

# 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]*

## **Annie Hall (1890-1940)<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This piece about Annie Hall aims to centre her in the narrative. For that reason, additional details about her parents and siblings identified during this research are contained within an Appendix to this document.

*This story is dedicated to my mother and first teacher, Anne, a graduate of a London teacher training college.*

## Annie Hall (1890-1940)

### Overview



Figure 1: Image of CTCC student Annie Hall, 1910

Over the course of Annie Hall's relatively short and ordinary life the world changed. New words like "airplane" were added to the English dictionary, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC, 1922) was established, and a British king was crowned and abdicated (1936). Annie experienced the national trauma of the Great War, and watched her country go to war again in 1939. As a woman, she gained the right to vote (1918, 1928). In the domestic sphere, domestic servants became less common and indoor plumbing and electrification began to feature, in the homes of the urban middle class, at least. At a more personal level, the bustle, corset, and heavily concealed ankles of Annie's mother's generation and her own youth gave way to the bra, the corselet, and even glimpses of a woman's knees. Of particular relevance to Annie's professional life, were several pieces of legislation governing education, and of course, the establishment of a teacher training college at Crewe (1908).

There are some things that are known about Annie Hall's life, however, there are many things that remain unknown, about which one can only speculate. What is known is that she was the youngest surviving child in a family of ten, and was probably cosseted and indulged a little. Unlike her older siblings who, as teenagers, found employment in local factories and businesses, Annie benefitted from private piano lessons and remained in education until she was twenty - an indication that her parents had more disposable income as their older children left home.

Over the course of her childhood, Annie lived in several different homes and her father changed occupations from self-employed farmer to Council-employed rate collector, the latter job granting the family some economic stability. She watched her older brothers and sisters leave home one-by-one, some to marry, others to take employment elsewhere. The family baptismal records in the local Church of England parish suggest that, given the time lapse between birth and baptism, the family were not particularly fervent about their religious practice, at least in the early years.<sup>1</sup>

Annie Hall was one of the first to be admitted to Cheshire County Training College when it opened in 1908 and graduated two years later. She was a bright-eyed, dark-haired young woman, gifted at maths, sporty, and musical. Photographed with her friends Florrie Hancock and Hilda Gee, Annie's confident gaze and mischievous smirk stands out in contrast to Florrie's stare, and Hilda's wary smile.



Figure 2: Annie Hall (left), Florrie Hancock (middle), Hilda Gee (right)

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<sup>1</sup> FindMyPast, *Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911*.

Unlike some of her friends and classmates, Annie's teaching career was quite short. She completed the minimum five years of service required to honour her agreement with the Board of Education and the Cheshire Education Authority, marrying Harry Goddard shortly afterwards in 1915, and was then subject to compulsory termination. While many women in Annie's position were able to resume their teaching careers during the First World War, Annie's opportunity to do so may have been limited by the death of her mother in the autumn of 1915 and her father's need for a housekeeper.

Our first glimpse at Annie's married life comes courtesy of the 1921 census. She, her husband Harry Goddard, a railway clerk, and their toddler, Margaret are found in Mottram-in-Longdendale in Cheshire. Although Annie is recorded as having no occupation, there are two boarders resident who would have been Annie's responsibility. Perhaps it was the desire to earn some "pin money" for herself, or perhaps it was concern about looming industrial unrest in the railways and the impact it would have on her family's income that led her to take in paying guests. No doubt these were uneasy times, when survivors of the butchery of WW1, coalminers and men who worked for the railways, such as her husband, were portrayed as part of the "industrial menace", in contrast to the "loyal citizens" who pledged themselves to the Citizen's Defence.<sup>1</sup>

A banner headline with the text "NATIONAL LIFE IN DANGER: INSTANT RALLY OF LOYAL CITIZENS" in a bold, sans-serif font. The text is white and set against a dark, textured background that looks like a wooden sign or a banner.

Figure 3: Banner headline - Sunday Mirror 10 April 1921

In 1939 the unthinkable was happening for those who had survived World War 1 and heard the mantra of "the war to end all wars". Peace, bought with the blood and bones of Annie's neighbours and family, was shattering. For Annie, now almost 50, the 1939 Register may well have brought that sense of imminent war to the forefront of her mind. However, Annie did not survive to see how long and interminable that war would be, or to learn about the horrors of concentration camps, "Final Solutions", or the atomic bomb. Annie died in late 1939 or early 1940, and only the civil death record notes her death.

No accounts of funerals or obituaries have been found for Annie Hall, later Annie Goddard – an apparently quiet end to the bright spark of her life.

## Home and family

### The Hall family- early years

Annie Hall's story starts not with her birth but with her parents' marriage.<sup>2</sup> When Annie was born in 1890, her parents, Thomas Henry Hall and Esther Ann Tomlinson, had been married nineteen years. They married in Sheffield district during the first three months of 1871.<sup>3</sup> They seem to have started their married life at Gee Farm in Mottram, before moving to one of several homes in Hattersley civil parish.<sup>4</sup> Over the next number of decades, Thomas alternated between farming on his own account or employment as a Council Rate Collector, sometimes combining both roles. The Halls could

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<sup>1</sup> *Sunday Mirror*, 10 Apr. 1921, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Additional biographical details about Annie's family, from her parents' marriage in 1871 until 1900 are documented, with sources, in the Appendix to this document.

<sup>3</sup> FreeBMD Marriages. Esther Ann Tomlinson, Thomas Henry Hall. Sheffield, Q1 1871, vol. 09c, p. 352. A number of researchers with trees for this family on Ancestry have identified Esther Ann Woodnutt of London as Annie's mother. The birth records of Annie Hall and her siblings confirm that Esther Ann's maiden name was Tomlinson (see Figure 5 below).

<sup>4</sup> Identified via *Cheshire Electoral Registers (1842-1900)*. Records retrieved at FindMyPast.

probably have been described as a middle-class family, wealthy enough for Thomas to be recorded in the Cheshire Electoral Registers but not, it seems, to have had live-in servants.<sup>1</sup>

- 1871** Marriage of parents: Thomas Henry Hall and Esther Ann Tomlinson
1. **1873** Birth of sister Emmeline
  2. **1874** Birth of brother Frank
  3. **1878** Birth of sister Fanny
  4. **1879** Birth of brother William Thomas
    - a. **1880** Death of William Thomas
  5. **1882** Birth of brother Sidney
  6. **1884** Birth of brother Harry
  7. **1886** Birth of Helena
    - a. **1888** Death of Helena
  8. **1888** birth of brother Stanley
  9. **1890** Birth of Annie
  10. **1893** Birth of brother Norman
    - a. **1896** Death of Norman

From 1876 until 1885, the family were found at Gee Farm in Hattersley, where six of Annie's older siblings were born, two of whom died in childhood. The Electoral Registers of 1886 show them at Brectomley Mill where four children including Annie were born.<sup>2</sup> Of these four youngest children, only Annie and her brother Stanley survived childhood.

Annie Hall, Thomas and Esther Ann's ninth child, was born at "Britomley Mill", Hattersley on 1 March 1890.<sup>3</sup> Her mother "Esther Ann Hall, formerly Tomlinson" registered the birth, recording that her husband, Thomas Henry Hall, was a farmer and the family were living at "Britomley Mill", Hattersley.

Figure 4: Annie Hall's family timeline

Columns:-	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
	First March 1890 128 Britomley Mill Hattersley Rd of Hattersley	Annie	girl	Thomas Henry Hall	Esther Ann Hall formerly Tomlinson	Farmer	Esther Ann Hall Mother Britomley Mill Hattersley	12th April 1890	Joseph Lester Registrar	

Figure 5: 1890 record - Annie Hall birth

Two months later, on Saturday 3 May 1890, Annie was baptised at Mottram by the curate in Mottram, E.A Hutton.<sup>4</sup>

March 1st 1890	May 3rd 1890	Annie	Thomas Henry and Esther Ann	Hall	Hattersley	Farmer	E.A. Hutton Curate
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Figure 6: Annie Hall baptism - entry from Mottram parish register

### Annie's childhood

The 1891 census of England and Wales shows Annie as the youngest in a household of nine.<sup>5</sup> It also records that, unlike the previous year when Annie was born and baptised, Thomas was no longer farming on his own account, but employed as an assistant overseer and rate collector. Although their home may have been larger than the typical 'two up, two down', one can only imagine how cramped the house might have been. No domestic servants are recorded as resident in this census, nor in any

<sup>1</sup> Census of England and Wales 1881-1921. Records retrieved at FindMyPast.

<sup>2</sup> FindMyPast, Cheshire Electoral Registers (1842-1900): Hattersley, 1876-1886 - Thomas Hall.

<sup>3</sup> FreeBMD Births. Annie Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q2 1890, vol. 08D, p. 566.

<sup>4</sup> FindMyPast, Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911. Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire.

<sup>5</sup> FindMyPast, 1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census, Mottram St. Michaels, 'Thomas Hall' RG12/PN3291/6/5/27.

other census, and while the older children were probably expected to help with housework, Esther Ann may have also had the help of a “daily”, a local woman or girl, to wash, clean, and cook for her large family. By the time Annie was born, it is likely that her two oldest siblings, Emmeline and Frank, had already left school. The 1891 census shows that, while they still lived with their parents at “Brightomley Mill, Main Road, Hattersley”, they were employed – Emmeline as a cotton weaver, presumably in a local factory, and Frank as a labourer in a print works. They were possibly required to contribute part or all of their wages towards their “keep” – a practice still common in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Fanny, Sydney, and Harry, are all recorded as scholars.

Annie and her family remained at Brectomley Mill until 1895/96.<sup>1</sup> In the intervening years, Annie’s younger brother, Norman, was born and died (1893-96).<sup>2</sup> A year after Norman’s birth, Annie’s oldest brother, Frank, married Hannah Ratcliffe in November 1894.<sup>3</sup> Annie may have started school that year or the following year, depending on how far she and her siblings had to walk to school. Two miles, especially in winter, was generally considered too far by most families, especially with the risk of illness and disease to the child’s health. It is easy to imagine that Annie’s parents, who had already buried two small children, were very protective of Annie, perhaps even more so after Norman’s death. In the same year that Norman died, Annie’s oldest sister, Emmeline, married Arthur Smith in 1896, and, later that year, Annie became an aunt to Sydney Smith.<sup>4</sup>

In the midst of all of these significant family events, Annie and her parents and remaining siblings were settling into their new home at Intake Farm in Hattersley, where they were recorded in the 1901 Census. The busy home of nine found in the 1891 census had now shrunk to five: Emmeline, Frank, Fanny, and Sydney had all left home, at least two to marry and establish their own families. Thomas had resumed farming, combining it with his employment as a rate collector. Annie’s older brother, Harry (17), was employed as a grocer’s assistant, while Stanley and Annie were, as you might expect, both in school.<sup>5</sup>

### Annie’s teenage years

While Annie’s older siblings obtained employment as teenagers in local factories and businesses, Annie may have been the only member of the family to take piano lessons. One of the local newspapers reported Annie’s musical activities in 1905, her teacher Miss K. Hadfield living just down the street from where Annie later lived.<sup>6</sup> Annie and Miss Hadfield are possibly the pair who played a “pianoforte duet” for the Scripture Union Annual Party (Mottram and Broadbottom) in November 1906, with Annie being the “Miss Hall” who played several solos.<sup>7</sup>

### MUSICAL SUCCESS (1905)

At the local examinations, held in connection with the London College of Music on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Miss Annie Hall of Insake (sic) Farm, Hattersley gained a first-class pass certificate in the elementary section of pianoforte playing. Miss Hall is a pupil of Miss K. Hadfield, L.L.C.M., of 26 Broadbottom Road, Mottram.

<sup>1</sup> FindMyPast, *Cheshire Electoral Registers (1842-1900)*: Hattersley 1895, Film no. 1544688, Hattersley 1896, Film no. 1544689.

<sup>2</sup> FreeBMD Births. Norman Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q4 1893, vol. 08D, p. 554; FreeBMD Deaths. Norman Hall, aged 3. Ashton under Lyne, Q4 1896, vol. 08D, p. 407.

<sup>3</sup> FindMyPast, *Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Marriages 1538-1910*, Mottram in Longdendale, 1894, p. 82, no. 163.

<sup>4</sup> FreeBMD Marriages. Emmeline Hall, Arthur Smith. Chorlton, Q1 1896, vol. 8c, p. 913

<sup>5</sup> FindMyPast, *1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census*, St Michael Mottram in Longdendale, ‘Thomas Hall’ RG13/3802/5/1/1.

<sup>6</sup> *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, 21 July 1905, p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> *Stalybridge Reporter*, 17 November 1906, p. 5.

Between 1905 and 1908, Annie's family moved, yet again, this time to Orient House in Hattersley (Figure 7). By now, with almost all of her older siblings having left home, Annie probably had her own bedroom. This, along with her music lessons, may have been one of several benefits Annie enjoyed as the youngest in the family, as the demands on the family budget and space within the home decreased with the departure of each of Annie's older siblings. It is likely that she was the only child in the Hall family to progress to post-primary education.



Figure 7: Orient House, Hattersley. Hall family home in 1908

While Annie's participation in secondary education is assumed, it appears that it was not an essential requirement for her admission to the Cheshire County Training College. For those who had not yet celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, admission required "regular attendance at a recognised Secondary School for three years previous to the date of admission".<sup>1</sup> Annie, in contrast, had marked her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier in 1908. The main admission requirements were that she pass the Preliminary Certificate of the Board of Education, which she did in 1908, achieving a distinction in Maths, and pass a medical inspection to establish her "general health and [her] physical fitness for the work of teaching".<sup>2</sup> We know, however, that Annie had, at some point, attended Mottram Green School, which may have been known locally as Mottram Old Grammar School (Figure 8).<sup>3</sup>

### Annie's college years

Having passed both the preliminary examination, and the College's medical inspection, Annie's application to be admitted as one of the first cohort of students at Cheshire County Training College, Crewe in 1908 was successful. A copy of the admission letter sent to Annie and her parents is not available, but one can imagine the family's mixed feelings when it arrived. For both Annie and her parents, a mixture of pride that she had succeeded in securing a place, combined with worry and excitement



Figure 8: Mottram Old Grammar School, possibly Mottram Green School

<sup>1</sup> *Cheshire County Training College, Crewe, Prospectus 1908-1914*, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe, p. 5, 'Conditions of Admission', 1.(a) and (b), hereafter: *CCTCC Prospectus*.

<sup>2</sup> *CCTCC Student Registers [1908-1935]*: CCTCC Archives, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe, hereafter: *CCTCC Student Registers*; <sup>2</sup> *CCTCC Prospectus*, p. 5, 'Conditions of Admission', 2, 3.

<sup>3</sup> *CCTCC Student Registers*. Particular thanks are due to Jenny Roberts of the Hydonian Chronicles Facebook group for identifying Mottram Green, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheHydonianChronicles/> and to Mark Ridgway of the same group, and author of "St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Mottram in Longdendale", which contains details about the history of Mottram Grammar. The Old Grammar School, Mottram in Longdendale, Gerald England, (photo): [File:The Old Grammar School, Mottram in Longdendale - geograph.org.uk - 700147.jpg](https://www.geograph.org.uk - 700147.jpg) - [Wikimedia Commons](https://www.wikimedia.org).

about a new adventure. Worry too, perhaps, on the part of her parents about funding the clothing and equipment Annie required to attend, and concern about sending their youngest into the world to live away from them. For Annie, there was surely excitement at the prospect of independence and meeting new people, tinged with sadness about leaving her friends and family.



Figure 9: The Mottram & Broadbottom railway station<sup>1</sup>

Annie, her father, and perhaps her mother, almost certainly travelled by train from the local station, Mottram & Broadbottom (Figure 9), to Crewe. It must have been quite a spectacle as Annie left her home laden down with trunks and bags, and embarked after tearful farewells on the platform. First, however, the formalities needed to be observed. Annie enrolled on Tuesday, 15 September 1908. She probably had to sign several documents, or her father did on her behalf as her named guardian.<sup>2</sup> One of the most significant of these documents was an agreement with the Board of Education and the Cheshire Education Authority that she would “on leaving College work in Elementary (or Secondary) Schools which are in receipt of Government Grants for five years”.<sup>3</sup> Annie’s life for the next seven years was now determined.

There were surely tears as Annie was left behind in Crewe to settle into her lodgings and start her new life, and perhaps more tears each time she returned to Crewe from visits with her family. From surviving photos, however, it seems that Annie’s two years at Crewe were happy ones. She made friends, two of whom, Florrie Hancock and Hilda Gee, appear with her in a photograph (Figure 2). In the first few weeks of Annie’s time at Crewe, “[d]rill, marching and country dancing were all the indoor activities that the women had”.<sup>4</sup> However, this was soon to change with the appointment of Miss Lily Dunn who was charged with broadening the physical education curriculum. Although the college’s sporting facilities were rudimentary at best, Annie played hockey, one of many physical activities encouraged by the college authorities.<sup>5</sup> In Annie’s day, the young women had to endure

<sup>1</sup> © OpenStreetMap <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>

<sup>2</sup> CCTCC Student Registers.

<sup>3</sup> CCTCC Prospectus, p. 6

<sup>4</sup> Margaret Roberts & Sarah Webb, ‘Students at play: sport in the Cheshire County Training College, 1908-1918’, in D. Day, D. (ed), *Playing Pasts* (Manchester, 2020), pp 37-55. Accessed via - <https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/football/students-at-play-sport-in-the-cheshire-county-training-college-1908-1918/>, hereafter: Roberts & Webb, ‘Students at play’.

<sup>5</sup> Roberts & Webb, ‘Students at play’.

playing in full length skirts, as in the picture below (Figure 10). Just a few years later, in 1914, common sense had prevailed and that year's CCTCC hockey team are pictured in far more practical knee-length gymslips.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 10: 1908 CCTCC Hockey Team -Annie, middle row, right; Florrie, front row middle; Hilda to Florrie's right

Aside from the required activities of classes and teaching practice documented in the CCTCC prospectus, the records seem silent about whether Annie thrived or merely survived her two years in Crewe. Unlike Florrie Hancock, the eldest in her family, Annie may have had little experience of being in charge of younger children.<sup>2</sup> How daunting it must have been to stand in front of a class of rumbunctious children and command their attention? Maybe Annie channelled one of her parents, or perhaps Florrie gave advice based on her own experience. Likewise, the records do not reveal any details of Annie's personality and extra-curricular activities. Like Hilda, she may have been involved in the women's suffrage movement, or perhaps her focus was more on sport and other activities.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps that mischievous glint, captured in the photo with Florrie and Hilda (Figure 2) is all the insight that exists. Whatever else may have happened, Annie successfully completed the final examinations and graduated in 1910.

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<sup>1</sup> Roberts & Webb, 'Students at play', Figure. 4. Cheshire County Training College Hockey Team, 1914-15.

<sup>2</sup> Ruth Wilson, 'Florrie Hancock'. A contribution to the Cheshire Training College, Crewe project, published by A Few Forgotten Women <https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/>, hereafter: Ruth Wilson, 'Florrie Hancock'.

<sup>3</sup> Margaret Roberts, 'Helen Blankley', p. 4. A contribution to the Cheshire Training College, Crewe project, published by A Few Forgotten Women <https://afewforgottenwomen.wixsite.com/>, hereafter: Margaret Roberts, 'Helen Blankley'.



## Annie's teaching career

It seems, from available records, that Annie's teaching career was quite brief. She qualified in 1910 and obtained a teaching post back home. She is recorded in the 1911 census in her parent's home at "Hattersley Broadbotham" (sic).<sup>1</sup> It seems her parents had moved again, having left Orient House, Annie's home in 1908, to return to Intake Farm, her home when she passes her piano exam in 1905.<sup>2</sup> Annie's occupation is recorded as "School Teacher Certificated" at Mottram C.E. (Church of England) school. Her father is now working full time for the Council as a rate collector for the urban district council. Typical of the times, no occupation is documented for Annie's mother, but her record notes the ten babies she gave birth to and the deaths of three of those children. Also present is one of Annie's older brothers, Sydney, now a married man who was employed as a farm labourer. It can only be assumed that Annie remained teaching at Mottram Church of England (primary) school for the next number of years. The 1911 census record is the only evidence that Annie ever worked as a teacher. Her absence from the Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948 is not considered significant as registration was not compulsory at the time.<sup>3</sup>

Britain declared war on Germany in 1914. Annie was then 24 years old and unmarried, although possibly engaged. It is likely that many of the young men she knew – former classmates, brothers, extended family, neighbours, and future in-laws - enlisted in that initial surge of patriotism. Over the next five years, inevitably, some of their names were posted in the lists of those wounded, missing and dead. One can only imagine the dread with which each new list was read by Annie and her community, and the relief when none of the names were recognised.

## Annie's married life

In the autumn of 1915, Annie's 63-year-old mother, Esther Ann died.<sup>4</sup> Soon afterwards, in the winter of 1915 and within months of completing her obligatory five years of teaching, Annie married Harry Goddard, a railway clerk from Mottram.<sup>5</sup> She resigned her post as required by the law of the time. There are no mentions in local newspapers of "pretty weddings", or presentations by parents and school to Miss Annie Hall on her resignation to marry. Perhaps it was considered inappropriate given Annie's recent bereavement. Where the newly-weds lived immediately afterwards is unknown. They may have moved into Hawthorne Villas, Broadbottom Road, Mottram (Figure 11), a house owned by her father.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 11: Hawthorn Villas, 133 Broadbottom Road, Mottram. Annie's home c. 1919-1940

<sup>1</sup> FindMyPast. *1911 Census of England and Wales*, Annie Hall, RG14PN24432 RG78PN1402 RD468 SD9 ED1 SN62.

<sup>2</sup> Orient House was the address given by Annie's father when she enrolled. Intake Farm is the registered abode of her father in the 1911 - FindMyPast, *England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1910-1932*, 'County of Cheshire, Stalybridge and Hyde Division. Register of Parochial Electors', 1911 – Mottram Ward, p. 15, Thomas Henry Hall, SPR.Mic.P.273/BL.C.35/2; *Glossop-dale Chronicle and North Derbyshire Reporter*, 21 July 1905.

<sup>3</sup> FindMyPast. *Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948*.

<sup>4</sup> FreeBMD Deaths. Esther A Hall, aged 63. Ashton under Lyne, vol. 08D, p. 564.

<sup>5</sup> FreeBMD Marriages. Annie Hall to Harry Goddard. Ashton under Lyne, vol. 08D, p. 1069.

<sup>6</sup> FindMyPast, *England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1910-1932*, 'County of Cheshire, Stalybridge and Hyde Division. Register of Parochial Electors', 1911 – Mottram Ward, p. 15, Thomas Henry Hall, SPR.Mic.P.273/BL.C.35/2. Google Maps, 133 Broadbottom Rd, Mottram in Longdendale, Hyde SK14 6HZ, UK (2023): <https://goo.gl/maps/SvWTHfHZF2pLLxEF9>.

However, as a young couple beginning a life together, they may have opted for the more frugal option of living with Annie's newly widowed father.

While many young men were enlisting at the outset of the war, Harry remained at home with Annie until 1917. It must have been an unsettling time for Annie, especially with the introduction of conscription and knowing that Harry's job as a clerk in the accounts department of the local railway company did not make him exempt. Harry's employment records reveal that he "joined the Colours" on 23 February 1917 and achieved the rank of Corporal.<sup>1</sup> Whatever Annie's role may have been in supporting the war effort, she does not appear to have been officially involved with the Red Cross volunteers, either before or after Harry's enlistment.<sup>2</sup>

Over the next few years Thomas, Annie's father, would meet a young woman, Lily Fairclough, who was just six years older than Annie. Thomas Henry and Lily married in the summer of 1919.<sup>3</sup> By that point, Harry Goddard had returned from the war, and Annie was pregnant with their first and, apparently, only child.<sup>4</sup> If not already resident in Hawthorn Villas, it is likely that Annie and Harry moved in soon after his return, especially when her father announced his intention to marry again. Unlike the cramped home of her early childhood, Annie's home during most of her married life was a substantial semi-detached two-storied house with few occupants. Hawthorn Villas, 133 Broadbottom Road, Mottram, was built in 1895, according to the plaque on the front of the house (Figure 12), and contained two reception rooms, a kitchen, and at least three bedrooms.<sup>5</sup>



Figure 12: Hawthorn Villas 1895

The end of the war was momentous for families like Annie's, a period for both celebration and mourning, not just for lives lost but for lives forever altered. In June 1919, the village of Hattersley gathered to mark the first Peace Commemoration (Figures 13, 14 below). Annie and her husband may well have attended this or a similar event in Mottram to give thanks for his safe return from the War and to commemorate loved ones who had not survived.<sup>6</sup> Close examination of surviving photos reveals a smiling woman in the back row (Figure 13, circled) who looks very similar to other photos of Annie (Figure 1, 2 above).

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<sup>1</sup> Ancestry, UK, *Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956*, The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; Collection: Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company; 'Register of staff: Accountants' Dept., General of fice 1870 - 1925', Class: RAIL463; Piece: 225, p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> FindMyPast, *British Army, British Red Cross Society Volunteers 1914-1918*.

<sup>3</sup> FreeBMD Marriages. Thomas H. Hall to Lily Fairclough. Ashton under Lyne, Q2 1919, vol. 08d, p. 1098.

<sup>4</sup> FreeBMD Births. Margaret Goddard, mother's former name - Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q4 1919, vol 08D, p. 1028.

<sup>5</sup> A recent property listing describes it as being "spread over 4 floors including 2 reception rooms, a utility room, Kitchen, Bathroom and 4 Bedrooms plus a Cellar". The utility room and attic bedroom appear to be more recent additions. Edward Mellor, 28/10/22, 133 Broadbottom Road, Mottram, [www.edwardmellor.co.uk](http://www.edwardmellor.co.uk) [https://sprift.com/dashboard/property-report/?access\\_key=0b1f465c3afd594eafc14793aa13c9391e62549a7598ec227d6d209ed7ce0b4b](https://sprift.com/dashboard/property-report/?access_key=0b1f465c3afd594eafc14793aa13c9391e62549a7598ec227d6d209ed7ce0b4b)

<sup>6</sup> Shared by Lauren Jaye Gradwell to Hyde Historical Society's Facebook page on 10 Nov. 2021 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/254123521791177/permalink/1127776054425915/>. Originally published by Tameside Library on 10 Nov. 2021



Figure 13: Unidentified women and children - first Peace Commemoration at Hattersley (June 1919)

Although Harry had likely returned home earlier in the year, he was not officially “de-mobbed” until 27 October 1919, just a month before their daughter Margaret was born.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 14: Unidentified men - first Peace Commemoration at Hattersley (June 1919)

Two years later, on 19 June 1921, the Census of England and Wales took place. Annie aged 31 and 3 months, was found at 133 Broadbottom Road, Mottram.<sup>2</sup> The census records Annie as being on home duties, a description which conceals her economic activity. She also kept paying guests, a young couple like herself and Harry - Ernest Arthur Bellamy from Doncaster in Yorkshire who was a mechanical draughtsman in Manchester, and his wife Jessie Cecilia Bellamy who, like Annie, was also described as being on “home duties”. Annie’s husband Harry, 32 years and 11 months a railway clerk for the Great Central Railway Company was based at Cornwall Street in Manchester. Also present was Annie and Harry’s daughter Margaret, then aged “1 year and 7 months old”. 1921 was also the first year in which Annie, now aged 31 and ‘of age’ according to the Representation of the People Act

<sup>1</sup> Ancestry, UK, *Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956*, The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; Collection: Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company; ‘Register of staff: Accountants’ Dept., General office 1870 - 1925’, Class: RAIL463; Piece: 225, p. 11; FindMyPast, *1939 Register of England and Wales*. Margaret Goddard, 133 Broadbottom Road, Mottram In Longdendale, RG101/4032D/011/33.

<sup>2</sup> FindMyPast, *1921 Census of England & Wales*, Annie Goddard, Mottram, Cheshire, RG 15/19735/68, RD 468 RS 7 ED 3.

1918, is recorded in the Electoral Registers (final line, Figure 15 below).<sup>1</sup> The designation “H O” indicates that she was granted suffrage by virtue of her husband’s occupation.<sup>2</sup> One wonders at the correspondence she might have exchanged with her old friend, Hilda Gee, a women’s suffrage activist, now that Annie and Hilda could finally vote.<sup>3</sup>

POLLING DISTRICT G.				MOTTRAM WARD.
(1)	(2) Franchise.		(3)	(4)
No.	(a) Parlia- mentary.	(b) Local Govt.	Names in full Surname first.	Residence or Property occupied and abode of non-resident occupier.
461	R	—	Arnfield, Joe	129 BROADBOTTOM ROAD
462	R	—	Arnfield, Lee	129
463	R	O	Oldham, Frank	131
464	H O	H O	Oldham, Bertha Alice	131
465	R	—	Oldham, James	131
466	R	O	Goddard, Harry	133
467	H O	H O	Goddard, Annie	133

Figure 15: Extract from 1921 Electoral Register

Sadly, in the summer of 1922, Annie’s eldest sister, Emmeline died aged 49.<sup>4</sup> Soon after Annie’s first election as a voter (November 1922), she experienced the death of another family member. Just two weeks before Christmas, her father, Thomas Henry Hall, died aged 72.<sup>5</sup> Probate was granted in London on 16 January 1923 to Annie’s stepmother, Lily, and Annie’s oldest brother, Frank, a merchant.<sup>6</sup> Her father’s estate, valued at £2,110 10s. 11d., was equivalent in modern terms (2017), to the total earnings of a skilled tradesman over almost eighteen years.<sup>7</sup> Whether Annie was a named beneficiary of her father’s will is unknown: she may have been acknowledged with a token amount if Hawthorn Villas had already been granted to her and Harry.

### Final years 1939-1940

Over the next number of years, Annie’s primary occupation was almost certainly the care of her husband and child. There is no evidence in newspapers that she continued performing music, either privately or in public, or that she was involved in any volunteer activities. We know nothing of Annie’s life during these years. She may have continued taking in boarders, and perhaps she applied her teaching experience to her daughter’s early education and educational development. The 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary publication issued by CCTCC notes her only as “Married name; Mrs Goddard Address noted as Hawthorn Villas, Broadbottom Road, Mottram-in-Longdendale, Manchester”.<sup>8</sup> We do not know whether Annie stayed in touch with any of her friends from her time as a student in Crewe. No doubt she would have been distraught to learn of her friend Florrie Hancock’s death in March 1939, and particularly the circumstances in which it occurred.<sup>9</sup> Perhaps she took the train to Crewe to attend her old friend’s funeral and met other former classmates who also came to pay their respects. If so, one can only imagine that the reunion was bittersweet.

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia. ‘Women’s suffrage in the United Kingdom’, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representation\\_of\\_the\\_People\\_Act\\_1918](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representation_of_the_People_Act_1918).

<sup>2</sup> FindMyPast, *England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1910-1932*. Annie Goddard, Spring 1921, Mottram in Longdendale, SPR.Mic.P.273/BL.C.35, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> Margaret Roberts, ‘Helen Blankley’, p. 4.

<sup>4</sup> FreeBMD Deaths. Emmeline Smith, aged 49. Q2 1922, Ashton under Lyne, vol. 08D, p. 615.

<sup>5</sup> FreeBMD Deaths. Thomas H Hall, aged 72. Q4 1922, Ashton under Lyne, vol. 08D, p. 532.

<sup>6</sup> *Calendar of Wills and Administrations (England and Wales) 1923*: Thomas Henry Hall, died 12 Dec. 1922. Probate granted (London) 16 Jan. 1923, p. 20, (England and Wales) <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>.

<sup>7</sup> The National Archives (UK), ‘Currency converter: 1270–2017’, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>.

<sup>8</sup> *1908-1929, Souvenir of the 21st Anniversary, CCTCC*, Unpublished data, under the care of the Family History of Cheshire, Crewe.

<sup>9</sup> Ruth Wilson, ‘Florrie Hancock’.

In contrast to the upset caused by the death of her parents, sibling(s) and friends, Annie's married life seems to have been stable. The frequent house moves of Annie's childhood and teenage years had been replaced by apparent security. Eighteen years after the 1921 Census, on 29 September 1939, Annie, Harry, and daughter Margaret were still recorded at 133 Broadbottom Road (Hawthorn Villas).<sup>1</sup> Harry continued in his employment as a railway clerk, and Annie was engaged in unpaid domestic duties. Margaret, their 19-year-old daughter, was a student. There is a fourth entry for someone in the household who is still alive. As no Goddard births other than Margaret's are recorded in the district with mother's former name "Hall", it is unlikely to be a late child of Annie and Harry's. It may be a child of Margaret, or some other younger relative.<sup>2</sup>

133	"	"	138	1	GODDARD Harry	M	18/4	88	M	Railway Clerk.
"	"	"	"	2	GODDARD Annie	F	1/3	90	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
"	"	"	"	3	GODDARD Margaret	F	24/11	19	S	Student

This record is officially closed.

Figure 16: 1939 Register of England and Wales, Goddard household

Annie and her family may not have known that these were her final few months. At the end of 1939, or perhaps early in 1940, Annie died - just short of her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>3</sup> She was survived by her husband and daughter. No probate record has been found, nor has any record of her burial or funeral.

## Conclusion

The records suggest that Annie Hall lived an ordinary life in extraordinary times. She was afforded educational opportunities not available to her older siblings, but was faced with a choice of continuing in the profession for which she had trained, or giving it up to have a family of her own. Like many of her contemporaries, she chose a married life and the approval of family and community, rather than the public pity and economic insecurity of spinsterhood. Several recent books have outlined just how little real choice Annie and others like her had, not to mention how fortunate she was to have married at all.<sup>4</sup>



Figure 17: Annie Goddard née Hall, 1890-1940

Annie's married life reflected the changes taking place for women around England in the public and private sphere, particularly those of her own social class. In contrast to the ten children born to Annie's mother, Annie's solitary child may have been a product of Annie's education; women with higher levels of educational attainment typically choosing to control their fertility.<sup>5</sup> However, the evidence of Annie's siblings, who also had small families, indicates that this

<sup>1</sup> FindMyPast, 1939 Register of England and Wales. Annie Goddard, 133 Broadbottom Road, Mottram in Longdendale, RG101/4032D/011/33.

<sup>2</sup> FreeBMD Births, Ashton under Lyne, Goddard, 1919-1939.

<sup>3</sup> FreeBMD Deaths. Annie Goddard, aged 49. Ashton under Lyne, vol. 08D, p. 1769.

<sup>4</sup> Virginia Nicholson, *Singled Out: how two million women survived without men after the First World War*, (2007); Katherine Holden, *The Shadow of Marriage: Singleness in England, 1914-60* (Manchester, 2007).

<sup>5</sup> Jiwei Chen, Jiangying Guo, 'The effect of female education on fertility: Evidence from China's compulsory schooling reform', in *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 88 (22 Apr. 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2022.102257>.

was part of a wider national decline in marital fertility evident before the outbreak of war in 1914 (See Appendix).



Figure 18: Banner from the 1912 CCTCC Prospectus

## Aftermath

Whatever Annie's daughter, Margaret, may have been studying in 1939, she may not have followed her mother's profession: no record has been found of her as a registered teacher.<sup>1</sup> It is possible that the war disrupted whatever career plans she might have had. At some point after Annie's death, Harry and Margaret moved to Ashstead in Surrey. Despite moving over 200 miles from Mottram, they remained in contact with at least one of Annie's siblings, Stanley. It seems that Harry never married again and, indicated by an absence of name change in the 1939 Register, Margaret never married. Nevertheless, they formed a new household with one other, and that person was significant in both their lives.

Harry died on 18 December 1971, and probate was granted to Margaret, his sole executrix, on 2 March 1972, the day after Annie's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>2</sup> According to Harry's will, dated 14 July 1970, he had been living at 32 St. Stephen's Avenue, Ashstead, Surrey, with Margaret and a woman called Ellen Emily Crocker. He named Margaret as the sole executor, and Ellen Emily as one of the trustees.<sup>3</sup> Ellen Emily clearly had great importance to Harry, as the terms of his will stipulated that should Margaret pre-decease him, Ellen Emily was to get half of his estate. Otherwise, she was to receive £100.00, the same amount as five other individuals - his four surviving siblings, and Annie's brother, Stanley Hall of Sundial Farm House in Hattersley. Stanley Hall predeceased Harry Goddard by a matter of weeks (Figure 19).<sup>4</sup>

**HALL Stanley of Sundial Farm House Pudding La Hattersley Hyde  
Cheshire died 31 October 1971 Probate Manchester  
2 December. £3117.**

Figure 19: 1971 Probate Calendar entry for Stanley Hall

Annie's daughter, Margaret, never married but, for almost thirty years after her father's death, Ellen Emily Crocker remained a significant person in Margaret's life. Margaret died on 15 December 2000 and Ellen Emily was the sole beneficiary of Margaret's will, with the estate valued at about £210,000.<sup>5</sup> The terms of Margaret's will stipulated that, should Ellen Emily predecease her, her estate was to be equally divided between The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, The Church of England

<sup>1</sup> FindMyPast, *Teachers' Registration Council Registers 1914-1948*.

<sup>2</sup> FreeBMD Deaths. Harry Goddard, born 18 July 1888. Surrey Mid-East, Q4 1971, vol. 05g, p. 337. *Calendar of Wills and Administrations (England and Wales) 1972*, p. 136: Harry Goddard, <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>. Copy of will and grant in possession of author.

<sup>3</sup> Ellen Emily Crocker with a date of birth of 15 Sept 1910 is found in the civil death records for east Surrey,

<sup>4</sup> *Calendar of Wills and Administrations (England and Wales) 1971*, p. 43: Stanley Hall, <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>.

<sup>5</sup> FindMyPast, *England and Wales Deaths 1837-2007*. Margaret Goddard, born 27/11/1919. East Surrey, Q4 2000, District No. 7551F, Register No. ESF2, Entry No. 133.

Children's Society, and Help the Aged.<sup>1</sup> Other sources are required to confirm whether Margaret Goddard and Ellen Emily Crocker were life partners. If they were, Harry Goddard's will would suggest that he acknowledged, respected, and supported his daughter and her partner.

Footnote: Ellen Emily Crocker

Ellen Emily Crocker survived Margaret Goddard by two years, dying on 12 October 2002.<sup>2</sup> She was born in London on 15 September 1910, the daughter of Charles William Crocker and his wife Sarah Jane Baker, both of whom were Londoners.<sup>3</sup> By 1939, she was still in the London area, unmarried and working as a shorthand typist.<sup>4</sup> How she came to know Margaret and Harry Goddard remains unknown.

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<sup>1</sup> *Calendar of Wills and Administrations (England and Wales), 2001 (database)*: Margaret Goddard, Date of Death: 15 Dec. 2000, Date of Probate: 15 Jan. 2001. Probate No. 587386, Brighton, <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/> Copy of will and grant in possession of author.

<sup>2</sup> FindMyPast, *England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2019*. Ellen Emily Crocker, Death 12 Oct. 2002, Probate No. 1151889, Brighton. Grant of probate: 7 Feb. 2003.

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<sup>4</sup> FindMyPast, *The 1939 Register of England and Wales*. Ellen E Crocker, RG101/0031C/014/34 Letter Code: ABQQ.

## Appendix: Timeline of the Hall Family 1871-1900

Note: This timeline is quite limited and, focuses primarily on the years before Annie's birth. It does not, in general, repeat information already contained within the main text. It is documented here as an aid to descendants of the Hall family of Hattersley who may be researching other family members. It is not exhaustive, and there is little information about certain family members, such as Fanny. Limited attempts were made to investigate the military careers of Annie's brothers during World War 1. All that can be said with any certainty is that none of her brothers are commemorated on the Hyde War Memorial which records the names of 710 local men and boys who were casualties of World War 1.<sup>1</sup>

### 1871-1880

Thomas Henry Hall and Esther Ann Tomlinson married in Sheffield district during the first three months of 1871.<sup>2</sup> Despite being newly married, Annie's mother, "Mrs Esther Ann Hall", or as the custom of the time would describe her, "Mrs Thomas H. Hall", is recorded on the night of 2 April 1871, at the Crescent in Mottram, as the unmarried daughter of William Tomlinson, a shopkeeper, postmaster and farmer of 23 acres.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps it was force of habit that recorded nineteen-year-old Esther Ann in this way, rather than any clandestine marriage. Meanwhile, Annie's father, Thomas H Hall, born in Liverpool, was recorded as a married lodger at Eyre Lane, Sheffield, employed as an "enquirer".<sup>4</sup>

From birth details of Annie's older siblings documented in the 1881 census, it is clear that the family had been resident in Mottram from the early 1870s. Aside from birth records, not obtained during this research, the first mention of the Hall family in Mottram shows them at Gee Farm in 1876, where Annie's father, Thomas Hall is recorded with house and land in the list of 'Voters as occupiers of rateable value of £12 or upwards'.<sup>5</sup> The first three of Thomas and Esther's children were born in Mottram, Annie's siblings Emmeline (1873), Frank (1874), and Fanny (1878).<sup>6</sup> Then, in the winter of 1879, a second son, William Thomas, was born.<sup>7</sup> He survived only a few months, dying in the late spring/early summer of 1880.<sup>8</sup> William was the first of the Hall children to die in childhood and the only one for whom no baptism has been found.

### 1881-1890

The following year, on 23 March 1881, Emmeline (8) Frank (5, *sic*) and Fanny (3) were baptised in Mottram.<sup>9</sup> Ten days later, on 3 April 1881, the family are found at Gee Wood in Mottram during the 1881 Census, with Thomas recorded as a Liverpool-born farmer of 19 acres.<sup>10</sup> All three children are

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<sup>1</sup> Hyde War Memorial Trust, <http://hwmt.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> FreeBMD Marriages. Esther Ann Tomlinson, Thomas Henry Hall. Sheffield, Q1 1871, vol. 09c, p. 352.

<sup>3</sup> FindMyPast. *1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census*, Mottram, Cheshire, Esther Ann Tomlinson. RG10/4090, f40, p. 8, schedule 41.

<sup>4</sup> FindMyPast. *1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census*, Sheffield, Yorkshire, Thomas H Hall. RG10/4684, f71, p. 44, schedule 198.

<sup>5</sup> FindMyPast, *Cheshire Electoral Registers (1842-1900)*: 1876, Film number 1544523; 1877 Film number 1544529; 1878 Film Number 1544529; 1879 Film number 1544530; 1880 Film number 1544530; 1881 Film number 1544531.

<sup>6</sup> FreeBMD Births. Emmeline Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q1 1873, vol. 08D, p. 571; FreeBMD Births. Frank Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q3 1874, vol. 08D, p. 546; FreeBMD Births. Fanny Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q1 1878, vol. 08D, p. 598.

<sup>7</sup> FreeBMD Births. William Thomas Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q4 1879, vol. 08D, p. 555.

<sup>8</sup> FreeBMD Deaths. William Thomas Hall, aged 0. Ashton under Lyne, Q2 1880, vol. 08D, p. 417.

<sup>9</sup> FindMyPast, *Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911*. Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire.

<sup>10</sup> FindMyPast, *1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census*, Mottram, Cheshire, Thomas



recorded as “scholars”, even three-year-old Fanny. Emelia Jane Tomlinson, Esther Ann’s niece, is employed as a card hand in a local factory.

Thomas and Esther Ann’s fifth child, Sydney arrived in the spring of 1882.<sup>1</sup> Unlike his older siblings, it seems that Sydney was baptised almost immediately in Mottram on 24 March 1882.<sup>2</sup> Two years later, brother Harry was born, presumably at Gee Farm, Mottram, where the family are recorded until 1884.<sup>3</sup> However, the Cheshire Electoral Registers of 1885 show a change of address. The Hall family were now occupiers of a dwelling house at “Brectomley Mill”, a hamlet in Hattersley civil parish.<sup>4</sup> There was joy and tragedy in their new home, baby Helena arrived in 1886 and died two years later, in 1888, when Esther Ann was heavily pregnant with her eighth child, Stanley.<sup>5</sup> And then there was Annie, Thomas and Esther Ann’s ninth child. Annie was born at “Britomley Mill”, Hattersley on 1 March 1890.<sup>6</sup>

### 1891-1900

Three years after Annie’s birth, a baby brother, Norman was born at Brectomley Mills – a tenth and final child for Thomas and Esther Ann, and the third of their children to die (1896) before he was old enough to go to school.<sup>7</sup> Sometime between 1895 and 1896, the family moved to Intake Farm, Hattersley, where Annie was found as a scholar in the 1901 census.<sup>8</sup>

Annie’s brother Frank, married Hannah Ratcliffe in 1894, and sister Emmeline married Arthur Smith in 1896.<sup>9</sup> Emmeline’s only child was born the following spring with Frank’s only child born, Frances Amy, born in 1899.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> FreeBMD Births. Sydney Hall. Ashton under Lyne, Q2 1882, vol. 08D, p. 577.

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<sup>4</sup> FindMyPast, *Cheshire Electoral Registers (1842-1900)*: 1885, Film number 1544544. Carl’s Cam, ‘Carl’s Cheshire Gazetteer’, <http://www.carlscam.com/gazeta-m.htm>.

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<sup>6</sup> FreeBMD Births. Annie Hall. Ashton under Lyne, 1890 Q2 vol. 08D, p. 566.

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## Maps

OpenStreetMap <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>