

This is a Story from 'A Few Forgotten Women'



Julia Mahoney 1897-1968

A collaborative piece of research by the Few Forgotten Women Team undertaken on the International Day of the Girl on Wednesday, 11 October 2023 via Zoom.

Please be aware that this story contains an account of domestic abuse

For background information to the family and social situation that Julia was born into please see the Background Information at the end of the article.

Julia Mahoney was the youngest daughter and final child born to Patrick Mahoney and Catherine (nee Regan) in May 1897.¹ In the 1891 Census² the family were living in Bermondsey: Patrick Mahoney aged

¹ Births CR. England. Southwark. March Quarter. 1897. MAHONEY, Julia. 1d, 6.
<https://freebmd.org.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

² Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 05 April 1891. MAHONEY, Patrick. RG12/374/38/70. 1891 England, Wales and Scotland Census.
<https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

33 a labourer, born in Rotherhithe, Catherine, aged 30 a fur puller, with children Michael aged 4, Jeremiah aged 3 and Catherine aged 1. In August 1897, aged 3 months, Julia was admitted to St Saviours Union and Infirmary Workhouse in Southwark³, with her mother Catherine. They were transferred to Christ Church Workhouse that same evening as this was in their place of settlement. There is a record of a Julia Mahoney aged 8 months (badly written 3?) in the Hospital and Infirmary Register between August 1897 and October 1897. Her mother, Catherine was not on the same page, so it appears that Julia was there on her own.

Interestingly, a few names back in the St Saviours Union Workhouse and Infirmary records³, dated June 1897, a John Mahoney, aged about 15 years was admitted for a month and discharged in July 1897 to 'SE' Infirmary. This could either be to St Elizabeth's Infirmary (also known as St Elizabeth Home for Incurables) or to St Ebbas Infirmary, set up to treat epileptics - where some 14% of patients developed epilepsy as a result of having received a head injury or from suffering some trauma⁴. This is an interesting fact to note, considering the newspaper revelations about Patrick Mahoney's violent temper (see Background Information). John may be one of the children Catherine had who had died, as reported in the 1911 Census.⁵

³ London, England. London Metropolitan Archives. Workhouse Admission and Discharge Records. MAHONEY, Julia. 1897. Image 180. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

⁴ St Ebba's Hospital. History. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Ebba%27s_Hospital : accessed 1 November 2023.

⁵ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 02 April 1911. MAHONEY, Catherine. RG14/1912/36/24/2/390. 1911 England and Wales Census. <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

In the 1901 Census⁶ Julia is living with her mother, Catherine, at 15 Gillam's Court, Bermondsey. Catherine is a 38-year-old married woman, who was the head of the household and engaged in fur/skin pulling, born in Bermondsey, London. At home are Michael, aged 15, a gear boy in the docks, who was also born in Bermondsey, Jeremiah, aged 14, no occupation given, born Bermondsey, Catherine aged 11, no schooling mentioned, born Rotherhithe, Norah, aged 8, no schooling mentioned, also born in Rotherhithe and Julia aged 5, no schooling mentioned, born Rotherhithe and noted as being dumb from birth. No father present, although her mother states she is married.

During 1907 there are a few admissions and discharges noted for Julia, mainly to St Mary's Islington⁷, when she was aged 10 years. She was discharged from here to Miss Oake, 41 St Johns Villas - was she sent as a servant or was this a Dame School for children with hearing loss? The house is still there today and appears to be a large house over 4 floors, including the basement, the size of which suggests either option could be viable.

Living in Bermondsey would have brought Julia (and her family) to the attention of Grace Kimmins, the founder of Chailey Heritage in 1903⁸.

⁶ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 31 March 1901. MAHONEY, Catherine. RG13/399/186/28. 1901 England, Wales and Scotland Census. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

⁷ London, England. London Metropolitan Archives. Workhouse Admission and Discharge Records. MAHONEY, Julia. 1907. Image 656. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

⁸ See A Few Forgotten Women <https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/affw> : accessed 1 November 2023.

Grace Kimmins was a Wesleyan deaconess, who, with her husband, lived and worked in the Bermondsey Settlement, a methodist settlement founded by the Rev'd John Scott Lidgget in 1892. It offered social, health and educational services to the poor of its neighbourhood, including music and dance.

Julia next appears in the records at the Girls Heritage, Chailey, Sussex in the 1911 Census⁹. She is a housewifery scholar, aged 15 who was born in Rotherhithe and listed in the infirmity column as being deaf and dumb since birth. Her mother, Catherine, aged 48, who is still describing herself as married, was enumerated at 22 Janeway Street,²⁶ Bermondsey with her son, Michael, aged 25, a waterside labourer and her daughter, Norah, aged 18, a tin worker. Catherine also noted on the form that she had 8 children born, of whom 3 had died and 5 were living.

In the 1921 Census¹⁰, Catherine and Julia are living at 40 Cherry Garden Street, Bermondsey, which led to the River Thames. This is very close to where Julia's grandparents were living and to St Olave's Workhouse, where her father spent a lot of time. This is an area-coloured blue on Charles Booth's map¹¹ showing that the area was 'Poor' with an income of 18-21 shillings a week in the 1886-1903

⁹ Census Records. England and Wales. Chailey, Sussex. 02 April 1911. MAHONEY, Julia. RG14/77/1/11/127. 1911 England and Wales Census. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023

¹⁰ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 19 June 1921. MAHONEY, Julia. RG15/01931/100/24/1/44. <https://www.fmp.co.uk> : accessed 1 November 2023.

¹¹ Booth, Charles. Inquiry into Life and Labour in London (1886-1903). <https://www.booth.lse.ac.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023

period. The rest of the enumeration form shows Catherine, aged 59 years, married and employed as a sack repairer for Messer's Frazier, Sack Makers in Maltby Street, Bermondsey. Julia is aged 25 years, single and is employed as a tinplate presser (out of work) whose previous employer was Lloyds Ltd, Tin Box Works, possibly in Globe Street, Bermondsey. The works would have made biscuit tins, coffee, tea and sugar canisters as well as tin trays.

In the 1939 Register¹² Julia is again living with her mother, Catherine at 62 Park Buildings in Bermondsey. Her mother, who is a widow is described as incapacitated and 77 years of age. Julia is aged 42 years and described as a factory hand, cork manufacture.

In January 1940¹³, Julia married Henry Loveridge in Deptford a 45-year-old widower.

The next record we have is from 1942 and records the death¹⁴ of Catherine in Bermondsey, Surrey aged 79 years. There does not appear to be a will, possibly she had nothing of value to leave to anyone. There are no voters' lists available, showing either Julia or Henry and so we are not sure where they were living after the war.

¹² 1939 Register. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 29 September 1939. MAHONEY, Julia. RG101/21.2/ACON/4. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 1 November 2023.

¹³ Marriages CR. England and Wales. Deptford, Surrey. March Quarter 1940. LOVERIDGE, Henry and MAHONEY, Julia. 1d, 2419. England and Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index 1916-2005. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 1 November 2023.

¹⁴ Deaths CR. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. December Quarter, 1942. MAHONEY, Catherine. 1D, 52. England and Wales Deaths 1837-2007. <https://fmp.co.uk> : accessed 1 November 2023.

There is, however, a death record for a Henry Loveridge in 1952¹⁵ in Croydon and a death registration in January 1968¹⁶ in Croydon, Greater London for a Julia Loveridge, who was aged 72 years. Maybe they were moved out of London following the war damage and were rehoused in the Croydon area.

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Background Information to Julia Mahoney's story

To understand the dynamics of family life in the Mahoney household, we felt that it was important to understand the relationship of the parents to each other and the involvement of the wider family, as background to Julia's story.

Julia's parents, Patrick Mahoney (1865-1918) and Catherine Regan (1863-1942) were both from the Bermondsey area of London. Patrick was born in Bermondsey¹⁷ in 1865 and was enumerated in the 1871 census¹⁸ aged 7, living in Cherry Tree Garden Street with his parents,

¹⁵ Deaths CR. Deaths CR. England and Wales. Croydon, Surrey. March Quarter, 1952. Loveridge, Henry. 5g, 84. England and Wales Deaths 1837-2007. <https://freebmd.co.uk> : accessed 1 November 2023.

¹⁶ Deaths CR. England and Wales. Croydon, Surrey. March Quarter, 1968. Loveridge, Julia. 5A, 1079. England and Wales Deaths 1837-2007. <https://freebmd.co.uk> : accessed 1 November 2023.

¹⁷ Births CR. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. June Quarter. 1865. MAHONEY, Patrick. 1D. 71. England and Wales Births 1837-2006. <https://www.fmp.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

¹⁸ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 02 April 1871. MAHONEY, Patrick. RG10/636/95/43/222 [transcription]. 1871 England, Wales and Scotland Census. <https://www.fmp.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

John, a labourer and Mary Mahoney, a charwoman, who were both born in Cork, Ireland and a brother aged 3 years. In the 1881 Census¹⁹ Patrick was still living with his parents, John, and Mary, at 14 Cherry Garden Street, Bermondsey. The family had grown, Patrick now had a sister and 3 brothers.

Catherine was born in Bermondsey²⁰ and in the 1871 Census²¹ she was aged 7 and living at 5, Mahews (Mayhews) Buildings, Camberwell, with her parents, Patrick Regan, a bricklayer's labourer, and Mary his wife, with 4 brothers and a sister. By 1881²², the family have moved to 6 Green Bank, off Tooley Street, Southwark and Catherine is a sack sewer aged 18 years, still living at home with her parents and 2 brothers. Catherine and Patrick, a labourer, were married in the June Quarter, 1884²³ at St Olave, Bermondsey, Southwark and only 3 years into their marriage, Patrick was accused of a 'Murderous Assault' on his wife Catherine and her father, Patrick Regan²⁴. This was not the first time

¹⁹ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 03 April 1881. MAHONEY, Patrick. RG11/567/114/32/1090 [transcription]. 1881 England, Wales and Scotland Census. <https://www.fmp.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²⁰ Births CR. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. September Quarter. 1863. REGAN, Catherine. 1D. 49. England and Wales Births 1837-2006. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²¹ Census Records. England and Wales. Camberwell, Surrey. 02 April 1871. REGAN, Catherine. RG10/737/34/4. 1871 England and Wales Census. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²² Census Records. England and Wales. Southwark, Surrey. 03 April 1881. REGAN, Catherine. RG11/555/47/17. 1881 England and Wales Census. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²³ Marriages CR. England and Wales. St Olave, Southwark. June Quarter. 1884. MAHONEY, Patrick and REGAN, Catherine. 1D. 488. England and Wales Marriages 1837-2005. <https://www.fmp.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²⁴ South London Gazette. 1887. Murderous Assault. 30 April. Page 11, Column 4. <https://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

that Patrick had been accused of assault. In May 1882²⁵, he was accused of violently assaulting Mrs Anne Marin Holt at Kings Cross, a few years before he assaulted his wife and father-in-law. He was also charged with violently assaulting Bridget Foley in May 1887, about the same time as he attacked his wife and father-in-law.²⁶ Again in 1887, he and 2 others were accused of 'Alleged Robbery and Attempted Murder'. However, the victim eventually admitted that the story was false, and the prisoners were all acquitted.²⁷

In 1889²⁸ Catherine Mahoney, charwoman of 23 Gillham Court, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe was charged with 'Disorderly Conduct and using Obscene Language' but was discharged. This is the only reference to her being in court. We wonder if the obscene language was aimed at her husband?

In the 1891 Census²⁹, Patrick Mahoney, labourer, aged 33 was living in Cherry Garden Place, just around the corner from where he grew up. Living with him are his wife, Catherine, a fur puller, aged 30, 2 sons and a daughter.

²⁵ Islington Gazette. 1882. Court Dealings. 10 May. Page 2, Column 5.
<https://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²⁶ London Evening Standard. 1887. Violent Assault. 14 May. Page 8, Column 3.
<https://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²⁷ London Evening Standard. 1887. Alleged Robbery and Attempted Murder. 14 May. Page 8, Column 3. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²⁸ Kentish Mercury. 1889. Disorderly Conduct. 22 November. Page 6, Column 3.
<https://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

²⁹ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 05 April 1891. MAHONEY, Patrick. RG12/374/38/70. 1891 England, Wales and Scotland Census.
<https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

There are a few Patrick Mahoney's in London at this time and the newspaper report of a Patrick being injured at work, might not relate to the same man, but is shown here to highlight the dangerous nature of a dock labourer's work. In November 1894 at Millwall Dockyard³⁰ a Patrick Mahoney broke his leg when a stack of wool bales fell on him, due to being inadequately stacked. In court, the dockyard's barrister maintained that Patrick was guilty of contributory negligence as he should have restacked the bales himself - showing how little the judiciary understood about the closed shop working arrangements in the dockyard, as Patrick would have been dismissed with immediate effect if he had been caught re-stacking the bales without permission from the foreman.

Patrick Mahoney is accused of deserting his wife and family in July 1897³¹, something he denied, saying that he was out looking for work. As Patrick was possibly not able to do heavy lifting work, following a possible work accident, he appears in court in 1897 accused of stealing some opera glasses.³²

In the 1901 Census³³, Catherine was living at 15 Gilham Court, Rotherhithe just off West Lane and round the corner from her parents-

³⁰ Tower Hamlets Independent and East End Local Advertiser. 1895. Employers' Liability Action. 26 January. Page 8, Column 5. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

³¹ Woolwich Gazette. 1897. Deserting Wife and Family. 2 July. Page 5, Column. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

³² Morning Post. 1897. Borrowed Opera Glasses. 16 November. Page 6, Column 4. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

³³ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 31 March 1901. MAHONEY, Catherine. RG13/399/186/28. 1901 England, Wales and Scotland Census. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

in-law. She is shown as head of the household and is living with her 2 sons and 3 daughters, in the same house as John Ryan, a corn porter (docks), his wife, Ellen an orange pulper and their 2 daughters. This must have been a very over-crowded house, but by this subletting arrangement, Catherine was able to afford the rent and probably babysitting and cooking would have been shared with Ellen. This area is categorised by Charles Booth as 'very poor, chronic want'³⁴.

Patrick was not in the house, in March and was probably in prison when the census was taken. In July 1901, he was on remand in Wandsworth Prison³⁵ having 3 summary convictions for deserting his wife and family. He was committed on 22 July 1901 at Southwark Police Court, described as an 'Incorrigible rogue' by the committing magistrate and on 14 August 1901 he was sentenced to 6 months hard labour. His final appearance in the courts was in 1902³⁶ when he was accused of stabbing Catherine in the cheek with a fork. The warrant-officer described Patrick as a 'worthless man' while his wife was 'hardworking and sober'. At this point, Catherine was granted a judicial separation from her husband.

There are a list of workhouse admissions for Patrick Mahoney between 1910-17 for St Olaves, 28 Tanner Street Bermondsey. For example, in

³⁴ Booth, Charles. Inquiry into Life and Labour in London (1886-1903).

<https://www.booth.lse.ac.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023

³⁵ Calendar of Prisoners Tried At The August Adjourned Quarter Session Of The Peace For The Year 1901. Newington Court, London. 14 July 1901. MAHONEY, Patrick. HO140/210/31. <https://www.fmp.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

³⁶ Woolwich Herald. 1902. A Worthless Husband at Rotherhithe. 21 November. Page 8, Column 3. <https://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

the 1911 census³⁷, Patrick is enumerated in St Olave's Workhouse, Tanner Street, Bermondsey.

On his final discharge, from Parish Street Workhouse³⁸, The workhouse records note that the reason for Patrick's discharge was insanity and on 7 June 1917 was transferred to Cane Hill Asylum, Coulsdon. He died the following year aged 53 possibly in the hospital.³⁹

³⁷ Census Records. England and Wales. Bermondsey, Surrey. 02 April 1911. MAHONEY, Patrick. RG14/1912/43 and 44/24/2. 1911 England, Wales and Scotland Census. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

³⁸ London, England. London Metropolitan Archives. Workhouse Admission and Discharge Records. MAHONEY, Patrick. 1916-1917. Image 110. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.

³⁹ Death CR. England. Croydon. March Quarter 1918. MAHONEY, Patrick. 2a. 448. <https://www.freebmd.org.uk> : accessed 31 October 2023.