

William Benington and his Children

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William Benington (1802-1896) was the grandfather of my great-grandfather Arthur Benington, who was the first of my Benington ancestors to emigrate to America. William and several of his brothers were excellent examples of the growing social mobility that came with the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The Beningtons were Quakers and closely connected to many of the prominent Quaker families of the time, often through their business interests. This note concerns William, a wholesale grocer heavily involved in the iron and steel industry; his three children, Mary Ann, who married the industrialist Francis Reckitt; and William Henry and George, who joined their father's business, but soon specialized in tea. It ends with an account of Arthur Benington's years in the tea business in Toronto.

William's father, Robert (Out Newton, Yorkshire 1764- Hull, 1808) was a corn (i.e. wheat) farmer from Holderness, a low-lying peninsula in East Yorkshire at the mouth of the Humber River. William was born on November 22, 1802 at Skeffling, the ninth of six boys and four girls of Robert Benington and Rachel Mair (Hull, 1769 – Skeffling, 1814). His parents died when he was young, after which he studied at the Friends' school at Ackworth before apprenticing in Scarborough to John Rowntree, of the Quaker family from which came the Rowntree chocolate empire.

With his inheritance, he went into business as a wholesale grocer in Wakefield, before moving to Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, in 1835 to enter into a partnership with "a Mr. Smith", according to his obit. They operated under the name of Smith and Benington, wholesale groceries and provision merchants. Harold Benington says this was Thomas Smith, but George Smith appears as the occupant of 39 High Street in Stockton from 1834 to 1836, immediately followed by Smith and Benington, from 1837 to 1840. In 1847, they took over the business of the bankrupted firm of Sanders and Weatherall, trading under the name of Andrew Sanders Successors. A year later, they were joined by John Dobson and operated for a year as Benington Dobson and Co. William then took on as partners his two



Stockton Malleable Iron Works, ca 1890

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sons, William Henry and George, and operated as William Benington and Sons until 1880 and then as Benington and Sons, grocers, till his death in 1896.

William Benington played a significant role in the development of the steel industry in Stockton. He was an investor in the Portrack Iron Works, operators of blast furnaces starting in 1856, and a director and chairman of the Stockton Malleable Iron Co Ltd, starting in 1862. In the *Annals of Stockton-on-Tees*, Henry Heavisides reports that the Portrack Iron Works comprise three blast furnaces, employing 150 men, and that the works of Stockton Malleable Iron Co adjoin Portrack and comprise “39 puddling furnaces, 19 heating furnaces, 3 50-cwt steam hammers, 2 plate mill trains, 2 puddling mills, 1 rail and angle mill, the capabilities of production being, plates 250 tons per week, rail angles 30 [tons per week]. Number of hands employed about 700.”

William Benington’s obit reports that “he was a director of the Durham District Bank, which came to grief many years ago.” In the 1830s, publicly owned banking came to the North of England, driven by the rapid increase in share prices of similar institutions in the South. I can find no trace of a Durham District Bank, but the most likely candidate is the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, founded, as Maberley Phillips puts it in his *A history of banks, bankers, & banking in Northumberland, Durham, and North Yorkshire*, in “the memorable year of 1836, when quite a mania set in for founding every conceivable business upon joint stock principles”. It could also have been the Stockton and Durham County Bank, founded in 1838, and which merged into the National Provincial Bank in 1846 or 1847². Several banks failed in 1847, but the Northumberland and Durham District survived, with help from the Bank of England. This being before the advent of deposit insurance and limited liability companies, “[t]he inconvenience and distress caused by the failures was most terrible, alike to the clients of the banks, to the depositors, and to the enormous number of shareholders whose liability being unlimited, were subject to “call” upon “call”, until many found rest in the Bankruptcy Court, and some were driven to commit suicide. Many tradesmen determined to return to the customs of pre-banking days — to make the iron safe in their own warehouse their Banker.”

The National Commercial, a relatively small bank, failed in 1855, “but the culmination of the storm came in 1857, when the Northumberland and Durham District Bank failed for an enormous amount, and by the misery and distress it caused, eclipsed all previous bank failures in the North of England.”

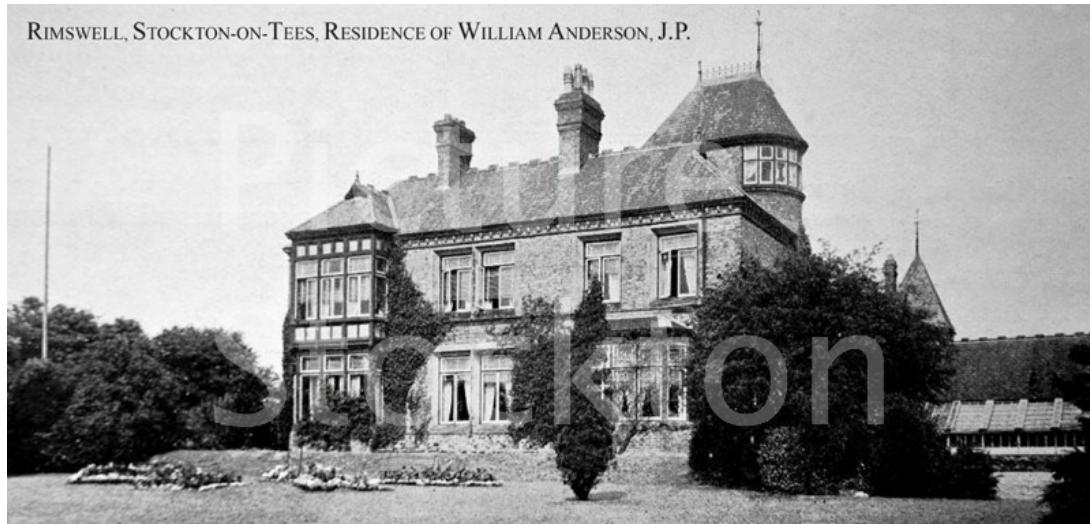
Although he is said to have lost a lot of money, there is no evidence that William Benington declared bankruptcy, which leads one to suspect that he must have been a relatively small shareholder of whichever bank he was part of.

William Benington was involved in many philanthropic enterprises, notably as one of the founders of the Stockton Temperance Society.

² Harold Benington claims it was the Overend and Gurney Bank
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overend,_Gurney_and_Company, a London bank partly owned by Samuel Gurney, a well-known Quaker. Founded in 1800, the bank was primarily involved in discounting bills of trade and failed in 1866. It is easy to confuse banks, even failed banks, of that period, but I have no other evidence that William Benington was significantly involved in it.

He was an active participant in civic matters, representing the Northwest Ward for many years on the local council, and serving as its chair in 1869. He was named Justice of the Peace in 1862, an office he held till his death. He was also active in the administration of the Society of Friends.

Around 1875, he built a large house he called *Rimswell*, a few miles outside Stockton, most likely after a village in Holderness from which came the Mairs, his mother's family. Although the house itself has made way for a housing development, the gatehouse³ remains.



Rimswell, ca 1890

Towards the end of his life, he moved to Weston House, in Scarborough, where he died of pneumonia on February 12, 1896. Harold Benington notes that "He was so highly regarded when he died, at the age of 94, the ministers of every denomination in the town attended the funeral, including the Catholic Priest". His will was probated on May 12 to his son George, grandson Herbert (who was still in the business) and cousin Edmund. He left personal effects worth £27,500 [about £2.5M in 2011]⁴.

William Benington was married twice. His first wife was Mary Smith, whom he married in 1829 in Stockton. She is almost certainly the daughter of his partner whom Harold Benington says was from Bristol, although I have found other evidence suggesting it could have been Sheffield.

William Benington and Mary Smith had three children, with details about each to follow:

- (1) Mary Ann (Wakefield, 1832 – Hull, 1867),
- (2) William Henry (Wakefield, 1833– Stockton, 1891),
- (3) George (Stockton, 1836– Enfield, Middlesex, 1916), Arthur's father.

William's second wife was Margaret Crewdson, (Manchester, 1813- Stockton, 1884), daughter of Thomas Crewdson and Margaret Bragg. Crewdson was a merchant and banker

³ <http://goo.gl/maps/s8e2>

⁴ The significance of the figures shown in UK Probate records is quite complex and changes over time. For details see https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Probate_Fees_and_Valuations_in_England_and_Wales.

from the Lake District. His brother, Isaac, was a major and controversial Quaker figure, who was a leader in England of opposition to the radical doctrine being promoted in Pennsylvania by Elias Hicks⁵. William and Margaret Crewdson had three children:

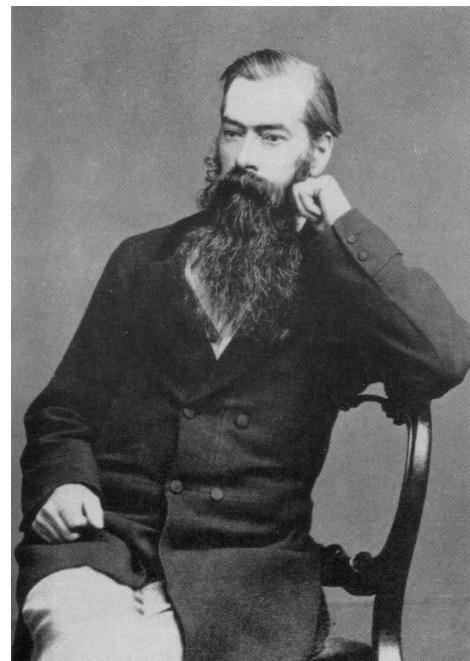
- (1) Caroline Crewdson (Stockton, 1851 – Tremezzo, Italy, 1924) who never married and lived with her parents, probably until William’s death. I could not find her in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, so it is possible that she lived abroad for some time. She left an estate of £14,461.
- (2) Robert Crewdson (Stockton, 1853 – Gillingham, Kent, 1909) was a physician who practiced in London and in Newcastle-on-Tyne. He married Clara Pauline Harris in London in 1875 and they had two children, William and Clarissa.
- (3) Mary Louisa (Stockton, 1857 –) She attended Polam Hall, a Quaker finishing school for girls in Darlington, and was living with her parents in 1881. I cannot find anything about her after that.

Mary Ann Benington and Francis Reckitt

Mary Ann Benington, born in Wakefield in 1832, was the eldest child of William Benington and Mary Smith. In 1857, she married Francis Reckitt, born in 1827 in Boston, Lincolnshire, the son of Isaac Reckitt and Ann Coleby.

Isaac Reckitt was born in Wainfleet in 1792, the son of a Quaker missionary. With his older brother Thomas, he unsuccessfully attempted businesses in the grains and cereals trade and in cement manufacturing. In 1840, he acquired a small starch business in Hull. In his *History of Reckitt and Sons*, Basil Reckitt writes:

“Isaac then, in 1840, was a man of about 48 years of age, with a large and young family, who had come to try his fortune in Hull as a comparative stranger to it, after one serious failure as a miller in Boston (where he had lost all his capital) and after a second attempt in Nottingham to retrieve his fortunes (an attempt which had not been successful). He evidently had persistence, for this was his third attempt, and was certainly possessed of an upright character, for the Society of Friends, who were very severe on members who failed in business, had not disowned him; indeed, he came of a family with a great tradition of service in the Quaker ministry. He had no capital -- only what he could borrow from his relations -- but



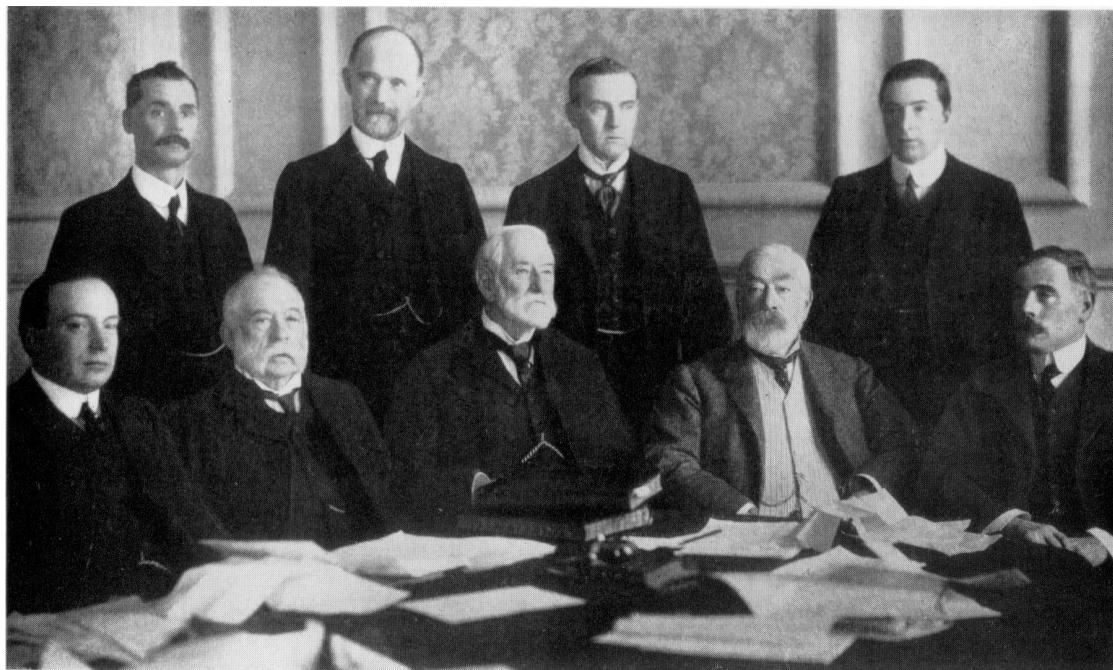
Francis Reckitt ca 1870

⁵ For more details, see the article on Hicks in Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elias_Hicks), and the entry on Isaac Crewdson on p. 122 of Edward Milligan’s *The Biographical Dictionary of British Quakers*. A good description of the impact of the schism on US Quakers can be found at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/quaker-roots/2002-02/1014571814>.

considerable business experience at home and abroad. He had been in Holland and the Low Countries on a business trip before the Boston failure and he had also visited France and could speak French."

The company's first product was starch made from wheat flour. A blue pigment, called smalts, was added to the starch as a whitener, and later was replaced by ultramarine blue, which became the company's second successful product, soon joined by black lead, used for polishing metal.

The success of the company was largely due to the participation of three of Isaac's sons. Frederick, the eldest, became the company's product innovator, creating first a soluble starch and then one made with sago, a flour derived from palm trees, significantly cheaper than that from wheat. The second son, George, went on the road as a salesman. The third, Francis, born in 1827, was sent to Ackworth School like his brothers. He left in 1841 to help the family firm recover from a flood its factory. A year later, he was sent to apprentice in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He then toyed with the idea of opening a London branch, but the family decided he was too young and he was sent on the road in the North, allowing his brother George to concentrate on the Midlands and the South. George became a partner in 1848, moving to London to open a branch there. Francis became partner in 1852.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1910

W. H. SLACK ALBERT L. RECKITT	T. R. FERENS, M.P. W. W. TOTHILL	PHILIP B. RECKITT, J.P. SIR JAMES RECKITT, BART., J.P.	ARNOLD RECKITT FRANCIS RECKITT, J.P. (HAROLD J. RECKITT, Absent)	ARTHUR B. RECKITT
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In 1857, Francis married Mary Ann Benington, whose father, William, was one of his customers in Stockton-on-Tees.

Isaac died in 1862. In 1879, Reckitt and Sons Ltd was formed as a private company, taking over the assets of the partnerships which had been called Isaac Reckitt and Sons in Hull and

Reckitt and Sons in London. It had a capital of £200,000 [about £17M in 2011], all held by family members. The directors were Francis, George, and their younger brother James, with Francis as the first chairman, alternating each year with James, later Sir James.

The company went public as Reckitt and Sons in 1888 with a capital of £450,000 [about £41M in 2011]. One son each of George and James and several of Francis's, including Arnold and Arthur shown in the board picture above, joined the company in the 1890s. The company had become one of the major employers in Hull, with the starch plant being notable as an employer of women. In 1938, Reckitt and Sons merged with J and J Colman Ltd, another Quaker-owned firm in the household, food and pharmaceutical fields, to become Reckitt and Colman Ltd. Colman is perhaps best known as the owner of the Keen's and JT French mustard brands. Reckitt and Colman sold the Colman food businesses in 1995 and merged with Benckiser, a Dutch-German firm in 1999 to become Reckitt Benckiser, a world leader in household cleaning, with products such as Vanish, Woolite, Dettol, Airwick, Easy Off, Lysol, and Calgonite.



Caen Wood Towers

Francis Reckitt retired from day-to-day operations in 1888 and moved to London where he acquired an estate called Caen Wood Tower in Highgate, built by Edward Brooke, who made his fortune in the manufacture of aniline dyes. Reckitt appears in the 1891 census, living with his third wife, Eliza, and three children. The household was substantial, consisting of a lady's companion, butler, governess, housekeeper, cook, lady's maid, four housemaids, four footmen/domestic servants, three gardeners, a farm bailiff and his wife, and a dressmaker and her son. And this was just the staff living on the estate!

In 1942, Caen Wood Towers was taken over by the Royal Air Force and used to house the RAF Intelligence School, under cover of a convalescence hospital. The house, which became known as Athlone House, once derelict, was eventually converted to luxury flats after a hard-fought attempt at demolition⁶.

In 1911, Francis bought Butler's Court, Beaconsfield, Bucks, where he died in 1917, leaving an estate of £1M [about £48M in 2011]. The house, which had been built in 1891 for Lord Grenfell, was used during WW II as a Red Cross Hospital for men of the French Free Navy, but has made way for a housing estate.

Francis and Mary Ann Benington had six children, all born in Hull:

- (1) Annie Constance (1858-1950), married in 1879 Douglas Glover Joy. Their son Neville (1889-1934) was a Director of Reckitt & Co.
- (2) Francis William (1859- Hull, 1932) was an artist⁷
- (3) Mary Gertrude (1861-- London, 1899)
- (4) Arthur Benington (1862-1927), was Director and Joint Chairman of Reckitt and Sons. His son, Maurice Benington Reckitt (1888-1980) was a Catholic and Christian Socialist writer and a leading croquet player and administrator⁸
- (5) Charles Coleby (1864 - Chicago, 1949) was an accountant, and probably a partner of his brother, Ernest (see below)
- (6) Ernest (1866- Evanston Ill., 1955) studied chemistry at the Universities of Manchester and Göttingen before emigrating to Chicago in 1890 and entering the accounting profession the following year with the firm of Barrow, Wade and Guthrie, the US agency of Thomas, Wade and Guthrie of London and Manchester. In 1896, he and his brother Charles were among the first group to be certified as CPAs in the US. He was senior partner of Ernest Reckitt and Co, founding member of the Illinois Society of Certified Public Accountants, and is considered one of the founders of the practice of accounting in the United States.

Mary Ann Benington Reckitt died in 1867 in Hull. In 1871, Francis married Alice Caroline Harris in Hampshire. They had three children, all born in Hull:

- (1) Mary Kathleen (1870-)
- (2) Frank Norman (1872-1940), an architect, who designed the Francis Reckitt Institute, an orphanage created by his father for children of deceased and disabled sailors. He married Beatrice Margaret Hewett in 1902.
- (3) Arnold (1875-1942), a Director and Chairman of Reckitt and Sons.

Alice died in 1875 and Francis married Eliza Louise Whitlock in 1877 in Scarborough, Yorkshire. They had two children, both born in Hessle, Hull:

- (1) Ethel (1879-??)
- (2) Helen Margaret (1880-??) m. James Anstruther

William Henry Benington

William Henry, William Benington's second child and oldest son, joined his father's grocery business with his brother George. William was to manage the Stockton interests while

⁶ http://www.hampsteadheath.net/athlone_house.html

⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/artists/francis-william-reckitt>

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Reckitt

George went to London. He was a partner of his brother George in several tea businesses, further described in the next section. Their father also bought for them the Tees Paper Mills, located in Yarm, a few miles from Stockton, but by the time a fire destroyed the mills in 1860, the business belonged to a Thomas Wren.

William married first Johnina Brougham Crewdson (Derbyshire, 1837– Stockton, 1871) daughter of Thomas Crewdson of Manchester, and his wife Harried Sarah Tweedy⁹. They had, all born in Stockton:

1. Maude (1862– Stockton, 1862)
2. Helen Gertrude (1863– 1942), a teacher and then Lady Superintendant of the York Female Penitentiary, now known as the Castle Museum. She never married and retired to Rimswell Cottage, Bexhill, near Hastings.
3. William Brougham (1864– Nassau, Bahamas, 1896,). He lived with his parents until at least 1881.
4. John Henry (1865– 1904). He appears living with his parents in the 1891 census as a master mariner, and in London in 1896 married Evelyn Annie Boyce, daughter of Frederick George Boyce, farmer of a large estate in Winterbourne Stoke, Wiltshire, and his wife Ann Wilson of Speeton, Yorkshire.
5. Mary Harriet (1866--)
6. Herbert (1868– Pinner, Middlesex, 1927), a wholesale grocer, who probably worked for the Benington firm. He married (1893, West Derby District) Elinore Amelia Sampson, daughter of Thomas Sampson and his wife Jeanette of Liverpool. They had Herbert J (Stockton, 1895) and Johnina (Stockton, 1900). He left an estate of £3,000 [about £130K in 2011]
7. Charles Edward (1871– Pretoria, South Africa, 1914) A gravestone in Pretoria shows him to be “Late Chief Officer, Pretoria Fire Department”. He probably married Georgina Frances Devlin.

William Henry Benington married second Rachel Ward Wilson¹⁰ (Speeton, Yorkshire, 1849– Brighton, 1924), daughter of Robert Wilson and Margaret. They had (all born in Stockton)

- a. Harold (1875 – 1956, Redondo Beach, CA) who trained as an accountant in England, emigrated to Chicago in 1905, was naturalized in 1913, became a partner in the accounting firm Ernest Reckitt and Co. of Chicago (see above) and a President of the Illinois Society of Chartered Public Accountants. He served in the US Army in WW II, as chief of the finance branch of the Dept. of Military Aeronautics, leaving with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He married Lucile Orchard, daughter of Joseph Edward Orchard and Lulu Dixon of Lima, Ohio. They had two sons, Harold (1922-2011) and Orchard (1925-2011).
- b. Margaret Muriel (1878 – 1951, Battle, Sussex) a teacher and nurse in a London hospital who apparently never married and lived with her mother.
- c. Christine Benington (yes, Christine Benington Benington!) (1883 – Bexhill, Sussex 1973), in 1911 principal of a boarding school in Godstone, Surrey.

William Henry died in Stockton in 1891, leaving his widow a personal estate worth £1675

⁹ This Thomas Crewdson was the brother of Margaret, William Henry's stepmother.

¹⁰ This Wilson family does not appear to be closely connected to that of Hannah Wilson, George Benington's first wife.

[£150K in 2011].

George Benington's Tea Business

George Benington attended Bootham School, run by the Quakers in York, which he left after 1851. By 1861, at 25, he and his older brother William had become partners in his

father's wholesale grocery firm. By 1871, he had specialized as a wholesale tea dealer, and moved from Stockton to The Glade, Bush Hill Park, Edmonton, in the northern suburbs of London in the 1870s. The London firm was initially called Benington Brothers and Corner, also trading as Harrison and Co and as the Li-Quor Tea Company, presumably companies they had previously bought. In 1896, a new publicly traded company was formed called The British and Beningtons Tea Trading Association, merging the Benington company with the British Tea and Trading Association. An opinion piece appearing in *The Statist* on December 5, 1896, argues that the shareholders were being asked to pay too much:

"The freehold warehouses, Nos 118 and 188A, Southwark Street, of the British Tea and Trading Assoc Ltd, a little company formed in 1881, have been valued with the plant, machinery and fixtures, "for occupation and as a going concern" at the high price of £21,965; the stock in trade, "at or under cost price" is taken at £13,700; and bad debts, bills and cash at £14,885, making up £50,631. It is now proposed to remove to Southwark Street the plant and machinery of Benington Bros and Corner -- also in the tea trade -- and that a new Company, with the title of British and Benington's Tea Trading Association Ltd, with a nominal capital of £250,000 [about £25M in 2011] shall buy the assets of the two concerns for £140,000. But why pay £140,000 for assets which on the vendor's own showing, do not appear to be worth more than £50,000 or £55,000, irrespective of goodwill? Both concerns, although not in a particularly large way of business, are respectable, but anything like £20,000 or £25,000 would, we are inclined to think, be regarded in the trade as a very high price for their goodwill, which apparently is



British and Benington's Tea Tin, ca 1900

considered as worth £90,000. A purchase price of about one-half of that fixed by the vendors would seem to be much nearer the mark. It is stated that the average annual profits of the two businesses for three years have been £11,816, but this is before deducting partners' salaries and management fees. The proposed issue of capital at present is for £75,000 in Ordinary shares and £75,000 in Five per Cent preference shares, which latter, it will be seen amount to £20,000 or £5,000 more than the value of the whole of the above stated assets."

In 1923, the House of Lords decided on a case involving British and Beningtons that touched on a number of issues in contract law and has become a landmark, cited in opinions throughout the British Commonwealth. In early 1920, contracts worth about £7,500 for the delivery of tea by North West Cachar Tea Co and two other Indian tea companies to British and Beningtons in London could not be fulfilled because of port congestion. The parties agreed orally that delivery to an alternate port would be acceptable in return for a price reduction. But the delivery took much longer than British had expected, so that by the time the tea was available, they refused delivery. All three sellers sued for breach of contract, eventually winning in the House of Lords.

British and Beningtons appears to no longer be in business. I have not been able to find out what happened to it.

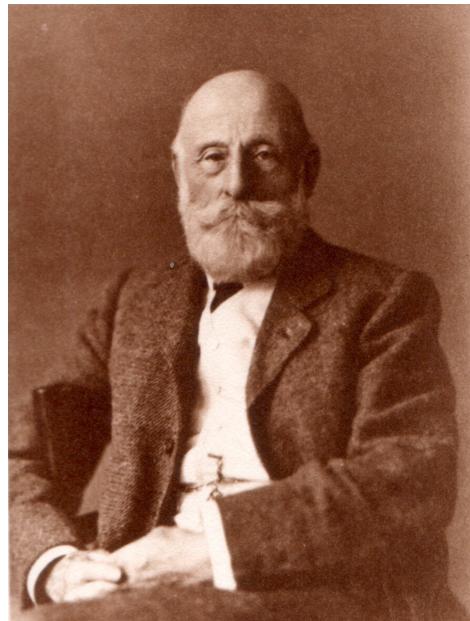
Harold Benington writes of George:

"George Benington, though small in stature, was an impressive looking man. He was extremely voluble and spoke in a rather loud though pleasing voice. While his manner was emphatic he was an interesting, well-informed conversationalist. He had distinctly artistic tendencies which, however, it is said he subordinated to his business activities."

He continues, citing George's grandson, also George, Arthur's son from New York:

"In 1910, when I was sixteen years old, I visited him at his home in Enfield... It was at Enfield after high tea one Sunday evening that my grandfather asked me if I would like to hear the "gramophone", to which I replied in the affirmative, and when asked what I would like to play, I said the "Overture to William Tell". There was a slight pause and he said, "George, I hardly think that is suitable music for Sunday". I do not recall what record he finally chose, but remember I was taken aback because in suggesting the Overture I felt I had been discreetly conservative. The same question propounded in later years would probably have elicited a much more shocking request."

Details about George Benington's two wives and eight children can be found in my *Notes on the Benington, Manasseh, Wilson and Armistead families*. (<http://db.tt/1C1IVe59>)



George Benington

Arthur Benington in Toronto

As there is no evidence of any company in Toronto bearing the Benington name, it is likely that The Li-Quor Tea Company was Arthur Benington's entry into the tea business. The company had been established in Toronto in 1870, probably before it was acquired by the Beningtons, with offices at 446 and 448 Yonge Street. It had branches in Halifax and Winnipeg and employed two travelers to visit Ontario and Quebec. A native of England, George Clarke, came to Canada in 1881 to manage the Toronto office. On November 16, 1883, George and Arthur Benington arrived in New York on their way to Toronto, Arthur being listed as a student and George as a merchant¹¹. George Clarke appears in city directories as manager of Li-Quor until 1887, when the firm, now at 295 Yonge Street, falls under the management of George Mann & Co, also agents for Himalayan Tea Association of India. In 1885 and 1886, Arthur appears in city directories as a clerk.

The following notice appeared in the *New York Times* of December 29, 1887:

"A Toronto Firm Fails. Toronto, Ontario, Dec 28. George Mann of the Li-Quor Tea Company made an assignment today. His liabilities are \$60,000 [at least \$1.4M in 2011] and assets \$40,000. The Central Bank is the principal creditor. The other creditors are tea and book houses in New York and England."

The failure of Li-Quor Tea in Toronto does not appear to have been fatal, or at least not immediately, as it continues to appear in city directories, still at 295 Yonge Street, until 1891, but without a clear association to Mann. Arthur Benington disappears from the directories in 1887, which is consistent with the report in his *New York Times* obit on March 21, 1924 that this is when he started working as a reporter for the *Duluth Tribune*.

Arthur Benington is said in several reports to have been responsible for the failure of the Benington family tea operations in Canada. In his *New York Times* obit, one reads "Mr. Benington first came to this country in 1883 as manager of the Toronto branch of his father's tea business". His son Edward writes "he was sent to Canada to open a branch of his father's tea business, British and Benington. The operation lost \$100,000 in the first two years and he was fired by his father." The evidence available suggests that these views, perhaps encouraged by Arthur himself, may exaggerate his role in the failure. Arthur came to Toronto as a student, at the age when one was an apprentice, not a manager. When he arrived, Li-Quor had been in business in Toronto for over a decade under adult supervision and there is no evidence Arthur actually took over its management.

¹¹ In his application for US naturalization in 1896, Arthur claims this date as his arrival in the United States, which, given the four years he was going to spend in Toronto, seems a somewhat technical interpretation of the facts...



b) *Interior View of the Yonge St. Arcade.*

The Toronto Arcade, location of Li-Quor Tea Co ca. 1884

In 1887, Arthur's occupation in the Toronto directory becomes that of editor, presaging his transition from the unfortunate tea business to what he would devote the rest of his life to – writing. It is not clear, however, what he was editing, or for whom. As evidenced by the notice of Gorge Mann's bankruptcy, Li-Quor had been involved in book publishing, mainly of adventure stories, perhaps sold to enhance the romance of the beverage. All the titles I have been able to find appear to have been published in London, at Li-Quor's offices at 5 George Street, Tower Hill, in 1879:

Richard Walter, David Laing and George Anson, *A voyage round the world in the years 1740-44*, London, 1879 (<http://bit.ly/qnPcLG>)

W H G Kingston, *Adrift in a boat, and Washed ashore*, London, no date available. (<http://bit.ly/o9AUGH>)

Uncle Hardy, *Notable Shipwrecks: Being Tales of Disaster and Heroism at Sea*, London, 1879

Susan Warner, *The Wide, Wide World*, London, 1879 (a reprint of a book published in 1850)

All these books had first been published by other publishers, and there is no evidence of any being published in Toronto during Arthur's stay. Another, less plausible, link to publishing is

George Clarke, the English manager of Li-Quor in Toronto at the time of Arthur's arrival. In 1883, Clarke registered the copyright for a cookbook written by his wife, Anne, published by of The Grip Publishing and Printing Company. Grip was owned by the social reformer J.W. Benegough, and published his eponymous satirical magazine. Clarke appears in Toronto directories until 1887, the year of Arthur's departure from Toronto, some years as a bookseller and stationer. But there is little evidence for any of these alternatives, and Arthur may have been working for an entirely different publisher, perhaps a local newspaper.

In the nearly 125 years between William Benington's birth and his grandson Arthur's death, the Beningtons went from farming to building major businesses in England, and later in the US. Their universe was intensely Quaker. I have not yet found a direct ancestor of Arthur's who was not a Quaker, and only one of his aunts and uncles who married someone whom I know was not a Quaker, although his children were raised in the faith. There were others of his generation who moved to professions outside business, but he does appear to have been among the first to leave the Quaker Church. Harold Benington writes that he converted "shortly after coming to the United States". Roy McCarell, in a profile of Arthur in the *Morning Telegraph*, says it happened in Toronto. Why remains unclear, although it was pretty clearly not because of his wife, Lizzie Davidson, who was born, married and buried a Presbyterian. A mystery for another chapter, perhaps.

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