

Edith Ethel Ransom nee Fowler 1872-1949

First woman President of Bromley House, magistrate

Edith was born at 56 Terrace Royal in Nottingham the eldest daughter of George Fowler a mining and civil engineer later of Basford Hall; and his wife Mary Judith. She attended Nottingham High School for Girls from 1884-1891 and was an 'excellent pupil.'

In 1898 she married Dr William Bramwell Ransom at Christ Church Cinderhill and they lived first at 26 Low Pavement; the Ransom family home. Her husband followed his father as the physician to the General Hospital. They had 2 daughters and a son and moved to 48 The Ropewalk where in 1909 Dr Ransom died of consumption. Ethel raised the family but was also active outside the family.

She was a Magistrate, a Director of companies founded by her father eg Barnstone Cement and Arley Colliery in Warwickshire. She became a member of Bromley House in 1917 taking over her husband's share; and she became a Director almost immediately and then in 1935 was elected President holding the position for the usual 3 years. She was the **first** woman to be elected president in the Library's 120year history and although there are paintings and photographs of most of the presidents there wasn't one of Edith however eventually a grandson was able to supply a portrait taken many years earlier than her Presidency which is now displayed at the Library.

She was a member of the Thoroton Society from 1937-1949. She moved to live at Thoroton Hall in approx 1925 and she died there in 1950 and there is a brass inscribed to her in the church of St Helena at Thoroton