

# Private Frederick Arthur Woodcock

Frederick's great-grandparents were John Woodcock and Elizabeth Parkin. They were married in the Priory Church of Our Lady and Saint Cuthbert, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, on 6th June 1802. Their son John, named after his father, was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1807 and baptised at the Priory Church a month later.<sup>i</sup> Although the priory was dissolved on the orders of Henry VIII on 15 November 1539, it owes its survival to Francis Talbot, 5th Earl of Shrewsbury who was granted the property on condition that the Earl should provide a glove for the right hand of the sovereign at the coronation. This tradition continues to this day.<sup>ii</sup>

Around 1834, John (junior) moved to Sheffield and found employment with Messrs Samuel Younge & Co, wine merchants, Old Haymarket, Sheffield.<sup>iii</sup>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1838.

**S**ALE OF THE STOCK OF BOTTLED  
WINES AND SPIRITS OF  
MESSRS. SAMUEL YOUNGE AND CO.,  
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, OLD HAYMARKET,  
SHEFFIELD.

Messrs. WILLIAM BUSH and SON

Respectfully give notice that they are instructed by the Executors of the late J. J. Greenwood, trading as Samuel Younge and Co., to SELL by AUCTION, at their Rooms, 2 and 3, East parade, Sheffield, on WEDNESDAY, October 24, at One p.m. precisely,

**THE STOCK OF WINES AND SPIRITS,**

**VINTAGE PORTS.**  
125 DOZENS of Dow's 1878, Sandeman's 1878, Thompson and Croft's 1881, Very Old White Port, &c.

**SHERRIES.**  
45 DOZENS of Dry, Light, Pale, and Brown SHERRY; Yantai, Cavaux, &c.

**CLARETS.**  
230 DOZENS of Bycheville, bottled in 1880; Talbot D'Aux, bottled in 1877; Very Choice Old Chateau Margaux, Chateau Palmer, St. Estephe, Leoville, Listrac, Montferrand, &c.

**SPIRITS.**  
160 GALLONS of Very Choice OLD SCOTCH WHISKY of 1807, 1880, and 1885; Glenlivet of 1883, Islay, &c. OLD RUM. Pale French and JERSEY BRANDY, CORDIALS, &c.

SAMPLES may be seen at the Auction Mart, on Tuesday Next (the day before the Sale), and tasted the Morning of Sale.

Catalogues on Application. 55

Figure 1: A sample of the wines and spirits stocked by Messrs Samuel Younge & Co

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 1836 John married Ann Taunton at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Sheffield (now Sheffield Cathedral). The site on which the Cathedral was built can trace its Christian origins back to the 9<sup>th</sup> Century.<sup>iv</sup>

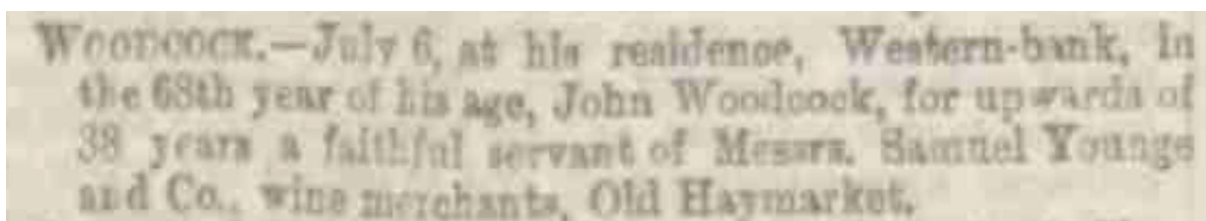
The 1841 census described John as a 'porter' and living at Sycamore Street in Sheffield with Ann and their three children, Henry, Sarah and Jane, born in 1838, 1839 and 1841 respectively. Sadly, Jane died in infancy.

By 1851, John was the manager of the wine vaults at Messrs Samuel Younge & Co and had moved with his family further out of town to 60 Leicester Street. Ann had given birth to four further children since the previous census; John, William, Ann Elizabeth and Jane in 1842, 1844, 1848 and 1849 respectively.

In the 1861 census the family address was recorded as 43 Marcus Street, Bridghouses. Since the previous census Anne had given birth to four more children, Emily, Charles, Thomas and Arthur born in 1854, 1856, 1858 and 1860 respectively, making ten children in all. The following year, the second eldest son, John, a surgical instrument maker, died from consumption at the age of eighteen.<sup>v</sup>

By 1871, John and Ann had moved again. Their address given on the census was 187 Western Bank (Western Bank is now the site of Sheffield University). Ann had taken up employment in a cutlery warehouse and John continued to manage the vaults at Younge & Co.

In 1875, John died aged sixty-eight. His employers Messrs Samuel Younge & Co put an obituary in the local newspaper describing John as a 'faithful servant' having served them for thirty-eight years.<sup>vi</sup>



**Figure 2; Obituary for Arthur Woodcock from his employers**

Arthur, the youngest child in the family, was seventeen when his father died. By 1881, he was lodging at 1 Race Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and working as an insurance clerk. While working in Newcastle he met Annie Harriet Ebdy. The couple were married there a year later in the autumn of 1882.

By the time that their son, Frederick Arthur, was born on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1883, Arthur and Annie were resident in Sheffield. Frederick was baptised at St Mary's Church, Walkley on 25<sup>th</sup> November, about a month after his birth. The address given in the baptismal records for Arthur and Annie was 62 Barber Road, Sheffield.<sup>vii</sup>

Arthur relocated the family to Birmingham around 1891 having secured work there as a cashier in an Insurance Office. The family lived at 31 Beach Road, Sparkbrook. Also resident with them was Ann's maiden aunt, Ann Ebdy, aged seventy-seven. The family employed a sixteen year old general domestic servant, Helena Roberts.

Frederick, an only child, gained a place at King Edward's School, Camp Hill. He enjoyed sport and was well known as a footballer and cricketer. Frederick was also the treasurer of the Birmingham Rowing Club. The club was established in 1873, and is one of the oldest sport clubs in the city, based at Edgbaston Reservoir. On leaving school, Frederick became a clerk in the Aston Branch of Lloyds bank commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May 1900.<sup>viii</sup>

In 1901, he lived at 27 Weatheroak Road, Sparkhill with his parents. The family employed Eliza Howard, aged seventeen, as a domestic servant

In 1911, Frederick was twenty-seven years old, single, and living at 10 Bloomfield Road, Moseley with his parents and his maternal grandfather, Thomas Charles Ebdy, a retired architect, aged seventy-one. Mabel Marklew, aged seventeen, was the family's domestic servant.



When Britain declared war on Germany on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, Frederick was one of the first to enlist in the 1<sup>st</sup> Birmingham Pals Battalion, later the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment (14 RWR). He enlisted on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1914 as Private F A Woodcock, No 14/286 and was part of 'B' Coy, Platoon No V commanded by Lieutenant H L Higgins.<sup>ix</sup>

**Figure 3**

**Private Frederick Arthur Woodcock**



**Figure 4: Frederick is named as being in this group photograph of B Coy, Platoon V, 14<sup>TH</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment**

A period of training ensued. initially based in Sutton Coldfield Park, followed by a month in Wensleydale, where the above platoon photograph was taken (and when the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division came together), a musketry course in Hornsea and finally three months on Salisbury Plain, after which, the three Birmingham Pal Regiments were considered ready for action, Thomas set sail from Folkestone for Boulogne on *SS Invicta* with his regiment, arriving in France on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915.<sup>x</sup>



Soon after their arrival, the 14 RWR were transferred to 13th Brigade, 5th Division, a move designed to put the regiment with more experienced troops.

**Figure 5: *SS Invicta***

The 14 RWR took over part of the Bray Front on the River Somme at Frise in March 1916 before relocating in July to the Somme. They were in action at High Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, the Battle of Fleurs-Courcelette, the battle of Morval and the Battle of Transloy.

In October the regiment moved to Festubert and remained there until March 1917 when they moved south in preparation for the Battle of Arras.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1917 the regiment moved out of line for a period of rest before being sent to Flanders where they were in action in the Third Battle of Ypres.<sup>xi</sup>

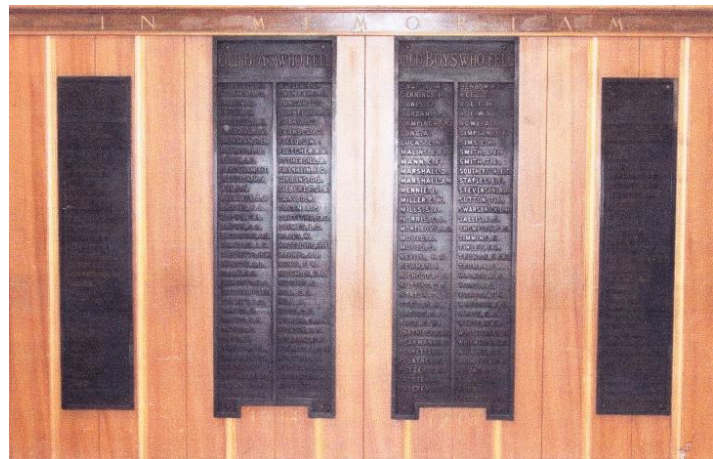
Thomas survived all these battles but by the end of 1917 the fighting was beginning to take a serious toll on his health. The regiment were due to entrain for Italy between 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 1917, but Frederick was not one of them as he was invalided home on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1917, to Fir Vale Hospital in Sheffield because he was 'physically unfit for duty'. At the hospital he was diagnosed with VDH (Valvular Disorder of the Heart) a physical disorder due to an 'infection on active service'. He was awarded a Silver War Badge, No 329984 and a 100 % disablement pension, commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1918 and was due to be discharged from hospital on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Frederick never made it home alive. He died in hospital on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1918.<sup>xii</sup>



**Figure 6: Fir Vale Workhouse became Sheffield Union Hospital in 1906 but was known as Fir Vale Hospital in WW1. It is now the Northern General Hospital**

His parents, arranged for Frederick's body to be returned to Birmingham for burial. The funeral took place at Brandwood End Cemetery on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 3 pm, leaving Messrs N Wheatley & Sons, Funeral Directors in Station Street at 1.30 pm. 'No flowers' was requested.<sup>xiii</sup>

Frederick is commemorated at St Mary's Church, Moseley, King Edward's School Camp Hill, Lloyds Bank WW1 memorial and Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club, Moseley. He is also on the Roll of Honour at Birmingham's Hall of Memory and in Lloyds Bank Book of Remembrance



**Figure 7**  
 (Above left) WW1 memorial at St Mary's Church, Moseley.  
 (Above right) WW1 memorial at King Edward's School, Camp Hill with Frederick's name shown below  
 (Bottom left) Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club memorial  
 (Bottom right) Lloyds Bank WW1 memorial originally at Lombard Street, London. It was moved to Canons House Bristol in 2004

Frederick's mother Annie died suddenly on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1926. His father, Arthur, died on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1947, at the age of eighty-six.

**Written and researched by Edwina Rees**  
**Moseley Society History Group**

**Permission to copy subject to acknowledgement**

The Moseley Society History Group carries out its own research and publishes the results on its website and in booklets, posters and written reports. It also responds to individual enquiries as far as it is able. The History Group grants permission to quote from any of its published research material and any responses to individual enquiries for non-commercial and educational purposes, but only on condition that the History Group is acknowledged as the source of the information used, together with the author where specified, and on the understanding that the History Group cannot guarantee or accept liability for the accuracy of its material. Use for commercial purposes is not permitted unless terms have previously been agreed with the History Group.

**Footnotes**

- 
- i Bishop's Transcripts 1751-1812 in the Nottingham marriages Index  
Nottingham baptisms index 1538-1917  
England & Wales Christening Index, 1530-1980
  - ii Worksop Priory  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worksop\\_Priory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worksop_Priory)
  - iii *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 7<sup>th</sup> July 1875
  - iv Yorkshire Marriages  
Sheffield Cathedral  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheffield\\_Cathedral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheffield_Cathedral)
  - v *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 28 June 1862
  - vi *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 7<sup>th</sup> July 1875  
Index To Death Duty Registers 1796-1903, 1875
  - vi *Birmingham Daily Post*, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1918
  - vi Carter, Terry. 1997. Birmingham Pals: 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (Service Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Pen & Sword Books Ltd, Barnsley, pp 95-98
  - vi Wartime Memories Project, 14<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Birmingham) Battalion Regiment during the Great War  
<http://www.wartimemoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion.php?pid=7356>

- 
- vi Award Sheet – Disablement Pension Records Ref MJ G 4065
- vi *Birmingham Gazette*, 8<sup>th</sup> February 1918
- viii *Birmingham Daily Post*, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1918  
Group Archives, Lloyds Banking Group, 155 Bishopgate, London, EC2M 3UB with thanks to archivist, Peter Judge
- ix Award Sheet – Disablement Pension Records Ref MJ G 4065  
Birmingham City Battalions Book of Honour, 1920
- x Carter, Terry. 1997. Birmingham Pals: 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (Service Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Pen & Sword Books Ltd, Barnsley, pp 87-98
- xi Wartime Memories Project, 14<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Birmingham) Battalion Regiment during the Great War  
<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion.php?pid=7356>
- xii Award Sheet – Disablement Pension Records Ref MJ G 4065
- xiii *Birmingham Gazette*, 8<sup>th</sup> February 1918

## Illustrations

- Figure 1 *Sheffield Independent*, 20 October 1888
- Figure 2 *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 7<sup>th</sup> July 1875
- Figure 3 Carter, Terry. 1997. Birmingham Pals: 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (Service Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Pen & Sword Books Ltd, Barnsley, p 250  
Original source, the Group Archives, Lloyds Banking Group, 155 Bishopgate, London, EC2M 3UB with thanks to archivist, Peter Judge
- Figure 4 Birmingham City Battalions Book of Honour, 1920
- Figure 5 *SS Invicta*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Dabtoe, Invision zone  
<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/topic/31977-invicta/>
- Figure 6 Fir Vale Hospital  
[https://www.hpacde.org.uk/picturesheffield/jpgh\\_sheffield/s07437.jpg](https://www.hpacde.org.uk/picturesheffield/jpgh_sheffield/s07437.jpg)
- Figure 7 WW1 memorial at King Edward's School Camp Hill with thanks to David Wooley  
WW1 memorial Lloyds Bank  
<http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/Our-Group/our-heritage/first-world-war/our-memorials/lloyds-bank-war-memorial/>