



Joseph Thompson (1833-1909), grave 2111.

Originally living at South Bank at the top of Higher Downs, Joseph Thompson moved to Beech Grove (later St Anne's) at the bottom of that road by 1864, living there with his wife, Mary, and their children. He was the head of Joseph Thompson and Son, cotton spinners, weavers and manufacturers of tea cloths and sheeting, with a large mill in Ardwick, in 1861 employing 106 men and 537 women. From 1858 to 1866 he was a deacon at Bowdon Downs Church and in 1882 wrote a history of Congregationalism. He was also active in Ancoats as a trustee there of the Congregational Chapel, and in Manchester he became a councillor and later alderman and a JP. When the competition was held for an architect to design the new Manchester Town Hall in 1865, Thompson was on the sub-committee which oversaw this. He corresponded with the winning architect, Alfred Waterhouse, in the 1870s about the decoration of the building, including the murals. Thompson was also very involved in Owens College, which later evolved into the University of Manchester, initially as a student and later as its historian, a governor and a councillor. With Dr Arthur Ransome, founder of St Anne's Hospital, he was active in the Bowdon Literary and Scientific Club. By 1867 he had moved to Wilmslow but was nevertheless eventually buried in Bowdon.

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