

# *This is A Few Forgotten Women Story*



*This story was written in August 2023 as one of 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]*

## **Lilian Evelyn and Ivy Grace Ryder's Story**

Lilian attended the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe (CCTCC) from September 1908 to 1910 and her younger sister Ivy enrolled from September 1911 to 1913. The two girls came from a family where five of the six daughters grew up to train as teachers. This is their story.

Lilian Evelyn was born 8<sup>th</sup> June 1890, the seventh child, fifth daughter of Arthur and Frances (née Allcock) who lived in Sandbach, Cheshire. Her birth was later registered with the GRO in September 1890<sup>1</sup>. However, she is named in the online indexes of the GRO as Lilian Ethel, whilst she was baptised 6<sup>th</sup> July 1890 at Sandbach<sup>2</sup>, as Lilian Evelyn. The church is not named. As the name Ethel doesn't appear on any further documentation and Lilian herself seemed to choose Evelyn as her preferred name, it can only be assumed that either the informant gave the wrong name, or the wrong name was inadvertently recorded or transcribed.

Grace Ivy was born 25 July 1892 according to the 1939 register<sup>3</sup>, the eight of nine children, her birth was registered with the GRO in September 1892<sup>4</sup>, she was baptised in Sandbach on

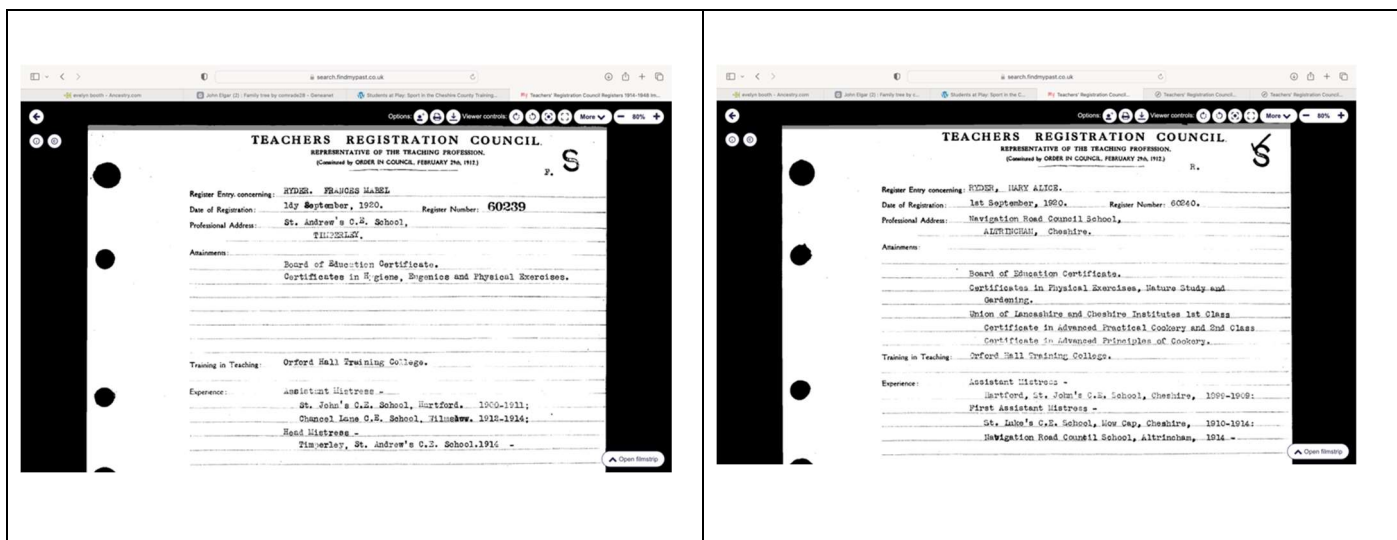
4<sup>th</sup> September 1892<sup>5</sup> and once again there is a name discrepancy, as she is transcribed as Grace Joy Ryder. As this middle name never appears again, it can be assumed that maybe again the wrong name was given or there was an error made during the recording/transcription process. Their parents, Arthur Ryder and Frances Allcock, married on 7 Feb 1876 at Burslem, Staffordshire<sup>6</sup>.

By 1881 the growing family had settled in Sandbach as shown in the census of that year<sup>7</sup>, Arthur worked as an engineer, designing models and they had 3 young children; Florence Edith aged 4, Arthur William age 3 and John Edward aged 2 together with 13 year old domestic servant Alice Sherwin. The family lived in Bradwell at Marsh Green.

By 1891 they had moved to Green Street, Sandbach<sup>8</sup> and Arthur was working as an engineer, their eldest daughter Florence was a seamstress and four more daughters had been born; Gertrude in 1882, Frances Mabel in 1883, Mary Alice in 1885 and Lilian Evelyn in 1890.

By 1901 the family had moved to Northwich and the 1901 census records them as living at 28 Sydney Street<sup>9</sup>. The two boys are not listed but all the girls are still living at home, Frances however is named as Mabel F; Florence is described as a dress maker, Gertrude as an assistant school mistress and Frances/Mabel aged 18 and Mary A aged 16 as pupil teachers. Lilian was no longer the youngest as the final two children of the family are listed as Ivy Grace born in 1893 and Lawrence B born in 1898.

The three older daughters trained at a time before the Cheshire Country Training College at Crewe opened in 1908. I have been unable to find any detail of Gertrude and her teaching career, but Teacher Registration Council forms were located for Frances and Mary on the Findmypast website<sup>10-11</sup>. These forms show that both women trained at Orford Hall training college, Frances was employed from 1900 as Assistant Mistress in Hartford then Wilmslow, Cheshire and was promoted to Headmistress in 1914 in a school at Timperley. Whilst Mary worked at Hartford, Cheshire from 1899 as Assistant Mistress then later as First Assistant Mistress in Mow Cap then at Navigation Road School in Altrincham, both in Cheshire.



**Figure 1; Teachers Registration Council forms for Frances Mabel Ryder<sup>10</sup> and Mary Alice Ryder<sup>11</sup>**

Lilian was the first of the family to enrol for Teacher Training at Cheshire County training college Crewe (CCTCC). The CCTCC Student Registers records the following details from her enrolment record<sup>12</sup>;

**Date of enrolment into college:** 15 September 1908

**Guardian's Name/relationship:** Arthur Ryder

**Home Address:** The Laurels, Northwich, Cheshire

**School attended:** Northwich High School

**Examination for Admission:** Preliminary Certificate 1908 & Oxford Senior Local 1908

**Leaving Examination:** Final Exam, Training College 1910

Whilst at CCTCC Lilian, or Evelyn, as she apparently preferred to be called was photographed as part of the Women's hockey team, she is shown in the centre of the middle row.



*CTCC student hockey team 1908-1910; Evelyn Ryder is the middle student in the middle row<sup>13</sup>*

In the 1911 census the family was still living at the same address in Beech Road, Northwich as when Evelyn had joined CCTCC. Six of their children were still living at home, all unmarried. Evelyn and her older sister Frances are recorded as being elementary school teachers, both employed by the county council. Ivy, aged 18, was described as a governess and later in this year she would follow Evelyn by enrolling to study to become a teacher at the CCTCC.

After this time, I was unable to find any further record of Evelyn's teaching career or her Teachers Registration Council form; the most likely reason is probably because Evelyn married Henry L Booth early in 1920 in Northwich<sup>14</sup>. As the Registration Council was set up in September 1920, any teaching Evelyn did before that would not have been recorded if she never registered, as married women usually did not work. Further evidence of her marriage was found in the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary book of the CCTCC, from 1929, where she is recorded as Mrs E Booth living in Birchin Lane, Nantwich, Cheshire<sup>15</sup>. Evelyn was pregnant when the teacher's registration council was set up as her daughter Olga Ryder Booth was born on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1921<sup>16</sup>.

In the 1921 census Evelyn and her family were visiting her parents in Northwich, I could not access this image, but a colleague was able to find this information. Both Evelyn and Henry were 31 years old, he was employed as a bank clerk at Union Bank Northwich and Evelyn was listed as carrying out “home duties”, their daughter Olga was only one month old. Grace and Mary were both teachers at Navigation Road School, Altringham and Frances was a head teacher at St Andrews School, Timperley, Cheshire.

In the 1939 Register, Evelyn was described as undertaking unpaid domestic home duties, living with her husband Henry, a bank accountant and 18 year old daughter Olga, who was described as “at school”. The family were still living at Birchin Lane in Nantwich. The trail on Evelyn goes cold at this point and no further records can be found, which suggest she did not return to teaching. Her daughter Olga does not appear in any teaching records either.

Ivy Grace Ryder also seemed to prefer to use her second given name instead of her first. She joined CCTCC the year after her sister Evelyn completed her course and the CCTCC enrolment register again provides details regarding her registration<sup>17</sup>;

**Date of enrolment into college:** 15 September 1911

**Date of Birth;** 25 July 1892

**Father’s name:** Arthur Ryder

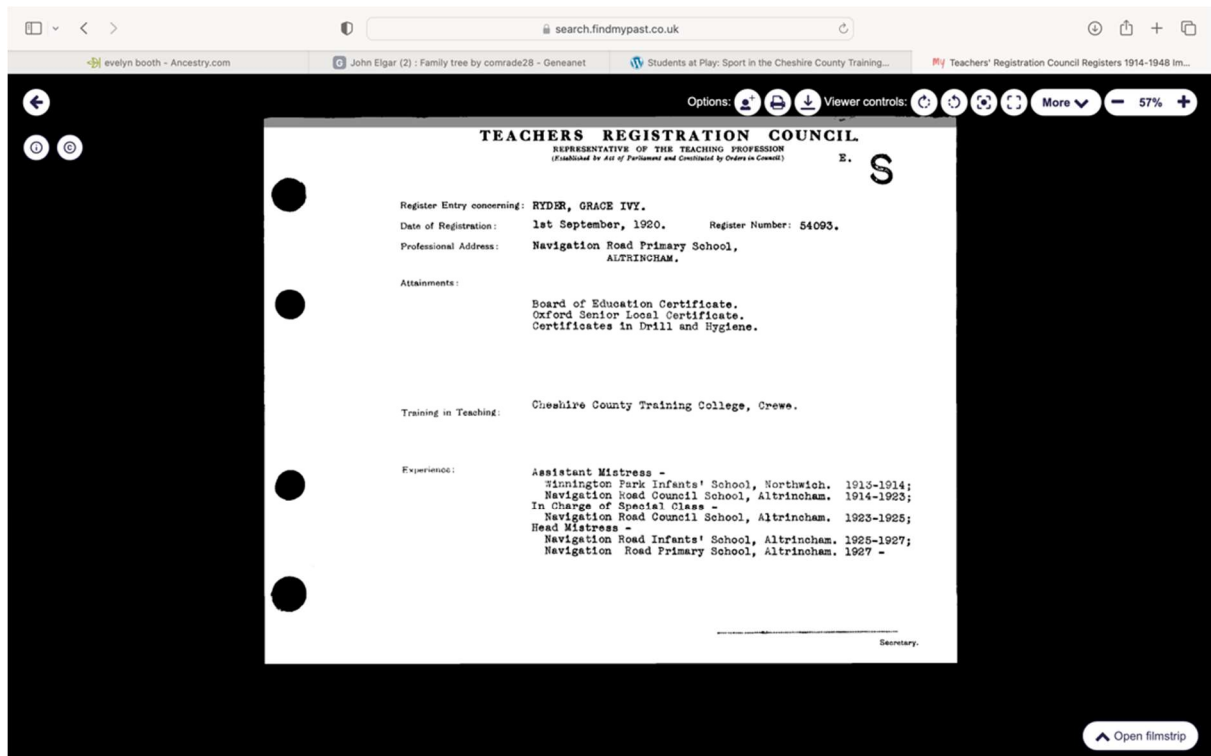
**Home Address:** The Laurels, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire

**School attended:** unrecorded

**Examination for Admission:** Oxford Senior Local exam

**Leaving Examination:** Final Exam, Training College 1913

The next mention of Grace is in the afore mentioned 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary booklet, in 1929, which gives her address as Brantfell, Navigation Road, Altrincham, Cheshire<sup>18</sup>. Findmypast has copies of the Teachers Registration Council forms and a search resulted in Grace Ivy’s teaching record being located;



**Figure 2; Teachers Registration Council forms for Grace Ivy Ryder<sup>19</sup>**

Grace had a long teaching career, primarily in nearby Altrincham, working at the Navigation Road Primary School from 1914 alongside her sister Mary who also joined this school in 1914. From her TRC form, above, it can be seen that Grace was promoted to head teacher at this school in 1925, initially in the Infants school but moving to be head of the Juniors from 1927.

The publication of the 1939 register shows Grace living at 25 Burlington Road, Altrincham<sup>20</sup> with her elder sister Mary and another teacher, Annie McKenzie born the year after Mary. All were single, Grace was still a headteacher Mary was described as a teacher and Annie as a teacher of domestic Science. It is possible that the two sisters may still have been employed at the Navigation Road School, as Annie McKenzie may also have been.

This is the last information I can find regarding Grace's teaching career, as later censuses have either been destroyed (1931) or not taken (1941) and the next available census, 1951, won't be released until the hundred year closure rule has been satisfied. The next logical step was to look in the death indexes of the GRO. The first one located was that of their father, Arthur,

who died in April 1934 at the age of 78<sup>21</sup> and their mother Frances, in July of the same year, aged 75<sup>22</sup>.

I have not been able to accurately identify the correct death registration for Evelyn's husband, Henry, however Evelyn is recorded as dying in Oxford, aged 95. It is possible to identify this as the correct entry as she is recorded as Lilian Evelyn Booth born 8<sup>th</sup> June 1890<sup>23</sup>. Her daughter Olga lived to the same age, 94, and also died in Oxford, unmarried and registered in the GRO death indexes as Ms Olga Ryder Booth<sup>24</sup>. Grace Ryder died in April 1969 and her death was registered with the GRO in Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire<sup>25</sup>. A colleague on the FFWP found a rather poignant reference to Grace in an CCTCC Old Student Magazine from 1972 from an ex-student Agnes Boardman<sup>26</sup> (now Mrs Berry) who was hoping to contact some of her old cohort, including Grace Ryder. We will likely never know if she found out how successful Grace had gone on to be in her chosen career.

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