

## Family of Canon Henry Robert Smith of St. Paul's Grange over Sands

by Janet Coomber.

At the 1861 Census, Canon Smith and his wife, Emily Frances, nee Swainson, having married in 1856 in Preston, had no children. He and his wife were living at the Parsonage, Grange, aged 38 and 26 respectively.



In 1870, Canon Smith purchased the land on Main Street, Grange in 1866, and arranged for the building of what is now Grange Institute, from James Simpson Young, of Abbott Hall, Kent's Bank. In 1871 he set up Grange Working Mens' Institute for the "rational

recreation, social improvement and intellectual and moral advancement" of the working classes. \*1



At the 1871 census, Canon Smith and his wife were still living at Grange Parsonage with their children, Beatrice Emily b.1863, Henry Eden, b.1864, Charles Swainson, b.1865, Edwin b.1866 Oswald Sergeant b. 1867, Percy b.1869. They had two more children, Lilian Mary born 1871 and Neville Grandorge born 1873.

After a long illness, Canon Smith resigned in 1888.\*2

By 1891 the Canon had moved to Bristol, where he lived with his wife, their eldest daughter Beatrice, their son Edwin, then a medical student aged 23, and their youngest daughter, Lilian Mary b. 1871. In a later census, Lilian was in a Home for the simple minded.

In November, 1892, Mrs. Smith died at Clifton, Bristol and her body was returned to Grange by train. Her funeral was held at St. Paul's, attended by many mourners and she was buried in Grange cemetery. Canon Smith returned to Grange and died on 2.12.1896



Canon Smith's estate was £24,207, probate granted at Lancaster to his sons, Henry Eden and Edwin Arthur Cleveland Swainson (the latter having changed his name by deed poll). Oxford University records Canon Smith's passing. He had studied at Brasenose College from 1841 until 1845. Canon Smith's grave is in Grange Cemetery along with his wife and both his daughters, Beatrice and Lilian.

**Beatrice Emily Smith** was born in 1863/64

On 20.4.1920, Revd G. Vickers Gaskell and H. Eden Smith, the vicar and Church warden of St. Pauls, sold the house "Seaview" on Church Hill to Miss B.E. Smith.

Beatrice died 6.11.1928, her will appointed her brothers Henry and Edwin as her Executors and Trustees. She is buried in Grange Cemetery with her father, mother and younger sister, Lilian Mary, who died aged 36 and was buried on 12.10.1907.

**Henry Eden Smith** was born 1864/65

At the 1901 census, Henry, aged 36, a Newspaper Proprietor lived on The Esplanade, Grange. His sister Beatrice aged 38 and his brother Edwin aged 33, a surgeon, were with him on the night of the census. None of them were married at this time.

At the 1911 Census, Henry lived at "Sandyfield", Grange , ( now Hampsfell House Hotel)\*3

Aged 46 he lived with his wife, Blanche, nee Michalson born in Hong Kong, and their children, Neville Ulster Eden, aged 8 and, Waller Eden, aged 4. Henry and Blanche (nee Michaelson) married in Ulverston in 1902.

From Grange Red Books in the Library, we can understand what an active part Henry played in local life. In 1899 he was Treasurer of Grange School, a member of the football club committee the Golf Club committee, the Tennis club, the Orchestral society, on Grange Urban District Council and a County Councillor.

In 1913, he was on Grange Urban District council. He was President of the Institute, founded by his father. He was on the committee of the Choral society, the Lecture society, vice president of the Literary and Scientific Society, President of the Hockey club, and the Scout Association. He was on the committee of the North Lonsdale Tennis club and the Rifle Club. He acted as M.C. at the Conservative Party Annual Ball. He was Hon. Secretary of Grange Amateur Dramatics, playing the Mikado in the play of that name.

In 1912, it was he who thanked Mrs, Dearden at the opening of the Clock tower.

Henry died 30.4.1940 in Middlesex, aged 75. Probate was granted to his brothers Edwin and Neville Grandorge Swainson. His estate was £10,541. Oxford University records his passing. He had attended Exeter College from 1883, gaining a B.A. in 1887. He is buried in Grange Cemetery , his son Waller, who is commemorated on Grange War memorial, is mentioned on his gravestone. Waller lost his life, aged 38 on 20.2. 1943, whilst serving on HMS Vervain, which was torpedoed and sunk south east of Dungarvan, Ireland. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Memorial Panel, on Grange War Memorial and on his father's grave in Grange Cemetery. He left a widow, Mrs. Marjorie Eden Smith, living at The Priory, Kents Bank.\*4. His Uncle Neville donated a clock to Grange Institute in his memory, there is a wooden plaque to this effect in the snooker room.

**Charles Swainson Smith** was born 9.9.1865. Like several of his brothers, he used the name Swainson as a surname. In 1881, he was at boarding school in Godalming with Henry Eden.

He emigrated to Monroe, Tennessee on 30.4.1920 and died 9.9.1933. He left a will in the UK, leaving £260. His wife is named as Mary Katherine Swainson.

**Oswald Sergeant Smith** was born 1867. He was named after Canon Oswald Sergeant (tablet in St. Paul's church).

Oswald died on 22.9.1944, in Paignton He was P.W.D. of India, the third son of Canon Smith and husband of Beatrice. Oswald had been an Army surgeon at Pondicherry He left an estate of £26,366.

**Edwin Arthur Cleveland Swainson** was born 1868.

At the 1911 census, a medical practitioner, he was living in Hazel Grove, near Marple, Cheshire. He had married Norah Douglas on 24.4.1901. He was aged 43, his wife Norah aged 28 and they had two children, Oswald Solloway Swainson aged 9 and Susanna Margery Crawford Swainson. These two children later appear on the deeds of Seaview house as descendants of the Trustees of Beatrice Emily Smith.

Cambridge University alumni records tell us that Edwin was born 31.1.1868 in London. His schools were Headington, Oxford and Winchester. He entered Caius college, Cambridge in 1886 He gained an M.A., M.B. and B. Chir . He was employed at the Middlesex hospital and in Vienna and became M.R.C.S. L.R.C.

The University records give the information that he was the son of Rev Henry Robert Smith, vicar of GOS and Emily Frances Swainson and that he changed his name by deed poll to Swainson. He was Clinical Assistant at the Chelsea Hospital for women, resident Medical officer at North West London Hospital, Junior House Surgeon at North Staffordshire Infirmary and School Medical officer at Stoke on Trent. He practised at Marple and had served as a RAMC in the Great War.

**Percy Lister Smith** was born 1869, he died October 1877 aged 8, his death registered at Ulverston.

**Lilian Mary Smith** was born in 1871, she remained with her parents, but in one census, she is living as a patient in a "Home for the feeble minded". she died in 1907.

**Neville Grandorge Smith**, later Swainson, was born 20.7.1873, in Grange The youngest son of Rev H.R. Smith, he is recorded at Barrow archives as the first pupil at Charney Hall School in 1882, aged 9. He went to Canada on 23.4.1899. I have found him on only the 1911 census, a 37 year old single man, a musician (pianist), living in the parish of St. Margaret & St. John in London. He died 23.4.1960 in London.

\*1 Professor Michael Atkinson "Enlightenment comes to Grange"

\*2 Mrs. P. Ward "A History of St. Paul's Church"

\*3 Mrs M. Robinson

\*4 Frank Brooks & Peter Robinson "A Book of Remembrance of the men commemorated on Grange over Sands War Memorial"