

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



This story was written, in April 2024, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women staff and female patients associated with the Fleming Memorial Children's Hospital, Jesmond, Northumberland.

Sarah Hall's Story

Sarah Ann Hall was born to Elizabeth and Matthew Hall on the 26th of March 1886 at 3 Cox's Chare, Newcastle-upon-Tyne^A. Sarah's birth was registered by her mother on the 10th of May 1886^A. She was christened on the 20th of April 1886 at All Saints Church in Newcastle upon Tyne^B.

Sarah's mother, Elizabeth Ann Hall, was born on the 8th of June 1864 to Roger and Ann Hall and was christened at All Saints Church on the 21st of June 1864^B. Elizabeth was one of 9 siblings: Sarah Ann, Ann, Roger, Matthew, Elizabeth Ann, Alexander, Mary Ann, James, and Sarah. The Hall family resided in Cox's Chare from at least 1861^C to 1901^D; with their presence documented in every census between these years^{E,F,G}.

Cox's Chare, through its history, has been called Cock's, Coxtan's, Cox and Cockis Chare^H; likely named after Ralph Cock, the mayor and Alderman of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1653^I. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, it was a narrow alleyway between Pandon and Quayside lined with warehouses.



Figure 1 – Cox's Chare in c.1935 from Newcastle Libraries Collection (Public Domain)^J

Elizabeth was listed as a 16-year-old Scholar in the 1881 census^F, suggesting she attended school until late into her teenage years. There is an entry in the National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914, for Eliza Hall who was admitted to Class 3 of Byker Board School in November 1875^K. Elizabeth would have been aged 11 at this point and the walk between Cox's Chare and Byker Board School would have been just over a mile in distance, passing several other schools. In the admission register, the spaces for the student's parents, address, last school attended, and date of birth are all left blank; making it impossible to confirm whether this is Elizabeth.

Sarah's father, Matthew, is listed as a labourer in the Engine Works^A on her birth registration. Sarah's mother's maiden name is given as 'formerly Hall'^A. On searching registrations of marriages between Elizabeth Hall and Matthew Hall,

no registrations are found between 1876 and 1896. The christening register index also states that her parents were Matthew and Elizabeth Hall^B. Potentially of note, is that Sarah's birth was registered 45 days after her birth by her mother, despite the legal limit for registrations being 42 days. It seems unlikely the church would have written Matthew's name in the baptism register without his presence, but there is no further evidence for the presence of Matthew in Elizabeth and Sarah's life beyond this. One possibility is that Matthew died between Sarah's baptism and the 1891 census. If this is the case, one potential identity of Matthew is the son of James and Eleanor^L who died in Newcastle upon Tyne on 23rd May 1890, aged 33^M of 'Alcoholism, Bright's disease & Pneumonia'. In the 1881 Census, he's listed as a 24-year-old boat builder, living at 54 Tyneside Terrace^N; a 1.2-mile walk from Elizabeth in Cox's Chare. Matthew's death informant was his sister, Margaret^M. Whether this is Sarah's father hasn't been possible to confirm.

In the 1891 Census, Sarah is in the Fleming Memorial Children's Hospital, aged 5, as a patient^O. We have no information as to the cause of Sarah's stay at Fleming Memorial Children's Hospital. Intriguingly, three other child patients share her surname; Thomas, James, and Robert Hall, aged 9, 6 and 4 respectively. However, no familial relationship has been established between Sarah and these boys. No further siblings of Sarah have been identified either. In 1891, Elizabeth is located with her mother, and some of her siblings, still in Cox's Chare^G. Elizabeth is listed as a single domestic housekeeper.

By 1901, Sarah lived with her mother and Aunt at 3 Cox's Chare in one room^D. Sarah is now aged 15 and does not have an occupation. Elizabeth is listed as the

head of the household, a 30-year-old, single, fruit dealer working for herself. In addition, Elizabeth's youngest sister, Sarah aged 24, is also living with the pair. By 1911, Sarah had moved out of her mother's home and was boarding at 59 Stephen Street, Byker with the Hunter family^P; approximately a mile north-east of Cox's Chare. Sarah was employed as a toffee packer at the Toffee Factory in Byker. Historically, the toffee factory on Ouse Street had been run by the Vose family and sold to Maynards^S. The factory employed women workers in the warehouse, and the packing and washing rooms^Q. Adverts for the employment of girls and women appeared in The Newcastle Daily and Evening Chronicles, similar to which Sarah likely applied to:

'Young Woman Wanted for Sugar Boiling Room; must be thoroughly strong and respectable; with experience preferred. – Apply Friday Evening, 7 to 9, Vose's Toffee Works, Ouse Street, City Road, Newcastle.' – 17th August 1910^R.

'Girls, strong, reliable and respectable, Wanted. – Apply Voses Toffee Works, Ouse St., City Road.' – 30th May 1918^S.

In 1917, Sarah married Aloysius Alfred Barry^T, a fried fish dealer, who in 1911 was living two roads north of Sarah at 14 Shields Road West^U. Aloysius was the youngest of 8 children^{V, W} of James Barry and Catherine Morgan. He was born in Bradford in 1891 before the family moved to Newcastle upon Tyne in the early 1900s^W.



Figure 2 – Shields Road in c.1900 from Newcastle Libraries Collection (Public Domain)^X

Sarah and Aloysius had no children, and Sarah died on the 3rd of July 1918, aged 32, at 140 Walker Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Her death was certified to have been caused by cardiac disease, and the informant was her father-in-law, James Barry, who had been present at the death^Y. No details have been found about the location of her burial. Aloysius died a month and a half later on the 18th of August 1918, in his father's house at 14 Shields Road West^Z. He was then buried on the 20th of August 1918 after a service at St Dominic's Roman Catholic Church^{AA}. Aloysius' death was also certified to have been caused by cardiac vascular disease.

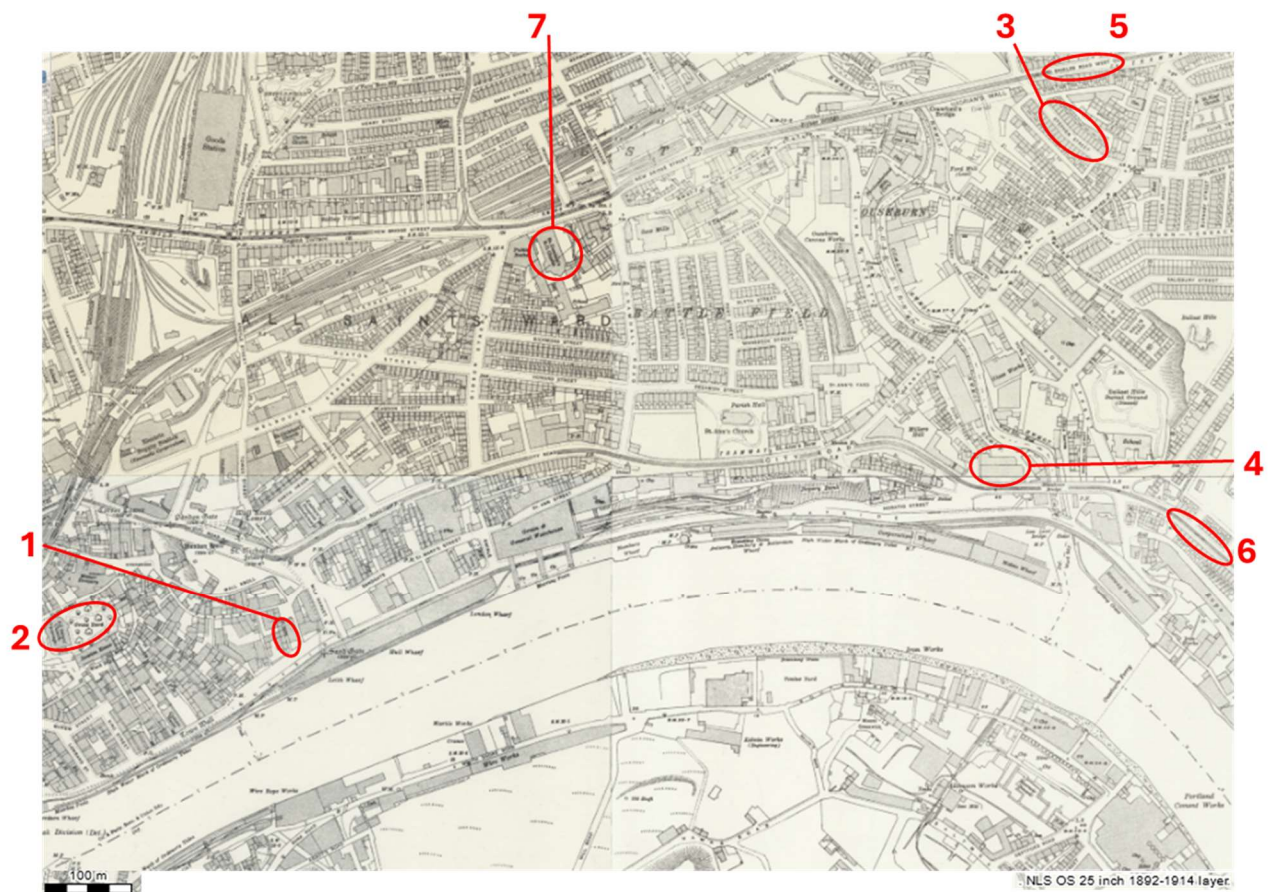


Figure 3 – Map of key locations in Sarah Hall's life; 1 – Cox's Chare, 2 – All Saints Church, 3 – Stephen Street, 4 – Toffee Factory, 5 – Shields Road West, 6 – Walker Road, 7 – St Dominic's Church. Basemap modified from National Library of Scotland OS 25 inch 1892-1914 layer Re-use: CC-BY (NLS)^{BB}.

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Sources:

^A Sarah Ann Hall, Birth Registration, 1886, District: Newcastle Upon Tyne, Vol: 10B, Page: 110, General Register Office.

^B Elizabeth Hall, England Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 [database on-line], 1864, FHL Film Number 1068964, Item 6 pg. 243, Ancestry.com, 2014

^C Rodger Hall, 1861 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 9, Piece: 3827, Folio: 31, Page 23, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives.

^D Elizabeth Hall, 1901 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 13, Piece: 4784, Folio: 71, Page 33, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives.

^E Elizabeth Hall, 1871 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 10, Piece: 5096, Folio: 12, Page 18, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^F Elizabeth Hall, 1881 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 11, Piece: 5062, Folio: 119, Page 17, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^G Elizabeth Hall, 1891 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 12, Piece: 4209, Folio: 32, Page 58, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^H Eneas Mackenzie, 'Historical Account of Newcastle-upon-Tyne', in Historical Account of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Including the Borough of Gateshead, (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1827). British History Online <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/newcastle-historical-account>, accessed 30 May 2024.

^I Caroline Hagan. "The Chare's of Newcastle City". Medium, <https://blueocto.medium.com/the-chares-of-newcastle-city-254bdf2daf5>, accessed 30th May 2024.

^J Newcastle Libraries, Image 034727, Cox Chare, Newcastle upon Tyne Dept of Environmental Health c.1935.

^K Eliza Hall, National School Admission Registers & Log Books 1870-1914, Archive Reference: E.NC23/2/1, Archive: Tyne & Wear. Digital image available on FindMyPast.

^L Matthew Hall, England & Wales Christening Index 1530-1980 [database on-line], Ancestry.com, 2008.

^M Matthew Hall, Death Registration, 1890, District: Newcastle Upon Tyne, Volume: 10B, Page 32, General Register Office

^N Matthew Hall, 1881 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 11, Piece: 5054, Folio: 116, Page 35, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^O Sarah Hall, 1891 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 12, Piece: 4219, Folio: 75, Page: 20, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^P Sarah Ann Hall, 1911 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 14, Piece: 30686, RD: 558, ED:30, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^Q Silvie Fisch. *Toffee Factory Newcastle: A little history*. Published 2012. Available at: <https://www.toffeefactory.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/toffeefactorypdfweb.pdf>, Accessed 30th May 2024

^R 'Situations Vacant' in the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, pg 2, 17th August 1910. Online images available at www.findmypast.co.uk, original image from The British Library Board, accessed 30th May 2024

^S 'Situations Vacant' in the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, pg 2, 30th May 1918. Online images available at www.findmypast.co.uk, original image from The British Library Board, accessed 30th May 2024

^T Sarah A Hall, Marriage Registration, District: Newcastle upon Tyne, Vol 10B, Pg 291., General Register Office.

^U Alfred Barry, 1911 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 14, Piece: 30686, RD: 558, ED:30, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^V James Barry, 1891 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 12, Piece: 3615, Folio: 9, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives

^W Aloysious A Barry, 1901 England Census, Reference: Class: RG 13, Piece: 4148, Folio: 98, Page 28, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: The National Archives.

^X Newcastle Libraries, Image 008561, Shield's Road Newcastle upon Tyne C. 1900

^Y Sarah Ann Barry, Death Registration, 1918, District: Newcastle upon Tyne, Vol: 10B, Pg. 206, General Register Office.

^Z Aloysious Alfred Barry, Death Registration, 1918, District: Newcastle upon Tyne, Vol 10B, pg. 226, General Register Office.

^{AA} 'Alfridus A Barry', Northumberland Non-Conformist Church Records 1613-1920, 1918, FamilySearch.

^{BB} National Library of Scotland Map Images, <https://maps.nls.uk/>, Accessed 30th May 2024