

Class, Gender and Employment in England's Victorian Public Baths



Dave Day

MMU Sport and Leisure History (SpLeisH)

Twitter: @SpLeisH @natationist

<http://www.cheshire.mmu.ac.uk/sport-history/>



Table 1. From Sea to Baths

Census	Bathers	Swimming Mistresses
1871	26	9
1881	9	21
1891	4	37
1901	1	49
1911	2	110

Table 2. Family Connections

Surname	First Name	Job Title	Father's Occupation	1881	1891	1901	1911
Howarth	Frances	Swimming Teacher	Baths Manager	√	√		
Howarth	Edith	Teacher of Swimming	Baths Manager		√		
Leahy	Honora	Swimming Teacher	Swimming Teacher		√		
Leahy	Amy	Swimming Teacher	Swimming Teacher		√	√	
McGarrick	Annie	Swimming Instructor	Baths Superintendant		√	√	
Leadbetter	Margaret	Teacher of Swimming	Baths Manager			√	
Leadbetter	Edna	Swimming Instructress	Baths Manager				√
Leadbetter	Elsie	Swimming Instructress	Baths Manager				√
Davey	Jessie	Swimming Mistress	Baths Superintendant			√	√
Hall	Gertrude	Swimming Instructress	Baths Superintendant		√	√	√

Table 3. Class Origins

Surname	First Name	Job Title	Father's Occupation	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Buckingham	Charlotte	Swimming Teacher	Coachbuilder			√	√	
Classey	Eleanor	Swimming Mistress	Boat maker		√	√	√	
Daly	Agnes	Swimming Instructress	Shoemaker			√	√	√
Easton	Fanny	Swimming Mistress	Bootmaker/cordwainer		√	√	√	√
Hodge	Edith	Swimming Instructress	Fitter engineer					√
Humphrey	Charlotte	Teacher of Swimming	Shoemaker/Boat builder	√	√	√	√	√
Humphrey	Jane	Teacher of Swimming	Shoemaker/Boat builder		√	√	√	√
Parkes	Lillian	Swimming Mistress	Plasterer				√	
Purcell	Mary	Swimming Mistress	Leather shoe maker				√	√
Watt	Mary	Teacher of Swimming	Pilot			√	√	√

Table 4. Female Professional Certificate Holders 1902-1903

No	Surname	Christian	Town	Age	Yrs Wed	Kids	1911 Census Occupation	1901 Census Occupation	Fathers Occupation
15	Austin	Muriel	Richmond, Surrey	32	2	1	None. Husband a Commercial Traveller	Swimming Instructress	Watchmaker and Jeweller
18	Foulkes	Louisa	Burslem, Staffs	31	8	1	None. Husband a Brewery Inspector	None.	Painter
21	Daly	Amy	Chelsea, S.W.	37	Single	0	Swimming Instructress	Swimming Instructress	Boot Manufacturer
34	Yates	Lilian May	Bristol	35	14	4	None. Husband Patent Shuttle Guard Maker	None.	Water Works Store Keeper
39	Wilson	Edna	Leeds	49	28	2	Turkish Bath Attendant	Swimming Instructor	
40	Johnson	Charlotte	Leeds	48	22	0	None.	None.	
41	Craven	Elizabeth	Bradford				N/A	Swimming Instructress	
43	Proctor	Clara	Bradford	31	5	0	Stitcher in Cotton Dyehouse	Mill Worker	Stoker in Dyehouse
44	Cunliffe	Jane	Leeds	30	Single	0	Teacher of Music	None.	Miner
50	Howard	Lily	Bradford	34	Single	0	Swimming Instructress	None.	Stoker in Mill
54	Sanderson	Ethel	Huddersfield	31	<1	0	None. Husband Wire/Staple Manufacturer	None.	Bank Caretaker
55	Beaumont	Adelaide	Huddersfield	45	20	8	None. Husband Coal Miner Hewer	Fancy Draper Shop Keeper	Draper
61	Purcell	Mary	Eastbourne	31	Single	0	Swimming Mistress	Swimming Mistress	Shoe Maker
62	Ireland	Olive	Richmond, S.W.	32	6	0	Assisting in the business (Pub)	None.	Licensed Victualler
64	Perkin	Gertrude	Leeds	47	6	3	None. Husband Commercial Traveller	None. Lodging at Baths	Millwright
65	Steele	Nellie	Newcastle				N/A	Swimming Mistress in Papers	



Table 5. Arthur Ashpitel. *Observations on baths and wash-houses, with an account of their history: an abstract of the acts of parliament relating thereto, etc.* LSE Selected Pamphlets (1852), 15, 19.

Staff at Baths	£	s	d
Superintendent and matron (living in the house)	2	2	0
Engineer and two stokers	4	5	0
Eight Bath Attendants	7	4	0
Washers, Money Takers and Scourers	4	0	0
Total	17	11	0

Table 6. Female Baths Employees (1871-1911) (N) = 1,793

Census	Bath Attendants	Matrons	Clerks and Cashiers
1871	75	17	4
1878 Baths and Wash-Houses Act			
1881	130	31	19
1891	174	35	28
1901	288	62	106
1911	455	114	120

Table 7. Bath Attendants

Census	Bath Attendants	Single (Widowed)	Family Connection
1871	75	64%	39%
1878 Baths and Wash-Houses Act			
1881	130	73%	34%
1891	174	69%	26%
1901	288	83%	18%
1911	455	76%	15%

Table 8. Class Origins

Surname	First	Job Title	Father's/Husband's Occupation	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Barber	Annie	Baths Assistant	Naval Pensioner		✓	✓		
Chudley	Elizabeth	Bath Attendant	Restaurant Waiter				✓	✓
Clark	Lucy	Bath Attendant	Firewood Cutter			✓	✓	✓
Crawford	Mary	Bath Attendant	Shoe Salesman		✓	✓		
King	Fanny	Bath Attendant	Pump Maker		✓	✓		
Knowles	Mary	Bath Attendant	Coachman and Gardener			✓	✓	
Melvin	Charlotte	Bath Attendant	Mechanical Engineer				✓	✓
Moss	Sarah	Bath Attendant	Railway Engine Driver				✓	✓
Packham	Alice	Bath Attendant	Night Watchman				✓	✓
Smith	Susan	Bath Attendant	Carpenter	✓	✓	✓		

Table 9. Matrons' Family Connections

Surname	First Name	Husband's Occupation	1881	1891	1901	1911
Baker	Jane	Baths Superintendent and Engineer			√	√
Billings	Frances	Superintendent of Public Baths			√	√
Fey	Lucy	Superintendent of Public Baths			√	√
Inkster	Elizabeth	Superintendent of Public Baths	√	√	√	
Lloyd	Ann	Superintendent of Public Baths	√	√		
Newman	Catherine	Superintendent of Public Baths		√		√
Newton	Mary	Public Baths Superintendent			√	√
Potter	Martha	Baths Superintendent		√	√	√
Prior	Esther	Superintendent of Baths	√	√		
Whitehead	Annie	Superintendent of Baths		√	√	
Wilkinson	Hannah	Public Baths Superintendent			√	√