



To the
Dear Memory of
PHILIP LANCASHIRE BOOTH M.R.C.S.
of BROWHEAD, WALNEY ISLAND
WHO DIED MAY 2ND 1941
AGED 91 YEARS
ALSO ALICIA
BELOVED WIFE OF DR. P. L. BOOTH
WHO DIED FEB. 2ND 1914
PEACE PERFECT PEACE
On the right side it has:
SARAH BOOTH
WHO DIED FEB. 27 19xx
AGED 81 YEARS



Sarah Booth was almost certainly Philip Booth's sister. While Dr. Booth is certainly a significant figure in the development of hospital and medical care in nineteenth century Barrow, it is his first wife Alicia who has the more important story.

The *North-Western Evening Mail* had news of Dr. Booth's death 3 May 1941:

DEATH OF DR. P. L. BOOTH

BARROW'S VETERAN PRACTITIONER

One of Barrow's oldest inhabitants and a veteran of the medical profession has been removed by the death of Dr. Philip Lancashire Booth, of Empress-drive, Walney, who passed away yesterday afternoon. He had been in practice in Barrow for about 70 years, having reached the ripe age of 91. He was probably the oldest doctor in practice in England.

The late Dr. Booth came to Barrow in 1871 as House Surgeon at the North Lonsdale Hospital, then a very unpretentious and modest institution. He had an extensive practice, especially in his earlier days, when all the Stank mines were in operation. He had a surgery in Hartington-street for many years.

The late doctor was also at one time a prominent figure in Freemasonry, being a Past Master of the Hartington Lodge No. 1021, and attained high Provincial rank in several degrees.

He was also for a long time an official of Barrow Choral Society, which was under the conductorship of the late Dr. E. Brown. For many years the doctor was a member of St. George's Church choir.

Dr. Booth lived a quiet life, devoting the whole of his time to his profession. He was highly respected by a large circle of friends. He is survived by his widow.

The late Dr. Booth was born at Newton Heath, Manchester, and would have been 92 years of age next July. His connection with this district commenced at an early age, for he was educated at Pennington Vicarage by the Rev. Mortlock, then vicar, and who was formerly curate at Newton Heath. Later he went to a private school at Bucklow Hill, near Knutsford, Cheshire, and at the age of 12 played the voluntary at the Parish Church at Rhosthorne. (*sic – Rostherne, Cheshire*)

He continued his education at Owen's College, Manchester, and then joined a medical school at Manchester, and took his M.R.C.S. degree in London in 1873.

In 1874 he was appointed house surgeon at the Barrow Hospital in Albert-street, then a wooden building, and later became senior house surgeon when the hospital was removed to School-street.

Afterwards he bought the practice of the late Dr. Greaves in Hartington-street, and lived in that street until he removed to Walney in 1902.

The Barrow News 10 May 1941 had an account of Dr. Booth's funeral:

DR. P. L. BOOTH, BARROW

The Archdeacon of Furness, the Rev. G. S. Smith, M.A., spoke in tribute to the late Dr. Philip Lancashire Booth, of Empress-drive, Walney, at the funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Walney, on Tuesday. The vicar, the Rev. C. Williams, M.A., conducted the service and Mr. W. Broome, F.R.C.O., at the organ, played "O Rest in the Lord" and the "Nunc Dimittis", and accompanied the singing of the hymn "Abide with Me".

Mrs. Booth was accompanied by Dr. G. Moore, and amongst the general mourners were noticed Mrs. Godfrey Smith, Dr. A. E. Thompson, Dr. L.A. Wilson, Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. W. Vale, Mr. and Miss Cooper, Mrs. Harland, and others.

Messrs. W. Ormandy and Sons, of Church-street, were the undertakers.

There were beautiful floral tributes from Mary; Miss Yates; Mrs. Brannigan; Mrs. Reed; Mrs. Coulton Hunter; The Rev. C. and Mrs. Williams; Mrs. and Miss Butler; Mr. and Mrs. J. Warwick; Major Oughterson; all at 15, Hartington-street; Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Talbot; Mr. and Miss Cooper; Mrs. Hayes, Harry and Dock; Doctors Coffee, Ronald and Moore; Chairman and committee, North Lonsdale Hospital; Furness Division B.M.A.

From *Ancestry* we learn:

Philip Lancashire Booth was born on 15 July 1849, and baptised on 7 October 1849 at St. John, Deansgate, Manchester; parents Jonathan and Sarah Booth.

1851 Census – Living on Oldham Road, Newton Heath (Manchester) were Jonathan Booth (29) Silk Warehouseman, born Failsworth, Lancashire; Sarah Booth (29) Wife, born Newton; James Booth (8 or 5?) Scholar at Home, born Newton; Philip L. Booth (1) born Newton; Sarah J. Booth (2 mo), born Newton; Sarah Ann Jones (15) Servant of all work, born Manchester, Lancs; and Sarah J. Berry (50) Nurse, born Salford, Lancs. That's four Sarahs in the same household!

1861 Census – Living at a school at Benfield House, 19 Manchester Road, Millington, Cheshire, run by Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, were 39 scholars, including Philip L. Booth (11), born Manchester. Coincidentally, given his names, the next entry is Philip Lancashire (9), born Manchester.

1871 Census – Back with his parents, now at 1 Church Terrace, Newton Heath. Father Jonathan Booth (49) is now a Proprietor of Houses. Born Failsworth, Lancs; and is living with wife Sarah Booth (49) born Newton; along with Philip L. Booth (21) Student of Medicine, born Newton; Mary A. Booth (18) no occupation recorded, born Newton, and Sarah A. Greaves (30) Niece, Unmarried, Annuitant, born Newton.

1881 Census – With an address of Hospital, School Street, Barrow, along with many other staff and fourteen patients, is Phillip (sic) L. Booth (31) House Surgeon, M.R.C.S., born Manchester. The Matron is Alice (sic) Race (34) Unmarried, Matron of Hospital, born Chatham, Kent.

1891 Census – now at 14 Hartington Street, Barrow is Philip L. Booth (40) Surgeon, born Newton Heath, Lancashire; Charlotte Angus (27) Domestic Servant, born Scotland; and Susan McCluney? (16) Domestic Servant, born Barrow.

Dr. Booth appears in the annual Medical Register. He was first registered on 5 February 1874. In 1881 his address is given as North Lonsdale Hospital, then 14 Hartington Street. At some point, certainly by 1893, his address changes to 1 Hartington Street, Barrow. From 1923 his address becomes Browhead, Walney Island.

1901 Census – mis-transcribed as Philip H. Booth, Phillip (sic) L. Booth (51) Surgeon, born Neston Hall (sic), Lancs. is living at 1 Hartington Street with Martha Wright (22) Single, Cook (Domestic), born Bromsgrove, Worcestershire; and Nellie Willcock (16) Single, Housemaid, born Skipton, Yorks. Next door at 3 Hartington Street is Sarah Booth (80) Head, Living on Own Means, born Newton Heath, Lancs; and Fanny Wardman (31) Single, Cook (Domestic), born Meadow Town Hill? Shropshire. Sarah Booth must be Philip's mother. Where is his wife?

1911 Census – Living at Brahead (sic), 1 Empress Drive, Vickerstown, Barrow, were Philip Lancashire Booth (61) Surgeon, born Newton Heath, Lancs; Alicia Booth (64) married for 19 years, no children, born Chatham, Kent; Minnie Hartley (30) Single, Professional Nurse, born Hebden-in-Craven, Yorkshire; Minnie Buzzard (46) Married for 11 years, no children, Temporary Work, born Paddington, Middlesex.

Rosa M. Wilson married Philip L. Booth in Ormskirk, Lancs, Q3 1919. Rosa M. Wilson, daughter of John Broad Wilson (High Street Grocer) and Emma Wilson, was baptised at All Saints, Bromsgrove, on 13 February 1878.

1921 Census – Living at 1 Empress Drive, Walney, were Philip Lancashire Booth (71) Surgeon, M.R.C.S. born Newton Heath; Rosa Mary Booth (43) Wife, Home Duties, born Bromsgrove, Worcestershire; Violet Edmondson (22) Domestic Cook, born Morecambe, Lancs; and Esther Jackson (20) Single, Housemaid, born Lindal, Lancs.

1939 Register – living at 1 Empress Drive, Barrow are Philip L. Booth (DoB 1 July 1849) Doctor of Medicine; Rosa M. Booth (DoB 2 January 1878) Unpaid Domestic Duties; Maud Adams (DoB 15 September 1902) Single, Housemaid.

The **National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1941** has:

BOOTH Philip Lancashire of Browhead, Walney Island Barrow-in-Furness **Lancashire** died 2 May 1941 Probate **Lancaster** 21 June to Rosa Mary Booth widow. Effects £183 11s 11d.

Mrs Alicia Booth (née Race)

Alicia Race was the daughter of a Marine Sergeant, who was killed in the little known Pacific Theatre of the Crimean War.

The *Barrow Herald and Furness Advertiser* 4 January 1881 had a list of recipients of “Certificates of Competency” in First Aid, after training by the St. John’s Ambulance Association. Among them was Miss Alicia Race.

In **March 1893**, at Holy Trinity Church, Exeter, Devon, Philip Lancashire Booth married Alicia Race. A marriage notice in the Manchester Courier 21 March 1893 Reads:

BOOTH – RACE. – On the 17th inst. at Holy Trinity Church, Exeter, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese (assisted by the Rev. F. L. Bazeley, M.A., Rector of Holy Trinity, and also by the Rev. H. Bickersteth, M.A., Chaplain to the Bishop), P. L. Booth, surgeon, to Alicia Race, only daughter of the late Lanman Race. *NB Rev. Bickersteth was the Chaplain of the school to which Alicia Race had been sent by the Court. (See below)*

This marriage, and the name of her father, confirmed a story that I had discovered in the online newspaper archives (see below)

In her childhood Alicia Race had been the subject of an important legal case, which occupied many column inches in the newspapers of Britain and Ireland (which was then part of the UK). The case combined Catholic v. Protestant arguments, and the rights of parents to bring up their children as they saw fit. A flavour of the reporting is given in the selection below:

Leeds Intelligencer 24 January 1857 (edited)

THE CASE OF ALICIA RACE

.... The case is told in a few words. A sergeant of marines, a Protestant – Lauman Race by name -is killed before Petropaulovski. A few days before his death he leaves the guardianship of his children to his wife, who was a Roman Catholic. The Romanist opinions of the wife must have been of an extremely moderate kind, since she consented to marry a Protestant without any ante-nuptial stipulations as to the form of religious belief in which the children were to be brought up. Sarjeant (sic) Race, however, being himself a Protestant and a religious man, as is proved by the letter which he wrote to his wife a day or two before he was killed in action, left her guardian of the two children. ...

For eight months after the news of her husband’s death had been received in England his widow took the two children to a Protestant place of worship. Time, however, wore on, and as sorry oozed out Romanism crept in. The priests of her own faith got around her, and persuaded her that it was necessary for the salvation of her children and for her own that first the boy and then the girl should be removed from the schools to which they had been sent under the auspices of the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund. She applied for the delivery of her son, a lad under twelve years of age, and her request was instantly complied with,

as the boy himself made no opposition to the claim. The persons, however, who had interested themselves in her case informed the mother that she could do nothing for the boy unless the little girl too – the child of ten years of age – was also removed from the taint of Protestant instruction.

The article goes on further to become more anti-Catholic:

Had Sergeant Race left particular directions that his children should be brought up as Protestants, no doubt the guardian would have been bound to follow his injunctions. This however, the sergeant neglected to do, and consequently has left his unfortunate offspring exposed to the machinations of the Quirk, Gammon and Snap of Rome.

Quirk, Gammon and Snap appear in a popular legal comedy-drama of the time: "Ten Thousand a Year" Samuel Warren 1841.

Manchester Courier 14 February 1857

THE CASE OF ALICIA RACE

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COURTS, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11.

(Before Vice-Chancellor Kindersley)

RACE V. RACE. – RE ALICIA RACE. – This case, which has been heard in his honour's private room, has at length been brought to a conclusion. It is, of course, not possible to give any report of the facts or arguments upon which his honour's decision has been arrived at, but the following minute of the order may be relied upon: - "An undertaking being given by the Rev. E. W. Bickersteth and four other parties, to clothe, maintain, and educate the infant, Alicia Race, in a manner suitable to her station, and to an amount not exceeding £25 a year, declare that the infant ought to be brought up in the Protestant faith, appoint Captain Conolly and J. E. Woodroffe, Esq., guardians, if they will undertake the office, of the said infant; if not, refer it to chambers to appoint a fit and proper guardian. Child to be delivered to the matron of the Sailors' Orphan School, Hampstead.

Catholic Telegraph 14 February 1857

ALICIA RACE

Poor little Alicia Race has become a distinguished character – she has been closeted tete a tete with the Vice-Chancellor of England, and – as a matter of course – she is to be reared a Protestant. There are some odd anomalies in the British constitution with all its vaunted perfections. Such a case, and so conducted in Rome or Naples, in Madrid or Vienna, would have aroused the virtuous or rather fanatic indignation of all the bigots in the empire, but in the metropolis of Britain, within gun shot of Three Estates of the realm, and with the fourth excluded, a case is decided than which there never was more clearly demanding the free exercise of conscience, and the presence and intervention of the natural and rightful guardian, whilst the party most deeply concerned is still a mere child, less than ten years old. So impenetrable a mystery hangs over this extraordinary case, and the proceedings have been conducted in so extraordinary a manner, that we presume no further light is to be thrown upon it, unless Parliament think it of sufficient importance to interfere, and remove the veil which has been so unaccountably thrown over it. One thing, however, is certain, that Catholics will henceforth learn to be more cautious how they contribute to charitable funds which Protestants are to administer. There is no knowing to what abuses this precedent may lead, but it is evident that the proselytising associations of the empire will leave nothing undone to effect their treacherous purposes.

Armagh Guardian 6 March 1857

ALICIA RACE

Poor Alicia Race may thank Providence that Mr. Wilberforce and a number of proselytizing "perverts" have attempted to take her from the Orphan Refuge at Hampstead, on the false pretence that they wanted to assert parental rights though we may be sure that if the parental rights were opposed to sacerdotal authority, these gentlemen would not contend for them very strenuously. The result, however, is, that the little orphan has been constituted a ward of Chancery, a sufficient provision having been guaranteed for her support and education till she comes of age. The case excited a great deal of interest, and the issue of the proceedings in the Court of Chancery has given general satisfaction. Among Protestant journals, the London *Examiner* alone has raised a dissenting voice, in an article which the Dublin Evening Post pronounces "the sole redeeming feature about the English press, in reference to this great constitutional case and its consequences." The Examiner certainly writes very strongly upon the subject. The Lord Chief Justice had decided that the girl should be given to her mother; the Vice-Chancellor decided that she should be sent back to the Protestant school. There she now is, and there she will remain. This fact provokes the lively indignation of our Whig contemporary. He says: - "As this case of collision now stands, the Protestant clergy and the courts of equity triumph. The

priests have been run down, - a disaster we could bear with equanimity, but, unhappily, the law has been smashed at the same time, and what is much the worst part of the catastrophe, the principle of parental authority, which was vitally involved in sustaining the decision of the law, has been overthrown and demolished along with it." Now, we think it would not be a matter for lamentation if equity more frequently prevailed over law; for justice and legality do always go hand in hand – a fact which we shall find admirably illustrated in the case of Alicia Race. There seems something very alarming in the picture drawn by our contemporary: the judgement of the highest legal court in the realm "turned upside down by a Vice-Chancellor "sitting in his private room"; "a victory over nature, reason and law"; the claims of the mother "as strong as anything in physical or moral nature, deliberately set aside"; an infant torn from the arms of a parent not proved unworthy of her charge "on the score of one moral flaw in her reputation, upon which there was not the slightest stain", - mother that enjoyed the entire confidence of her husband, who with his dying breath committed his children unreservedly to her "pious influences". Yet this mother is set aside, and not even made one of the guardians. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor is therefore said to be "of the very worst example". What aggravates the evil is that this alleged violation of the right of nature, the dictates of law, and the precepts of religion was perpetrated by the Vice-Chancellor, "sitting in his private chamber". How like the Inquisition! How unworthy of a judge in this free Protestant country! Surely there will be an appeal to the Lord Chancellor or the House of Peers. Nothing of the kind. There is an end to the matter. The Jesuits and their Oxford disciples will let Alicia Race alone. They will not again drag the mother forward as the pious confessor of the principle of parental authority. What if it was *they*, and not the Protestant party, that requested the Vice-Chancellor to decide the matter in his private chamber? What if they shrank from appearing in open court? What if Mr. Wilberforce willingly delivered up the child? "Hereby hangs a tale" – a tale startling but true. It will deprive the Oxford perverts and their friends of a great grievance. The following simple narrative, on which our readers may place implicit reliance, will rub the gilding off the fine sentiments which our contemporaries have uttered on this subject. Sergeant Race did indeed repose unbounded confidence in his pretended wife, but never was confidence so misplace, as the following facts will testify. Mrs. Race (so called) is a native of Ulster; she was married in 1838, by the parish priest of Templeport, in the diocese of Kilmore, to a person named M'Manus, a sergeant in the 48th Regiment, by whom she had a son. The regiment being ordered abroad, she went with her husband to Gibraltar. It was next ordered to Jamaica, and, not being allowed to accompany it, Mrs. M'Manus got a passage home in her Majesty's ship *The Queen*. Race was a marine on board that ship. To him she presented herself as the Widow O'Reilly; and they were married in the church at Chatham, in June 1844, her first husband still being alive. He subsequently returned, lived in Manchester as a pensioner, and did not die until 1856. Clearly then, "Mrs. Race", *alias* M'Manus, was guilty of bigamy, and wickedly imposed on the brave Sergeant of Marines. She also imposed on the Commissioners of the Royal Patriotic Fund, by declaring that Race was the father of both the children, and that she had never been married to any other man. The boy was sent to a Marine School, and the girl to the Asylum at Hampstead. Then the Wilberforce party got round the mother, and persuaded her to withdraw them from the contamination of "heresy". The boy chose to go with her, and was permitted; but the girl firmly refused. Hence the writ of *habeas corpus*, and "the great constitutional case", about which the Roman Catholic journals have made so much noise. And here we may remark on a curious fact, that every one of the persons concerned in the case, with the exception of Sergeant Shee, counsel, attorney, clergy &c., were perverts from Protestantism, - all animated by proselytizing fanaticism. The history of Mrs. M'Manus was first communicated to the committee in an anonymous letter. Inquiry was then made into the facts. A certificate of the first marriage was obtained from the parish priest at Templeport; the register at Chatham was consulted, and a copy of the statement made to the Commissioners was obtained, with other documents, which proved beyond doubt that the woman was guilty of bigamy, and was an imposter. When Mr. Wilberforce and his party found that this damning evidence was in the hands of the committee, and would be produced in open court, they prudently slunk from the disclosure, and were glad to have the matter settled by the Vice-Chancellor in his private chamber. This is the secret of the whole matter. The girl is now safe in an excellent institution, which is patronized by some of the highest personages in the land, and also by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who takes a lively interest in the orphans there sheltered, particularly the children of soldiers who have fallen in the service of their country, and not the least, we may be sure, in the intelligent little ward of Chancery, Alicia Race. – *Daily Express*

NB "Pervert" seems to be used in the context of "convert" to the Catholic faith. The *Armagh Guardian* seems to be a Protestant paper. Exactly the same report was printed in various other publications e.g. *London Evening Standard* 3 March 1857; *Macclesfield Courier and Herald* & March 1857, this time quoting the *Dublin Warder*.

From *Ancestry* we learn:

In **ADM 183: Order, Discharge and Letter Books, Registers & Returns for Chatham; Register of Marriages and Births, 1830-1855** appears Lanman Race, Private, Company 49, married Alice at Templeport, County Cavan, on 9 December 1838. Children: John, born 12 March 1842, and Alicia born 1 July 1846.

Alicia was baptised 2 August 1846 at St Mary, Chatham, Kent.

1851 Census living at the Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, Kent, were (among many others) Lanman Race (30) Corporal, Marines, born Stonham, Suffolk; Alicia Race (31) Corporal Marines Wife, born Ballyconnell, Cavan, Ireland; John Race (8) Corporal Marines Son, born Ballyconnell, Cavan; and Alicia Race (4) Corporal Marines daughter, born Chatham, Kent.

1861 Census living at 12, New Buildings, Hampstead, Middlesex, were Alica Race (46) Head, Widow, Charwoman, born Ireland; John Race (17) Labourer, born Giberaltar (sic); Alicia Race (14) Scholar, born Chatham, Kent; and Susan Mussan (47) Boarder, Unmarried, no occupation recorded, born London. In the last column, usually empty, is noted Blind.

However, confusingly, there is also:

1861 Census living at North End, Kelshall, Herts, as a Boarder in the home of Robert Leete (52) and Agricultural Labourer, was Alicia Race (14) Private Pupil Teacher, born Chatham, Kent. There were three other Private Pupil Teachers in the household.

Is this the same person, mistakenly listed twice, at her place of learning and at her mother's home?

1871 Census living at 78 Lowther Street, Carlisle, Cumberland, in the house of William B. Page J.P., Surgeon, is Alicia Race (24) Governess, born Chatham, Kent.

In the **1881 Census** she is the Matron at North Lonsdale Hospital (see husband's entry above). I have been unable to find her in the **1891 Census**.

Mrs Rosa Mary Booth

A death notice in the *Eastbourne Herald* 1 June 1963 read:

BOOTH— On May 28, 1963, Rosa Mary Booth, of 63, Enys-road, Eastbourne, aged 85 years, widow of Dr Philip Lancashire Booth. Cremation at Eastbourne Crematorium on Friday May 31, at 3 p.m.

A note in the same publication of 2 November 1963 read:

Mrs Rosa Mary Booth, of Enys-road, Eastbourne, who died in May, aged 85 years, widow of Dr. Philip Lancashire Booth, left £2198 0s 10d. gross (£2074 18s 8d net). Probate has been granted to Martins Bank Ltd., the sole executor.