

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



This story is one of a series that relate to women and girls who were associated with The Mount School, York, as pupils, teachers, or other members of staff. This project began in June 2023, as part of the York Festival of ideas.

Amy Berta Minto Wilson and Alice Victoria Minto Wilson

Amy Berta Minto Wilson, who was born on 28 February 1883ⁱ and her younger sister Alice Victoria Minto Wilson, known as 'Queenie', who was born on 5 May two years later,ⁱⁱ were the daughters of Albert and Emily Louise Wilson née Minto. Both girls were baptised 21 December 1888 St. Stephen's, Walthamstow, Essex, They were living at Minto House, Fairlop Road, Leytonstone in Essex, where their father was a surgeon.ⁱⁱⁱ They were at this address in 1891, with six servants including a Swiss nursery governess.^{iv} On 10 May 1899 the girls were listed in the Admissions' Register for the Mount School in York. They were to be admitted in the September of that year.

In 1911, the family were living at 25 Fellows Road, Hampstead and both daughters were working as journalists.^v Both women served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment during the First World War. From 10 Jan 1916 to 4 March 1916 Amy was working at the 4th London General, Denmark Hill as a nurse "department J.W. VAD".^{vi} From 12 Apr 1917 to 19 April 1918 she was working at The Military Hospital Belge Bonsecours, Rouen". The description of her character on her record card reads, "not known sufficiently to me to judge".^{vii} An interesting description of life in the hospital, based on a personal diary, can be found at <https://www.morganfourman.com/articles/hopital-militaire-belge-de-bonsecours-1919/>. This website also includes photographs of the hospital. Amy was awarded the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Medal.^{viii} Alice, of 5

Hanley Road, South Hampstead, aged thirty five, joined the same hospital on 12 May 1917 and served until 19 May 1918, undertaking “other work”.^{ix}

The 1921 census shows both Amy and Alice, still living at home “housekeeping” at 5 Hanley Road.^x The family are together at 5 Hanley Road in an electoral roll of 1925.^{xi} By the time of a 1929 electoral roll, the sisters had moved to live together at Summerford, Fairlop, Uckfield, Sussex.^{xii}

In 1933, Amy and Alice travelled to the Canary Island of Tenerife on the ship the *Highland Chieftain*.^{xiii}

The General Nursing Council Roll of Assistant Nurses for 1947-8 records the enrolment of both Amy and Alice, by this time in their sixties, of Summerford, Fairlop, Uckfield, Sussex, as assistant nurses.^{xiv}

Alice died in 1964 in Hailsham, Sussex registration district.^{xv} Amy died in 1978 Uckfield, Sussex registration district.^{xvi} She was cremated in Kent.^{xvii}

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- ⁱ Admissions' Register for The Mount School, held at The Borthwick Institute MOU6/1/1/1/4
 - ⁱⁱ Admissions' Register for The Mount School, held at The Borthwick Institute MOU6/1/1/1/4
 - ⁱⁱⁱ Index to Essex baptism registers accessed via FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk.
 - ^{iv} 1891 census for Minto House, Leyton, Essex RG12 1346 folio 23.
 - ^v 1911 census for 25 Fellows Road, Hampstead, Middlesex RG14 613 SN140
 - ^{vi} Red Cross VAD record cards accessed at <https://vad.redcross.org.uk>.
 - ^{vii} Red Cross VAD record cards accessed at <https://vad.redcross.org.uk>.
 - ^{viii} Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards WO372/23
 - ^{ix} Red Cross VAD record cards accessed at <https://vad.redcross.org.uk>.
 - ^x 1921 census for 5 Hanley Road, Hampstead, Middlesex RG 15 00653 SN280.
 - ^{xi} Electoral Roll for Hampstead, Middlesex 1925 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.
 - ^{xii} Electoral Roll for Uckfield, Sussex 1929 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.
 - ^{xiii} Passenger lists BT27
 - ^{xiv} The General Nursing Council Roll of Assistant Nurses 1947-8 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.
 - ^{xv} General Registrar's indexes of death.
 - ^{xvi} General Registrar's indexes of death.
 - ^{xvii} Deceased Online www.deceasedonline.com.