

The story of Annie Price of Claughton Firs

Annie Price was a resident of Claughton Firs. We don't know anything about Annie's parents, as she first appears in the census in 1871, an 'inmate' in the Liverpool Industrial Ragged School - a charity school provided free education, food, clothing, and lodging to very poor or orphaned children. She was about 11 at that time, having been born in or around 1860. It seems likely that her parents had died or were, either singly or together, unable to look after her.

It seems that her family had not forgotten her and she was offered a home and a job by her uncle, Edward Millington, who lived at number 12 Claughton Firs. He was originally from Staffordshire, but moved to Liverpool, where he had had his family, moving to Oxtan after his wife died. There he took up the position of a Licenced Victualler as the Landlord of the Shrewsbury Arms.

So Annie found a home with her uncle and his family and was resident there in 1881. As well as her Uncle Edward she lived with her cousin Henry, who was then a joiner aged 17, May Millington, Henry's daughter who was at the time a scholar and Annie Webster, who was recorded as a 'boarder', perhaps a companion for Edward.

By 1891 the family had moved to live in the Shrewsbury Arms. Here Annie worked serving drink - mostly beer - cleaning and tidying. She lived in the pub with her cousin Henry Millington, who by this time had become the licensee himself. In 1891 Annie was 31 years old and hopefully had found a comfortable place in the world, in the Oxtan community of that time.