

Rose Emma Ellis 1871 – 1956

At 20 years old Rose Emma Ellis was 'touring the world' as the first woman deep sea diver. A family anecdote also tells of her diving in the Brighton aquarium for spectators. We know virtually nothing of her stunts or of her family, who must have been involved in her aquatic prowess. Tony Powsey remembers her as a very good cook from the part of his childhood spent living with Rose and Bert at 79 Virginia St. in Southport. He also remembers her telling him at Bert's funeral that she wouldn't be seeing him again because 'now your Grandad's gone I won't last long'.

Rose was with daughter Dolly Wright (Powsey) at 79 Virginia St. when she died just 6 weeks after the death of Professor Powsey. She was buried with him, and the ashes of Dolly were put in the grave of Rose and Albert when she died in 1995 by Dolly's grandson Tony McLaughlin, with whom she was living on the Isle of Skye.

A Rose Ellis was found in Dartford, born in approximately 1870, which is the area Powsey's seem to have emerged from on the 1871 census. It is thought by the Powsey family that she may have worked under the name Millie Marnier.

An internet search for 'Millie Marnier' found a brief paragraph on a page of miscellaneous notices on a site of extracts from late 19th century and early 20th century newspapers. The paragraph was transcribed from 'The Sphere' newspaper dated 1 November 1913, p. 105, and reads: 'Miss Millie Marnier of New Brighton is the only lady sub-marine diver in the world. Although Miss Marnier is a fully-qualified diver she has not yet taken her art beyond the exhibition stage, and that she does in the cause of charity, at aquatic galas and elsewhere.'



WOMAN MARINER DIVER.



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She frequently