



# Lives of Oxford Road

# Norcot Road Burial Ground

At the bottom of Norcot Road is a burial ground with a number of graves.

This is the burial ground for Tilehurst St George church in St George's Road off the Oxford Road.

The people buried may be dead but their lives are worth telling.

Some of these people probably still have relations living in the local area.

As Tilehurst St George church was in part built to serve the recently constructed Brock Barracks, there are within the burial ground many Commonwealth War Graves for those lost in the First World War.



# War Graves on Norcot Road

Below a selection of graves of young men who fought in the first First World War. Using the dates and names on the greaves, we can explore the lives of these young men and the lives of the families they left behind.

All of the young men below lived on or near Oxford Road. Throughout this resource we will learn more about how they lived before they left for the War.

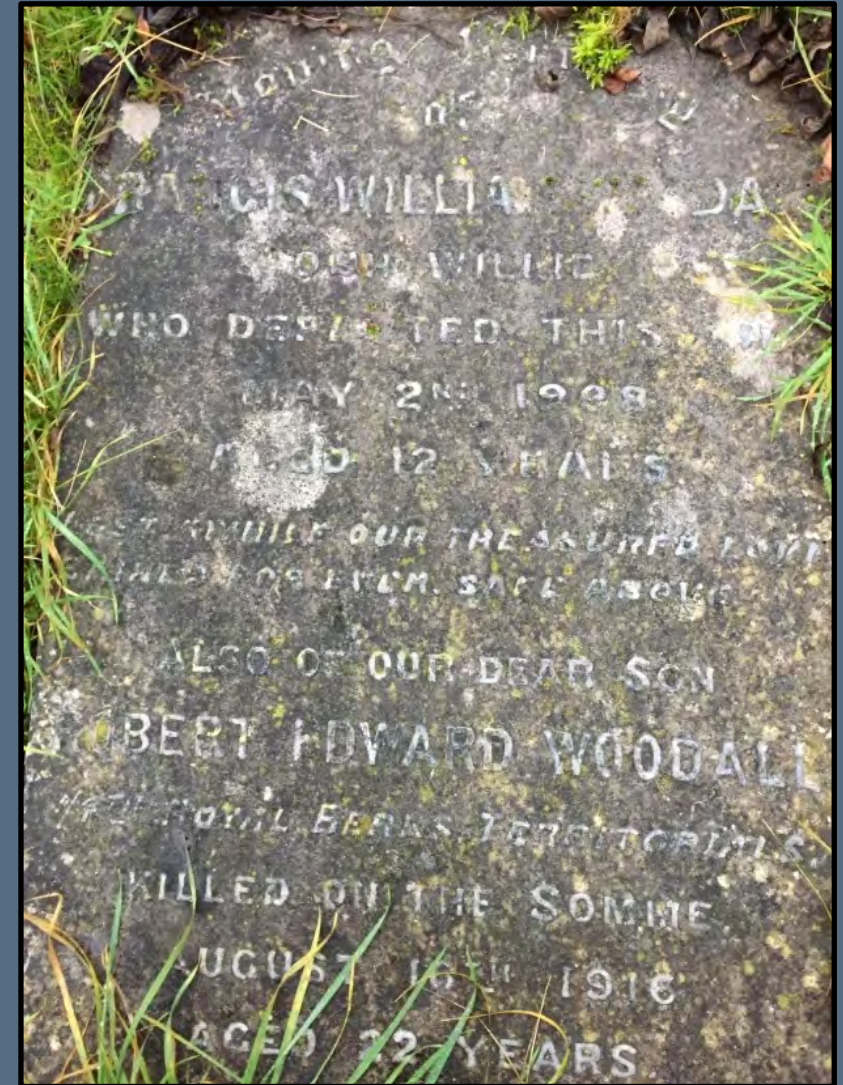


# The Woodall Family

The gravestone pictured shows the name Francis William Woodall.

In 1911 the Woodall family lived at 87 Waverley Road - the house pictured.

When they first came to Reading they lived in 26 Elm Road



# Francis Woodall and Family

Francis Woodall was born in 1866.

His wife , Kate Motley, was born in 1869.

Both were originally from the east end of London.

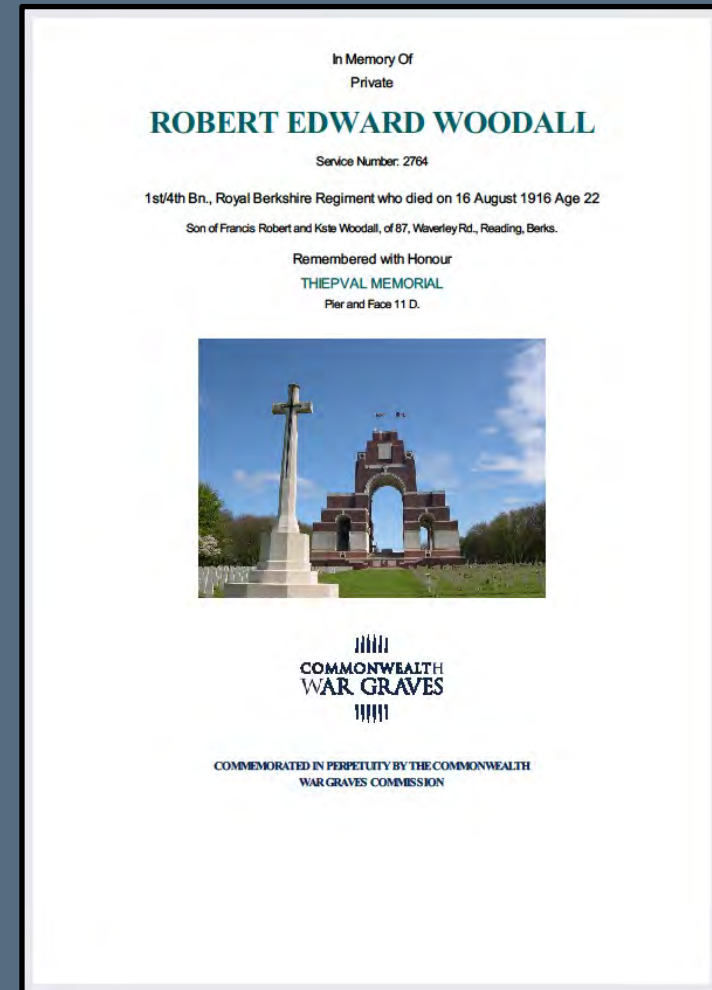
They had a daughter and three sons. The last two, Percy and Dorothy, were born in Reading.

The family moved to Reading because Francis had a job as a mechanical draughtsman at Pulsometer Engineering Co Ltd, a company based on the Oxford Road near Norcot Road.

The family suffered a double tragedy: first the death of their son, Francis William (“Our Willie”) who was drowned in the River Kennet in 1908; and then another son, Robert, was killed fighting in the First World War.

# Robert Edward Woodall

Robert Edward Woodall was killed in action on the Somme 1916 in World War 1.



# Robert Woodall's Obituary

An obituary is a notice of death, usually found in newspapers. You can find Robert's below on the right hand side, three paragraphs down.

**WOOD** William of Fishmongers Houses Harrietsham **Kent** died 19 June 1916 Probate **London** 7 July to Arthur Tong builder. Effects £20.

**WOOD** William of 5 Brown-street Scholes **Wigan** engine fitter died 19 July 1916 at Walker Brothers Pagefield Engineering Works Wigan Administration **Liverpool** 16 August to Charlotte Wood widow. Effects £375 os. 6d.

**WOOD** William of 32 St. James'-street **Dover** captain Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment died 30 May 1916 in France killed in action Probate **Canterbury** 8 September to Thomas Henry Royce cycle and motor engineer. Effects £416 7s. 8d.

**WOOD** William of 10 Richmond-terrace Moston-lane New Moston **Manchester** formerly a railway goods inspector died 24 August 1916 Probate **Manchester** 18 September to Emily Wood widow and Mark Wood railway clerk. Effects £200.

**WOOD** William of 205 Stobcross-street **Glasgow** died 28 July 1915 Eik to Margaret Hannah or Wood. Sealed **London** 15 June. Confirmation Sealed **London** 7 October 1915.

Effects £97442 11s. 9d.

**WOODALL** John of Wistow Selby **Yorkshire** died 5 July 1916 Probate **Wakefield** 26 July to Tom Woodall builder Robert Tomlinson farmer and Edward Howden retired innkeeper. Effects £233 5s. 3d.

**WOODALL** Robert of 57 Clifton-road Canning Town **Essex** died 27 November 1915 Administration **London** 20 July to Emma Woodall widow. Effects £494 18s. 10d. Resworn £224 18s. 10d.

**WOODALL** Robert Edward of 87 Waverley-road **Reading** private 4th battalion Royal Berkshire regiment died 16 August 1916 in France on active service Administration **Oxford** 27 November to Francis Robert Woodall mechanical draughtsman. Effects £87 6s.

**WOODASON** Harry of Cove near Farnborough **Hampshire** private 2nd battalion Hampshire regiment died 9 July 1915 at sea Administration (with Will) **London** 20 April to Rose Woodason (wife of Samuel Woodason). Effects £114 16s. 8d.

**WOODASON** Mary Ann of Green-lane Cottage Easthampstead **Berkshire** widow died 12 February 1915 Probate **Oxford**

# Edmund Tegg

Edmund was born in Tidmarsh in 1881.

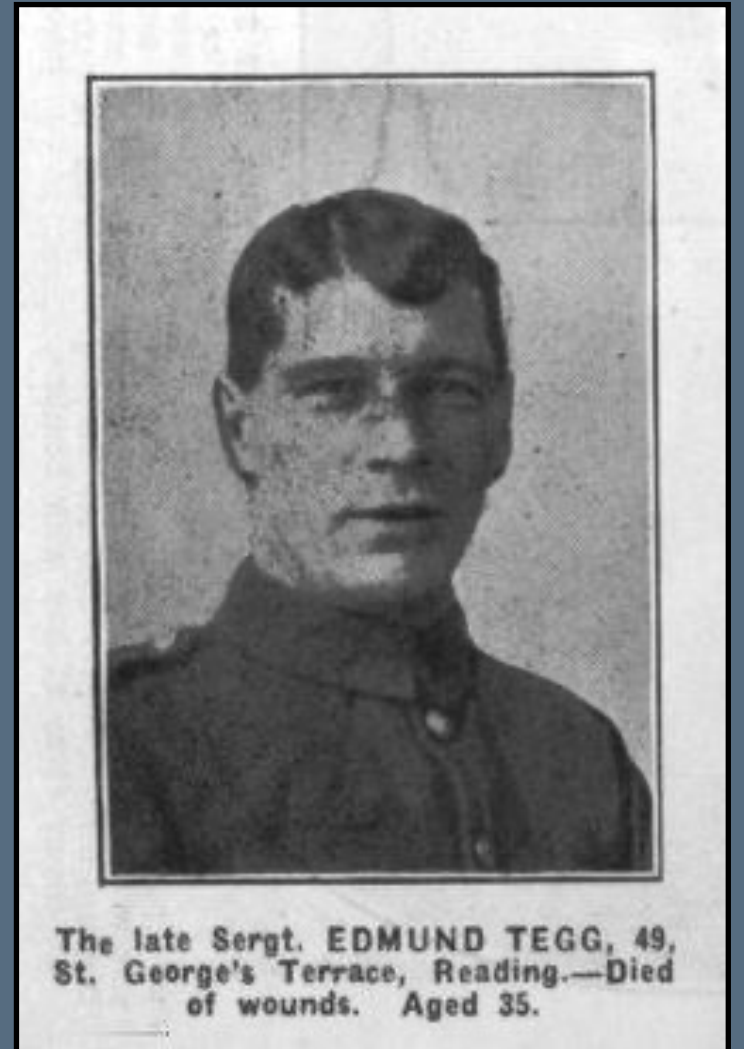
In 1901 he was living with his parents in 3 Beecham Road.

In 1903 Edmund married Mabel Smith and they had a daughter, Olive May. However, Mabel died in 1908.

In 1911 Edmund, now a widower, was back home with his parents living at 28 St George's Road. He was a bricklayer and his father was a woodsman/sawyer, originally born in Pangbourne.

He married again in 1914 to Ethel Thorne and they had a son, Edmund William Charles.

In 1916, Edmund worked at the S&E Collier brickworks at the top of Grovelands Road. They allowed Edmund and other employees to join the war effort in the hope that they could come back to work when the war was over.





# S&E Collier War Memorial

Edmund Tegg died from wounds received on the battlefield in a UK military hospital in Birmingham in 1916.

He is remembered on the S&E Collier Ltd War Memorial in Water Road, along with other company employees who died in the war. The memorial was unveiled shortly after the end of the war.

Reading's largest brickmakers, S & E Collier Ltd, were established at Coley in the mid 19th century. Colliers moved to Grovelands, Tilehurst in 1870 and operated until 1966. They were well known for their terracotta and 'Reading Red' bricks.



# William King

William King was born in Reading in 1877.

In 1891, William was living with his parents at 607 Oxford Road (pictured). His father was a brick maker as was his grandfather. His brother, George, also worked as a terracotta maker and George would be followed in to the business by his son, George junior.

However, William started his working life as a carpenter before the change of career.

In 1910 he married Lydia Smith, born 1883, who was also from Reading. Her father was a blacksmith living on Armour Road, Tilehurst.

In 1911 William was a tile maker at S&E Collier.



# William King's Obituary

William King died in November 1918 at the Wareham Military Hospital in Dorset from sickness. The exact nature the illness is not known but it may be that this was the “Spanish Flu” pandemic, which affected many returning soldiers.

William King is remembered on the S&E Collier war memorial.

**KING** William of Alne **Yorkshire** died 15 November 1919 Probate **York** 4 February to Hannah Jane Lee (wife of Quinton Lee) and Emily Harriet Myers (wife of John Myers). Effects £120 12s. 11d.

**KING** William of 27 Pinfold-road Streatham **Surrey** died 28 October 1919 Probate **London** 16 February to Peter Garton major R.A.F. and Francis Robin Wix manager. Effects £9594 15s. 9d.

**KING** William of 20 Shaftesbury-road **Reading** a private Tank Corps H.M. Army died 3 November 1918 at The Wareham Military Hospital Dorsetshire Probate **London** 23 February to Lydia King widow. Effects £489 15s. 6d.

**KING** William of Burridge Chardstock **Devonshire** a captain in H.M. Army (retired) died 5 February 1920 Probate **Blandford** 26 March to Charles James Stuart King esquire and John Adams Forward solicitor. Effects £17771 3s. 4d.

**KINGABY** Walter James of 82 Queens-avenue Watford **Hertfordshire** died 23 October 1920 Administration **London** 29 December to Lilian Rose Kingaby widow. Effects £600 4s. 1d.

**KINGCOMBE** Archibald William of 68 Salford-road Streatham Hill **Surrey** died 7 August 1917 Probate **London** 2 February to Maud Alexia Ann Kingcombe widow. Effects £124 0s. 4d.

**KINGDOM** John Henry of 5 Mafeking-road Penylan **Cardiff** died 10 January 1920 Probate **Llandaff** 3 February to Minnie Kingdom widow. Effects £985.

**KINGDOM** Robert of 73 Moorland-road **Cardiff** died 1 January 1920 Probate **Llandaff** 10 February to Anna Eliza Kingdom widow. Effects £120.

**KINGDON** Alfred of 51 Meredith-road **Plymouth** died 24

# Iremonger family

The Iremonger family name has long associations with the Reading area and several past Reading Mayors have been called Iremonger.

James Iremonger was born in Reading in 1851.

He had a general store at 528 Oxford Road in the 1890s and 1900s.

His wife was, Eliza, who was born in Binfield Heath in 1853.

They had two daughters in Reading: Sarah was born in 1877 and Lily in 1893.

Lily would marry Albert Miller in 1925.



# James and Frederick Iremonger

James had a number of siblings including Frederick born in 1861.

Frederick also lived along the Oxford Road and worked for a number of years as a chimney sweep, as you can see listed on the census extract below. His son, Frederick Junior, assisted his father in the business.

Frederick would leave Reading for London where his wife was born and continued to work as a chimney sweep but would return and lived at 400 Oxford Road.

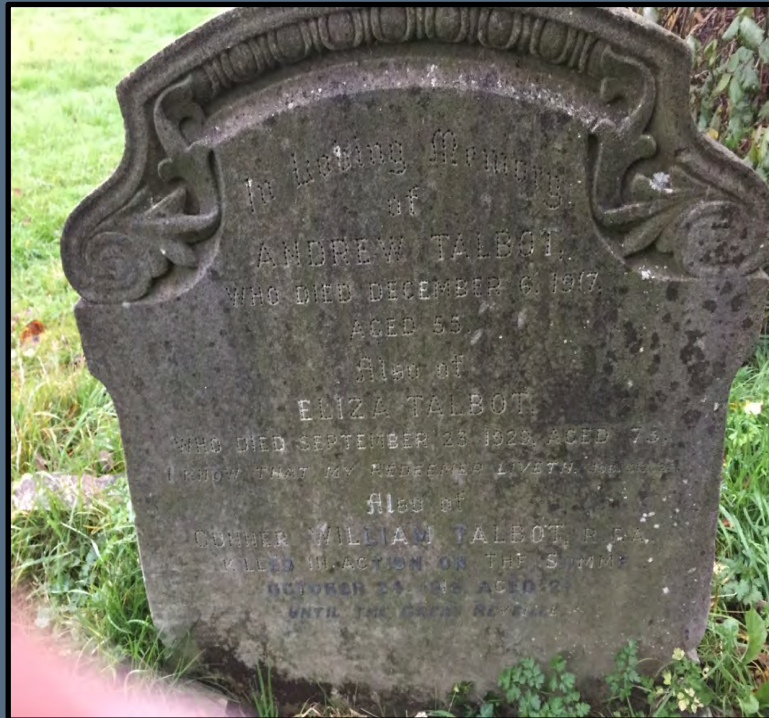
Frederick Iremonger	Head	M	39	Chimney Sweep	Own account	do
Jane	Wife	M	39			Sheltenham Glos
Elizabeth	Daughter	S	19	Fly paper maker	Worker	Reading
Frederick	Son	S	17	Chimney Sweep	do	do
Flora	Daughter		15	Fly paper maker	do	do

# Talbot Family

Andrew Talbot was born near Newbury and married to Eliza from near Winchester in Hampshire in 1889. He worked as a shoeing smith (blacksmith).

They had four children, two daughters and two sons, including William who was born in 1896 and was one of three born in Reading.

The Talbots in 1901 were living at 29 Chester Street off the Oxford Road. By 1911, the family had moved along the street to 44 Chester Street.



# William Talbot

In 1911, William was working at as a brickyard labourer at S&E Collier.

He was killed in action on the Somme in 1916. However, he is not commemorated on the S&E Collier war memorial, so it is assumed that he had moved jobs before he joined the army in the First World War.

William's name is included with many others on the Thiepval Memorial in France.

INDEX No. M.R.21 THIEPVAL MEM. PART XLIII	TALBOT, Cpl. Frederick, 12960. 8th Bn. Norfolk Regt. 1st July, 1916. Age 33. Son of Mrs. Maria Talbot, of 19, Mile End, Brandon; husband of Alice Maud Talbot, of 12, Mile End, Brandon, Suffolk.	TALBOT, Pte. Thomas, 3102. 1st/7th Bn. Worcestershire Regt. 21st Aug., 1916.
	TALBOT, Pte. Frederick, G/41325. 2nd Bn. Middlesex Regt. 8th Nov., 1916.	TALBOT, Pte. Uriah, 18348. 2nd Bn. South Staffordshire Regt. 27th July, 1916. Age 19. Son of Mrs. Talbot, of 72, Brindley Heath, Hednesford, Staffs.
	TALBOT, Pte. George Edward, 11730. 6th Bn. Wiltshire Regt. 2nd July, 1916. Age 20. Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Talbot, of 10, Nicholay Rd., Upper Holloway, London.	TALBOT, Pte. William, 12307. 6th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt. 30th Sept., 1916.
	TALBOT, Pte. Jesse, 201393 (4524). 1st/4th Bn. Gloucestershire Regt. 17th July, 1916. Age 21. Son of Frederick and Ellen Talbot, of 6, Leycroft Rd., Taunton, Somerset.	TALBOT, Gnr. William, 12962. "D" Bty. 62nd Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 24th Oct., 1916. Age 21. Son of Mrs. E. Talbot, of 44, Chester St., Oxford Rd., Reading, and the late Mr. A. Talbot.
	TALBOT, Pte. John, 16560. 19th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). 27th Jan., 1917.	TALBOTT, Pte. Walter James, 306274. 1st/8th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 1st July, 1916. Age 21. Son of James Francis and Bessie Talbott, of Mill St., Wincanton, Somerset.
	TALBOT, Pte. John Thomas, 19293. 7th Bn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Inf. 19th Sept., 1916.	TALBY, Rfn. Robert William, 5878. 1st Bn. Queen Victoria's Rifles. 9th Sept., 1916.
	TALBOT, Pte. Joseph, 6533. 2nd Bn. Irish Guards. 27th Sept., 1916. Age 38. Son of the late Joseph Talbot; husband of Margaret Talbot, of 8, Ludgate St., Tutbury, Burton-on-Trent.	TALKINGTON, Pte. James, 5608. 1st/24th Bn. London Regt. 10th Oct., 1916.
	TALBOT, Pte. Leonard, 47657. 1st/6th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. 18th March, 1918.	TALKINGTON, Pte. Percy, L/15312. 11th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 26th Sept., 1916. Age 22. Son of Mrs. Caroline J. Talkington, of Tooting, London.
	TALBOT, Pte. Montague Charles, 24572. 10th Bn. Essex Regt. 20th July, 1916. Age 22. Son of the late Henry Charles and Louisa Talbot, of Moreton, Ongar, Essex.	TALLET, Pte. George, 3/10105. 2nd Bn. Durham Light Inf. 15th Oct., 1916.
	TALBOT, 2nd Lt. Norman Hale. 5th Bn. Oxf. and Bucks Light Inf., formerly Hon. Artillery	TALLETT, Pte. Charles Frederick William, 12782. 2nd Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. 8th July, 1916. Age 26. Son of the late Charles



# Rapley Family

John Rapley was born in 1823 in Surrey.

He moved to Reading in the 1850s.

After his first wife died, he married again in 1873 to Anne Hillier who was born in Reading.

In 1881 they were living at 6 Grovelands Road, off Oxford Road.





# John Rapley's Obituary

John died in 1903 when he was living in Russell Street. This was the family home of William Wheeler, his son in law, who is also buried in the same grave. William was a tailor living and working on the Oxford Road for a number of years. The amount of £1,622 that John Rapley left partly to William Wheeler would be worth today appropriately £200,000.

## 1903.

**RAPHAEL** Raphael Sidka of Shanghai China died 12 February 1902 Administration **London** 24 March to Mary Raphael spinster Effects £1631 5s.

**RAPLEY** Ernest Richard of 12 Franconia-road Clapham Surrey died 28 May 1903 Administration **London** 23 July to George Warrington Rapley brewer's-clerk Effects £437 1s. 2d.

**RAPLEY** John of 33 Russell-street Reading died 8 June 1903 Probate **London** 16 July to Frederick Charles Hillier company's-secretary and William John Wheeler tailor Effects £1622 18s. 2d.

**RAPLEY** William of Ufford Suffolk retired jeweller died 1 June 1903 Probate **Ipswich** 21 August to Elizabeth Rapley widow Effects £964 12s.

**RAPP** Adolph of 8 Stockwell Park-road Clapham Surrey died 28 March 1903 Administration **London** 28 April to Louis Rapp vinegar-maker Effects £224.

**RAPPE** Henry of 18 St. James'-road Southsea Hants died 16 March 1903 Probate **London** 24 March to Ellen Rappe widow Effects £188 10s.

**RAPSON** Harriet of York-union-workhouse York spinster died 12 January 1903 Probate **York** 12 February to Amelia Gray widow Effects £68 9s. 8d.

**RAPSON** John Neske of 26 Hemingford-road, Barnsbury Middlesex died 3 November 1903 at Goodge-street, Marylebone Middlesex Probate

# Stories left to tell..

Some people listed on graves are harder to find but perhaps you can find their stories..

