

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 County Training College, Crewe [CCTCC]

This was an exciting opportunity to work on a data set that was not yet in the public domain, and hopefully will form a great resource. Coincidentally this lady was born almost exactly 70 years before me.

On the 15th September 1908 Sarah Washington enrolled to train as a teacher at Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, as part of the first cohort of trainees¹. She had been at Lymm Grammar School, and had passed the Preliminary Certificate earlier in 1908, which enabled her enrolment.

¹ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe

The register gives her date of birth as 7 March 1891. There was only one birth of a Sarah Washington registered in that year².

<i>Seventh March 1891 248 London Road, Norbury N. S. D.</i>	<i>Sarah Girl</i>	<i>James Washington</i>	<i>Elizabeth Smith Washington formerly Bateman</i>	<i>Police Constable</i>
---	-------------------	-----------------------------	--	-----------------------------

Extract of birth register entry³.

This confirms her father's name (given as 'guardian' on entry to college). James was a Police Constable and in 1891 the family were living at 248 London Road, Norbury (Registration district Stockport). She was baptised in Norbury on 12 April 1891⁴.

Policemen had to move frequently to prevent them being vulnerable to bribery by local criminals. This is reflected in the birth places of children as well as known addresses. By 1908 the family address is given as The Police Station, Lymm, Cheshire.

Policemen were usually respected members of the community, having a degree of authority over their neighbours. Teachers were perhaps of a similar social standing, still being amongst the more educated in the community. Aiming to become a teacher would have been a fitting choice for his daughter, especially since a formal training program and qualification was now possible.

² <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/> online search of birth index.

³ England & Wales civil Registration Birth Index 1837 - 1915 purchase from [gro.gov.uk](https://www.gro.gov.uk) 2023
Stockport, Cheshire 1891 Q2 Vol 8a p109

⁴ Cheshire, England, Parish registers 1538-1909 Transcription only, accessed via [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) Aug 2023

We know that whilst in College Sarah joined the hockey team. She is on the back row, the second of the two students on the right.



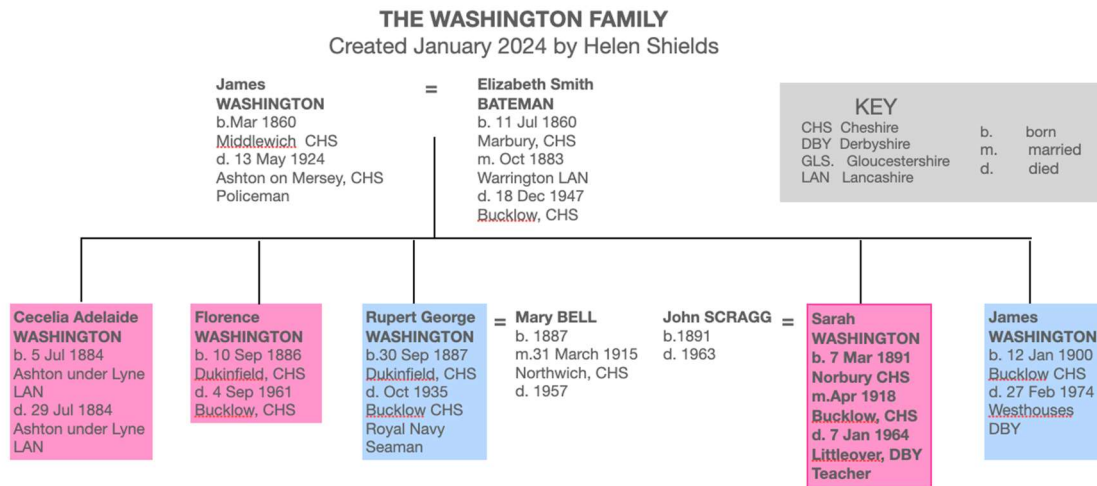
CTCC Hockey Team 1908-1910, CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe.

“The fledgling teams of the early days of the College played matches against secondary schools, local clubs and other colleges, travelling to away matches by train, horse drawn wagonette or bicycle.”⁵ No records of such matches were retained by the college.

Sports facilities at the college were much better for men, but the women were able to practice hockey on a nearby recreation ground connected with Ruskin Secondary School. Sarah would also have taken part in Swedish drill, marching

⁵ Nora Grisenthwaite and Eleanor M. Reader, *The College in the Green Fields: The Story of Crewe College of Education 1908-1974*, (Crewe College of Education Publication, 1974), 8. As summarised in Roberts, M. and Webb, S. As listed immediately below.

and country dancing⁶, all important to know, as she would be teaching these to her pupils one day.



Sarah left the college after her final exams 1910. In the 1911 census⁷ Sarah’s occupation “certified school teacher”, and she is living with her parents.

Sarah’s mother, Elizabeth Smith Bateman had married James Washington in 1883. Census records enable a family tree to be created. The 1911 census tells us that Elizabeth and James had had 5 children, one of whom had died. A trawl of the [GRO.gov](https://www.gro.gov.uk) birth index using Bateman as the mother’s maiden name and checking +/- 2 years in 5 yearly tranches for both male and female revealed a girl Cecelena Adelaide born in the September quarter of 1884⁸. Sadly her death was

⁶ 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. ISBN paperback 978-1-910029-56-5. Chapter 3

⁷ 1911 England Census, accessed via ancestry 2023 original at The national Archive, Kew, RG14 Street Address Police Station Lymm Registration District Number 445 ED, institution, or vessel 09 Piece 21586

⁸ GRO Birth reference 1884 S Quarter in Ashton under Lyne vol 8D p531 MMN Bateman purchased Aug 2023

registered in the same quarter. Having been born prematurely, she lived just 3 weeks⁹.

Sarah's sister Florence never married. She was an apprentice dress-maker in 1901¹⁰, working as a maid in Harston Knipton in Lincolnshire in 1911¹¹. In 1939¹² she is living with her mother and working as a ladies maid to an invalid lady. She died on 4 September 1961 and probate helps confirm family members including Sarah's husband:

“WASHINGTON Florence ... spinster ... Administration Nottingham 4 January to Sarah Scragg (wife of John Scragg) and James Washington district signalmen inspector british railways.”¹³

We learn more about her husband from a newspaper report¹⁴. They both went to Lymm Grammar School, perhaps how they met. Sarah Washington had married Second Lieutenant John Scragg in the first half of 1918 in Bucklow, around the same time as he had attained his commission at this rank. Soon after he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, in recognition of valuable services rendered in France. He had signed up early in the war, was wounded,

⁹ GRO Death 1884 S Quarter Ashton under Lyne Vol 8D 403 death 29 July, Address 2 Park St Dukinfield. Purchased August 2023.

¹⁰ 1901 England census accessed via [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) 2023, original at The National Archive Kew, RG13, ED03 (Altrincham, Bucklow) piece 3321 Folio 76 p30

¹¹1911 England Census accessed via [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) 2023, original at The National Archive RG14 RD 417 Grantham South 05 piece 19653

¹² 1939 England and Wales Register original at The National Archive, Kew, ref RG101/4070j accessed via [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) 2023, line 18 Schedule 108/2 E.D. Lfxe Wilmslow R.D. 445-7

¹³ England & Wales National Probate Calendar (index of wills and administrations) 1858-1995 accessed via Ancestry.co.uk 2023)

¹⁴ Reported in the *Widnes Examiner* - Saturday 06 July 1918 and other papers, accessed through the [BritishNewspaperArchive.co.uk](https://www.BritishNewspaperArchive.co.uk) January 2024.

transferred to the Royal Engineers and had been mentioned in dispatches. She could certainly be proud of his war record.

John and Sarah's daughter, Florence Owen Scragg was born in 1923. There are a number of grandchildren. In view of there being potential living descendants further details are not given.

Should any relative wish to contribute more information about Sarah and her life or any corrections, this would be welcomed. I would particularly like to know how her time at the college influenced her life. It is likely that she worked as a teacher between 1910 and her marriage in 1918. Most women at that time did then stop work. Sadly no further evidence has been found of her employment, though we know she was still in touch with the college as she is listed in their 21st Anniversary book in 1929¹⁵.

This story was researched and written by Helen Shields

You can find out more about CCTCC in a number of articles –

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/business-school/research/research-centres/vote100/exhibition/>

<https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/624259/>

These websites give the general history of teacher training in the UK

¹⁵ 1908-1929, *Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC*. She is listed under her married name: Mrs S Scragg Address: 3, Arnside Grove, Ashton on Mersey, Nr Manchester

[https://archives.history.ac.uk/history-in-education/sites/history-in-education/files/attachments/teacher training - up to the 1960s.doc](https://archives.history.ac.uk/history-in-education/sites/history-in-education/files/attachments/teacher_training_-_up_to_the_1960s.doc)

<http://www.educationengland.org.uk/history/timeline.html>

The Teachers 'Registration Council Registers 1914-1948 is on

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/teachers-registration-council-registers-1914-1948>

The Women Teacher is also another great resource for context

<https://www.jstor.org/site/university-college-london/the-woman-teacher/>