

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE LADIES OF THE UPPINGHAM SISTERHOOD IN 1931



back left to right: Mrs Mary Brothwell, Mrs Rose Tyers, Mrs Minnie Roberts, Miss Eva Tawn, Mrs Rose Thorpe. Mrs Liquorish, Mrs Chamberlain, Mrs Isobel Price, Miss Macmillan

3rd row: Mrs Burn, Mrs Lizzie Wadland, Mrs Barney Smith, Mrs Clifford Barnett, Mrs Marston, Mrs Buzzard, Mrs Natter Smith, Mrs Sam Trace, Miss Mabel Davies

2nd row: Miss Eileen Langford, Miss Gert Bilsden, Mrs Wignell, Mrs Reeve, Mrs Cooper, Miss Ada Gilbert, Mrs Jenny Glitheroe, Mrs Jack/Emma Nutt, Miss Lilian Weed, Mrs Lily Robb, Mrs Smith

front row: Mrs Blackie Thorpe, Mrs Jenny/G Wignell, Mrs Mary Ann Baines, Mrs Dyer, unknown, Mrs Tom Clarke, Mrs Kernick, Mrs Frank Grace, Mrs Atton

seated: Mrs Susan Holmes with Ted

Mrs Millie Stevens with Jean

A small copy of the photograph of the Sisterhood ladies has hung in the Uppingham Methodist Church for many years. The Sisterhood started in the church in 1929 and lasted, with a gap until the 1990's. More details can be found in an article by Margaret Stacey in *Uppingham in Living Memory Part II Uppingham in Peacetime page 17 The Methodist Sisterhood*. This is available from the publications page of this website.

The names of the ladies were identified in the late twentieth and early twenty first centuries by those who had living memories. More recently, as records have become more easily available, biographical details have been added.

It should be noted that whilst details have been carefully collated and checked, accuracy cannot be guaranteed and original records should be checked. The main sources for information, in addition to local verbal communications, have been the 1931 Electoral Roll held at Lincoln Archives, Ancestry.com for census records, and Freebmd.com for births, marriages and deaths. Uppingham Local History Studies Group would be pleased to hear of any corrections or additions via this website.

Alphabetical Database

ATTON Mrs Rachel Annie née Southwell

Mrs Atton was born about 1883 in Uppingham and married twice. Her first husband was George William Thorpe who was killed in action in 1917 aged 35; she was left with 5 children under 12 and remarried in 1929 to Arthur William Atton. The 1931 Electoral Register shows them living in Vista Terrace. Mrs Atton died in 1959 and is buried in the upper field of the Lawn Cemetery with her first husband's name also on the grave. A. Atton (presumed Arthur) is buried separately in plot 69 on the same field.

BAINES Mrs Mary Ann née Smith

Mary Ann Smith married William Robert Henry Baines in 1900. They were both born in Uppingham, Mary Ann in 1869, and William in 1876. In 1901 they were living in Leicester Road with 4 children (1 had died). William was an agricultural labourer and Mary Ann was a chairwoman. The 1931 Electoral Register shows them in Waugh's Cottages Leicester Road.

BARNETT Mrs Clifford née Norman

Lily Norman married John Clifford Barnett in Uppingham in 1930 and is said to have lived in Wheatley Avenue.

BILSDON Miss 'Gert'

Martha Gertrude Bilsdon was born in Uppingham in 1883 and was a prominent Methodist holding many offices. She was a founder member of the Sisterhood in 1928. In 1931 she lived in North Street. She died unmarried in 1955 and has a stone in the Lawn Cemetery (now indecipherable).

BROTHWELL Mrs Mary (Polly)

Polly Brothwell may have been unmarried at the time of the photo as in 1932 George Brothwell, a widower aged 51 married Mary Ann Cox, a spinster aged 49. George died in 1945 and Polly then lived in Hopes Yard.

BURN Mrs Winifred, Sarah or Florence

The Burns were a notable Methodist family spanning more than one generation. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Frederick and Sarah Burn living at 1 Northfield Terrace and also Winifred Burn and Frederick Baizely Burn, perhaps son and daughter. In 1945 Fred and Florence Burn lived in Wheatley Avenue. Sarah Burn died

in 1945 aged 78, Frederick died in 1950 aged 82. They are buried together in the South View Cemetery together with their daughter Winifred Bates who died in 1972.

BUZZARD Mrs

This may be Mildred (or Hildred - it seems likely the name has been mistranscribed in various registers), née Atkins who married Bernard Buzzard in 1919, Bernard being 31, and Mildred 24. They had a large family of 10 children with at least 1 dying in infancy. The 1931 Electoral Register shows the couple living in Thimble Row. Bernard died in 1940 which left Mildred with a large family. Mildred died in 1966.

CHAMBERLAIN Mrs

In 1911 Joseph and Emma Chamberlain were living in Adderley Street with 5 children. Joseph was a waggoner and had been born in Empingham. Emma died in 1936 aged 66. E and JW Chamberlain, presumably Joseph and Emma, are buried in Plot 48 in the upper field of the Lawn Cemetery.

CLARKE Mrs 'Tom' / Sarah Louisa or Lucy Alice née Buzzard

The 1911 census shows Tom Clarke, known as 'long Tom', and Sarah Louisa living in North Street with 2 living children. Tom was a chemist's porter who had served in World War I and they are both shown as having been born in Uppingham, Sarah about 1889. They state that they had been married for 2 years. The 1931 Electoral Register shows them living at Waugh's Cottages. It is possible that Sarah had changed her first name as the only marriage of Tom Clarke in Uppingham is to Lucy Alice Buzzard in 1908. Tom Clarke died in 1957 aged 76. No further details of either Sarah or Lucy could be found.

COOPER Mrs

Nothing further known

DAVIES Miss Mabel

The 1931 Electoral Register shows Mabel Catherine Davies living at the far end of Stockerston Road with her brothers George Ernest and John William Davies. Mabel was born about 1893 and died in 1968. She remained single. Mabel and her brothers are buried in plots 191-3 in the upper field of the Lawn Cemetery.

DYER Mrs Sarah

The Dyers, two generations, were bakers in School Lane, and active Methodists. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Robert William Dyer and Sarah living at 'Beaverholm', Ayston Road. Sarah was about 63 when the photo was taken. Their son Alfred had served in World War I. Mrs Dyer was the aunt by marriage of Millie Stevens (see below). Robert William died in 1940 age 72 and Sarah in 1952 age 84. They are buried in the South View graveyard.

GILBERT Miss Ada

Both Ada and her mother Zillah were active Methodists. Zillah was a founder member of the Sisterhood but died in 1929 before this photo was taken. Ada Gilbert held many offices including organist and choir mistress and was an active Sisterhood member. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Ada and John Gilbert (probably her father) living at West End. Ada was aged 46 and unmarried when the photo was taken. By 1946 Ada was living in 'Stoneleigh'.

GLITHEROE Mrs Jenny

The 1931 Electoral Register shows Jane Glitheroe and George Harry Glitheroe living in Norton Street. No other details have been found.

GRACE Mrs Frank

Francis Joseph and Minnie Grace came from Bedfordshire where they were married in 1907. Francis Joseph was a gardener at Uppingham School and had served in World War I. The 1931 Electoral Register shows them living at Vista Cottages.

HOLMES Mrs Susan née Neal and Ted

The Holmes were an old Uppingham family who owned the former Maltsters Arms on South View. Ted was born in 1929 in a nearby cottage on South View and would have been a playmate of Jean Stevens – see below. Ted's father, Bertie William Holmes served in World War I. Ted married Mary and died in the former Maltsters Arms in the 2000's.

KERNICK Mrs

The Kernick's were a large family, several of whom were involved with the Methodist Church. They rented the former Wesley House (number 3 North Street) and undertook caretaker duties for the church. The family also had a garage on North Street. It is not certain which of the Mrs Kernicks appears on the photo but it is possibly Mrs Alf Kernick. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Alfred Ernest Kernick and Beatrice Irene lived at the Mill but in 1945 they lived in Wesley House. They are buried in plot 141 on the upper field of the Lawn Cemetery.

LANGFORD Miss Eileen

Very little is known about Eileen. She appears much younger than the other ladies – perhaps she was a maid in one of the households. In 1935 Miss Langford is noted as Foreign Missions Secretary in the Methodist Church. The 1931 Electoral Register lists Robert Henry and Minnie Lucy Langford at Council Houses, North St – perhaps these were her parents.

LIQUORISH Mrs

There were several Liquorish families in Uppingham in 1911 but it is not known which family this lady belonged to.

MARSTON Mrs

Marston is a well known Uppingham name The 1931 Electoral Register lists Samuel and Kate Emily Marston at the council houses, North Street. Kate Barnett was born in 1882 in Uppingham and the couple married in 1917 and had at least 2 children. Kate died in 1954 and Samuel in 1955.

MACMILLAN Miss

The 1931 Electoral Register lists Elizabeth Mary Annie Macmillan at 'The Chestnuts', also Marion Macmillan at 'Hillside'.

NUTT Mrs Jack (Emma)

This was a large Uppingham family with many branches with several being involved in the Methodist Church. In 1931 John David Nutt and Emma were living in Adderley Street. John Nutt is listed in Kelly's Directory in 1928 as a confectioner in Orange

Lane. In living memory, the shop next to the church in Orange Street is remembered as 'Miss Nutt's sweetshop'. Emma died in 1948 and John in 1968. They are buried together in the South View graveyard.

PRICE Mrs Isobel

The Price family was involved with the Methodist Church in the early twentieth century. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Ernest and Isabella Price living in North Street. Ernest was a boot merchant and had served in World War I. He was a Local Preacher, Sunday School Superintendent and Choirmaster. Isabella was a Trustee. Their daughter in law was the organist.

REEVE Mrs Annie Elizabeth née Whyman

Annie Whyman married Arthur Reeve in 1901 and was fifty nine when the photograph was taken. The couple lived at West End. Annie was a founder member of the Sisterhood and the family were active Methodists. Annie died in 1946, and Arthur in 1952. They are buried in the South View graveyard.

ROBB Mrs Lily Gertrude

Mr and Mrs Robb and their family were a much loved couple during their relatively short time in Uppingham. They came to the town sometime in the 1930's and were particularly active in the Methodist Church in World War II, keeping 'open' house for troops stationed nearby and being very involved with Kingswood, the Methodist School which was evacuated to Uppingham from 1939 - 1946. (See Stacey Margaret, *The Story of the Twin Boards*, 2005, available for download at <http://www.uppinghamhistory.org.uk/publications.htm>). The 1931 Electoral Register shows them living in the High Street, but they later moved to North Street. One daughter died in 1941 aged 26 and Mrs Robb died in 1947. Mother and daughter are both buried in the South View Cemetery.

ROBERTS Mrs Minnie

It is not known to which of several Roberts families in the town at the time this lady belonged. It is assumed she was a Methodist as a Thomas Roberts was in the church in the nineteenth century. Miss KK Roberts is listed as a resident of Leamington Terrace in Kelly's Directory of 1928. The 1931 Electoral Register shows several Roberts several including Miriam Roberts in North Street. There are also Roberts burials in both the South View Cemetery and the Lawn Cemetery.

SMITH Mrs 'Barney', Mrs 'Natter' and Mrs?

There are 3 Mrs Smiths named on the photograph.

The 1931 Electoral Register shows Barnett Smith and Agnes lived in Adderley Street so Agnes must be Mrs Barney Smith.

Mrs Natter lived in Pudding Bag Lane (now Norton Street).

Mrs ? Smith has not been identified.

STEVENS Mrs Millie and Jean

See links with Mrs Dyer above, also Mrs Holmes.

Millie Stevens was aged about forty at the time of the photo. Albert, her husband came from Kent and worked in the ticket office at the station. The couple were married in 1923 and lived on South View. Their gravestone is just above their cottage on the upper west side of the Church. Jean, their daughter, became Jean Sellars and moved away from Uppingham.

TAWN Miss Eva

Eva Alberta Tawn was born in Uppingham in 1896 and was organist in the Methodist Church for a time. She never married and the 1931 Electoral Register shows her living with her mother in Thimble Row. She had several brothers and sisters. Her brother Frank had been killed in World War I. Eva died in 1973.

THORPE Mrs Rose and Mrs 'Blackie'

The Thorpes are and were a huge Uppingham family with many branches. There have been Thorpes in the Methodist Church from its' beginnings. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Percy Arthur Thorpe and Rosie living in Adderley Street. According to local knowledge 'Blackie' Thorpe was a postman. In 1945 Dennis Jonathan Thorpe of Orange Street was on the Service Register of the Electoral Roll. Mr and Mrs Fred Thorpe presented a Bible to the Church in May 1962 'in memory of those who were once comrades on our way'.

TRACE Mrs Sam

Mrs Sam has not been identified. The 1931 Electoral Register shows Albert and May Trace living in Thimble Row. M. Trace and AE Trace are buried in Plot 3 on the upper field of the Lawn Cemetery.

TYERS Mrs Rose née Deboo

Rose was known by her unusual maiden name. She married Horace Tyers in 1918. H Tyers and RJ Tyers are buried in Plot 50 on the Upper Field of the Lawn Cemetery.

WADLAND Mrs Lizzie

The 1931 Electoral Register shows William and Eliza Ann Wadland living in Unicorn Yard. They had been married in 1919 when William was aged 34 and Eliza was about 45. It is possible that Eliza had a previous marriage. William had spent part of his childhood in the workhouse. Eliza died in 1944 aged 70 and William in 1955 aged 69. W. Wadland is buried in plot 10 on the Upper field of the Lawn Cemetery.

WEED Miss Lilian

Lilian or Ellen was an active Methodist. She was Choir Mistress in 1928. Kellys Directory in 1928 lists her as Miss Lilly Weed, Confectioner, High Street and she is lovingly remembered for her sweet shop.

WIGNELL/WIGNALL Mrs Ellen née Wymant and Mrs 'Jenny' (Mary Jane) née Tomblin

The two Mrs Wignells, were both active Methodists and were probably sisters in law, both living in Leicester Road. Ellen may have been related to Mrs Reeve (see above). Their names are often linked together in the church records. Ellen was a founder member of the Sisterhood and had married Arthur Jim Wignell in 1915. Arthur served in World War I and died in 1962 aged 73. Jenny (1878 – 1973) was aged 53 in 1931 and had married George Joseph Wignall (1878 – 1961) in 1902. George was a musician. The 1931 Electoral Register shows both couples living in the same household. The 1945 Electoral Register shows Arthur and Ellen living in the Quadrant, and Jenny and George in Thorpes Terrace, Leicester Road. George and Jenny are buried in plot 59 of the Lawn Cemetery.