

Appendix W

NAMES OF CANDIDATES: F.C. GOUGH — AN UNUSUAL CASE

The work involved in compiling *Harrow Votes: The Urban and Rural District Councils 1894-1933* was conducted over many years; throughout all this time every effort was made to ensure precision and accuracy. In particular, checking and re-checking the crucial information surrounding the spelling of election candidate names and the number of votes they received was of vital importance.

During preparation of the revised edition of this book during the calendar year of 2020, an unusual case was discovered a candidate who contested Harrow-on-the-Hill at the 1912, 1919 and 1920 elections seemed to have conflicting forenames. How, therefore, should his name be recorded? Considerable time and effort was invested trying to make sense of this: there was a requirement to make sure the book was as accurate a record as possible so that future historians and researchers could have confidence in it. The facts surrounding the strange and confusing case of Frederick Charles Gough are the subject of this Appendix.

Gough first appeared as a candidate in 1912 at the annual election for four councillors to serve on Harrow-on-the-Hill Urban District Council (p. 32). With his colleague Mr. Wildy, Gough sought election as a nominee of the local Anti-Socialist Union; their nominations were no doubt prompted by the presence, for the first time in the urban district, of three Socialist candidates from the Independent Labour Party (ILP).

A list of candidates for the 1912 contest appeared in the edition of the *Harrow Observer* for 15 March 1912 (p. 8). The paper reported that both Gough and Wildy — the latter incorrectly spelt “Wildey” — had the forenames Frederick Charles. This coincidence suggested that the newspaper may have made an error with one of these candidate’s forenames and that further research was required. The first source that was checked was the 1912 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow Parliamentary division, which recorded “Wildy, Frederick Charles”; meanwhile the entry for his colleague read “Gough, Charles Frederick”. This had also been the form of Gough’s entry in earlier editions of the *Register*, see Figure 1.

OCCUPATION Electors.		DIVISION ONE.	
F 569	Gossling, Percy	21, Heath-road,	Harrow
F 570	Gostelow, George	8, Clarendon-road,	Harrow
F 571	Gough, Charles Frederick	114, Hindes-road,	Harrow

Figure 1: 1909 *Register of Electors*, Harrow division (detail), entry for Gough. A similar entry exists in the 1912 *Register*.

Gough’s home address at 114 Hindes Road strongly suggested that he was the same person who features in a footnote to a Wealdstone UDC by-election in October 1908 (see page 52). The footnote quotes a *Harrow Observer* report of an election meeting where a speech was delivered by a “Mr. Charles F. Gough of Hindes Road”. Additionally, throughout 1912 the *Observer* reported the speeches of a “Mr. C.F. Gough” — who was a “Conservative Tariff Reform Anti-Socialist” — in the Harrow Local Parliament (a form of glorified ‘talking shop’, where motions were debated with participants adhering to Parliamentary procedure).

Confusingly, despite this evidence that a mistake had been made in its edition of 15 March, the *Harrow Observer*, in the context of the 1912 election, continued to mention Gough as “Mr. F.C. Gough”. Also, it was with this ordering of forenames that he featured in the *Minutes* of Harrow-on-the-Hill UDC, where the Clerk helpfully recorded the 1912 election result. At this point, a search was made for the 1911 *Census* return for Hindes Road, Harrow. House number 114 shows the Gough household, and the entries were signed as correct by “Frederick Chas. Gough”, see Figure 2.

of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature *Frederick Chas Gough*

Postal Address *114 Hindes Rd Harrow Midd*

Figure 2: 1911 *Census* return (detail), for 114 Hindes Road.

In view of the *Census* return and the signature in his own hand, “Frederick C. Gough” was surely the correct way to record Gough’s name, and the election result on page 32 reflects this. (The 1911 *Census* also confirmed the spelling of “Wildy”, who lived at 123 Vaughan Road, as correct.)

With elections suspended during the course of the Great War, Gough’s reappearance in the electoral arena was delayed. He returned to the hustings at the first opportunity after the war, in the spring of 1919, possibly provoked by the appearance of Labour Party candidates. A few weeks before election day, Gough had written a letter to the editor of the *Harrow Observer*, and this was printed in the edition of 14 March 1919. Penned in a tendentious and controversial style, the letter was signed “Chas. F. Gough”, see Figure 3.

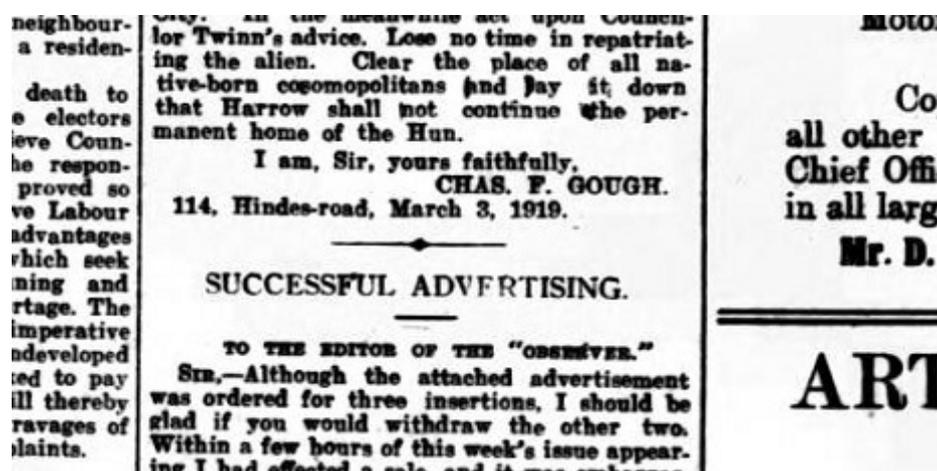


Figure 3: Letter to the Editor (detail), *Harrow Observer* 14 March 1919, p. 6.

Bizarrely, within weeks Gough had ‘re-reversed’ his forenames to “Fedk. Chas. Gough” for his election address, Figure 4, where he now portrayed himself as a “private resident and working man”.



Figure 4: Election address (detail), *Harrow Observer* 4 April 1919, p. 4.

The evidence from 1919 points to the origin of different orderings of forenames as coming from Gough himself, rather than the office of the *Harrow Observer* (through mis-prints or journalistic carelessness). The form “Frederick C. Gough” has therefore also been employed for the 1919 and 1920 election results (see pages 36-37) as this was undoubtedly the style that he continued to use for contesting elections; additionally, Gough’s signature confirming his household’s details in the 1911 *Census* remained hugely significant.

Why Gough used his name in these contradictory forms, both before and after the Great War, is a mystery. He was still a resident of 114 Hindes Road in 1950 when that year’s *Register of Electors* confirmed his name: “Gough, Frederick C.” (entry G1536), Figure 5. He died in January 1951.

1534	Botten, Edwin A.	114
1535	Gough, Eliza L.	114
1536	Gough, Frederick C.	114
1537	May, Elizabeth C.	116

Figure 5: 1950 *Register of Electors*, Harrow Central constituency (detail), entry for 114 Hindes Road.