

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.

The Tangye Family

Joseph Tangye, born 1799 in Illogan, Cornwall, was married to Ann Bullock, who was the daughter of engineer, Edward Bullock, born 1776 who worked at the copper mine at Wheal Tolgus, near Redruth, keeping the steam engine pumps working to drain the mine of water so that the miners could work underground.ⁱ Given this background, it is hardly surprising that all 5 of Joseph and Ann's sons became engineers.

Joseph was a coal merchant/keeper of some General Stores in Redruth, who lived with his family on a farm in nearby Illogan. He and Ann were members of the Friends Society (Quakers), worshipping at the Meeting House in Redruth and all of the children were taught at Friends' schools. The boys went to William Bellow's school in Camborne, which at the time was a strict Methodist school with corporal punishment meted out

for minor discretions, but the headmaster, who converted to Quakerism, also believed in 'thinking' and 'observing' time, taking the boys on long walks in the afternoons to enable these processes to developⁱ. The boys eventually went to Sidcott school, run by the Friends in Winscombe, Somerset.

Sarah Tangye

Sarah was the youngest of the 11 children, born in 1845 to Joseph Tangye and his wife Ann. While the boys were all sent to Sidcott school, the girls went to the female equivalent, the Friends 'York Quarterly Meeting's Girls School' (Quakers) originally based in Castlegate in 1831 and then moved to the Mount in 1857 and then known as The Mount School, York^{vi}. The school took in borders from the age of 13 years, so both Sarah, and her surviving older sister Ann (born 1830) would have been pupils from 1843-1849 (Ann) and from 1858-1863 (Sarah). It is unclear if they were day pupils prior to these dates, but Ann was in Illogan on the 1841 censusⁱⁱⁱ, suggesting that if she did go to school prior to the age of 13 years, then it was to a local school. Similarly, as she was back in Illogan at the time of the 1851 census^{iv}, this suggests that she did not stay on at school as a pupil-teacher.

Sarah, however, is at home on the 1851 census^{iv}, aged 6 years, but by the 1861 census^v she is listed as a boarder at the Society of Friends School House (The Mount School) in Driffield Terrace, York aged 16 years. According to the school logbooks^{vi}, Sarah was a pupil at the school from January until December 1861 and then was employed as a

pupil-teacher at the school from August 1863 until December 1864. It is not clear what she did for the intervening year or why she left the school in the December 1864. It is also not recorded as to what she was teaching, nor the age of the children in her care, but she is recorded as marrying Robert W Price in the March quarter of 1866^{vii} in Birmingham. Robert was the manager of the Iron Foundry in Marl Heath, Birmingham. Sarah and Robert have Annie (her niece) staying with them in the 1881 census^{xiii}, possibly following the death of Agnes, one of her daughters and possibly while she was pregnant with her youngest daughter. By the 1901 census^{viii} the family have only the two children, showing that her youngest child, Ann has also passed away. By the 1911 census^{ix}, the question about length of marriage and children confirms that Sarah and Robert had had 5 children, of whom 3 had sadly died, leaving only two, her son James and her daughter Winifred.

The Tangye brothers did not forget their female kin as Sarah was left a bequest (£250) in her brother Sir Richard's will, when he died in 1906^x, along with her daughter, Winifred (£200). Robert died in 1916 and Sarah lived until 1932, outliving her two remaining children and leaving a substantial sum (£3873) to her nephew, Allan Tangye, a solicitor^{xi}, son of her brother George Tangye.

Annie Jane Tangye

The niece of Sarah Tangye above. The eldest child of Joseph Tangye (1826) an engineer and Jane Angove, born in 1861 in Birmingham,

Worcestershire, where her father and his brothers were in business as James Tangye and Bros., Engineers.

Annie appears on the 1861 census^{xii} with her father and mother at their house in Birmingham. By the 1871 census^{xiii} her mother has died, and she is living with her father and her younger siblings John, Albert, and James. She is described as a scholar, but as she is only 10 years of age and living in Birmingham, she must be attending another Friends' school locally, or, as there is a governess living in, maybe she is taught at home.

Annie possibly attended The Mount School (1874-1879) but on the 1881 census^{xiv} she is found living with her aunt, Sarah Price in Solihull, Birmingham, aged 20 years with no occupation. Maybe she was tutoring her nieces, Winifred (11 years) and Ursula (13 years) who are not shown as being at school or as scholars. It was reported that the Society of Friends did not always think that educating women was important, so they might not have gone to schoolⁱ.

By August 1884, Annie is working at The Mount School^{vi}, as a teacher of Music and is shown on the 1891 census^{xv} living in Driffield Terrace, just a few doors down from the school, possibly in accommodation that normally has pupils boarding, but the 1891 census was taken on 5 April^{xvi}, during the Easter Holidays. She was still at the school in the 1901 census^{xvii}, living on the school premises, Dalton Terrace, listed as a teacher – it is assumed that she was still teaching music.

The logbook for the school^{vi}, has her 'retired' (leaving) in December 1904 although she was only 40 years old, so she probably left to work elsewhere. She did handwrite an essay, about Chinese music, and the instruments that the Chinese use, which is in a Journal, still belonging to the school^{xviii}. It appears to have pictures, poetry, and stories as well as the essay. It does not appear to be the work of students but might have included 6th Formers' work as the picture painted before Annie's essay is signed by M (Margaret) Andrews, who was a pupil at The Mount from January 1893 – June 1896.

In 1911, we find Annie living in Emscote Road, Warwick, still teaching as she is described as a Pianoforte Teacher at the Friends School^{xix}. The name of the school is not known, but the Friends had a Meeting House in the High Street, Warwick and the school must have been within walking distance or a bus ride of her house. She could also have taken Private students, teaching them at her home but as the house only had 2 rooms (not including the bathroom) she probably went to the homes of her students instead.

In the 1921 census^{xx}, Annie is living with her brother, Albert William in his house 'Thorn' in Hartford, Northwich. She is described as a visitor, but we do not know if she was staying for a week or for a few months. Annie had just retired as a Pianoforte Teacher and was aged 60 years, so probably did not have a house of her own (as she was living in school accommodation while working) and may not have found someone to take her in. Annie did not marry and died in July 1947 at the Clanmere Nursing Home near Malvern, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire when

she was 86 years old. She left £4961 in her will to James Parker, her nephew and son of her sister, Alice.

Barbara Catherine Tangye

The daughter of Annie's first cousin, Allan Tangye and the great niece of Sarah Tangye. Her father, Allan was a Solicitor and featured in the wills of many family members, both as executor and recipient of the contents of these wills.

Barbara was the eldest child of Allan and Anna Tangye nee Wilson, born in 1904 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire. On the 1911 Census^{xxi} Barbara is aged 6 years living in a large house, 'Fairoakes' which has 15 rooms, enough for the family: Allan, Anna, Barbara, her 2 sisters and 2 brothers and their 6 servants.

By the 1921 Census^{xxii} she was a student at The Mount School in York, where she started as a pupil in 1919, aged 15 years. She appears to remain as a pupil until 1924, when she would have been 20 years of age. It is more likely that she was a pupil-teacher for the final two years, but the Admissions Registers are still held by the school for these dates, and it is not possible to clarify her status at this point.

Barbara was on the Register of Voters^{xxiii} for Worcestershire from 1929-31 back living with her parents at Broome House, Broome, near Stourbridge a large mansion that the family had moved into during the 1920's. Barbara was married in 1930 to Henry Ferguson Smith, who

worked for the East India Company. They lived in Alipore, Calcutta (Kolkata) in West Bengal where Henry was also a Special Constable with the Calcutta Police. They must have returned to the UK at the threat of war as by September 1939, they are shown on the 1939 Register^{xxiv} living in Bromsgrove with Henry's mother and unmarried sister, Jean together with their daughter Alison, aged 4 years who had just started school.

Living abroad was not unusual for Henry or his parents, as Henry had been born in Russia when his father, who had been in the Navy but joined the British Consulate after a bout of malaria ended his naval career, was based in Odessa. Charles Smith was a noted diplomat who had reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the navy and after leaving Russia, was based in Barcelona, until he retired in 1928. Barbara, however, must have found the experience exciting as she had not left the counties of Worcestershire or Yorkshire before. Barbara died in 1991, aged 87.

A note of interest is that her sister, Lucy Tangye married John Cadbury, a fellow member of the Society of Friends (Quakers) the great grandson of the founder of the famous Cadbury chocolate firm and son of William Cadbury who designed the iconic Cadbury logo, based on his own signature^{xxv}.

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- ⁱ Hamilton-Peters N (2023) Tangye Bros. on <https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/4897723> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ⁱⁱ Bellows Family of Gloucester, 19th-20th Centuries on <https://catalogue.gloucestershire.gov.uk> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ⁱⁱⁱ 1841 Census HO107/142/7 f34 p50 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{iv} 1851 Census HO107/1915 f410 p47 on <https://www.ancestry.com> : Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^v 1861 Census RG9/3548 f8 p12 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{vi} The Mount School York – List of Teachers and Scholars 1831-1906 on <https://www.findmypast.com> :Accessed 13 July 2023
- ^{vii} Marriage OPR England, Birmingham March quarter 1866 PRICE, Robert W and TANGYE Sarah on <https://www.freebmd.org> : Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{viii} 1901 Census RG13/2809 f88 p34 on <https://www.ancestry.com> : Accessed 13 July 2023
- ^{ix} 1911 Census RG14/383/1/57 s239 on <https://www.ancestry.com> : Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^x Bequests 1906. *Birmingham Daily Gazette*. 20 December. TANGYE, Sir Richard. p.5 on <https://www.ancestry.com> : Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xi} Testamentary Records, England. 21 Apr 1932. PRICE, Sarah. Probate. National Probate Calendar. Birmingham, England on <https://www.ancestry.com> : Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xii} 1861 Census RG9/2132 f67 p28 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xiii} 1871 Census RG10/2973 f36 p3 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xiv} 1881 Census RG11/3082 f69 p6 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xv} 1891 Census RG12/3887 f118 p2 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xvi} 1891 Census Information on <https://search.findmypast.co.uk> :Accessed 12 July 2023
- ^{xvii} 1901 Census RG13/4441 f12 p15 on <https://search.findmypast.co.uk> :Accessed 13 July 2023
- ^{xviii} The Mount School Journal held in the Friends Library at the Mount School : Accessed 10 June 2023
- ^{xix} 1911 Census RG14/393/1/10 s42 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 13 July 2023
- ^{xx} 1921 Census RG15/447/1/12/16916 s39 on <https://findmypast.co.uk> :Accessed 13 July 2023
- ^{xxi} 1911 Census RG14/383/3/6 s162 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 14 July 2023
- ^{xxii} 1921 Census RG15/517/3/23533/3 on <https://findmypast.co.uk> :Accessed 13 July 2023
- ^{xxiii} Electoral Registers 1837-1974, Worcestershire, England on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 14 July 2023
- ^{xxiv} 1939 Register QKAD Bromsgrove382/1 on <https://www.ancestry.com> :Accessed 14 July 2023
- ^{xxv} Cadbury logo on <https://wikipedia.org> :Accessed 14 July 2023