

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



This story was written, in November 2023, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who studied at The Grange School of Housewifery in Street, Somerset.

Alice J Crouch's Story

Walter Henry Crouch married Eliza Jane Dyer on 16 July 1883 at St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol.¹ Their first child Eliza Louise was born the following year.² A son Walter was born in 1885 but died when he was just a few months old.³

Their daughter Alice Jubilee was born on 19 March 1887, at the time the family were living at 19 York Street, Bristol.⁴ It was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee that year which no doubt accounts for her middle name. Over 900 children were given the first or second name of Jubilee that year.

In 1891 Alice was living on the High Street in Batheaston with her parents and older sister Louise. Walter was a market gardener from Farringdon in Berkshire, Eliza was from Bridgewater in Somerset. They were lodging in the house of Mary Darris, a dressmaker.⁵

Alice's mother Eliza died in May 1894 and was buried in St Nicholas churchyard in Bathampton.⁶

On 25 February 1897, Alice's father, Walter married Maria Thirza Uphill at Widecombe in Somerset.⁷

In 1901 Walter and Maria were living at Little Solsbury View, The Normans in Bathampton.⁸ Alice was living at the School of Housewifery in Street. No doubt having seen one of the notices in the local newspapers. The school took girls aged 13 and over so at 14 Alice was one of the youngest at the school in 1901.⁹

In 1904 Alice's eldest sister Louise who had emigrated to the US in 1902 was married at Colby in Washington State to William James McPherson.¹⁰

In 1911 Alice was living with her father Walter and stepmother Maria Theresa at The Normans, Bathampton. Walter was still working a market gardener. Alice had begun her career in domestic service and was working as a parlourmaid.¹¹

In 1921 she was living and working as a maid for Louise Crawshay at Batheaston Cottage, Batheaston.¹²

Alice and her parents travelled to the United States several times to visit Louise, usually sailing into Quebec and then crossing into the US. On her entry papers Alice was described as 5ft 8, fair complexion, fair hair and brown eyes.¹³

In 1931 Alice was living at 14 Darlington Place in Bath and working for James Sebastian Heap and his family.¹⁴

In 1939 on the National Registration Survey Alice was living at 10 Dunsford Place in Bath and was working as a cook for the recently widowed Clara Martineau.¹⁵

Alice died on 16 November 1970, 1 Solsbury View, The Normans, Bathampton at the age of 83.¹⁶ She was cremated at Haycombe Crematorium on 19 November and her ashes were buried in St Nicholas churchyard alongside her parents.^{17 18}

Written by Nicola Hallam MSc November 2023

Sources

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