

Spanish and British staff at the Brampton colony

Compiled by Rob David, November 2023

This spreadsheet has been largely compiled from correspondence in the Roberts archive at Carlisle Archive Centre. The information has been extracted from throughout the DROB collection, but in particular from a folder labelled ‘Spanish Relief - Staff’ (DROB Accsn H15988 Box 3). As well as information on those employed, the correspondence includes letters in which people are recommended for employment as well as letters asking for employment. It is not always possible to know whether these people were employed so unless there is other evidence they have been omitted from this spreadsheet.

Unless statements are referenced as coming from elsewhere, all information comes from the DROB archive at Carlisle Archive Centre.

Name	Role	Other information
Charles H. Roberts	Treasurer of the Cumberland and Westmorland Basque Children’s Committee	The driving force behind the creation and maintenance of the Brampton and Ambleside colonies
Lady Cecilia Roberts		Managed the conversion of the Brampton workhouse into the hostel and looked after the day-to-day running of the Brampton colony. Responsible for staffing at Brampton and Ambleside.

Those who accompanied the children to Brampton on 18 June 1937

Name	Role	Other information
Don Antonio Rentería	Priest	Arrived Brampton June 1937? Lived at The Presbytery, Warwick Bridge, Near Carlisle. He is referred to in a letter about passports 28/6/38.
Virginia (Kiny) Martínez Del Castillo	Maestra (No.24)	Arrived Brampton June 1937. Virginia is named as one of the teachers in <i>Carlisle Journal</i> 22 June 1937. Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member and about to go to Ambleside 22/10/37. Named by Alfonso Ruiz López in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i> , p.144-7. Named in <i>Westmorland Gazette</i> , 23 Oct 1937 as a teacher who accompanied the children to the Ambleside hostel: Named in N. Benjamin, ‘The Forgotten Colonies’, Basque Children of ’37 UK Newsletter, No. 13, May 2010, p.7. https://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/newsletters/20100501 5/8/37 Letter from Lady Cecilia to BCC stating that Virginia was going through a difficult period relating to the children and needed a change. 4/12/37 Letter from Nancy Newbigin to Miss Symonds (Ambleside) refers to Frida Stewart ‘carting off Virginia bodily, en route for Montrose’

		<p>31/12/37 letter from BCC to Charles Roberts saying Virginia at Montrose, and that both she and Lolita want to return to Spain.</p> <p>References in Elvira Squires (ed) correspondence between Lolita and K. Southern (privately published) to Virginia returning to France/Barcelona in early 1938. It seems that Virginia played no further part in Brampton or Ambleside, leaving 'Lolita' as the sole Maestra.</p>
María Dolores (Lolita) Esquerra Nuñez	Maestra (No.83)	<p>Born Madrid 2/11/12.</p> <p>Arrived Brampton June 1937.</p> <p>Lolita is named as one of the teachers in <i>Carlisle Journal</i> 27 July 1937.</p> <p>Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member 22/10/37.</p> <p>Named by Alfonso Ruiz López in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i>, p.144-7.</p> <p>Ma. Carmen Cid Santibañez remembers Señorita Lolita as a very caring person and when she was experiencing homesickness and missing her siblings, whilst staying with the Alford's she visited the Alford's home to reassure my mother that contact would still be kept with her sister and brother Edurne and Luis (pers. comm 4 May 2022).</p> <p>4/11/37 Lolita going through difficult time but letter from Charles Roberts to BCC says that she is now happy to stay at Brampton.</p> <p>References in Elvira Squires (ed) correspondence between Lolita and K. Southern (privately published) to Lolita having a difficult time at Brampton in early 1938 (6/4/38 letter from Lolita to Betty Arne, BCC 'saying she intends to return to Spain'; letter of 14/4/38 from Charles Roberts to BCC regretting Lolita's decision to return to Spain), not wanting to be sent to Ambleside (to replace Virginia?), feeling happier in Sept 1938, accompanying children on concert tours in 1938 and early 1939, staying with Kenneth Southern's mother in Carlisle.</p> <p>28/6/38 referred to in a letter about passports.</p> <p>3/10/38 on list of Spanish at Brampton colony for Home Office;</p> <p>15/2/39 letter from Kenneth Southern to BCC saying that he will soon be marrying Lolita and asking whether there could be work for him at Brampton which would allow Lolita to remain there; Warwick Digital Collections 6: Minutes of meeting of Basque Children's Sub-Committee 21/2/39 refers to a letter from Kenneth Southern of Carlisle about his forthcoming marriage to Lolita and asks that they be considered for a wardenship of a hostel.</p> <p>Married Mr Southern in Carlisle March 1939.</p> <p>Died at Burton on Trent 20/10/1998.</p>
Angelita (Angela) Uriarte Monje	Auxiliary (No.80)	<p>Arrived Brampton June 1937.</p> <p>Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member (cook) 22/10/37.</p> <p>Alfonso Ruiz López refers to two (unnamed) Auxiliaries in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i>, p.144-7. (Gerald Hoare has identified them as Angelita and Francisca Uriarte Monje).</p> <p>Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April</p>

		1938. 28/6/38 referred to in a letter about passports. 3/10/38 on list of Spaniards at Brampton for Home Office. March 1939 bridesmaid for Lolita at her wedding to K. Southern.
Francisca Uriarte Monje	Auxiliary (No.97)	Arrived Brampton June 1937. Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member (delicate and sews) 22/10/37. Alfonso Ruiz López refers to two (unnamed) Auxiliaries in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i> , p.144-7. (Gerald Hoare has identified them as Angelita and Francisca Uriarte Monje).
Lucila Labarta Castro	Auxiliary (No.65)	Arrived Brampton? May 1937 on list compiled for <i>Habana</i> as one of four Spanish destined for Brampton. Lucila is referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938. 28/6/38 referred to in a letter about passports.

Other Spaniards who worked at Brampton between 1937 and 1939

Name	Role	Other information
Don José María (surname unknown but possibly Zinkunegi: pers. comm G. Hoare 4/5/22)	A Jesuit priest	Arrived Brampton? Named by Alfonso Ruiz López as Director in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i> , p.144-7. Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938.
Arturo G. de la Calzada	Teacher	Arrived Brampton Sept 1937. Age 30. An architect trained in Spain. Had previously been on staff at Brechfa camp. Gave a favourable impression. Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member 22/10/37. Named by Alfonso Ruiz López as Maths teacher in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i> , p.144-7. Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938.
Enrique Aguado de Sáenz de la Calzada	Teacher/cook?	Arrived Brampton September 1937. Age 21. Had been a law student in Spain. Not very strong. Gave a favourable impression. Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member 22/10/37. Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938.
Don José (Joseph) Ordeig	Teacher. Superintendent of Brampton colony. From at least October 1938 Joint Administrator of the Brampton colony. From before 22/3/39 sole administrator on resignation of Mr Pank.	Joseph is named as one of the teachers in <i>Carlisle Journal</i> 27 July 1937. Listed by Lady Cecilia as 'Head' 22/10/37. Warwick Digital Collections 12: Minutes of meeting of Basque Children's Sub-Committee 18/10/38: 'Mr [Wilfrid] Roberts suggested that the weakness of the home [Brampton] was due to the management of Señor Ordeig who was not a disciplinarian, and unable to deal with big boys, some of whom it was hoped would be eligible for the Farm Colony in Catalonia'. 28/9/39 Reference written by Charles Roberts? supporting his wish to join forces. Born in Catalonia, university educated, a lawyer, a Republican sympathiser who found himself in

		Britain when civil war began. Appointed Head of Brampton home early on - a glowing reference related to the quality of his work (no reference to discipline problems).
Carmen Lola Mort		In charge of concert tour: <i>Carlisle Journal</i> , 16 Sept. 1938.
María Theresa González	Auxiliary (No.47)	Arrived Brampton from North Stoneham 16 Aug 1937 (letter from N. Stoneham to Charles Roberts 16/8/37). Only remained at Brampton for a short period of time.
Pilar Gutiérrez	Auxiliary (No.76)	Arrived Brampton from North Stoneham 16 Aug 1937 (letter from N. Stoneham to Charles Roberts 16/8/37). Only remained at Brampton for a short period of time.
María Garaigordobil Aldecoa	Auxiliary(No.102)	Arrived Brampton Sept 1937? Replacement for the 'undesirable' Auxiliaries? 8/9/38 may have come to Brampton from Scarborough - see letter from Charles Roberts to BCC. 3/10/38 on list of Spanish at Brampton for Home office; Jan 1939 various letters asking that she be sent to RC hostel at Hove but apparently delayed. 26/5/39 letter from Hove to Lady Cecilia asking that at least one of the 3 sisters be sent to Hove as an Auxiliary to help at a new girls R C hostel asap.
Basilía Garaigordobil Aldecoa	Auxiliary(No.103)	Arrived Brampton Sept 1937? Replacement for the 'undesirable' Auxiliaries? 8/9/38 may have come to Brampton from Scarborough - see letter from Charles Roberts to BCC. Jan 1939 various letters asking that she be sent to RC hostel at Hove but apparently delayed. 3/10/38 on list of Spanish at Brampton for Home office; 26/5/39 letter from Hove to Lady Cecilia asking that at least one of the 3 sisters is sent to Hove as an Auxiliary to help at a new girls R C hostel asap.
Elena Garaigordobil Aldecoa	Auxiliary(No.104)	Arrived Brampton Sept 1937? Replacement for the 'undesirable' Auxiliaries? 8/9/38 may have come to Brampton from Scarborough - see letter from Charles Roberts to BCC. 3/10/38 on list of Spanish at Brampton for Home office; Jan 1939 various letters asking that she be sent to RC hostel at Hove but apparently delayed. 26/5/39 letter from Hove to Lady Cecilia asking that at least one of the 3 sisters is sent to Hove as an Auxiliary to help at a new girls R C hostel asap.

Other adults who worked at Brampton between 1937 and 1939

Name	Role	Other information
Mr Fröhlich	English teacher; pianist	<p>Arrived Brampton June 1937.</p> <p>Fröhlich was a Jewish refugee from Austria who was ‘a talented physicist and fluent in Spanish and English’ and also a pianist who often accompanied the children during their concerts.</p> <p>Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member and about to go to Ambleside 22/10/37.</p> <p>Named by Alfonso Ruiz López as English teacher in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i>, p.144-7.</p> <p>Sent to Ambleside home Oct 1937-Feb1938. Letter of 20 Nov 1937 from Charles Roberts to BCC says ‘good reports’ of Fröhlich at Ambleside.</p> <p>Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff at Brampton April 1938.</p>
Mrs Winifred Nicholson	Art teacher	<p>Daughter of Charles and Cecilia Roberts. Named by Alfonso Ruiz López as teacher of painting in watercolour and oils in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i>, p.144-7.</p>
Harry Herrington	Singing teacher	<p>Named by Alfonso Ruiz López as teacher of singing in his testimony in Benjamin, <i>Recuerdos</i>, p.144-7.</p> <p>Remembered by Ma. Carmen Cid Santibañez as playing the piano and living in Stanwix, Carlisle.</p> <p>He remained in contact with Carmen’s family and later worked for the AA (pers.comm. from Ma. Carmen Cid Santibañez, 4 May 2022).</p>
Mr Dobinson		<p>Arrived at Brampton October 1937.</p> <p>Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member 22/10/37.</p> <p>18/11/37 letter from Lady Cecilia to BCC says Dobinson ‘who has helped us for about a month’ is leaving.</p>
Mr St John H.M. Jones	Teacher?	<p>Arrived in Brampton July 1937? Age 38.</p> <p>He had taught in Spain.</p> <p>Listed by Lady Cecilia as staff member 22/10/37.</p> <p>18/11/37 letter from Lady Cecilia saying that Mr Jones is ‘on the verge of a nervous breakdown’ and is leaving to recover.</p>
J. Dudley Pank	Joint Administrator (until before 22/3/39).	<p>15 Nov 1938 letter from CH Roberts in which he describes Pank as ‘a new English warden we have recently appointed and a very efficient organiser’.</p> <p>Nov 1938 - this is how he calls himself when signing off letters.</p> <p>Letter from Pank to Papps (15/3/39) says that during past 21 months ‘children here are wild unruly’ and ‘definitely deteriorated during last 21 months’.</p> <p>Other staff have ‘sabotaged’ such discipline as I have tried to enforce’ over last 5.5 months.</p> <p>Letter from CHR to Miss Newbigin (22/3/39) says Mr Pank has left at request of committee, and Mr Joseph Ordeig now in sole charge.</p>

Richard Papps	Hon. Sec. Spanish Relief Committee	2/7/37 Miss Quinlan inspected on behalf of Ministry of Health - refers to Papps as 'responsible person'. (TNA: MH57/323) In correspondence with Cumberland County Council re petty vandalism autumn 1937 (Carlisle Archive centre: C/C/4/5/57). Referred to by Lolita in Feb 1938. Referred to by Mr Dawson 31/1/39 and 10/2/39.
Ana		Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938.
Miss Winifred Thomas	Sub-matron	Arrived at Brampton June 1937. Age 42. A Spanish speaker, fluent in 'Basque dialect'. Had worked in Spanish schools. Listed by Lady Cecilia as Sub-matron 22/10/37. Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938.
Walter Hobson	Administrator of adoption scheme at Brampton colony from September 1938	Hobson took over Brampton adoptions from BCC acting through Charles and Cecilia Roberts as the adoption scheme grew in size (Hobson letter of 11/9/38).
Mrs Amy Hersant	Matron	Arrived at Brampton June 1937. Age 49. A Spanish speaker who had lived and taught in Spain. Matron from June 1937 for a few weeks but soon left overwhelmed by the role. Was Matron when Miss Quinlan (Min of Health inspector) visited 2/7/37. Quinlan refers to tension between Matron 'who is a very capable woman' and Lady Roberts 'who is said to interfere all the time'. (TNA: MH57/323)
Miss Lois Newman SRN	Matron	Arrived Brampton 21 July 1937. Replaced Mrs Hersant but only stayed a short time as she discovered that the role required a Housekeeper rather than a nurse. A Spanish speaker. Left during August 1937. 20/8/37 letter from CHR to BCC refers to her.
Miss Crawe	Housekeeper	Arrived at Brampton end August 1937, following letter from Charles Roberts asking her to become Matron 18/8/37. Scots. Listed by Lady Cecilia as Matron 22/10/37. Had a nervous breakdown during 1937 and left. Returned in December 1937 on basis that she could have some time off each day (see letter 6/12/37). Referred to by Lolita as a member of staff April 1938.
Miss Walker	Cook	Cook from June 1937.
Mrs Lawrence	Cook	Referred to in letter from BCC to Mr Papps 3/8/37. She left 9 August 1937.

Mr Dawson	Cook	15/3/39 letter from Pank to Papps described Dawson as an asset to the hostel - good at budgeting; also a lover of efficiency and discipline. Unpopular with other staff. 15/3/39 letter from Dawson to Committee says that he has had help from his wife and daughter in management of kitchen - but food has been stolen and children continually asking for more. Also staff dissatisfied with quality.
Dr Nelson	Doctor	Miss Quinlan (MOH inspector) states he visits daily (2/7/37) (TNA: MH57/323).
Dr Hall	Doctor	From Bridge of Allan. May have come for first fortnight in June 1937 but correspondence does not make it clear.