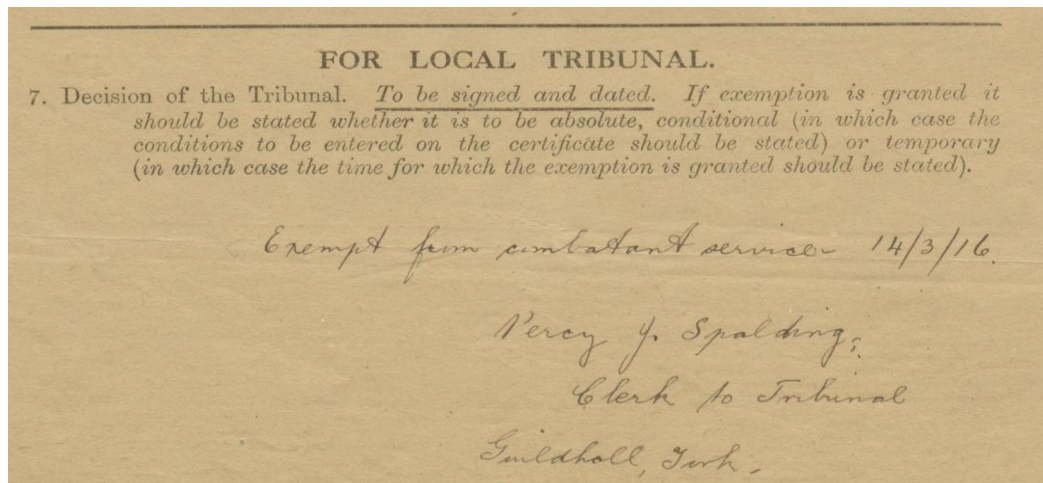


Percy J Spalding (1878-1934)

Ros Batchelor, December 2016

Percy J Spalding served as Town Clerk of the City of York from 1913-1934.

His signature appears as Clerk to the Tribunal on many documents relating to applications for exemption under the Military Service Act 1916, which have lain unopened until recently at North Yorkshire County Record Office.



The following paper provides information about the life of Percy J Spalding, much of it gleaned from records viewed on "Find My Past", including in the British Newspaper Library.

Percy John Spalding was born on 11 March 1878 Cambridge (*from school record*). He was baptised, at All Saints, Cambridge, on 7 April 1878. His father was described as a bookseller and the family were living at Sidney Street.

His parents were William Potter Spalding and Martha Goodliffe, who were married on 24 September 1873 at the church of All Saints at Cambridge. Their fathers were William Spalding and John Goodliffe.

William Potter Spalding was born in Ipswich in 1847, the son of William Spalding, a printer compositor, and Betsey Potter. In 1871, W P S was an assistant to stationer, George Preston, living in the Preston household at 30 St Andrew Street, Cambridge.

Martha Goodliffe was born in Cambridge in 1845, the daughter of John Goodliffe and Charlotte Beecher. In 1851, both were butchers. Her father died in 1857, aged only 40.. In 1871, Martha was living at 26 Sidney Street, with her widowed mother, still described as a butcher.

In the 1881 Census, the Spalding family are recorded as living at 43 Sidney Street, presumably over the business premises. Father, William Potter Spalding was described as "Stationer, publisher and bookseller, Master employing 3 men and 2 boys". William's brother Alfred was an assistant stationer and there was also an apprentice and two servants resident in the household.

Percy John had older siblings, Alice Mary born in 1874 and Alexander Augustine born in 1876 and younger siblings, Edmund William born in 1881 and Agnes Hilda born 1883.

From 1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census

43, Sidney Street, Cambridge All Saints, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

| First name(s) | Last name | Relationship | Marital status | Gender | Age | Birth year | Occupation | Birth place |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|--------|-----|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| William P | Spalding | Head | Married | Male | 33 | 1847 | Stationer, publisher & bookseller* | Ipswich, Suffolk |
| Martha | Spalding | Wife | Married | Female | 37 | 1845 | - | Cambridge, Cambridgeshire |
| Alice M | Spalding | Daughter | Single | Female | 6 | 1874 | Scholar | Cambridge, Cambridgeshire |
| Alexander A | Spalding | Son | Single | Male | 5 | 1876 | - | Cambridge, Cambridgeshire |
| Percy J | Spalding | Son | Single | Male | 3 | 1878 | - | Cambridge, Cambridgeshire |
| Alfred | Spalding | Brother | Single | Male | 23 | 1858 | Stationer's Assistant | Ipswich, Suffolk |
| Fred | Cooper | Lodger | Single | Male | 17 | 1864 | Stationer & Bookseller (Apprentice) | Huntingdon, Huntingdonshire |
| Mary J | Cannon | Servant | Single | Female | 19 | 1862 | General Serv. | Huntingdonshire |
| Susan | Chapman | Servant | Single | Female | 17 | 1864 | General Serv. | Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire |

(Father William P Spalding is Master Stationer, publisher & Bookseller employing 3 men and 2 boys.)

Percy John was described as being privately educated by a Miss Hutt. In January 1888, aged 10, he obtained a Perse Scholarship and left the school in October the same year. (*from school record*).

1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census

43, Sidney Street, All Saints, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

| First name(s) | Last name | Relationship | Marital status | Gender | Age | Birth year | Occupation | Birth place |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|--------|-----|------------|------------|------------------|
| William Potter | Spalding | Head | Married | Male | 43 | 1847 | Stationer | Ipswich, Suffolk |
| Martha | Spalding | Wife | Married | Female | 46 | 1845 | - | Cambridgeshire |
| Alice M | Spalding | Daughter | Single | Female | 16 | 1874 | - | Cambridgeshire |
| Percy J | Spalding | Son | - | Male | 13 | 1878 | - | Cambridgeshire |
| Edmund W | Spalding | Son | - | Male | 9 | 1881 | - | Cambridgeshire |
| Agnes H | Spalding | Daughter | - | Female | 7 | 1883 | - | Cambridgeshire |

In the 1901 and 1911 Census, Percy John Spalding was not listed at 43 Sidney Street, but his family were still living there.

By 1913, aged 35, he had become Town Clerk of York, having gained a B A and L L M. He did not marry

William Potter Spalding died in 1916 and Martha Spalding in 1920 and both are buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge. *See page 4*

| | |
|--|--|
| First name(s) William Potter | First name(s) Martha |
| Last name Spalding | Last name Spalding |
| Birth year 1847 | Birth year 1845 |
| Death year 1916 | Death year 1920 |
| Age 68 | Age 75 |
| Burial year 1916 | Burial year 1920 |
| Burial date 23 Mar 1916 | Burial date 24 Apr 1920 |
| Residence of 43 Sidney Street | Residence of 43 Sidney Street |
| Parish Cambridge, All Saints | Parish Cambridge, All Saints |
| Record set Cambridgeshire Burials | Record set Cambridgeshire Burials |

DEATH AT YORK MEETING.

Town Clerk's Collapse.


From Our Own Correspondent.
YORK, Tuesday.

THE death occurred suddenly to-night of Mr. Percy John Spalding, Town Clerk of York.

Mr. Spalding had attended the Presbyterian Church Guild to give a lecture on the work of the Town Clerk, in connection with a series, when he was taken suddenly ill and died before a doctor could be fetched. The meeting was abandoned.

Mr. Spalding, who was also Clerk of the Peace, Registrar of the Court of Record, Secretary to the G. N. & O. Navigation, Clerk to the Mental Hospital, and Joint Clerk to the East Riding and York Joint Committee Sanatorium, was 56 years of age and a bachelor.

He belonged to a family which has distinguished itself in local life in Cambridge, and his brother is Mayor of Cambridge this year.



Percy John Spalding died in York in 1934 age 56 (Registered York Q1 9d 72)

An article in the Leeds Mercury on 24 January 1934 (*British Newspaper Library*) described his sudden death when about to address a meeting at the Presbyterian Church in York about the work of the Town Clerk.

BRILLIANT CAREER.

Mr. Spalding, who was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, of which he was a foundation scholar and prizeman, took a first class in the Historical Tripos in 1869, and was Senior Whewell Scholar in international law at the University.

In 1901 he was appointed to the Town Clerk of Cambridge, and, in 1904, he passed his Law Society Final Examination with honours.

He was Assistant Solicitor of Plymouth from 1908, and left there to become Deputy Town Clerk of Norwich, from which city he came to York in 1913. He gained a high reputation by his expert legal knowledge and grasp of all matters affecting municipal law. He represented York on the Association of Municipal Corporations, and was a member of the council of that body, where his advice was much esteemed.

ATTENDED MINISTER REQUIEM.

He was an archaeologist of standing and a member of the Council of the York Archaeological Society.

Mr. Spalding was a strong high Church man, a member of the "Friends of York Minster," and a regular attender of all the services of the Minster.

To-day he was engaged in the usual duties of his office, and was present at the Requiem service to Lord Halifax, at the Minster, this morning.

The article provides interesting biographical details. As well as being Town Clerk, he served as Clerk of the Peace, Registrar of the Court of Record, Secretary to the Ouse Navigation, Clerk to the Mental Hospital, Joint Clerk of East Riding and York Joint Sanatorium Committee.

Educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, he was a foundation scholar and prizeman with First Class in the History Tripos in 1899. He was also a Senior Whewell scholar in International Law. In 1901, he was articled to the Town Clerk of Cambridge and in 1904 he passed the Law Society Final Examination with honours. He was Assistant solicitor at Plymouth from 1908, then became deputy Town Clerk of Norwich, before moving to York in 1913. He represented York on the Association of Municipal Corporations and was a member of its Council.

He was also a keen archaeologist and member of the Council of the York Archaeological Society. He was a strong high Churchman and a member of the Friends of York Minster, where he regularly attended services.

The Yorkshire Evening Post described him as “a man of great personal charm, extreme courtesy and pleasant temperament”. Photographs of him in the York library archives show that he wore his professional wig even when attending outdoor events, such as the ceremony relating to the removal of tolls from a local bridge on 1 April 1914.



Skeldergate Bridge: removal of tolls
April 1914



Visit of Duke of York 1924

Great Yorkshire Show held at the Knavesmire
in York 23-25 July 1924.

Percy J Spalding was buried in the same grave as his parents at Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge. His body was returned to Cambridge for burial, because he was unmarried and one of his brothers and his two sisters were still living in Cambridge. The newspaper article refers to his brother being Mayor of Cambridge in 1934.

Cambridgeshire Burials Transcription

First name(s) Percy John
Last name Spalding
Birth year 1879
Death year 1934
Age 56
Burial year 1934
Burial date 27 Jan 1934
Residence *of Presbyterian Church, Priory Street , York – explained above*
Parish Cambridge, All Saints
Record set Cambridgeshire Burials

Grave 205 - Gravestone inscription with corrections:

In Loving Memory of WILLIAM [POTTER] SPALDING died xx March 1916, also MARTHA d April 21 1920 age 75 also of PERCY JOHN their son Town Clerk of York died Jan 23 1934 age 55.

Sisters Alice Mary and Agnes Hilda Spalding are buried in grave 196 nearby.



Picture by Mary Naylor, Friends of Mill Lane Cemetery, December 2016

An education fund was established in his memory. The fund and his service to York are recorded on a plaque in York Guildhall which was unveiled by the Lord Mayor on 8 November 1934. (*Yorkshire Evening Post* 7 November 1934)



Picture taken by Ros Batchelor 14 November 2016

The education fund was closed in 2000

CHARITY COMMISSION LIST OF CHARITIES – REMOVED CHARITY
529732 P J SPALDING MEMORIAL FUND

Registered 26 June 1964 Removed 31 August 2000 - DOES NOT OPERATE

Charitable objects: AWARD OF AN ANNUAL PRIZE FOR THE HEAD BOY AND GIRL AT THE NUNTHORPE, ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE, QUEEN ANNE AND MILL MOUNT SCHOOLS OR OTHER SIMILAR OBJECT.

Parents & siblings of Percy J Spalding



William Potter Spalding, Mayor of Cambridge 1908-10

www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Cambridge_Mayors_1835-onwards.pdf

Born in 1847 in Ipswich to William & Betsy (nee Potter) Spalding, William Potter Spalding was baptized on 14 November 1847 at Ipswich St Peters. At this time, his father was recorded as an innkeeper but in 1851 was listed as printer & compositor and by 1861 was a bookseller and printer in Ipswich.

He married Martha Goodliffe in 1873 – described on page 1. They had 5 children:

Alice Mary Spalding (1874-1953) was born on 21 June 1874 and baptised on 24 Aug 1874 at Cambridge All Saints. In 1939, she was living at 43 Sidney Street, the family home, over the shop, with her sister, Agnes Hilda. Neither ever married. Alice Mary died on 22 March 1953 aged 78.

Agnes Hilda (1883-1982), the youngest child, was born 26 October 1883 and baptised on 18 Nov 1883 at All Saints. She died on 18 April 1982, aged 98. Alice and Agnes are buried in the same grave at Mill Road Cemetery in Cambridge.

Alexander Augustine Spalding (1876-1964) was baptised on 16 April 1876 Cambridge All Saints. He married Grace Barbara Long Innes of St Cuthberts, Philbeach Gardens, London in January 1912 registered in Kensington. Banns were also read at All Saints, Cambridge. Alexander followed his father into business as a printer and stationer. He died in 1964 registered at Cambridge.

In the London Gazette of 2 August 1927, Alexander Augustine Spalding was appointed a Land Tax Commissioner. Like his father, he was also Mayor of Cambridge, in 1933-34 and again in 1938-39. He was instrumental in co-founding (with Sir Arthur Marshall and Wing Commander Lockyer of the Cambridge University Air Squadron) No. 104 (City of Cambridge) Squadron Air Training Corps.

Children –births all registered as Chesterton, Cambridge:

- Mary V Spalding 1913
- Reginald A Spalding 1915 *May have been living in Sussex in 2002.*
- Bridget A Spalding 1917
- Norah P Spalding 1921

In 1939, sisters Alice and Agnes were still living at 43 Sidney Street. Alexander & Grace were living at 237 Chesterton Road. (*can be viewed on Google Streetview*):

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Alexander | Spalding | 11 Mar 1876 | Male | Stationer & Publisher (Master) | Married |
| Grace B L | Spalding | 16 Nov 1879 | Female | Unpaid Domestic Duties | Married |
| Bridget A | Spalding | 22 Mar 1917 | Female | Hospital Almoners Clerk | Single |
| Norah P | Spalding | 28 Apr 1921 | Female | Unpaid Domestic Duties | Single |
| Unreleased entry | | | | | |
| Margaret | Boreham (Hancock) | 22 Oct 1929 | Female | At School | Single |

Percy John Spalding (1878-1934) – See above

Edmund William Spalding (1881- 1963) Baptised 3 July 1881 Cambridge All Saints

In 1901, he was a Mechanical Engineer’s apprentice, lodging with a family in Lincoln. He married Laura Wallis in 1907 in Leeds. They had two sons

Edmund travelled frequently by ship as, in connection with his work as an engineer, including to Australia about 1914 and to Canada and Argentina in the 1920s and 30s,.

In 1939, and earlier, the family were living at 126 Yarborough Road, Lincoln.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|--|--|--|
| Edmund W | Spalding | 12 Jul 1881 | Chartered Mechanical Engineer, Sales Manager Mechanical Engineering | | |
| Laura | Spalding | 25 Mar 1882 | Incapacitated | | |
| John Victor | Spalding | 26 Mar 1911 | Chartered Civil Engineer Travelling Assistant Drainage Engineer to Ministry Agriculture & Fisheries | | |
| Edmund | Spalding | 13 Mar 1920 | University Engineering Student | | |
| Maud L | Leary | 27 May 1905 | Domestic Worker | | |

Edmund Spalding died in 1963 in Lincoln aged 81 and Laura Spalding died, also in Lincoln, in 1969 aged 86. John Victor Spalding died in Devizes in Wiltshire in 1987.