

Manorfield Detectives.

If your House at school is Varnam, this is all about why the name was chosen and all about their life.

Elizabeth Varnam was born in Claybrooke, Leicestershire, the daughter of William and Susannah Varnam, in around 1791.

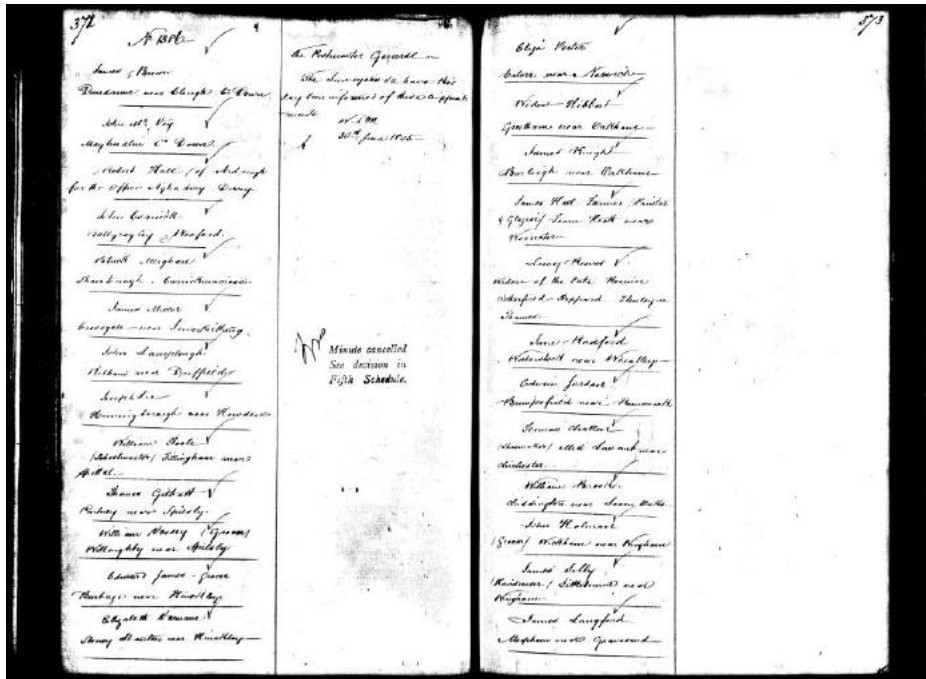
By 1846, she is living in Stoney Stanton, at Yew Tree House on Long Street. She is described in a trade directory as a school mistress.

| Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House | Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851 | Relation to Head of Family | Condition | Age of Males Females | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 42 | John Hill | Head | M | 75 | Schoolmistress | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary Hill | Wife | F | 72 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Charles Hill | Son | M | 27 | W. H. Kneller | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| 43 | Mary Stevenson | Head | F | 25 | Magistrate of the County of Leicestershire | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary Stevenson | Wife | F | 28 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Elizabeth Smith | Son | M | 24 | House Servant | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Elizabeth Smith | Son | M | 20 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| 44 | Elizabeth Varnam | Head | F | 70 | Schoolmistress | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary Payne | Wife | F | 14 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary A Stevenson | Son | M | 9 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Charles Hackett | Son | M | 8 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Elizabeth Armstone | Son | M | 18 | House Servant | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| 45 | Mary Henson | Head | F | 70 | Schoolmistress | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary Henson | Wife | F | 74 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary Henson | Son | M | 27 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |
| | Mary Henson | Son | M | 24 | | Leicester, Leicestershire |

In this page of the 1851 census for Stoney Stanton Elizabeth was 60 years old and listed as schoolmistress. The school appears to have 3 pupils Mary Payne 14, Mary A Stevenson 9 and Charles Hackett 8.

Also living there is Elizabeth Armstone aged 18 who is a house maid.

We don't know about her life before then, as records are hard to find. The only census she would have been on before this is the 1841, and no record has been found yet.



Above is a page from the British Postal Service Appointment Book from 1845, it shows Elizabeth's signature at the bottom left. This tells us when she became a Post Mistress.

The Postal Service had only just begun at this time and Elizabeth was a kind of pioneer of this new service.

This link tells you more about the postal service in Britain.

https://kids.kiddle.co/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Great_Britain

In the White's Trade Directory entry for Stony Stanton 1846 below, Elizabeth is listed as schoolmistress.

Allen Chas. carpenter & vict. Star
 Bryan John, sen. & jun. wheelwgt
 Coley John, butcher and vict. Bull's
 Head
 Dimmock Mrs Sarah
 Higginson Nicholas, grocer & draper
 Higginson Mrs Mary Ann, *Lodge*
 How Wm. blacksmith
 Kenney Miss Frances
 Lane Thomas, carpenter
 Lane Fras. baker & beerhouse kpr
 Norton John, joiner & brick maker
 Pougher Sarah, vict. Rose
 Sankey Rev John, rector

Stevens John, shopkeeper
 Townshend Hy. Esq. *Stanton House*
 Varnam Elizabeth, schoolmistress
 Wood Richard, vict. Blue Bell

FARMERS.

Atkins John || May Mary
 Chamberlain John || Wood Jph.
 Higginson John || Pegg Wm.
 Orton John & Chas. (and maltsters)
 Orton Geo. || Pegg John
 CARRIER, Wm. Hunt, to Hinckley,
 Mon. & Leicester, Wed. & Sat.;
 and Chas. Allen, to Leicester, Sat.

in the gift of the Rev. Richard Boyer, M.A.; the Rev. John Sankey, M.A., is the incumbent, who resides at the Rectory, a handsome mansion. The church of St. Michael is an old Gothic building, with a nave, chancel, transept, tower, spire, and 6 bells, and was repaired in 1842. Here is a Sunday school. The residence of Henry Townshend, Esq., is a fine mansion. In 1851 the population was 751; the acreage, 1,750; John Orton, Esq., is lord of the manor. Many of the people are framework knitters.

Over Thomas, carpenter
Pegg John, farmer
Pegg William, farmer
Stevens Thomas, grocer & butcher
Varnam Amos, grocer
Varnam Elizabeth (Mrs.), school & post
mistress
Wallis John, baker
Wildlove Robert, 'Star'
Wilson Charles, shoemaker
Wood Richard, beer retailer

In the following census in 1861, Elizabeth is Postmistress in Stoney Stanton, living with two of her sisters Mary and Harriet.

Eng.—Sheet D.

Elizabeth died just a few months after the census, on November 27th 1861, aged 71 and was buried in St. Michael's churchyard. She had never married.



Elizabeth's epitaph reads as follows:

In
Affectionate Remembrance
of
Elizabeth Varnam
Who died November 27th
1861
Aged 71 years.
Shall not the judge of all the earth do right.
Genesis 18:25