

Alex Sanders

A look into his family and history



William Wallworth

The Exile's Publications ~ November 4, 2022 ~ W-019 Edition A

Alex Sanders

A look into his family and history

Researched and compiled

by William Wallworth

1st published on November 4, 2022 Friday 12:15 AM.

© All rights reserved - W-019 Edition A

Contents

Page 3	Part I - The Carter family (part of the history is in this update)
Page x	Part II - The Bibby family (to be added in the next update)
Page 10	Part III - Who was the witch Grandma Bibby ?

Part I

The Carter family

1st generation

Orrell Alexander Carter (1903 - ?)

Husband of Annie Wainwright and Hannah Jane Bibby

1. **ORRELL ALEXANDER CARTER** was born 26 March 1903 at 13 Fore Street in Birkenhead, Cheshire, England and baptized 9 April 1903 in St. Matthew parish, Birkenhead.

Father: George Carter

Mother: Elizabeth Gandy

~ 1903

From the birth certificate:

Registration District - Birkenhead

1903. Birth in the Sub-district of Birkenhead in the County of Birkenhead

No. / When and where born / Name / Sex / Name and surname of father / Name, surname and maiden name of mother / Occupation of father / Informant / When registered / Signature of registrar

118 / Twenty Sixth March 1903 13 Fore Street U. D. / Orrell Alexander / Boy / George Carter (deceased) / Elizabeth Carter formerly Gandy / Flatman / E. Carter Mother 13 Fore St. / Seventh May 1903 / Alex^r. Baylock Registrar.

From the parish register of St. Matthew, Birkenhead:

Baptisms 1903 - Page 16 No. 138

When Baptised. / Child's Name. / Parents Names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

9th. April 1903 / Orell Alexander / George & Elizabeth / Carter / 13 Fore St / Waterman / W. G. Walsh

Image of the record:

No 137						
1903 April 1503 No 138	Orrell Alex - Carter	Percy Carter	13 Fire St	Woolley	W. J. Woolley	

Orrell Carter's father died shortly before his birth in 1903 and the mother never remarried.... So there was no father figure in his life. Orrell became a "rogue" in his life sometimes.

~ 1910

Percy Carter and his younger brother Orrell Carter with another kid were charged with stealing mineral water bottles and other items on 30 September 1910.

From the newspaper, Birkenhead & Cheshire Advertiser, Saturday 8 October 1910:

BOROUGH JUVENILE COURT.

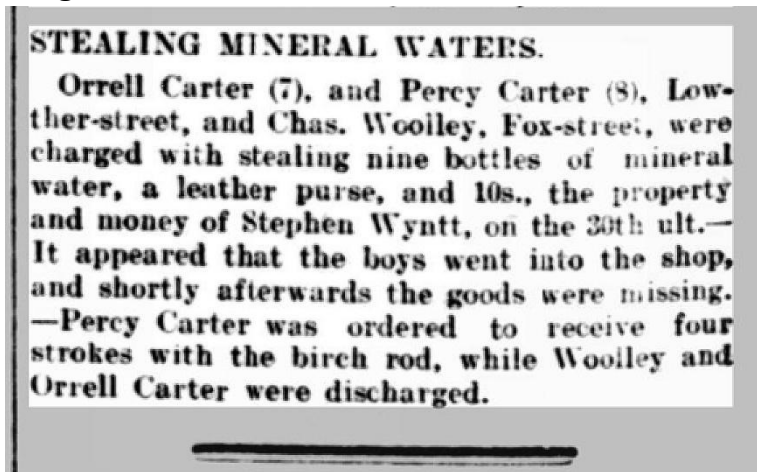
Thursday.

Before Messrs. J. Morris and L.C. Elmslie.

Stealing Mineral Waters.

Orrell Carter (7), and Percy Carter (8), Lowther-street, and Chas. Woolley, Fox-street, were charged with stealing nine bottles of mineral water, a leather purse, and 10s., the property and money of Stephen Wyatt, on the 30th ult. ---It appeared that the boys went into the shop, and shortly afterwards the goods were missing. --- Percy Carter was ordered to receive four strokes with the birch rod, while Woolley and Orrell Carter were discharged.

Image of the article



~ **1911**

In 1911, Orrell Carter, age 8, was living with her mother and two brothers at 8 Lowther Street in Birkenhead, Cheshire.

From the 1911 census of Birkenhead:

No. of Rooms in this Dwelling - 2

Signature - Elizabeth Carter

Postal Address - 8 Lowther St

Name / Relationship / Age & Sex / Marital status / Children born alive / --- living / --- died / Profession / Birth place

Elizabeth Carter / Head / 46 F / Widower / 10 / 7 / 3 / Charwoman - worker / Cheshire Birkenhead

Walter Carter / Son / 13 M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / School / Cheshire Birkenhead

Percy Carter / Son / 10 M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / School / Cheshire Seacombe

Orrell Carter / Son / 8 M / ----- / --- / --- / --- / School / Cheshire Seacombe

~ **1921**

Orrell Carter was not found in the 1921 census.

~ **1922**

"Harold" A. Carter married **ANNIE WAINWRIGHT** in the 2nd quarter (Apr-May-Jun) of 1922 in the Chester registration district of Cheshire.

From the England & Wales Marriage Index:

Name / Spouse's name / Date / Registration District / County / Vol. / Page

Harold A Carter / Annie Wainwright / Apr-May-Jun 1922 / Chester / Cheshire / 6a / 929

Note: Orrell Carter probably didn't like (or for some reason hiding his name) his name Orrell and went by Harold instead. But as the two newspaper articles next clearly shows that he was Orrell Carter.

~ January 1930

Orrell Carter was in jail and charged by the court and fined on 3 October 1930 for not taking care of his wife and four children.

From the newspaper, Cheshire Observer, Saturday 4 January 1930:

DESERTED WIVES.

Chester Guardians and the Cost.

Yesterday (Friday) Orrell Carter, no fixed address, appeared before the magistrates at Chester City Police Court, charged with running away and leaving his wife, Annie Carter, and four children chargeable to the common fund of the Chester Poor Law Union on the 27th December, 1928. He was further charged with owing £10. 1s. 6d. arrears and costs, under a wife's maintenance order.

Mr. E. Wright, Relieving Officer, said in November, 1928, prisoner's wife made application for help. Prisoner had never made the slightest effort to contribute to his wife's maintenance, and the cost to the Guardians £51. 2s. The Guardians viewed with grave concern the amount of money they had to pay out to wives who had been deserted by their husbands. It cost them £500 a year, or over £10 a week. Last year the amount was £515. 9s[.] Prisoner went about playing a cornet, and was difficult to trace. He (Mr. Wright) understood he had played for a time in an orchestra in Liverpool.

Prisoner said he was out of work. He played a euphonium, but never had played in a Liverpool orchestra.

~ June 1930

Orrell Carter was in jail and charged with assaulting a bus driver in June 1930.

From the newspaper, Cheshire Observer, Saturday 21 June 1930:

ASSAULT ON 'BUS CONDUCTOR.

Chester Man Fined

At Chester Castle Sessions, on Wednesday, before Mr. H. W. Boulton and other magistrates, Orrell Carter, a collier, of 1, Princess-court, Chester, pleaded guilty to an

assault on Harold Chrimes, a Crosville 'bus conductor, at Backford, at 11 p.m., on Whit-Monday. Mr. Wayman Hales (of Messrs. Holland, Holland and Turner), proscented.

Mr. Wayland Hales said in view of defendant's plea he would only call short evidence. It was an entirely unprovoked assault, and affairs of this kind were very disturbing both to the drivers and conductors of the 'buses, and to the general public.

Harold Chrimes, the 'bus conductor, said that he was in charge of the 10.20 'bus from New Ferry. Defendant boarded the 'bus at Bromborough with another man. Both refused to pay the fare. The one man was ejected at Ellesmere Port by the police, and Carter paid. While he was collecting fares in Whitby, defendant came from the top of the 'bus. Witness was speaking to the driver when Carter came and assumed a threatening attitude. Witness happened to say to the driver they had better stop at Backford police station. Carter then struck him a violent blow, cutting his upper lip and knocking his teeth out.

Robt. Stanley Darlington, 65, New Crane-street, Chester, a passenger on the 'bus, gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant said when they boarded the 'bus at Bromborough his pal produced two tickets, which were not available. The conductor said 1s. 5d., or off the 'bus. His pal argued, and continued to do so. He (defendant) said nothing. He paid his own fare, and he offered to pay his mate's fare. His mate was taken off. When they got near Backford he came to the bottom of the 'bus, and he saw the conductor. He told him he was pretty thick with his pal, and immediately the conductor said they had better stop at Backford police station. He admitted striking the conductor, but said he did it on the spur of the moment.

The Bench found an aggravated assault had been committed, and defendant was fined £2 and ordered to pay two guineas' special costs.

~ 1939

In 1939, Annie Carter and her four children were living at 1 Princess Court in Chester, Cheshire.

Annie Carter is listed as a House Keeper.

From the 1939 register of Chester:

Sub. No. / Name / Sex / Birth date / Marital status / Occupation

1 Princess Court

1 / Carter Annie / F / 13 - 7 - 00 / M / House Keeper unpaid domestic duties

2 / Carter William / M / 14 - 11 - 22 / S / Errand Boy

3 / [This record is officially closed.]

4 / ~~Carter~~ Mary / F / 16 - 9 - 28 / S / At school

ANGELL.

5 / Carter Douglas / M / 1 - 10 - 34 / At school

Children of Orrell "Harold" A. and Annie (Wainwright) Carter

2. **WILLIAM H. CARTER** was born in the 4th quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec) of 1922 in the Chester registration district of Cheshire.

3. **ORRELL VALENTINE CARTER** was born in the 2nd quarter (Apr-May-Jun) of 1924 in the Chester registration district of Cheshire.

4. **RENEE U. CARTER** was born in the 4th quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec) of 1925 in the Chester registration district of Cheshire.

5. **MARY CARTER** was born in the 4th quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec) of 1928 in the Chester registration district of Cheshire.

6. **DOUGLAS CARTER** was born in the 4th quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec) of 1934 in the Chester registration district of Cheshire.

~ Stay tuned for the next update, which will continue the history of Orrell Carter with Hannah Jane Bibby. ~

Sources:

1. 1903 birth certificate of Orrell Alexander Carter. Attached to a family tree on Ancestry.com. Searched on October 23, 2022 Sunday 10:23 PM.
2. 1903 baptism of Orell Alexander Carter. Cheshire Diocese Of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911, online at Findmypast.com. Image page no. 13 left side. Baptisms 1903, page 16 No. 138. Searched on November 1, 2022 Tuesday 10:01 PM.
3. 1910 Percy and Orrell Carter mentioned in the newspaper. Birkenhead & Cheshire Advertiser, Saturday 08 October 1910, page 2. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on October 22, 2022 Saturday 9:36 PM.
4. 1911 census of England, Cheshire, Birkenhead, Birkenhead, 15, image nos. 314 & 315, online at Ancestry.com. No. of Registration District: 452; No. of Registration Sub-District: 452-1; No. of

Enumeration District: 15. No. of Schedule: 157, household of Elizabeth Carter. Searched on November 1, 2022 Tuesday 11:26 PM.

5. 1922 marriage of Harold A. Carter and Annie Wainwright in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Apr-May-Jun 1922; Registration District: Chester; County: Cheshire; Vol.: 6a; Page: 929. Searched on November 2, 2022 Wednesday 12:32 AM.

6. 1922 birth of William H. Carter in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1922; Registration District: Chester; County: Cheshire; Mother's Maiden Name: Wainwright; Vol.: 8a; Page: 550. Searched on November 3, 2022 Thursday 11:15 PM.

7. 1924 birth of Orrell V. Carter in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Apr-May-Jun 1924; Registration District: Chester; County: Cheshire; Mother's Maiden Name: Wainwright; Vol.: 8a; Page: 566. Searched on November 3, 2022 Thursday 11:15 PM.

8. 1925 birth of Renee U. Carter in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1925; Registration District: Chester; County: Cheshire; Mother's Maiden Name: Wainwright; Vol.: 8a; Page: 548. Searched on November 3, 2022 Thursday 11:15 PM.

9. 1928 birth of Mary Carter in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1928; Registration District: Chester; Inferred County: Cheshire; Mother's Maiden Name: Wainwright; Vol.: 8a; Page: 506. Searched on November 3, 2022 Thursday 11:15 PM.

10. 1930 Orrell Carter was charged for not supporting wife. Cheshire Observer, Saturday 04 January 1930, page 16. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on October 31, 2022 Monday 12:28 AM.

11. 1930 Orrell Carter was charged with assaulting a bus conductor. Cheshire Observer, Saturday 21 June 1930, page 15. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on October 31, 2022 Monday 12:28 AM.

12. 1934 birth of Douglas Carter in the index. England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2007, online at Ancestry.com. Registration Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1934; Registration District: Chester; Inferred County: Cheshire; Mother's Maiden Name: Wainwright; Vol.: 8a; Page: 490. Searched on November 3, 2022 Thursday 11:15 PM.

13. 1939 England and Wales Register, online at Ancestry.com. Cheshire, Chester Cb, Lbbo, image no.

15. No. of Schedule - 174, household of Annie Carter. Searched on October 31, 2022 Monday 12:28 AM.

Part III

Who was the witch Grandma Bibby?

Was Mary Cooke the real person behind or the inspiration of "Grandma Mary Bibby" of Alex Sanders' past ?

Around 2018, some research by "pros" found that Alex's actual grandmother, Mary (Roberts) Bibby died before 1911. So she was not the "Grandma Bibby" of Alex Sanders' story. Some people were "high-fiving" that they debunked that story.

But they didn't bother looking for alternate scenarios of how it could of happened. I am looking at two possible scenarios of how the events may of have happened. This is one of them.

The other scenario will be discussed in a different section of the article to be added later.

In June Johns' book: King of the Witches: The World of Alex Sanders, 1969, it mentioned that Alex Sanders' grandmother lived at "No. 46 Wilton Road."

I then tried to find who was living at the address at the relevant time period of 1930's to early 1940's.

Then I found a 1923 newspaper bit of a couple that lived at that address. So I then ran the name in the Probate Calendar index and find that they were still at that address in 1937. Then located the widow in the 1939 Register at the same address.

46 Wilton Road is in Chorlton-cum-Hardy a suburb of Manchester.

Comments from the book, King of the Witches:

Page 10 - "and Mrs. Sanders had taken a charring job to eke out her husband's wage".

Page 11 - mentioned that the grandmother's home was at "No. 46 Wilton Road."

Page 14 - mentioned that the event took place in "1933".

Page 27-28 - mentioned about the bombings in Manchester in December 1940 and "His grandmother survived the Blitz".

~ 1923

Charles Frederick and Mary Elizabeth Cooke celebrated their silver wedding anniversary and they were living at 46 Wilton Road in Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

From this article we also learn that Mary's maiden name was Ireland.

From the newspaper, Manchester Evening News, Tuesday 1 May 1923:

SILVER WEDDINGS.

COOKE --- IRELAND. --- On the 30th April, 1898, at St. Clement's Parish Church, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, by the Rev. C. A. Old, assisted by the Rev. F. E. Thomas, M. A., Charles Frederick Cooke to Mary Elizabeth Ireland.

46 Wilton Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

Image of the article



~ 1937

Charles Frederick Cooke died on 14 July 1937 and probate was granted to his widow Mary Elizabeth Cooke on 9 September 1937.

From the England & Wales, National Probate Calendar:

Page 884

1937

COOKE Charles Frederick of 46 Wilton-road Manchester 21 died 14 July 1937 Probate Manchester 9 September to Mary Elizabeth Cooke widow. Effects £1403 13s. 4d.

Image of the record

COOKE Charles Frederick of 46 Wilton-road **Manchester 21** died 14 July 1937 Probate **Manchester** 9 September to Mary Elizabeth Cooke widow. Effects £1403 13s. 4d.

~ 1939

In 1939, Mary E. Cooke, a widow, was living alone at 46 Wilton Road in Manchester. From this record we find that Mary Cooke was born on 1 December 1869 which would make her at the age of 70 in December 1939.

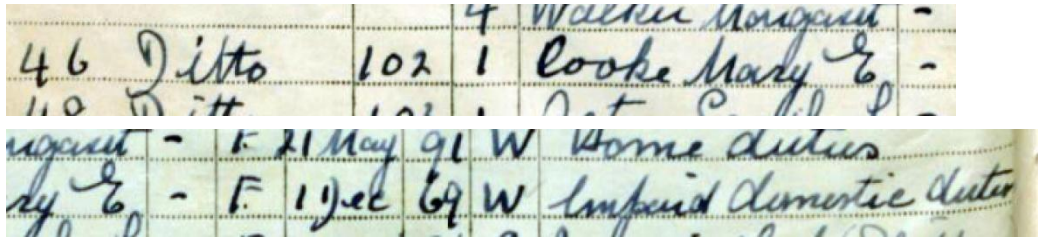
From the 1939 register of Manchester:

Name / Sex / Birth date / Marital status / Occupation

46 Wilton Rd

Cooke Mary E / F / 1 Dec 69 / W / Unpaid domestic duties

Images of the record



As mentioned above, Mary Cooke's maiden name was Ireland. I did checked the parents of Charles F. Cooke and Mary E. Ireland and don't see any of their mother's being a Bibby or Carter.

As I pointed out that Alex Sander's mother, Hannah Jane, was doing charring jobs when they were living in Manchester. Charring or Charwoman is like today's House Cleaners. It is possible that perhaps Hannah Jane did some charring work for Mary Cooke and perhaps Alex was brought along sometimes.

Perhaps Alex got to know Mary Cooke and eventually took a shine on her and started visiting her on his own and likewise Mary Cooke liked Alex being around because she was alone with her husband dead and their only child, a son, has grown up moved on with his life.

Sources:

1. Excerpts from the book: King of the Witches: The World of Alex Sanders, by June Johns 1969. Pages 10, 11, 14, and 27-28. From the book in my personal library, purchased in 2022.
2. 1923 Mr. and Mrs. Cooke's silver wedding anniversary mentioned in the newspaper. Manchester Evening News, Tuesday 01 May 1923, page 8. British Newspaper Archive, online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. Searched on November 3, 2022 Thursday 1"02 AM.

3. 1937 death and probate of Charles Frederick Cooke in the index. England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995, online at Ancestry.com. 1937, Aaron-Czaikowski, Image 884, page 884. Searched on November 2, 2022 Wednesday 9:56 PM.
4. 1939 Register of England, online at Ancestry.com. Image page no. 7, Manchester, Registration District and Sub-district 464-2. Schedule No. 102, Sub. No. 1, household of Mary E. Cooke. Searched on November 2, 2022 Wednesday 4:58 PM.