

# The C. F. Barker Archives

April 25, 2014

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## Ralph Munday Denton-Barker



c. 1935[1]

**Ralph Denton-Barker** (17 July 1916 – 4 November 1990) was born in 1916 in Birkenhead [3] where he grew up with his older brother Mead and younger sister Virginia (p.2).

Ralph was educated at Cheam and Felsted, and Birkenhead School. He joined the Alliance Insurance Company to train as an actuary, but left the company on joining the army at the beginning of the war. He served as a Private soldier throughout the war, and after demobilisation he trained as a primary school teacher, and worked as a teacher in Bedfordshire (living at the Old Schoolhouse in Pertenhall), Worcestershire (living at Dove Cottage, Great Witley and teaching at Arley Kings Primary School) and then in Cornwall (living at The Barn, Portloe and teaching at Mevagissey until he retired in 1970). He and his wife Nyria (they married on 28 June 1947 in Edmonton, Middlesex [4] bought a farm in West Penwith in 1965 and they farmed (dairy and beef, at Kerrow Farm) until they moved to Menorca where they had a small holding (known as a finca) outside Alayor. They then moved to C'an Amoros, outside Pollensa in Mallorca where Ralph had a few cows and a large citrus orchard.

They moved to Australia in 1978, on a Russian ship (via Sri Lanka, arriving on March 17th), and after a year in Western Australia (on Lapko's Farm, Denmark) they settled in Tasmania at Riverside Cottage, Upper Scamander, on the east coast.

He died on 4 November 1990, at home.

## Joan Nyria Hancox



Late 1950s in Great Witley.[2]

Nyria Denton-Barker (23 February 1918 – 15 October 2004) was born in Bebington.

Aged 6 (c.1925) she attended Howell's School Llandaff (in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales).[5]

## Virginia Kathleen Denton Barker

Virginia Kathleen Denton Barker (1919–2006) was born in Birkenhead, and educated at the Birkenhead High school for Girls (1924–37), and University College, London (1937–41). She graduated in 1941 in Anthropology, Economics and Psychology (II.i). From 1941 to 1945 she worked for the Wartime Social Survey (Ministry of Information) first as an interviewer and later in charge of the Survey of Sickness. From 1945–48 she worked with the Secretariat of the Royal Commission on Population. She was offered a place to read medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the first year that the Hospital admitted women as medical students. However, she did not take up this offer, instead marrying Eugene Grebenik on 28th December 1946. From 1948–60 she was engaged with domestic life and child rearing (three children:

Michael, Peter and Catherine). From 1960–69 she worked as a part-time lecturer in Education at the Yorkshire College of Housecraft, which was to become Leeds Polytechnic and later, Leeds Metropolitan University. From 1973–84 she worked as Psychiatric Social worker at Holloway Sanatorium, Virginia Water, Surrey. On retiring in 1978 she was active in forming the Runnymede Mental Health Association, which provided care for patients discharged from Holloway and for other patients who were living in the Community. She was also President of the RMHA. A new wing for day respite centre was named after her. [6] Went to Perth (Western Australia) in 1982 to visit family.

## Bertram Mead Denton Barker

## Kathleen Munday



Kathleen Munday (5 November 1882 – 17 September 1963) was the second daughter of John Hill Munday, who was a partner in a firm of solicitors in London. They lived at The Mendips, Surbiton, Surrey. She was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College, but like most middle class women of her generation did not receive a higher education, nor did she seek employment after finishing school. She was a very accomplished wood carver and artist and received a medal for her fine work. She met James Denton Barker when she was on holiday at Ilkley in Yorkshire and they married just before the outbreak of the first World War, on 4 April 1914. Early the following year their first son,

Mead, was born, followed a year and a half later by Ralph (p.1), and then Virginia (p.2) in 1919.

## Eric Geoffrey West Hancox



Eric Geoffrey West "Geoff" Hancox (July 1911 – 10 August 1937). Arrived in New York on the Scythia, 11 September 1934 (listed as a student)(S4). The following year he came into the US from Canada, to Babb, Montana, and is listed as a student at both the University of California and Tuscon, Arizona (S5); he was a PhD student in Geology. He died in 1937 in a mining accident in Burma.

Probate: Hancox Eric Geoffrey of Morant, Herbert Road, New Milton, Hampshire died 10 August 1937 at Mawchi Mines Burma India. Administration Winchester 26 November to Richard James Hancox retired bank inspecor. Effects (pounds)734.19s.9d.

Recognition Given U Of A By British TUCSON May recognition of the strength of the department of geology at the University of Arizona and of the wealth of field research opportunity in the state has come through the announcement that

a Common- wealth Fund Fellowship has been awarded to an English student for specific graduate study at the University of Arizona. President Homer LeRoy Shants of the University indicated today that the selection of the University of Arizona for one of these school places its department on an equal plane with the great centers of study in that field. The fellowship has been awarded to Eric Geoffrey Hancox a graduate of the University of Liverpool and of the Imperial College of Science London University.

## References

- [1] Group photo of teachers at Ralph's school. <https://flic.kr/p/nhk4D7>.
- [2] Photograph of nyria in great witley in the late 1950s. <https://flic.kr/p/njVZw3>.
- [3] Index to births, marriages, and deaths. volume 8A, chapter Births Sep 1916, page 927. General Register Office, 1916. Birkenhead district.
- [4] *Certificate of marriage of Ralph Denton-Barker and Joan Nyria Powell*. General Register Office, 1947.
- [5] Oral history interview with Julia Denton-Barker, 2008.
- [6] Virginia Grebenik. Personal documents. Documents held by Peter Grebenik.