

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



This story was written, in September 2024, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of pupils at the Royal Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb Poor (later The Royal School for the Deaf), Margate, Kent and The West of England Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Exeter, Devon.

Minnie Slingo 's Story

Charles Slingo and Mary Randall were married on September 14th, 1891 at Crookham, Hampshire.¹ Just over a year later, on September 21, 1892, Mary Slingo gave birth to her daughter Minnie Slingo in Farnham, Surrey.² Her baptism took place on December 4th 1892 at St. Peter's Church in the Parish of Wrecclesham, Surrey.³ Charles Slingo was recorded both on his marriage record and on Minnie's baptismal record as being a barber.

¹ Surrey, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1937.

² England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 Vol. 2a Pg. 126; 1939 Register RG101/0600C/003/11; Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5489 Register of Children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670]

³ Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1921. This is contrary to the baptism date recorded in Minnie's School Records.

In 1895, Minnie's sister Mary Slingo was born in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire.⁴

On September 1st of 1898 tragedy struck the family with the death of Minnie's mother from tuberculosis at age thirty-one. Present at her death at Sandy Lane, Crookham was Minnie's maternal grandmother Mary Randall. Minnie's father Charles was then described as a general labourer.⁵

It was July 10, 1899 when Minnie was elected to attend the Asylum for the Education of Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor, Old Kent Road.⁶ Her sureties were Robert Dyson a labourer of 6 King Street, Walthamstow, and Charles Knight a labourer of 6 Berwick Avenue of Walthamstow.⁷

Minnie's attendance at the Asylum began on September 4, 1899. She was described in the School's records as being born deaf and at first examination having a moderate intellect and a fair voice. It was noted that her parents were first cousins perhaps alluding to a reason for deafness.⁸

While in Minnie's earliest school record her father Charles Slingo was recorded as living, the later records indicate he was deceased. Charles Slingo enlisted in the military in 1899. He served as a driver in the Infantry in South Africa during

⁴ England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 Vol. 2c Pg. 187

⁵ England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007 Vol. 2c Pg. 122; Surrey History Centre, Hampshire Burials 1842-1900, Pg. 96.

⁶ Ch192/R1/1/1 Entry 5547 Admission Records Application for Admission 4325-7615 (1880-1925)

⁷ Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5489 Register of children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670] (with transfers to Margate)

⁸ Ch192/R1/1/1 Entry 5547 Admission Records Application for Admission 4325-7615 (1880-1925)

the Boer War.⁹ On December 9, 1900 he became a casualty of that war.¹⁰ His deceased soldier's effects record indicated that his remaining salary in the amount of 4£ 2s. 10s. was to be invested for orphans Mary and Minnie. Their grandmother Mary Randall received a lesser amount to obtain the death certificate of the "soldier's wife".¹¹

In the Old Kent Road School's Headmaster's Register of Children, there was a note that was repeated several times in Minnie's records. The note indicated that her father's war medal was sent to the Superintendent of the Asylum "to be delivered to Minnie Slingo as representing her deceased father from the War Office to be given to the child when she is able to understand the nature and purport." It appeared from the records that the medal may have been sent in July of 1903.¹²

In Minnie's school records, her grandmother Mary Randall was noted as being responsible for Minnie¹³. Mary Randall was also responsible for Minnie's sister Mary. In the 1901 Census, six-year old sister Mary Slingo was living with her grandmother in Crookham.¹⁴ Minnie was by the time of the 1901 Census living at The Royal School for Deaf and Dumb Children Margate, Kent having been transferred there in January of 1900¹⁵.

⁹ South Africa, Military Index, 1853 - 2004, World (Global) War Honour Records, 1879-2004;

¹⁰ UK, Casualties of the Boer War, 1899-1902

¹¹ UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

¹² Ch192/R2/2/2 Page.94 Headmaster's Register of Children: Old Kent Road (1891-1904)

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ 1901 Census of England and Wales, RG 13/1101, Folio 15, Pg. 21; Minnie's sister Mary

¹⁵ 1901 Census of England and Wales, RG 13/824, Folio 35, Pg. 12; Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5489 Register of children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670] (with transfers to Margate)

On her second examination by the school in March of 1900, Minnie was described as “backward” being at home since Christmas of 1899, but by her third examination in June of 1901 she was “making good progress”.¹⁶ At the Summer Fete for the School in June of 1901, Minnie was given an award for placing sixteenth for progress in oral classes.¹⁷ She was described in her records as a child who “works well and is very intelligent”¹⁸ and as a “willing and industrious girl”.¹⁹

Minnie left the school on July 1, 1908 at the age of fifteen. On leaving, she was first in her oral class and placed fifth overall. Minnie had excellent marks with the lowest being 75 percent in Dressmaking and Drawing and the highest being 100 percent in both Religious Knowledge (Bible Reading) and Articulation (Intelligible Reading and Conversation). Minnie scored 95 percent in Lip-Reading (Dictation and Conversation).²⁰ It was recorded that on leaving Minnie was a “domestic girl”.²¹ It was also noted again and marked with an asterisk that Minnie was “to have her late father’s medal on leaving” and that the medal had been placed in a safe on September 28, 1903.²² There was no note to indicate that Minnie had received it on leaving which is not to say that she did not.

¹⁶ Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5489 Register of children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670] (with transfers to Margate)

¹⁷ Margate Royal Asylum Programme June 29, 1901

¹⁸ Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5489 Register of children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670] (with transfers to Margate)Ibid.

¹⁹ Ch192/R8/1/3 Entry 250 Leavers Records: Registers of Children Leaving School (1902-1912)

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5489 Register of children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670] (with transfers to Margate)

²² Ibid.

Three years later in the 1911 Census Minnie was living with her grandmother Mary Randall at Middle Street, Fleet, Hampshire. They were the only two people in the household. Mary was now a widow and Minnie was single. Minnie was employed as a dressmaker. The census taker noted that Minnie was “deaf and dumb from birth”.²³

On June 29, 1918 at age twenty-five, Minnie married twenty-eight year old Richard Hunt. The marriage took place at St. Peter’s Church in the Parish of Norbiton, Surrey. Richard’s occupation on the marriage record was a painter. Minnie was recorded as a spinster and indicated her father Charles Slingo was deceased and a soldier.²⁴

The 1921 Census found Minnie and her husband Richard living at a boarding house in Paddington, London. No occupation was listed for Minnie, but Richard was a house painter working for Hamptons and Sons. They had no children.²⁵ A search of the England and Wales Civil Registration Birth Index 1916-2007 did not find any children born subsequently.

In 1939, forty-seven year old Minnie and her husband Richard lived in Wandsworth, London at 10 Gaskarth Road. The household contained five members who were all married adults. Richard was still a house painter and Minnie’s occupation was unpaid domestic duties.²⁶

²³ 1911 Census of England and Wales, RG14/ 6241 Schedule 277

²⁴ Surrey, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1937; England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005 Vol 2a Pg. 899

²⁵ 1921 Census RG15/00068 Schedule 435

²⁶ 1939 Register RG101/0600C/003/11

In 1959, Richard Hunt died at Westminster, London at the age of sixty-nine leaving Minnie a widow.²⁷ Minnie lived to the age of eighty-one dying in Wandsworth, London in 1974 never remarrying.²⁸

Minnie's sister Mary died in 1958 as Rose Lopeman.²⁹ She had married George Arthur Green in 1915 as Rose Mary Slingo.³⁰ In the 1939 Register, she is Rose Lopeman recorded as married and living with her sons.³¹ Her husband was not recorded, but he was Thomas Lopeman as the two are in the same household in the 1947 London Electoral Register.³² In the October 3, 1958 edition of the Aldershot News, Aldershot, Hampshire, a funeral notice for Rose Lopeman was published. It stated that after her husband's death in 1955,³³ she returned to Fleet, Hampshire having left there as a young woman. The notice said she was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Slingo with no mention of Minnie.

²⁷ England and Wales Death Registration Index 1837-2007 Vol. 5c, Pg. 330

²⁸ England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007 Vol. 15 Pg. 1259.

²⁹ England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 Vol. 6b Pg. 19

³⁰ London, England, Church England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1938

³¹ 1939 Register RG101/6950E/003/38. Her sons' birth registrations list the mother's maiden name as Slingo. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2007, Vol. 1a Pg. 162 and Vol. 5c Pg. 1321

³² London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965. There is no marriage record for Rose Mary Slingo and Thomas Lopeman searching using both Green and Slingo as her maiden name. They may not have been legally married. In the 1939 Register Thomas's Lopeman's first wife Amy Ogilvie Lopeman's status was recorded as legally separated. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005, Vol. 2c Pg. 523; 1939 Register RG101/2364D/008/1

³³ England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, Vol. 5c Pg. 963.