

Submitted 1 February 2007 by *Mr Christopher Hodgson*  
in response to a request in Bulletin 60

67:2 CAROLINE ELIZA DERECOURT MARTYN 1867-1896

**K**eir Hardie described Caroline Martyn as the leading socialist of her day with a 'power of intellect and moral force that was unmatched'.

Part of her life story is recorded in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. A more comprehensive life story is contained in 'The Life and Letters of Caroline Martyn' published in 1898. More recently, a chapter by Krista Cowman about Caroline Martyn was included in *Heroic Reputations and Exemplary Lives* published in 2000.

Caroline Martyn is remembered in Yorkshire, where a celebration in song and tribute to her were included in the Street Music Festival 2002 at Hebdon Bridge. But she was born at the County Police Station, High Street, Lincoln.

The original County Police Station was at the junction of Monson Street and High Street, Lincoln. This building still exists, although it has long since been converted to a mix of shops, small offices and flats. The building is registered as being of special local interest but not listed.

Caroline Martyn's father was a police superintendent in Lincoln and lived at the police station, where Caroline was born on 3 May 1867. She lived with the family through her younger years before attending Beaumont House Ladies' Seminary as a weekly boarder. Beaumont House is located at the junction of Spring Hill and Beaumont Fee. Here again, the building is still standing, although it was converted into flats in the early part of the last century.

Caroline left Beaumont House at the age of 18 to become a governess and later a schoolteacher. In 1891 she took up a post as governess at the Royal Orphanage Asylum in Wandsworth, joined the London Fabian Society and from there established herself as an important influence in the Labour and women's movements.

Mr Hodgson's interest in the above stems from the property connection. He has an interest in both the former County Police Station and Beaumont House. He would be interested in hearing of the existence of any documents or other memorabilia pertinent to them and also to Caroline Martyn herself.



Building on the corner of High Street and Monson Street, Lincoln.



Beaumont Court, Spring Hill, overlooking Beaumont Fee, Lincoln.

THE ORIGINAL QUERY IN BULLETIN 60

*Adrian Bailey* is seeking information on the life and relatives of Caroline Eliza Derecourt Martyn (born 3 May 1867). He says she lived near Lincoln Cathedral towers overlooking the High Street, and attended Beaumont House School before taking up... teaching or governess jobs around the UK. [She was] a journalist for *Christian Weekly*, *Workman's Times*, and finally editor of *Fraternity*. She also [gave] speeches on various subjects [and] could, on May Day meetings, draw crowds of 12,000. At the time of her sudden death in July 1896 her immediate family were living in Grimsby.