

This is a Story from 'A Few Forgotten Women'



This story was written, in November 2023, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who studied at The Grange School of Housewifery in Street, Somerset.

Edith Lucy Eno

Edith Lucy Eno was born on 3 December 1885 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, the eldest daughter of Henry William and Ada Mary Eno née Morgan. She was to have six younger sisters and three younger brothers. One brother died in infancy and the sister closest to Edith in age, Gwendoline, died in 1908, at the age of twenty one.

On 20 August 1886, Edith was baptised at Shepton Mallet. Edith's father, Henry, was a police constable, so the family can be found in the 1891 census living at the Police House in Chelynch, Shepton Mallet. Ten years later, at the age of fifteen, Edith was a pupil at the Grange School of Housewifery, specialising in cookery. It seems that the majority of the students were studying more generalised 'house work' or 'laundry work', with only a few focussing on cookery. By this time, her family had moved to the police station at Hush Episcopi.

On November 8th 1899, the visitors' book of the Geological Museum in Crispin Hall, Street, recorded the visit of an Edith Eno of Langport. There was a Chrysanthemum Show on in the main hall at the same time. She seems to have been part of a group of girls, one of whom was Mabel Baker, who gave her abode as Moorlinch. The School of Housewifery Minute Book meeting of 26 January 1900 mentions that Mabel Baker of Moorlinch had been sent home for "improper behaviour and bad language".



Crispin Hall © Wendy Durston – used with permission

The year after the death of her sister, Gwendoline, Edith married William Alexander Peters at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London. We can only assume that her studies at the Grange School of Housewifery had led to a job in London. Their eldest child, Muriel Agnes, was born in 1909 and when she was baptised in Chorley, Cheshire, her father's occupation was recorded as being a butler. By 1911, Edith's husband, who came from Forfarshire, was working as a gardener, a live-in job that led to the family moving to Alderley Edge in

Cheshire. This means that, in the 1911 census William, Edith and Muriel were living in The Garden Cottage at Oakleigh.

Two other children have been found for William and Edith, a daughter and a son, the youngest daughter died at the age of two. In 1917 Edith's nineteen year old brother, Henry, died of wounds in Egypt.

The 1921 census shows that the family had moved to 1 Market Place, Hyde, in Cheshire and William was working as a messenger for the Manchester and Liverpool district banking company. By 1931, William, Edith and their daughter, Muriel, were living at 8 Copeland Street in Hyde.

William and Edith returned to Somerset and the 1939 register finds them living at 'Arbro', Liddymore Road in Watchet. William is a watchman for a bank. After this the family disappear from the records.

© Janet Few November 2023

Sources

Somerset School of Cookery and Housewifery - Minutes 1897-1916 South West Heritage Trust, Somerset Heritage Centre, C/E/1/146

Geological Museum Visitor Book transcription Alfred Gillet Trust, MISC/2/8

General Registrar's Indexes of birth, marriage and death

1891 census for Police Station, Chelynych, Shepton Mallet, Somerset RG12 1910 folio 49

1901 census for Grange School of Housewifery, Street, Somerset RG13 2319 folio 59

1901 census for the Police Station, Huish Episcopi, Somerset RG13 2288 folio 39

1911 census for The Garden Cottage, Oakleigh, Alderley Edge, Cheshire RG14 21508 SN 56

1921 census for 1 Market Place, Hyde Cheshire RG15 16625 SN 1

1939 Register for 'Arbro', Liddymore Road in Watchet, Somerset RG101/7043E/009/11

Electoral rolls for Hyde, Cheshire, accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

Baptism register of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, originals held by South West Heritage Trust, accessed via www.ancestry.com

Baptism register of St. Peter's, Chorley, Cheshire, originals held by Cheshire Archives, accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

Marriage license for the marriage of William Alexander Peters and Edith Lucy Eno at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, Middlesex, originals at London Metropolitan Archives, accessed via www.ancestry.com

Somerset Standard 7 December 1917 p. 4 col. e.