

Basque children at Brampton in 1937–38

In May 1937 the British government was persuaded by Wilfrid Roberts, the Liberal M.P. for North Cumberland, and others to allow 4000 children to be evacuated to Britain on the *S.S.Habana* from the Basque region of Spain

Wilfrid Roberts's parents, Charles and Cecilia were instrumental in the development of the Brampton home. Cecilia oversaw the conversion of the disused Brampton Workhouse into a home for the children. The conversion was completed in time for the arrival of 100 'Little Basques', as the children were referred to in the local press, on 18 June 1937.

The Cid-Santibañez Family

Carmen Cid-Santibañez, her sister *Eduarne* and brother *Luis* arrived in Brampton in April 1938. Carmen was eventually fostered by the Alford family in Carlisle and following the closure of the Brampton home in August 1939 many of the children including Carmen's brother and sister, were found foster parents in the Glasgow area.

Carmen accompanied her siblings to Glasgow, but she was unhappy and decided she would rather remain in Carlisle so she returned to live with the Alford's.

It was Norman Alford a 24 year old lithographic artist who persuaded his parents to take in Carmen, as she was one of the youngest of the children in the Brampton home and he paid for her upkeep from his wages.



Left:
Francisco Cid
Luis, Eduarne,
Carmen

Identification Number	Surname	Forename
• 1609	Cid Santibañez	Eduarne
• 1607	Cid Santibañez	José Luis
• 1608	Cid Santibañez	M. ^a Carmen
2911	Ciel Larrea	David
2912	Ciel Larrea	Manuel*
56	Cillero Arrillaga	Ana M ^a
57	Cillero Arrillaga	Santiago
2278	Cillero Garcia	Francisco



Left:
Norman
Alford and
Carmen



Left:
Carmen and
Elizabeth Alford

She stayed until 1952 when she married Cliff Eckersley, at St Herbert's Church, Carlisle on 17 March 1952 they had 2 children, Luis and Jane, and now 4 grand children and 5 great grand children.

Carmen, Eduarne and Luis could not be repatriated as their father Francisco was a prisoner for much of the Civil War and their mother Frutosa was herself a refugee in France. All three eventually married and chose to make their homes in the United Kingdom after the war. They were joined by their parents who settled in Glasgow. At 94 years old Carmen is the only surviving member of the family.



Above: The family reunited
Francisco, Carmen Frutosa, Eduarne and Luis