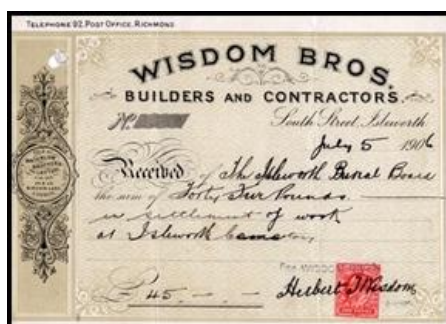


## George Francis James Wisdom

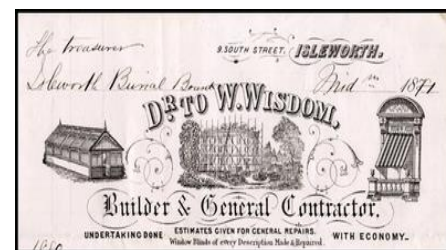


George was born in December 1887 to William (1847-1919) and Ann Wisdom (1849-1931, nee Reakes, who had married in 1874 in Kent). William was a successful builder and they lived in Cedar Cottage, 41 Worton Road. George had six older brothers and sisters: Minnie Eliza, William Towers, John, Herbert Thomas, Margaret and Isabel Mary. In 1898, William sat on the county council of Middlesex for Isleworth. When Chiswick Urban District Council was formed in the 1890s, the original Town Hall was enlarged by William Wisdom for £20,000, completed in 1901. In the census of 1881, William and Ann are living at 9 South Street, Isleworth, with Minnie, William, John and Herbert. William is listed as a Master Builder employing 4 men and 2 boys. In 1891, they are living at Cedar Cottage, Worton Lane, Isleworth and at the same residence in 1901 and 1911. By 1901, George was a student at the Emmanuel School in Wandsworth Common, aged 13. Minnie was working as an Elementary School Mistress; William and Herbert were builder's assistants and Margaret and Isabel were Pupil Teachers in an Elementary School. George had a new brother, Colin born in 1892 and his brother John, was in the Royal Navy. In 1911, Colin was aged 20, and a boarder, living in Bourton Dorset as an apprentice mechanical engineer

In 1907, Minnie married John George Carey, a civil engineer and surveyor. William's headed paper gave his address as South Street, Isleworth. Nowadays, Wisdom Court occupies the site opposite his former offices. In the 1911 Census, William Wisdom was listed as a Box and Packing Case Maker.



*Left: a receipt from 1906 for work on Isleworth Cemetery by the Wisdoms*



*Right: a letterhead from an 1871 invoice.*

George enlisted into the Canadian Pioneers 3rd Battalion on 4th May, 1914 in Victoria, British Columbia as Private 431024. The Pioneers landed in France on 9th March, 1916 and were used to support the British Sherwood Foresters Pioneers at Ypres. George died of his wounds on 17th June, 1916, aged 28. He is buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Grave V1111 A. 36 (**See right**). George is also remembered on the memorial at Isleworth and Syon School, formerly Isleworth County School. George's brother, Colin Matson also lost his life aged 26, on April 9<sup>th</sup> 1917, serving with the Canadian Infantry (16372) at Vimy Ridge. The Middlesex Chronicle (24<sup>th</sup> October 1914) reported that William Wisdom of 'Collingbourne' Whitton Road Hounslow, had two sons on active service: Colin was serving with the first British Columbian Canadian contingent and that his brother John, was Engineer, Lieutenant Commander on HMS Acasta.

