

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.

Florence Jane Collins's Story

Florence Jane Collins was born in January 1887 at Combe St. Nicholas Somerset, she was baptised on the 17 April 1887, her parents were Gilbert Collins and Alice Mary Phippen, they married in Chard in 1883, Gilbert who was 30 years old and worked as a Blacksmith, Alice was 25 years old, she worked as a Collar hand. Florence's mother Alice was born in 1859, Tatworth Somerset, Alice's father Edwin Phippen worked as a labourer in Wadeford Somerset.

In 1891 Florence is living with her parents and older brother Gilbert aged 6 and she is aged 4, in 1901 we see that Florence is now living at the Grange School of Housewifery, she is a pupil doing laundry work and it also states on the 1901 census that she was born in Wadeford, Somerset aged 13 years old.

Ten years later in the 1911 census, it shows that Florence is now a servant and cook living in Acton Middlesex, for Mrs Ann Daley who is a widow. In London 1921 it states that Florence is a head servant, cook, housekeeper to Lady Turner and employer private, she is still living at the same address in 1922 when she gets married to Thomas Arthur Cox on the 9 September 1922, they both sign the marriage certificate. Florence is now 35 years old a spinster when she marries Thomas Arthur Cox who is 43 years old and a widow, his occupation is a Sheet metal worker, living at 25 Redburn Street, Chelsea, his father Edward Cox a Lamp lighter.

In 1911 Thomas Cox was living with his first wife Beatrice Cox who died in 1917 aged 37 years old in Wandsworth they had two sons Thomas Charles Cox and Frederick William Cox.

Florence and Thomas have one son together Arthur Richard Cox born 10 August 1923, and they also had a daughter Margaret Betty Cox born in 1925 Chelsea, and at the age of 3 years she died, she was born a year after Florence's father Gilbert Collins who died January 1924 at Chard Somerset.

In 1932 Florence's husband Thomas Arthur Cox died in Chelsea London aged 52, he is buried in Brompton Cemetery London. Florence is in 1939 Widowed and living back at Hainhill, Chard, Somerset Occupation Cook.

In the 1939 census Florence's son Arthur Richard Cox is living with his grandmother, Florence's mother Alice Collins at Donyatt Street chard, Somerset aged 23 years old working as a Carpenter apprentice, at aged 29 in 1945 he marries Audrey M Blackmore in Weston super Mare Somerset, his

Grandmother Alice Collins dies in 1945 aged 86 at Chard Somerset. Arthur Richard Cox death is in 2003 aged 80 years old in Somerset.

The last record I can find of Florence Jane Cox nee Collins is her death in 1983 aged 96 living in Yeovil Somerset.

By Donna Mills November 2023

Sources

BMD records – Ancestry

1891,1901 – Census Ancestry

1911,1939 – Census Ancestry

1921- Census- Find my Past

Marriage records – Ancestry

Death records - Ancestry