

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



These stories were written in August 2023 as a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who enrolled in the first two cohorts [1908 & 1909] of Trainee Teachers at the Cheshire Country Training College, Crewe [CCTCC]

Janet Evans's Story

I first struggled to find anything about Janet, other than she enrolled as a student at CCTCC on 15th September 1909, with a birth date of 23rd May 1891, her home address was given as The Anchorage, Wallasey, she has attended Wallasey High school and her father was noted as an F Evans Esq.¹ Her death is registered in the GRO indexes March quarter of 1912.² I eventually tracked her down as Janet May Evans in the 1911 census, as a student in the Cheshire Training College and living in the building used as a women's hostel in Edleston Road Crewe, under the charge of Miss Harriet Carson, the vice principle of CCTCC.³ In 1901 she is living as a nine year old scholar with her widowed mother and sister in her

¹ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

² GRO Death Indexes, March Quarter 1921, Wirral, Cheshire, Vol 8a Page 599

³ 1911 England Census, RG12, Crewe, Cheshire, Piece 21767

grandfather's, Joseph Catterall's house in Thompson Street, Birkenhead.⁴ Her father Ellis died aged 36 in 1898 and according to Janet's baptism record he was a mariner by trade.⁵ There is no record of her taking up a teaching post before her death. There is however this lovely postcard image of Janet, sent to her friend and fellow student Constance Louisa Robinson, it shows Janet dressed for a dramatic production called *The Folly* which the students performed in March 1910.⁶



Margaret Roberts [Few Forgotten Women Team]

⁴ 1901 England Census, RG13. Tranmere, Birkenhead, Folio 147

⁵ GRO Death Indexes, June Quarter 1898, Birkenhead, Vol 8a Page 309; Liverpool, Church of England Parish Registers, Baptisms, Toxteth Park, Accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁶ Image of CTCC student Janet Evans, 1910, CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

Agnes Helen Lockhart's Story

Agnes was a member of the very first cohort of student who entered college in September 1908.⁷ Born on 3rd March 1891, she was one of nine children to commercial clerk Walter Scoon Lockhart and Agnes nee Murray.⁸ Agnes sat the Oxford Senior Local exam in order to gain admission to CCTCC and passed the Final Training College examination in 1910 at the end of her course and therefore left CCTCC as a certified primary school teacher.⁹ By the time of the 1911 census Agnes was enumerated as living with her parents at 10 Bridge Street, Bebington, she was noted as a 20 year old schoolteacher but there is no mention of where she might have been teaching.¹⁰ Sadly Agnes died on 10th June 1912 in the Cottage Hospital, Port Sunlight at the very young age of 20,¹¹ and was buried in Christ Church in the town.¹² There is no reference to how she may have died.

Margaret Roberts [Few Forgotten Women Team]

⁷ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

⁸ 1901 England Census, RG13 Port Sunlight, Cheshire, folio 161; 1911 England Census, RG12, Bebington, Cheshire, Piece 21931

⁹ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

¹⁰ 1911 England Census, RG12, Bebington, Cheshire, Piece 21931

¹¹ Wigan Observer and District Advertiser, Saturday 15 June 1912, page 12

¹² See details of grave at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/207825450/agnes-helen-lockhart>

Rosanna Barbara Wild's Story

Rosanna was born to wheelwright William Wild and his wife Charlotte nee Herriman on 25th September 1891 and in the CCTCC student register her address was noted as West End, Weaverham with her guardian noted as a J Woodward.¹³ It transpired on investigation that William died in 1896 and Charlotte married James Woodward in 1906.¹⁴

Rosanna attended Weaverham Elementary School before moving to Northwich High School for Girls, passing the Oxford Senior Local exam which enabled her to apply to enter CCTCC in 1909 and to graduate as a trainee teacher in 1911.¹⁵

Nothing more can be found about Rosanna, whether she ever took up a post as a teacher is unclear. In 1916 she married Leslie Caldwell, a draughtsman at the Brunner Mond chemical works and the 1921 census show them living in Weaverham, with Rosanna having no occupation listed.¹⁶ Rosanna died in 1928 but there is no obituary or notice in the press.¹⁷

Margaret Roberts [Few Forgotten Women Team]

¹³ Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911, Weaverham, accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk; CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

¹⁴ National Probate Calendar, accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk; GRO Marriage Indexes, 1906 June Quarter, Northwich District, vol 8a, page 580

¹⁵ National School Admission Registers and Logbooks, accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk; 1911 England Census, RG14, Northwich, Cheshire, Piece 21657; CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

¹⁶ GRO Marriage indexes, 1916 September Quarter, Northwich District, vol 8a, page 401; 1921 England Census, RG 15, Northwich registration district, piece 1693

¹⁷ GRO Death Indexes, 1928 December Quarter, Northwich District, vol 8a, page 289

Ethel Lawson's Story

Born 3 September 1890, Ethel is the third child of Robert & Elizabeth Lawson. He is a farmer at Broad Oak Farm, Chester and in the 1891 Census, shows that her siblings are Herbert & Elizabeth.

By 1901, the family has increased to include John, Martha & Annie. They are able to employ William Holland as general servant. The family are either working on the farm or attending school.

In 1908 Ethel enrolls at Teacher Training College. She took an active part in College life and became part of their hockey team 1908-1910. She is seated in the front row, 2nd from the left.



Her family must have worked hard to support her, as all her siblings were employed on the farm, performing manual labour or working as dairy maids

In 1911, she is still living at her home on the farm, and has a new brother, Fred
1918, sees her marriage to William Edward Richardson, a Tailor/Draper from
Battersea. Presumably, he was a 'journeyman tailor' and met her when he
visited the area. Their wedding isn't announced in the newspaper.

Ethel & William move to 7 Church Rd, Alsagar, Congleton and, in the 1921
Census, she is employed as a Teacher at Stoke Central Infants CofE School.
Usually, women at that time, were required to give up work when married.
Perhaps she remained employed as Teachers were needed?

When war broke out in 1939, she gave up work, and alongside her husband,
worked as an ARP. There aren't any children listed during their marriage.

Her husband died in 1955, aged 69. In later years, when Ethel's health was
failing, she moved into Lyme Green Hall, Sutton; a care home for people with
dementia. She enjoyed another Christmas, before she passed away on Boxing
Day 1979, aged 89

In her probate the following year, she left £23,492. It wasn't bequeathed to
anyone, so perhaps became Bona Vacantia

Sources:

Census 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1939 & Marriage Records 1918. Ancestry & FMP
Hockey Photo: *CTCC student hockey team 1908-1910, CCTCC Archives, Under the care of the
Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe*

Narrative by Marian Reed

Alice Whitehill's Story

Alice was born on the 8th of December 1891, the second of 4 daughters born to William Francis and Mary Alice Whitehill. She and her older sister were born in St Annes, Lancashire but the family moved to Sale where her younger sisters were born and where she grew up. After completing her education at Sale High School, she enrolled at the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe on the 15th of September 1909. By 1911, she and another CCTCC student were boarders with Mr and Mrs Owens at 30 Gainsborough Road in Crewe, whilst she finished her studies, which she did later that year.

After graduating she appears to have returned to the family home at 1 Essex Road, Sale and worked as an elementary school teacher. On the 28th April 1917, Alice married John Rigg, a welfare secretary at the Wesley Chapel in Sale. In 1929, she returned to Crewe for the 21st anniversary celebrations of the CCTCC at which point she was still living in Sale at 13 Oaklea Road. In 1929, however, she lost both her parents, her mother in January and her father in July. By 1939, she and her husband had moved to 50 Burn way, Hornchurch, Essex where he worked as an Employment Manager for a motor company. She returned to Sale and lived in a flat in The Homestead on Ashton Lane. She died on the 26th of November 1973 at the age of 81.

Sources:

1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

Census, Ancestry, (1911), <<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/21134354:2352>> [accessed 11/08/23]

Census, Ancestry, (1911), <<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/5621063:2352>> [accessed 11/08/23]

CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995, *Ancestry*, (1974), <<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/22984447:1904>> [accessed 11/08/23]

England and Wales Register, *Ancestry*, (1939), <<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/14987240:61596>> [accessed 11/08/23]
Manchester, England, Non-Conformist Marriages, 1758-1937, *Ancestry*, (1917), <<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/30086014:9095>> [accessed 11/08/23]

Narrative by Orianne Neyroud

Maggie Lone Povey's Story

Maggie's name has been mis-transcribed a number of times, including in the Training College student register where she is noted as being Maggie Jane and in the GRO birth indexes register, there she is listed as Maggie Jone.¹⁸ Her middle name which is Lone is quite unusual and is said to be Greek in origin, meaning violet flower or it could be that it is a family name used to denote that in the dim and distant past the family came from the Scottish Ireland of Lone.

Her parents Henry [Harry] and Sarah both died while Maggie was quite young, her father on 25 May 1900 and her mother on 25th October 1909.¹⁹ The youngest of their nine children, Maggie attended the City and County Secondary School in Chester, passing her Preliminary Certificate in 1909 and along with her

¹⁸ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe; GRO Birth Indexes, 1891 June Quarter, Chester District, Vol 08A, page 461

¹⁹ Find A Grave, Harry - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198374065/henry-povey>; Sarah - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198374079/sarah-povey>

fellow pupils Clara Wallace and Ethel Whalley was accepted to train as a teacher at the Crewe Training College, enrolling for the 1908 intake.²⁰

While at college Maggie was part of the hockey team and can be seen in the image below on the bottom row, far right.²¹



Image reproduced courtesy of Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

As noted by Roberts and Webb [2020] the hockey team had to play matches either on local recreation grounds or use the student football pitch when the male students weren't using it. Games took place against opposition from nearby secondary schools, local clubs, and other colleges. The female students travelled to away games via train, horse drawn wagonette or sometimes even

²⁰ Cheshire Observer, Saturday 20 February 1909, page 2; CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

²¹ Image of CTCC student hockey team 1908-1910, CCTCC Archives, Under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe

by bicycle.²² There are several reports of games in the local press such as a match in 1909, in which Maggie would have played, against another college team, the Northwich Guardian reported:

The ladies' team of Winnington Park were at home on Saturday to the ladies of the Crewe Training College. The Crewe ladies were late in arriving and it seemed likely that the daylight would go before the match was played out, so a few minutes less time than usual was allowed in each half. When the games

The home team eventually won the match 3-1, a result that the reporter judged a very creditable performance.²³

On 17th April 1910, Maggie travelled home from college in order to act as a witness to the marriage of one of her older sisters, Amy, to fireman William Rushton at Christ Church in Chester.²⁴

The 1911 census sees Maggie living with her older sisters Jenny and Lily at the family home, 39 Lightfoot Street, Hoole, near Chester. Maggie is enumerated as an elementary school teacher at a county school, but no mention of where that school might be.²⁵ Maggie died on 20th February 1919 at the tender age of 27 in the Royal Infirmary, Chester, she was buried in the graveyard of Holy Trinity Church, Capenhurst, the epitaph noting that she was 'for over 8 years teacher

²² Roberts, M. and Webb, S. Students at Play: Sport in the Cheshire County Training College, 1908-1918, In Day, D. (ed), *Playing Pasts* (Manchester: MMU Sport and Leisure History, 2020), 37-55 Accessed via <https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/football/students-at-play-sport-in-the-cheshire-county-training-college-1908-1918/>

²³ *Northwich Guardian*, Saturday 13 November 1909, page 6

²⁴ Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Marriages 1538-1910, accessed via www.FindMyPast.co.uk

²⁵ 1911 England Census, RG12, Hoole, Chester, Cheshire, Piece 21881

at Capenhurst School', which solved the mystery of where she taught, an image of her grave can be found on the website FindaGrave.²⁶



Capenhurst C of E Primary School

By Phil Nash from Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 4.0 & GFDLViews, Attribution, via Wikimedia Commons

The probate calendar has her address at the time as Benton, Kingsley Road, Broughton Heath, near Chester, with her executor being her brother Herbert Harry Povey, Benton was the home address of her brother.²⁷

Margaret Roberts [Few Forgotten Women Team]

Frances Annie Hough's Story

Frances was born on the 22nd July 1890 in the village of Winsford in Cheshire. Her parents were John and Mary and John was variously described as

²⁶See - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/158558998/maggie-ione-povey>

²⁷ England and Wales, National Probate Calendar accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk; 1939 National Register, RG101, Chester BC District, piece 3926A

shipwright, joiner or carpenter. Frances had three other sisters, two of whom were twins. The family worshipped at the Davenham Methodist church, where Frances was baptised and later married. She was clearly an active and intelligent little girl as I have found mentions of her in the local paper as having won school prizes or appearing in pageants and parades for the Church.

I have traced much of her school history through admission books and registers, and she left her school, Winsford Weaver Navigation School on 31st July 1907 to attend “pupil teacher training”. Her final exam was in 1910 and on the 1911 census she is described as a “teacher; Education Committee, County Council”. She is living as a boarder in Ellesmere Port.

I have been unable to find any more information about her until she married Jabez Bennett in 1920 in the Methodist Church she attended as a child. Not only had Jabez also attended the church, he was born and baptised within days of Frances and also attended her school at the same time. Clearly a case of love at first sight! Whilst Frances had trained as a teacher – and was no doubt very busy with her duties during the War, Jabez left a clerical position to enlist in the War. He was seriously injured by a gunshot wound to his back and loin and was invalided out of the army. The couple married a few years later.

A very interesting entry in the 1921 census demonstrates the fact that once women teachers had married, they had to give up their jobs. Frances’s occupation is shown as carrying out “domestic duties”. She had been a teacher for just 10 years.

Until the Sex Disqualification Removal Act was passed in 1919, married women were not allowed to work as teachers. The act should, in theory, have meant

greater equality for women entering the profession, However, school authorities used 'marriage bars' to prevent married women working as teachers. This rule meant that if a woman teacher married, she had to resign from her job; if she was already married, she was sacked.

'The duty of a married woman is primarily to look after her domestic concerns and it is impossible for her to do so and to effectively and satisfactorily act as a teacher at the same time' this statement, by a senior British judge in 1925, reflected the harsh reality faced by thousands of women teachers in the 19th and early 20th centuries. [See <https://www.chardmuseum.co.uk/victorian-classroom>]. Marriage bars in teaching were not lifted until 1944.

Frances died in 1935 aged just 45. Jabez married again in 1940, dying in 1962. I cannot find any children from either marriage.

The story of Frances's life is a very good example of how some things were changing for the better for working class women – I imagine her family were very proud that their daughter, born in Victorian England to a working-class family, had gained a higher education degree that enabled her to move away from her family and be independent. However, when she married, she was forced to give up her career, something that she had worked hard to achieve (and she had been winning school prizes since a young age). In an obituary I found of Jabez there is mention of his rise from a clerk (his father was a bricklayer) to a very senior position in a large factory. It also mentions his war service. There is no mention of either of his wives!

I like to think that Frances was a happy, enthusiastic child who enjoyed school and also her time at the Runcorn Pupil Teacher College. The prospectus shows

that it had a huge range of subjects and activities. I hope Frances was able to look back with pride at her achievements.

Narrative by Debbie Cameron

Sources

1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

Ancestry.co.uk

Find My Past

British Newspaper Archive

<https://www.chardmuseum.co.uk/victorian-classroom>

Elsie Narcissa Dodd's Story

Elsie Narcissa Dodd was born on 10 September 1891¹ and baptised in St George Everton on 11 October 1891². Her parents were Charles Dodd, a telegraphist, and wife Narcissa nee Taylor who had married in Liverpool in 1884³. Charles died on 25 April 1900 with an address of Mere Lane, Everton. His widow Narcissa was granted probate⁴. She had moved to 16 Stalbridge Road, Crewe with her four daughters by 31 March 1901⁵. Isabella aged 11, was the eldest, followed by Elsie aged 9, Winifred aged 7 and Florence aged 6.

Narcissa had moved the family again by 1911, but only further along Stalbridge Road to number 42. She had not remarried and was living on private means. All four daughters were still living at home. Isabella was now 21 and employed as an assistant teacher by the County Council. Elsie was a student⁶. She had attended the County Secondary School in Crewe and passed her Preliminary Certificate prior to 1 August 1909. This was a requirement to being accepted

into the Cheshire County Training College (CCTCC) where she enrolled on 15 September 1909 giving the 42 Stalbridge Road address. Her mother was her guardian¹.

As Elsie lived in Crewe, it was not necessary for her to live in The Hostel which was on the campus. Students attended classes from 9.30am to 4 pm daily with the exception of Sunday. No classes were held on Wednesday or Saturday afternoons. The college year ran from 15 September to 7 July with a three week break for Christmas a further three-week holiday at Easter. Elsie would have undertaken approximately 5 months of practical training in local schools during her two years at CCTCC⁷.

The college had a broad curriculum. Besides the basic subjects of English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Biology and Nature Study and Scripture, students had a grounding in Physical Education, Rural Science, Singing, Music, Hygiene and Drawing. Female students could opt to specialise in the teaching of infants or juniors in their second year. Elsie graduated in July 1911. Under the terms of her admission into CCTCC, she was required to teach for the next five years in an Elementary or Secondary School which was in receipt of Government Grant⁷.

CCTCC produced a 21st Anniversary Book in 1929. It was recorded that Elsie was unmarried and living at 42 Stalbridge Road, Crewe¹. She was still at this address in September 1939, living with her widowed mother and three unmarried sisters⁸. Elsie was an Assistant School Mistress as was her elder sister Isabella. Narcissa died on 23 February 1945 with probate granted to Elsie Narcissa Dodd and Florence Alice Dodd, spinsters.

Elsie never married. She died in the Memorial Hospital Crewe on 30 May 1951⁹.

Probate was granted to her unmarried sisters Isabella and Winifred.

Narrative by Karen Cousens

1. CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe
2. Liverpool Record Office; Liverpool, England; *Liverpool Church of England Parish Registers*; Reference Number: 283 GEV/2/3
3. FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]
4. Ancestry.com. *England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995* [database on-line]
5. Ancestry.com. *1901 England Census* [database on-line] Class: RG13; Piece: 3356; Folio: 20; Page: 31
6. The National Archives of the UK (TNA); Kew, Surrey, England; *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911*
7. Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, *Prospectus 1908-1914, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe*
8. The National Archives; Kew, London, England; *1939 Register*; Reference: Rg 101/4006g
9. Ancestry.com. *England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995* [database on-line]

Phoebe Wilson's Story

Phoebe was born on the 11th August 1891 to Shem and Mary Wilson in Moulton, Cheshire. Sadly, I discovered that Phoebe's mother died less than a month after the birth, demonstrating the real risks of pregnancy and birth for women at that time. Phoebe was not baptised until November 1891, surely because her family were still in mourning for Mary. Her father remarried a few years later.

Phoebe enrolled in the Cheshire Training College in September 1909 and passed her final examination in 1911 and the census shows her living as a boarder in 4 Ruskin Road Crewe. Her occupation is "student teacher". Phoebe would almost certainly have gained a position in a school after qualifying; many articles in the newspapers in the years of the Great War discuss the very real shortage of

qualified teachers. Presumably many male teachers were in the army during these years.

Prior to the outbreak of war, women predominantly taught in junior and mixed elementary schools; but they were now needed in boys' secondary schools as well. These were called "temporary appointments" which enabled men to return to their, permanent, jobs after the War. However, there was, unsurprisingly, some opposition to this as seen in a 1916 letter to the Times Educational Supplement, a contributor wrote,

'The best and most brilliant women cannot teach boys to be men – it would be unnatural if they could'.

[\(https://emergencylondon1914.wordpress.com/2014/11/20/the-first-world-war-women-teachers/](https://emergencylondon1914.wordpress.com/2014/11/20/the-first-world-war-women-teachers/)

Phoebe married in 1917 to Robert Garton. She probably gave her job up at this time due to the "marriage bar" which meant that women had to give up their careers upon marriage. However there was such a demand for teachers at this time – again many newspapers discuss this- that it is possible that she kept her job for a while. However her only child, a son, was born in 1918 when she certainly would have given up her career. Peter's own family suffered greatly in the pre-war years. On the 1911 census his parents are shown as having had 9 children, 5 of whom had died. I also discovered that another of their children – a son – died in 1914. They had lost 6 children when they were just 60 years old.

Phoebe was living with her husband and son in Liverpool at the time of the 1939 Register. Her occupation is given as "domestic duties". She died in 1945 aged 54. Her husband died in 1962.

Narrative by Debbie Cameron

*CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935], under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe
Find my Post*

Ancestry.co.uk

British Newspaper Archives

<https://emergencylondon1914.wordpress.com/2014/11/20/the-first-world-war-women-teachers/>

Sarah Jane Hughes's Story

Sarah Jane Hughes was born in Crewe Cheshire England on Christmas day 1890 to parents Thomas Hughes,²⁸ and Elizabeth Ann Carver.²⁹ Her parents were born over the border in Wales,³⁰ and married in 1886 at Hawarden in Flintshire.³¹

Sarah Jane came from a working-class family: her father Thomas was a general labourer, and his father David Hughes was a brick maker; whereas her paternal grandfather John Carver progressed from agricultural labour to farm bailiff.³²

Sarah Jane lived at 15 Casson Street in Crewe though out her childhood, and attended the Crewe County Grammar School where she was awarded a scholarship.³³ She had a younger sister Ethel, as well older brother and sister, Iles and Lizzie.³⁴ Ethel died aged 15 in the third quarter of 1908,³⁵ about the time Sarah Jane started at the Cheshire Country Training College, Crewe in September 1908.³⁶

²⁸ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

²⁹ GRO Birth indexes: HUGHES, SARAH JANE , MMN CARVER 1891 M Qtr NANTWICH Vol 08A Page 332

³⁰ 1891 England Census, RG12, Coppenhall Monks, Cheshire, Folio 38, Piece 2853, Page 29

³¹ Flintshire, Wales, Anglican Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1994

³² 1871 England Census, Shotton, Flintshire, Wales, Folio 37, Piece 3734, Page 2; and see reference 4

³³ National School Admission Registers & Logbooks 1870-1914, 190 Crewe Cheshire; and see reference 3

³⁴ 1901 England Census, RG13, Coppenhall Monks, Cheshire, Folio 35, Piece 3358, Page 16

³⁵ GRO Death indexes: 1908 qtr3 Nantwich, Cheshire, Volume 8a, Page 189

³⁶ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

After passing her final exam for the training college in 1910,³⁷ Sarah Jane was still living with her parents at 15 Casson Street Crewe at the time of the 1911 census; her older brother, Iles aged 21, lived with them and like Sarah Jane was described as a teacher.³⁸ He probably started at the college at the same time as his sister, given it opened in 1908 and trained both males and females.³⁹ He was still teaching in Crewe aged 50, described in the 1939 register as an Elementary school teacher.⁴⁰ In 1910 their elder sister Lizzie married Frederick Leach McLeod,⁴¹ a storekeeper at an engineering works, and in 1911 they were recorded as living in Hawarden Flintshire with their infant son Walter.⁴²

Between 1910 and 1920, Sarah Jane Hughes almost certainly was employed as a teacher, although no evidence of this has been found after 1911. She was required to teach for at least five years in an Elementary or Secondary School which was in receipt of Government Grants, under the terms of admission to the training college.⁴³ At the age of twenty nine, 10 years after passing her final exams, Sarah Jane married Samuel Clifford Howarth at Nantwich Cheshire in 1920.⁴⁴ He was five years younger than her, also born in Crewe, and became a coach builder for the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway company at Thorpe Road Newton Heath Manchester, whilst Sarah Jane attended to 'home duties',⁴⁵ the custom for married woman of that era. The couple made their home at 20

³⁷ See reference 9

³⁸ 1911 England Census, RD449, ED33, Crewe Cheshire, Piece number 21785

³⁹ Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, Prospectus 1908-1914, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

⁴⁰ 1939 Register; TNA RG 101/4004g Crewe 449-2 schedule no 205

⁴¹ England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915, 1909 Qtr 4 Nantwich Cheshire Vol 8a, P611

⁴² 1911 Wales Census, RD620 Hawden Flintshire Piece number 33968

⁴³ See reference 12

⁴⁴ FreeBMD: 1920 qtr4 Nantwich, Cheshire, Volume 8a; Page 878

⁴⁵ 1921 England Census, North Manchester

Wilfred Street Moston Manchester where they were still living in 1929.⁴⁶ They had a son Philip, born in May 1922,⁴⁷ and a daughter Ethel Mary, born in 1928.⁴⁸

On the 1939 register Samuel was recorded as a Timber foreman and Sarah as providing unpaid domestic duties, living at 46 Peel Road Wolverton Buckinghamshire.⁴⁹ Sarah Jane died aged 87 in Buckinghamshire in 1978,⁵⁰ a few years before her husband Samuel died.⁵¹

Narrative by Jayne Hutchinson

Florence Buxton's story

Florence Buxton was born on 21 November 1890 in Hazel Grove Cheshire. Her father, William Henry Buxton was a railway clerk who had married Christiana Cowan in 1884. The couple had twelve children, two of whom died in infancy. Florence was their fourth child. At the age of fourteen, when most children had finished their schooling, Florence, a pupil at the Wesleyan school Hazel Grove¹,

⁴⁶ 1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC, , Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

⁴⁷ GRO Birth indexes: HOWARTH, PHILIP , MMN HUGHES: 1922 J Qtr PRESTWICH Vol 08D Page 624

⁴⁸ GRO Birth indexes: HOWARTH, ETHEL MARY , MMN HUGHES: 1928 S Qtr MANCHESTER NORTH Vol 08D Page 719

⁴⁹ 1939 England Register, Dvwf, Wolverton, Buckinghamshire RD147/2, schedule number 155

⁵⁰ GRO Death indexes:1978 qtr3 North Bucks, Buckinghamshire, Volume 19: Page 0987

⁵¹ GRO Death indexes:1981 qtr1 North Bucks, Buckinghamshire, Volume 19: Page 1396

obtained a scholarship to Stockport Municipal School providing her with three more years of education.²

Florence sat her Oxford Senior examinations which enabled her to apply to Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, to be one of the first cohort of students who would train to become qualified teachers in this establishment.

But then tragedy struck the family when her father died on 30 May 1908. Her widowed mother was left with ten children to care for. Although the oldest three were already in employment, Sydney, the youngest, was only six months old. The family were clearly committed to Florence fulfilling her ambition to become a teacher, as despite the financial pressures, she enrolled at the training college on 15th September that same year. Two years later she passed her leaving exams with distinctions in English and Education.

The 1911 census recorded Florence living with her mother and 9 siblings at 44 Hatherlow Lane, Hazel Grove, and her occupation as elementary school teacher. None of Florence's siblings followed her into the teaching profession but were mainly employed in clerical roles.

In 1921 their mother Christiana Buxton and seven children, including Florence were recorded in the census as living at 46 Hatherlow Lane. The eldest three had now married and set up their own homes. At home were sisters Lily, 28, and Amy, 27, who both worked for the GPO in Manchester as sorting clerks and telegraphists, Janet, 22, a sewing cotton spooler in a factory in Hazel Grove and Elsie 20, a shorthand typist with a company in Manchester. Only the "baby" of the family Sydney, now 13½ years old, was still at school. The older sisters gradually married leaving just Florence, Amy and Elsie with their mother by the time of the 1939 register, still living at 46 Hatherlow Lane.

Florence retired in December 1951 at the end of term after her sixtieth birthday. Her mother died three years later in 1954 and Florence continued to live with her sister Elsie at the same address until her death on 31st October 1983 aged 92 years³.

There is a note in the 1952 edition of the old student magazine that states -

Florence Buxton, one of the college's original students, who has been headmistress at Hazel Grove School for Girls, Cheshire for some years, retired Christmas 1951.

In 1994 Hazel Grove primary school held a reunion for former pupils. Florence's sister Elsie, now 93 years old, was the oldest returner who attended, and it was noted that she was the sister of ex teacher at the school, Florence Buxton⁴. It is just possible that Florence is still remembered by a former pupil as their school teacher. I feel sure that Florence epitomised the ideal the founders of the Cheshire County Training College were looking for in their students of an intelligent woman who remained single and dedicated her life to her profession and pupils in Hazel Grove Cheshire.

Narrative by Christine Shackell

Sources:

CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

'The Torch', CCTCC Old Students Magazine, 1952 Edition, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, Prospectus 1908-1914, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

1891 England census RG12/2807/42/39

1901 England census RG13/3303/51/48/302

1911 census RG14/21316/127/1268

1921 census RG15/16611/0448

1939 register RG101/4020B/020/36

1. Cheshire Daily Echo 9th April 1903
2. Cheshire Daily Echo 9th June 1904
3. Manchester Evening News 2nd November 1983
4. Stockport Express Advertiser 3rd August 1994

Eleanor Wyldes's Story

Eleanor Wylde was born on 18th December 1891 in Bollington. Her parents were Edward and Alice. Eleanor was mentioned in the local newspaper having passed the exam to go to a county school on a scholarship in 1905.

Very little else can be found about Eleanor. We do know that she qualified as a teacher in 1911 and that she never married and was still teaching in 1939. She

died in Bollington in 1962 having never left (she appears there on all available electoral rolls, registers and census returns.) She must have taught so many children, who then went on to have children of their own. A woman truly devoted to her profession and community.

Narrative by Debbie Cameron

References

CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

Ancestry.co.uk

Find My Past

British Newspaper Archives

Lily Priest's Story

Lily was born on 24th May 1891, the fifth of seven children to farmer John Priest and Catherine nee Hudson, who farmed at Birch Tree Farm in Henbury, Macclesfield.⁵² Lily's time at Macclesfield High School has been recorded in the school logbook as entry number 140. She spent two years there between

⁵² GRO Birth Indexes, 1891 June Quarter, Macclesfield District, Vol 08A, page 167; GRO Marriage Indexes, 1881 December Quarter, Macclesfield District, Vol 8a, page 212; 1901 England Census, RG13, Henbury, Macclesfield, Folio 20

September 1907 and July 1909, sitting the Oxford Local Senior examination, which allowed her to enrol at CCTC in September 1909, on the reverse of the logbook page it states that Lily had suffered from measles once.⁵³ At the time of the 1911 census, Lily is boarding in Hungerford Road, Crewe, with fellow students Eleanor Wylde and Ethel May Bayley, this address would have been within easy walking distance of the college.⁵⁴ The next mention I can find of Lily is in the local newspapers where she and her sisters are regularly helping at church events in the Henbury area of Macclesfield.⁵⁵

Lily married Robert Crowder, a motor mechanic and the son of a local Councillor on 28th March 1921 in Birtles Church, Macclesfield.⁵⁶ Later the same year the 1921 Census show Lily and Robert living at 8 Whirley Road in Macclesfield, Lily has filled her profession as Teacher on the form but this has subsequently been struck through and 'not following the profession' has been written and 'Home Duties' added as an occupation instead.⁵⁷

According to the 1931 electoral register Lily and Robert has moved to Glenbourne, Woodford Road in Bramhall near Stockport, where they can also be found at the time of the 1939 National Register, Lily having returned to her teaching profession as she is listed as a School Teacher. There is a redacted record at the address, and this is all probability is their daughter Beryl, born in 1928.⁵⁸

⁵³ National School Admission Registers accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk; CCTCC Student Register [1908-1934]: CCTCC Archives, unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe;

⁵⁴ 1911 England Census, RG14, Crewe District, piece number 21778.

⁵⁵ Macclesfield Times, Friday 2 January 1920, page 11

⁵⁶ Macclesfield Times, Friday 1 April 1921, page 8

⁵⁷ 1921 England Census, RG15, Macclesfield District, Piece 16777

⁵⁸ England and Wales Electoral Registered accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk; 1939 National Register, RG101, Hazel Grove and Bramhall UD, Piece 4019C; GRO Birth Indexes, 1928 March Quarter, Macclesfield District, Vol 8a Vol 196

I struggled to find anything about Lily's teaching career and thought that the report of her death would be the end of her story. However, after finding a short report of her death in 1975, I was able to add more details to the search. Lily died at the age of 84 in 1975 while living in Croydon, a short report of her death is recorded in the Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser in November, stating that she died in Kenley, Surrey and giving some interesting details, including the fact that she was for many years the headmistress of Woodford School. Poynton and that her funeral was held at Birtles Church, Macclesfield, on 3rd November, the same church in which she was baptised and married.⁵⁹

Armed with that information I was then able to discover that Lily took over the headship of Woodford School in September 1937 after the retirement of Miss E J Pattinson, who had been the headmistress for some 16 years. The report of the retirement presentation states that Mrs L Crowther was from Macclesfield, as Lily was at that time living in Bramhall I wondered if that meant she was teaching in Macclesfield or that she was born in Macclesfield.⁶⁰ Unfortunately I couldn't find out the answer!

Narrative by Margaret Roberts
Few Forgotten Women Team

Gladys Earl Simpson's Story

⁵⁹ GRO Death Indexes, 1975 December Quarter, Croydon District, Vol 11 page 1960; Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser, Thursday 6 November 1975, page 90

⁶⁰ Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser, Friday 8 October 1937, page 12

Gladys Earl was the second child of six, born to Elizabeth M Jackson and John Wesley Simpson, a telegraph clerk, on 29 December 1890. They had married on 21 June 1888 at the parish church in Fairfield, Lancaster when he was 23 and she was 21.

John Alfred was born in May the following year, and four more children followed Gladys's birth - Harold in 1895, Doris Mabel in 1899, Arthur Frederick in 1901 and Olive Muriel in 1905. Gladys's rather unusual middle name is her paternal grandmother Mary Ann's maiden name. The first four children were born in West Derby, a northeast suburb of Liverpool, but by 1901 the family had crossed the Mersey and lived on the Wirral, at 11 Bristol Ave, Liscard, Wallasey.

Gladys attended Wallasey High School and although there are no school records, must have done well, as in September 1908 she was among the first intake of women students at Cheshire County Training College, Crewe. There does not appear to be a record of where she lived during this time, but it is some 45 miles from the family home, so it is probably safe to assume that she boarded near the college during the week at least.

Gladys graduated in 1910. In 1911 she was living with her parents and four younger siblings at the same address in Wallasey. She is recorded as an elementary school teacher working at a local council school in Wallasey.

In December 1919 Gladys paid the fee of £1.1.0 to register with the Teacher's Registration Council. This shows that she is working at Somerville Council Infants' School (established in 1822 and now part of a rebuilt Somerville Primary), where she has been since leaving college.

She continues to live with her parents and younger siblings working in Somerville School. By 1921, her younger sister Doris Mabel has also qualified as a teacher and is working at the same school.

Doris Mabel married George Green in 1926, so was no longer able to remain in employment. In 1939, Gladys is their lodger at 8 Kirkland Road, and is still an elementary school teacher. It is reasonable to assume she remained at Somerville School.

Gladys never married, but she had a number of nieces and nephews. Her older brother John and his wife Elsie had Dorothy and Norman, while younger brother Arthur and Ivy had at least one child, Barbara. Both Harold and Doris married, but it is not clear if they had children.

It would appear that Gladys spent her whole life in a fairly small geographical area on the Wirral, and that her time at Cheshire County Training College in Crewe was perhaps as far as she ever lived away from home. However, she may have visited John and Elsie in Plymouth or Harold and Annie in Stourport on Severn; and by 1939, her parents had retired to Ruthin in Wales.

Gladys died on 25 October 1980, age 89. She was living at 10 Woodland Drive in Wallasey, again not far from previous addresses.

Narrative by Alison Boulton

Sources

Census records, Ancestry & Find my Past
BMD records, Ancestry, Find my Past & GRO
1939 register, Ancestry, Find my Past
Education & work records, Find my Past

Lucy Walker' Story

Lucy Walker was born in Durham on the 22nd of December 1891⁶¹. Known as a "Cathedral City", her parents lived here briefly before moving permanently to Crewe in Cheshire.

Lucy's father John Walker was an engineer pattern maker, an interesting choice of career at the time as the railways were a booming business. John's job was to construct full size locomotive models out of wood to create castings for the manufacturing of trains. Moving from Durham to Crewe would have been a lucrative career move as the smaller town of Crewe had invested heavily in manufacturing trains at this time and later branched out into car production.

In 1901⁶², the census shows Lucy living with her family at 33 John Street, Crewe which is now mainly a carpark for Asda but which once homed many families,

⁶¹ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

⁶² 1901 England Census C/O Ancestry.com

the majority of whom worked on the railways. Next door to them lived Robert Seacock, an engine fitter and his son who was employed as a railway clerk. Many others in the street also worked as boiler makers, engine drivers and blacksmiths as it was within walking distance of the train station.

Receiving a studentship in 1906⁶³ ensured that Lucys career path would be in education and provided the school with a grant to begin more intensive training. In 1907⁶⁴, Lucy also was mentioned in the local newspaper for receiving an award for “languages and manual work.”

In 1909, after finishing her preliminary certificate⁶⁵ at County Secondary school, Lucy enrolled in Cheshire County Training College to become a teacher⁶⁶. Having family in Crewe, it is unlikely that Lucy boarded at the college, and it would probably have been cheaper for her to live at home while she studied.

After graduating in 1911⁶⁷, we do not know where Lucy was initially employed but the 1911 census⁶⁸ shows that she is an elementary schoolteacher at Beech Street Convent School in Crewe.

For some, this life of “servitude” may not have suited everyone, and this may have been the case for Lucy. She does not appear in any photos or publications connected to the college and her update in the 21st Anniversary book in 1929⁶⁹ gives us barely any information. It notes that she is unmarried and living in Coventry.

⁶³ Crewe Chronicle Newspaper 22nd September 1906 courtesy of The British Library Board

⁶⁴ Crewe Chronicle Newspaper 28th December 1907 courtesy of The British Library Board

⁶⁵ Crewe Chronicle Newspaper 19th December 1908 courtesy of The British Library Board

⁶⁶ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

⁶⁷ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

⁶⁸ 1911 England Census C/O Ancestry.com

⁶⁹ 1908-1929, *Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary*, CCTCC, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

By 1939⁷⁰, Lucy is back living in Crewe but is no longer teaching. Instead, Lucy's occupation is shown as being "unpaid domestic duties." She is living with Thomas Everett, a coppersmith and also with her mother, now aged 70. It is possible that Lucy's elderly mother requires her care and assistance, which may be why she has "retired." It is unclear what the relationship is between the 2 women and Mr Everett is, or why they are currently living with him.

After this census, we do not know anything more about Lucy's life.

Lucy passed away at the age of 93 in Ludlow, West Midlands in February of 1985⁷¹. We can only imagine how many changes Lucy would witness to the education system from the time her training began until her death. Improved conditions and equal pay for women, trade unions and general acceptance for females in the workplace are just a few of the issues that Lucy's generation were fighting for in 1909. Today we take these for granted but our "Forgotten Women" made it possible. Their fight paved the way for our future.

Narrative by Shelly Matthews

⁷⁰ 1939 England register C/O Ancestry.com

⁷¹ England and Wales Civil Death Index 1916-2007 C/O Ancestry.com

Elsie Riding's Story

Elsie Riding was born on the 12th January 1891 In Cheshire. (1) The eldest child of George Henry Riding and Ann Catherine Riding nee Buckley, older sister of Frank Riding (Born 1894)

Elsie was born into a world where girls and women were limited with what they could achieve. Woman were not allowed to vote and careers were limited as getting married and becoming a housewife, who stayed at home to raise the children was seen as a woman's role. Upon marriage many women were expected to give up any jobs they may hold and take up the role of wife. Elsie's mother Ann was an example of this. On her marriage certificate in 1889 (2) under occupation Ann is listed as a school mistress after this she isn't listed as working on any census records.

Elsie grew up in Northwich a town situated in the West of Cheshire. The 1891 census shows Elsie living at 108 Chester Road with her parents and maternal Grandmother. Her father George is listed as a clerk at an alkali works and her grandmother Frances is a retired dressmaker. (3)

By the time the next census happens George had passed. Aged 38 he died on the 3rd August 1899 (4), leaving a wife and two children under 10. Upon his death he leaves Ann (who is only 38 years old) £1186 3s 4d (5), a considerable amount for this time. It means the family can live fairly comfortably with Ann not having to work and in 1901 they even have a servant. Ann never remarried. (6)

In 1904 Elsie is named as one of the few awarded a scholarship enabling her to proceed to Secondary school. (7) On the 26th August the Runcorn Guardian published an article with examination results for Northwich High School for Girls. It lists Elsie under the midsummer science and art examination, Botany Stage 1. Her result was Second Class. (8)

In 1908, aged 17 Elsie enrolls into the Cheshire County Training College. Her enrolment form lists her as living at 35 Winnington Lane and had attended Northwich High School. She had taken her admittance examination at Oxford senior local. She stayed there till 1910 when she took her leaving examination. (9)

Cheshire County Training College was founded in 1908 with the aim to prepare students for work in schools. Pupils of the college would attend from September till July with "three weeks vacation at Christmas and three at Easter" They would attend from 9.30 till 4 and have no classes Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Students would undertake observations at local schools and be required to complete a set amount. Female students would "take courses suitable for junior and infant schools and in addition all the needlework necessary or useful in schools" Examinations were taken and then each pupil would be awarded a certificate. (10)

The 1911 Census (11) shows Elsie living at 35 Winnington Lane, Northwich, Cheshire (where the family have lived since George's death). She is with her mother Ann, brother Frank and a boarder. Just one year after leaving college Elsie is listed as a schoolteacher in Cheshire. The 1921 census (12) shows the family still at the same address Elsie is listed as a schoolteacher at Castle C.E Girls School, where Elsie stays until her retirement.

In 1924 Frank marries Ethel Thompson (13) and a year later welcome a baby girl Gertrude Anne Riding. Tragically Frank dies on 25th December 1938 aged 44. (14)

In 1939 Ann and Elsie were now living at 3 Weaver Terrace, Northwich Cheshire. This is the house that Elsie will live in for the rest of her life. (15)

Elsie's mother Ann sadly passed away 13th May 1945 at the grand age of 84. She leaves £1740 9s 9d and Elsie is named on the probate. (16a/b)

Ann never married and continued working as a teacher until 1951. An article titled 'Miss Riding retires after 40 years' appeared in the Winsford Chronicle on 2nd June 1951. The article features a photo of Elsie holding her beloved dog Bobby who the article describes as "a blood nephew of Princess Elizabeth's famous corgi" The article goes on to say that Elsie is retiring from Castle Girls School after 40 years and will devote a lot of her spare time to Bobby. Although, it goes on, "it will be hard to imagine a school day passing without Miss Riding's cheery presence" It also lists her impressive career how she studied at Hartford High School (where she got her Oxford Certificate) She then went to Crewe Training College before teaching at Barnton Junior School and Nantwich Infant's School. She then started at Castle Girls School "where she taught all subjects in the junior school" She also was in charge of the annexe mission in Romanes Street for 5 years and a member of the N.U.T (National Union of Teachers). She was also a secretary of Castle Nursing association for 16 years before it disbanded. (17)

Elsie passed away on the 8th January 1962(18), 9 years after her retirement. Her funeral was detailed in the Winsford Chronicle on the 20th January 1962. It states the funeral took place at Northwich Parish Church on the Thursday. It also tells us she was a member of Castle Parish Church and a Sunday school teacher. It lists many mourners and a large number of wreaths were received, showing how well loved she was in the community. (19)

Her probate record indicates that Elsie left £3559 13s 2d to Gertrude Anne Davidson (wife of Daniel) and Edith Kirk (wife of Sidney). Gertrude was Frank's daughter. (20)

Elsie defined norms the whole of her life. Born into an age where women were expected to give up everything for marriage she succeeded in having a long career in teaching. A career she was passionate about and helped inspire countless others.

Narrative by Jessica Bishop

References

- 1.England and Wales Civil Registration Birth Index 1837-1915 Vol:8a Pg:257
- 2.England and Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index Gro Vol:8a page:409
- 3.1891 Census Return of England and Wales Class:RG12 Piece:2837 Folio:109 Page:24
- 4.England and Wales Civil Registration, Death Index, 1837-1915 GRO Vol:8a Page:191

5. England and Wales National Probate Calender (Index of Wills and Administration) 1858-1995
6. 1901 England Census Class: RG13 Piece:3341 Folio:63 Page:24
7. Runcorn Guardian- 11th June 1904 page:5 FindMyPast/BNA
8. Runcorn Guardian- 2gth August 1905 Page:5 FindMyPast/BNA
9. CCTCC Student Registers (1908-1935): CCTCC Archives, Unpublished Data, Under the Care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe
10. 'Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, Prospectus 1908-1914'
11. 1911 England Census - Reg District Number:447 Northwich ED 03 Piece:21669
12. 1921 Census of England and Wales Archive:RG 15 Piece:16921
13. England and Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index 1916-2005 GRO Vol:8a Page:524
14. England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1916-2007 GRO Vol:8a Page:372
15. 1939 England and Wales Register Reference: Rg 101/4057d Schedule:367
- 16a. England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1916-2007 GRO Vol:8a Page:326
- 16b. England and Wales National Probate Calender (Index of Wills and Administration) 1858-1995
17. Winsford Chronicle -2nd June 1951 Page:9 FindMyPast/BNA -Includes Picture
18. England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1916-2007 - GRO Volume 10a Page:635
19. Winsford Chronicle 20th January 1962 Page:13- FindMyPast Newspapers/BNA
20. England and Wales National Probate Calender (Index of Wills and Administration) 1858-1995

Clara Louise Wallace's Story

Clara was baptised on 5 October 1890 at New Brighton parish church in Cheshire. Her parents were George James and Elizabeth Wallace nee Hind of Hope Street. George was a clerk.ⁱ

On the 1891 census, Clara was 7 months old and living with her parents at 4 Summer Hill, Hope Street, Liscard on the Wirral. Her father George was working as a clerk to an insurance agent.ⁱⁱ

On the 1901 census, the family which now included a younger brother, George, were still on Hope Street, now living at number 6.ⁱⁱⁱ

In June 1904, Clara was awarded a scholarship from the Higher Education Committee on the basis that she intended to become a pupil teacher after attending secondary school.^{iv} Between 12 September 1904 and 7 January 1905 Clara attended Crewe County Grammar School.^v



Figure 1: Image of CTCC student Clara Louise Wallace, 1910, CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

On 15 September 1908 Clara enrolled at Cheshire County Training College in Crewe.^{vi}

Having successfully passed her final exam in 1910 we find Clara on the 1911 census, living at home with her parents in Tattenhall in Cheshire and working as an Elementary School Teacher for the County Council.^{vii}

Both Clara and her brother George did their bit during the First World War. George served overseas with the 3rd Battalion, Cheshire Regiment.^{viii} Between 1 May 1916 and 15 March 1919 Clara spent every Saturday volunteering at the VAD Hospital in Tattenhall.^{ix} On 23 December 1916 Clara performed with other VADs at a Christmas Concert for the soldiers. She sang 'Follow the Flag' with some other VADs and later sang 'Glondor' as a soloist.^x

In 1921 Clara was living with her parents at The Laurels, Tattenhall, Cheshire. She was still employed by the county council as an elementary school teacher.^{xi}

On 1 June 1920, Clara was registered with the Teachers Registration Council. Her registration number was 36058. Her registration card shows her teaching experience as Assistant Mistress up to 1927:^{xii}

- 1910 Burwardsley Council School
- 1911-12 Tattenhall CofE School
- 1912 Navigation Road County School, Altrincham
- 1912 Tattenhall CofE School
- 1913-1925 Tattenhall Council School
- 1925-1927 Victory Hall School, Moreton Wirrall
- 1927 Victory Road Council Senior School, Moreton Wirrall

In 1925, she was a founding member of Tattenhall Choral Society.^{xiii}

In 1929, Clara's address was 56 Queensway at Wallasey.^{xiv} It was also this year that she was made life member of the Old Students Association of Cheshire County Training College.^{xv}

In 1939, Clara and her widowed mother Elizabeth (George had died on 2 May 1927)^{xvi} were still living at 56 Queensway.^{xvii} Elizabeth died on 26 January 1951 at 56 Queensway, probate was granted to Clara.^{xviii}

Clara died on 10 May 1970 at 39 Minchin Close, Leatherhead.^{xix}

Narrative by Nicola Hallam

ⁱ Baptisms (PR) England. New Brighton, Cheshire. 5 October 1890. WALLACE, Clara Louise. Collection: Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023.

ⁱⁱ Census records England. Liscard, Cheshire. 5th April 1891. WALLACE, George. Class: RG12; Piece: 2894; Folio: 146; Page: 49; GSU roll: 6098004. www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16th August 2023

ⁱⁱⁱ Census records England. Liscard, Cheshire. 31 March 1901. WALLACE, George. Class: RG13; Piece: 3401; Folio: 72; Page: 7. www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16th August 2023

^{iv} Northwich Guardian (1904) Cheshire Scholarships. *Northwich Guardian*. 11 June. Page 5, col a. British Newspaper Archive. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23rd August 2023

^v School admission records. Crewe, Cheshire. 12 September 1904. WALLACE, Clara. Cheshire Archives. SL236/7. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023.

^{vi} CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

^{vii} Census records England. Tattenhall, Cheshire. 2 April 1911. WALLACE, George. RG14PN21837 RG78PN1301 RD450 SD1 ED6 SN85. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023.

-
- viii War Office [Great Britain] Cheshire Regiment. WALLACE, George. Service no: 62418. War Office: Soldiers' Documents, First World War Wo363. www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 August 2023
- ix Red Cross. Voluntary Aid Detachment records. 19 May 1916. WALLACE, Clara Louise. <https://vad.redcross.org.uk/record?rowKey=216242>: accessed 16 August 2023.
- x Cheshire Observer (1916) Soldiers Concert. Cheshire Observer. 30 December. Page 1, col f. British Newspaper Archives. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023.
- xi Census records England. Tattenhall, Cheshire. 19 June 1921. WALLACE, George James. RG15/17047. RD 450 RS 1 ED 20, 21. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023
- xii Teachers' Registration Council Registers. Moreton Wirral, Cheshire. 1 June 1920. WALLACE, Clara Louise. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023
- xiii Cheshire Observer (1925) Choral Society. Cheshire Observer. 10 October. Page 12, col b. British Newspaper Archives. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023.
- xiv 1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe
- xv 'Old Students Association. Coming of Age Magazine, May 18th 1929', part of the CCTCC Collection at the Family History Society, Crewe
- xvi Testamentary records. National Probate Calendar. Probate Liverpool 14 July 1927. WALLACE, George James www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023
- xvii National Registration Survey. Wallasey, Cheshire. 29 September 1939. WALLACE, Clara. Ref: RG101/3968B/008/23 Letter Code: LDDC. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023
- xviii Testamentary records. National Probate Calendar. Probate Liverpool 25 July 1951. WALLACE, Elizabeth. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023
- xix Testamentary records. National Probate Calendar. Probate London 19 July 1970. WALLACE, Clara Louise. www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2023