

William SMITH



William Smith

Born: 12 November 1841

Died: 14 January 1898

G. P. and SURGEON



William SMITH M.D.



An inscription on a coping stone near to this site sparked an inquiry. That gravestone, to members of the family of William Young Martin, contained the following inscription:

Also of MARIANNE the beloved wife of **WILLIAM SMITH M.D.** of Eccles, eldest daughter of **ROBERT HALL** who died April 30th 1893 aged 53 yrs. (Born c1840 - Ed.).

The stone on the photograph bears the inscription:

To
the dear memory
of
WILLIAM SMITH M.D.
of Eccles
Born November 12th 1841
Fell asleep January 14th 1898

This cross on a plinth is just a few paces away from the Martin gravesite. So Marianne's husband, **William Smith**, was buried in a separate grave, but nonetheless only a few yards away. The dates quoted show that they died just five years apart. But the other inscriptions on **Dr. Smith's** grave that have been recorded have created a quandary. Firstly, in addition to the inscription printed above, a further inscription on the stone reads:

*Also, **Kate Smith** born 17 May 1850, widow of the above. Born 17 May 1850. Died 21 April 1936. Also, In loving memory of **Theresa Mary Taffinder** born November 12th 1861, died August 29th 1904. R. I. P.*

This clearly states that Kate was the widow of **William Smith**. So who was she? How did she feature in William's life? And who was Theresa Mary Taffinder?

The second problem lies in the church register of graves, because it contains the following information for Grave D30b.

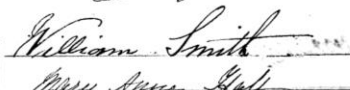
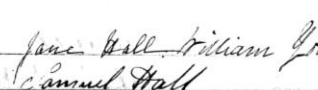
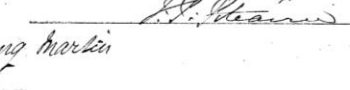
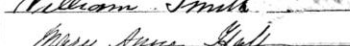
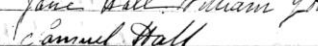
*Owner: The Exors. of the late **Dr. Smith** of Eccles Old Road, Eccles*

Interments:

William Smith M.D.	57		18 Jan 1898
Vernon (French) Smith	7wks.	Eccles	16 Nov 1898
Kate Smith	86yrs	Eccles	24 Apr 1936

So we see the burial of a very young boy (7 weeks) and Kate Smith, aged 86! So, was this lady the widow mentioned above? And who precisely was Vernon Smith? The best place to start was with the marriage of **William Smith** to Mary Anne Hall.

The ceremony took place at St. Mary the Virgin, Eccles, on 17 August **1865**, and was conducted by the Rev. J. P. Pitcairn, the vicar. William had already qualified as a doctor.

1865. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Eccles</u> in the County of <u>Lancaster</u>								
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.
311	August 17 th 1865	William Smith	offert Bachelor age	Surgeon		6 Stockport Road Manchester	Robert Smith	Painter
		Mary Anne Hall	offert Spinster age			Park Mount Eccles	Robert Hall	Gentleman
Married in the <u>Parish Church of Eccles</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>Licence</u> or after _____ by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		 <u>William Smith</u>		 <u>Jane Hall</u>		 <u>William Young Martin</u>		
		 <u>Mary Anne Hall</u>		 <u>Samuel Hall</u>				

Mary Anne (or Marianne) was the first daughter of Robert Hall, of Park Mont, Eccles - the same gentleman whose daughter, Jane, had married William Young Martin just over a year later (1866). This made the two doctors brothers-in-law. The witnesses to this marriage were Jane Hall and William Young Martin. William would have been aged 23 and Mary Anne 23/24. They were married by Licence.

A search of several records has shown that, sadly, there were no children to this marriage. And with a name like **William Smith** it has proved to be nigh impossible to track him through to his marriage in 1865. According to the certificate, William's father was Robert Smith, a Painter. Some evidence has surfaced referencing a Robert Smith, Painter, with a marriage date and four children. It has not yet been possible to verify the connection, but there are some good indications.

The U.K. Medical Registers do give us some clues, however, about his movements. The records for particular years give the following locations:

- 1871 Fallowfield and Gorton.
- 1875/9 Woodlands, Fallowfield
- 1883 Gilda Brook Road

The medical record for **1887** states:

SMITH William Gilda Brook Road, Eccles, near Manchester. Reg. 12 August 1865
 Lic. R. Coll. Phys. Edin. 1865; Lic. Soc. Apoth. Lond. 1866; Lic. 1867, Fell. 1873, R. Coll. Surg Edin. 1875; M.D. Univ. St. And. 1884.

This shows that he first registered as a doctor on 12 August 1865. It then lists his qualifications gained over time.

The **1881** census does mention him:

1881 census: 185 Wilmslow Road, Withington
William Smith Head M 40 Physician & Surgeon b. Manchester
 Marianne Wife M 41
 + 1 servant

And so too does the census for **1891**:

1891 census 48 Gilda Brook Road, Eccles
William Smith Head M 50 Reg. Doctor of Medicine; Physician
 Maria A. Wife M 51
 + 2 domestic servants

These two censuses confirm that there were no children. And so we move forward to the burials. The burial record of the church shows for Marianne Hall:

No. 41	Marianne Smith	Eccles	May 3 rd	53 years	F. H. Hodgkinson
Private Vault					
No. 42					

And for **Dr. William Smith**, who died on 14 January 1898, it shows:

No. 489	William Smith	Eccles	January 18 th	57 years	W. J. Clarke
Q 324 ✓					

The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills) shows:

WILL

SMITH William, of 48 Gilda-brook Road, Eccles, Lancashire. Died 14 January 1898. Probate LONDON. 19 March, to William Young Martin, Surgeon. Effects £4,765 15s. 1d.

The likelihood here is that the William Young Martin mentioned in the will was his brother-in-law, rather than a distant relative.

So how can we account for the names of Kate Smith, Vernon Smith and Theresa May Taffinder?

No. 558	Vernon French Smith	55 Clifton Road, Eccles.	November 16 th	7 weeks	G. E. T. Body
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No. 2061	Kate Smith	Eccles and Patricroft Hospital	April 24 th 1936	86 years	H. W. Hall
Q 306					

No. 1168	Teresa Mary Taffinder	48 Gilda Brook Eccles	August 31 st	45 years	Peter Green Rector of Sacred Trinity, Liverpool
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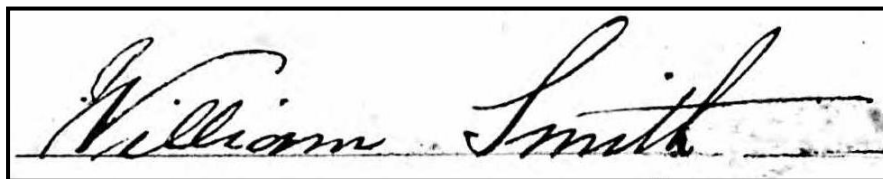
These records show that (a) Kate Smith was indeed the widow of William Smith, since the burial plot is the same and the inscription mentions this. (b) Teresa Mary Taffinder had died living at 48 Gilda

Brook Road, Eccles, the address for William Smith in 1891, until her death in 1904. (c) Vernon Smith remains an enigma. The church burial register has his full name, Vernon French Smith, with the same burial plot. The Lancashire B.M.D. records has his birth recorded as Vernon F. Smith, but sadly no mother's maiden name. There is no trace of a Baptism. His address at his death is a mystery, since it does not accord with any other record. William Smith had died eight months before Vernon. Could he have been the father, therefore? And in whose care was he? However, it is possible that the address could have been temporary.

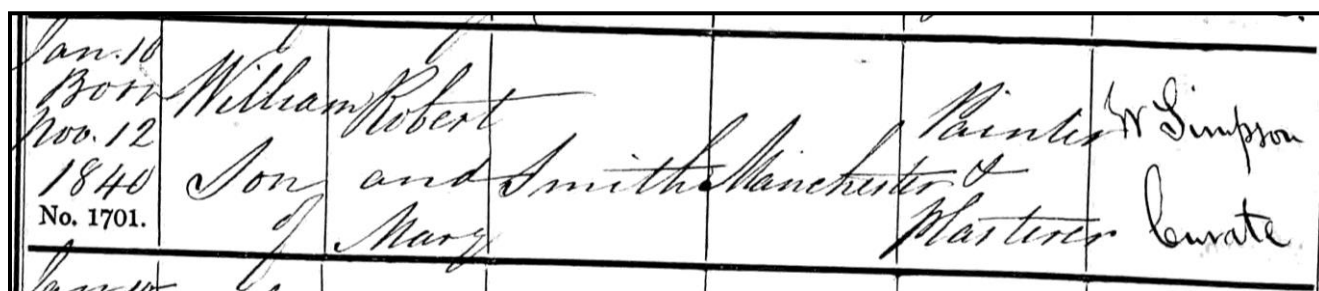
In **1901**, Kate was still at 48 Gilda Brook Road, with one domestic servant, living on her own means, aged 50. Ten years later, in **1911**, she had moved to 31 Park Road, Pendleton, with one domestic servant. But this has not resolved who she was. The middle name of the young boy suggests that her surname might have been French. But that was not the case. So what about the surname Taffinder?

The National Marriage Indexes show that **Kate Taffinder** of Rotherham (who in the census of 1891 was living with her family, aged 40), did indeed marry **William Smith** in Rotherham in the first quarter of **1895** (ie. January to March). Teresa Mary Taffinder was the unmarried sister of Kate and she evidently moved over to Manchester at some point. Their father was Abraham, a jeweller and watchmaker in the town. The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills) records:

SMITH Kate of 175 Claremont-road Pendleton **Salford** widow died 21 April 1936 at Eccles and Patricroft Hospital Lancashire Probate **Manchester** 14 July to Marian Isabel Ingleby spinster and Katherine Margaret Rhodes (wife of James Spencer Rhodes). Effects £2990 4s. 7d.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Smith". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

POSTSCRIPT



Above is a copy of the baptism register of St. Mary the Virgin, Bury. It shows the birth date and baptism of a **William Smith**, the son of a Robert Smith, a Painter. The date is well within bounds, as is the occupation of his father, a Painter. That corresponds with the information about the father of William on his marriage certificate. However, in the absence of any census record covering the years 1841, 1851 and 1861, it is not certain that this is indeed our **William Smith**.

Further research has found further baptisms of children to a Robert Smith, Painter. These all took place at Manchester Cathedral. Sadly, the residence in each case was given simply as Manchester. The lack of any information in the censuses is impeding the research. Further proof is required!!

Baptism: 10 Jan 1841 St Mary the Virgin, Bury, Lancashire, England
William Smith - Son of Robert Smith & Mary
Born: 12 Nov 1840
Abode: Manchester
Occupation: Painter & Plasterer

Baptism: 18 Apr 1842 Collegiate, Manchester, Lancashire, England
George Smith - son of Robert Smith & Mary Ann
Abode: Manchr.
Occupation: Painter

Baptism: 24 Nov 1844 Collegiate, Manchester, Lancashire, England
Alfred Smith - Son of Robert Smith & Mary Ann
Abode: Manchr.
Occupation: Painter

Baptism: 27 Jun 1847 Cathedral, Manchester, Lancashire, England
Mary Jane Smith - Daughter of Robert Smith & Mary Ann
Abode: Manchr.
Occupation: Painter

A possible marriage has also been found for Robert, a Painter, and Mary Ann.

Marriage: St. Mary, Manchester 30 January 1841
Robert Smith, Painter, 87 Cambridge Street, C-on-M. Son of William Smith
Mary Ann Brown. Daur. of William Brown, Painter

