

**Ann BODEKER ( formerly KEARN, nee GREGORY ) ( 1855 – 1921).**  
**See also Alfred Heinrich BODEKER.**

This is a tale of a family with many twists of events and many records containing fundamentally false statements. Alfred Bodeker's story is intimately entangled with that of Henry Kearn, a one-time employee of the Gunpowder works.

Preston parish church baptism.

10 Feb 1856 Ann GREGORY, dau. of Edward and Ann, of Preston, Brents, Mariner.

Addresses associated with Henry Kearn, Ann nee Gregory and Alfred Bodeker gleaned from baptisms of the children:

July, 1876 both Henry Kearn and Ann Gregory lived on Tanner Street

August, 1877 Drayson Square presumed residence of Henry Kearn and Ann

1879 to 1886 3 Gatefield Lane residence of Henry Bodeker and Ann

March 11, 1886 Gatefield Lane still the residence of Henry Bodeker and Ann

October, 1886 Park Place residence of Henry Bodeker and Ann

March 14, 1890 33 Westgate Road residence of Henry Bodeker and Ann

1861 census

Faversham, Kent, England, RG9/526, ED 6e, fol. 113, p. 11

Household Schedule # 56 Abbey Street:

Edward was not at home on the night of the census.

Ann Gregory, head, married, 36, mariner's wife, born at Faversham

Elizabeth, daughter, 12, born at Faversham

Alice, daughter, 11, born at Faversham

Edward, son, 9, born at Faversham

Charles, son, 8, born at Faversham

Ann, daughter, 6, born at Faversham

1871 census

Faversham, Kent, England, RG10/979, ED 9, fol. 19, p. 34

Household Schedule #8, Thomas Square:

Ann Gregory, head, widow, 48, laundress, born at Faversham

Charles, son, unmarried, 18, cooper's apprentice, born at Faversham

Ann, daughter, 16, general servant, born at Faversham

**MARRIAGE 1876**

Marriage solemnized at the parish church of Faversham after bans on 29 July 1876 between Henry Kearn, 23, bachelor, engine driver, usual residence Tanner Street, father William Kearn, labourer and Ann Gregory, 30, spinster, no occupation, usual residence Tanner Street, father Edward Gregory, mariner. Witnesses Alfred Dadson and Margaret Dunk. Source: Certified copy of an entry of Marriage. Certificate #MX707989, issued 18 November 1993. The original in possession of Susan Young.

Ann brought Henry Kearn, her first husband, to court on 7 November 1876. The newspaper coverage of the case indicates that Ann, through testimony and actions, had left her husband by November, after having married him in July of the same year, and took up separate lodgings. The article also states that Henry Kearn was an engine-driver at the Cotton Gunpowder Works, a job that Ann had a hand in getting that position for him. The article also states that Ann was a forewoman there, as well. Henry went on to state that he had once knocked her down at the Cotton Gunpowder Works. Having regard to this court case and the turbulent nature of Ann reported by her daughter, whom I personally knew, added to by the information of the 1881 census where Ann is clearly living with Alfred Bodeker and the DNA match to the great-grandchild

of Edith Louise, I have little doubt that Ann and Alfred Bodeker were living with each other before 1880.

1881 census

Faversham, Kent, England, RG11/968; Fol. 104, p. 36

Household Schedule #177, 3 Gatefield Lane:

Alfred Bodikar, head, mar, 22, labourer in cotton powder works, born Deptford, Kent

Ann Bodikar, wife, mar, 24, born Faversham, Kent

Annie C. Bodikar, daughter, unmar, 2, born Faversham, Kent

Edith Bodikar, daughter, unmar, 1, born Faversham, Kent

AN OLD GRIEVANCE. [1884]

Maria Lewis, married woman, of West Street, Faversham, was summoned by Ann Bodeker, of 3, Gatefield Lane, to show cause why she should not find sureties to keep the peace and be of good behaviour. - Complainant (Ann) stated that a grievance had existed between her and the defendant for ten or twelve years. Defendant had recently threatened to rip her open and cut her heart out. In consequence she (Ann) was afraid of her life. - Defendant (Maria) alleged that complainant went to London with her (defendant's) husband in a barge, and that notes were continually passing between them. Defendant (Maria) accused the complainant (Ann) with gross improprieties with her husband. She admitted saying to the complainant that she had stripped her once, and would again if she had the chance. - The Bench adjourned the case for a month in order for the complainant (Ann) to produce additional evidence as to the threats. Source:

Faversham News 09 August 1884, p. 3, col. 4.

See <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0004227%2f18840809%2f029&stringtohighlight=bodeker%20faversham>

APPLICATION FOR SURETIES OF THE PEACE. [1884]

Maria Lewis of West St., appeared to an adjourned summons issued at the instance of a woman who gave the name of Ann Bodiker, who complained that the defendant had threatened her life, and applied that she might be bound over to keep the peace. This case was before the Bench last month, when the complainant enumerated the threats which she alleged the defendant had used to her, the defendant pleaded provocation if she had committed any offence, alleging improper intimacy between her husband and the complainant (Ann), and the case was adjourned for the complainant (Ann) to produce corroborative evidence. **She now called Alfred Bodiker, who said he heard the defendant threaten his "missus."** She also stepped inside his door. - The defendant (Maria) here stated that the complainant (Ann) had come there in a false name; she lived with the last Witness, but her name was not Bodiker at all; she was married, but her husband would not live with her because of the proceedings between her and her (defendant's) husband. - The Mayor (to complainant (Ann)): You have given your evidence in the name of Ann Bodiker; is that your name? No, my name is Ann Kearns. **As far as I know, my husband is living, but I have not seen him for many years, and I am known by the name of Bodiker.** - The Mayor said there was sufficient evidence to show that the defendant made use of threats to the complainant, and however much she might have been vexed and annoyed by that woman, it was not for her to threaten her. In dealing with the case, however, the magistrates would mark their sense of what had transpired by calling upon the defendant to enter into her own recognisances in the sum of GB10, and to find one surety in the sum of GB5, to keep the peace for six months. The required surety was at once found, and the parties left the court. Source:

Faversham Times and Mercury and North-East Kent Journal 06 September 1884, p. 5, col. 2. See <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/ViewArticle?id=BL%2F0001346%2F18840906%2F048%2F0005&browse=true>

1891 census

Faversham, Kent, England, RG12/713, ED 8, fol. 139, p. 9

Household Schedule #55, 33 Westgate Road:

Alfred Bodeker, head, married, 31, labourer guncotton works, born at Deptford

Ann, wife, married, 34, born at Faversham

Edith, daughter, 12, born at Faversham

Frederick, son, 3, born at Faversham

Ada Jane, daughter, 2, born at Faversham

The children:

Alice Jane Gregory

Baptism of Alice Jane Gregory to Ann Gregory of West Street, a single woman on 18 Feb 1876, by A. Boys, curate of Faversham Parish Church. Alice Jane Gregory was buried 3 Mar 1877 at Faversham Parish Church. Age recorded on burial is 1 year, residence at Tanner Street.

Albert Kearn

Baptism on 10 May 1877, son of Henry and Ann Kearn, of West Street, father a brickmaker.

Albert died that same year. Source: Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald, p. 4, 18 August 1877. "DEATHS. Aug. 11 Albert Kearn, Drayson-Square, aged 3 month."

Annie Catherine Kearn

Baptism on 15 July 1881, daughter of Henry and Ann Kearn, of Gatefield Lane, father a mariner.

Child born 12 August 1878 inscribed in margin. As Annie Catherine did not survive childhood she has no descendants that could help the identification of her father with DNA. Annie Catherine died 31 January 1886 and was buried at Faversham on 3 Feb 1886. So, she may have known no other father but Alfred Bodeker.

Edith Louise Kearn

Baptism on 15 July 1881 of Edith Kearn, daughter of Henry and Ann Kearn, of Gatefield Lane, father a mariner. Child born 4 September 1879 inscribed in margin. DNA test results and a match with a great-grandchild of Edith Louise strongly suggests that Edith Louise was a child of Alfred Heinrich Bodeker and not Henry Kearn. Edith Louise died during 1956 at Maidstone, Kent.

Minnie Kearn

Minnie was born during the December quarter of 1881. Buried 11 March 1886 residing at Gatefield Lane, aged 4 years. Buried under the name of Johnnie Kearn. Her civil death registration is under the name of Minnie Kearn. No baptism has been found.

Rosa Kearn

Rosa was born during the September quarter of 1885 and buried 28 October 1886 at Faversham at the age of 20 months. The family had moved to Park Place by this time. No baptism has been found.

Frederick Bodeker

Frederick is the first child to be born and baptised with the Bodeker surname, despite the fact that

his younger siblings Rosa and Minnie would have been children of Alfred Bodeker. I would like to see if there is any mention of Ann being brought before the vestry. Fred was born 25 Oct 1887 at Faversham, baptised there 14 March 1890. Fred emigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada with his mother and siblings during 1912. He was KIA 28 August 1918 in France near or at Arras and is buried in the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery at Haucourt.

Ada Jane "Lillian" Bodeker

Ada aka Lillian was born 28 December 1889 at Faversham and baptised there on 14 March 1890 with her brother Frederick. She emigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada during 1912 with her mother and siblings. She died 27 May 1971 at Wasaga Beach, Ontario, Canada. I knew Aunt Lill and had many family visits with her and my cousins during the 1960s and early 1970s.

#### MARRIAGE 1890

Ann Kearn nee Gregory and Alfred Bodeker August 31, 1890 at the parish church of Faversham. He is recorded as a bachelor, a millman in Gun Cotton Works and living at 33 Westgate Road, Park Place. Ann is recorded as a widow, no occupation and residing at 6 St. Mary's Road. Witnesses were his brother and sister-in-law, Charles Horatio Bodeker and Sarah Ann Bodeker nee Coombs.

Minnie Winifred Bodeker (my grandmother)

Minnie was baptised 3 March 1893 as Minnie Winifred Bocker [sic] [Bodeker], daughter of Alfred and Anne, of 33 Westgate Road, father a millman. She emigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada during 1912 with Alfred's wife (her mother) and several siblings. Minnie died 3 July 1972 at St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

#### 1901 census

Ospringe, Kent, England, RG13/803, ED 1, fol. 13, p. 17

Schedule #110, Water Lane East, Village of Ospringe:

Ann Bodeker, head, married, 45, charwoman, worker, born at Preston;

Frederick, son, 14, house boy domestic, a worker, born at Faversham;

Ada, daughter, 11, born at Faversham;

Minnie, daughter, 8, born at Faversham.

#### 1911 census

Chatham, Kent, England, RG14/3905, Reg Dist #47 ED 21, Schedule 156

31 Prospect Row [4 rooms], Chatham:

Ann Bodeker, head, 53, widow, married 28 years, 9 children born, 4 children living, 6 children deceased, no occupation, born Faversham, Kent

Ada Bodeker, daughter, 23, single, general domestic servant, worker, born Faversham, Kent

Frederick Bodeker, son, 24, single, tram car driver, electric tramwaym, worker, born Faversham, Kent

#### 1911 census

Sittingbourne, Kent, England, RG14/4446, Reg. Dist #61, ED 30, Schedule 43

The Limes [17 rooms], Sittingbourne:

Sarah Elizabeth Parrett, head, 66, widow, born Kent, Sittingbourne

Martha Jane Parrett, daughter, 37, single, professional nurse, worker, born Kent, Sittingbourne

Mildred Amy Parrett, daughter, 32, single, no occupation, born Kent, Sittingbourne

Harold Spencer Parrett, son, 22, single, no occupation, born Kent, Sittingbourne, feeble minded

Emma Selina Parrett, sister-in-law, 62, single, Lady Housekeeper, worker, born Kent, Milton Regis  
Elsies Louisa Mills, general servant, 22, single, born Hampshire  
**Minnie Winifred Bodeker**, housemaid, 19, single, born Kent, Faversham  
Mollie Millen, granddaughter, 5, born Kent, Sittingbourne

#### EMIGRATION TO CANADA 1912

Ann, with family in tow, moved to Canada circa 1912 and settled in Toronto. Edith, George and their son also emigrated with Ann. The Sharps opened a fresh fish store on Davenport Road.

#### RETURN TO ENGLAND ca 1917

Ann returned to England with her daughter Edith and her husband, George Sharp, circa 1917/18 and eventually settled in Maidstone.

#### DEATH 1921

Registration of death occurring on 3 October 1921 at Rose Inn, Wheeler Street, Maidstone of Annie Brown [sic], aged 64 years and widow of Alfred Brown [sic] a sailor. Cause of death apoplexy haemorrhagica [haemorrhagic stroke] of 2 months duration and 2/2nd [second] attack and coma of 5 days duration. Present at death was G. T. Sharp, son-in-law, usual residence, Rose Inn, Wheeler Street, Maidstone. Source: Certified copy of an entry of a Death. Certificate #DXZ945164 issued 11 February 2002

The original in possession of Susan Young.

Family history obtained from cousins whose mother was Alfred's daughter:

Alfred Bodeker eventually rose to the position of foreman at the gun cotton works. He was a rather confused and abusive sort and eventually deserted Ann around 1899. We are told that he had run off with a younger woman and certainly two entries in the Faversham parish registers bear this out: christened 8 August 1900 Alfred Heinrich Bodeker (G.R.O. June Qtr, 1899, Orsett, 4a, 578) and christened 26 May 1901 Hilda Mildred Bodeker (G.R.O. March Qtr 1901, Orsett, 4a, 649), the children of Alfred Bodeker and Charlotte Eliza Houseden. Curiously, his residence was given as being Stanford, Essex. A third child was found on the G.R.O. birth index - Charles William, June Qtr. 1902, Orsett, vol. 4a, page 653.

Family tradition recalls that Ann's eldest daughter used to make the most of opportunities to discredit Alfred in front of his new love or employees, ranging from name calling, kicking of shins, through to stamping on Charlotte's feet one day when Alfred and Charlotte were encountered walking together through town.

About 1908 Alfred was sent to South Africa to assist in the start up of a new gun cotton works. Word eventually came back to Ann that he had been killed there in an explosion. Research in the KwaZulu-Natal archives has produced his death certificate which reads:

"Province of Natal

Deaths in the District of Durban for the Month ended 31 Aug 19[20]

No. 465

When and where died: 7 August 1920, Sanatorium, Durban

Name, Surname, Birthplace: Alfred Heinrich Bodeker, England

Sex, Race: Male, English

Age: 58 years

Rank or Profession and Conjugal Condition: Explosives Foreman, Married

Cause of death: Carcinoma Eosophagus, Starvation, Post-operative shock

Duration: 3 weeks

By whom Certified: Dr. Radford

Place of Burial: Church of England Cemetery, Durban

Signature, Description, Residence of Informant: Harold S. Adlam, Undertaker, Durban

When Registered: Aug. 9, 1920

I, Harold S. Adlam of Durban following the occupation of Underaker do solemnly declare that the foregoing information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Signature "Harold S. Adlam"

Declared before me this 9th day of August 1920 at Durban.

Signed by the Deputy Registrar for the District of Durban [signature illegible]"

Charlotte died during 1954 at South Africa.

I have been in touch with my half cousins in Africa, descendants of Alfred Bodeker and Charlotte Housden and much has been exchanged about the family.