

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 Country Training College, Crewe [CCTCC]

Annie Clark Warburton 's Story

Annie Clark Warburton was born on 11 January 1891¹ in Bosden, Stockport, Cheshire². She was the daughter of James Thomas Warburton and his wife, Ann (nee Clarke). James, who originated from Lancashire, had married Ann, who originated from Staffordshire, in the Stockport area in 1888³.

In 1891, baby Annie was living at 35-39 London Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport⁴ with James (28), Ann (26) and her older sister, Fanny (1). Also living in the household was her aunt, Emily Warburton (14), and a female domestic servant.

¹ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

² 1901 England Census, RG13, Hazel Grove, Cheshire, Folio 6

³ GRO Marriage Indexes: 1888, September Quarter, Stockport Reg District, Vol 8a, Page 150

⁴ 1891 England Census, RG12, Hazel Grove, Cheshire, Folio 5

Emily was working as an assistant for her brother, James, who was a grocer. James and Ann went on to have one more child, another sister for Annie, Elizabeth Jane who was born in 1893⁵.

Annie began her education at Norbury National School in Hazel Grove on 18 March 1895, moving up from the Infant School to the Junior School on 1 Nov 1898⁶.

The Warburton family were still living at the same address in Hazel Grove when the 1901⁷ census was taken, with Annie's father's occupation recorded as grocer and draper shopkeeper.

Like her older sister, Fanny, who had completed her teacher training at Orford Hall, Warrington⁸ in 1908, Annie decided to enrol as a trainee teacher at the newly established Cheshire County Training College, Crewe [CCTCC].

A newspaper article in the Crewe Chronicle, 12 September 1908⁹ entitled "Cheshire Education Committee" reads: "At a meeting of the Training College Sub-Committee it was reported that a large number of applications had been received from bursars and pupil teachers in the county for admission to the Training College...FIRST COLLEGIANS. It was resolved that subject to passing the required medical examination, and being recommended by the head master or mistress of the secondary school attended as suitable candidates, the following be admitted to the college." Annie was listed under Women Bursars (County).

⁵ GRO Birth Indexes: 1893 March Quarter, Stockport Reg District, Vol 8a, Page 105

⁶ National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914

⁷ 1901 England Census, RG13, Hazel Grove, Cheshire, Folio 6

⁸ Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

⁹ British Newspaper Archive, FindmyPast

The College Prospectus¹⁰ lists a number of Conditions of Admission, the first of which reads: 1a. Students who have been in regular attendance at a recognised Secondary School for three years previous to the date of admission may be admitted as two-year students if they are over 17 years of age on the first day of August of the year in which they are admitted. Some of the other Conditions that had to be met were passing a medical; passing the Preliminary Certificate Examination or equivalent within 2 ½ years of admission; and agreeing that upon leaving the College the student will work in Elementary or Secondary Schools which are in receipt of Government Grants, for five years in the case of women.

On 15 September 1908, Annie, aged 17, was amongst the first batch of students, both male and female, to enrol at CCTCC. The enrolment register¹¹ records that she had attended Stockport Municipal School and had taken the Preliminary Certificate Examination. The family's address at the time was said to be The Mount, London Road. Having studied at the training college for two years, Annie passed the final examination with a distinction in English.

Having left CCTCC in 1910, Annie's initial position was as an Assistant Mistress (On Supply) at Norbury Church of England School¹². Then from 1910 to 1911, she was employed as an emergency Assistant Mistress for Crewe Education Committee¹³.

¹⁰ Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, Prospectus 1908-1914, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

¹¹ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Society Cheshire, Crewe

¹² Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

¹³ Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

On the night the 1911 census was taken, Annie was recorded with her parents at their address at 25 London Road, Hazel Grove¹⁴ along with Annie's maternal aunt, Mary Bowden, and cousin, Ida Bowden. Annie is recorded as being an assistant teacher at Crewe Municipal School. Her father's occupation was noted as being a joiner (builder) who was working on his own account. The town of Crewe was about 30 miles from her parents' home. In the Crewe Chronicle dated 24 June 1911, an article reporting on the town's Coronation celebrations for George V, listed Annie as one of the many teachers entertaining the 958 pupils at the Bedford Street Boys, Girls and Infants Schools.

From 1912 to 1916, Annie was employed at Hazel Grove Council Infants School¹⁵. From 1916 to 1921 she was employed by Crewe County Education Committee again but this time as an emergency Head Mistress¹⁶.

Both of Annie's sisters had also trained as teachers and when the 1921 census was taken, all three of the girls, who were all still unmarried, were recorded at their parents address at 434 Buxton Road, Stockport¹⁷. They were all noted as being employed by Manchester Education Authority. Their father was now employed as a Hoists, Lifts, and Revolving Shutter Manager. Annie's younger sister, Elizabeth, married later that year.

From 1921 to 1922, Annie worked as Assistant Mistress at Grange Street Special School or M.D. Children in Manchester¹⁸. Then from 1922 to 1932 she was

¹⁴ 1911 England Census, RG14, Hazel Grove, Cheshire, Piece No. 1268

¹⁵ Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

¹⁶ Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

¹⁷ 1921 Census, RG15, Stockport, Cheshire, Piece No 16675

¹⁸ Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

employed as Assistant Mistress at Birley Street Infants School, Beswick, Manchester¹⁹

When the CCTCC celebrated their 21st anniversary in 1929, Annie was made a life member of the Old Students Association²⁰. Her address in the anniversary book was the same as that in 1921.

Passenger lists show that In April 1931, Annie and her sister Fanny, who were both recorded as being schoolteachers, travelled aboard the SS Ranpura from Gibraltar to London²¹.

When the 1939 Register was taken, Annie was lodging at Bourne Villa, Park Bank, Congleton²² along with another Elementary School Teacher, Louisa Amos. The pair were lodging with the Methodist Minister and his family.

Annie's father, James Warburton, died on 9 February 1950²³. Probate records show that his address was still 434 Buxton Road with probate being granted to Annie and her sister, Fanny, who were both unmarried.

When Annie retired from teaching, it would appear that she spent some of her time travelling around the world. Passenger lists show that on 20 May 1957 she arrived back in Southampton aboard the SS Southern Cross having visited Spain, Panama, Suva, Wellington, Sydney, Melbourne, Freemantle, Durban, Cape Town

¹⁹ Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948

²⁰ 1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe

²¹ UK & Ireland Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878 -1960, Ancestry

²² 1939 Register, RG101, Congleton, Cheshire, Piece No 3998C

²³ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995

and Las Palmas²⁴. Her address was recorded as Long House Farm, Kermincham, Nr Congleton, Cheshire. On 9 May 1958, Annie boarded the SS Manchester Regiment bound for Montreal, Canada²⁵. She arrived back in Gravesend, London on 16 August 1958 aboard the Pacific Fortune which had sailed from Harmac, British Columbia, Canada²⁶ calling at Los Angeles, USA.

Annie never married and she died on 2 May 1963 aged 72²⁷. Probate records show her last address as Long House Farm²⁸. It would appear that she lived there with both of her sisters and her brother-in-law, George Gare, a poultry farmer.²⁹ She was outlived by both sisters; Elizabeth died in January 1968³⁰ and Fanny died in August 1969³¹.

²⁴ UK & Ireland Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878 -1960, Ancestry

²⁵ Passenger Lists Leaving UK, 1890-1960, FindmyPast

²⁶ UK & Ireland Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878 -1960, Ancestry

²⁷ GRO Death Indexes: 1963, June Quarter, Crewe Reg District, Vol 10a, Page 225

²⁸ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995

²⁹ British Newspaper Archive, FindmyPast, Nantwich Chronicle *01 August 1968*

³⁰ British Newspaper Archive, FindmyPast, Nantwich Chronicle *01 August 1968*

³¹ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995