

7614 Charles Francis Preston Town Clerk d 5 October 1907

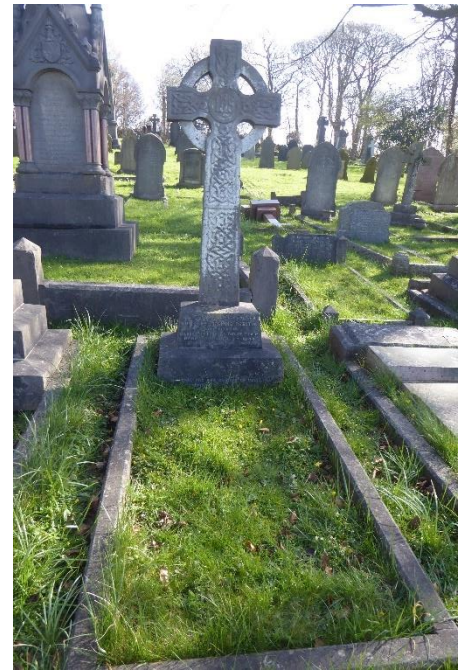


In Loving Memory of **CHARLES FRANCIS PRESTON**

TOWN CLERK OF
BARROW-IN-FURNESS FOR 37 YEARS
BORN NOVEMBER 3RD 1844
DIED OCTOBER 5TH 1907

WAITING FOR THE COMING OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST

Another impressive monument by Fairbairn & Co., discoloured by time and weather. No other names have been added to the monument since Sankey's photograph.



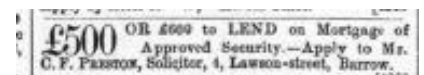
Ancestry tells us the following:

The **1851 Census** has the Prestons living in Church Street, Tenbury, Worcestershire. Father Francis W. Preston (30?) Attorney, born Cley-next-the Sea, Norfolk, shares the house with Elizabeth Preston (31) Wife, born Leintwardine, Herefordshire; children Charles F. Preston (6) Scholar, born Tenbury (as were all the children); Elizabeth W. Preston (5) Scholar at Home; Mary Ann Preston (3) Scholar at Home; Elenor (sic) P. Preston (2) Scholar at Home; Charlotte Preston (1); George W. Preston (6 weeks); Mary Farmer (16) Visitor, born Aymestree (sic), Herefordshire; Jane Derricot (18) House Servant, born Orleton, Herefordshire; Fanny? Price (16) House Servant, born (*unreadable*), Herefordshire; and Harriet Parker (16) House Servant, born Leominster, Herefordshire.

In the **1861 Census** Charles Preston (16), born Tenbury, Worcestershire, is a scholar at the Grammar School, Hereford, living in Cathedral Close.

In a report of the Council Finance Committee in the *Barrow Herald and Furness Advertiser* 10 December 1870, it was agreed (in spite of an amendment by Coun. Townson which did not get a seconder, suggesting a figure lower by £50) to pay the Town Clerk £200 p.a. The first Town Clerk, Mr. Manclarke, had only been paid £50 p.a. in 1867.

In the **1871 Census** he is already in Barrow, living at a lodging house at 24 Roper Street. The full household is Mary Jervis (45) Widow, Lodging House Keeper, born Salop (Shrewsbury), Shropshire; Annie Jervis (17) Daughter, Pupil Teacher, born Salop. Shropshire; Margaret Jervis (12) Daughter, Scholar, born Salop, Shropshire; Jane E. Jervis (10) Scholar, born Salop, Shropshire; Chas. F. Preston (26) Unmarried, Lodger, Solicitor, born Tenbury, Worcestershire; and William Limbly? Crawford (24) Unmarried, Lodger, Civil Engineer, born Ireland.

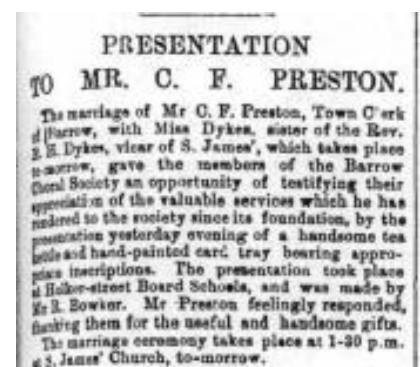


Barrow Herald 27 Nov 1880

The **1881 Census** sees Charles F. Preston (36) Unmarried, Solicitor, Notary Public & Town Clerk, born Tenbury, at 51 East Mount, Barrow. His Housekeeper is Martha Whaling (sic) (49) born Preston, Lancs.

Charles F. Preston married Caroline Sybil Dykes at St. James', Barrow in April 1888. (Cutting from *Barrow Herald and Furness Advertiser* 10 April 1888)

In the **1891 Census** Charles F. Preston (46) Solicitor, born Tenbury, Worcs. Is still at 51 East Mount. He has been joined by son, Francis H. D. Preston (2) born Barrow. While Mrs. Preston



must be elsewhere, there are two servants, Lucy Johnson (22) Single, Cook & Domestic Servant, born Welford on Avon, Warwicks, and Florence J. Abberley (25) Nurse & Domestic Servant, born Potteries, Staffs.

Mrs. Preston can be found in the **1891 Census** living with? (it doesn't say Visitor on the Census record) her uncle at "Belmont", Hessle, Hull. The household is Edward C. Dykes (56) Single, Living on own means, born Hull, Yorkshire; Lucy Cheap (64) Sister, Widow, Living on own means, born Hull; Anne E. Cheap (35) Single, Niece, no occupation recorded, born Wakefield, Yorks; George H. Hayes (47) Cousin, Single, Living on own means, born Hull; Susannah J. Dykes (64) Widow, Sister-in-law, Living on own means, born Durham, Durham; Caroline S. Preston (35) Married, Niece, no occupation recorded, born Malton, Yorks; Emma Sheppard (27) Single, Cook (Domestic Servant), born Braithwell, Yorks; Mary L. Wardman (22) Single, Domestic Servant, born Killinghall, Yorks; Hannah M. Lindall (21) Single, Domestic Servant, born Hessle.

Charles Preston is still at the same address at East Mount in the **1901 Census**. Charles Preston (56) Married, Solicitor (Law), born Tenbury, Worcs; Emma Fallows (26) Domestic Nurse (Sick), born Barrow, and Fanny Tallant? (14) Housemaid, born Barrow, make up the household.

The **National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1907** has:

PRESTON Charles Thomas (crossed out – Francis hand-written) of 51 Eastmount Barrow-in-Furness Lancashire died 5 October 1907 Probate **London** 6 December to Caroline Sybil Preston widow Effects £5588.

For whatever reason, the Prestons seem to have kept separate households. Born in Durham, the daughter of John B. Dykes, Church of England Clergyman, and his wife Sussanah Dykes, Caroline Dykes (5) was living at the Wakefield and Barnsley Bank, Westgate, Wakefield in the **1861 Census**, where her uncle Fredric (sic) Dykes, was Bank Manager.

In the **1871 Census** Caroline and her family were living on Church Street, Durham, where her father was Vicar of St. Oswald's.

Caroline's introduction to Barrow may have been due to her brother Earnest (sic) Dykes, in the **1891 Census** he is living at 4 St. James Terrace, Barrow, aged 39, Clerk in Holy Orders, born Durham. His sister Edith D. Dykes (31) is also present, presumably as his Housekeeper.

In the **1901 Census** she is living at "The Bungalow", Rampside, Barrow. The building has two households, one the Joyce Smiths, where the head is James Joyce Smith (45) Coal Carter and Farm Worker, born Hellifield, Yorks. The other household contains Caroline S. Preston (45) Head, Married, no occupation recorded, born Durham, Durham; Charles L. Preston (7), born Barrow; John B. Preston (2) born Barrow; and Edith M. Griffiths (15) Nurse (Domestic), born Barrow.

The **1911 Census** sees her back at 51 East Mount. C. Sybil Preston (refused to give age) Head, Widow, Living on Private Means, born Durham; and John Basil Preston (12) Son, School, born Barrow. Jane Elizabeth Woodall (17) Single, is their Domestic Servant, born Barrow.

In the **1939 Register** at 51 East Mount live Caroline S. Preston (DoB 25 February 1856), Private Means; and Florence Darby (DoB 28 July 1898) Cook, Servant.

The **National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1943** has:

PRESTON Caroline Sybil of 51 East Mount Barrow-in-Furness **Lancashire** widow died 6 April 1943 at 2 Rothsay-road Bedford Probate **Llandudno** 8 September to Francis Noel Dykes Preston civil servant and William Garenieres Pearson solicitor. Effect £14351 8s 8d.

Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser and General Intelligencer 10 October 1907 had more than three columns announcing the death of Mr. Preston:

Barrow Town Clerk's Death

MR C. F. PRESTON'S SUDDEN DEMISE
REFERENCES FROM PULPIT AND BENCH
THE MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

It is our painful duty to chronicle the death of Mr. C. F. Preston, the respected Town Clerk of Barrow, who passed away rather suddenly and unexpectedly at his residence on East Mount at 4.30 on Saturday morning last, at the age of 62. The first intimation to the general public of the sad occurrence was the floating of the flag half-mast high over the Town Hall, in which the deceased gentleman laboured for so many years with such conspicuous success and ability. But alas! His labours are o'er, and the town is poorer by his loss. In June last Mr. Preston was taken seriously ill, but by means of careful nursing he rallied, and was able to resume his duties. He did not thoroughly recover, however, and although he attended to his business up to Wednesday of last week, he had a relapse, and the end came with painful suddenness. He was troubled with heart disease, and has not been well since last February. Mr. Preston came to Barrow originally in partnership with the late Mr. Manclarke, first Town Clerk of Barrow. When that gentleman was taken seriously ill Mr Preston, on 4th July, 1870, was appointed Deputy Town Clerk, and on the 9th November following he was appointed Town Clerk in succession to Mr. Manclarke. He has thus been associated with the municipal life of Barrow for 37 years, and in his official position had charge of all the big schemes which have eventuated in the growth of the borough, which had a population of about 19,000 in 1870, and now has a population of 70,000. Mr. Preston was, of course, the oldest corporate official of the town, and he was highly respected by all who came in to contact with him in connection with the town's business. His abilities for the post was most marked, and in connection with all his work Mr. Preston showed the greatest kindness and courtesy to all. His valuable efforts on behalf of the Corporation cannot be over-estimated. He was secretary of the Barrow Chamber of Commerce and Exchange since its commencement in 1883 – twenty four years ago – and was first clerk of the Barrow School Board, and held that office until the appointment of Mr. Fillingham. By the Education Act the duties of this department again fell to his charge. He took a great interest in musical matters, and was first secretary of the Barrow Choral Society and was chairman of the committee of the society at his death, having been 34 years an active member of the committee. He was also a member of the Barrow Chess Club, and was an expert in that game. Mr. Preston came to Barrow from Tenbury, in Worcestershire, where he served his articles as a solicitor with his father, the late Mr. F. W. Preston.

The Free Library has been established since Mr. Preston came to Barrow, together with the borough police force, the electricity undertaking, public slaughterhouses, Pennington and Harlock reservoir opened, the borough three times extended, and other important works carried out for the Corporation. In connection with the Walney Bridge and Duddon water schemes he performed much important work in preparing for the Parliamentary Bill.

The late Mr. Preston also conducted a large and important legal practice at his office in Lawson-street.

He was a member of the Barrow County Club, over which the flag was hoisted half-mast, and similar tokens of respect were shown in other public and private buildings.



The *Barrow News* 12 October 1907 had four columns, including the photograph (left). This account had a detailed description of the funeral, and identified his fatal illness as "angena (sic) pectoris". It contains much of the above account in exactly the same words.

No-one is certain why Edward Sankey took photographs of graves in the period 1910-1920 and later. Were they advertising the skills of his friend William Hull, or later Hull and Fairbairn? Were they to be made into postcards that the bereaved family could send to members who were not able to attend the funeral?

The historic photograph of the grave is from the Sankey Family Photographic Collection, courtesy of Cumbria Archives.