

A Story of a Leicestershire Teacher

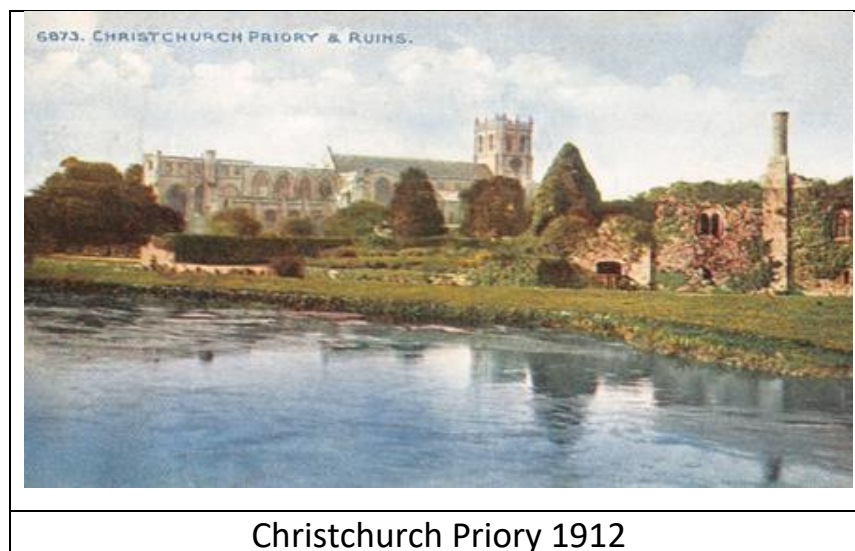
by Dennis Marchant

Living in Quorn one can't help but hear mention of Louie Burrows, be it as a local schoolteacher or as the author D. H Lawrence's fiancée. Reading the Old School Heritage Board I became intrigued and wanted to find out more about her. There are many accounts contained in books, articles, and university theses written by experts. I'm certainly not an expert but I did want to piece together as much as I could regarding the Quorn connection. After all, this was her home for over thirty years. I have to say some of what follows is supposition on my part however, I do owe much to Jon Turners book 'Louie: Her Remarkable East Midlands Life', 'Lawrence in Love - a Collection of Letters' Edited by T.Boulton, the British Newspaper Archives, the Quorn National School Logbooks, the Quorndon and various public domain websites. I would also like to say a thank you to family and friends for their support and corrections. I have no doubt that there is more information that will come to light, but I had to start somewhere.

Mrs Heath

I begin this story at the end: and a sad end it was for Mrs Heath. She and her husband were holidaying by the sea on Bournemouth's West Cliff staying in what was a luxurious hotel which had recently changed its name from the 'Hawthorns' to the 'Wessex Hotel'. We can't be sure just how long Mr and Mrs Heath stayed at the hotel, but we do know that they were both in their seventies and that Mrs Heath was convalescing from a serious neck and throat operation possibly a thyroid complaint.

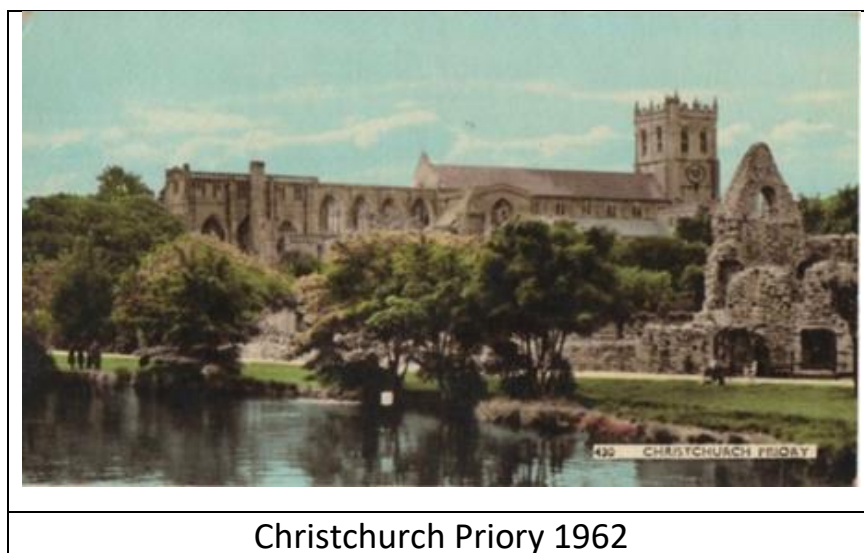
Mrs Heath had long desired to visit Christchurch and its Priory and we know that on Sunday 20th May 1962 they both visited this impressive and inspiring church. We can't be sure how they travelled there as they had arrived in Bournemouth by train. They may have taken a taxi, but I like to think of them riding a Bournemouth Corporation Trolley bus. At the time these departed from Bournemouth Square which was within walking distance of the hotel and whichever bus route was taken it was a pleasant trip. The buses stopped at a terminus in Christchurch which was just a short walk from the Priory entrance gates.



They attended the Easter service there where the hymn 'Come ye faithful raise the strain' was sung and afterward Mrs Heath was to comment on the hymn's message of triumphant hope. That very evening and back in the hotel Mrs Heath died from a heart attack.

So, who was Mrs Heath and why did she so much wish to visit the Christchurch Priory? Well, her maiden name was Burrows and her first name was Louisa often shortened to Louie. She had been a long-time friend and one time fiancée of the

author D.H. Lawrence. In fact, they had been engaged to be married between the years of 1910 and 1912. Lawrence suffered with pneumonia from November 1911 and in the January of the next year he was convalescing in Bournemouth when he visited Christchurch Priory on 12th January, and he sent a post card of the Priory on which he tells Louie 'It is a wonderfully fine church'. On 22nd January he sent her another postcard writing 'another view of Christchurch – you must go there sometime'. So, was Louie fulfilling Lawrence's command, we will never know for sure.....



Christchurch Priory 1962

Meeting D. H. Lawrence

Louie had met Lawrence, who was known to friends as Bert, in 1905 when they both attended the Ilkeston Pupil Teacher Centre. At the time she was 18 and he 21. The Ilkeston Pupil Teacher Centre had opened in 1899 and the Pupil Teacher scheme had been introduced as a result of the 1870 Education Act and was basically an apprenticeship aimed at increasing the number of teachers. Senior pupils aged from 13 would learn to teach and practice the profession at school in a hands-on approach for three days and then attend college for the other two days a week to obtain academic qualifications. The pupils in Louie's training

group all became long-time friends. Louie and Bert were awarded their First-Class Teachers Certificates in 1906. It was at this time that they began to correspond on both literary and social matters. They also worked on submitting works for the Nottingham Guardian short stories competition of 1907. 'White Stockings', 'Legend; and 'Applause to a Happy Christmas' were the titles which were submitted under Lawrence's name however, Louie rewrote 'White Stockings' in her own style. This was somewhat surprising considering its sexual context.

Cotesdale

Alfred Burrows, Louie's father was born in Nottingham where his family were associated with the lacemaking industry and he himself was set on a career in the industry first as a lacemaker and then as a draftsman. He was also a lay preacher and enjoyed woodwork and making ornaments and pieces of furniture. He enjoyed passing on his knowledge and encouraging boys into craft work. In 1899 he obtained a City and Guilds Certificate in Manual Training. The Central Institute had been set up in 1884 becoming the City and Guilds following the 1889 Technical Education Act, when craft teaching was introduced to schools. So in 1907 Alfred was appointed as peripatetic handicraft teacher with the Leicestershire Education Authority serving secondary schools in the Loughborough area including Rawlins Grammar at Quorn. It is believed that Alfred was the first to hold this position in the county.

It was this appointment that led to the Burrows family moving to Quorn. On the 28th June 1908 Alfred Burrows became the second owner of 7 Chaveney Road (now no. 33) purchasing it from Herbert Speight. It is an Edwardian detached house sitting proudly on a rise above the road and at the time had four

bedrooms for the family of ten. The sleeping arrangements must have been cramped to say the least. We can only imagine that probably Mr and Mrs Burrows slept in the main bedroom with Nora the baby; Louie, and her sister Ethel as the eldest daughters in one bedroom together, with Cecelia, Connie and Gertrude in another and the two boys Alfred and Billy sharing the fourth bedroom. We know that Alfred had a lean-to workshop appended to the side of the property which he used as his workshop. They named the house 'Cotesdale' which was the former name of the village of Cossall where they had lived previously. When Lawrence wrote to Louie here for the first time on 21st April 1908, he misspelt the name and this became a habit, why was a mystery, maybe it was simply a private joke, or he may have disagreed with the use of the old name.

It is not recorded why they chose to move to Quorn, but it can be surmised that one factor may have been that it was in a central location for the area in which he was to work. Another could have been that while he was house hunting, Alfred had lodged with his brother Arthur, an art teacher at Rawlins Grammar School in Quorn and who lived in Rothley. We know that the family liked the rural setting compared to Cossall which had been taken over by noisy and dusty coal mines working twenty-four hours a day. The family were also impressed with all Quorn had to offer; the shops, trades, and services such as water, gas, drainage, street lighting and the schools, all taken for granted today but not then. It was also well connected being on the main trunk road and with nearby railways including the state-of-the-art Great Central Railway being just a short walk away from Cotesdale. Louisa, Alfred's wife obviously had her hands full looking after the family, and it was said that she was the driving force behind the family. Bert once commented to Louie that he thought her mother very nice.

In July 1908 not long after moving into the new home Louie was appointed to her first teaching post which was at St. Marys Infants School in Castle Street Leicester. This was on a salary of £75 per year. She didn't enjoy it at all and on 1st January 1909 she started work at the Ratcliffe on the Wreake school. She moved from Quorn probably to lodge in the schoolhouse that was attached to the school. This seven-month period was to be the only time that she lived away from Chaveney Road in Quorn until she married in 1941.



Cotesdale was the Burrows home in Quorn from 1908

We know that Lawrence was fond of Louie from correspondence that he wrote to another of his girlfriends, Blanch in July 1908 saying, 'Louie a girl I am very fond of – a big, dark laughing girl'. He was by this time himself working as a teacher in Croydon having started there in October 1908. He had applied for other teaching posts without success before getting this one and had to work as clerk in a factory in Nottingham and he also helped out on local farms in his hometown of Eastwood.

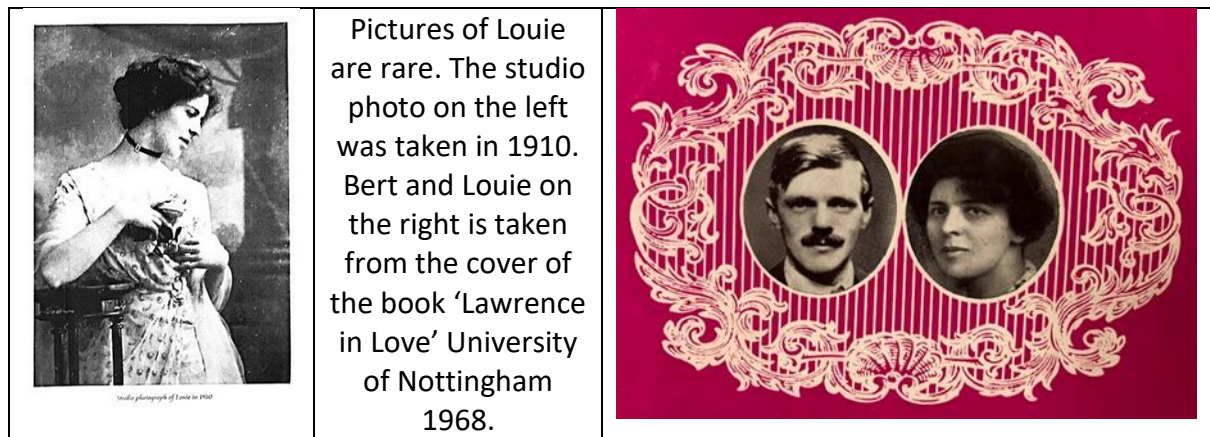
Kisses in the Train

Louie celebrated her 21st birthday on 13th February 1909 and it was around this time she submitted some of Bert's poems to the English Review editor and collaborated with Bert on the short story 'Goose Fair'. The fair was a favourite of Louie's and when the story was published Bert shared the payment with her. His mother was diagnosed with abdominal cancer in the August of 1910, and she stayed for a while with her sister Ada Krenlou who lived in Leicester and Louie visited them there. It was on Saturday 3rd December 1910 that Bert proposed to Louie. They had taken the 7:15pm train from Leicester when they sat next to each other and he 'popped the question'. We do not know the circumstances of their meeting but could surmise that they had been to see his mother. We do know some details from a letter that he wrote to a friend the next Monday and of course from the poem 'Kisses in the Train' which Lawrence has confirmed was the event that inspired the poem. He wrote to his friend: *'Oh! Theres one thing, I tell you – if you promise not to give me away. I went to Leicester on Saturday. There I met an old girl friend of mine with whom I'd always kept up a connection – she was 'my girl' in call though there have been changes since. Well, we were coming down from Leicester to Quorn where Louie lives'*. He goes on to tell that he proposed and gives details of her reaction. Also, he tells of the five other women who were in the carriage's small corridor compartment. He continues *'The brakes began to grind, we're at Quorn I said, and my heart sank. She suddenly put her hand on mine and leaned to me. I'll go to Loughborough she said, I can come back by the 8:10 she said'*. The five women left at Quorn, and he goes on to say *'we ran out amongst the floods and darkness'*. The train arrived in Loughborough at 7:37pm.

We know from correspondence, that Louie was very nervous about moving schools and taking on the headmistress role at Gaddesby village school in December 1910. It was during this time that she was in contact with the 'Women's Social and Political Union' and attended the Suffragist Committee rooms in Loughborough. There is evidence that like many women in her position she was active in supporting the cause. In June 1911 Bert had invited her in a letter to 'come down to a suffragette procession on Saturday' and she had received a postcard from Mary Stewart a suffragette imprisoned in Bow Street Police Station at the time, asking if Louie's mother 'would be willing to receive a prisoner discharged from Holloway'.

As for the engagement, well it seems as is often the case to have had its ups and downs. We know that they had agreed that to get married they would need between one hundred and one hundred and twenty pounds. Louie actively touted Bert's first novel 'The White Peacock' which had been published in January 1911 to increase sales and income. They apparently, argued over light or dark furniture with Louie favouring the light of the Arts and Crafts Movement and Japanese style. She was not impressed when the ten pounds Bert received for his short story 'Odour of Chrysanthemums' he spent on himself rather than contributing to the marriage pot.

He visited 'Cotesdale' in Quorn regularly and spent weekends there during their engagement and he made it clear that he enjoyed being with the Burrows family. He did comment that although it was like a home to him, it was a busy and a boisterous household!



The Rainbow

We know that Bert liked Quorn and the scenery in fact, he mentioned that it wasn't until he was in Surrey that he found better. He also talks of time spent blackberrying in the village and of the snowdrops and their bulbs that Louie sent him. It is suggested that the village of Beldover mentioned in his novel 'The Rainbow' is based on Quorn and the character of Ursula in the same novel is based on Louie. Also in 'Women in Love' in part, and that her father Alfred is the basis for the character of William Brangwen. As one reads the novels the places and characters do appear as amalgams of the people and places with both Louie and Quorn being recognisable, in my opinion.

'The Rainbow' was one of Lawrence's most controversial works with its frank treatment of sexual desire, and the part it plays within relationships as a natural and even spiritual force of life and this caused the book's publishers to be prosecuted in an obscenity trial at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on 13 November 1915, as a result of which 1,011 copies were seized and burnt. After the ban it was unavailable in Britain until 1925, although editions were available in the United States. It was in 1928 when Lawrence's book of 'Collective Poems' was published, and it was in the preface to this book that he referred to Louie

as the woman in the poems 'Kisses in the Train' and also in the 'The Hands of the Betrothed'.

They both spent the 1911 Easter and Whitsun holidays together in Quorn and on 11th May Louie took the train to Marylebone where she met Bert for a London day out visiting Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace. On 22nd of June they took the train to Nottingham to celebrate George V's Coronation.



The Quorn National School photographed in 2021

Headmistress at Quorn

It was on 10th July 1911 that Louie became Headmistress of the Quorn National Infants School. In correspondence Bert says she was persuaded to take on the role by the school managers and her father! Speculation is that her dad wanted her home where he could keep an eye on her! She was after all only 23 years old at this time.

The experience that she gained at Quorn school was to be invaluable to her in future roles, whether she knew this at the time or not is doubted but certainly

she did impress the authority as we shall see. We know from the logbooks that the school suffered from extreme cold and damp in the winters and extreme heat in the summers (86 degrees Fahrenheit being recorded in classrooms on occasions). The yard was said to be a quagmire in wet weather and a dust bowl in summer. Mud and dust were recurring problems and then there were the floods. The great flood of 1915 saw the whole village from Chaveney Road to Soar Side being under deep water. On the 15th of July 1915 the school had to be closed as the smell pervaded the rooms and they had to be disinfected.

What was to be Bert's last recorded visit to Quorn was between 27th and 29th October 1911 which he combined with a visit to Eastwood. Afterwards he returned to his teaching job in Croydon where he was taken ill on 19th November with pneumonia and was then off work. It was while convalescing in January the next year in Bournemouth that he sent the two postcards of Christchurch Priory, mentioned previously, telling Louie what a fine church the Priory was and that she must go there sometime.

In 1962 recalling events Louie referred to what she called 'The dreadful Cearne letter' which she said left her simply dumbed with misery. This refers to the letter she received from Bert on the 4th February 1912 finishing their engagement and blaming the decision on doctor's advice that he should not marry! Bert was staying at The Cearne, the home of Edward Garnett a writer, critic and literary editor.

Nine days later she caught the 5:08pm train from Nottingham Victoria to Quorn having met with Bert who had taken her to a café for tea and toast. Writing to a friend afterwards he said that he had found her to be ikey (a derogatory term).

He resigned from his teaching job shortly after and wrote his last letter to Louie in November 1912 from Italy telling her that he had found his new wife. This was referring to Frieda Weekley nee Von Richthofen, sister of the famous German great war fighter ace, the 'Red Baron'.

We know that Louie threw herself into keeping busy and started taking singing lessons and going to night school, taking classes which were to lead to her taking an external degree course for women with St Andrews University. It was the 'Lady Literature in Arts (LLA)' course with her chosen subjects being Education and History. At this time she dedicated her life to teaching and headship. It is said that she never stopped thinking of Bert and even kept copies of his letters in a pocket in her corset. During 1916 she had an assistant and a class of forty which included her seven-year-old brother William and five-year-old sister Nora. She was interested in what was then considered the modern approach to teaching which was very much child centred and based on the Montessori approach. It was said that her classroom was always brightly coloured, adorned with children's art and craft work. Indeed it was said that one wouldn't dare take a jam jar into her class unless it were painted!

After taking her exams in Nottingham and London, in 1919 Louie obtained a second-class honours degree in Education, History, Botany and Logic. Now with her degree awarded she started to use her situation to improve both her own position and that of female teachers. In January 1920 she attended the National Union of Teachers conference and raised the subject of female teachers' salaries and the shortage of teachers. She also took a trip to Cracow in Poland as part of a League of Nations poverty relief project.

The 1921 census carried out on the 19th of June tells us that Louie, then thirty-three years of age, was living at the Old Mill Farm in Quorn with her brother Alfred junior who was twenty and a farmer. It is possible that she had moved across the road as her sister Constance now Mrs Smee was living at Cotesdale the family home with her baby daughter. Alfred senior was listed now as a peripatetic art teacher and manual instructor at a nearby county school. Louie had recorded in the school logbook at this time that a small area was reserved for infants in Quorns Stafford Orchard – a long awaited reform since it had become a public recreational area available for games. It was also noted that the infant school had been closed because of mumps.

Increasing Population

As the population especially around Leicester was increasing new teaching positions were opening up. Whether Louie applied for positions or whether she was earmarked by the Education Authority we don't know but is it not unlikely that with her qualifications, experience, and modernising views, that she was at least encouraged to move from Quorn School to make the most of these new opportunities. The headmaster of the senior school writes on the 3rd July 1924 that he 'rearranged the whole school and fetched up the infants as the headmistress of that department has left. Commenced the new work.' Louie's formal resignation was recorded in September 1924; by now she was thirty-six years old and had taken on the Head's role at South Wigston Junior School. She remained living in Quorn travelling each day to school by train and bus. On the 15th April 1925 she again addressed the National Union of Teachers conference and her Sunday Express article was published causing a bit of a stir! Criticizing, as it did the domineering role of male teachers and their failing to recognise the credibility of female teacher supervisors.

The same year the Kellys Directory recorded that her father Alfred was a manual instruction teacher at Barrow Grammar. Alfred junior was still a tenant at Mill Farm Quorn being a milk provider to the locality. He was later to move to Cropston where he died in 1976. Louies sister Ethel had married Oliver Holmes an accountant, and they had moved into a house named 'Stancliffe' which was at the station end of Chaveney Road (now no. 91). By now Mr and Mrs Alfred Burrows were in their sixties and had treated themselves to their first motor car.

Unlike other UK cities at the time Leicester was seeing high levels of activity in the key industries of hosiery, footwear and engineering which attracted workers who needed housing. Private landlords and developers could not meet the needs with over 1,500 families in need of homes, municipal housing was the answer. Between 1920 and 1925 the city purchased land both within and without its boundaries to build houses on. This comprised the Saffron Lane Park Estate and in 1925 the Braunstone Estate was added. By 1929 over 4500 homes had been built.

Lubbesthorpe Junior School was built just a mile away from the South Wigston School to help cope with the expanding estates and Louie moved to head up this temporary but expanding school. This was a real challenge for her with so many new arrivals to be housed in the temporary accommodation on a building site.

In the November 1928 Louie took the junior part of the school to move into the lower storey of the Linwood Lane Senior School, which by this time was almost complete and there she remained until 1932. There were over 800 pupils in her school.



Part of Leicester's newly built Park Estate in 1927

Alfred Burrows retired from teaching in 1929 and then devoted his time to craftwork at home where he continued to make wooden ornaments in his workshop. He had also invested in property in Quorn, Barrow upon Soar and Walton on the Wolds and owned a piece of land called the Spinney which was opposite the house. He was by now a St Bartholomew's Church bell ringer being Master of the Tower, organist, and a licensed preacher. It is said that he had preached in every Church of England Church in Leicestershire. He was also a keen walker and cyclist.

It was on the 2nd March 1930 that D.H. Lawrence died in the South of France at a place called Vence. He had suffered from tuberculosis for some time and was buried two days later. Louie was devastated when she received the news and

planned to visit the grave, but on 23rd March a former friend from her student days wrote to her inviting Louie to join her at home in Dorchester to stay for Easter and advised her not to visit Vence.

Newry Junior School

Louie continued to openly express her views and on Saturday 27th June 1931 Louie attended the Cambridge Conference to give a speech and, on the Monday, 29th the Leicester Evening Mail reported that the Lubbesthorpe Labour Party took exception to remarks made by Miss Burrows headmistress of Linwood-lane Junior Council School in which she had questioned the cultural benefit being given to people below the C3 standard of fitness.

Travelling each day from Quorn to the other side of Leicester must have been difficult but on the 6th April 1932 Louie takes charge of the brand new Newry Junior School and acquired her own motor car. There were nearly four hundred children, and she was proud of this new school having been involved with it including having a hand in the design from the start. Its quadrangle design and layout came from her earlier visit to Poland where she was taken with the design of the Cracow school. Louie was given two hundred and fifty pounds and paid to travel to London with another teacher to select artwork for the school. Louie had decreed that class sizes would be restricted to forty or less and she was to introduce parent involvement to the school, something quite new at that time.

Involving parents in the school was important to her and they started by organising a Christmas party for the children. In July the next year and again with the parents' help, she organised an end of term parents' sale of work along

with displays of Greek and English folk dancing by both staff and pupils on the school lawn. The day was well received.

Easter 1932 was late with Easter Sunday falling on 20th April and during the school holidays Louie set off to travel to Vence by train, sea and taxi, some journey for a single woman in those times. As soon as she arrived, she visited Berts grave but finding others there she returned to the hotel and went the next day.

On the 17th March 1933 Louie surprisingly wrote to H.G. Wells about his recently published book 'The Bulpington of Blup' believing that the storyline reflected her and Bert's relationship and asking if he could confirm this. She received a terse response saying he didn't even know her, and all the work and characters were his own. She knew that H.G. Wells had visited Bert in Vence. The Bulpington of Blup contains several sexual scenes and the characters that she referred to in his novel had been involved in a sexual encounter!

Newry Junior School was subjected to Her Majesty's School Inspectors in February 1935 and the report complimented Louie on her cheerfulness, leadership, inspiration, and development of the school's aesthetic side. It was generally favourable but was critical of some academic curriculum aspects. Both boys' and girls' handiwork was highly rated – dad would have been pleased! In April that year the school came under the control of the Leicester City Authority transferring from the county and at this time Louie became the teacher representative on the Diocesan Board of Education, where she helped to compile the 'Book of Hymns and Prayers for Schools', which included two

prayers that she had written. The book was used throughout the City and County Schools and Loughborough Grammar School and was still in use in the 1950s.

Meeting Influences

Sir Herbert Edward Reid (1893-1968) was an English art historian, poet, literary critic, and philosopher that Louie had met on her trip to Vence. She invited him to visit her school and to stay at Cotesdale in Quorn should he ever visit Leicester and this he did in October 1935. The next year she was appointed Secretary to the school managers. During her visits to a holiday home at Tregarthen in Cornwall she met George Bernard Shaw and the artists Stanley Spencer and John Rankin Barclay who apparently painted a portrait of her. He also liked children and each year put on a pantomime for them in St Ives. On one occasion she saw the pantomime and was impressed by the stage 'back cloths' that Barclay had painted, so in her role as secretary to the school managers she suggested and sought approval for John Rankin Barclay to paint a series of murals for the school. The murals depicted children's outdoor activities, covering the four seasons, to adorn the walls of school hall and on 19th January 1939 an open viewing for the Education Committee and the Schools Managers took place. They were much admired, and you can imagine Louie's reaction when she found the older boys kicking balls against them.



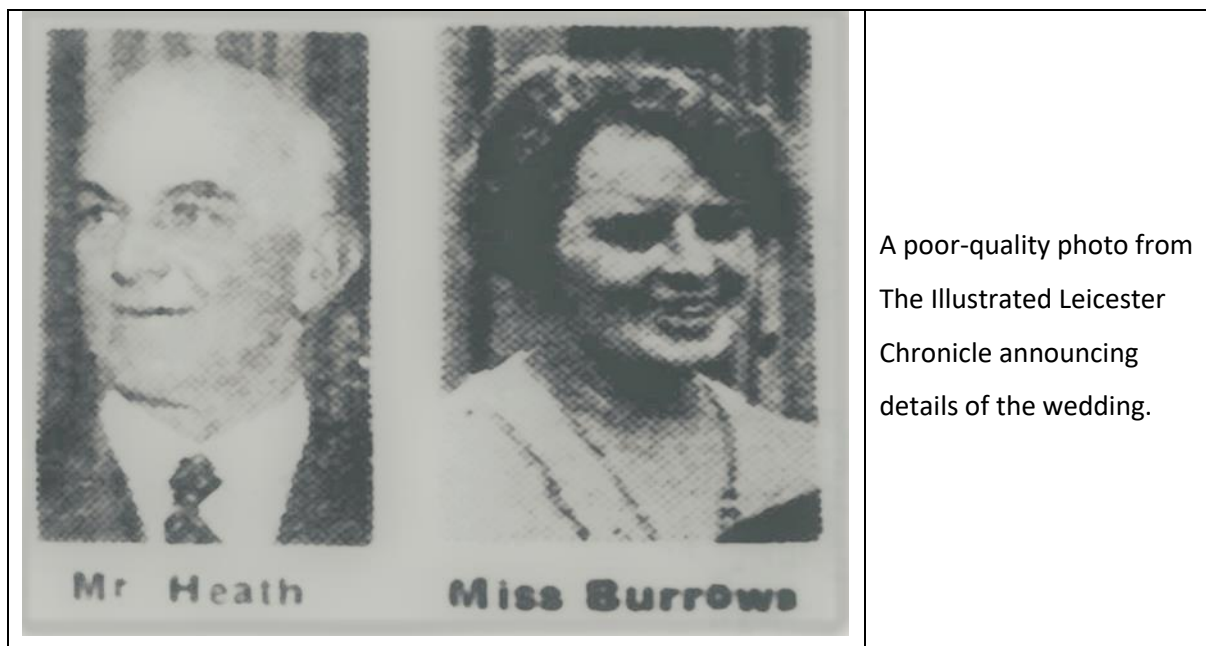
Taken from an article about the Newry School Murals published in the Leicester Mercury
on 19th January 1939

In June the school received an excellent report praising the efforts of Louie especially working in such a difficult area. The school at this time was preparing for war and Louie would often stay at the school on fire duty rather than return home to Quorn.

Spiritualism

Louie had developed an interest in Spiritualism and Astrology since at least 1934 however, she continued to attend St Bartholomew's Church. During 1940

her life was to change as a result of attending the Leicester Spiritualist Church she met fellow Spiritualist Fredrick Seward Heath (Fred). Fred was coming to terms with the death of his wife Gladys who had died as a result of Leukaemia in 1939. Fred had served in the Great War as a driver and was from the shoe making families of Heath and Masons who were famous for the Diana range of shoes. Along with his brothers he was also a director of Leicester's Vauxhall and Buick dealer Batchelor Bowles and he was also a Rutland County Councillor.



The school logbook entry for 25th April 1941 reads *'left school at 3:30 today shall not be present Monday as I am to be married at the weekend to Mr F.S. Heath'* signed Louise Burrows. Then fifty-three she married Fred at All Saints Church in Thurcaston and to celebrate Fred donated fifty pairs of shoes for the needy pupils and provided ice creams for the whole school – unheard of in these war years. After the wedding Louie left Quorn to move in with Fred at his home 'The Garth' a substantial property with a housekeeper and a chauffeur situated near to Rothley station. Fred was a keen cricket supporter, keen golfer and had been captain of the local golf club. After her final day at work on 4th July Louie left after a farewell party. She gave a generous gift to the local vicar which

became known as the Heath Fund and was put in place to fund the salary of a parish worker to provide children's activities.



The disused Southfields and Newry Schools in 2007

Retirement

In preparation for Fred's retirement they moved from The Garth in 1948 to live in Greetham in Rutland where Fred owned a gentleman's farmhouse with over three hundred acres that he had purchased back in 1933 as an investment. It was very near to RAF Cottesmore which meant it was a bit noisy! He did continue as a non-executive director and retained a large Vauxhall car with chauffeur to take him to Leicester.

1954 brought news of the death of Louie's mother Louisa. This marked the end of the Burrows family's reign at 'Cotesdale'. Her father had passed away in 1948

and both are buried at St Catherine's Church at Cossall. Members of the family remained in the Quorn area and in 1956 the former 7, then 15 Chaveney Road was renumbered yet again and became number 33.

This brings our story full circle to Louie's death on Sunday 20th May 1962 during Mr and Mrs Heath's Bournemouth holiday. Fred was to live just a few years longer passing away in 1968. They are both buried at Greetham in Rutland.

Summary

This short piece of work has highlighted that Mrs Heath (nee Burroughs) can be remembered for much more than just being a friend and fiancée of a famous author for which she will, of course, always be remembered. We now know that Louie was not afraid to speak out against a male dominated education system, the pay inequality, and teaching methods employed at the time. Her innovative approach to child involvement in the learning process was recognised by those in authority. Due to her drive and experience she was able to step up to the challenge of running and having a design input into new schools being built at a time of rapidly expanding Leicester council developments.

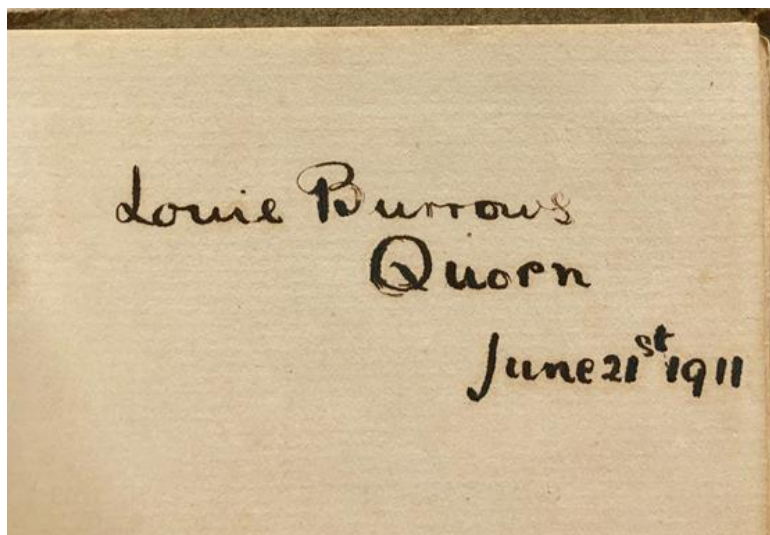
She faced the challenges of maintaining school life during both the first and second world wars. She lived in Quorn until she married Fred Heath in 1941 and even then, remained a regular attender at Quorn's St. Bartholomews Church. Of course she will always be remembered as the Louis Burrows fiancée of D. H. Lawrence and subject of his poems and books. She also influenced his output and use of Quorn's local characters and places.

Postscripts:

According to the Leicester Mercury Fred remained associated with J.W. Heath and Company until its closure in 1952 and William Masons until it became Diana Shoemakers Limited in 1965.

In 2003 a collection of rare D.H. Lawrence books from Louie's library were offered for auction by Neales Auctioneers in Nottingham including first additions of 'Sea in Sardinia' and the 'Widowing of Mrs Holroyd', the latter being the UK first addition of Lawrence's first published play. All were signed in Louie's own handwriting with her address and comments in the margins.

The Quorn Primary School was to close in 1973 and the Newry Junior School on the Saffron Lane Estate on 31st August 2007.



KISSES IN THE TRAIN

*I SAW the midlands
Revolve through her hair;
The fields of autumn
Stretching bare,
And sheep on the pasture
Tossed back in a scare.
And still as ever
The world went round,
My mouth on her pulsing
Neck was found,
And my breast to her beating
Breast was bound.
But my heart at the centre
Of all, in a swoon
Was still as a pivot,
As all the ground
On its prowling orbit
Shifted round.
And still in my nostrils
The scent of her flesh,
And still my wet mouth
Sought her afresh;
And still one pulse
Through the world did thresh.
And the world all whirling
Around in joy
Like the dance of a dervish
Did destroy
My sense—and my reason
Spun like a toy.
But firm at the centre
My heart was found;
Her own to my perfect
Heart-beat bound,
Like a magnet's keeper
Closing the round.*

A poem by D.H. Lawrence