

To: "johnsbank@me.com" <johnsbank@me.com>

Subject: Gerardin and Watson

Dear John

We wanted to thank you for your articles on Gerardin and Watson which have helped our family history research. We thought that you would like a little more information to complete the story - or at least move it on a little!

You note that when Thomas Watson 2 died his will was witnessed by his sons Thomas Gerardin and Jesse who were both living in Manchester. Thomas and Jesse's sister, Emma Jane married Sir William Mather in 1863 (at the Swedenborgian Chapel in Argyle Square, London). Sir William was the owner of the Salford Iron Works and, as the census records show, Thomas Gerardin Watson was working for his brother in law and this explains the move to Manchester. It is likely, therefore, that Jesse was also in his brother in law's employ when he was in Manchester. Jesse subsequently moved to Scotland where he had an engineering business.

Thomas 2 's brother Henry, the last family pewterer in Poland Street, was still shown in the 1891 census at Poland Street as a Pewter and employer. So the family connection with Poland street spanned most of the 19th century. Henry had two daughters, Janie and Rosalie Maria. Rosalie (1854-1932) was a successful miniature portrait painter who married the artist Alfred Emslie. Some of Rosalie Maria Emslie's work is held in the V&A collection.

Rosalie's daughter, also Rosalie Emslie, was an artist.

Interestingly, there has been a strong artistic tradition in the family. As well as the two Rosalie Emslies, Albert Thomas Watson Penn (1849-1924), Thomas Watson 1's grandson, was a photographer in India and his ethnographic photographs are in the national collection. Two of Thomas1's great grandsons were also artists. Walter Edward Penn (1882-1959) was a Bosham based artist and William Charles Penn (1877-1968) was a renowned portrait painter and teacher with many works in national collections. Norman Alexander Clark (1913-1992), Thomas Watson 1's great, great grandson was also a painter and teacher based in Sussex. Some of his work can also be found in national collections.

I hope you find this interesting

With kind regards
Mike and Jackie Sharp