

Miss Sarah Eleanor Heys d 15 September 1956 & Miss Eleanor Robinson Heys d 2 March 1967



The grave of Eleanor R Heys
and her brother Abraham

Two Eleanor Heys from Dalton. Sometimes difficult to identify which 'Eleanor Heys' is being referred to.

I had been given access to a 'common-place book', or scrapbook full of news cuttings referring to Miss Eleanor Heys, and dating from the 1900s - 1950s. It was probably started by the older Miss Heys, but may have been passed on to the younger. Earlier cuttings go back to 1904, but most are from the 1930s and 1940s, including a signed photo of Anona Winn, an actress and later radio star. Family cuttings refer to the deaths of her siblings, and her nephew, Robert Cecil Stables, in WW1, commemorated on his parents' grave in Barrow Cemetery. (See <https://furnessstoriesbehindthestones.co.uk/stories/stables-robert-cecil/>)

Below is a list of some of the contents, the speaker Eleanor being the younger woman:

North Western Daily Mail November 24th, 1933: Teams of women (Arkholme & district; Dalton-in-Furness; Hornby & district; Leck & district; Ulverston; Yealand) had taken part in a speaker's competition at the Coronation Hall, under the auspices of the Lonsdale Women's Unionist Association. Mrs. Myles Kennedy, President, presided. The Dalton team was: Mrs. Brewer, chairman;

speaker, Miss Eleanor Heys; Proposer, Mrs. G. Pickthall; seconder, Miss Carswell. The subject was "The effect of Socialist rule on the country." (*I doubt if they were in favour! RMW*) The Dalton team came first.

North Western Daily Mail December 6th, 1934: We learn that Miss Heys is the President of the Dalton Women's Unionist Association, and had given talks at Dalton, Allithwaite, Finsthwaite, Bardsea and Urswick.

Barrow News April 20th 1935: The Dalton team came second in a competition at the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester against teams from St Helens, Bolton, Lancaster, Northwich, Rochdale, Westmorland, Lonsdale and Clitheroe. Miss Eleanor Heys was the speaker.

November 2nd, 1935, Election Poster. Miss Heys took the platform at a General Election Meeting in the school at Grizebeck alongside Lord Balniel (*MP for Lonsdale 1922-1940 - RMW*) and Mr. Manningham-Buller.



There is a picture of Mr. Abraham Heys, (brother of Sarah Eleanor; father of Eleanor Robinson) cut from a local paper on the occasion of his death in 1926. There follows extended news cuttings regarding his life and interests, and of his funeral. Part of it reads: "Mr. Abraham Heys, of 5, Fair-view, Dalton, passed away on Sunday at a nursing home in Manchester. He had been in failing health for the past year and was removed to Manchester on Wednesday afternoon. He was the son of the late Mr. Abraham and Sarah Heys, of Dalton, and the husband of the late Mary Ann Heys.

A well-known figure in Dalton, Mr. Heys was a member of the old Furness families of Ashburner and Case, and he held many public positions in the town. Thirteen years ago he was elected one of the representatives for the North Ward on the Dalton Council, and was a member of the Health Committee, serving a term as chairman of that committee.

He was also a member of the local Higher Education Committee, and a member of the area Elementary Education Committee. He was one of the representatives of Dalton Council on the Joint Hospital Board. The Dalton Gas Committee has also had the benefit of his services as chairman, and he retained his membership for some time afterwards. Mr. Heys was a member of the jury of the Court Leet, and held one of the ancient offices connected therewith. He was a strong supporter of the Conservative cause, for which he worked enthusiastically. In addition to his other activities, Mr. Heys was a member of the committee of the Tradesmen's Tontine Club (*A kind of investment club - RMW*), and was keenly interested in gardening and sport, particularly shooting and bowling.

The list of mourners begins: Abraham and Eleanor, son and daughter; Miss Heys, sister; Mr. Henry Heys, brother; Mr. and Mrs. M. Stables, brother-in-law and sister; Mr. Harry Stables, nephew ... and continues for another column.

Regarding the older Miss Heys: A letter dated 26th September 1919 from the local Elementary Education Committee District 1 thanked Miss Heys for her “able and conscientious discharge of her duties (as Headmistress C.E. Infants School, Dalton-in-Furness) over a long period of years, and their regret at losing her services. *Another cutting makes it clear that she had been Head for 36 years, while another says that apart from 2 years at College, and 2 years Head at Lindal, she had spent her whole life at the Green School, including being a scholar there.*



Photo, Hargreaves, Dalton and Ulverston

Miss Heys was presented with a framed photograph of herself to commemorate her 20 years' service as Chair of the Dalton Women's Unionist Association, an account of which appeared in the local papers on 5th December 1925.

A cutting from the *Evening Chronicle* 29 May 1933 shows a letter from Eleanor R. Heys, Royal Hotel, Southport, agreeing with the proposition that married women workers should undergo a Means Test, and that single women should be put on the “dole” to make way for unemployed men. She writes: “I agree with Mr. Dixon. I am a single woman, unemployed since 1921. There are cases I know of where married women (teachers) are drawing good salaries, while their husbands also have splendid positions.

These two salaries combined give the households all the comforts and pleasures of life, while others are starving.

Surely if these people have not the time to think a little of others, who through no fault of their own, are to-day suffering the misery of unemployment, then it is high time someone in authority stepped in and made it compulsory for women to give up work, providing, of course, that the husband is able to keep his wife and family.

Give up a few luxuries and give those in the ranks of the unemployed a little bread and butter.

My opinion is: If a woman wants marriage, make it a full-time job.”

The *Barrow News* 21 September 1956 headlines

“GRAND OLD LADY” OF DALTON WAS 98

Five days after celebrating her 98th birthday, Miss Sarah Eleanor Heys, the grand old lady of Dalton, died at her home, 5, Fair View, Dalton, on Saturday.

Miss Heys was known throughout Dalton. For 36 years she was headmistress of The Green School, Dalton, retiring in 1919, and was also headmistress of Lindal School for two years.

Her fondness for children was a byword, and every year since her 90th birthday she had given a party for the infants at The Green School. This year, however, her last illness prevented her both from giving the party and from appreciating the many birthday gifts and wishes that came to Fair View.

One of her greatest loves was the theatre, and four years ago she went to the Royal Court theatre. A telegram from Miss Anna Neagle was one of the many greetings from stage celebrities later received by Miss Heys. Miss Neagle and Elise and Doris Waters sent signed portraits to her, and these she greatly treasured.

For many years Miss Heys was president of Dalton Branch of the Women's Unionist Association, and a member of Lancashire Education committee.

Former pupils of Miss Heys, many of whose children had themselves become pupils in their turn, visited her frequently, and she was always inundated with birthday messages and gifts.

She is survived by a nephew and niece, Mr. Abram (*sic*) Heys and Miss Eleanor Heys.

There follows an account of the service, mourners and wreaths.

Ancestry has the following:

1939 Register (created to find who was eligible for call-up or war work) has living at 5 Fair View:

Sarah E. Heys (DoB 10 September 1858) Schoolmistress-retired,

Abraham Heys (DoB 17 September 1894) Second Assistant Librarian

Eleanor R. Heys (DoB 21 January 1896) Unpaid domestic duties

There are 3 other residents: one redacted, the others being Marion B. Stables (DoB 24 March 1912), Bank shorthand typist – presumably a relative; and Marjorie Rudlon (DoB 15 November 1910), Unpaid domestic duties.

Sarah Eleanor Heys was baptised on 21 September 1858.

The **National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1957** has the following:

HEYS Sarah Eleanor of 5 Fair-view Dalton-in-Furness **Lancashire** spinster died 15 September 1956 Probate **Carlisle** 8 January to Abraham Heys librarian and Eleanor Robinson Heys and Josephine Tomkinson spinsters. Effects £6658 1s.

In the **1861 Census** she was living with her widowed mother and siblings at Butts (?) Dalton. The household contained Sarah Heys (35) widow, dressmaker, born Aldingham; Mary A. Heys (12); John A. Heys (10); James Heys (7); Henry Heys (4); Sarah E. Heys (2); Abraham Heys (5 months); (*all children born Dalton*); Thomas Ashburner (70) Boarder, Husbandman, born Dalton; Margaret Ashburner (68), born Aldingham.

The **1871 Census** has them still living at Butts Road, Dalton. Records show Sarah Heys (*the family is mis-recorded as Herp*) (44), widow, no occupation recorded, born Aldingham; Mary A. Heys (22), Assistant mistress; John A. Heys (20), Apprentice joiner; James Heys (17), Apprentice joiner; Sarah E. Heys (12), scholar; Abraham Heys (10); scholar; Thomas Ashburner (79), retired farmer; Margareta Ashburner (17), niece, apprentice dressmaker.

By the time of the **1891 Census** the household was at 55 Broughton Road, and reduced to Sarah Heys (64), widow, living on own means; Sarah E. Heys (32), schoolmistress; Abraham Heys (30), joiner.

The *Barrow News* 10 March 1967 carried an obituary for

MISS E. R. HEYS, DALTON

The death occurred at North Lonsdale Hospital on March 2 of Miss Eleanor Robinson Heys, of 5, Fair View, Dalton. She was the daughter of the late Abraham and Mary Ann Heys, a well known Dalton family. Miss Heys was a governor of Dowdales School, and a primary school manager. She was also a life member of Dalton Women's Unionist Association. The service in St. Mary's Parish Church, Dalton, on Monday, was conducted by the Rev. H. W. Mycroft (Vicar). The hymns were "The God of love" and "The day Thou gavest". Mr. M. Wharton was the organist.

Mourners were Mr. A. Heys, brother; Mrs. Delya Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jackson, cousins; Miss J. Tomkinson, Miss Penny (Ulverston), Miss P. A. James (Barrow), Mrs. Walker (Preston) ... *and another 85 names, 74 of them women.* It goes on Representing the teaching profession were Mr. Franks (headmaster), Mr. Gill and Mrs. Clague (of Dowdales); Mr. and Mrs. Murray; Mr. G. Welby (Broughton Road), Miss Secker, Miss D. Lumb, (Chapel Street), Miss Adams (Nelson Street), Mrs. E. Ullock (Askam Infants), Mrs Aynsley (Ireleth); school managers, Miss Knowles, Mrs. Hepworth, Rev. T. R. Harper and Mrs. Steele.

Representing Dalton Women's Unionist Association were Mrs. Cornish, Miss Carswell, Mr (*sic*) Eade, Mrs. C. Atkinson, Mrs. N. Keast, Mrs. P. Preston, Mrs. Hodgson, Mrs. H. Atkinson, Mrs. Penny, Mrs. Hoyle, Mrs. Newby, Mrs. W. J. Dixon; representing Messrs. Kendall and Fisher were Mr. J. Ullock, Mr. H. Jenkins; representing John Hardy and Sons, Mr. H. Holmes; representing Martins Bank, Mr. Ritchie.

There follows a list of floral tributes, including ones from Miss Anna Neagle, and one from Miss Elsie and Miss Doris Waters.

The **National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1967** has the following:

HEYS Eleanor Robinson of 5 Fair-view Dalton-in-Furness **Lancashire** spinster died 2 March 1967 at North Lonsdale Hospital Probate **Carlisle** 7 July to Abraham Heys retired librarian Gladys Evelyn Somerville single woman Josephine Tomkinson spinster and Kenneth John Fisher solicitor. £8196.