

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



This story was written, in September 2024, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of pupils at the Royal Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb Poor (later The Royal School for the Deaf), Margate, Kent and The West of England Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Exeter, Devon.

Daisy Caroline Louise Maton's Story

Daisy was born in Alderbury area, near Salisbury, Wilts on 21 February 1891. Her parents were James and Caroline Maton. In total, they had 4 children; Edward James (b. 3 July 1882), Jessie (b. 2 December 1884), Daisy and Lily (b. 3 January 1893).

Daisy's father, James was born on 9 January 1853, in Netheravon (on Salisbury Plain) to Thomas and Elizabeth Maton. He had two brothers and a sister. By the 1871 census, he is still living with his mother and younger brother George in Netheravon. His mother is recorded as a widow.

By the 1881 census, James is lodging at 12 Chipper Lane in Salisbury and he is recorded as a porter. There is a marriage entry for James and Caroline in 1881 in Alderbury.

Daisy's mother, Caroline Bailey was born in Gloucestershire around 1857. There is a record of her baptism on 4 February 1857 in Berkeley, Gloucestershire. Her father Thomas's occupation is noted as Sawyer. Thomas and his wife Elizabeth had a total of 6 children; 4 boys and 2 girls.

Daisy and her sister Jessie were baptised in the parish of Fisherton Anger (part of Salisbury) on 14 August 1898. Her father James's occupation is given as Porter on the register. I could find no record of baptisms for Edward or Lily.

On the 1891 census the Maton family are living at 10 College Street in Salisbury, with two boarders. James's occupation is given as a storekeeper.

By the time of the 1901 census, Daisy is listed at the Margate District Asylum for Deaf and Dumb children of the Poor. She was admitted to the Asylum on 9 January 1899 and sent there on 8 August 1900. The comments in the register record her as being very fair and her voice inclined to be high pitched. She is also said to be 'Fairly Bright'. She is recorded as being born deaf. It also tells us that she had been attending the National School in Brown Street, Salisbury prior to the Margate Asylum.

There is a note on the Register for Daisy which says that all communications are to be sent to the father and that the mother is not to be given any information or allowed to see child without father's permission. The reason for this entry is uncovered below.

It is recorded that she left the Margate Asylum in December 1906. In the 1911 census, she is living in Salisbury again. She is living at 18 St Edmunds Church Street with her father James and her sister Lily. Daisy is listed as a Daily Servant at this time. Interestingly, under marriage status for James, it is recorded as 'Separated from drunken wife'.

The circumstances of this separation are found in 3 articles in The Salisbury Times and South Wilts Gazette in 1905. The first article in May 1905 has Caroline brought before the Magistrates for assaulting her husband on 3 May by throwing a cup at him, hitting his head. The other articles in June and July

1905 report back on Caroline's conduct and her drinking. In the July court session, Caroline and James agreed to separate with James paying her 3 shillings per week in maintenance. This clearly affected the relationships between the children and their mother, as evidenced by the note on Daisy's Margate record.

Caroline is living at 9 Block Place, St Edmunds Church Street in the 1911 census with her son Edward. She is listed as a Laundress and Edward as a Maltster Labourer (having previously been in the Royal Navy).

Moving forward to the 1921 census, we find Daisy still living at 18 St Edmunds Church Street. Also living there are her sister Lily, Lily's husband Frank and Lily's son (born in 1920). Lily and Frank married in 1915. I also expect that her father, James was living there (see below for his whereabouts).

Daisy is working as a Laundry Calender Hand at Salisbury Steam Laundry. A search of the internet finds that a calender hand is :

calender hand ; calenderer

general terms for women or girls employed in ironing flat articles, e.g. sheets, towels, tablecloths, in a laundry, by passing them through a calender; works either in front of or behind machine; includes shaker out, feeder, taker off, and folder (q.v.).

As Daisy is deaf, the noise of machinery cannot have bothered her!

Daisy's father, James, is found to be in Parkstone, Poole for the 1921 census. He is visiting his daughter (and Daisy's sister) Jessie. Jessie married Edward in 1909 and they had a son in 1911. James is still listed as being married, which contrasts to Caroline's 1921 census record which lists her as a widow. Caroline is still living at 9 Block Place, St Edmunds Church Street. Also listed with her is an invalid man. She is now a charwoman.

Daisy marries Percy Wheeler in 1933 in Brighton. Percy is about 15 years younger than her. She was about 42 years old when she married and I have been unable to trace them having any children.

I have been unable to trace Daisy and Percy on the 1939 Register. Daisy dies at age 68 in The General Hospital, Brighton in April 1959. Her probate record gives her an address in Brighton and she leaves her estate to her husband, Percy who is recorded as a coalman.

Sources

Ancestry

Find My Past

Find My Past Newspaper Archives

Ch192/R1/1/1 Entry 5515 Admission Records Application for Admission 4325-7615 (1880-1925)

Ch192/R2/1/6 Entry 239 Register of Children Old Kent Road [1-369] with transfers to Margate

Ch192/R2/2/2 Page 90 Headmaster's Register of Children: Old Kent Road (1891-1904)

Ch192/R2/3/1 Page 17 Headmaster's Register of Children 1895-1913

Ch192/R2/1/5 Entry 5470 Register of children: Old Kent Road [5256-5670] (with transfers to Margate)

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