

Orphan Annie

Life in the Liverpool Blue Coat

1921 – 1928

Nana, where were you brought up as a child [before you went into the Blue Coat?]

Knotty Ash, a little village opposite Alder Hey Hospital. [We lived in] a four bedroomed little house, cottage. They were big rooms, though, and at the bottom we had a big garden ... the toilet was there ... and we had to get washed in the yard 'cause we had no water. It was so old fashioned.



How many of you were there at the time?

Well, there'd be about six or eight of us. My grandad lived with us. He had an ulcerated leg; he was a cripple, an invalid. He lived with us until he died. [There were] thirteen of us, five brothers and seven [sisters]. I didn't know my father very well. No, he died when I was thirteen months old. My mother was a nurse.

When did your mother become a nurse?

Canon Powell – the one at Knotty Ash – [encouraged my mother [to go] into nursing ... Me dad had died and it was another income. She was finding it hard to make ends meet with so many children.

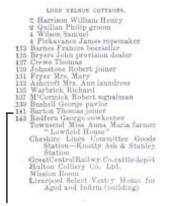


Jane Barton, community midwife

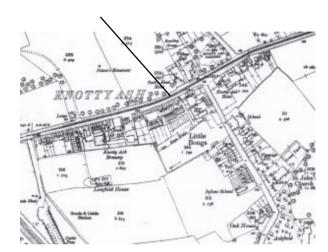




Prescot Road, Knotty Ash



Entry for Thomas Barton in Gore's Street Directory 1906





Oak House, Knotty Ash, with St John's Church in the distance.



53? Prescot Road, Knotty Ash, home of Robert and Jane Barton and their children.

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6 Spencer Mrs. Mary Anniaundress
7 Dalton Harry earter
8 Gregory Robert
10 Birch William tramenr driver
11 McMullio Elward tramear driver
12 Jump Miss Sarah laundress
13 Beesley Thomas glass cutter
14 Owen William
15 Parkinson Mrs. Sarah
16 Thwaite Nathaniel
17 Kelly William
27 Dennett Mrs. Mary Ellen
48 Vann Albert plamber
45 Ludlow Thomas
47 Summerfield James
48 Thope James drayman
56 Barton Robert bricklayer
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Entry for Robert Barton in Gore's Street Directory 1906



St John's Church where Thomas and Robert Barton are buried.

Do you remember going to infants school before the Blue Coat?

Yes, Knotty Ash. Miss Elliot was the headmistress – she was only little, you know.

Can you remember the lessons?

Arithmetic, writing ... I think we wrote little essays, then we did a bit of needlework and I was put on the seat because I was the best needleworker in the class.

What was playtime like?

Oh, we were thrown out into the yard and we played. There weren't any games. It was a big yard and we used to play tick and all that.

Oh yes, I can remember playing in that playground many a time.



Knotty Ash Infants School, Thomas Lane



Can you remember the first time you went to the Blue Coat?

Came on the bus with me mother – I can still remember that – from the Swan where we lived. There were about six of us going in and we went into the committee room ... these big rooms ... and a Mr Dawson – he was an old Blue Coat – he came up to me and said: 'What are you going to be?'

So I looked up at him. I still remember that man ... He says, 'An artist's model?' Just as if! We came home, you know, and then had word to say we had to go in.

23 Leinster Road, Old Swan, where Jane Barton lived from c1917 to c1931

