

# *This is A Few Forgotten Women Story*



*This story was written, in July 2025, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who were born in the same year as Queen Victoria, 1819.*

## **Ann Goy's Story**

Ann was baptised in 1819, on 21st November, in Aldershot at the Church of St Michael the Archangel.<sup>i</sup> She would be buried in the church graveyard twenty-three years later.<sup>ii</sup>

Not much more about her person can be gleaned directly from official sources, other than she remained unmarried, was living in Aldershot at the time of the 1841 Census and that her death in February 1843 was registered, without medical certificate, as attributed to Pulmonary Consumption.<sup>iii</sup>

Such a summary of an all too brief life is to ignore the light that she can shine into the history of a place and upon the lives and circumstance of her immediate family.

Ann was the second child of George and Ann Goy, her older brother William baptised in the same place in September 1812. Ann therefore grew up as an only daughter, six years younger than her sibling.

Unusually for this rural village, the occupation listed for of Ann's father in the baptism register in 1819 was that of a coal merchant. He worked at a distance from the village, employed up at the wharf on the Basingstoke Canal which cut

across Aldershot Heath, midway between Aldershot and Farnborough to the north. Likely the coal was then delivered to the grander houses in nearby Farnham and the region. His occupation was later to change, Ann said to have been the daughter of a bargemaster at the time of her death.

George Goy had married by licence in 1810 to Ann Hart “of Aldershot” at St Peter’s Church in Farnborough.<sup>iv</sup> Both bride and groom had signed their names in the register, as had their witnesses.

Not much is discovered about George’s family background. He might have been baptised in 1787 at Ockham,<sup>v</sup> a small rural village near Guildford, or to have been baptised as far away as Burnham in Buckingham in 1790.<sup>vi</sup> The age recorded at his burial implied that he was born in 1777.

Much more is known about Ann’s mother, born Ann Hart, one of thirteen children of the farmer Joseph Hart. At the time of Ann’s birth, her parents were then living in a sizeable cottage with an orchard, garden and yard which was owned by Joseph Hart. That and another with garden passed to Ann on his death. According to the custom, Ann was “secretly examined” when their separate wills were registered in the Crondall Court Roll in 1822.<sup>vii</sup>

Ann might not have recalled much about her grandfather, but her grandmother lived to age 79, when Ann was aged about nine. There were of course several uncles and aunts. Her mother’s sister Mary had married William Robinson who had the farm at Smokey Hole by the Aldershot Park estate. Ann’s youngest uncle was Robert Hart who had held the Red Lion Inn before moving to Worplesdon, near Guildford, to be a farmer; the youngest of his three children (Ann’s younger cousins) was born there in 1834.

Ann’s father George died in December 1833, buried at St Michael’s Church on New Year’s Eve.<sup>viii</sup> Ann was then aged 14. He confirmed his will<sup>ix</sup> the “five tenements at Aldershot” were for his wife Ann to dispose, but also that he had property in Farnborough which he wished to go to his son William.

Ann’s brother William was married in Southwark in July 1835.<sup>x</sup> His bride, Charlotte Bellworth, had been born in Shoreditch. Their first child, Cassandra, was born in August the next year in Aldershot, that given as Abode when she was later baptised at St Peter’s Church in Farnborough on October 3rd, 1836.<sup>xi</sup> William was listed as a bargemaster, as his father had been three years before.

At age 17, Ann had become an aunt.

- Victoria succeeded to the throne shortly after her eighteen birthday, in 1837; her coronation as Queen Victoria took place in June 1838. She married Prince Albert in 1840.

The 1841 Census records Ann's brother, a farmer at Windmill Hill in Farnborough, with his wife Charlotte.<sup>xii</sup> On Census Night, their infant daughter Cassandra was in Aldershot, staying with her grandmother and Ann, now aged 20 and unmarried.<sup>xiii</sup>

Ann's mother was listed as living on an annuity in one of the two cottages she owned; she also owned three cottages nearby in *Drury Lane*.

The family were not poor. Nevertheless, less than two years later, on February 2nd, 1843, Ann would die of Pulmonary Consumption.

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## Sources (& Notes)

All referenced below were accessed via FindMyPast.com unless otherwise stated.

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<sup>i</sup> Baptism. Ann Goy. 21 Nov 1819. Aldershot, St Michael the Archangel. Surrey History Centre. ALDM/3/1

<sup>ii</sup> Burial. Ann Goy. 8 Feb 1843. Aldershot, St Michael the Archangel. Surrey History Centre. ALDM/4/1

<sup>iii</sup> Death Certificate. General Register Office. Ann Goy. 1843. <https://www.gro.gov.uk/>

<sup>iv</sup> Marriage. George Goy. Ann Hart (of Aldershot). 11 Dec 1810. Farnborough, St Peter. Surrey History Centre. FNB/1/4

<sup>v</sup> Baptism. Geo Guye. 15 Jul 1787. Ockham, Surrey. England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975

<sup>vi</sup> Baptism. George Goy. 14 Nov 1790. Burnham, Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire Archives. D/A/T/32

<sup>vii</sup> The following is based on transcriptions made by Sally Jenkinson from the Crondall Court Roll which is held at Hampshire Record Office: Court Book 1822-1827 (11M59/WDC/EC/59573)

1822 COURT AND VIEW The will of Joseph Hart late of Aldershot victualler deceased dated 1812 was enrolled. Wife Elizabeth, daughter Ann wife of George Goy ... Ann Goy came to be admitted to

- one messuage or tenement, turfhouse orchard garden courts and yards. [which become 2 cottages]
- messuage tenement and garden with appurtenances ... [which become 3 cottages]

Then George and Ann (secretly examined) surrendered to wills.

<sup>viii</sup> Burial. George Goy. 31 Dec 1833. Aldershot, St Michael the Archangel. Surrey History Centre. ALDM/4/1.

<sup>ix</sup> Will. George Goy Coal Merchant of Aldershot. The National Archives. PROB-11-1828-473.

<sup>x</sup> Marriage. William Goy. Charlotte Bellworth. 25 July 1835. Southwark St Saviour. Parish Register Transcripts.

<sup>xi</sup> Baptism. Cassandra Goy. 5 Aug 1836. Farnborough, St Peter. Surrey History Centre. FNB/3/1.

<sup>xii</sup> 1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census. HO107/394/6/8/10. William Goy. Windmill Hill, Farnborough.

<sup>xiii</sup> 1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census. Ann Goy. HO107394/2/20/9. Ann Goy. Street, Aldershot.