



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.



Prescot Road, Knotty Ash



Jane Barton, community midwife



LORD NELSON COTTAGES.

2 Harrison William Henry
 2 Quillan Philip groom
 4 Wilson Samuel
 123 Fickavance James ropemaker
 125 Barnes Frances boarder
 126 Bryers John provision dealer
 127 Crews Thomas
 129 Johnstone Robert joiner
 131 Fryer Mrs. Mary
 133 Ashcroft Mrs. Ann landress
 135 Warbrick Richard
 137 McCormick Robert signalman
 139 Bushell George pavior
 141 Barton Thomas joiner
 143 Redfern George cowkeeper
 Townsend Miss Anna Maria farmer
 "Lowfield House"
 Cheshire Lines Committee Goods
 Station—Knotty Ash & Stanley
 Station
 Great Central Railway Co. cattle depot
 Hulton Colliery Co. Ltd.
 Mission Room
 Liverpool Select Vestry Home for
 Aged and Infirm (building)



Entry for Thomas Barton in
Gore's Street Directory 1906

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



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

5 GOLDWELL RAINBOW ENGINE WORKS
 6 Spencer Mrs. Mary Ann landress
 7 Dalton Harry carter
 8 Gregory Robert
 9 Roberts Edward
 10 Birch William tramcar driver
 11 McMullin Edward tramcar driver
 12 Jump Miss Sarah landress
 13 Beesley Thomas glass cutter
 14 Owen William
 15 Parkinson Mrs. Sarah
 16 Thwaite Nathaniel
 17 Kelly William
 18 Dennett Mrs. Mary Ellen
 19 Basket Mrs. Alice newsagent
 20 Vann Albert plumber
 21 Ludlow Thomas
 22 Summerfield James
 23 Thorpe James drayman
 24 Barton Robert bricklayer

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

