long as he lived, and they treated him with great kindness'*. The article spoke of the way in which he dealt with his injuries, and how he recovered from the shock of the accident, regaining his cheerfulness. *'He had numerous friends amongst whom should be mentioned Lord Mulgrave, Lady Ellesmere, Mr. and Mrs. Peel, Mrs. Lansdale, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Edmonds, Mr. and Mrs. H. Yates, as well as many in his own rank of life'*. He took a passive interest in cricket and learned to do wool-work, knitting a large number of shawls for people all over the country. Shortly after his Baptism, he received his first Communion on Easter Tuesday, 7 April **1885**. *'It was a great joy to him that on 2 April 1889 the assistant Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Cramer-Roberts, visited his room and confirmed him. The last time he received Holy Communion was on Whitsun-Tuesday 11 June 1889.'* He grew weaker in the last 6 months of his life, but he bore his weakness with great patience. *'The hardest struggle was in the last three days of his life. He expressed his fear that it was going to be more than he could bear and that he should give way under the trial.'* The Rev. R. Harland was with him in his last hours and witnessed his courage and endurance. When the worst of the struggle was over, Philip remarked *'Now I think you have done enough; you have helped me very much, it begins to feel like bedtime.'* He then clasped his hands and said a fervent Amen, when the clergyman said the words *'Lord Jesus receive his spirit.'* At 1am on 21 June, Philip fell asleep. *'His four long years of sickness had taught him the lessons of patience and resignation, and ennobled and beautified his soul, and none can doubt that when the victory over the last great enemy was complete, he entered into Rest and Peace.'*

Philip Fruen was buried at St. Mark's on Sunday 23 June **1889**. The Vicar and Rev. R. Harland took the service. A large number of people attended his funeral and the coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths and flowers.

Will: The will of Philip Fruen, late of Vicars Hall Lane, Boothstown, in the County of Lancaster, Collier, who died 21 June **1889** at Vicars Hall Lane, was proved at Manchester by Charles Fox of Vicars Hall Lane, Collier, the sole executor. (£157)

KENT REEKS (1880-1924)

A burial took place in the churchyard on 24 January 1914. The Burials Register shows that Kent Reeks, aged 24, was laid to rest in grave W2541 and that he was a native of Sydney, Australia. Furthermore, it notes that he was found murdered at Bilston, Staffs. Grateful thanks are due to Graham Prince who first brought this to attention, and then to Susan Tydd, whose research into his death has been recorded and is to be found on the internet. Her account of his life and death is transcribed below.

January 20th marks the 100th anniversary of the unsolved murder of Kent Reeks whose body was discovered nearby an abandoned mineshaft in the village of Ettingshall, near Bilston, approximately two miles from Wolverhampton. He had been shot three times from a revolver at close range.

Reeks a young Marine Engineer had arrived several days earlier in Liverpool aboard 'The Empress of Ireland' from Boston, with the intention of studying at the Marine Academy of Stephenson and Parry, and sitting exams for the position of Chief Engineer. On the day of his arrival, having found lodgings at a Temperance Hotel on Lord Street, off London Road, Reeks embarked on a train journey to Swinton, a small town in the suburbs of Manchester, to visit his maternal grandmother and numerous other family members; it had been three years since his previous visit. He passed several hours amongst his family and by all accounts was jovial, indeed a cheerful lively man, delighted to renew the acquaintance with his kinsfolk. Regrettably, the family were unable to offer a bed to their caller. The young gent returned to his hotel later that Saturday evening.

On returning to the hotel, he became friendly with another gentleman guest who introduced himself as Mr. Ramsden. Indeed they seemed to devote much of Sunday in each other's company exploring Liverpool, and afterwards spent a comfortable evening reading in the hotel sitting room, and agreed to meet again the next day. The following morning, the gentleman left the hotel before Reeks had risen for breakfast. Disappointed, the young man visited the Marine Academy finalising arrangements for his forthcoming studies, arriving back at the hotel around 2pm. He collected a small parcel from his room along with a green wallet which possibly contained 500 dollars, and again ventured out, advising hotel staff he would be back at teatime. This was the final sighting of Reeks alive; his whereabouts until the body was uncovered remain unaccounted for.

Kent Reeks body was discovered late Tuesday morning, several people remarking beforehand of a man covered in an overcoat presumably sleeping off the effects of alcohol in a shallow ditch at the edge of a field beside the Millfield Road, 300 yards away from the train station, adjacent to Wrights Foundry and close to a disused Mineshaft. On arrival at the scene, the police established Reeks had been shot, robbery not appearing to be the motive. A wallet was found in Reeks possession containing £9 and he was wearing a gold Elgin watch, attached to a silver chain. Several photographs and a letter were retrieved from his pocket. Next to the body was a Green Brazilian Beetle pin which was later recognised as belonging to Reeks. The police also came across a Green English Beetle close by; it was suggested this second beetle belonged to a woman's hat pin. Numerous gun cartridges were unearthed in the field, three of which proved to be the fatal shots fired. The letter found established Reeks had relatives in Swinton, who were contacted; his uncle formally identified the body. Information gathered from the family verified Reeks lodgings at the Temperance Hotel in Liverpool and the amount of American dollars

the young man had been observed with a few days earlier. On searching his hotel room, the police noted his luggage was still there and other personal effects, letters, photographs and a piece of paper on the bed with the name J.G. Parsons written on it several times. The money however was missing.

The authorities launched an appeal for Mr. Ramsden to present himself for questioning as one of the last people to see Reeks alive, assuming he held vital information. People in Ettingshall, Bilston, guests at the Liverpool hotel, even family in Swinton and as far afield as Bournemouth and Australia were questioned, the disused mine shaft and field thoroughly searched. All avenues of detective work were pursued to locate and identify Ramsden, J.G. Parsons and whoever professed to being the owner of the Green English Beetle. Nothing new transpired from the investigations. The police were no nearer finding the murderer or murderers. There arose a great deal of speculation surrounding the killing. What was his business in Ettingshall? His family insisted he had no known reason to visit the area, no relations resided there, and he had no love concerns in the area. Did the slaughter take place in Ettingshall or elsewhere and the body driven to and discarded in the field alongside the busy road? Gang involvement, a woman scorned, a disagreement in Liverpool, mistaken identity, robbery. The case became known as the Green Beetle Mystery.

Kent Reeks funeral took place the following Saturday. His body had remained under police guard in Staffordshire until Thursday then escorted by train to Swinton and delivered to an undertaker in nearby Pendlebury. The burial proceedings were kept quiet in an attempt to deter the public from attending and dissuade journalists reporting the occasion. The planning was fairly effective, only a minority of local people noticed the Cortège depart the house of his grandmother, Sarah Kent, on Chorley Road. Neighbours who knew the family as tradition expected had their curtains drawn out of respect. The coffin placed in a glass-sided hearse made the short journey to St. Mark's church in Worsley, the church where the Kent family frequently worshipped. Here the body was interred. The simple inscription on the coffin read:

"Kent Reeks died January 20th 1914 age 24". It was just two weeks after his birthday.

Despite the vast amount of time and man power exercised by the police no person was ever arrested and convicted of this atrocious killing. As 1914 swiftly progressed into spring and summer, England began preparations for war and the unsolved Green Beetle Mystery was relegated to the annals of history.

Kent Reeks was born 8th January 1890 in the family home of 'Blatchley', St. Leonards, a borough of Sydney Australia, the eldest child of Walter Reeks and Mary Emma Kent.

His father, a native of Hampshire, emigrated to Sydney in 1885 after completing an apprenticeship as a naval architect. His principal employment focused on design commissions for wealthy yacht owners. In later life, Walter is best remembered for designing the Manly Ferries which were still operational until 1984. For a while, during any spare time, he tried gold prospecting, although this was brought to a sudden halt with an outbreak of Typhoid. Reeks mother hailed from Lancashire and arrived in the port of Sydney during October 1888, a passenger on R.M.S. Austral. Walter and Mary Emma married in 1889 at Saint Andrews Cathedral, Sydney. In 1895, shortly following the birth of their second child, a daughter named Thelma, Mary died from Rheumatic Fever. Walter passed away in 1925. Thelma married a mere few weeks after the terrible demise of her brother; she named her eldest child Kent in tribute.

Kent Reeks as a young adult excelled in his preliminary engineering examinations in Australia before journeying to England for the first time in 1911. After a short stay and acquainting himself with family, he gained a berth aboard the *Lusitania* making at least one trip between Liverpool and New



York. Whilst in America, Reeks achieved employment with Elders and Fyffes, steamship owners. He was engaged as fourth engineer on the ship *Secolia*, a fruit vessel plying trade between Boston and the West Indies. His last voyage ended in Boston where he was healthily paid. Reeks travelled to Halifax in Nova Scotia procuring his final passage on the ship *The Empress of Ireland*, landing in Liverpool just three days before meeting a tragic death.

(© Susan Tydd: 15 January 2014)

LUCY LLOYD (1863-1888)

Lucy Elizabeth Lloyd was born on 4 January **1863** in Pagefield, Wigan, and was baptised at Standishgate Methodist Chapel on 15 March 1863. Her parents were Abraham Evans Lloyd and Elizabeth Maria (née Bradshaw). By the census of **1871**, the family had moved to Brackley House, Broad Oak Park, Worsley. Abraham was 45, Elizabeth (42), James B. (18), Annie (16), Nathaniel (14), Harriet (12), Lucy (8) and Walter (2). There were 2 domestics living with them. Abraham was a Manufacturing Chemist, employing about 20 men, women and children.

Ten years later, **1881**, the family was still at the same address. Abraham was 55, Harriet (22), Lucy E. (18), Walter E. (12). Abraham was still a Manufacturing Chemist. Abraham, a Calico Printer, of 92 Rutland Street, Hulme, and Elizabeth Maria, of Stretford, had married by licence on 19 August **1846** at Manchester Cathedral. The fathers of both, John Lloyd and James Bradshaw, were both Gentlemen. By **1891**, the family was still in Worsley, though Elizabeth Maria had died. Abraham was now 65 and his daughter Harriet (now Whitworth) was at the house with her 2 children, and 4 domestics.

Abraham Evans died at home on 2 February **1899**. He left a will in excess of £150,000 to one of his sons, James Bradshaw Lloyd, a Drysalter, and John Kellett, a Mining Engineer. Abraham was buried at St. Mark's on 7 February 1899, aged 73, by Edward C. Maclure, Dean of Manchester. His wife, Elizabeth Maria, (died 6 April 1884), had been buried also at St. Mark's on 10 April 1884, aged 55 years. In total, eight members of the family are buried in the vault (d625). Abraham Evans had been an Alderman of Manchester, and its Lord Mayor from 1894 to 1896.

LUCY LIZABETH died on 4 March 1888, aged 25, and was buried 4 days later. Her death came as a total shock both to her family and to the Parish. Described as one of the *devoutest* (sic) worshippers of the parish, she died on the third Sunday of Lent, in the early hours of the morning. None had been aware of the fact that, *'in her sickness, there was any association of danger'*. She had been confined to her room *'for only one week with rheumatism, which developed later into rheumatic fever. The doctor who was in attendance declared at five o'clock on the Saturday evening that he saw no symptoms to cause alarm, but before four o'clock on the Sunday morning, March 4th, her spirit had passed away. A sharp convulsion occurred at one o'clock, then failure of the heart's action, resulting in a peaceful, painless falling asleep.'*



The inscription on the memorial reads:

LUCY ELIZABETH
youngest and dearly loved daughter of
ABRAHAM EVANS & ELIZABETH MARIA LLOYD
at rest March 4th 1888 aged 25 yrs

Mine saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make of my jewels. *Malachi 111 verse 17*

Lucy Lloyd taught for a while in the Sunday School at Roe Green. Then, in November **1885**, she was appointed Superintendent of the Worsley Girls' School. She undertook this post with grave misgivings, believing that she was too young for the position, but with determination to carry out that rôle. She never allowed anything to interrupt her lesson preparation and would never absent herself from any meetings connected with her school duties. She took a great interest in the welfare and well-being of her girls outside school, and proved to be a great friend to many of them.

Lucy was a very devout communicant. She regularly attended the early celebrations and the Saints' day feasts. The Communion Hymn "And now, Oh! Father! mindful of the love" was a particular favourite. It is written that '*she worshipped devoutly and gratefully at the Altar. St. Mark's Missionary Association originated from a conversation which Miss Lloyd had with Canon Douglas in Holy Week two years ago.*' Just ten days before her death, she had held a meeting at her home to examine and price all the articles of clothing made at the weekly meetings during the winter. This meeting was her last.

She was a strong supporter of the Temperance Movement and was on the committee of St. Mark's Temperance Guild. '*We believe that those who knew her intimately were impressed by her gifted clear-sightedness in matters which were often perplexing to other persons, whilst her ready sympathy rendered her an invaluable friend and counsellor to a large circle of her acquaintances.*' The editor of the church magazine then expressed the hope that the community would support her family, and that their sympathy would ease the burden felt by the family.

A meeting of the Sunday School Teachers was called by the Vicar for Tuesday 6 March, to make arrangements for her funeral, due to take place on the morning of Thursday 8 March. The Vicar spoke of her quiet, unassuming manner and an unostentatious life that had influenced so many. A unanimous vote was passed for the purchase of flowers for the funeral from the teachers and pupils. A collection was arranged in the Worsley schools and it was proposed that any money raised over and above that required for the wreaths was to be placed towards a lending library, as a memorial to Miss Lloyd. The library had been a project close to her heart.

A more beautiful Funeral Service there could scarcely have been. It was joyous rather than sorrowful. As the procession entered the church, the organ poured forth the strains of the exquisite March, by Chopin, which, since the interment of the Duke of Albany, seems to have taken the place of the Dead March. On the coffin being placed below the chancel step, Miss Egerton on behalf of the Sunday School Teachers, and Mrs. Hopwood, on behalf of the Sunday Schools of the Parish, placed upon it a beautiful wreath and cross. The first part of the service was read by the Rev. Percy H. Bowers, Rector of Market Bosworth, and brother-in-law to the deceased. The hymn "O Paradise! O Paradise!" was sung after the Voluntary, After the Lesson, the hymn "The strife is o'er, the battle won" was sung, and during the third verse the Vicar laid on the coffin a lovely white cross, which had been previously been placed upon the Altar. ... The Nunc Dimittis was sung on the way to the grave, in the north-east corner of the churchyard. The Vicar read the concluding part of the Burial Service, amidst a heavy shower of rain. The funeral was attended by a large crowd of people, and everywhere were to be seen tokens of the high esteem and regard won by Miss Lloyd. Amongst the beautiful wreaths and crosses - over forty in number - was a magnificent wreath from the Countess of Ellesmere; also wreaths or crosses from Lord Mulgrave, the Misses Egerton, the Rev. Percy and Mrs. Bowers, the Rev. W. G. Harland, the Rev. H. R. and Mrs. Hopwood, the Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Baynes, the Worsley Sunday School Teachers, School children, the Members of the Mothers' Meeting Class at Winton, &c.

EDWARD NODEN (1850-1919)

During the Parish working day in September 2016, a large framed photograph of a distinguished-looking gentleman was found within the organ chamber. After some research, it was found to be of Edward Noden - sitting in front of a half-timbered black and white building. The photo is currently in the Vestry.

Edward Noden was baptised at Bowdon on 8 December **1850**, the son of John and Hannah Noden. The census of 1851 shows that he was living with his family at 'Sinderland,' Dunham Massey, Cheshire. His father (39) was a Farmer of 28 acres, with 2 labourers. His mother Hannah was 38 and his siblings were John (15), Phoebe (8), William (6), and Mary (3). Edward was at this time just 5 months old.

By **1861**, John was still a farmer of the same piece of land, aged 49. Hannah was 48, their son John (25), Phoebe (18), William (16), Mary (13), Edward (10), Hannah (8) and there was another son George (3). Edward was now a scholar. Ten years later, in 1871, John was now farming 56 acres (aged 59) and many of the family were still at the family home in Sinderland Green - William (26), Mary (23), Edward (20), Hannah (18), George Pearson (13), with 2 domestics. Edward was now a Merchant's Clerk.

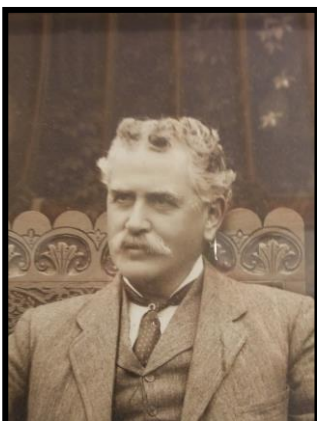
Edward married Elizabeth Anne Hall in the fourth quarter of **1877**, at St. Mary, Bowdon. In the **1881** census, the couple were living at 12 Mill Brow, Worsley. Edward was 30, Elizabeth was 26, and he was recorded as being a Commercial clerk in the coal trade. Then, in **1899**, Elizabeth Ann Noden died on 10 March, aged 44. She lived at Beech House, Worsley. Her estate was left to her husband Edward. They had no children. She was buried at Bowdon on 13 March, aged 44.



In **1900**, Edward married Emily Clegg in the 2/4 qtr. of 1900 at Bucklow. The following year, in the **1901** census, they were living at Beech House, Worsley Road. Edward was a Cashier, aged 48, and Emily was 23. They had a daughter, Evelyn, aged 1 month. Sadly, the young Evelyn was buried at St. Mark's on 5 February **1902** by the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson. Move on to **1911** and Edward was still at Beech House, Worsley Road. His job was Chief Cashier in an Estate Office. He was aged 60 and his wife Emily, who was born in Ulverston, was 33. They had a daughter Katharine, aged 7. Katharine was born on 19 October 1903 and baptised at St. Mark's on 25 November **1903** by the Rev. F. K. Hodgkinson.

Emily died on 7 October **1913**. Her estate was left to Edward Noden and Mary Evelyn Clegg, a spinster. She was buried at St. Mark's on 10 October 1913, aged 35 yrs. Edward himself died on 14 November **1919** at The Hotel Metropole, Blackpool, and was buried at St. Mark's on 18 November 1919, aged 69 yrs. In his will, he left his estate to George Pearson Noden, a brother, and two farmers, Samuel Davies and Edward Davies. Their daughter, Katherine (25), married George Norman Lowe (32), a Corn Merchant of Davyhulme, at St. Mark's on 11 September **1929**.

Edward Noden was the Honorary Treasurer of the Worsley Pageant of **1914**, held in the grounds of Worsley New Hall. He had also been a Parish Warden from **1893** to **1919**.



The inscription on the memorial reads:

**In loving memory of EMILY wife of EDWARD NODEN
who died December 7th 1913 aged 35 yrs R.I.P.
Also EDWARD NODEN who died November 14th 1919 aged 69 yrs.**

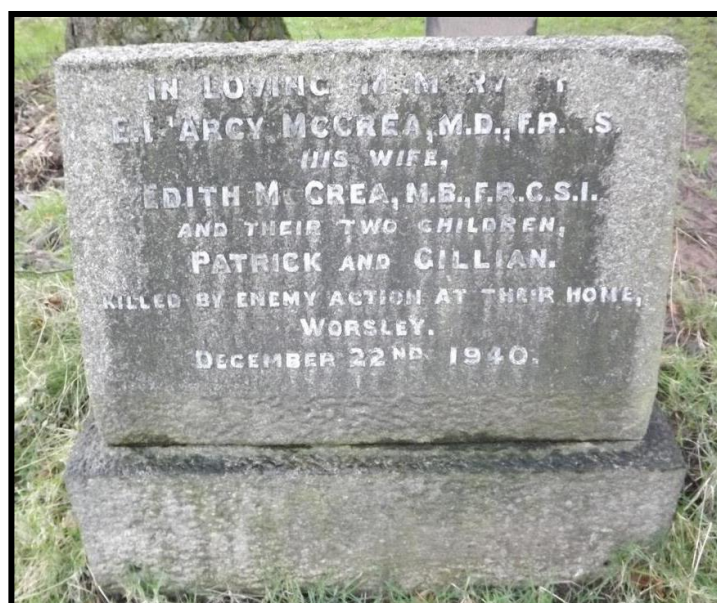
THE McCREA FAMILY (1895-1940)

The story behind the deaths of **Dr. Edward D'Arcy McCrea** and his family has an importance and a significance on a number of levels. Sadly, the whole family was killed as a result of a bomb falling on their house on the evening of 22 December **1940**. His wife, Edith Florence, aged 44, their son, Patrick Philip Willock, aged 12, and their daughter, Marjorie Gillian Willock, were killed outright. The McCrea family lived at The Cottage, Barton Road - a large house with an orchard in its substantial grounds. There was a house party taking place at the time of the explosion. Nobody survived. Numerous other people, including their housemaid, were killed. The site of the house remained derelict for several years, and then in the mid-fifties the land was taken over by North West Water. That ground was later redeveloped in the nineties and a retirement home, Elmwood, was built. The grave of the family is in the churchyard of St. Mark's Church, Worsley.

The bomb which destroyed the house is thought to have been a parachute bomb. Air raids over Manchester had begun in August **1940** but the heaviest raids were on the nights of the 22 and 23 December 1940. On these two nights, commonly referred to as the Christmas Blitz, it is reckoned that over 680 people were killed in the Manchester area. Because of its importance as an industrial area, Trafford Park was extensively bombed. The parachute bomb was probably dropped over Trafford Park, but drifted off course. The parachute bomb (or mine) was very effective at causing widespread damage by exploding at rooftop height to maximise its explosive capacity. It had the potential to destroy buildings within a 100 yard radius.

Edward McCrea was born on 7 February **1895** at Altona, Stillorgan, Co Dublin, the eldest son of John Harris McCrea, a merchant, and Jeannette Seale, his wife. He was educated at Wycliff College, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated in **1917**, proceeding to MD in 1920 and MCh in **1922**. In that year he also gained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He eventually moved to England to practise medicine in **1922** and came to live in Manchester. He took up a post in the department of urology at Salford Royal Hospital and became a surgeon in 1935. Edward McCrea carried out some anatomical and physiological research and published some of his findings.

His wife (Edith Florence Willock) was also a medical graduate of Dublin and became surgeon at the Manchester Babies Hospital. They had married on 25 September **1925** in Devon. He was also a leading tennis player of his generation, and represented Ireland in the Davis Cup ties in **1923** and **1924** against France and played singles against Jean Borotra and René Lacoste.



FOREWORD

Amongst the many people who have been buried in the churchyard of St. Mark, Worsley, there are people from all walks of life - most of them lived in Worsley and the surrounding area; some of them had connections with the parish; and a few chose to be buried here from further afield. There are labourers, businessmen, servants, professionals, servicemen from two world wars and other conflicts, widows, clergymen; husbands, wives, children, grandparents, grandchildren.

Their ages range from very young children, maybe just a few hours old, to centenarians. A quick glance at the burial records will reveal some very interesting facts about the social conditions of the times - the perils of infancy and childhood, the effects of diseases, and the impact of working conditions.

These records also reveal the prevalence of certain Christian names, some of which are rarely found today, and the prominence of certain family names, most likely familiar to members of today's citizens locally. The stories that lie behind some of those buried may be familiar to a few, and to those keen on local history.

The purpose of this booklet is to bring to the public's attention some of those whose life stories are not necessarily well known, but who were certainly prominent people of their time, and further aspects of some who might be vaguely familiar to the reader.

Those mentioned here are:

SAMUEL HIGGINBOTTOM	(1877-1887)
PETER NIGHTINGALE	(1814-1874)
PETER RASBOTHAM	(1809-1871)
WILLIAM MILLINGTON	(1809-1887)
PETER KEEVNEY	(1832-1895)
MARGARET LOUISA KERR	(1863-1900)
REGINALD FROUDE COULES	(1855-1926)
SAMUEL CHATWOOD	(1833-1909)
HON. ALGERNON FULKE EGERTON	(1825-1891)
PHILIP FRUEN	(1862-1889)
KENT REEKS	(1880-1924)
LUCY LLOYD	(1863-1888)
EDWARD NODEN	(1850-1819)
THE McCREA FAMILY	(1895-1940)

These accounts are compiled from burial notices in newspapers, obituary notices, and further research from various sources.

