

Frederic John “Fred” Hill

Frederic John “Fred” Hill was born 1 July 1866 in Bissoe, Cornwall, England.¹ He was the son of James Hill and Mary Ann Martin. In 1871, the family was living in Kea, Cornwall, England.² His father had immigrated to America in 1870 but the rest of the family came in 1876, sailing from Liverpool to New York on the ship *Russia*.³ They joined their father in Pioche, Lincoln, Nevada, where Fred was naturalized as a citizen 13 October 1876.⁴ On the 1880 census, the family was living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, where his father was a miner and Fred, age fourteen, was a drug store clerk.⁵

The family moved to Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, where Fred was employed at the *Tribune* newspaper. On the advice of Judge Goodwin, he attended and graduated from the St Louis College of Pharmacy in 1886. He was associated with the Godbe-Pitts Drug Company, the ZCMI Drug Company, and the A C Smith Drug Company. Fred married Leah Paul in 1889 in Salt Lake City.⁶ They had five children. He formed a partnership with Dr. G F Simpson to open the Simpson-Hill Drug Company with new quarters on the corner of West Temple and Second South Streets.⁷ When Dr. Simpson died, he became the senior at that firm which was later incorporated as the F J Hill Drug Company.⁸

In 1894, he became the president of the Pharmaceutical Association of Utah.⁹ That Christmas he sent complimentary candies and cigars to the girls and boys at the Tribune.¹⁰ In 1898, nine druggists (including Fred) were found guilty of violating the liquor ordinance by selling liquor without a license. They paid their \$20 fines in court.¹¹ In 1899, he was elected president of the Salt Lake Retail Druggists’ Association.¹² On the 1900 census, he was a druggist, living with his wife, three sons, and a sister-in-law in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.¹³

Fred was a master workman of the Mount Moriah Lodge No 2 and was elected worshipful master in 1900.¹⁴ In 1902, he applied for a passport for himself and his son William. He gave his description as age 36, five feet 10.5 inches tall, with brown eyes and brown hair.¹⁵ Fred was seriously ill for ten days and then died of blood poisoning resulting from kidney trouble from diabetes on 29 July 1907 in Salt Lake City and was buried in the Mount Olivet Cemetery.¹⁶ He was 41 years of age and was survived by his wife and three sons.¹⁷

¹ US Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

² England and Wales Census, 1871.

³ New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957.

⁴ US Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

⁵ United States Census, 1880.

⁶ Utah County Marriages, 1887-1940.

⁷ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 November 1890, p. 5.

⁸ *Deseret Evening News*, 29 July 1907, p 10; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1907, p. 1; *Intermountain Catholic*, 3 August 1907, p. 8.

⁹ *Evening Dispatch*, 5 June 1894, p. 1.

¹⁰ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 25 December 1894, p. 5.

¹¹ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 4 August 1898, p. 5.

¹² *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 November 1899, p. 3.

¹³ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 11 December 1900, p. 8.

¹⁵ US Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

¹⁶ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 184901949.

¹⁷ *Deseret Evening News*, 29 July 1907, p 10; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1907, p. 1; *Intermountain Catholic*, 3 August 1907, p. 8.



Frederic John Hill (image from the *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 July 1907, p. 1)

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