

The Thompson Family vault

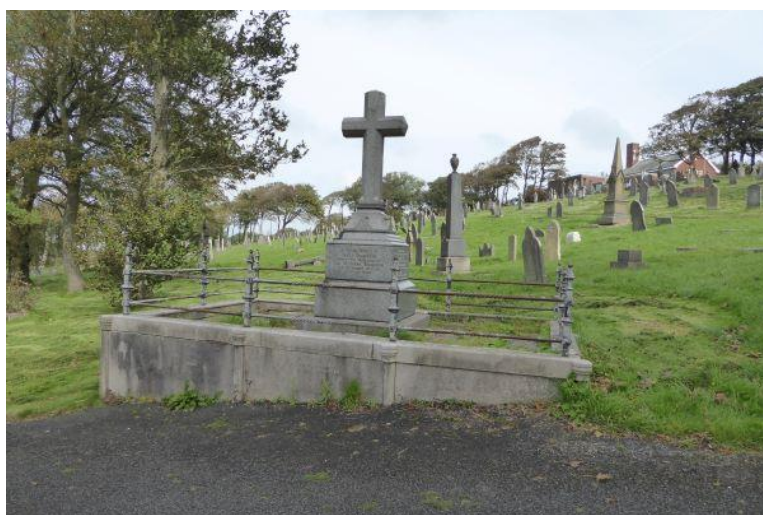
This is an imposing grave (vault) enclosed by a rail, unusual in Barrow Cemetery. It commemorates a number of members of the Thompson family, perhaps best known for their brewing & licensed trade interests, but involved in other enterprises too.

Each of the four sides of the plinth have inscriptions, the one closest to the path reading (followed by the other moving clockwise around the monument):

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JAMES THOMPSON
DIED AUGUST 18TH 1902, AGED 61
ALSO OF FANNY THOMPSON
DIED SEPTEMBER 27TH 1911
AGED 67 YEARS

EMILY, WIFE OF JOHN COWARD
DIED DECEMBER 22ND 1959, AGED 80 YEARS
BRIDGET, WIFE OF WILFRED HOLLAND
DIED JULY 14TH 1965, AGED 84 YEARS
DAUGHTERS OF JAMES AND FANNY THOMPSON
WILFRED HOLLAND, HUSBAND OF BRIDGET HOLLAND
DIED MAY 1ST 1954, AGED 75 YEARS

ELIZABETH ANN
DIED MAY 19TH 1871, AGED 18 MONTHS
THOMAS JOHN
DIED OCT 5TH 1875, AGED 4 MONTHS
JAMES POSTLETHWAITE
DIED DEC. 17TH 1875, AGED 4 YEARS & 6 MONTHS
JOHN
DIED SEP 5TH 1873, AGED 1 HOUR
CHILDREN OF JAMES AND FANNY THOMPSON



FANNY, WIFE OF WALTER BAGOT
DAUGHTER OF JAMES & FANNY THOMPSON
DIED MARCH 25TH, 1914, AGED 36 YEARS
JAMES THOMPSON
DIED DECEMBER 20TH 1927, AGED 45 YEARS
WILLIAM THOMPSON
DIED APRIL 20TH 1928, AGED 60 YEARS
CHILDREN OF JAMES AND FANNY THOMPSON

GEORGE THOMPSON
DIED OCTOBER 29TH 1931 AGED 46 YEARS
MARY ELLEN CARD, WIFE OF ARTHUR CARD,
DIED JULY 22ND, 1936, AGED 63 YEARS
ROBERT THOMPSON
DIED APRIL 28TH 1943, AGED 66 YEARS
CHILDREN OF JAMES AND FANNY THOMPSON

JAMES THOMPSON

The *Barrow News* 23 August 1902 reported:

DEATH OF COUNCILLOR THOMPSON

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Councillor James Thompson, which occurred at his residence, Monk's Croft, Barrow, on Monday at a quarter past six o'clock, at the age of 61 years. The deceased gentleman, who has been (in) indifferent health for some years, was reported to be in a critical condition on Monday morning, when his medical attendants, Drs. Sinclair and Murray, were called in, but he passed away at night in the presence of most of his family. Mr. Thompson, who was born in Overton, came to Barrow early in the seventies, having purchased the Welcome Hotel, Church-street, where he lived for some time. He subsequently built and purchased several other hotels in the town and district. He was a partner in the firm of Gardner, Thompson and Cardwell, and was a director of that firm up to the time of his death. He contested Hindpool Ward in 1875 or 1876 against the late Mr. Joseph Hartley, and was unsuccessful, but was elected one of the representatives of Central Ward in 1877, and retained his seat, with the break of a year or two, until his death. He was also for over 20 years a member of the Board of Guardians, and not only took a great interest in the administration of the Poor Law, but was ever generous to the poor. He was one of the founders of the Barrow Licensed Victuallers Association, and took much interest in the affairs of the trade. He was a Freemason, and was a member of the Hartington Lodge, at Barrow, and of the

Townley Parker Lodge at Whittle Springs. He was also an honorary member of several Friendly Societies. He was a liberal supporter of local charities, and was withal of a most benevolent disposition. Recently he gave a new organ to St. Paul's Church, Barrow. His business career was a most successful one. He leaves a widow and a family of four sons and four daughters for whom the deepest sympathy is felt.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place at noon on Tuesday, and was probably the largest attended funeral ever known in Barrow. The cortege left the house about 12 o'clock for St. Paul's Church. The body was encased in three coffins, one of pitch pine, one of lead, and the outer one of English oak, heavily xxxxxx, and bearing the inscription: - "James Thompson, born August 18th, 1840; [NB This is likely to be an error: if he'd died on his birthday he'd have been 62.] died August 18th 1902, aged 61 years," was literally covered with wreaths, as was also the top of the hearse, whilst the deceased's private carriage followed carrying a large number of wreaths which could not find a place on the hearse. The chief mourners were:- Mrs J. Thompson (widow), Mr. Wm. Thompson, Mr. Robt. Thompson, Mr. James Thompson, and Mr. George Thompson (sons), Mrs. Card, Miss F. Thompson, Mrs. Coward and Miss Bridget Thompson (daughters), Mrs. Wm. Thompson, and Mrs. Robt. Thompson (daughters-in-law), Mrs. Wm. Thompson (Lancaster); Mr. and Mrs Birkett, Middleton; Messrs. J and G. Postlethwaite, Lancaster; Mrs. Postlethwaite, Greenodd; Mr. Frank Taylor, Mr. James Granville(?), (secretary), Messrs. W.R. and A.J. Parkinson (auditors) and Mr. S.E. Major. Solicitor to Messrs. Jas. Thompson and Co., Ltd.; Mr. J. Bickerstaff, Liverpool; Mr. R. Fletcher, Mr. Frankland, Mr. J.R. Cardwell, and Mr. H.E. Thwaites (directors of Whittle Springs Brewery, Ltd.); Dr. and Mrs. Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bagot, and a large number of employees.

I have included the full list of attendees and wreath-givers to emphasise how significant Mr. Thompson was, as reinforced by his prominent position in the cemetery. - RMW

The Mayor and Corporation were represented by the Mayor (Councillor Smith), Alderman Townson, Alderman Lee, Alderman Huartson, Councillors Cox, Barrow, Townsend, Hardy, Brown, Mawson, Young, Fisher, Stoker, Taylor, Neal, Peacock, Heath, and Mr. J. Gunson, borough treasurer, Mr. Ferguson, general water manager, Mr. Stables, Mr. Waite, Capt. Folt(?), and Mr. Chadwick (representing the Town Clerk).

JAMES THOMPSON,
WHOLESALE WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT.
IMPORTER OF
WINES AND BRANDIES,
MINERAL WATER AND CORDIAL MANUFACTURER,
ALE AND PORTER BOTTLER,
237, DALTON ROAD, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
PROPRIETOR OF THE FOLLOWING BRANDS OF
WHISKEY:
ARREY BRAND OLD HIGHLAND, FIEL BRAND OLD IRISH,
SKENEDHU BRAND OLD HIGHLAND, LINER BRAND OLD IRISH,
LIMER BRAND OLD HIGHLAND,
AGENT FOR
GEO. ROE'S OLD DUBLIN WHISKY, J. and J. McCONNELL'S OLD IRISH
WHISKY, DUGHER FINEST OLD COGNAC BRANDY,
ST. RAPHAEL QUINQUINA TONIC WINE.
THOMPSON'S CELEBRATED COCA WINE,
THOMPSON'S NOTED SLOE GIN,
THOMPSON'S NAVY BRAND RUM (Fined Spirit in the Market).
A FINE SELECTION OF
PORTS, SHERRIES, DUCKS, MOSELLS, FRENCH WHITE WINES, BURGUNDIES,
CLARETS, AND THE BEST KNOWN BRANDS OF CHAMPAGNE KEPT IN STOCK.
WHITTLE SPRINGS BREWERY, LIMITED.
ALES AND STOUTS
SUPPLIED IN SPLENDID CONDITION IN 18, 9, AND 6 GALLON CASKS.
HAVANA, MEXICAN, AND BRITISH CIGARS.
**BONDED STORES: 2 & 4, DEVONSHIRE DOCK
WAREHOUSES.**
Telegraphic Address:—"WHISKY," BARROW-IN-FURNESS. Telephone:—No. 74.

Advert from Barrow News 12 May 1900

The procession which preceded the hearse, was in the following order:- Representatives of the Conservative Club, representatives of the licensed victuallers, Freemasons, Corporation officials, Councillors, Aldermen and the Mayor. The carriers were employees of the deceased, and they walked on each side of the hearse. The chief mourners followed, then the employees and friends. Amongst the latter were Col. Strongitharm, Col. Williams; Messrs. W. Page, G. Brown, M. Haslam, W. Cockcroft, Ledgerwood, Charles, H. Perry, J. Butler, W. Happold, W. Ramsay, H. Lowden, T. Steel, J. Smith, R. Benson, W. Wilkins, J. Wilkins, W. Newgreen, R. Scott, Morgan, R.W. Wofrall(?), S.S. Lord, G. Bigg, H. Tyson, James Tyson, G. Stone, J.J. Waddington, J. Warbrick, C. Eccles, W. Saddler, T. Slee, H. Lange, S. Grundy, G. Woodburne, R. Ormandy, Dowson, Blezard (Penny Bridge), Burns (Pennybridge), T. Noblett, J. Newby, J. Moon, S. Whitehead, Jas. Hodgson, J. Brennan, W. Freeman, and others. Amongst the private carriages were those of the Mayor, Mr. Councillor H. Cook, Mr. W. Postlethwaite, and the Association Football Club, which was represented by Messrs. Fletcher, Hind,

and Gillespie. The Ancient Order of Foresters were represented by the Barrow Executive Council and by the officers of Court Schneider. The burial service was reverently read in the church by the Vicar (the Rev. W. Berry) and the Rev. G. K. Meaby(?). Subsequently the cortege proceeded to the grave side, where the coffin was lowered into the family vault, beautifully situated in the Protestant portion of the cemetery. The concluding sentences and prayers in the funeral service were said by the officiating clergymen. The scene at the graveside was very affecting.

Mr. Barrow had charge of the funeral arrangements, the coffins being supplied by Messrs. W. Ormandy and Sons.

Wreaths were sent by the following:- Mrs. Thompson (Monks Croft), Mr. and Mrs. Card (Sidcup), Mr. and Mrs. Coward (Colt Park), Mr. and Mrs. R. Thompson (Abbey-road), Miss Thompson (Monks Croft), Miss B. Thompson

(Monks Croft), Mr. James and George Thompson (Monks Croft), Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Thompson (Tadcaster, near Leeds), grand children, the coachmen and gardeners, and Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Burns and Maids of Monks Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Ashburner (Welcome Hotel), Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley, Mr. and Miss Shuttleworth, Mr. and Mrs. Poole (Church-street), Mr. and Mrs. Wallace (Black Bull Hotel, Dalton), employees of the Sun Hotel (Barrow), the Stores Employees, Exors. of J. Woodburn (The Gill, Ulverston), Baines, Ltd. (Tadcaster Brewery, Leeds), the Furness Funeral Society, Dr. and Mrs. Sinclair (Hartington-street), barmen of the Queen's Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. Oakes (Queen's Hotel), Master and Brethren of the Hartington Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Townson and family (Abbotsfield), Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay and family (Oak Royde), Mrs. Denney and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. Barrow (50, East Mount), Mr. and Mrs. S. Rigby (Wellington Hotel, Dalton), Mr. Rigby (Barrow), Mr. and Mrs. Granville (25, Hartington-street), Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls (Railway Hotel, Askam), Gradwell and Company (Barrow), Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Preston (East Mount), Conservative Club (Abbey-road), Mr. and Mrs. W. Dawson (East Mount), Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lowden and family (Risedale Cross), Mr. Oscar Huartson, Working Men's Club, Mrs. Wm Thompson, Messrs. W.R. and Arthur Parkinson, Women's Funeral Society (Queen's Hotel), Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher and staff (Furness Hotel), manager and staff of the Victoria Hotel, Mrs. Twiss (Duke of Edinburgh Hotel), Mr. and Mrs. Cockcroft (Mason's Arms), Mullincane, Gardener and Co. (Liverpool), Mr. J. Bickerstaff (Fairfield, Liverpool), Mr. and Mrs. Bagot (Storey Square), Mr. A.P. Hooper and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carradus (Crow Nest Hotel), Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Thompson, Mr. J. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Birkett, Mrs. Ward and family (Chetwynde), staff of Royal Hotel, Mrs. Walker (Sun Hotel, Ulverston), Miss. Breach (Steining?)

Ancestry:

James, son of William and Ann Thompson, was baptised at Overton on 18 October 1840. William was a publican.

1871 Census, living at 68 Braler(?) Street, West Derby, Liverpool were James Thompson (31), born Overton, a Victualler; Fanny Thompson (27), born Pennington; William Thompson (3) and Elizabeth Ann Thompson (18 months), both born Liverpool. Sarah Barrow (17), born Dalton, was a domestic servant; Catherine Swift, (14), born Liverpool, was a nurse.

1881 Census, living at 30, Nelson Street, next door to the Furness Hotel, were James Thompson (40), born Overton, a brewer; Fanny Thompson (37), born Pennington; William (13) scholar, born Liverpool; Mary Ellen (8) scholar, born Barrow; Robert (5) scholar, born Ulverston; Fanny (4) born Barrow; Emily (2), born Barrow. Living with then were also Eleanor Thompson (15), niece, scholar, born Heysham; Agnes Cretney (32), Ladies companion, born Lowick, and 2 servants, Mary A. Pickthall (17) and Mary A. Fowler (17), both born Dalton.

1891 Census, living at Monk's Croft, Barrow were James Thompson (50), Brewer & Spirit Merchant; Fanny Thompson (47); Mary E. Thompson (18); Fanny Thompson (13), scholar; Emily Thompson (11), scholar; Bridget Thompson (9), scholar; James Thompson (9) (sic), scholar; George Thompson (6), scholar. Plus Ann Ormandy (29) Nurse; Mary Ormandy (25), cook, both born Lindal Cote, and Sarah A. Coward (23), housemaid, born Cark.

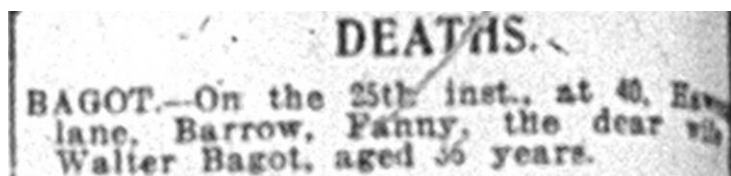
1901 Census, living at Monk's Croft, Barrow were James Thompson (60), Brewer and Wine & Spirit Merchant; Fanny Thompson (57); Emily Thompson (21); Bridget Thompson (19); Armas(?) Murray (22), Cook, born Kirkby Stephen; Annie Benson (21), housemaid, born Barrow, and Edith A. Wilding (16), kitchen maid, born Pennington.

FANNY THOMPSON

Barrow News 30 September 1911 reported on the death of Mrs. Thompson:

DEATH OF MRS. THOMPSON

We deeply regret to learn that Mrs. Thompson, widow of the late Mr. James Thompson, passed away at her residence, Monk's Croft, Abbey-road, on Wednesday. The deceased lady had been ailing on and off for some time, but her death, which will occasion great surprise to many, will evoke feelings of sympathy and condolence with the bereaved family. Mrs. Thompson had attained an advanced age. (67!!!! RMW) She was the widow of Mr. James Thompson, who was a prominent member of the licensing trade in Barrow and for many years served on the Barrow Town Council.



When Fanny Bagot died aged 36 her death notice in the *Barrow News* 28 March 1914 indicated that she had moved to 40 Hawcoat Lane.

JAMES THOMPSON

The *Barrow News* 24 December 1927 reported on the death of **James Thompson**:

DEATH OF MR. J. THOMPSON

PASSES AWAY IN LONDON AFTER SERIOUS OPERATION

The death is announced of Mr. James Thompson, brother of Colonel R. Thompson. He passed away in London on Tuesday night, following an operation. Col. Thompson had been on a visit to his brother this week, having been informed that he was to undergo a serious operation. That seemed to be successful, and the colonel returned to Kent's Bank on Tuesday night. On arrival home, however, he received a message to say that his brother had passed away, and Colonel Thompson returned to London on Wednesday.

The deceased was a director of the firm of Messrs James Thompson, Ltd., wine and spirit merchants, Barrow, and also of Messrs C. Hammerton and Co., Ltd., brewers, London. He leaves a widow and two children.

In consequence of his bereavement Col. Thompson was not able to perform the function of opening the new Drill Hall at Barrow on Thursday evening.

The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) reported:

Thompson James of Cray House Portsmouth-road **Kingston-on-Thames** died 20 December 1927 at Surbiton Hospital Surbiton Surrey Probate **London** 28 February 1928 to Mildred Thompson widow Robert Thompson J.P. and Arthur John Parkinson chartered accountant. Effects £18996 12s 7d.

James Thompson who died at Surbiton Hospital aged 45 was buried at St. Mary's, Long Ditton, Surrey on 23 December 1927.

WILLIAM THOMPSON

Following **William** on *Ancestry* there is this on the **1911 Wales Census**:

Living at Montford, Ely Road, Llandaff (Cardiff), William Thompson (43), born Liverpool, Manager of a Brewery Co.; Margaret Thompson, (44), born Brindle, Lancs; Fanny Postlethwaite Thompson (16), at school, born Heapey, Lancs; James William Thompson (14), at school, born Heapey, Lancs; Kenneth Thompson (4), born Llandaff, Glamorgan; Mary Jane Coward (35) single, general domestic servant, born Lowick, Lancs. *Brindle and Heapey are both near Chorley.*

William Thompson (25), Brewer, of Spring Terrace, Whittle-le-Woods, and Margaret Standish (26), spinster, of Devonshire Terrace, Heapey, had married at the Parish church, Heapey on 14 November 1893. Father James Thompson is listed as a Wine & Spirit Merchant, and father William Standish (deceased) was a weaver. Witnesses were Robert Thompson and Isabella Standish.

In the **1901 Census** they had been living at Westfield House, Station Road, Tadcaster, where William (33) was a Brewer, Fanny P. (6) and James W. (4) were already born, and their servant was Mary J. Coward (26), born Osmotherley. *It seems quite unusual for a servant to remain with the same employer for so long – RMW.*

William Thomson's death was reported in the *Barrow News*, coincidentally on the same day as another William Thompson's death, a builder of Nelson Street, Barrow, who died aged 77 years.

Barrow News 28 April 1928 had:

DEATH OF MR. WM. THOMPSON

DIRECTOR OF WELL-KNOWN BARROW FIRM

His many friends in Barrow will regret to learn of the death of Mr. William Thompson, director of the firm of Messrs. James Thompson and Co., Ltd., wine and spirit merchants, Barrow, which occurred on Friday night at Blackpool, where he had been residing for several months with his wife and family. He leaves a widow, two sons and one daughter.

The deceased was living in retirement in Cardiff prior to the war, and during the absence of Col. R. Thompson on active service he came here to act on his behalf, and resided at Victoria Park Hotel during that period. Some years ago he returned to Cardiff. He had been in failing health for some considerable time, and his illness took a serious turn a few weeks ago.

He is the second director of the company who has passed away within the last few months, his brother, James, having died in London about the end of last year.

GEORGE THOMPSON

George Thompson is living with the family at Monk's Croft, Barrow at the time of the **1891 Census**. By the **1901 Census** he is a 16 yr old boarder at the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster, where one of his classmates is Frank Blamire from Ulverston (see Blamire on www.furnessstoriesbehindthestones.co.uk).

The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) reported:

THOMPSON George of Golden Court Berriedale-avenue Hove **Sussex** died 29 October 1931 at Malling-place West Malling Kent Probate **London** 4 April to Amelia Thompson widow and William Arthur John Parkinson chartered accountant. Effects £863 1s 5d

REGISTER OF GRAVES FOR BARROW BOROUGH CEMETERY								
Location		Class	Grant no.	Lease details		Space	Comments	Memorials
Sect 1	Church Of England	90010535	Type	Perpetuity	Recpt 4738	Dug for 3		Jonit headstone with 2583/2584/2585 - 1
No 2583								
Sfx								
Owner(s)			From	Name & address				
Current	01 Oct 1883	Mr James Thompson, Monks Croft, Abbey Road, Barrow In Furness						
Deceased	Burial date	Burial no.	Name		Age	Interment type		
	06 Sep 1883	4738	Thompson, John		1 hours	Full interment		
	21 Aug 1902	14274	Thompson, James		61 years	Full interment		
	30 Sep 1911	18432	Thompson, Fanny		67 years	Full interment		
	27 Mar 1914	19763	Bagot, Fanny		36 years	Full interment		
	04 Nov 1931	28213	Thompson, George		46 years	Cremated remains		

List of burials in the Thompson family vault, courtesy of Barrow Borough Council

ROBERT THOMPSON

Robert Thompson's absence from the family home at the **1891 Census** is explained by the fact that he was at Boarding School – in Barrow! At 3 Cavendish Park, Robert and 16 other scholars were at a school headed by George A Stocks (32), born Norwich, Norfolk. Mr. Stocks was accompanied by his mother and sister, both named Rachel. Among Robert's fellow pupils were Augustus and Frederick Strongitharm (16 & 13 yrs), John N. K. Hannay (10) and Richard Gradwell (16).

In the **1901 England Census Robert Thompson** (24) is living at 264 Abbey Road. He is a (something – *Brewer?*) and Spirit Merchant Manager. His wife is Hannah Thompson (28), born Barrow, and they have a 1 yr old son, Ronald. Also living in the house is brother-in-law Thomas Huartson (24), a shipbuilder's correspondent, together with two servants, Mary Christian (17), nurse, born Colton, and Florence Fellows (23?), cook, born Walsall, Staffs.

In the **1911 England Census, Robert** (34) is living at Ellerslie, on Prospect Road, where he is the Managing Director of a Wine & Spirit Merchant business. His wife is Hannah Christine Thompson (38), and they have two schoolchildren, Ronald Massicks Thompson (11), and James Robert Stanley Thompson (6). Staying with them on the night of the Census were Aagot Aall-Hansen (42), married, and Beigljet Aall-Hansen (8), visitors from Norway. Fanny Clark (24), born Barrow-in-Furness is the housemaid; Rebecca Gee (23), born Dalton, is the cook.

The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) reported:

THOMPSON Robert of Fairhaven Kents Bank Grange-over-Sands **Lancashire** died 28 April 1943 Probate **Lancaster** 11 August to Ronald Massicks Thompson farmer and William Arthur John Parkinson chartered accountant. Effects £42356 3s 5d. Approx £1.5m in 2017 according to <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>

Robert had a good war. He is mentioned in John Hutton's book *Kitchener's Men* (Pen & Sword 2008) on several occasions, first as a Major and latterly as a Lieut. Colonel in the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regt.

When he died, many columns of the local press mourned his passing: this first from *North-Western Evening Mail* 28 April 1943.



Col. R. Thompson.

COL. R. THOMPSON DIES AT KENTS BANK

Col. R. Thompson, T.D., D.L., J.P., who has featured prominently in public affairs in Barrow and District for over half-a-century, died at his home at Kents Bank to-day, aged 66, after an illness of several weeks duration.

Head of the firm of James Thompson and Co., Ltd., brewers and wine and spirit merchants, Col. Thompson had been actively associated with the business all his life. He was the first managing director, a post created when the present company was formed in 1902, to take over the business founded by his father, the late Mr. J. Thompson, in 1872.

Col. Thompson had a long and honourable military career which began with the old Volunteers, with whom he served from 1894 to 1903. Later when the Volunteers became the Territorial Army, he served with the 4th Batt. The King's Own Royal Regiment from 1908 to 1926, and was awarded the Territorial decoration in 1915.

IN GREAT WAR

During the European War, 1914-1919, he went to France as second in command of the 4th Batt., King's Own Loyal (*sic*) Regiment in May 1915, and succeeded to the command of the Battalion in June 1915, with rank of Lieut. Colonel. Wounded in October 1915, Col. Thompson served in the Reserve Battalion at home until 1919. In the course of his duties he was President of several courts martial, and on occasion acted on behalf of the Judge Advocate.

On the organisation of the Territorial Army after the war, he was appointed to command the 4th Battalion of the King's Own Royal Regiment, and retired with the rank of Colonel in 1926. In 1924 he was offered the command of the 164th (North Lancashire) Infantry Brigade, but owing to business and other claims he was unable to accept.

COUNCIL ASSOCIATIONS

Elected to the Barrow Council in 1909, he became an Alderman in 1923. While a member he was Chairman of the Gas and Water, Tramways, Markets and Assessment Committees, and was Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. He retired in 1929.

Col. Thompson was appointed a deputy lieutenant of the County Palatine of Lancaster in October 1924. He had been a magistrate for Barrow since 1920, and a member of the county bench since 1930.

He was a past-president of the Barrow Chamber of Commerce and Barrow Rotary Club. A member of the executive committee of Lancashire and Cheshire Playing Fields Association, he was also a vice-president of Lancashire and Cheshire and Cumberland and Westmorland Boys Clubs.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

As chairman of the Barrow area of the Volunteer Service Committee (North-Western Division) Col. Thompson did good work. He was also a member of the executive committee of the North Western Area of the British Legion. He took a keen interest in agriculture, and was a past president of the North Lonsdale Agricultural Society and a chairman of the society for 15 years. He was a past president of the Cartmel Agricultural Society, and is the president of the Furness District Ploughing and Hedging Association.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Col. Thompson's sporting association extended to a number of spheres. He was a founder and had been president of Furness Rugby Union F.C. for 16 years. A vice-president of the North Lancashire Cricket League, he had been associated with most of the football, cricket, tennis, hockey, golf and bowling clubs in Barrow and district and was keenly interested in all social societies, dramatic and operatic.

POLITICAL CHAIRMAN

Colonel Thompson had been vice-chairman and chairman of the Barrow Conservative and Unionist Association since 1912. He had acted as chairman to the candidate during the last seven Parliamentary elections from 1918 to 1935, in five of which the Conservative candidate was elected.

He was a director of the Northern Board of the Eagle Star Insurance Co., Limited, and from 1935 to 1941, was Chairman of the Board of Governors of Barrow War Memorial Convalescent Home.

HOME GUARD

When the Prime Minister called for volunteers for the Local Defence Force in 1940, he immediately registered and was asked by Lieut.-General Sir J. O'Dowda, K.C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., the Zone Commander, to take command of the Barrow battalion. When this became 1st Lancashire (Barrow) Battalion, Home Guard, he continued in command until he resigned for health reasons in November 1941.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939, he was selected by the Regional Commissioner of the North-West Area to be the District sub-manager for Furness area for the rationing of petrol. His intimate knowledge of the district, combined with the operators' personal regard for his sense of fairness and equity, played no small part in the results achieved.

The Colonel was a member of Barrow County, North Lonsdale, Lancaster County and Overseas Clubs.

He is survived by a widow and two sons. His elder son, Mr. R.M. Thompson is farming near Reading, and his younger son, Lieut.-Colonel J.R.S. Thompson, is serving with the Forces in India.

Various other reports and eulogies followed in the next few days, including a complimentary one from Sir Jonah Walker-Smith M.P. (NWEM 1 May 1943), and a full account of the funeral (NWEM 3 May 1943).



In October 2020 I was contacted by Robert Thompson's grandson, who kindly sent me this photograph of Col. Thompson (left) and his grandmother, Christine Hannah Thompson, née Huartson (above). He remembers meeting his grandfather on a couple of occasions. His great-grandmother was a Massick from Greenodd, who married a Huartson.

I was informed that the original James Thompson's financial success started by him and his associates bottling spring water from Whittle Springs and selling it at a penny a bottle. It was said to have all sorts of health giving properties. An insight into the growth of Whittle Springs can be found at http://www.boydharris.co.uk/whittle_le_woods/wlw011.htm where James Thomson (sic) can be found on the page entitled "The Rise of the Brewery". He was co-owner from 1874 to 1889.

Photo courtesy of Dr. R. B. M. Thompson from Australia.

(For information on the Huartsons see their entries on the website: www.furnessstoriesbehindthestones.co.uk)