

George William Watson

George William Watson was born in 1885 in Sittingbourne, Kent, the only son of Peter and Emma Watson. He had a sister Alberta, four years his senior, born in Paddington. In 1891 the family lived at 46 the High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent



His mother was born in Pimlico, London. His father was a draper, born in Scotland. Perhaps it was his Scottish heritage that influenced George to enlist in the London Regiment (London Scottish) when the call came to join the army. In 1899, when George was just 14, his father died and by 1901 Emma had moved to 34 Brondesbury Villas, Willesden, with George, to live with her sister Jane Shackle.

George became a bank clerk and his mother worked as a dressmaker.

Jane had her

own private income and they kept a servant. In 1911, George is recorded as a general furnishing clerk, living in Hammersmith at 122 Percy Road, Shepherds Bush with his mother, his aunt, his sister, Alberta and her future

husband, Cedric Locksmith, whom she married in

August 1916 at All Souls Church in Isleworth (see below left). On the marriage

certificate Alberta and Cedric were living at 2 Percy Road Isleworth (see above left for a photo taken in 2016), possibly George had lived there too. Certainly

by 1919, the Electoral Roll reveals Emma was living there also. George William had enlisted in Acton as a private in the 1st /14th County of London Battalion (London Scottish). The regiment was sent to the Western Front to fight in France and Flanders. George was killed in action aged 31 on September 5th 1916 during the disastrous Somme Offensive. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, the monument to the Missing of the Somme. His mother received the war gratuity as his sole legatee. George is also remembered on the monument inside All Souls Church, Northcote Road.

