

## Beatrice Louisa Sturmeay

Born 26<sup>th</sup> December 1879, birth registered in Sturminster, Dorset.

In 1881 the census showed her being born in Fifehead, Dorset as the daughter of James Sturmeay, a carter, and his wife Lucy and they were living in Winterbourne St Martin. Other family members were:

Mary E (age 11)

Annie M (age 7)

Ida M (age 3)

In 1891, the family was living at Wareham Road, Poxwell and Ida and Mary were no longer part of the household. The household now included

Florence (age 3)

William (aged 2)

and a lodger Walter Harris aged 21

**In the 1901 census the family was recorded as living in Affpuddle and the only sibling to Beatrice now shown is Francis W aged 12 and the only other member of the household is Beatrice's daughter Elsie May, then aged 2.**

Beatrice and her daughters Elsie and Lilian are recorded living in the Poole Workhouse in the 1911 census.

Beatrice Sturmeay is recorded as dying in 1939 and a death certificate confirms her death on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1939 at the age of 59. This ties in with a birth in 1879 and no other Beatrice Sturmeay is recorded at that time anywhere. There was only one Beatrice Sturmeay in the census returns for 1881, 1891 and 1901. Beatrice was, according to an Identity card issued in Poole, working as a Domestic Nurse in 1913 in the Waterloo district of Poole.

Beatrice had another daughter Lilian Louisa whose birth was registered in Wareham in 1906. Only one Lilian Sturmeay was recorded anywhere in the country. Lilian was still alive in 1970 and living in Erith in South East London. Officially, her married name was Lilian Wisdom but she had divorced and adopted the name of her partner and was known as Lilian Lapper.

The minutes of Poole Board of Guardians of 1<sup>st</sup> February 1911 refers to Beatrice Sturmeay and two children in the workhouse. The Guardians resolved that George Bridle of Oakwood (or Oakers Wood) near Dorchester, the father of the children be ordered to contribute 5/- weekly towards the maintenance. Elsie is known as Sturmeay on the 1901 and 1911 census but her birth was registered in the name "Bridle"

There is a total of 68 George Bridles shown in the 1911 census. Of these, seven were living in Dorset ranging in age from 25 to 68 years. The youngest can be disregarded as he would have been only 13 when Elsie was born. Assuming he still lived in Dorset at the time of the 1911 census (and in

February 1911, he was, according to the Poor Law Guardians, living near Affpuddle at Oakers Wood) then my great grandfather was one of six people registered in Dorset in 1911

1. Born Stour Row in 1854 aged 57 in 1911. A farmer, married with an adult son and daughter and living at Yeatmans Farm, Stour Row, Shaftesbury possibly died Shaftesbury in 1921
2. Born 1865 in Piddletrenthide aged 46 in 1911. A carter on a farm. Married about 1899 with two sons aged 11 and 6 and a daughter 3. Living at Tarrant Cranford. The age is right. Elsie was conceived before he married his wife Bessie. Also, he came from the same part of Dorset and had the same job as Beatrice's father. However, he was married when Lilian was conceived. Possibly died in Honiton Devon around 1952 aged about 87
3. Born in 1862 in Cerne Abbas and married since 1890. A sexton in Talbot Village. No children at home but with an elderly woman lodger.
4. Born in Poole in 1855 aged 56 in 1911. A watchman at Poole Gasworks. There is possibly an error in the census records as his wife is stated to be 32 and married for 23 years. It is unlikely she married at 9. There was also a son. Possibly died in Poole in 1930
5. Born 1862 in Weymouth aged 49 in 1911. Married, a decorator with a nine-year-old daughter plus a young couple lodging. Possibly died in Weymouth in 1935
6. Born 1843 in Axminster, Devon aged 68 in 1911. He was a cooper, married with four boarders. Lived at Fleet Street, Beaminster and possibly died there in 1929

If any of the above is my great grandfather, and there is no conclusive proof, then No 2 is the most likely. If this is the right George, his brother, who was married to Beatrice Sturmeys's sister, is buried in Affpuddle. A George Bridle is recorded as dying in Honiton, Devon in 1952.

Minutes of the Poole Board of Guardians concerning Beatrice Sturmeys

14<sup>th</sup> August 1912

House of Industry, Salisbury. Read letter from Mrs Heygate, Parkstone stating the House of Industry Salisbury is a very old established House under a good Committee and they have sent several girls there and they have done well. The clerk was instructed to apply for a copy of the Rules of the Institution.

11<sup>th</sup> September 1912

Read a letter from the Local Government Board dated 6<sup>th</sup> instant consenting to the to the proposal of the Guardians to subscribe at the rate of 5/- per week to the funds of the House of Industry 46 & 48 Ann Street, Salisbury in prospect of maintenance of this girl.

**Provided by Ian Small 20 May 2020**