

# *This is A Few Forgotten Women Story*



*This story was written, in November 2024, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who were found residing or working in various homes for Fallen Women in the census returns.*

## **Annie E. Mallaby 's Story**

Annie E. Mallaby was resident and worked in the laundry at the Staffordshire County Refuge for Fallen Women on the 1881 England Census. According to the census she was aged 19 and born in Birmingham, Warwickshire.

A search of various records including census, births, baptismal, marriage and death could not find an entry for an Annie E. Mallaby with the same birth details. However, information was located on an Elizabeth Ann Mallaby which is recorded in this document who may have informally changed her name. The reader must be aware that no proven record has been located to link Annie E. Mallaby and Elizabeth Ann Mallaby as the same person but it is a likely probability.

Elizabeth Ann Mallaby was baptised in the parish of St Martins's, Birmingham on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1862. Her parents were Robert and Sarah Mallaby. They resided at Rea St, Birmingham and her father's occupation was Pickler.

By the 1871 England census, Robert Mallaby was a widower. He was living with his six children:

Name	Age	Place of Birth
Sarah J	16	Aston, Warwickshire
Mary J	14	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Elizabeth	12	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Robert	8	Birmingham, Warwickshire
William	5	Aston, Warwickshire
Alice	3	Aston, Warwickshire

Another resident was Elizabeth F. Mallaby (aged 60 and born in Worcester) who was recorded as the sister of Robert Mallaby (aged 48, occupation enameller, born in Yorkshire).

A burial of a Sarah Mallaby takes place at Saltley, St Saviour on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 1871 which lists her abode as Kings Norton. Robert Mallaby and his family were living at King Street in the parish of Kings Norton at the time. Therefore, Elizabeth Mallaby and her siblings lost their mother at a young age.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1888 Elizabeth Ann Mallaby married John Thomas Harrison at St Paul's, Walsall, Staffordshire. Elizabeth Ann Mallaby was resident at 14 St Paul's Street, Walsall, aged 26 and her father was listed as Robert Mallaby. John Thomas Harrison was aged 25 and resident at 14 St Paul's Street, Walsall and his father was William Harrison.

By the 1891 England census Elizabeth was living with her husband John Thomas Harrison (aged 27, occupation Shoemaker, Born Walsall) and daughter Annie E. Harrison (aged 5, born Wolverhampton) at Rookery Lane in Aldridge, Staffordshire. Is this an indication that Elizabeth had been called Annie E. as on the 1881 census?

The family remained at Rookery Lane, Aldridge on the 1901 census and John T. Harrison was working from home as a bootmaker. They had three children living with them – Amy (aged 15, occupation Wadder at Ammunition Powder Works, born in Wolverhampton), Violet (aged 8, born in Aldridge) and Charles aged 2, born in Aldridge). Note the change of Amy's name from Annie E. as recorded on the 1891 census.

The 1911 England census records the family as remaining in Aldridge but having moved to Station Road.

- John Thomas Harrison is working from home as a Boot Repairer
- Elizabeth Ann Harrison has had 3 children that are still living
- Violet Harrison lives at home but works as a servant
- Charles Harrison is at school

Elizabeth Ann Harrison and John Thomas Harrison remain in Station Road, Aldridge on the 1921 Census. John Thomas is working at home as a Boot Repairer and for the first time Elizabeth Ann has the occupation of housework. Their children are no longer living at home but they have three lodgers.

There is no record of Elizabeth Ann Harrison or John Thomas Harrison on the 1939 Register. A search of the Civil Registration Death Index indicates a likely

death record for Elizabeth Ann Harrison in July 1921 registered in Walsall, Staffordshire.

Elizabeth Ann Mallaby married, gave birth to three children and died in Staffordshire. Like many women there appears to be no records of their lives outside their homelife. A search of local newspapers was unsuccessful. If Elizabeth Ann Mallaby and Annie E. Mallaby are indeed the same person then she appeared to have an uneventful life after her residence at the Staffordshire Refuge. And her admission may have been prompted from her behaviour after losing her mother at such a young age.

## Sources

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