

# *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.*

## **Marian Barker's Story**

At the time of the 1891 census, Marian (aka Marion) Barker was a patient at the Fleming Memorial Children's Hospital, Jesmond. The census shows that she was 9 years old but unfortunately does not record an occupation, say if she was a scholar, nor does it indicate the reason she was a patient at the hospital. The census states that Marian was born at Gateshead in Durham but this is incorrect. Although Marian's family were living at Gateshead in 1891, she was born elsewhere.



026745: Fleming Memorial Hospital Jesmond  
Photograph from Newcastle Libraries (out of copyright)

Marian was born 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1882 in Boston, Lincolnshire, to parents Alfred Horatio BARKER and his second wife Lucy Anne (nee MEGGITT).

Although the 1891 census refers to MariON, her civil birth registration gives her name as MariAn, and both spellings appear to have been used throughout her life. I will use the spelling Marian as this used on her birth and death certificates.

Alfred Horatio BARKER and Lucy Anne MEGGITT married at St Botolph's Church (known locally as 'The Stump'), Boston, Lincolnshire, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1869.

Alfred was a widower, his first wife Eleanor Sarah nee DIMMOCK had died the year before. Eleanor does not appear to have had any children.



Photograph taken 1850 - 1862 ©

Reproduced by permission of Historic England Archive ref: op19166

Marion was part of a large family – she was the seventh daughter, and tenth child of Alfred and Lucy. In total Alfred and Lucy had 14 children, sadly four of those died before the 1911 census was taken.

The eldest 8 children were baptised at St Botolph's Church, but I have not found baptism records for the younger children. It is possible the family started to worship in one of the many non-conformist chapels in the area where Methodism was popular.

At the time of the 1871 census, Alfred and Lucy lived at 19A West Street, Boston. His occupation was Draper, employing 2 women and two apprentices.

The 1881 the census shows Alfred and Lucy were at 11 Queens Terrace, Boston

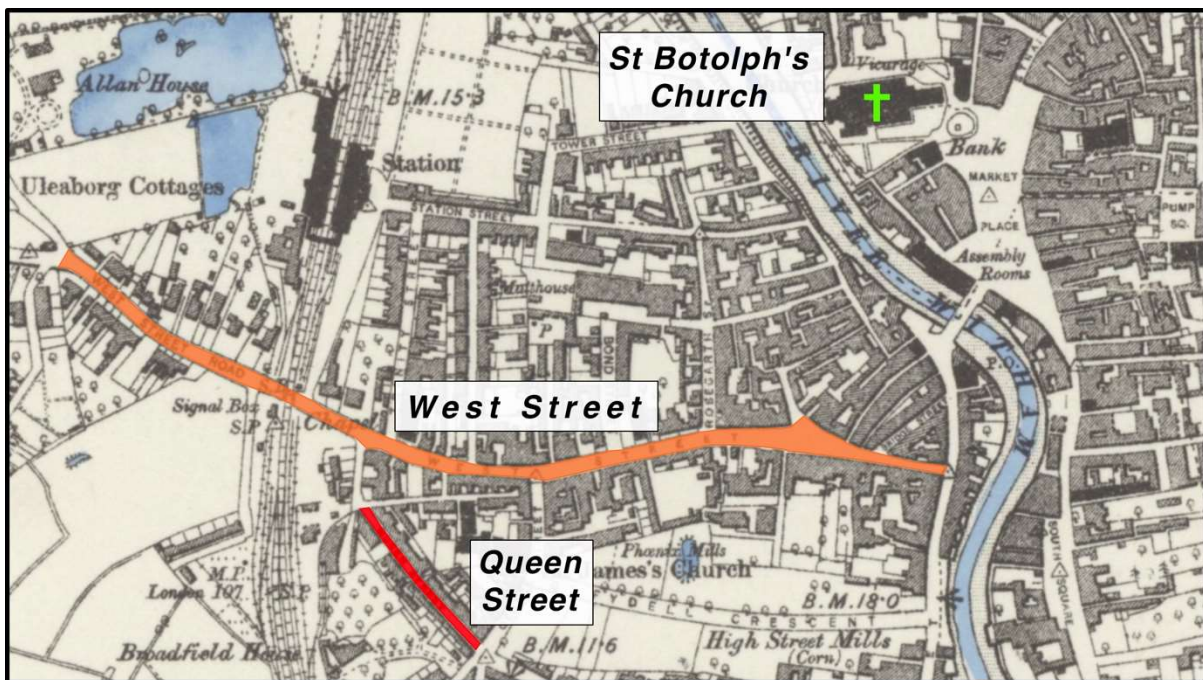
with their 6 children. Alfred's occupation was Draper and Silk Merchant.

Marian BARKER was born 3 March 1882 at 19 West Street, Boston.

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.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 1882 19 West Street Boston U.S.A.	Marian	Gal	Alfred Horatio Barker	Lucy Ann Barker formerly Huggitt	Draper	U. H. Barker Father 19 West Street Boston	South March 1882	W. P. Skoul Registrar	

The civil birth record for Marian BARKER. Source: General Register Office

The 1885 Kelly's Directory of Lincolnshire shows that Alfred Horatio BARKER was still connected to 19 West Street Boston as commercial premises, occupation being Linen Draper.



Ordnance Survey Map of Boston. Surveyed 1886/87, Published 1889  
Map from the National Library of Scotland website

The family moved to Gateshead, County Durham around 1888. Daughter Hilda BARKER was born 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1888 at Boston, and her younger sister Lucy BARKER

was born in 1889 at Gateshead. Lucy was the youngest child of the family and the only not to have been born in Lincolnshire.

Marian BARKER, aged 9, is shown on the 1891 census at the Fleming Memorial Children's Hospital, Jesmond. It spells her name Marion, and incorrectly states that she was born in Gateshead which is where her family was living at the time.

The 1891 census shows the rest of the BARKER family were living at 31 Denmark Street, Gateshead. Alfred's occupation being recorded as a Drapers Assistant. There were 12 people at the home, Alfred, his wife Lucy, a border and 9 of the BARKER children: Kate Ellen (born 1871), Alfred Ernest (1872), Ethel May (1876), Albert Cecil (1877), Grace Alice (1879), Henry Meggitt (1883), Olive Louise (1886), Hilda (1888), and finally Lucy (1889).

The eldest child of the family, Emma Jane BARKER (born 1869) had moved out of the family home by the 1891 census. She went on to marry Allen Arthur MUNKMAN in 1896 but was widowed by 1921.

Sadly, three children had already passed away as infants: Edith Mary (1873-1873), Gertrude Marie (1874-1875), and George Henry (1880-1881).

There is no indication of what Marian's illness or injury was, but she returned home from hospital to live back with her parents by the 1901 census. She may still have been suffering with some ill health, as although she was 19 years old, she had no occupation recorded. Her younger siblings, Henry (aged 17) was an Engineer's Clerk, and Olive (aged 15) was a Photographers Finisher.

Their address in 1901 was 14 Holmside Place, Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne and they had been there since at least 1898 (source: Register of Electors, and

Ward's Directory of Newcastle Upon Tyne). Alfred aged 64 was a Drapers Assistant.



14 Holmside Place, Heaton. 2022. Source: Google Maps

Around 1906 the family moved to 37 Heaton Hall Road, Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne (source: Register of Electors).

The family were at that same address when the 1911 census was taken. Alfred aged 74 was a Retired Draper. No occupation was shown for Marian, although her siblings were all in employment.



37 Heaton Hall Road, Heaton. 2016. Source: Google Maps

Alfred Horatio BARKER passed away at home on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1913 and was buried at Heaton Cemetery.

The 1921 census shows Marian living at 37 Heaton Hall Road with:

- Older sister Kate Ellen, aged 50 years. She was the headmistress of Sandyford Road Infant's School. Kate never married, she passed away in 1942.
- Younger sister Olive Louise, aged 35 years, her occupation was still Photographic finisher.
- Visiting was their eldest sibling, widow Mrs Emma Jane Munkman aged 51 years old. Emma didn't have any children, she passed away in 1943.

Marian was aged 39 and occupation simply states 'home duties'.

Marian's mother, Lucy Anne BARKER, passed away in 1928 and was buried at Heaton Cemetery. She had been living at 56 Grosvenor Road, Jesmond (source: Newcastle Daily Chronical of 12<sup>th</sup> May 1928).

The electoral registers show that by 1931 the sisters had moved to 56

Grosvenor Road, Jesmond, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Unmarried sisters Kate (the owner), Marian, and Lucy (the youngest), along with widowed sister Emma Jane MUNKMAN (the eldest).

On the 1939 Register at 56 Grosvenor Road, Jesmond, Marian BARKER's marital status was single, the date of birth given was 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1882 and for occupation it recorded that she was Incapacitated.

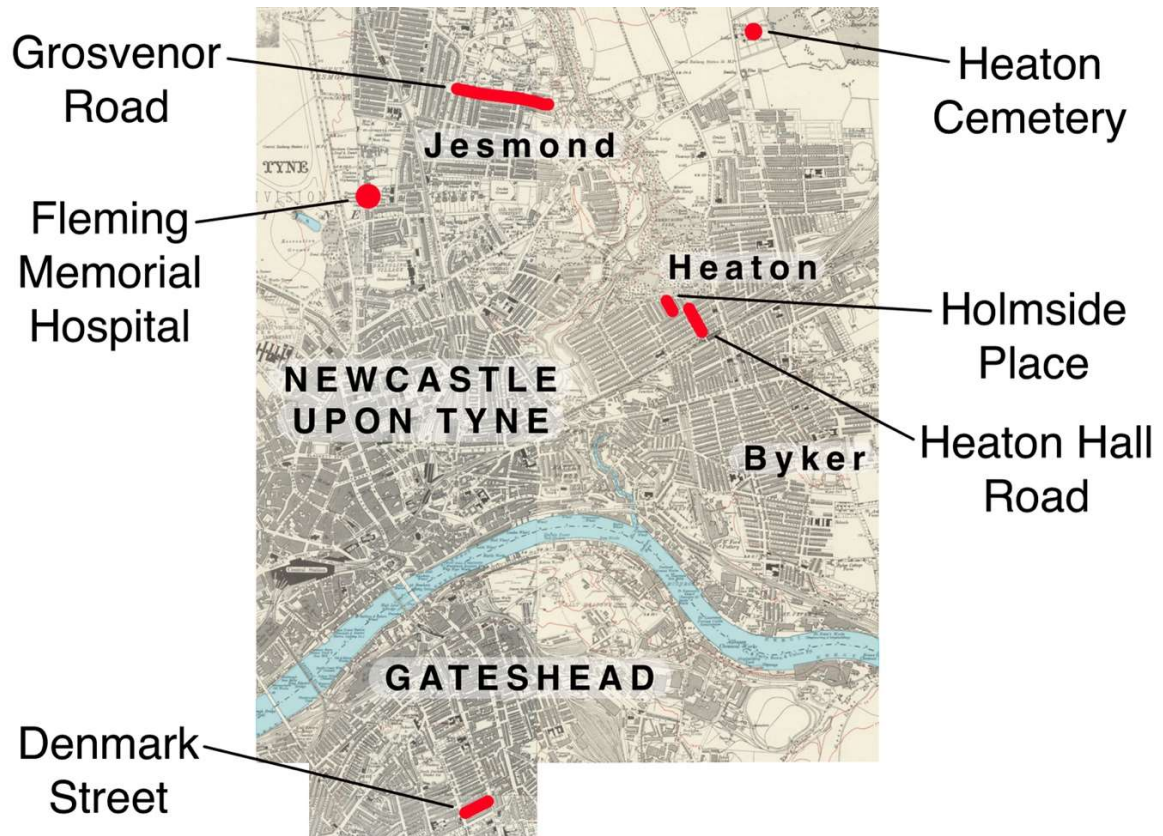
She was living with sisters Kate, a Retired Teacher, and Emma Jane.

Their sister Lucy had died the year before.

Marian was living at 56 Grosvenor Road until at least 1959, along with another sister, Mrs Hilda PEACOCK (source: Electoral Registers).

When Marian passed away in 1961, her death was registered within the Newcastle Upon Tyne registration district. She was 78 years old.





Based on Ordnance Survey Map of Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead.  
Surveyed 1913/14, Published 1921  
Map from the National Library of Scotland website