

5 Jonathan James Alderson d 12 Nov 1913 aged 53, Admiralty Boiler Overseer



With an important job title – Admiralty Boiler Overseer – at a time of great innovation in naval construction, and with WW1 less than a year away, I expected to find more news coverage of the death of Mr. Alderson.

Instead, a brief account in the *Barrow News* 15 November 1913 read: VICKERSTONIAN'S DEATH. – Residents of Vickerstown and also his many friends at Barrow will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. Jonathan James Alderson, one of the Government Inspector's at the shipyard, which occurred at his residence, 72, Powerful-street, Vickerstown North, on Wednesday. The deceased gentleman, who had attained the age of 53 years, came to this district from the south, and had resided on the Island for between two and three years. He had not enjoyed the best of health for some time past, and had been under medical attention for an internal complaint. Since coming to Barrow, the late Mr. Alderson had made a host of friends on both sides of the channel, and was held in the highest respect and esteem by all who knew him. There is to mourn his loss a widow and a grown-up family, to whom much sympathy is to be extended.

The 1911 Census has the following members of the household listed:

Jonathan James Alderson	Head	Age 50	Admiralty Boiler Overseer	Born Lee, Kent
Emma Jane Alderson	Wife	53		Born Portsmouth, Hants
John Henry Alderson	Son	27	Engineer (Fitter) Shipyard	Born Portsmouth, Hants
Minnie Ethel Alderson	Daughter	23		Born Portsmouth, Hants
Dorothy Maud Alderson	Daughter	21		Born Portsmouth, Hants
Joseph Albert Alderson	Son	19	Electrical Engineer Shipyard	Born Portsmouth, Hants

The 1911 Census has them living at Plaistow, West Ham, with another son, George E., two years younger than John Henry.

In 1891 they had been living at Portsea, Portsmouth, where Jonathan was a boilermaker in the Dockyard.

In 1871 Jonathan was already living in Portsea, with his parents, Jonathan (born in Lee), Mary (born in Wakefield, Yorkshire) and brother Henry G., together with two lodgers. His father was a messenger in the Dockyard, and both the lodgers were labourers there.