

JAMES SIMPSON YOUNG (1818-1879)

August 2013 - An updated and revised version including new photographs.

Background

James Simpson Young was the son of James Simpson I's sister, Jane (or Jean) who was born in Methven, Perthshire 2.6.1770/1. She married James Young of Methven on 5 August 1802. They had at least two children, Mary (Marion?) and James Simpson Young who was born 31.5.1818 at Lennox Town, Stirling. Lennox Town was home to a large calico printing industry.

James Simpson I of Foxhill Bank, Oswaldtwistle who had made a large amount of money in the calico printing business retired from Foxhill Bank Printworks in 1830 and let the business to Thomas Coates & Co. of Pendleton. However by 1838 the business was back with the family and a partnership was formed called Simpson Rostron & Co. calico printers and appears as such in Slater's Directory. The partnership consisted of Thomas Simpson (nephew of James Simpson I who is said to have returned from America to where his father, William Simpson, James Simpson I's elder brother had emigrated), Lawrence Rostron (James Simpson I's son-in-law), James Simpson Young, and William Gregory Langdon, the last of whom looked after the marketing end of the business in Manchester (Blackburn Standard 30 October 1844).

In 1840 Thomas Simpson of Foxhill Bank became the owner of the Broadfield Colliery in Oswaldtwistle. James Simpson Young joined him in this enterprise and the firm became known as Simpson and Young. It became one of the biggest employers in the district with a coal depot at Knuzden Brook and tramways from their collieries at Bank Moor to Knuzden and from Broadfield to the Moscow Mills of the Walmsley family and to the Foxhill Bank Print Works.

By the 1841 census we find James Simpson Young at New Brighton, Wallasey a fashionable seaside resort on the Wirral, in the company of Edward Phillips, Charles Buchanan (first cousin from America? He could be the son of Mary Simpson b.1781 who married William Buchanan of New York), Marion Young (probably his sister) and James Simpson (more likely to be his cousin James Simpson II, later first President of the Vegetarian Society than his father, James Simpson I, even though the latter is not at home at Foxhill Bank Hall in the Census). They are all described as being of independent means and no relationships are given in the census.

James Simpson I died at Foxhill Bank aged 71 in 1847 and left a will in which the legacies and annuities alone amounted to at least £110,000 besides the uncalculated balance of his estates which passed to his younger son, James II. James I's sister Jane Young received £52 plus the income from all his property in Methven for life, and her son James Simpson Young received a legacy of £1,500 payable in 1859 (which was the same as his cousin Thomas Simpson).

Marriages and children

James Simpson Young married firstly on 10.2.1846 at Bowden, Cheshire, Betty Rostron (1827-1853) eldest daughter of Richard Rostron, Brazil Merchant, the first cousin of Lawrence Rostron (his partner in the calico printing business and husband of James Simpson Young's first cousin Mary) and his wife, Susanna nee Riley. They had five children before she died in childbirth on 22.11.1853 at Bowden. They appear in the 1851 census living at 10 Leaf Square, Pendleton, Salford (where Betty

appears as Rosina?) and he is described as a calico printer/coal miner employing 1000.

The children were:

1. Richard Rostron b. 25 November 1846 at Pendleton. He became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Highlanders. He died at Ashton Grange, Annan, Dumfriesshire on 29 May 1908 and was interred in the cemetery there. A plaque is displayed in Allithwaite Church, placed there by his widow and son.
2. James Henry b.1848 Pendleton
3. George b.1851 Pendleton
4. John Edward b.1852 (birth registered in Altrincham, so probably Bowden). He died suddenly aged 39 at Hampton Court on 20.8.1891.
5. William Simpson b.19.11.1853 at Bowden, Cheshire. His mother Betty died three days later.

James Simpson Young 2nd marriage was to Alice Ann Riley on 10.12.1857 at St. Ann's, Turton. She was the only daughter of Richard Riley a cotton spinner of Preston (and probably first cousin to his first wife). She was born on 19.11.1828 and was baptized 17.12.1828 at St. John's, Preston, the daughter of Richard Riley and Betsey (probably Betty Rostron b.20.3.1794 at Ramsbottom who married Richard Riley on 30.11.1825 at St. Mary the Virgin, Bury)

James Simpson Young & Alice Ann went on to have twelve children:

6. Edwin b.1859 at Altrincham (Bowden). He died in 1882 in a night-time boating accident on Morecambe Bay and was buried at Cartmel aged 23 with his friend and neighbour Herbert Elliot. Both families lived at Lyndock Villas, Kents Bank.

James Simpson Young and his family then moved to Kents Bank on the Cartmel Peninsula which according to the Westmorland Gazette for 28 August 1858 had been bought by "capitalists from Manchester, Bury and Whitehaven". This was the sale of the estate owned by Mary Winfield Lambert and sold after her death in 1857. One of the capitalists was James Simpson Young of Salford who purchased Laneside Farm for £5,000 with 69 acres and Kents Bank Hotel with 5 acres for £1140. Within a short period he had bought out his fellow capitalists and so also became the owner of Abbot Hall and the surrounding agricultural land and buildings, making him the owner of the Kents Bank estate original owned by Mary Winfield Lambert. At the time of his marriage he retired from business.



An undated postcard showing Abbot Hall, Kents Bank.

A James Simpson aged 69 died in Kents Bank in March 1858 but it is not clear if he was J S Young's relative. By 1861 cousin Laurence Rostron was dead as was James Simpson II. Cousin Thomas Simpson had retired from the calico printing business to concentrate on the coal mining industry into which he eventually brought his son, William Walmsley Simpson.

7. Jane Simpson b.1860 at Kents Bank

8. Charles Septimus b.1861 at Kents Bank. He died aged 9 months and is buried at Cartmel.

In the 1861 census James Simpson Young and Alice Ann were living at Abbot Hall, Kents Bank, he describes himself as a landowner and they have 5 servants with them. Two of the sons of his first marriage are boarders at Cartmel Grammar School.

9. Thomas Simpson b.1862 Kents Bank. He married aged 30 at St. Leonard's, Balderstone, Lancs on 5 July 1893 when he was a Lt. 3rd Madras Lancers (bachelor of the Fielden Arms Hotel) his second cousin Marion Susannah Simpson aged 41, daughter of the late Thomas Simpson and his wife Ellen (Walmsley) who had been James Simpson Young's former partner and first cousin. She was living with her sister, Anna Adelaide Baynes at Salmesbury Old Hall. The witnesses were Mary Louisa Simpson (bride's sister), Richard Parker Young (eldest brother of groom although his name is Richard Rostron Young?), Fred Baynes (bride's brother-in-law), Frank T. Young (groom's brother, Frank F. Young?). By 1911 they are living at Broughton Hall in the Cartmel Valley and Thomas is described as a pensioned major, Indian Army.

One of the witnesses, Mary Louisa Simpson, settled in Kents Bank. In 1901 census she was registered at Seawood and in 1911 at Kirk Hey, a new detached house on Kirkhead Road built adjacent to the Abbot Hall Estate.

10. Robert Arthur b.1864 Kents Bank

11. Alice Marion b.1865 Kents Bank d.aged 4 in 1869 at Abbot Hall bur. Cartmel

12. Mary Catherine b.1867 Kents Bank

13. Margaret Ellen b.1869 Kents Bank. Described as Margaret Helen Young she married the Rev. Frederick Marshall, curate-in-charge of St. Michael's, Crown Point Leeds, at St. Paul's, Grange-over-Sands on 6 August 1890.

14. Alice b.1870 Kents Bank

In the census for 1871 James and Alice and five of the youngest children were living at Abbot Hall and he described himself as a landowner. They had five servants.

15. Charles Frederick b.1871 Kents Bank. He died aged 17 at Two Rivers, Manitoba, Canada on 30.6.1888

16. Frank Fleming b.1873 Kents Bank

17. Jessie Elizabeth b.1875 Kents Bank

Death of James Simpson Young and his wife Alice

On 6 January 1879 James Simpson Young, JP died of bronchitis at Abbot Hall, Kents Bank and was buried at Cartmel, the Westmorland Gazette for 18 January 1879 stating that a “large number of friends attended the obsequies. The grave was vaulted, and fringed within with ivy. Some beautiful wreaths of white camellia, and primulas interwoven with maiden hair fern were laid on the coffin”.

In 1879 a highly polished piece of Sicilian marble, weighing about 2 tons, was placed on the grave. In the form of a recumbent cross it was the work of Messr. Dacombe Brothers of Southampton. It was reported that within 24 hours of the laying of the tomb it had been ‘ruthlessly scratched, the work of young children who are permitted to range at will over the grass, tombs etc.’ Only James and 2 of his children were buried at Cartmel.

Today the tomb has lost its polish and is covered in lichen. The wording around the base is impossible to read.



Pat Rowland Aug 2013

Alice Ann Young died aged 70 at Monklands, Kents Bank on 24.2.1899. She is buried at Allithwaite with some of her children. The wording on the monuments is now almost unreadable.



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His legacy

James Simpson Young was responsible for developing Kents Bank. In 1873 he objected to proposals to include Kents Bank in the revised Grange Drainage District as he had spent £3000 on providing roads, drainage and water to his properties in Kents Bank and he could not benefit from Kents Bank being included with Grange as he had no desire to build any more properties there. He had built Priory Terrace, a terrace of 3 properties in 1863; Kents Bank Hotel which opened in 1876; a pair of semi detached houses as well as the four houses of Kentsford Terrace adjoining the new Hotel; Lyndock Villas another pair of semi-detached houses and Kentsford House. Kents Bank Inn or Hotel which he purchased in 1858 became Kents Bank House after the failure of Mr Dewar's hotel tenancy in 1859. It was a private residence in 1861 and in the Manchester Times of 26 December 1868 an advert for Miss Metcalfe's school for young ladies at the property was headed "Education by the Sea". During the 1870s it became a boy's school. He extended Abbot Hall during the time he lived there and the designs were the work of Webster of Kendal. He was also responsible for developing shops in Grange as Grange began to attract more tourists. In Silverdale and Arnside he also started the development to boost the tourism industry. He funded opposition to the Morecambe Bay Reclamation Scheme which was defeated in 1878. A seawall was proposed from Hest Bank to Arnside to enclose 10000 acres of land for reclamation. He argued that the cockle and fluke industry was worth £10000 to the area and the wall would destroy the industry.

He was churchwarden at St Paul's Church Grange 1864-65. He chaired meetings of Grange ratepayers and was a member of Grange Local Board. He was also very involved with the activities at St Mary's Church, Allithwaite.

This undated picture of James Simpson Young has been provided by Margaret Robinson from the Grange Then collection.

His Will

In his will James Simpson Young specified that all his property in Cartmel, Silverdale and Arnside was to be sold, but this proved difficult in a poor market. Advertisements appeared in newspapers in September 1879, May 1880 and July 1883 showing that the market was not good. Some of the land and buildings offered in 1879 sold and raised about eight thousand pounds. The family also raised money by selling at Christie's "190 dozens of fine Port of the vintages of 1847, 1851 and 1863 late the property of James



Simpson Young, Esq. deceased of Abbot Hall, Grange-over-Sands, Carnforth". The four surviving sons of his first marriage were named as beneficiaries in the will.

The Family after James's death

The family remained in the district, Alice and seven of her children were living in Lyndock Villas in 1881 and Alice with Mary, Jessie and Frank were living at Monklands in 1891 where Alice died eight years later. In 1901 Mary and Jessie were at Enfield House, Ilfracombe (possibly on holiday) but the 1911 census show them living at The Cottage, Kents Bank. They continued to support local life until their deaths in 1958(Mary) and 1959(Jessie).

Compiled by Pat Rowland of CPLHS and Gillian Hulbert whose husband is a descendant of the Simpson family. She found the information on the Society's website when she was researching the family history and was able to provide information that filled in the early history of James Simpson Young.

Sources. Old postcard views. Extracts from Newspapers. National Census Records.
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