

THE BAILEY AND GIBSON FAMILIES

The families were first connected through business

THE BUSINESS MEN

William Bailey 1837 – 1911 Stephen Bailey has done a detailed biography of his great great grandfather

William George Bailey – his son 1869 -1925

Adam Henry Gibson – his son in law 1867 - 1943

THE BUSINESSES

WB set up a rope and twine manufacturing business in 1862 and in 1868 expanded it to include marquee manufacture. It was located in various places around Dublin, ending up in 1891 at Rehoboth Works, Rehoboth Place, Dolphins Barn - always known in the family as “The Barn”

The house he bought was No 6 – a small terraced house with a tiny back yard. Thoms listed it in 1890 as a “Protestant Reformatory School. Jim Donnell manager”. For several years earlier Thoms had listed it as Protestant Reformatory Schools Rev JH Monahan & Rev TRS Collins Hon Secs Thomas Hanna manager. At one stage Hanna had also owned No 3

The house is much too small for a school. It probably was the manager’s house with the school in the yards opposite. These yard became the factory site

In due course WB took his son into the business and also his son in law Adam Henry Gibson. It is not known when this happened - was AHG taken in as a single man, met WB’s daughter Minnie and later married her in 1890 or if he met and married Minnie and was then given a job in the family business. AHG had been working in Guinesses but left because of strong religious objections to the sale of alcohol.

Some time later WGB set up his own building company – Bailey Builders, later Bailey and Sons (see note 1). In 1908 WGB was granted a patent for “the moulding of concrete building blocks” so it can be assumed that the company was well established by then

AHG also set up a separate company to operate as paper merchants. In 1910 it was incorporated as a Private Company under the name Bailey Son and Gibson Ltd with AHG as Chairman and Managing Director. It is not known if there was any active Bailey involvement in the business. It was situated at the same location in Dolphins Barn.

It is not known when rope manufacturing stopped but the marquee business continued. It is assumed that WGB and AHG continued to run it jointly as well as their own separate enterprises following WBs death in 1911 – and maybe even earlier because WB was a semi alcoholic. Were they equal partners? What was the financial split? After WGBs death in 1925 the marquee business went to his eldest son Victor and the building business to his other two sons Bill and Norrie. Did AHG have any say as to who inherited the marquee business of which he had been a partner or had he given up his interest to concentrate on his own business? In the 1911 census AHG gave his occupation as “tent maker”

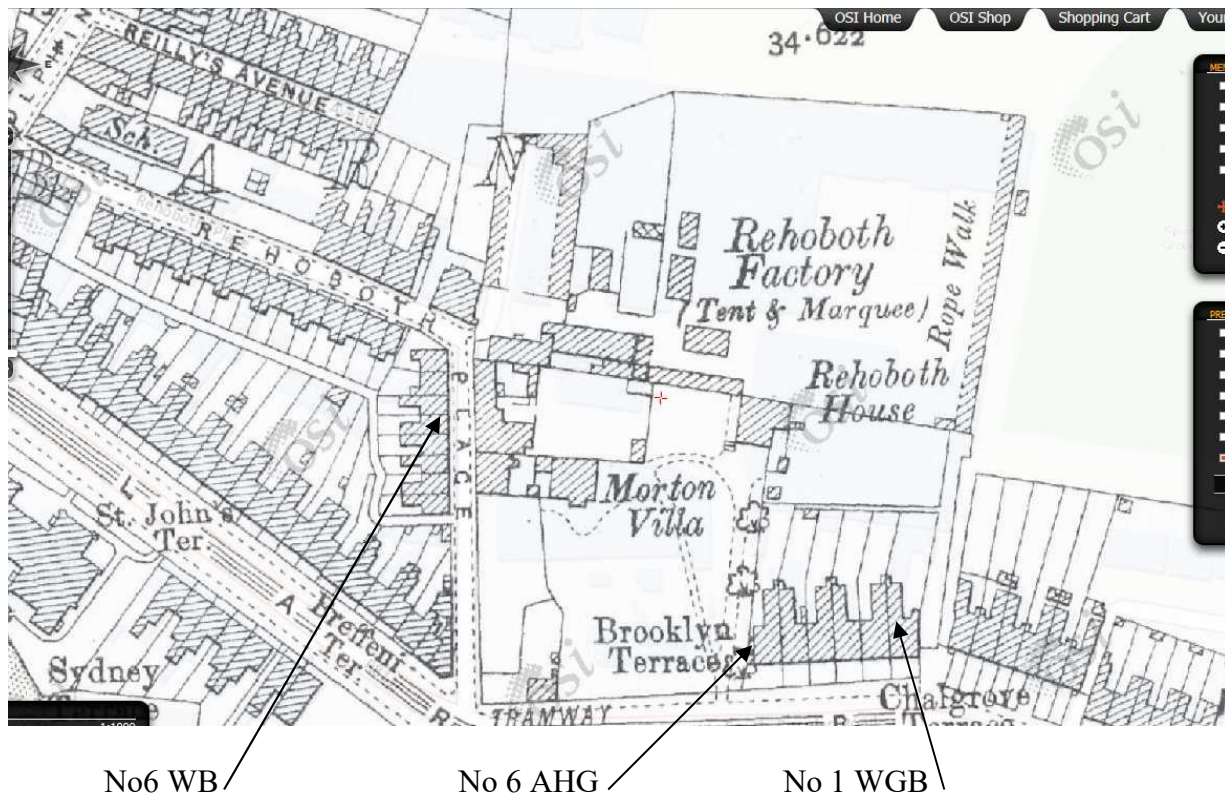
WGB & AHG were deeply involved in the shipbuilding business in the late 1910s and early 20s. They were directors of the Dublin Shipbuilders Co Ltd - see separate notes.

THE FAMILIES

WGB and AHG and their families were obviously very close. AHG married Mary Jane (Minnie) Bailey in c1890 and WGB married Florence (Florrie) Wood in 1894. Minnie Gibson and Florrie Bailey were more like twin sisters than sisters in law. Where they lived when they were first married is not known but in 1899 a row of 6 new houses called Brooklyn Terrace appears in Thoms for the first time. It is located between the Rehoboth factory and the South Circular Road (see map below). The first listed residents are WGB in No. 1 and AHG in No. 6.

WHB is listed as living there until 1903 and AHG until 1906.

So both families were living virtually next door to each other and within less than a 100 yds of their father (in-law)s house and the factory entrance.



OS 25" map - surveyed 1907



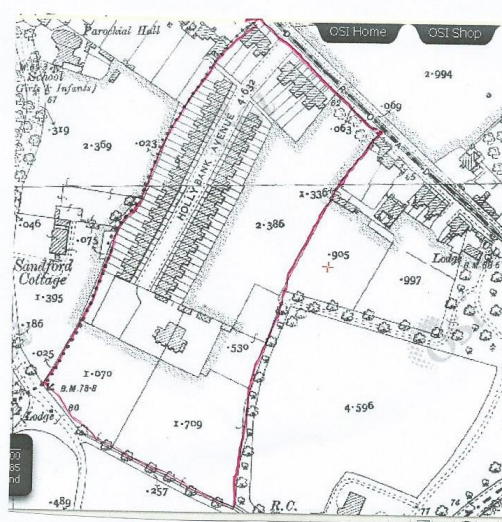
No 6 Rehoboth Place

In the early 1900s Bailey Builders were developing a site in Ranelagh, firstly on Hollybank Ave and later a parallel road called Cherryfield Ave. Hollybank is first mentioned in Thoms in 1907 with 6 houses occupied. In 1908 Nos 1 to 33 are listed as occupied and 34 to 62 listed as “building”. Also listed in that year it records AHG in Hollybank and WGB in Cherryfield.

The Ordnance Survey 25” map (see below) is dated 1908 and shows the houses on Hollybank Ave and a pair of semi detached houses at the top of the avenue These were Hollybank and Cherryfield. On the map both are accessed from Hollybank Ave but later, when Cherryfield Ave was built, a separate entrance was provided. They had a sizeable area of land behind them. My mother said that they always had a cow for fresh milk and were self sufficient in vegetables.



Enlarged from 6” OS map (surveyed 1837)



Reduced from 25” OS map (surveyed 1908)

Map of Hollybank and Cherryfield Development

In c1915 the Baileys moved from Cherryfield to Rathfarnham to be nearer to where they were building. However Florence did not like the house (“behind a high black wall” according to my mother – see Note 2) and felt isolated out in the country and cut off from her Gibson relations. As the sale of Cherryfield had fallen through they moved back to Ranelagh.

When the Gibsons decided to move from Hollybank they built a house on Temple Road which they called Rockford. This is one of a semi detached pair and was double fronted. The other was called Greenwood and is single fronted and was built as a smaller house for Florence, who was widowed at this stage. The sisters in law were still together.

They are first listed there in Thoms in 1928 but in 1936 any reference to Bailey has been dropped. She had moved to 118 Rathfarnham Rd to be beside her son Victor in 116 in a pair of semi detached houses, newly built by the Bailey company. When she died in 1950 Victor extended her house and moved into it.

After the death of AHG (1943) and his wife (1941) Rockford continued to be used by their son Sydney and AHG's sister Ethel. When Sydney married Emily in 1949 Ethel moved to a guest house at the bottom of Booterstown Ave.

Sydney died suddenly in 1973. Emily continued to live in Rockford with her children Ruth and Ann until ????

Notes

1. Stephen Bailey wrote a biography of his great, great grandfather William Bailey. In a footnote to this he refers to the building company as Bailey Builders. When my parents returned from Africa in 1934 they bought a house – No 37 St Kevins Pk. They had some alterations carried out by the Baileys (my mothers first cousins) and I still have the invoices for the work They were issued by Bailey and Sons Builders and Contractors with an address at Bushypark Road, Rathgar.
2. Based on SBs notes. He gives as his source a conversation he had with my mother. The “high black wall” might be a mishearing for “high blank wall”. This is more likely. It would have been the original boundary wall to the demesne. A portion of this remains –see photo. In the photo the original wall is pebble dashed. Part of this was taken down when the Crannagh Castle development was being built on the site of WGB’s house and later rebuilt in granite.

