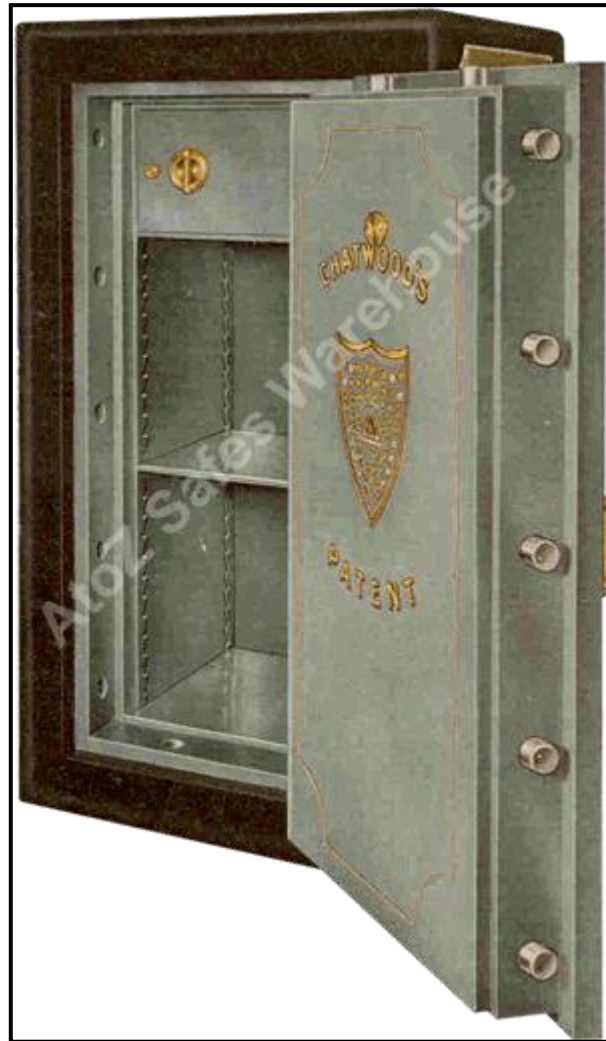


# Samuel CHATWOOD



Born: 27 September 1833

Died: 2 December 1909

*CHATWOOD & Co.  
SAFE MAKERS*



Paul R. Speakman 2023

## 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><b>Burial:</b> 21 August <b>1905</b> St. Mark, Worsley <b>Jane Chatwood</b> Age: 76 yrs. Abode: High Lawn, Broad Oak Park, Worsley Grave: D 216 Buried by: W.J. Clarke Grave: D216</p>	<p><b>Burial:</b> 6 December <b>1909</b> St. Mark, Worsley <b>Samuel Chatwood</b> 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 **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, receiving 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.

**CHATWOOD** Samuel of 48 Rhyddings-street Oswaldtwistle  
**Lancashire** died 2 December 1909 Probate **London** 12  
September to Samuel Rawsthorne Chatwood safe maker.  
Effects £3870.

