

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]

Eleanor Quayle's Story

Eleanor was born on 27th April 1891 in Hyde Cheshire^{i vi} the youngest child and youngest daughter of John Quayle and Margaret Kermode, natives of the Isle of Man. The surnames of Manx natives traditionally begin with C, K and Qu, after the Mac (son of) became maC over the yearsⁱⁱ. Although born in the village of German near Peel on the Isle of Man, John had moved to the mainland by 1879, after his marriage to Margaret in Lonan, Isle of Man in 1876. On the 1881 Censusⁱⁱⁱ, his two eldest children were shown as being born in Hyde, Cheshire and his brother-in-law, William Kermode, a joiner was their lodger. The move to the mainland was probably because there were more job opportunities for joiners/cabinet makersⁱⁱⁱ there.

John's father, Thomas was a fisherman and the fishing industry on the Isle of Man had all but ended by the mid 1850's, so he supplemented his income by being a mariner. The story of emigration from the Isle of Man, shows that most fishermen/ farmers had left by the 1840's and settled in Cleveland, Ohio in the USA and most other young adults had left after the 1845 potato famine, that not only affect Ireland. The last people to leave were the lead, copper and iron miners, in the 1880's who left for the USA and South Africa.ⁱⁱ

Eleanor was born 3 weeks after the 1891 Census was taken^{iv} so she is shown on the 1901 Census^v aged 9 years, at a house in Corporation Street, Hyde, Cheshire. In the household was her older sibling, Katie who was aged 20 years and a schoolteacher and her father, John Henry who was a Cabinet Maker/ Shopkeeper. One of her brothers, John William, aged 16 years was a joiner's apprentice; whereas her sisters Jane, aged 18, and Alice aged 12 years and her brother Thomas, aged 16 years were not shown as Scholars or in any occupations.

Eleanor is next shown on the register of students at the Cheshire County Training College, Crewe.^{vi} She enrolled into the College on the 15 September 1909, aged 18 years, having passed the Oxford Local Senior examination in 1909, with a first-class pass in Mathematics and a second-class pass in Freehand Drawing (advanced)^{vii}, while attending Hyde County Secondary High School. Her father, John Henry Quayle was noted as her guardian. After two years at the training college, she passed the Training College Final Exam in 1911. She was recorded as being an Assistant Mistress at Marple Council Mixed School^{viii}, about 5 miles from Hyde from 1911-13 and then was working

at Leigh Street Council Girls' School, Hyde from 1913. She was still at this school in 1919, when she registered with the Teachers' Registration Council.

In 1911, while still at the Training College, she was enumerated at Monks, Coppenhall, Cheshire in a boarding house run by Gertrude Ineson, a 31-year-old widow, with 3 small children.^{ix} Another student, Alfreda Hallam (see separate FFW story) was also in the household. The landladies had to be registered with the council and able to offer a room per student.^x This meant that the family of 4, were squeezed into one room, in order to let the two students have their own rooms in a house of 5 rooms, including the kitchen^{ix}. The landladies had help with furnishing the rooms, as the College purchased the bed, this remained the property of the College and had to be returned once the landlady stopped her association with the scheme. The landlady was paid a fee/student/week (about 2/6 a week) and the menu that the students were to receive included Breakfast (porridge, egg, bacon, meat, bread and butter, tea/coffee or cocoa) at 8am; Tea (coffee/cocoa/milk, jam, bread and butter and cake) at 5pm and a light supper (bread and butter or biscuits, milk/cocoa) at 9pm. In addition, they were to provide the students with a Sunday Dinner (Meat, vegetables, pudding or pastry) with Dinner during the week provided by the Training College^x.

Eleanor had met Frank Beard, a Shop Manager living at 116 Matthew Road, Broadbottom, with his mother and two sisters at about this time. It could have been their mutual love of art that bought them together as both Eleanor and Frank sketched. However, war was declared in 1914 and Frank joined up on the 11 December 1915 at Hyde^{xi}, and although he was 'fit for home service only' he joined the 10th Battalion the Cheshire Regiment. He has a few medical

admissions to hospital with Myopic Aotia, a congenital condition that is known as Marfan Syndrome^{xii} today, which is characterised by flat feet, thin aortic walls and poor eyesight – maybe that was why he was only fit for home service!

Eleanor and Frank were married when he was next on leave on the 20 November 1917 at the Congregational Church in Hyde^{xi}. However, within 6 months of their marriage, Frank was listed as missing, and his death was finally confirmed in 1919 as being Friday, 26 April 1918^{xi}. The delay was due to the fact that the battalion were fighting at Kemmellbeek, Ypres and his fellow soldiers, who had found him and buried him, were not able to give over this information straight away. Frank was buried by a Private L Gottfreund, of the Middlesex Regiment and his effects were handed to the Commanding Officer^{xi}, eventually reaching the family in 1919. The effects were: a wallet, letters, photos, miscellaneous papers, and a sketch album^{xi}.



Image from <https://cheshireroll.co.uk>

Eleanor Qualye/Beard



Image from <https://ancestry.co.uk>

This picture of Eleanor could have been the one that Frank carried around with him in his effects. When Eleanor received his effects, she discovered that Frank had been sketching a French chateau on the 12 April, with his friend R Lonchet and on the 23 April, he was sketching the Convent du St Sixtus, near Poperinge, Belgium with a couple of other soldiers, called Yates and Crutchley. This was the final sketch in the book.

Both Eleanor, and Frank's mother, Eliza were keen to visit his grave and there is quite a lot of correspondence between them and his battalion Commander and the war office discussing this^{xi}. I do not know if they got to see his grave in La Clytte Military Cemetery in Belgium, but they probably attended the unveiling of the Broadbottom War Memorial in July 1922 where his name is engraved^{xiii} along with 35 others from the village.

As a war widow, Eleanor was living at 12 Silver Hill Road, Hyde, Cheshire and was being paid 15 shillings/week from 6 January 1919^{xiv}, but she appears to still have been teaching^{viii} as she was registered in her married name on the 1st June 1919, and was still teaching at the Leigh Street Council Girls School, Hyde – the registration cost her a guinea. The marriage bar, where women had to leave their jobs upon their marriage, does not seem to have applied at this time as Eleanor appears to have carried on teaching, despite being married, although widows were allowed to go back to their professions on the death of their husbands.

In June 1921, Eleanor was back in the Isle of Man visiting family at the time the census was enumerated. She was boarding with Eleanor Cashin, a boarding housekeeper in a boarding house, with 16 rooms in Shore Road, Peel, Isle of

Man.^{xv} She is described as a widow, aged 30 years of age, a summer visitor who was a certificated teacher, at an elementary school, employed by Hyde Education Committee, who was born in Hyde, Cheshire.

Eleanor seems to have been well travelled as in 1928, with her father John, aged 76, her sister Alice, aged 39, who was also a schoolteacher, they boarded the Cunard ship, Andania on the 20 July, bound for Montreal, Canada^{xvi}. They appeared to have been accompanied by Harold Milne, a Canadian – possibly a cousin, whose family possibly had already emigrated. Cleveland, Ohio, where a lot of Manx natives had moved to, was possibly their destination as they had crossed the US boarder on 28 July^{xvii}. They were in New York by the beginning of September, as they arrived back in Liverpool aboard the Cunard ship, Laconia on the 17 September^{xviii}. Both Eleanor and Alice are described as School Teachers, although the school year may well have started by this time!

The 21st Anniversary Book of the Training College, which was printed in 1929,^{xix} Eleanor gave her married name (Eleanor Beard) and her address as, Glen Faba, Napier Street, Hyde, Cheshire. By 1931^{xx}, Eleanor is living with her father, John and sister, Alice at 27 Napier Street, Hyde, Cheshire. This could possibly be the same address, as houses originally had names before numbers. Alice and Eleanor had also been given as living at 27 Napier Street, when they visited Canada and the US in 1928. The girls could have moved back home because their father was unwell, as he dies in the June quarter of 1932^{xxi}. Her sister Alice was one of the executors of the will, along with their brother, John William and the effects were £3123^{xxii}.

On the 1939 Register,ⁱ Eleanor is living with her sister, Alice still in the family home. Alice is still teaching, but Eleanor is described as ‘incapacitated’ and ‘retired’. Some handwritten notes tell us that she was in receipt of 2 ‘PWC’ post war credits/pensions, but I do not know what her ‘incapacity’ was. The pension may have been her war widow’s pension, but it is unlikely to be her Old Age Pension, as she was only in her 40’s at this time, but the notes might have been added some years afterwards.

Whatever the ‘incapacity’ was, it did not appear to have been life limiting for Eleanor as she died in February 1961 at West Denbighshire Hospital, Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire^{xxiii}. She left £6166 to her executors – her sisters Alice and Mary and her nephew, John Philip Quayle, who was also a schoolteacher.

Janice Brinley Codd 2023

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