

Grave 4S: WILLIAM FERGUSON

Gravestone: Colour: grey, Robben Island Slate, turbidites in stone.

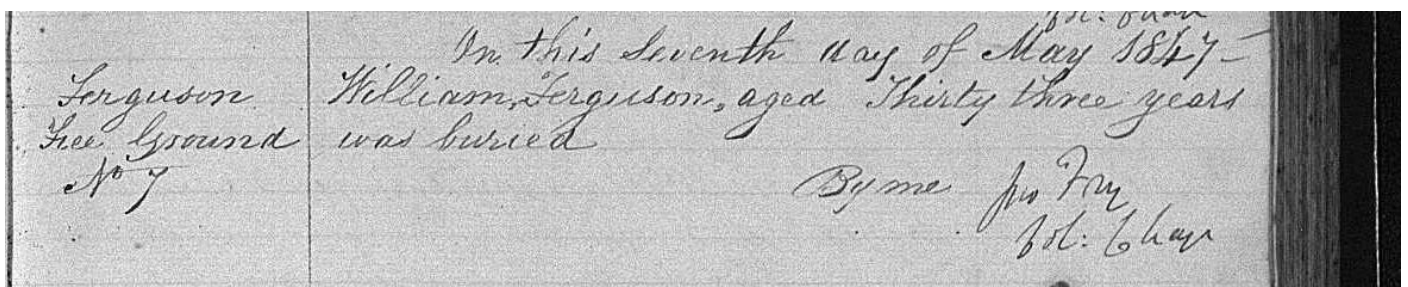
Text: *To the memory of Willim Ferguson who departed this life at Cape Town May 5th 1847 Aged 32 years. Sincerely regretted by all who knew him*



The Grave of William FERGUSON Grave 4S

The number of this grave (4S) implies that it is a free rather than a purchased grave. The letter 'S' is for South, as the free graves were at the Southern end of the graveyard. The year of this burial (1847) is quite early, some ten years after the first burial in 1838.

Usually the graves in the 'Free Grave' section had no stone gravestone but merely wooden crosses. This makes this grave 4S unique. The trouble is in the St Paul's burial Register, William FERGUSON's grave is listed as being No. 7 Free Ground but I suspect the numbering system changed over time depending on which sketch diagram of the Graveyard was being used.



Both on the gravestone and on William FERGUSON it states that he was 'from Cape Town' so why was he buried at St Paul's? And if he was a bachelor with no spouse or children, who paid for the gravestone but could not pay for a

purchased grave? The words on the gravestone are also very touching: *Sincerely regretted by all who knew him*. So who were those who 'knew him' and 'sincerely regretted' his passing?

Death Notice

At present these cannot be downloaded for copyright reasons. In summary

Source: *MOOC 6/9/42 Ref 8957*

Name: *William Ferguson*

Place of Birth: *London*

Parents names: *Samuel Ferguson & Isabella*

Age: *33 years*

Condition of life: *General Dealer*

Married or Unmarried: *Bachelor*

Date of Death: *5 May 1847*

Place of Death: *At the house of Mr John Dyason in Cape Town*

Children: *no children*

Property – Moveable or Immoveable: *Some moveable property*

Signed: W^m J^{as} Anderson

This signature could be a clue to the answers to questions I posed above. The ANDERSON families (note - plural) were involved in shipping and the merchant trade. R. R. Langham-Carter, in two articles in *Familia*, has tried to sort them out. I know that at least one William ANDERSON family had connections with St Paul's and this could explain why William FERGUSON was buried at St Paul's.

A careful reading of the Langham Carter articles brought to light some interesting information but requires some introduction. William James ANDERSON came to the Cape in 1808 with his wife, Janet, and son, also named William ANDERSON. As Langham Carter found no Death Notice at the Cape, he presumed that William James ANDERSON had returned to Scotland where he died but his son, William (1795 – 1849) remained in the Cape Colony. He had married Leah MAYNARD who was from the family that later developed a house at Maynardville, Wynberg. Their son, William James ANDERSON junior was born in 1827, so he would have been 20 years when William FERGUSON died. The question arises, was he or his grandfather the person who signed William FERGUSON's Death Notice? Regardless of who it was, there is what appears to be a connection for William FERGUSON with William ANDERSON because Langham Carter tells us that in 1846 he had founded the firm Anderson & Ferguson. Was this Ferguson, the thirty-three-year-old bachelor, William FERGUSON? Langham Carter tells us that around that time William ANDERSON 'felt seriously ill and it was no doubt for this reason that he took his son William James into partnership and began the firm of William Anderson and Son.' To me, this implies that the man, Ferguson of Anderson & Ferguson was no longer around and thus he could be William who had died in 1847.

But, is there a connection to St Paul's, Rondebosch that made it possible for William FERGUSON to be buried there? William James ANDERSON junior married into another ANDERSON family. He married Maria Deane ANDERSON youngest daughter of William George ANDERSON on 8 Jan 1857, some ten years after William FERGUSON had died

Parents

William FERGUSON's Death Notice gives his parent's names as Samuel and Isabella FERGUSON and that he was born in London. Most of the London Church's Baptism registers are online but I could find no Baptism for a William FERGUSON with a father named Samuel. There quite a few William FERGUSON's with a mother named Isabella.

ANDERSONS AND ANDERSONS

Anderson is a fairly common name and it is not surprising that there have been many of this name in South Africa. There were a number at the Cape in the last century. They were not closely related and it is difficult to distinguish between them, especially as so many of them had the first name of William. Two such families are particularly apt to be confused, both favouring the name William and both prominent in the Cape shipping world at about the same time. It is hoped to sort out these two families in the present and a subsequent article.

I. The William James Andersons

A William Anderson of Auchterarder in Perthshire in Scotland immigrated in 1808 with his wife Janet (née Hutton) and their son William. He soon formed a partnership with members of two leading Dutch families, J. F. Reitz (1761-1824) and P. L. Cloete (1764-1837), in a whaling station at Kalk Bay. They operated the schooner *Isabella* in False Bay and sent the whale oil overseas. Later William set up as a ships' chandler in Simonstown and was one of the earliest merchants there. His death notice is not preserved at the Cape Archives, so it looks as though he later returned to Scotland.

His son William the second, however, spent most of his life in South Africa. He was born in Perthshire in about 1795 and was appointed clerk in the Customs Department in Simonstown on 8th July 1819 on a salary of £75 a year. Next year he became also Searcher and Warehouse Keeper, which raised his annual emolument to £140. He was evidently reckoned a good citizen as he was made ward master of the town's number one ward in December 1824. But he got into serious trouble four years later. Government charged the then Collector of Customs Abraham Levien with incompetence and dishonesty and Levien put all the blame on Anderson. There were accusations and counter-charges and much correspondence for several years but in the end both men were dismissed. William was not discouraged. He started a shop and also worked as an auctioneer and as the agent for the Equitable Fire Assurance Company. By 1846 he had founded the firm of Anderson and Ferguson. He had inherited, or purchased, a good deal of landed property in Scotland, for which he employed a full-time factor. He went over to inspect his lands and returned in the *Abergayle* (a ship for which his firm probably held the agency). By now he felt seriously ill and it was no doubt for this reason that he took his son William James into partnership and began the firm of William Anderson and Son. But this concern did not last long as he died on 5th June 1849 and was buried two days later in Simonstown cemetery where his tombstone can still be seen. Next to it is the grave of a Peter Anderson (1816—1836) who was probably his brother. William had been married by Anglican rites in the Dutch church in Cape Town (which is now the Groote Kerk) on 7th July 1821. His bride was Leah Maynard, born in about 1804 and the daughter of Levi and Sarah Maynard of Cape Town. They had two sons and three daughters all apparently born in Simonstown. Mary the eldest daughter seems to have remained unmarried. Isabella Mortimer [named after her uncle James Mortimer Maynard] was born on 25th September 1824. She married Dr Fleetwood Churchill who died in September 1885. Her sister Augusta (?) Sweedmore Anderson was born in about March 1842 and married Andries Godfried Watermeyer who died in 1887. Isabella had no children and Augusta had only two sons, one of whom died young. Probably after the death of their two husbands the two sisters settled in England and latterly were sharing a house, 4 Euston Place in Leamington, Warwickshire. Isabella died there on 13th August 1911 and Augusta on 11th January 1913. Both left some South African property and their death notices were filed in the Cape Supreme Court by Augusta's surviving son.

William and Leah Anderson had a younger son, Henry Maynard, who was born on 13th August 1830 and was still living when his father died in 1849. The elder son, William James, was born on about 30th December 1826. Not long after his father's death he founded the firm of William James Anderson and Company, with offices in Cape Town and Simonstown. By 1850 he was regarded as a reliable man and was made a field cornet in Simonstown in that year. Seven years later he and four others were the prime movers in establishing a grammar school there. Soon afterwards he was involved in another project. Hitherto repairs to the underwater part of a ship's hull had been difficult. In 1853, therefore, he was one of the founders, and later one of the first directors, of the Simon's Bay Dock and Patent Slipway Company. They imported a slipway from England and the Cape Town firm of De Pass Spence and Co. laid it

down on a group of granite rocks known as Sober Island. It proved of great benefit to ships and was later purchased by the Royal Navy.

Anderson's firm were the agents for a number of ships and shipping lines. The ships included the Confederates' Alabama (Captain Raphael Serrunes) which operated as a privateer against Federal shipping in the American Civil War. The vessel arrived in Cape waters in August 1863 and took on stores, supplied no doubt by Anderson. She returned in September and loaded further stores. She was not sunk until the Federal corvette caught her off Cherbourg on 19th June in the following year.

To be nearer his Cape Town interests Anderson left Simonstown and moved to Sans Souci, a large rural estate in Newlands. He became a member of the first board of directors of the Cape Town branch of the Standard Bank in 1863. Two years later he secured the valuable agency of the Union line which was at that time the leading company in the operation of ships between England and South Africa. The family maintained their connections with the Maynards. Leah Anderson's sister Mary Maynard had married one William Farmer and their son William Mortimer Maynard Farmer (1836-1899) joined the Anderson firm in 1853 and soon became a partner. His uncle James Mortimer Maynard bought a large area in Wynberg and built Maynardville and other houses on it. James Maynard's widowed sister Leah Anderson lived her final years at Mortimer Hall on this property and died there at a great age on 21st August 1898.

William James Anderson retired overseas. He died at 34 Westbourne Terrace in London on 30th October 1897 and was buried in St. Marylebone cemetery. The writer of his obituary in the magazine South Africa 'believed that he has died worth a quarter of a million' (pounds). His South African assets, at any rate, were much less than that. They amounted to £30315. This included £20,000 in Anderson and Co., £4,000 share of profits in the firm and a half share in the Clare estate in Durban worth £5,000. No doubt he also had considerable assets in England and Scotland. His obituary described him as a quiet, unobtrusive man who made a very good friend.

A number of documents relating to his firm's transactions were handed over to the South African Library in 1926. More were given in about 1950 and there are now some fifteen boxes of ledgers, letter books and the like. And the Simon's Town Historical Society possesses numerous further journals and sales books of the company. William James Anderson's wife, Maria Deane Anderson, was the daughter, to our confusion, of yet another William Anderson. The latter was not otherwise related to the William James Andersons. It is hoped to describe him and his family in a later article.

William James had a son who died as an infant. (His daughter Maria who sent in his death notice from 17 Queen Anne Street in London did not know the child's name.) He had four married daughters and one still unmarried in 1897. The married women were Maria Deane Frost, Amy Margaret Churchill Juler, Jessie Mary Marsden (who died by 1897) and Ella Giles, and there was Clara Strutt Anderson. There are no death notices in the Cape Archives for these ladies or their husbands. They probably lived and died in Britain.

R. R. Langharn-Carter

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ANDERSONS AND ANDERSONS. 2

THE WILLIAM GEORGE ANDERSONS

The Scottish family of William James Anderson was described in a previous article. Excepting for one inter-marriage the William George Andersons had no connection with them and were in fact of Irish stock.

The family had migrated from Northumberland in the eighteenth century and heir South African founder William George the elder had been born in Sligo in July 1804, the son of George and Ann Anderson. The Andersons were friendly in Ireland with the Deanes who had shipping interests in Britain and at the Cape of Good Hope William George came out and joined their Cape concern Deane and Johnson who were shipping agents and general dealers in the Heerengracht, Cape Town. Later he took over the firm and, along with Captain James Murison (1816—1885), operated it as Anderson and Murison.

By 1844 he had a home in Grave (now Parliament) Street and he is recorded at St. George's Cathedral as renting seats there from 1846 to 1863. By the latter date he had moved to a house with large grounds in Rondebosch. This he called Erinville, Erin being an old name for Ireland. Rustenberg Girls High School now occupies the site but the Anderson residence is still called to mind by the neighbouring Erin Road. He was church warden of St. Paul's church in Rondebosch for a good many years between 1858 and 1879 and he presented the church with its present font in 1892.

William George the elder died on 16th August 1893 and was buried beside his wife in the graveyard of the chapel of St. Thomas in Camp Ground Road. Although the family all worshipped at St. Paul's their homes were much nearer to St. Thomas and many of them were buried there. Their tombs could be seen there until the cemetery was completely dismantled in 1976. William George's children gave a pulpit to St. Paul's in his memory. He had married in Bristol in about 1832, his bride being Maria, daughter of his employer John Deane. Maria was born on 15th June 1815. She died on 13th March 1862 and her husband erected a still existing stained-glass window in her memory in St. Paul's.

Her descendant Mr Deane Anderson of Wynberg possesses numerous family photographs and one of these shows Maria in a dress which Mr Anderson has presented to the Cultural Museum. Cape Town. William George and Maria had ten children, only two of whom were sons.

Thomas Johnson Anderson

Thomas Johnson Anderson the elder son was born in the family home in Grave Street on 22nd October 1844. He was educated at Diocesan College, Rondebosch and joined the family shipping firm. This greatly developed when it obtained the agency for the Donald Currie (later the Union Castle) Line. Although shipping was his main interest Thomas spent a short time on the diamond fields with Sir Abe Bailey. And letters of 1882 preserved in the Cape Archives show that he was then trading with South Australia, exporting goats and ostriches and importing Australian rams. In the same year he is recorded as obtaining rare birds from Mauritius for his private aviary.

Thomas played a big part in public life. He was a member of the Cape Hospital Board, the Licensing Board, the Harbour Board and he was long a member of the council of his old school. He was a friend of Cecil Rhodes and a member of his political party and he represented Cape Town City in the Legislative Council from 1898 till 1907. On a lighter note, he took part in the inaugural match of the Western Province Cricket Club in 1864.

He was a strong churchman like his father. He was church warden at St. Paul's from 1874 to 1876 and he presented the church with its organ in memory of his first wife. On moving to Kenilworth he worshipped at St. Saviour's, Claremont. He re-seated the whole church at his own expense in about 1888 and shortly afterwards provided most of the funds needed to build the church of St. Matthew in Claremont. He was later a sidesman at Kalk Bay church and he represented the parishes of both Claremont and Kalk Bay at the diocesan synods in Cape Town.

Thomas had several homes. By 1370 he was at Tresailian in Kenilworth and by May 1883 he was the owner of Dalebrook House in Kalk Bay. He finally retired to Quarter-deck in Kalk Bay. There is still a Quarterdeck Road there, on the hillside above Dalebrook, but apparently no longer a house of that name. He died at Quarterdeck on 3th July 1930 and was buried by S. W. Lavis (then Dean of Cape Town and later Bishop) beside his second wife at St. Saviour's.

T. J. Anderson married twice. At St. Paul's on 10th July 1873 he married Amelia Dyer, daughter of the Rev. James Baker who was the chaplain on Robben Island at the time but was later a canon and the rector of Kalli Bay from 1877 to 1896.

Amelia died in childbirth less than a year later on 7th May 1874, aged only twenty-two. Her son William Baker Anderson survived. He followed his father at Diocesan College, became a priest and died in about 1927. Anderson married again on 31st December 1879, this time at St. Saviour's. His second wife was Maria, daughter of Sir John Molteno of Claremont House who would become the Cape's first prime minister. Maria was born on 31st December 1856, so was married on her birthday. She died at Kalk Bay on 17th February 1903. She was buried at St. Saviour's where her husband commissioned a handsome marble sarcophagus from the sculptor Achille Canessa of Genoa.

There were four children by the second marriage. Ernest Deane Anderson and his brother were both at Bishop's. Ernest was born late in 1881. After Cambridge he became a medical officer in the Life Guards and then the Horse Guards, retiring as a lieutenant-colonel. He died unmarried on 30th May 1966. Harold Molteno Anderson was born on 19th December 1882 and became a farmer in the Eastern Province. He died on 13th September 1965. Evangeline married Elliott Stanford who had a Farm at Kokstad. And Cynthia became Mrs Payne.

William The Younger

William George Anderson the second was born in Rondebosch in 1846. He joined the rival shipping firm of William James Anderson (whose doings were related in my earlier article) and served on the Cape Town Harbour Board from 1889 to 1895. He was also a director of the Cape of Good Hope Bank. When this failed in 1890, he and his fellow directors sacrificed their personal fortunes to repay the depositors in full. He had been its leading breeder of race horses but presumably had to curtail this activity when the bank failed. He died at his home Bagenholt in Belmont Road, Rondebosch on 20th August 1906. As St. Thomas graveyard had been closed by now he was buried at Maitland where his tomb and those of several of his relatives can be seen. His wife Violet Tilney Cardno had been born in 1882 and died in 1962. His death notice listed no children except 'one son, minor, not yet christened.'

William The Elders Daughters

William George Anderson the first had eight daughters. Mary Ann who was born in 1833 never married. She died in Rondebosch in 1910. Ellen Louisa married at St. Paul's on 21st September 1885. Her husband the Rev. George Ogilvie, after being headmaster of Bishop's for many years, had just become rector of St. Paul's. Ogilvie died at The Grange, Rondebosch in 1915. His widow retired to Kalk Bay where she died on 13th January 1925. Her sister Sarah Rebecca married Charles Atken Fairbridge, lawyer, politician and bibliophile, at St. Paul's on 25th February 1853. When he died in 1893 he was buried close to his father-in-law the elder W. G. Anderson in St. Thomas graveyard. His widow died on 6th March 1912 and was buried at Maitland.

Emma the next sister was born in 1843 and died unwed on 28th July 1890. After the two brothers came Jane who married Adam Bell of Pretoria. Then there was Elizabeth who married Alfred Lagden Blackburn of Rondebosch at St. Paul's on 22nd August 1872. Blackburn was a shipping man who seems to have been involved in the firms both of W. G. Anderson and also of the W. J. Anderson of my previous article.

Catherine Gilbertson Anderson the seventh daughter was born in Rondebosch on 23rd February 1851. She married at St. Paul's on the same day as her sister Elizabeth 22nd August 1872, her husband being the widower John Charles Rutledge Boyes of the Cape Civil Service. And finally there was Maria Deane Anderson who married William James Anderson (1824- 1897) of the family described in my former article.

R. R. Langham-Carter