

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]

Esther Broster's Story

Esther Broster was born on 14th November 1890 at Saughall Massey, Birkenhead, she was baptised one month later the 14 December 1890 at Moreton, Cheshire, her parents were Henry Broster and Ellen Godwin. Henry and Ellen Godwin married in 1886 at Birkenhead, Cheshire, both aged 25 years old. Esther's father Henry Broster was born 1861 and baptised 22 September 1861 Bidstone Cheshire, parents Thomas Pover Broster and Mary Ellen.

In 1891 Esther is living with her parents and her older siblings William (4) Mary Ellen (2) at Saughall Cheshire, Esther's father is working on a farm as a servant. In 1901 census Esther is 10 years old and a scholar still living in Saughall Massey with her parents and is now no longer the youngest child, she has three more

sisters (Jane (8) Bessie (5) Emily (3)). Esther won a scholarship from Moreton church of England School to Walleasy High School where she would walk the five miles to School each day, she then went on to Crewe Teacher Training College.

Esther attended Wallasey High School and through intelligence and hard work, she became the first girl to win a scholarship from Moreton church of England School, in 1908 she then enrolled at the Cheshire County Training College, as being a special permission transfer as she enrolled later in the term on 13/11/1908, after her final exam at Cheshire Training college in 1910. Esther is still living at home at Ivy Cottage Saughall-Massey with her parents, her father who is working on his brother's farm and three of her siblings Mary Ellen (22) dressmaker, Bessie (15) Grocers Bookkeeper, Emily (13) at school, Esther is now 20 years old and is now an Assistant Teacher at the County Council.

At 22 years old Esther married Henry Egerton Booth in 1913, he is 29 years old from Wirral Cheshire, Henry was born in 1884 in Frankby Cheshire and in 1913 he is working on his father's farm, his father Thomas Booth is a farmer born in Liverpool. In 1911 Henry is living at Rake house Newton Frankby Cheshire his occupation states farmer's son working on Farm, he is married and living with his wife Mary Booth and son Fred Egerton Booth aged 1 years old, Fred was born in 1909, it appears Henry Booth was married before to Mary Ellis 1908 Wirral Cheshire and they had one son Fred, Mary died in 1912 and Henry married Esther in 1913 and the marriage took place in Wirral Cheshire.

The 1921 census shows that Esther and Henry Egerton Booth (Head) aged 37 Assisting brother in general farm work, Rake house Farm, Nenton and Esther wife aged 30 years old and still teaching, this being unusual circumstances as

due to her being married she would have had to have given up teaching, however this was not the case with Esther she is now Head Teacher at Frankby Elementary School, Fred Egerton Booth (son) aged 11 at Frankby Church of England School, Birkenhead, and they are all living in the School House, Greasby, Cheshire. In 1939 Esther is still Head Teacher at Frankby Church of England School aged 51 and living at the School House, Greasby along with Thomas B Ruyden (Juiner retired) and Elsie Dunbabin (Horse keeper).

Esther's stepson Fred who appears to be her only child, he married in 1930 aged 21 to Ethel Reid in Wirral Cheshire, he is living with his wife and his daughter Jean Booth born 20/12/1930 in Cheshire Wirral, Fred's occupation is Baker and roundsman.

In 1947, Henry Booth's death is mentioned in the Liverpool Echo, stating that he passed away in 1947 aged 63 years old in Wirral Cheshire, Esther now a widow.

Liverpool Echo 1947- Condolence

Mrs Booth and Fred thank relatives and friends for expressions of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes in their sad bereavement. Frankby School House.

The Liverpool Echo 14 July 1956

Mrs. Esther Booth headmistress of Greasby County Junior School retires next week. Mrs Booth began teaching in 1910 and in 1921 became headmistress of Frankby church of England School. In 1952 she was appointed headmistress of the newly built school at Greasby. She has always taken a keen interest in the savings movement, from the time of the Penny Bank in 1910 to the present-day

National Savings and for the past two years has been chairman of the National Savings committee at Hoylake.



Esther was the first Head Teacher of Greasby School and previously taught at Frankby School, she for many years lived in the schoolhouse which was attached to the school, she taught at West Kirby Council School until April 1912, and then she went on to teach at Frankby School until Greasby School opened in 1952.

Esther Booth was known to being traditional and strict, but she certainly got results. Frankby school was closed and renamed Mill Lane School in 1951 and Esther Booth was appointed Head Teacher. In 1952 Greasby Primary School won the Wirral Sports Competition, an achievement which does not seem to have happened again until 1998. Esther Booth retired in 1956, she continued to live at the School House on Greasby Road until she died on 10 May 1972, aged 82, and was buried in Frankby Churchyard.

Esther's only child her stepson Fred Egerton Booth died 4 years after her death, in 1976, he was aged 66.

Greasby Junior School's website has some pictures of Esther Booth nee Broster and her time as Head Teacher on their website. Esther Booth was named by some of her pupils as ETTY Booth, she had an interest in gardening and driving her car and certainly had a passion for teaching.

Narrative by Donna Mills August 2023

Sources

BMD records -Ancestry and Find My Past

1891-1911 Census-Ancestry

1921,1939 Census -Find My Past

Liverpool Echo Newspaper 1947

The Liverpool Echo Newspaper 1956

<https://www.greasby-junior.wirral.sch.uk/home-1/history-of-greasby-junior-school>