

# The C. F. Barker Archives

<http://samwilson.github.io/cfb>

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# Chapter 1

## People

### Ralph Munday Denton-Barker



c. 1935<sup>2</sup>

Ralph Denton-Barker (17 July 1916 – 4 November 1990) was born on 1916 in Birkenhead <sup>1</sup> where he grew up with his older brother Mead and yonger sister Virginia (p. 6).

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 <sup>3</sup> 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.

#### References:

1. General Register Office Index to Births, Marriages, and Deaths. Births Sep 1916, Birkenhead district, p. 927, vol. 8A.
2. Group photo of teachers at Ralph's school, c. 1935. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/freosam/13988198711>
3. General Register Office, 1947. Certificate of marriage of Ralph Denton-Barker and Joan Nyria Powell.

## Joan Nyria Hancox



Late 1950s in Great Witley.<sup>5</sup>

8A.

**Nyria Denton-Barker (née Hancox)** (23 February 1918 – 15 October 2004) was born in Bebington.<sup>4</sup>

Aged 6 (c.1925) she attended Howell's School Llandaff (in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales).<sup>6</sup>

In the mid-thirties she studied nursing at Guy's Hospital, where she was working as a Sister on the children's ward when, in 1938, she was evacuated out of London.

She died on 15 October 2004 in St Helens, Tasmania.

### References:

4. GRO index to Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Bebington district. Record name: Joan M [sic] Hancox. 1918 p. 582 vol.
5. Photograph of Nyria in Great Witley in the late 1950s, <https://flic.kr/p/njVZw3>.
6. Oral history interview with Julia Denton-Barker, 2008.

## 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. [?] Went to Perth (Western Australia) in 1982 to visit family.

## Bertram Mead Denton Barker

Mead Denton Barker was educated at Cheam and Felsted, and then trained as a Mechanical Engineer. He served as a pilot in the RAF during the war and after demobilisation was employed as an engineer in the Midlands. He married Charlotte Marion Rabus in 1948/9 and had one daughter (Rosalie).

His parents were James (p. 8) and Kathleen (p. ??).

Birth: 13 February 1915 Birkenhead, Cheshire, England Death: 30 August 1980 Solihull, Warwickshire, England Parents: James Denton Barker Kathleen Munday Siblings: Bertram Mead Denton Barker (Born 13 February 1915 Died 30 August 1980) Ralph Munday Denton-Barker (Born 1916 Died 4 November 1990) Virginia Kathleen Denton Barker (Born 7 Sept 1919 Died 9 Feb 2006)

## Eric Geoffrey West Hancox



Geoff in the 1930s<sup>1</sup>

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 announcement:

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.

## Winifred Margaret Hancox

Winifred Hancox was born in December 1907 in Birkenhead<sup>7</sup> and christened on 12 January the following year at St Mary’s in Liscard.<sup>9</sup> She was the second child (and first daughter) of Charles (p. 9) and Alice Hancox (p. 9), and in April 1911 the family was living at 54 Manor Road in Liscard, Cheshire.<sup>8</sup> Three more siblings were still to come. Her father died in 1952; her mother, 1977.

Winifred married twice: Donal Nicholas and Eric Langdon. She died before 2011.

### References:

7. FreeBMD, Birkenhead Births Dec 1907 8a/549. <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?cite=7z1yGRD35cfIhArn%2Bmzhzg&scan=1>, Accessed: 27 October 2014.

8. 1911 UK Census.

9. Cheshire Parish Registers, 1538–2000, Film no: 2104768; Folder no: 4019100; Image no: 361.

## Barbara M. Hancox

## James Denton Barker

Born 18 July 1876 in Toxteth, Liverpool.[?]

Death: (1957)? (Dec 1958 St. Albans 4b 161)? Parents: Siblings: Partners: Kathleen Munday Issue: Bertram Mead Denton Barker (with Kathleen Munday) Ralph Munday Denton-Barker (with Kathleen Barker) Virginia Kathleen Denton Barker (with Kathleen Denton Barker)

## Kathleen Munday



Kathleen Munday (5 November 1882 – 17 September 1963) was the second daughter of John Hill Munday (p. 11), 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.5), and then Virginia (p.6) in 1919.

## Jonathan Tong Barker

## Charles Frederick Strangeways Barker

## William Danby Holt Barker

## Thomas Percy Conyers Barker

## Beatrice Maude Poole

Beatrice Poole was the wife of Rev. Thomas Percy Conyers Barker (p. ??). She was born in about 1875, and died on 1 January 1947 in Liverpool, predeceasing her husband by eighteen months.

Grave: small upright sand-stone, curved top, raised square shoulders.[?] Inscription:

In / loving memory of / Beatrice Maud BARKER, / wife of  
the Reverend Thomas Percy Conyers BARKER, / Vicar of Great



Sampford with Hempstead, Essex, / died 1st January 1947 aged 72 years.

## Francis Darcy Mead Barker

## Henry Bertram Mitford Barker

## Ralph Munday

Ralph Munday, only son (out of five children) of John and Catherine Munday, was born in about 1885. He married Vera Maunder (p. 9) in Java,<sup>11</sup> and had no children. They adopted one daughter.

He died in 1962.<sup>10</sup>

### References:

10. Western Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Perth district registration number 3064. Entry: "MUNDAY RALPH Male 77 JOHN H CATHERINE PERTH 3064 1962".

## Vera Maunder

Married Ralph Munday (p. 9) in Java.<sup>11</sup>

### References:

11. The LADIES' SECTION. (1926, August 22). Sunday Times, p. 1 Section: Fourth Section. Retrieved November 6, 2014, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58247537>. "Miss Vera Maunder, of Cottesloe, left last Sunday by the Gascoyne for Java, where her marriage to Mr. Ralph Munday, formerly of Cottesloe, will take place; Prior to her departure Miss Maunder was presented with a handsome travelling case by the members of the Cottesloe District Tennis Club at their last monthly dance."

## Marian Gilmour Croskery



c. 1904[?]

Marian was born on 8 December 1879 Birkenhead.

In 1908 she married Richard Hancox (p. 9). She was 29 and living at 19 Highfield South, Woodhey, Cheshire.

## Richard James Hancox

## Charles Edward Hancox

Charles Edward Hancox was

## Alice Margaret Renner

Alice Margaret Renner was born on 12 April 1884 in Wallasey in Cheshire.[?] She married Charles Hancox (p.9) on 7 June 1905[?], with whom she had five children (Charles, Winifred, Norman, Barbara, and Philip). Alice died in 1977.

## Thomas Henry Barker

Thomas Henry Barker was Secretary of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for 26 years.<sup>1</sup>

He was born on 18 May 1841<sup>2</sup> at 15 Earle Street in Liverpool,<sup>3</sup> the second son of Charles Frederick (p. 12) and Elizabeth Barker (p. 12).

Thomas Henry lived at 79 Canning Street, Liverpool in 1861 at the age of 19, with his mother Elizabeth (already a widow) and worked as a ship owners clerk. In the household were his brother Joseph Bolton Barker (16), brother Charles N. Barker (age 24) Mariner and their aunt Isabella Hazelwood, age 52.

In the 1871 census he was still at Canning Street and worked as a Merchant. On 25 August 1875 he married [[Mary Ellen Mouldsdales]],<sup>4</sup> with whom he would have seven sons:<sup>5</sup> in 1876, James Denton Barker (p. 8); 1878, Charles Frederick Strangways Barker (p. 8); 1879, Thomas Percy Conyers Barker (p. 8); c. 1880, Francis Darcy Mead Barker (p. 9); 1882, William Danby Holt Barker (p. 8); 1883, Jonathan Tong Barker (p. 8); and in 1885, Henry Bertram Mitford Barker (p. 9).

He became the Secretary of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on 15 August 1884. He was very active with the Chamber and was heavily involved in promoting the industry and trade of the city. He was presented with a bound book of speeches and writings and a large portrait on 30 April 1906.(see below)

He travelled extensively overseas, and promoted Liverpool trade and merchants with West Africa and with Russia, and collaborated in setting up the Department of Russian Studies at the University of Liverpool.

He may have died shortly before 10 April 1917.<sup>67</sup>

The following is a short biography of TH Barker, probably written not long after his death.<sup>8</sup>

Mr Barker joined the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce as Assistant Secretary in 1881. In 1884 he succeeded Mr William Blood as Secretary.

Mr Barker formed in that year the African Trade Section whose work has led to a great extension of British Possessions and interests in West Africa. In this connection mention may be made of "the large increase in Imports of West African timber, to the arrangement for Timber Concessions and the fixing of Royalties and other charges at the lowest obtainable figure.

In 1886 Mr Barker travelled over the Canadian Pacific Railway from Quebec to Vancouver, shortly after its opening, in order to see and report upon the commercial resources of the newly opened

<sup>1</sup>Typewritten biography of Thomas Henry Barker

<sup>2</sup>General Registry Office, birth certificate BXCF518186

<sup>3</sup>Descent of Thomas Henry Barker from the Plantagenets

<sup>4</sup>Marriage certificate of Thomas Henry Barker and Mary Ellen Mouldsdales, 25 August 1875. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/freosam/15441758029/>

<sup>5</sup>Descent of Thomas Henry Barker from the Plantagenets

<sup>6</sup>*Liverpool Echo* newspaper, 10 April 1917.

<sup>7</sup>FreeBMD record, retrieved 31 August 2014. GRO entry: Wirral 8a/504. [http://freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=137462560&d=bmd\\_1407157232](http://freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?r=137462560&d=bmd_1407157232) Deaths June 1917: Barker, Thomas H. (age 75)

<sup>8</sup> *Biography of Thomas Henry Barker*, author unknown, c. 1920. [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Biography\\_of\\_Thomas\\_Henry\\_Barker](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Biography_of_Thomas_Henry_Barker)

parts of the Dominion. From 1888, when the Railway and Canal Traffic Act 1888 was passed, he worked extensively in the matters of Railway Reform, including Reclassification of goods and reduction of rates.

Mr Barker also drew up important reports upon the Effects on the Port of Liverpool of the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal, and on the Administration and Charges of the Port. These reports were presented to the Mersey Docks & Harbour Board and their recommendations largely adopted by the Board. The result was substantial reductions in Rates & Dues. These matters being of vital interest to the Timber Trade, the Association was represented upon the Committees by the late Messrs J Berkeley Smith, and James Harrison and, later, by Alderman James Webster.

Mr Barker organised and represented the Chamber on a large number of Deputations to Government Departments on many matters affecting the trade of the country and of the Port of Liverpool. Between 1884 and the present time Mr Barker wrote more than 100 Memorials which were presented to various Departments of the State and which may be classified as follows, namely 55 Memorials on Home Administration and Legislation, 25 on Indian, Colonial and Foreign subjects and 20 on African subjects. Also 20 special reports were drawn up and presented to successive Governments, in addition to reports on Parliamentary Bills.

In the autumn of 1903 Mr Barker attended the Meeting of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal, when he took the opportunity of again crossing Canada by the newest route; thence visiting Japan, North China, Corea, Manchuria and Siberia, travelling over the Trans Siberian Railway from Dalny to Moscow, in order to report upon prospects of extension of British Trade with Siberia &c.

Some ten years ago a Russian Section was added to the Chamber.

Mr Barker was one of a small Deputation, including the late Sir Alfred Jones, which waited upon the Czar of Russia at Cowes, subsequent to the visit of members of the Duma to Liverpool and was made Chevalier of the Order of Saint Anne of Russia.

## John Hill Munday

John Hill Munday was born in 1844. He and Catherine Aldridge had five children: Nora, Kathleen, Mildred, Ralph, and Margery. He died in 1918.

## Catherine Aldridge

## Samuel Maxwell West Croskery

West Croskery was born in 1847. After he retired he lived at 9 Easton Road in New Ferry. Died on 26 May 1933.[?]

Probate:[?]

CROSKERY Samuel Maxwell West of 9 Easton-road New Ferry Cheshire died 26 May 1933 Probate Liverpool 11 July to Richard James Hancox bank inspector and William Davies Hughes estate agent. Effects £8616 0s. 10d. Resword £8447 4s. 10d.

## Mary Gilmour

## Charles Frederick Barker

## Elizabeth Barker (née Hazelwood)

## Boyd Gilmour

Boyd Gilmour was born on March 22, 1814, in Riccarton in Scotland. Death: 26 March 1869 Ayrshire, Scotland Parents: Joseph Gilmour (p. ??) Mary Boyd Clark Siblings: Boyd Gilmour (Born 22 March 1814 Died 26 March 1869) Partners: Jean Dunsmore Elizabeth Howatson

On 19 December 1850, Boyd and his family sailed on the *Pekin* for Fort Vancouver, and the journey took 191 days. On 18 July 1851 they sailed to Fort Rupert, on Vancouver Island where he took up a contract to develop new coal mines for the Hudson Bay Company (the HBC had recruited expert miners and their families on three-year contracts from the Orkney Islands and the county of Ayrshire). He struggled unsuccessfully to develop a producing coal operation, (with his nephew Robert Dunsmuir, who was to become one of the richest men on the west coast) at Fort Rupert. Life at Fort Rupert was harsh. When the miners arrived they found no working mine, inferior coal, food shortages, and danger from warring native tribes. The settlement consisted of a defensive wooden surround in the traditional wild-west style, and single room log cabins with a central stone fireplace and bunk beds set against the wall. Water was drawn from a communal well: communal ovens were used for cooking. The coal there was poor, so Fort Ruperts mines were eventually abandoned after many miners breached their contracts and fled to the California gold fields. (S6) Those few that remained moved to Fort Victoria, including Boyd and his family, on 24 August 1852 after Governor Douglas instructed them to move 200 miles south to Nanaimo, a small port which was based on the fur trade and fishing. It was here that a local Indian told the settlers where they could find stones that burn - thus a coal seam was discovered. Work proceeded but living conditions were difficult. Living conditions were only slightly better at Nanaimo and Jean Gilmour refused to live there. The Gilmours returned to Scotland in 1854, when Governor Douglas refused to increase their pay rates.

After Jean died in 1856, Boyd is shown in the 1861 Census as living in Old Hurlford and is a Coalmaster (widower, age 46) with his children Mary (18, p. 12), Marian (14), Boyd (12), and Allan Columbia (9). He then remarried later that year (11 November) to Elizabeth Howatson, a 20 year old farmer's daughter (living at Hill Farm) and had three more children.

In the 1868 Hurlford District Directory his properties are listed as Woodend, Burnbank, Ladyton, and Goatfoot Collieries.

On his death certificate he is listed as "Coalmaster", and died at his home, "Riverside Cottage", Loudon Parish. His father Joseph was down as a coal miner. He died from 'fatty degeneration of the heart ten days from appearance of symptoms' and the death was reported by his brother Andrew Gilmour, butcher, also of Loudon Parish. His will includes details about a contract with his son Allan, and provision is made for his second wife Elizabeth (use of his house in Titchfield Street, Galston, and a yearly annuity of (pounds) 120 until the youngest child attains the age of 21 after which the entitlements were reduced - payable Whitsunday and Martinmas. Plus reasonable assistance after his death to provide his wife and children with mourning. When or if she remarries, she would then receive (pounds) 20 per annum. She "is obliged to maintain and upbringing in a manner suitable to that station such of his children who have not attained majority.") (S6)

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