

**A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF PHILIP BROOKES MASON, MRCS FRMS LRCP FLS (1842-1903)**  
**Researched by Kate Savage, Burton Civic Society 2014**

Philip Brookes Mason was a notable Burton resident who became a distinguished surgeon, Fellow of the Zoological Society and Fellow of the Linnean Society. He lived and worked at 181 Horninglow Street and was also President of the Burton upon Trent Natural History and Archaeological Society.

His qualifications, which are many, can be listed as MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons), FRMS (Fellow of the Royal Medical Society), FZS (Fellow of the Zoological Society), MRCP (Member of the Royal College of Physicians), FLS (Fellow of the Linnean Society) .

He was the eldest son of William Mason (1803-1867) and Sarah Brookes (1807-1904). William is listed as being a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London in 1825 & a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England in 1826

When William and Sarah first came to Burton they lived at Trent House, 8 Bridge Street where William, Philip's father, (who originated from St Martins, London), practised as a Surgeon. They had no children for approximately ten years of marriage before suddenly producing three children in three years and although I have researched this further I have been unable to discover any reason for this.

Philip was the first born and had two siblings, Louisa Anne who was born in 1844 (d.1886) and William Arthur born in 1845. When Philip was born, his parents were both in their mid to late thirties, and they moved from to much larger premises at 181 Horninglow Street (see picture below) and hired servants to help, not only around the house but also with the now very lucrative and successful surgical practice that William had built up.

The servants have been identified as Hannah Foster (b. 1830) from Repton, Martha Matthews (b. 1817) from Yoxall, and an 'Errand Boy' who by coincidence was named Mason, called Joseph.



181 Horninglow Street taken by Pat Murphy, past Chairman Burton Civic Society.

In the 1850s, next door to 181 Horninglow Street at number 180, was a boarding Academy for girls. This was run at that time by Governess Mary Jane Leedham and there were approximately 23 girls boarding there between the ages of 11 and 17.



Friars Walk by Kevin Gallagher 1830 1

Both Philip and William Arthur attended Burton Grammar School in Friars Walk (see picture above). After this, in order to follow in his father's footsteps, Philip was sent to University College, London and studied to become a medical practitioner. It would appear that he was only 13 when he first registered with the General Medical Council in 1855 (August 5<sup>th</sup>) and, when he was only 22 in 1864, became an MRCS and a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

The expense involved with educating both Philip and William Arthur took its toll on the worth of the family so once Philip had qualified as a surgeon he returned to Burton, and shared the medical practice in Horninglow Street with his father.

Only 3 years after Philip's return, his father died (28<sup>th</sup> January 1867). Philip was still only 25 years old but he continued with the medical practice and took on an apprentice. He remained living and working from their home in Horninglow Street with his mother Sarah. Although his father had been a surgeon, in those days the earnings were still relatively small. Upon everything was left to his wife Sarah but the value was sadly depleted by the families outgoings, the cost of keeping 2 servants and an apprentice as well as an errand boy on top of the continuing cost of William Arthur's education as we can see from the copy of the court document (picture below).

<b>MASON William.</b>	<b>18 March.</b>	<b>The Will</b>
<b>Effects under £2,000.</b>		<b>of William Mason late of Burton-upon-Trent in the County of Stafford Surgeon deceased who died 28 January 1867 at Burton-upon-Trent aforesaid was proved at Lichfield by the oath of Sarah Mason of Burton-upon-Trent aforesaid Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.</b>

by courtesy of:  
England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

In September 1869 Philip's sister, Louisa Anne (now living in London), married a John Peter Griess on 22<sup>nd</sup> in St Pancras – see marriage certificate below.

1869. Marriage solemnized at *St Pancras Church* in the *Parish of St Pancras* in the County of *Middlesex*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
378	<i>September 22 1869</i>	<i>John Peter Griess</i> <i>Louisa Anne Mason</i>	<i>24</i> <i>18</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Chemist</i> —	<i>Burton on Trent Staffordshire</i> <i>St Pancras</i>	<i>Heinrich Griess</i> <i>William Mason</i>	<i>Farmer</i> <i>Surgeon</i> <i>Diseased</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by  *licence* or after \_\_\_\_\_ by me, *W Chapman*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *John Peter Griess* } in the Presence of us, { *Philip Brock Mason* }  
 { *Louisa Anne Mason* } { *Local Mason* }

John Griess was a chemist of German heritage and 18 years her senior. His father was called Heinrich, and is listed as a farmer on the certificate. They had two children, Philip born in 1872 and Mary Otilie born in 1879. However Louisa died in 1886 when she was only 42 and John died in 1888.

It was in London that Philip met Annie Saunders (1850-?) who was to eventually become his wife. His work and interests had taken him many times to London over the years and he frequently met with James Saunders a Perfumer who had premises there retailing perfumes. Mr Saunders lived in Kent with his family, his wife Ann (nee Sanders) three sons, Arthur, Walter and Herbert and two daughters, Annie and Bertha. Arthur worked with his father as an assistant perfumer but Walter had his own dental practice in Kent. It was on these trips that Philip had met Annie and after a long courtship he finally married her in 1884 and she returned with him from Kent to live in 181 Horninglow Street. (I have been unable to establish any offspring from this marriage).

Philip had a passion for Lepidoptera and through this he joined the Burton upon Trent Natural History and Archaeological Society in 1884, his mother Sarah also was a member. The society started in 1876. After a year, in 1885 Philip was elected as one of 7 vice presidents. In 1888 he was elected President and was re-elected for the following year. After that he remained as a Vice-President for a further two years before being re-elected President in 1894. During this period he also served as Chairman of the Botanical and Microscopical Committee and was a member of the Publication Committee in 1899.

Philip frequently donated items from his lepidoptera collection to the Natural History and Archaeological Society and some records would indicate that these were added to the walls in the Society's library in their headquarters. At one point in its history the Society met at the Masonic Lodge in George Street and it is possible that these items were removed when the Lodge moved. He also donated a small collection to the British Museum, however no record of these ever being put on display can be found.

Kelly's Directory for 1890 shows that Philip was still practicing medicine from his parents' home but by 1900 the house in Horninglow Street had been sold and he and Annie moved to Trent House, 8 Bridge Street a property that his father had owned and never sold. There are some records in the Natural History and Archaeological Society indicating that for a few years his wife lived at 'Abenberg' in Stapenhill Road, Burton on Trent.

**Mason Philip Brookes, 181 Horninglow st**

**Mason Philip Brookes F.L.S., F.R.M.S.  
8 Bridge street**

Both above extracts by courtesy of Kelly's Directory 1890 and 1900.

Philip also acted as a Magistrate in Burton and was listed as a JP in Kelly's Directory for 1900 as shown below:

**BOROUGH MAGISTRATES.**  
Allsopp Hon. George Higginson M.P. Foston hall, Derby  
Bindley John Allen, Beechcroft, Stafford  
Coxon Arthur J. Horninglow  
Drewry William John, 45 High street  
Harrison Charles, Branstone  
Lowe Thos. Barnabas, The Laurels, Alexandra rd. Winshill  
Mason Philip Brookes, 181 Horninglow street  
Turner Thomas, 29 Ashby road, Winshill  
Wilkinson R. Borough road  
Wright Edward, White house, Victoria crescent  
Clerk, Henry Goodger, Lichfield street  
Sessions held at the Police Station every friday at 11 a.m

Philip died at a relatively young age, being only 61 and left Annie his total effects.

**MASON** Philip Brookes of Trent-house Burton-upon-Trent died 5 November 1903 Probate **Lichfield** 15 January to Annie Mason widow  
Effects £10574 10s. 2d.

by courtesy of:  
England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

On Philip's death, Annie, although having inherited over ten thousand pounds, remained at 8 Bridge Street and in 1911 the local census records detail her as living alone in the house at age 60. It is quite possible that she had become something of a recluse as she had no servants or companions in residence with her. Annie remained in Trent House until she died on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1921. The actual record of her death however, stated that she was 87 years old; however this may have been a typographical error as she was at the most 71 being shown on the census records for 1851 as being 8 months old. It is also likely that a considerable amount of Philip's Lepidoptera collection remained in Trent House with Annie until her death when it formed part of her 'effects', the full value of which is as shown in the extract from England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966 below.

**MASON** Annie of Trent House Bridge-street **Burton-on-Trent** widow died 15 August 1921 Probate **London** 16 November to Walter George Lowe M.D. Edward Joseph Chadfield professor of music and Bernard Frederick Sadler and Leonard Frances Vale Sadler dental surgeons.  
Effects £8701 2s. 6d.