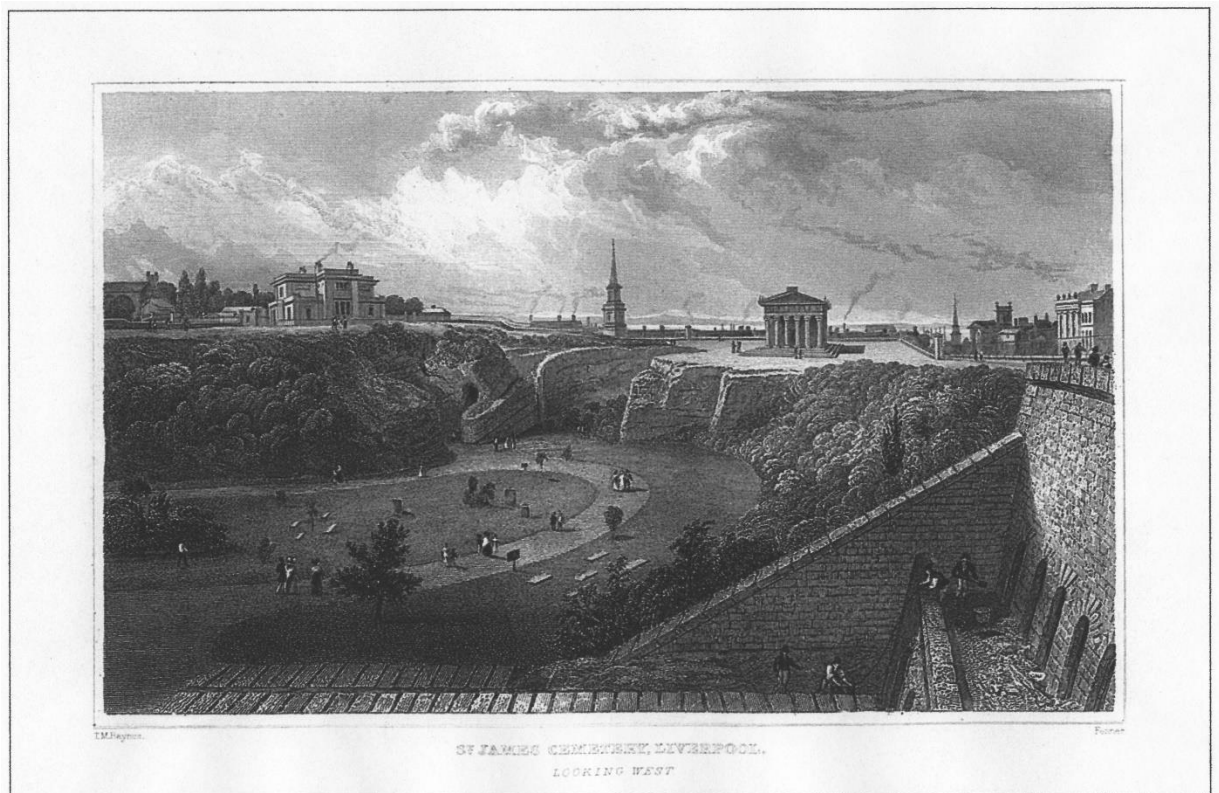


Chapter 2.22

ALFRED AND MARY GOFFEY

1844 – 1926



St. James's Cemetery, Liverpool , in 1842

This view is looking west across the old cemetery. On the right is the Oratory, standing on a rocky outcrop left behind from the days when the site was a stone quarry. On the left is the Minister's house where the Anglican Cathedral now stands and in between the Minister's house and the Oratory in the middle distance is the spire of St. Michael's Church, Upper Pitt Street, where Phoebe Irvine, Mary Goffey's maternal grandmother, was buried in the churchyard in 1834. The street on the extreme right running past the Oratory is Canning Street where John Semple was living at No. 38 with his family and his nephew Robert while they tried in vain to re-establish the sugar business of Semple and Co. after the death of Robert Semple in 1850.

Chapter 2.22 Alfred and Mary Goffey

Alfred Goffey was born at 21, Newhall Street, Liverpool, on 12th October 1844, the youngest of the five sons of James and Sarah Goffey. By chance his father was not at sea on census day 1851 and the entire family are recorded in the census together at 21, Newhall Street, – James (master mariner) aged 44, Sarah aged 47, James Jnr. (baker's apprentice) aged 19, Thomas (apprentice attorney's clerk) aged 16, William aged 13, Arthur aged nine and Alfred aged six (scholars). All are shown as having been born in Liverpool.

By 1861 Alfred's father, Capt. James Goffey, was dead and James Jnr. had married, leaving the family in the 1861 census consisting of the widowed Sarah as head of the family, Thomas (now an attorney's clerk), William (a bookkeeper), Arthur, and Alfred living at 4, Blackburn Street, Liverpool. Sarah's last address, in 1870, was 100, Falkner Street, just around the corner from Blackburn Street but whether this was the family home or somewhere smaller that Sarah moved to after the boys had left home we don't know. Alfred's address when he married Mary Graham at the Hope Street Presbyterian Church on 17th August 1870 was 10, Gray Road, Walton-on-the-Hill but whether Alfred moved there before or after his mother's death the previous February is not clear. The marriage certificate was witnessed by Alfred's brother William and Janet Graham, Mary's sister, suggesting that not only were James and Sarah Goffey both dead, but probably Mary Graham's parents John and Elizabeth Graham also.

At the time of the 1871 census Alfred, aged 27 and Mary, aged 24, were still living at 10, Gray Road, Walton-on-the-Hill, (the road no longer appears in the Liverpool A-Z) with a female servant. Ten years later, at the time of the 1881 census, they had moved to 268, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool, where they were living with their four oldest children, Harry aged 10, Mabel aged eight, James aged five, Daisy aged two and a female domestic servant. The family are found in the 1881 census recorded under the name Goffry, an enumerator's error. At this time, by coincidence, Sarah Semple, her neices Sarah, Ann, and Jane and her brother John with his children Theodore, Adriana, Herbert and Jane were living at 23, Upper Parliament Street.

Alfred established himself as a wholesale and Italian grocer with premises at 56, Whitechapel, Liverpool; little is known of his business, when it started or closed down but we know it was a going concern at the time of Alfred's premature death on 31st May 1887. He died at Gap Road, Little Meols, Hoylake, of diabetes mellitus, from which he had suffered since 1882, and phthisis – wasting pulmonary symptoms, usually a Victorian euphemism for pulmonary tuberculosis. The location at Gap Road is a bit of a mystery; it was probably a sanatorium or medical establishment of some sort and is not thought to have been the family home at the time. The location of Mary and the children in between 1887 and 1901 has not yet been found, but Mary is recorded in the 'Liverpool Post and Courier' (as Mrs Alfred Goffey), as one of the principal mourners at the funeral of her brother-in-law Arthur Goffey on 24th April 1896 at the Ancient Chapel, Toxteth. The address at 56, Whitechapel, cannot be found in the 1881 census, probably due to an error by the enumerator, but in the 1891 census it is listed as "uninhabited at night", i.e. an office, warehouse or commercial premises of some sort. The provisions of Alfred's will allowed for Mary to continue with, or dispose of, the grocery business as she saw fit; it is assumed that after the death of Alfred, Mary could not run the business while caring for five children aged from five to sixteen, and she presumably sold off

the business. Alfred's will is a long and complicated affair and is very much a family effort, being witnessed by brothers James and Thomas, with Mary named as the sole executrix. After Alfred's death, probate was extracted by *Goffey, North and Co., Solicitors, Liverpool*, i.e. Thomas's firm. Along with the right to run the business or dispose of it at her discretion, Mary was to inherit most of Alfred's money, securities, possessions etc., so long as she remained a widow. This last condition being one generally used to protect the interests of the children in the event of the widow re-marrying and wishing to bequeath the deceased's estate to a second husband. In the event Mary did not remarry.

By the time of the 1901 census, the two oldest children, Harry and Mabel, were both married and living elsewhere and the family consisted of Mary then aged 53, James aged 25, Daisy aged 21 and Alfred aged 17, all living at Hougoumont House, St. James' Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire – just across the Mersey from Liverpool Pierhead. Mary is shown as head of the family living off her “*own means*”, presumably the invested proceeds of the sale of the grocery business. James is listed as a provision merchant's clerk, Alfred as a cotton broker's clerk while there is no entry against Daisy's occupation. Daisy is believed to have been an invalid all her life, though what she suffered from is not known.

At some time after 1901, Mary moved to 36, Massey Park, Liscard, where she died, aged 78, on 13th March 1926. Her will is dated 1922 and names son Alfred and daughter Mabel as executors; the estate value was £450 7s 6d. Probate was granted to Mabel, wife of Charles William Constantine. Clothing, wearing apparel, household linen and a statue of Ophelia (by Harry?) were left to Mabel. Pictures, jewellery, furniture and household effects not otherwise disposed of by codicil were left to Alfred, with the residue to be shared equally between Mabel, Harry, Alfred and Daisy. In the event of the predecease of Daisy, her share was to go to Alfred. The favourable treatment of Alfred suggests that, apart from (possibly) the invalid Daisy, he was the only child left at the family home in 1922. Although aged 42 at the time of his mother's death in 1926, Alfred is believed to have still been single when he moved to Berkhamsted later in the 1920s to join his brother Harry in their fine art printing business.