

Richard TANGYE (1833-1906)

<i>1841 Census Illogan, Cornwall</i>			
Joseph TANGYE	40yrs	Farmer	born in the county
Ann TANGYE	40yrs		born in the county
James TANGYE	15yrs	Smith	born in the county
Joseph TANGYE	14yrs		born in the county
John TANGYE	12yrs		born in the county
Ann TANGYE	10yrs		born in the county
Edward TANGYE	9yrs		born in the county
Richard TANGYE	7yrs		born in the county
George TANGYE	5yrs		born in the county
Alice TANGYE	3yrs		born in the county
<i>1851 Census Sidcot School, Winscombe, Somerset</i>			
John FRANK	Master 41yrs	Schoolmaster	b St George, Gloucestershire
Ann FRANK	Wife 40yrs	Schoolmistress	b Devizes, Wiltshire
Henry LEES	Teacher 23yrs	General Teacher [unmarried]	b Kirklington, Yorkshire
David BROOKS	Teacher 21yrs	General Teacher [unmarried]	b Melksham, Wiltshire
William TALLACK	Apprentice 19yrs	Under training for a General Teacher	b St Anstell, Cornwall
Richard TANGYE	Apprentice 17yrs	Under training for a General Teacher	b Illogan, Cornwall
Maria PUMPHREY	Governess 41yrs	General Teacher in Girls School	b Ampthill, Bedfordshire
...			
<i>1861 Census Lady Wood, Birmingham, Warwickshire</i>			
Richard TANGYE	Head 26yrs	Engine Maker	b Illogan, Cornwall
Caroline TANGYE	Wife 25yrs		b London
Edward Ph. BASTIN	Boarder 18yrs	Apprentice [unmarried]	b Redruth, Cornwall
Mary Ann SMITH	Servt 17yrs		b Tamworth, Staffordshire

The London Gazette 24 Jan 1862

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between us the undersigned, William Brunton, Walter Pike, Susan Daniell, Peter Alfred Renfree, James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Edward Tangye, Richard Tangye and George Tangye in the trade or business of Patent Fuse Makers, at Penhellick Fuse Works, near Truro, Cornwall, and trading under the style or firm of William Brunton and Co., was dissolved by mutual consent, as and from the 7th day of July 1860, so far as regards the said James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Edward Tangye, Richard Tangye, and George Tangye.

The London Gazette 31 Aug 1869

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Edward Tangye, Richard Tangye, George Tangye, and Stephen Holman, in the trade or business of Machinery Agents and Manufacturers, at No.10, Laurence Pountney-lane, in the city of London, trading under the style or firm of Tangye Brothers, and Holman, was dissolved by mutual consent, as and from the 1st day of June instant, so far only as regards the said Edward Tangye. All debts due to and owing by the said firm, will be respectively received and paid by the said James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Richard Tangye, George Tangye, and Stephen Holman, by whom the said business will in future be carried on...

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership subsisting between us the undersigned, James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Edward Tangye, Richard Tangye and George Tangye, in the trade or business of Engineers, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, and at Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, trading under the style or firm of Tangye Brothers, was dissolved by mutual consent, as and from the 1st day of June instant, so far only as regards the said Edward Tangye. All debts due to and owing by the said firm will be respectively received and paid by the said James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Richard Tangye, and George Tangye, by whom the said business will in future be carried on...

1871 Census Gower House, St Mary, Ealing, Middlesex

Richard TANGYE	Head	37yrs	Engineer employing 800 men	b Cornwall
Caroline TANGYE	Wife	35yrs		b Marylebone, Middlesex
Mabel TANGYE	Dau	6yrs	Scholar	b Yardley, Worcestershire
Harold TANGYE	Son	5yrs	Scholar	b Yardley, Worcestershire
Arthur S. TANGYE	Son	3yrs	Scholar	b Ealing, Middlesex
Elsie G. TANGYE	Dau	10 months		b Ealing, Middlesex
Alice C. LEWIN		24yrs	Resident Governess [unmarried]	b Durham
Hannah E. ELLIS	Servt	20yrs	General servant [unmarried]	b Cornwall
Katie PAPPYA	Servt	14yrs	Nursemaid [unmarried]	b Newquay, Cornwall

The London Gazette 31 Jan 1873

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Richard Tangye, George Tangye and Stephen Holman, in the trade or business of Engineers, and Machinery Agents, at 10, Lawrence Pountney-lane, in the city of London, trading under the style or firm of Tangye Brothers and Holman, was dissolved by mutual consent, as on and from the 31st day of December last, so far only as regards the said James Tangye and Joseph Tangye. All debts due to and owing by the said firm, will be respectively received and paid by the said Richard Tangye, George Tangye, and Stephen Holman, by whom the said business will in future be carried on...

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, James Tangye, Joseph Tangye, Richard Tangye, and George Tangye, in the trade or business of Engineers, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, and at Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, trading under the style or firm of Tangye Brothers, and in the trade or business of Engineers and Machinery Agents, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the county of Northumberland, under the style or firm of Tangye Brothers and Rake, was dissolved by mutual consent, as on, and from the 31st day of December last, so far only as regards the said James Tangye and Joseph Tangye. All debts due and owing by the said respective firms will be respectively received and paid by the said Richard Tangye and George Tangye, by whom the said business in future will be carried on...

The Times 7 Sep 1879 Partnerships dissolved

Tangye Brothers and Steel, Newport, Monmouthshire and Swansea, engineers; as far as regards R. and G. Tangye

The Times 7 Jul 1880 Proposed Art Gallery at Birmingham

The Mayor of Birmingham (Alderman Richard Chamberlain) read to the Town Council on Monday a communication from Messrs Richard and George Tangye, the well-known engineers, offering, if the Council will make provision for a permanent art gallery, to contribute a sum of £5,000 for the purchase of specimens of art for exhibition. Should an equal sum be subscribed by other persons, Messrs Tangye offer to give a further sum of £5,000 for the same purpose. On the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Alderman Collings, M.P., a resolution was adopted thanking Messrs Tangye for their generous offer, and expressing the desire of the Council to comply with the conditions and the General Purposes Committee were instructed to confer with the Free Libraries Committee and report on the subject.

1881 Census Gilbertstone, Coventry Road, Solihull, Warwickshire

Richard TANGYE	Head	47yrs	Magistrate & Mechanical Engineer 'Employing 14 hundred persons'	b Illogan, Cornwall
Caroline TANGYE	Wife	45yrs		b Marylebone, Middlesex
Richard T. G. TANGYE	Son	5yrs	Scholar	b Birmingham, Warwickshire
Wilfred N. TANGYE	Son	3yrs		b Bickenhill, Warwickshire
Alice C. LEWIN		34yrs	Private Governess [unmarried]	b Hartlepool, Durham
Emma HUGHES	Servt	26yrs	Domestic servant [unmarried]	b Ladywood, Warwickshire
Mary WEST	Servt	24yrs	Domestic servant [unmarried]	b Birmingham, Warwickshire
Elizabeth MAY	Servt	20yrs	Domestic servant [unmarried]	b Pe..zabuloe, Cornwall

British and Irish Biographies 34.001 (1900) Men of Note (In Finance & Commerce)

TANGYE, Sir Richard, J.P. (Cornwall and Warwickshire); F.R.G.S. Born at Cornwall 24 Nov 1833. Educated at Sidcot school, Somersetshire. Chairman of Tangyes Ltd., engineers of London and Birmingham. Member of the City Liberal and National Liberal Clubs. Business address: Cornwall Works, Birmingham. Residences: Coombe Ridge, Kingstone-on-Thames; Glendorgal, New Quay, Cornwall.

1901 Census Coombe Ridge, Kingston Hill, Coombes, Surrey

Sir Richard TANGYE	Head	67yrs	Mechanical & Electrical Engineer Employer	b Illogan, Cornwall
Lady Caroline TANGYE	Wife	65yrs		b Marylebone, London
Richard T. G. TANGYE	Son	25yrs	Barrister at Law	b Winson Green, Staffordshire
Annie DELAPLAINE	Cousin	31yrs		b United States (American citizen)
Elizabeth MAY	Servt	40yrs	Parlourmaid [single]	b Perranzabuloe, Cornwall
Elizabeth J. SOLOMON	Servt	29yrs	Housemaid [single]	b St Columb Minor, Cornwall
Mary HINE	Servt	21yrs	Housemaid [single]	b Bickenhill, Warwickshire
Eliza McHALE	Servt	53yrs	Cook [single]	b Oldbury, Staffordshire
Arthur W. TOUT	Servt	15yrs	Page [single]	b East Finchley, Middlesex
Matilda PEARCE	Servt	19yrs	Kitchenmaid [single]	b St Columb Minor, Cornwall
Frances FEOTING	Boarder	31yrs	Certificated Hospital Nurse [single]	b India
Frederick N. LOCK	Servt	22yrs	Gardener [single]	b Malden, Surrey
George R. STRIBLEY	Boarder	22yrs	Carpenter [single]	b St Columb Minor, Cornwall

The Times 15 Oct 1906 Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Sir Richard Tangye, which occurred yesterday afternoon at his residence, Coombe-bank, Kingston-hill. He had been ill for some time. Latterly there had been signs of improvement, but he had a relapse on Friday. The career of Sir Richard Tangye forms an interesting chapter in the romance of industry. His father had started life as a Cornish miner, and afterwards became a small shopkeeper and farmer. The grandfather on the mother's side was an agricultural labourer, possessed a few acres of common land, and belonged to a family of which for generations one branch had earned their living as smiths. Richard Tangye himself was born on November 24, 1833, at Broad-lane, in the parish of Illogan, Cornwall, and received his early training at the British school there, with no other immediate prospect before him than that of earning a living through some form of manual labour. But when he was nine years old he broke his right arm in such a way that the doctor predicted he would never be able to use it for hard work; and so the boy had two or three years at a better school in Redruth, and, after that, the father being a Quaker, a year's good training at the Friends' School at Sidcot. His aspirations were for a commercial life, and though, much against his will, he consented to become a schoolmaster, he abandoned that career at the age of 18. At the end of 1852 Richard Tangye took a situation as clerk at £50 a year in a small engineering establishment in Birmingham owned by Mr Thomas Worsdall, whose father had made the first railway "coaches" for the London and North-Western Railway Company. Soon afterwards he induced his younger brother, George, to join him in the same office as junior clerk, and then, after about three years' experience of Birmingham life, he wrote to his brothers James and Joseph that their mechanical and engineering skill would have more scope in Birmingham than in Cornwall, and that they had better come there as well. They took his advice, and James became foreman in the same works as Richard was engaged at, while Joseph started operations with a lathe which he and

James had made at home, and had brought with them to Birmingham. Six months or so later Richard left his employer, and, although having no capital, started as a commission agent in the joint interests of the brotherhood. Then it occurred to him that, instead of simply buying tools, &c., on behalf of Cornish friends, it would be better to start manufacturing them on a small scale, Joseph being an exceptionally expert maker of such things. They accordingly engaged, at a rental of 4s a week, a portion of a manufacturer's packing room, into which a revolving shaft projected, and here Joseph set up his lathe, while Richard partitioned off for himself an "office" 4ft square, by means of sheets of brown paper stretched upon a wooden framing. The experiment answered so well that before long the brothers James and George also left Mr Worsdall, and the four resolved to start together on their own account. They took a larger workshop at a rental of 10s a week, they bought an old engine and boiler so as to have their own motive power, and they were even so bold as to take on a workman, though they were cautious enough to warn him at the outset that they could not guarantee him employment for more than three months. Thus a formal start had been made with Tangye Brothers, and before long they had an "order" which laid the foundation of their future fortunes. The brothers James and Joseph, after thoroughly learning in Cornwall the business of wheelwright and shoeing-smith respectively, had taken engagements with Mr Brunton, who was then engineer to the West Cornwall Railway, under Mr Brunel; and a hydraulic press they had made for covering safety fuse with guttapercha brought them under the notice of that famous engineer himself. In 1856 Mr Brunel was in want of some powerful alliances to help in the launching of the Great Eastern, and, hearing that Joseph Tangye had invented a new hydraulic lifting jack, he sent his agent to the modest workshop in Birmingham, with the result that Tangye Brothers supplied the jacks that set the vessel afloat, and enabled Richard Tangye to say in after years, "We launced the Great Eastern and she launched us." Another stroke of good fortune was their perfecting and taking over from the inventor, Mr J. A. Weston, the manufacture of his differential pulley blocks; though when they subsequently bought the patent rights they found themselves involved in legal proceedings which extended over a year and cost some thousands of pounds. In 1859 the business was removed to new premises, in Clement-street, Birmingham, which were then regarded as large enough to meet all possible requirements for the future, while Richard felt, at last, so far settled that he married, his bride being Miss Caroline Jesper. But within the course of the next few years the business had assumed such dimensions that there had to be a further remove, and this time so much land was wanted that the brothers went to Soho, three miles from Birmingham, to find it. They took over at first three acres of ground for workshops and offices, but more and more extensions became necessary as the business continued to grow, so that at last the little workroom at 4s a week, and the single employee taken on with only three months "certain", expanded into a group of buildings covering 20 acres of ground, and giving employment to about 2,500 persons. The primary causes of this remarkable success are to be found, no doubt, in the indomitable energy and perseverance, the inventive power and mechanical skill, and the shrewdness and business capacity of the brothers themselves. There were five of them altogether, the four already mentioned being afterwards joined by a fifth, Edward, who had emigrated to America; and each had his own position according to his individual talents, until advancing years led to the retirement of one after the other. Tangye Brothers was converted into a limited liability company in 1881. The firm were most generous in the "institutions" they organized in the form of educational classes, benefit funds, &c., in the interests of their workpeople, to whom they gave the "nine hours" unasked, and with whom they remained on the most friendly terms. Elected to the Birmingham Town Council in 1878 and again in 1881, Mr Tangye became deeply interested in the educational work then being carried on by that body in connexion with the Free Library and other institutions; and in 1880 his firm offered the council a sum of £10,000 for the provision of a municipal art gallery - an offer which was duly accepted. In 1881 they followed up this gift with another £10,000 (subsequently increased to £11,000) towards the erection of a school of art for the city. The Art Gallery, when completed, was enriched for a number of years by a valuable collection of Wedgwood ware, lent by Mr Tangye. In 1894 the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him. A Liberal in politics, Sir Richard Tangye was able to recall the fact that he had taken part in every election except one, when he was on his way back from Australia, in which Mr John Bright was returned for Birmingham. He had himself been several times asked to stand as a candidate for Parliament, one or two of these invitations coming to him from Cornish constituencies. But he always declined the honour;

and from the time of the Home Rule split - when, as a pronounced Gladstonian, he found himself out of touch with the prevailing sentiment in Birmingham - he took a less active interest in the politics of the day. In the fiscal controversy he remained a strong free-trader. Sir Richard had paid seven visits to Australasia. To New Zealand he went twice - one in 1886 and again in 1904. In addition to the interest he took in Wedgwood ware, he was an eager collector for a period of over 20 years of rare books, pictures and personal relics of Oliver Cromwell and his times. The considerable collection thus brought together by him included 18 letters written by Cromwell, the Protector's Bible (with autograph) and watch, and various miniatures and rare medals. Sir Richard published "The Two Protectors, Oliver and Richard Cromwell," a book which gave many original facts the indefatigable author had succeeded in getting together. In 1905 he brought out a "new and revised edition" (representing the 20th thousand) of a little work entitled "The Rise of a Great Industry" (previously "One and All"), in which he told the story of his life. Sir Richard Tangye continued to reside in Birmingham until about 1894, when he removed to Kingston-on-Thames. He remained chairman of the company, though allowing the control of working details to pass into younger hands. A man of strong sympathies and most kindly temperament, ever ready to do his best to promote the welfare of those around him, he was regarded with deep and universal esteem by all who were in any way associated with Cornwall Works; and he leaves behind him traditions which should exercise a lasting beneficent influence.

Debretts Peerage-Knightage (1906) p892

TANGYE, Sir Richard, son of Joseph Tangye, Esq., of Illogan, Cornwall, b 1833; ed. at Friends' Sch, Sidcot; is an Engineer, a J.P. for Birmingham and for Warwickshire and Cornwall, a Member of Imperial Institute, a F.R.G.S., and Chm. of Tangyes (Limited), engineers, of Birmingham; author of "One and All, Reminiscences of Travel in America, Australia and Egypt" and "The Two Protectors, Oliver and Richard Cromwell": m 1859, Caroline, da. of Thomas Jesper, Esq. of Birmingham; cr. Knt 1894. Coombe Bank, Kingston Hill, Surrey; Glendorgal, Newquay, Cornwall.

Warwickshire Leaders: Social and Political 1906 Sir Richard Tangye, J.P.

When the history of the industrial revolution of the 19th century comes to be written in detail few branches will receive more attention than the art and science of the most important of all, engineering in its manifold forms. In the development Birmingham will have its due share, and it will be as impossible to write of Birmingham without mention of the great firm of Tangye as to play Hamlet and leave out the Prince of Denmark. Born in the rocky mining parish of Illogan, where Cornwall breaths the Bristol Channel, on 24th November 1833, the subject of our sketch has shown much of the rugged endurance typified by his native soil. Its tin and copper mines, with which he was familiar from boyhood, may have stimulated his engineering powers, but the abiding influence of its romance, its church dedicated to the forgotten Cornish saint Illogan, and its Manor House owned for seven centuries by the Norman family of Basset have left their mark in the devotion to art and to history which Sir Richard and his brothers have consistently exhibited through many years. Educated at Sidcot School, Somersetshire, Mr Tangye came to Birmingham late in 1852, and by his boundless energy, foresight, and knowledge of men, by degrees built up a vast engineering concern with ramifications extending to all parts of the globe, its best known branches being in London, Sydney and Johannesburg. Mr Tangye married in 1859 Caroline, daughter of Thomas Jesper, Esq., a prominent townsman, and it is to the sympathy and help of his wife that he attributes much of his success. Lady Tangye is the most charming of hostesses at their beautiful Cornish home, Glendorgal, New Quay, as well as at their Surrey Mansion, Coombe Bank, Kingston Hill. Both heredity and environment combined with his strenuous personality to produce in Sir Richard



Tangye (to antedate the knighthood with which on the nomination of Lord Rosebery he was honoured in 1894) a robust Liberalism, which has led him to give active support to the party in Birmingham, though the demands of business life have prevented him from seeking entrance to Parliament. Sir Richard is a man of high culture with artistic and literary tastes, and is an author of repute, having published "Reminiscences of Travel in Australia, America and Egypt" and also an able account of the great firm of which he is the founder. His magnum opus, however, has been his book "The Two Protectors", published in 1899, which is the standard work on the careers of the great Protector and his son and successor, Richard Cromwell. This work, which unites the fire of personal enthusiasm with the scientific precision of the historian, was the fruit of a unique collection of MSS., books, coins, medals, and prints relating to the Commonwealth formed by Sir Richard and still accumulating, thus illustrating Milton's lines -

"till old experience do attain
To something of prophetic strain"

Sir Richard Tangye, with his brother Mr George Tangye, founded the Birmingham Art Gallery and Municipal School of Art, which have been of great assistance in developing a higher degree of taste in the minds of the citizens of Birmingham. The School of Art numbers its students by thousands, large numbers of whom have there received a training which has fitted them to fill the important positions in life. Sir Richard and Lady Tangye have five sons and daughters, the eldest, Mr Harold Lincoln Tangye, an engineer, journalist, and author of repute, being married to a daughter of Sir Hugh Gilzean-Reid.

Debretts Peerage-Knightage (1921) p1222

TANGYE, Lady - Caroline, da. of Thomas Jesper, of Birmingham: m 1889 Sir Richard Tangye who d 1906, Chm of Tangyes (Limited). Coombe Bank, Kingston Hill, Surrey; St. Columb Minor, Cornwall. Sons living – Sir Harold Lincoln, Bt. b 1866; Richard Trevithick Gilbertstone, O.B.E. (40 Branham Gardens, S.W.), b 1875; Bar Inner Temple 1899; Major Gen. Staff (Croix de Guerre with Palm); O.B.E. (Mil.) 1919: m 1903 Sophie Elizabeth Frieda, da. of the late James Kidman, of Livingston Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool; Wilfred Noel, b 1877, Lieut in Army, m1 1904 Janet Elizabeth (who obtained a divorce 1914) da of the late Richard White-Rickard of the Bays, Putney, S.W., m2 1914 Marjorie Mildred who d 1917 dau of J. G. Russell or Portland, Aldridge, Staffordshire. Daughters living - Mabel Louise Tangye m 1892 Lieut-Com George Phipps Spooner, R.N.R., of Brook House, Ipswich, grandson of the late Archdeacon Spooner, of Coventry - Elsie Gertrude m 1898 John Moginie Chambers of St. Andrews, Leura, N.S. Wales.