

FREEMAN

FAMILY

TREE

BLANCHE ANNA BISHOP (June 30, 1878 - April 13, 1935)

Born in Harpursville NY of Jennie (Fraser) Bishop and John F. Bishop. She became a dressmaker and for a time worked in NYC sewing samples of men's collars. She married John Freeman in Binghamton, NY on June 5, 1907. Around 1914 her husband took a job on the Brooklyn Eagle but she remained in Binghamton to bear their third child, John Jr. The family joined John in Brooklyn in 1915 or 1916. They returned to Binghamton in 1919 before the birth of their fourth child, Elizabeth. Although John continued to work in Brooklyn, he came to Binghamton frequently. Their fifth child, Helen was born in Ridgewood, NJ. in 1923.

Blanche took religion seriously. She was a Sunday school teacher in the Episcopal Church and later in the Christian Science church, whose



*John Jr., Blanche, Ruth, and  
Jeannette Freeman*

tenets she practiced. In Binghamton she was an active member of the YWCA and the Order of the Eastern Star and was president of the Monday Evening Club.

The family was living in Washingtonville, NY in 1934 when she became seriously ill with cancer and they moved back to Binghamton where she felt more comfortable. In keeping with her religious beliefs she refused all medical attention and her last days were extremely painful. She died at her home on Moffatt Avenue in Binghamton. Her remains are in Floral Park Cemetary in Johnson City.



CLARA JANE FREEMAN (1871 - September 21, 1963)

Born to Mary (Hall) Freeman in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England, she had a younger brother, John and a younger sister, Elizabeth. Nothing is known of her father except the last name. She and her siblings were brought to the United States by her mother when she was 7 or 8 years old.

Mary found a job in St. Johnland Episcopal Home where the children received their early schooling.

She started her career as an artist model and, later, as a magazine illustrator. She soon turned to portrait painting, studying under several well known American portraitists. She also studied in Paris under a well known Polish woman portrait painter and others. She painted in Morocco, Madrid, Barcelona and Trinidad, West Indies.

Most of her life was spent in NYC, living at Carnegie Hall, Beaux Arts Studios and the Van Dyke Studios on 8th Ave. Her summers were spent in the art colonies of Provincetown and Rockport where she owned a cottage for almost 30 years.

Jane was a successful portrait painter. Her works are in numerous museums and private collections. She taught at Hunter and Barnard Colleges and the American Salon in NYC. For details of her career see the account by her niece, Jeannette Wittman.

She died of cancer after a long illness in a private sanatorium in New Jersey at the age of 92. Her remains were cremated.



SARAH ELIZABETH FREEMAN (September 12, 1876 - February 1942)

Born to Mary (Hall) Freeman in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. Nothing is known of her father except the last name. She had an older sister, Jane and an older brother, John. Mary brought her three children to the United States while Elizabeth was still in arms. The mother found a job at St. Johnland Episcopal Home in Queens where the children received their early schooling.

The following chronology is due to Margaret Johnston whose research is based largely on newspaper accounts and records of many of the organizations to which Elizabeth belonged:

1905-1911 Returned to England. Worked with Women's Social and Political Union (Pankhurst's organization) as organizer and speaker.



1911 Returned to U.S. in September. Worked with NYC Woman Suffrage Party.

1912 Toured Long Island and Ohio in a horse-drawn wagon speaking and organizing for women's suffrage.

1913 Arrested picketing in support of striking white goods workers. Principle speaker on suffrage march from NYC to Washington. One of four suffrage hikers from NYC to Boston with hurdy gurdy.

1914-1915 Arrested with Upton Sinclair in demonstration for striking Colorado miners. Paid organizer for NYS Woman Suffrage Assoc. in upstate NY. Toured rural areas by oxcart.

1916 Paid suffrage organizer in Texas. Investigated and reported on lynching in Waco.

Newsphoto c. 1913



Speaking tour to raise money for NAACP anti-lynching fund. Coast to coast tour speaking against President Wilson's racist policies on Hughes campaign train.

1917-1918 Lobbyist for Emergency Peace Federation, NYC and Washington. First American Conference on Democracy and Terms of Peace. Organizer, speaker and staff member of People's Council of America, Chicago and West Coast.

1919 Listed in US Senate "Who's Who in Pacifist and Radical Movements". Trip to England, Scotland and Ireland. Victim of Lusk Committee and red scare.

1925-1937 Owned and operated antique shop in Provincetown, MA. Social worker/administrator for surplus food distribution during depression.

1937 Moved to Pasadena, CA for health reasons. Active in local Woman's Party.

1942 Died of pleurisy in Pasadena.



Elizabeth, Ruth, Jeannette, John Jr., Mary,  
John Sr. c. 1921, Washingtonville

Ramsey

MARY HALL (December 30, 1850 - October 6, 1924)

Born of Jane (Buxton) Hall and Francis Hall in Derbyshire, England, the youngest of nine children. Probably lived in Chesterfield. Little is known of her early life although there is a family legend that she made silk flowers for a clientel of English royalty. Around 1869 married an individual by the name of Freeman about whom we know nothing. She bore three children by him: Jane in 1871, John in 1872 and Elizabeth in 1876. Neither she nor the children ever spoke of her husband.

Sometime soon after Elizabeth was born she came with her children to the U.S. She took a job at St. Johnland Episcopal Home in Northport Long Island where the family probably lived and the children went to school. She returned to England with Elizabeth in 1905. Was supportive of Elizabeth's militant suffragist activities in England and in America after they returned. Made at least one more trip to Great Britain with Elizabeth.

Died in NYC at age 73.



C. 1921

FRANCIS HALL (December 12, 1808 - June 7, 1872)

Probably born in  
Derbyshire in the English  
Midlands. Married Jane  
Buxton in 1832. Had a  
total of 9 children of  
whom Mary, mother of John  
Freeman, was the last.

JANE BUXTON (July 9, 1813 - 1882)

Probably born in Derbyshire in the English Midlands. Married  
Francis Hall in 1832. Bore 9 children of whom one was stillborn.  
The youngest, Mary was the matriarch of the Freeman line.