

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]

Leah Urinowski's Story



Leah Leona Urinowski

Leah Leona Urinowski was born on 28th August 1891, the daughter of Solomon Stephan (known as Stephan) and Ksenya (known as Jane) Urinowski née Weinstein.ⁱⁱ The family were Russian subjects and just before Leah's birth, they moved from Stepney, where Stephan was a travelling jewellery salesman, to Liscard in Wallasey.ⁱⁱⁱ By 1901, Leah's father was working as a cigar maker.^{iv} Leah had an older sister, Annie and four younger brothers, including twins, Paul and William.^v In 1902, Leah's eight year old brother, Alfred, died.^{vi}

Leah attended Wallasey High School^{vii} and the *Manchester Courier* of 20th August 1907 announced her success in the Oxford Local examinations.^{viii} On 15th September 1909, Leah was enrolled in Cheshire County Training College in Crewe, to train as a teacher. Her home address was 22 Tancred Road, Liscard.^{ix} Her older sister, Annie, was also a teacher but had trained elsewhere.^x Leah sat for her preliminary certificate in 1909 and took her final examination in 1911.^{xi} In the 1911 census, Leah and fellow student, Elsie Taggart, were lodging with the Foster family at 10 Culland Street, Crewe.^{xii} The landladies were carefully vetted by the college and had to agree to provide a separate room for each girl and stick to a prescribed menu. A cooked breakfast was to be served at 8am. The midday meal was provided by the college during the week. On Sunday, the landlady was to serve meat and vegetables with a pie or pasty for pudding. Bread, butter, jam and cake was served at 5pm, with a supper of more bread, or biscuits, at 9pm. A bed was purchased by the College for the student; that item of furniture remained the property of the College and had to be returned once the landlady stopped being involved.^{xiii}

In 1917, the *Liverpool Echo* reported that Noel Finucane '*the dearly loved fiancé*' of Leah's sister Annie, had been killed in action.^{xiv} Annie was to remain single

and died in 1931 at the age of forty-two.^{xv} The following year, Leah's brother, Alexander, an airman, was killed on the Somme.^{xvi}

In 1921, Leah, her sister, Annie and brother, William, were at home with their parents at 37 Martin's Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire. Both sisters were teaching, Leah at Manor Road Council School in Wallasey.^{xvii} There are several newspaper reports in the 1920s of a Miss Urinowski playing tennis but it is not known if these refer to Annie or Leah.^{xviii}

The souvenir brochure, produced to commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the college, listed the whereabouts of previous students in 1929. Leah was said to be unmarried, of 37 Martin's Lane, Wallasey.^{xix}

In the 1939 register, Leah was living at 5 Barn Hey Crescent in Hoylake, working as a teacher for Wallasey Education Committee. Her mother was living with her.^{xx} The 1946-47 edition of *Wheatsheaves, the Old Students' Association Magazine*, stated that – 'Miss LL Urinowski is teaching in Hoylake'.^{xxi}

Leah died at Strathveda, King's Gap, Hoylake on 15 November 1978, she was described as a 'loving aunt to her nephew and his family and her neice'. These would be the children of her brother William, who took the surname Courtney. Leah was cremated at Landican Crematorium on 21 November.^{xxii}

Sources

The General Registrar's Indexes of birth, marriage and death.

1891 census for 125 Hanbury Street, Stepney, London RG12 277 folio 58.

1901 census for 5 St. Mary's Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG13 3403 folio 45.

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1921 census for 37 Martin's Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG15 17252 SN 54.

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1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC.

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Airmen Died In The Great War, 1914-1919 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk.

ⁱ Image, 1910, CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe.

ⁱⁱ CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe. 1901 census for 5 St. Mary's Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG13 3403 folio 45. 1921 census for 37 Martin's Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG15 17252 SN 54. The General Registrar's Indexes of birth.

ⁱⁱⁱ 1891 census for 125 Hanbury Street, Stepney, London RG12 277 folio 58.

^{iv} 1901 census for 5 St. Mary's Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG13 3403 folio 45.

^v The General Registrar's Indexes of birth, marriage and death.

1891 census for 125 Hanbury Street, Stepney, London RG12 277 folio 58. 1901 census for 5 St. Mary's Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG13 3403 folio 45.

^{vi} The General Registrar's Indexes of death.

^{vii} CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe.

^{viii} *Manchester Courier* 20 August 1907 p.10 col. c.

^{ix} CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe.

^x 1921 census for 37 Martin's Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG15 17252 SN 54. CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe.

^{xi} CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe.

^{xii} 1911 census for 10 Culland Street, Crewe, Cheshire RG14 21791 SN 140.

^{xiii} Cheshire County Council Education Committee, Training College Minutes 1908-1912.

^{xiv} *Liverpool Echo* 12 January 1917 p.3 col. c.

^{xv} The General Registrar's Indexes of death.

^{xvi} Airmen Died In The Great War, 1914-1919 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk.

^{xvii} 1921 census for 37 Martin's Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Cheshire RG15 17252 SN 54.

^{xviii} *Chester Chronicle* 15 July 1922 p, 3 col f et. al..

^{xix} 1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC.

^{xx} 1939 register 5 Barn Hey Crescent, Meols, Cheshire RG101 4024A SN 83.

^{xxi} *Wheatsheaves* Old Students Association Magazine, 1946/7 edition, part of the CCTCC Collection at the Family History Society of Cheshire, Crewe.

^{xxii} *Liverpool Echo* 17 November 1978 p. 4 col. c.