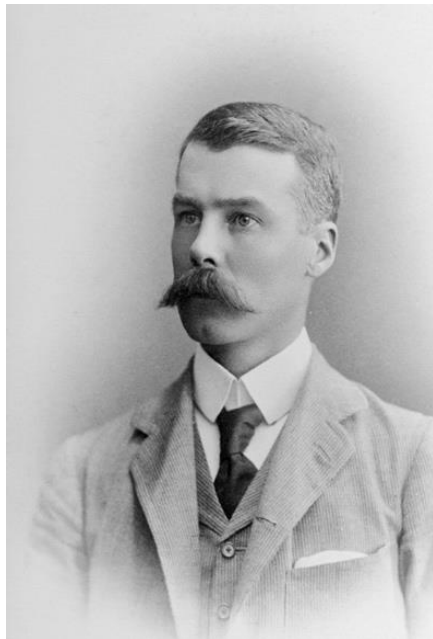


A Dozen Rolls-Royce Owners in South Australia in 1926
“Messrs T. E. Barr Smith, Glen Osmond”
1910 Silver Ghost, Chassis 1388, Salmons and Sons (UK) Landaulette.

David Neely, Historical Consultant, Sir Henry Royce Foundation, Australia, 2022

“Rolls-Royce Owners – Twelve in State” was the heading of an article in the 26 January 1926 edition of the Adelaide newspaper ‘News’, which was published from 1923 to 1954.

It continued: “There are 12 owners of Rolls-Royce cars in this State so far as can be ascertained from records. On account of this rather small number casual observers usually look twice if they happen to see a Rolls-Royce purring along. Among those who are stated to own one of these cars, which are regarded as the aristocrats of the road so far as the British automobile industry is concerned are Messrs T. E. Barr Smith, Glen Osmond: T. Tait, Oaklands: C. H. Angas, Angaston: G. Milne, Brougham Place, North Adelaide: J. M. Reid, Victoria Avenue, Unley Park: J. P. Lewis, Nelyambo Station, Wilcannia: Napier Birks, Park Terrace, Parkside: Mesdames W. T. Mortlock, Martindale Hall, Mintaro: L. Hughes, Lee Lodge, Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide: M Symons, Walkerville: T.R. Scarfe, Eden Park, Marryatville: and Miss M. F. Simms, Moseley Street, Glenelg.”



Tom Elder Barr Smith (1863-1941)

was a pastoralist and philanthropist. He was educated at St Peter’s College and the University of Cambridge, gaining a MA from Trinity Hall. Rolls-Royce authority Tom Clarke commented it was the same college that Charles Rolls attended. After returning to Adelaide he worked all his life in the family firm Elder, Smith & Co., Adelaide. At university he became engaged to Mary (Molly) Isobel Mitchell (1863-1941) from Ayrshire in Scotland. They married in Adelaide in 1886. Molly Barr Smith was actively involved in charity work. He had great wealth bestowed on him by both his father, Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915) and his uncle Sir Thomas Elder (1818-1897), a bachelor, after whom Tom was named. Like both of them Tom Barr



Smith became one of South Australia’s great philanthropists. Barr Smith inherited ‘Birksgate’, Glen Osmond, from his uncle on his death in 1897. ‘Wairoa’ on 30 acres of land at Algate was purchased in 1896.

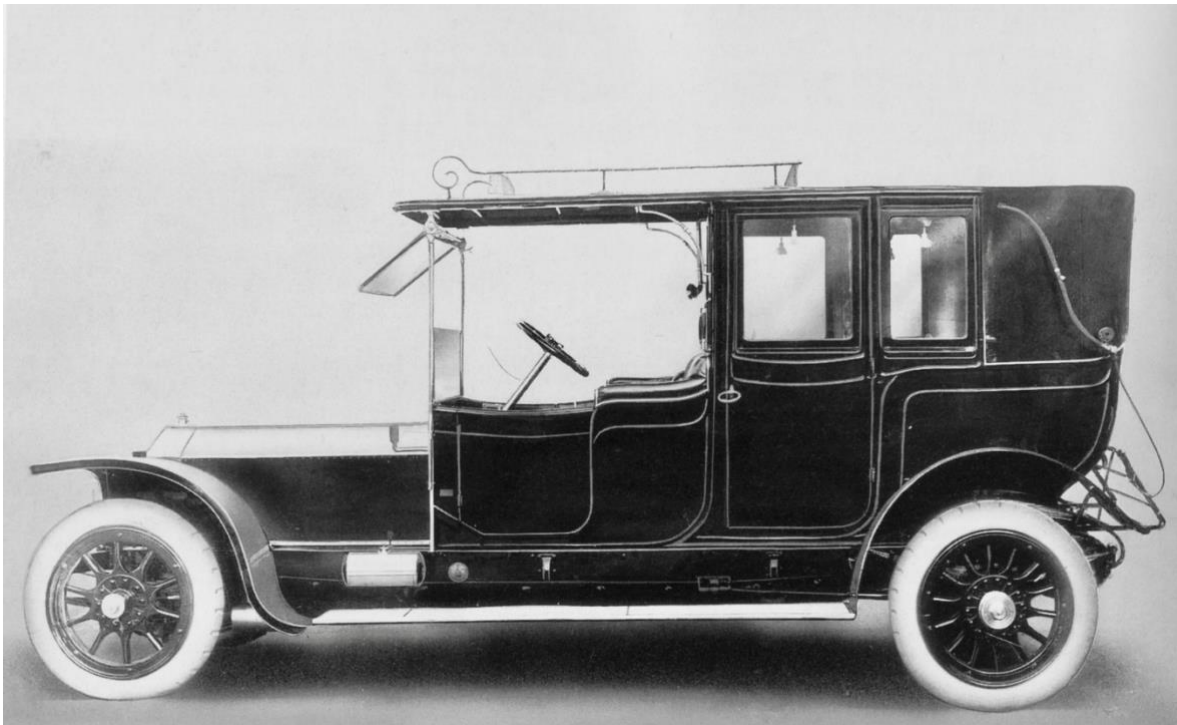
Above left: Thomas Elder Barr Smith. [State Library of South Australia.]

Above right: On 4 October 1918 Molly Barr Smith was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) for services to the Red Cross in South Australia during the war. She was the only woman in South Australia who received the Order of CBE. [Australian War Memorial.]



Left: The magnificent 'Birksgate' estate at Glen Osmond passed to Tom Barr Smith on his father's death in 1897. Pictured here around 1872. It was demolished in 1972 for a housing estate. [State Library of South Australia.]

The Barr Smith's car, pictured below from 'The Autocar', was 1910 Silver Ghost, chassis 1388. Testing of the chassis was completed in August 1910 and a three-quarter landaulette body was built by Salmons and Sons, Buckinghamshire, UK. Salmons started building coachwork on Rolls-Royce chassis soon after entering the motor trade in 1907-8. They specialised in folding head coachwork as employed on 1388, which was shipped to Australia and arrived in Adelaide in 1911. It still had the original Salmons body in 1926 at the time of this article.



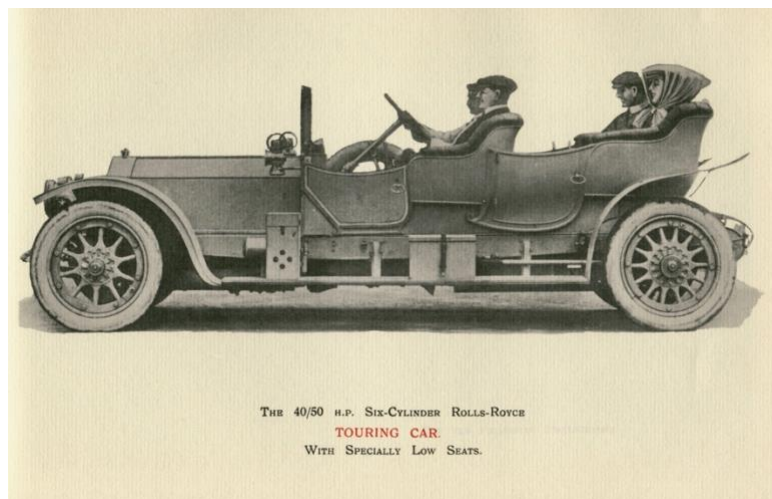


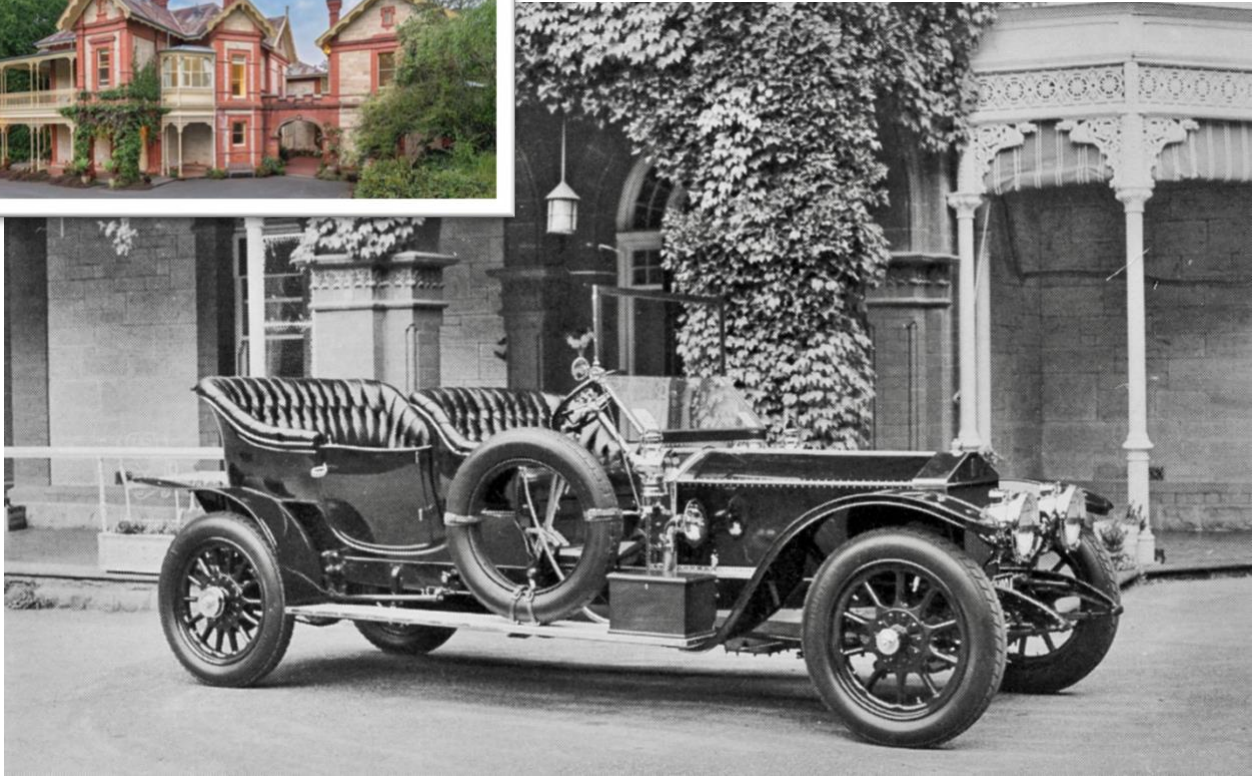
Above: Silver Ghost 1388 was converted to a farm ute and was found on Kangaroo Island in this condition. [Courtesy of Ian Irwin.]

About 1950 the Salmons body was removed and 1388 entered its second life as a farm utility vehicle at Angaston and then on Kangaroo Island. Laurie Vinall acquired 1388 from Kangaroo Island in 1958. Laurence Edwin Vinall (1915-1985) was a Foundation Member of the South Australia Branch and attended the first meeting on 4 March 1958.

Laurie Vinall with meticulous research set about what transpired to be a painstaking and stunning restoration. Only the front seat of the Salmons body remained on 1388 and strenuous efforts by Vinall to locate the remnants of the landaulette body were unsuccessful. The Vinall family chose a body styled on the touring car illustrated in the Rolls-Royce 1910-11 Catalogue. Laurie Vinall was justly rewarded when 1388 won the Overall Trophy at the 1968 RROCA Federal Rally at Mildura as well as the E J Vidler Shield for Age and Authenticity and the Silver Ghost Class Trophy.

Below: The Vinall family chose a body styled on this Touring Car illustrated in the 'Rolls-Royce 1910-11 Catalogue'.





Above and inset: In 1966 1388 returned to 'Wairoa' resplendent after the magnificent restoration by Laurie Vinall. 'Wairoa' was chosen for this photograph as it was the summer residence of the Barr Smiths at Aldgate in the Adelaide Hills and it was where 1388 was garaged when new. [Courtesy of Eric and Beryl Rainsford.]



Left: Silver Ghost 1388 was unloaded to take part in the 1968 RROCA Federal Rally in Mildura. Son David Vinall is at the wheel and Laurie is behind the car on the right. [Frederick J English.]



Right: Now unloaded for the 1968 Mildura Federal Rally, 1388 is seen here with Laurie Vinall behind on the left and son David. [Frederick J English.]



Left: Silver Ghost 1388 at the 1973 RROCA Federal Rally in Adelaide. Note that there is no mascot because this 1910 chassis predates Eric Sykes's Spirit of Ecstasy designed in 1911. [Frederick J English.]

Right: Silver Ghost 1388 with its proud owner Laurie Vinall, centre, is receiving admiring glances from the Governor of South Australia, Sir Edric M Bastyan, and Lady Bastyan at the opening of the Festival of Classic Motoring arranged by the Sporting Car Club of South Australia on 18 March 1968. [Courtesy of George Brooks.]



[Recommended reading: The complete story of 1388 and its restoration can be found at <https://praeclarum.info/> in 'PRÆCLARVM' Vol III No 2 Feb 1968 and No 3 Jan 1968.]