

3536 William Henry Gornall d 17 February 1912



In
Loving Memory of
WILLIAM HENRY GORNALL
WHO DIED 17TH FEBRUARY 1912,
AGED 61 YEARS.
ALSO OF **ISABELLA**,
HIS BELOVED WIFE,
WHO DIED 7TH JUNE 1897,
AGED 50 YEARS.
ALSO OF **JAMES BENSON**,
THEIR SON,
WHO DIED 25TH APRIL 1882,
AGED 5 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS.



The Barrow News 24 February 1912 reported:

FORTY YEARS IN RAILWAY SERVICE.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM GORNALL.

We sincerely regret to chronicle the death of Mr. William Gornall, which occurred at his residence in Smeaton-street, Barrow, on Saturday night. The deceased, who was 61 years of age, was incapacitated from work as the result of an accident towards the end of December, and had not worked this year. On Monday last bronchitis set in, and pneumonia following, Mr. Gornall died as above stated. He was extremely well-known throughout the district, and was held in the highest esteem by a wide circle of friends, amongst whom his death will be much deplored. He came to Barrow from Morecambe about forty years ago, and ever since had been in the employ of the Furness Railway Company, being an engine-driver for the last fifteen years. His wife pre-deceased him about fifteen years ago, and he leaves a grown-up family of three sons and two daughters to mourn his loss.



THE INQUEST

The death of Mr. Gornall was the subject of an inquiry conducted at the North Lonsdale Hospital on Tuesday morning by Mr. Coroner Poole. Deceased was 61 years of age.

Mr. A. Barrow was present on behalf of the Furness Railway Co.

It appears that on the 2nd of January the deceased stumbled over a railway line whilst proceeding to his work, and he afterwards complained to a fellow-employee who was present at the time of being unable to lift his arm. He was treated at the North Lonsdale Hospital, and, according to the evidence of Dr. Williams, whom the latter visited at his (deceased's) residence on the 4th of January, deceased stated that he had fallen and dislocated his shoulder and bruised his side. Witness, on examining him, found that his ribs had been strapped up and the shoulder had been bandaged in a proper manner. He appeared to be getting on very well until the Monday of the previous week, when he complained of a cough and feeling very ill. Next day, witness found he had pneumonia, and he was attended either by witness or his assistant until death. Witness, along with Dr. Bowman, conducted a post-mortem on the body, and they found a general inflammation of both lungs, the right one being worse than the left, an extreme fatty degeneration of the heart, and there was evidence of a slight enlargement of the ninth rib which would probably be caused by the healing of the broken rib. Death was due primarily to pneumonia and heart failure. The post-mortem did not show that the accident was in any way connected with the death.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

From Ancestry we learn that William Henry Gornall, son of John & Bridget Gornall, was baptised in the Chapelry of Overton, Lancs, on 8 February 1850.

In the **1851 Census** the Gornall's were living at Miedup (sic) Farm, Middleton, nr Heysham. The household was John Gornall (27) Head, Farm Manager?, born Overton, Lancs, wife Bridget Gornall (21) born Poulton, Lancs; and William Gornall (1) born Overton.

In the **1861 Census** William Gornall is living at Lancaster Road, Poulton-le-Sands. This household has William Wilson (60) Widower, Maltster, born Skerton, Lancs; Mary Wilson (38) Unmarried, Maltster's Daughter, born Poulton-le-Sands, and William Henry Gornall (11) Grandson, Scholar, born Overton, Lancs. His parents were living in Meadow House, Overton at the time, with William's three younger brothers.

He was still living with his grandfather in the **1871 Census**, at Lancaster Road, Poulton-le-Sands. William Wilson (74) Husbandman, born Skerton, Lancs, has remarried, to Alice Wilson (49) born Lancaster. Others in the household are Mary Wilson (49) Daughter, General Servant, born Morecambe, Lancs; Thomas Wilson (6) Son, born Morecambe, Lancs; Jonnathan (sic) Wilkinson (15) Step Son (sic), born Torrisholme, Lancs, Deaf and Dumb from birth; William H. Gornall (21) Boarder, Ag. Labourer, born Overton.

William Henry Gornall married Isabella Holmes in Windermere, Westmorland, on 27 July 1875.

William Gornall has moved on by the time of the **1881 Census**. He is living at 47 McLintock Street, Barrow, and is married and a Railway Fireman. His wife is Isabella Gornall (35) born Windermere, Westmorland; and they have three children, all born in Barrow: James B. Gornall (4); Sarah Ann Gornall (3), and Rhoda A. Gornall (2).

In the **1891 Census** they have moved to 41 Smeaton Street. As well as parents William (called a Railway Engine Stoker) and Isabella, there are four children (James having already died), all Scholars, and born in Barrow. They are Rhoda A. Gornall (12); John W. Gornall (1); Henry Gornall (8), and George Gornall (6).

They are still at 41 Smeaton Street, Barrow, in the **1901 Census**, though Isabella has now died. Remaining are William Hy. Gornall (50) Railway Engine Driver; Sarah A. Gornall (23) Single, Housekeeper?; Henry Gornall (17) Ship Broker's Clerk, and George Gornall (16) Apprentice Ship Smith.

William Gornall (60) Widower, Railway Engine Driver, born Overton, Lancs. is still at 41 Smeaton Street in the **1911 Census**. With him are John William Gornall (29) Son, Single, Labourer, Railway Carriage and Wagon Dept., born Barrow, and Daughter-in-law Esther Mabel Gornall (30) Married, Housekeeper, born Millom, Cumberland. *Further research shows that Esther Mabel Gornall (née Bond) is the wife of George Gornall.*

The **National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1912** has:

GORNALL William Henry of 41 Smeaton-street, Barrow-in-Furnes **Lancashire** died 17 February 1912 Administration **London** 8 March to John William Gornall labourer and Henry Gornall solicitor's clerk. Effects £167 17s 6d.

No-one is certain why Edward Sankey took photographs of graves in the period 1910-1920 or 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 is from the Sankey Family Photographic Collection, courtesy of Cumbria Archives.