

George Aldcroft PHILLIPS



Born: 22 December 1826

Died: 2 November 1893

*SOAP MANUFACTURER
OVERSEER OF THE POOR*



Paul R. Speakman 2020

George Aldcroft PHILLIPS

This gentleman was born on 22 December 1826 and baptised on 1 June 1827, at Monton Green Presbyterian Church, Eccles, to **Aldcroft Phillips** and Jane Humphrys. His father was a Solicitor of Whit Lane, Pendleton.

George Aldcroft, son of Aldcroft Phillips
and Jane his Wife, of Monton in the Parish
of Eccles & County of Lancashire, was born
December 22^d 1826, & baptiz'd June 1. 1827
by me
R. Smithus Minister.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of <u>Church of Manchester</u> in the County of <u>Lancaster</u> in the Year 18 <u>23</u>	
<u>Aldcroft Phillips</u> Bachelor of this Parish and town of <u>Manchester</u> Gentleman	
and <u>Jane Humphrys</u> of this Parish and township of <u>Salford</u> Spinster	
were married in this Church by <u>Licence</u> with Consent of this <u>Twenty ninth</u> Day of <u>May</u> in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <u>Twenty three</u>	
By me <u>R. Chapman</u>	
This Marriage was solemnized between us { <u>Aldcroft Phillips</u> <u>Jane Humphrys</u>	
In the Presence of { <u>C. Phillips</u> <u>J. H. Humphrys</u> <u>W. C. ...</u>	
No. 583.	

Aldcroft Phillips was born c.1788 in Manchester. He married Jane Humphrys at Manchester Cathedral on 29 May 1823, and they were to have 6 sons and 4 daughters. **George Aldcroft** was the third child and second son of their marriage.

UK Articles of Clerkship show that he was indentured to Samuel Kay of Manchester, and Attorney His Majesty's Court of King's Bench on the 24 January

1814.

The 1831 Register of Electors for the Salford Hundred shows **Phillips, Aldcroft** living in Monton, as an occupier of a house, with 3 acres of land. Then, in Whelan's Directory of Manchester, 1852, he was practising at 8 Marsden Street, Manchester. He had been at the same address ten years earlier, in 1841.

In the 1841 census, the family was living at Whit Lane, Pendleton.

1841 census Whit Lane, Pendleton

Aldcroft Phillips	50	Solicitor
Jane	40	
Eliza	15	
Henry	16	
George	14	
John	12	
Frederick	10	
Emma	9	
Catherine	7	

Also: Maria	5
Charles	3
+ 4 servants	



The census of **1861**, taken just two months before his death, aged 73, shows that he had been living with his wife Jane and three servants at 2 Leaf Square, Pendleton. His wife Jane, aged 60, had been born in Pennsylvania, America.

1861 census 2 Leaf Square, Pendleton					
Aldcroft Phillips	Head	Mar	73	Solicitor	b. Manchester
Jane	Wife	Mar	60		b. America, Pennsylvania
+ 3 servants					

The National Probate Calendar shows that **Phillips, Aldcroft**, late of the City of Manchester and Pendleton, died on 7 June **1861**. His estate was left to Jane Phillips, of 2 Leaf Square, Pendleton, his widow and sole Executrix.

George Aldcroft, son of Aldcroft Phillips and Jane his wife, of Newton in the Parish of Eccles & County of Lancaster, was born December 22^d 1826, & baptiz'd June 1. 1827 by me
R. Smith and Minister.

And so, **George Aldcroft Phillips** was born to **Aldcroft** and Jane in 1826. He was their second son. His early life was covered in the **1841** census above, but curiously, no trace has been found of any member of the family in **1851**. In light of a newspaper article of 1869 printed below, it may well be that the family was in India at

that time. Alternatively, sections of the census for Manchester were badly damaged by water and have not been recovered.

George Aldcroft, somehow, became associated with Soap Manufacturing. By **1856**, he had clearly established himself in that industry, because a notice appeared in the *Morning Chronicle* of Saturday 11 October 1856 under a column headed: **New Inventions**. Notice is hereby given that provisional protection has been allowed to David Thom and George Aldcroft Phillips of Manchester, soap manufacturers - improvements in "soap frames".

In the Journal of the Society of Arts, of Friday 17 October **1856**, the following application for a patent was recorded: 2278. *David Thom and George Aldcroft Phillips, Manchester- Certain improvements in apparatus used in the manufacture of soap.*

Two years later, the *Glasgow Herald* of Wednesday 28 July **1858** printed the following advisory notice to its readers: *TO ALL SOAP MAKERS AND CHANDLERS - It having come to the knowledge of Messrs. DAVID THOM & GEORGE ALDCROFT PHILLIPS, of Manchester, Soap Manufacturers, that their patents for making SOAP, and bleaching OIL and TALLOW have been INFRINGED; notice is hereby given, that Proceedings will be taken against all Persons who shall in future be guilty of such Infringements. - Dated the 16th Day of July 1858.*

HALL & JANION, Solicitors, Essex Street, Manchester.

(Copy)
MARRIAGE

Solemnized at Strangeways Chapel, New Bridge Street, Cheetham, in the District of Manchester in the County of Lancaster.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
37	Sixteenth of June 1858	George Aldcroft Phillips Mary Eckersley	29 20	Bachelor Spinster	Gentleman	The Hall, Pendleton Park Hill, Prestwich	Aldcroft Phillips Peter Eckersley	Gentleman Stock and Share Broker

Married in the Strangeways Chapel, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Unitarians, by _____ by me

This Marriage was solemnized between us

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">George Aldcroft Phillips</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">Mary Eckersley</p>	In the Presence of us	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">Peter Eckersley</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">Mary Frances Whitehead</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">Maria Phillips</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">J. Canton Ham</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">H. Richd. Casside</p>	Minister. Registrar.
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However, **George Aldcroft** married Mary Eckersley at the Strangeways Chapel, New Bridge Street, Manchester on 16 June **1858**. They were to have 6 children, 3 sons and 3 daughters - Charles Aldcroft, b. 1859; Thomas Falkner, b. 1860; George Waller, b. 1862; Ada Mary, b. 1864; Florence, b. 1866; and Ethel, b. 1873. His address at the time of his marriage (The Hall, Pendleton), is interesting, since the map above shows the Old Hall, Pendleton, and its location on Whit Lane, the site of his father's home. A newspaper article quoted below identified this hall as

By the time of the **1861** census, the young family was living at Upper Camp Street, Broughton, Salford.

George A. Phillips	Head	Mar	33	Soap Boiler & Chemical Manufacturer
Mary	Wife	Mar	23	b. Broughton
Charles A.	Son	Unm	1	b. Broughton
Thomas F.	Son	Unm	7mo	b. Broughton
+ 2 servants and 1 groom				

The *Manchester Courier* of Thursday 18 February **1869** printed an article under the heading **THE ROSICRUCIANS**.

'The Rosicrucian Brotherhood held a chapter on Monday evening, when many rare and curious volumes, in which art and literature are combined, were shown'. A reference was then made to a 17th/18th century ancient silver tankard, 'capable of holding half a gallon, having come into the possession of the Phillips family, being for the last half century in the possession of the late Frederick Phillips, Esq., of Old Trafford, but is now in that of George Aldcroft Phillips, Esq., of Pendleton'.

Rosicrucianism is a spiritual and cultural movement which arose in Europe in the early 17th century after the publication of several texts which purported to announce the existence of a hitherto unknown

esoteric order to the world and made seeking its knowledge attractive to many (Wikipedia). The Order of the Rose Cross has, as its symbol, a gilded cross with a red rose at its centre.

The article then proceeded to give more details of the Phillips family, with further references to other members of the Phillips family, including **Aldcroft's** father (and therefore the grandfather of **George Aldcroft**), '*Thomas Faulkner Phillips, Esq., of Manchester, merchant and a manufacturer of great ability and enterprise, and uniting with that character, in a high degree, the spirits and accomplishments of a gentleman*'. Thomas Faulkner was the father of '*the late **Aldcroft Phillips, Esq., of Pendleton Hall, who in early life was a resident in India and afterwards a solicitor of great practice in this city***'. ... In mentioning his family, the article noted that '*Mr. **Aldcroft Phillips** had many sons, the eldest being the Hon. Henry Lushington Phillips, of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law, now a puisne (sic) judge at the Cape of Good Hope. ... also, the before mentioned **George Aldcroft Phillips** admitted a solicitor in 1856, and who married in 1858 Mary, the daughter of Peter Eckersley, of Higher Broughton, by whom he has several male and female issue*'.

By the time we get to **1871**, and the next census, the family has relocated to Sandy Lane, Pendleton, and expanded.

1871 census 5 Sandy Lane, Pendleton

George A. Phillips	Head	Mar	43	Soap Manufacturer	
Mary	Wife	Mar	33		
Falkner	Son		10	Scholar	
George W.	Son		9	Scholar	b. Broughton
Ada M.	Daur		7	Scholar	b. Eccles
Florence	Daur		5	Scholar	b. Eccles
+ 3 servants					

There is a Sandy Lane today in the Langworthy area of Salford - but quite different from the Sandy Lane of 140 years ago. There is also a Greenbank Road adjoining it.

The Manchester Evening News of 6 April **1877** reported: '*At the Salford Borough Police Court (that morning), before Sir John Iles and Mr. George Wright Turner, the following gentlemen were appointed overseers: ... Mr. **George Aldcroft Phillips**, manufacturer, Green Bank, Sandy Lane; et al.*'. He had previously been appointed between 1872 and 1876 to be an overseer of the poor in Salford.

The position of administering the Poor Law was undertaken in rotation by worthy men in the parish, with anyone refusing to serve being fined. The *Overseer of the Poor*, at first called the *Collector of the Poor* and sometimes the *Distributor*, was chosen annually in the spring by the township. The names would then be approved by the Justices of the Peace. It was an often onerous position, but regarded as somewhat of an honour to be chosen, even though it was unpaid and with no recompense for lost wages. Their rôle was to administer *poor relief* such as money, food and clothing, as part of the Poor Law system, set up in England in 1601 in the reign of Elizabeth I.

The duties of the Overseers were fourfold. To ...

- work out how much money would be needed for the relief of the poor and set the poor rate accordingly
- collect the poor rate from property owners
- relieve the poor by dispensing either food or money
- supervise the parish poor-house

The London Gazette of 1 August **1871** gave notice that the partnership with David Thom was now dissolved due to the death of the letter gentleman. He had died at sea, aged 45. David Thom had married Emma Phillips, daughter of Aldcroft Phillips, Solicitor, at Eccles in November 1852; making him the brother-in-law of George Aldcroft.

*NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting" between David Thom and **George Aldcroft Phillips**, carrying on business at Whit-lane Works, Pendleton, and at 16, Hanging Ditch, Manchester, both in the county of Lancaster, as Soap Manufacturers, under the firm of David Thom and Co., was dissolved on the 21st day of April last by the death of the said David Thom. All accounts due to and owing by the said concern will be received and paid by the said George Aldcroft Phillips, by whom the said business will in future be carried on, under the said style of David Thom and Co. - As witness our hands this 21st day of July, 1871.*

John Thom,

Executor of the said David Thom.

George A. Phillips

By **1881**, the family was still living in Sandy Lane, but with a slight change in their address.

1881 census 7 Sandy Lane, Pendleton

George A. Phillips	Head	Mar	53	Soap Manuf.	
Mary	Wife	Mar	43		
Charles A.	Son	Unm	21	Soap Manuf.	
Thomas F.	Son	Unm	20	Student, Brasenose Oxford	
George W.	Son	Unm	19	<i>do.</i>	
Florence	Daur	Unm	15		
Ethel	Daur	Unm	8		b. Pendleton
Arthur Eckersley	Nephew	U	15		b. Hr. Broughton
+ 3 servants					

Records relating to both Thomas Falkner and George Waller can be found in the alumni archives of Oxford University.

Sadly, the Manchester Evening News of Tuesday 6 June **1881** announced the death of "Florence, on the 3rd inst., aged 17 years, second daughter of George Aldcroft Phillips, of Greenbank, Pendleton". She was buried in the churchyard on 8 June 1881.

1891 census 10 Queens Road, North Meols, Southport

George A. Philips	Head	M	64	Soap manufacturer	b. Eccles
Mary	Wife	M	52		b. Manchester
Thomas F.	Son	S	30	Solicitor	b. Manchester
George W.	Son	M	29		b. Manchester
Ada M Atkinson	Daur	M	26		b. Eccles
Edward, B. C. Patt	Visitor	S	33	West African trader	b. Dorset
+ 4 servants					

George Aldcroft Phillips died on 2 November **1893**. The Burial records of St. Mark's show:

Burial: 6 Nov 1893 St Mark, Worsley, Lancs.

George Aldcroft Phillips -

Age: 66 years

Abode: Southport - Grave: Private Vault

Buried by: C. Hesketh Knowlly, Rector of North Meols

WILL of PHILLIPS, *George Aldcroft, of Orchard Lodge, 10 Queen's Road, North Meols, Southport, and of Whit Lane, Pendleton, Salford, soap manufacturer. Died 2 November 1893 at Orchard Lodge. Probate LONDON 31 January 1894 to George Waller Phillips and Thomas Falkner Phillips, gentlemen, and Charles Eckersley, cotton spinner. Effects £116,310. (Today's value approx. £13m).*

His funeral was reported in the *Manchester Courier* on Saturday 11 November 1893.

The funeral of the late Mr. G. A. Phillips, who died at his residence, Queens Road, Southport on Thursday, took place at Worsley Parish Church yesterday at noon. The deceased, who resided in Pendleton for many years, was an active promoter of the company which took over the Manchester Corn and Grocery exchange about two years ago and at the time of his death he was one of the directors. He carried on business as a soap manufacturer in Pendleton. His remains were conveyed by train to Walkden Station, and thence by road to Worsley. The body was interred in the family vault. The principal mourners were Sir Henry Lushington Phillips (brother), Mr. T. F. Phillips and Mr. G. W. Phillips (sons), Mr. R. H. Kay, Mr. C. G. Frith, Dr. Barry, Mr. E. Pyke, Mr. G. F. Chadwick and Mr. D. Aneerson.

[The references above to actual days are misleading. - Ed.]

Just a few years later, the *Manchester Courier* of Friday 26 October **1900** announced a death: '*On the 22nd inst., at 32 Chester Street, Grosvenor Place, London. Mary, widow of the late **George Aldcroft Phillips**, of Manchester*'.

The Morning Post on Saturday 8 December **1900** ran an advertisement for an auction to be held, on 13 December 1900, by order of the Executors, at her former home to sell '*exceptionally well-made and valuable household furniture and effects*', which included bedroom suites, a full cottage pianoforte, bookcases, settees, Chippendale chairs, dining furniture, choice water-colour drawings and prints, about 70oz of antique silver, and many other items.

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His eldest brother was an interesting gentleman. Official biographies state:

Phillips, Sir Henry Lushington, C.M.G. 1877, judicial commissioner, High Court of Justice, Cyprus, in 1880; knighted 18 March 1880; puisne judge, Natal 1858-79; special commissioner, Barbados, 1876; and Straits Settlements, 1877; a student of the Middle Temple, 22 October 1847; called to the bar 8 November 1850, (eldest son of Aldcroft Phillips, of Manchester, gent); born 1825; married Agatha, daughter of C. Knowles, Esq., of Shrewsbury (see Foster's Baronetage). Smalls, Salcombe, Devon; Wanderers' Club, S.W.

A "puisne judge" is officially any of those of the High Court, other than the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England, and the Master of the Rolls. Puisne judges are referred to as (for example) "Mr. Justice Smith".

Sir Henry PHILLIPS K.C.M.G., died on December 5 1896, at Southport, aged 71.



