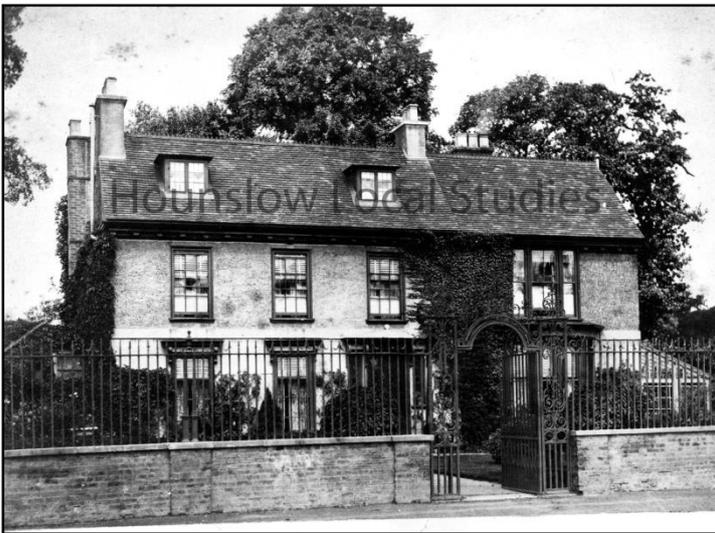


## John Garrett Grout

Born in 1886 into one of the wealthier families in Isleworth, John was the seventh of eleven children of Charles and Ann Margaret Grout. The two eldest children were born in Hackney, but by 1878 the family had moved to Isleworth and nine children were baptised at All Saints church. Their father was described in the baptism register and earlier censuses as a proprietor of refreshment rooms or caterer, and "of independent means" in later censuses. He left over £16,500 when he died in 1921.



They lived at Marlborough Park Cottage, London Road, Isleworth. This was by Busch Corner, but was demolished in 1931 after Spur Road was built, and made way for a parade of shops.

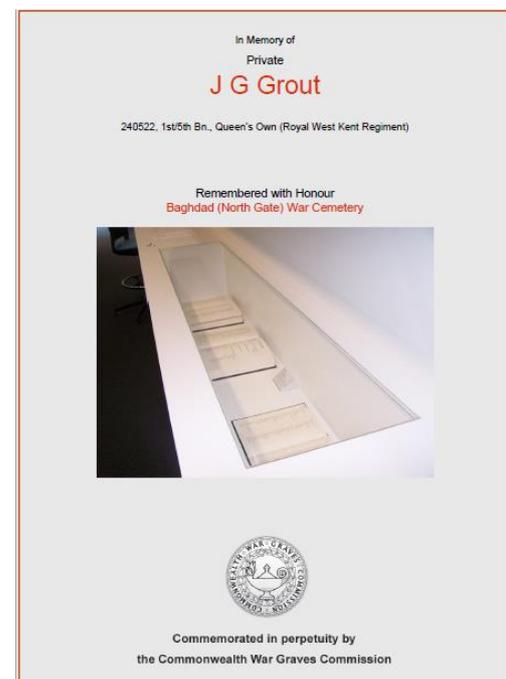


Marlborough Park Cottage (left) and on 1895 O.S. map

John Garrett Grout attended Isleworth Grammar School. In 1911 he was an estate agent, living in Croydon, and an assistant surveyor when he enlisted in Bromley in August 1914, as a Private in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) 1st/5th Territorial Force. A partial service record survives. After some months in India, he was attached to a unit in Turkey that was besieged for nearly five months in Kut-al-Amara, Mesopotamia. At its surrender in April 1916 the starving troops were captured and forced to march hundreds of miles to prisoner-of-war labour camps in Turkey. Conditions were brutal and the mortality rate very high. John died of typhoid fever on 3rd October 1916, in hospital in Intilli (or Entelli), Turkey, and was initially buried in the cemetery there. The CWGC later exhumed his body for burial in Baghdad North Gate Cemetery.

John Garrett Grout was not married. Two of his older brothers served in the Imperial Yeomanry in the Boer War and are named on a tablet in Isleworth Public Hall - George Gilbert was killed in 1900; Charles Albert survived and emigrated to Australia. A younger brother also died in 1900, aged 10. Two

other brothers served in World War One and survived. Their sister Lucy Mabel married Allan Trembath who was killed in action in 1915 and is also among the 390 on the war memorial. Other siblings married, had children, and some remained in the Isleworth area. Their surnames include Adams, Gooch and Merriman. John is also remembered on the memorial in Isleworth & Syon School (previously Isleworth County School) and at All Saints, Church Street.



(Left) The tablet in Isleworth Public Hall commemorates the service of the Isleworth soldiers who fought in the South African campaigns in 1900-1901, including two of John's brothers and his brother-in-law Allan Edward Trembath.