

George Henry Woodley (b.1890) was the first son born to Arthur and Fanny. He was baptised on 6th July 1890 at St Mary's the Virgin in Bedfont, near to where Arthur was born in Stanwell. Their first child was a daughter whom they called Alice. In 1891, the family lived at 36 Brook Road Ealing. Later the 1901 census tells us that four more children had arrived, Harriet, May, Alfred, and Fanny. Their father was working as a labourer at the local Gas Works in Brentford and the family now lived at 38 Distillery Road, Brentford. Ten years later, Jane, Joy, Lizzie, Louise and Rose had joined the family, who were now living at No. 66 Distillery Road. Arthur was listed as a labourer (probably still at the gas works) where he was joined by his son and future soldier, George. The three older girls worked as packers and sorters -and a 'calendar hand' - at the local laundry.



George's future wife, Louisa Amelia Cranston (b1885), lived at 21 Percy Gardens. The couple were married on 6th April 1913 at St John's Church Isleworth and lived at 17 Aylett Road. Sadly, their happy marriage would not last long as WW1 was looming. Less than 18 months later, George enlisted to fight for his country. There are no service records for George's military history. We do know however, that his experience of warfare was to be very short. George enlisted at Kensington Recruitment Station sometime in early August 1914. He joined the 1st/13th (Kensingtons) Battalion moved to Abbots Langley in Herefordshire for training, and was then mobilised for war. He arrived at Havre in early November 1914. **George would be dead in just over six and a half weeks.**

It appears that George's battalion was not part of any major battle during the six weeks up to his death on 29th December 1914. His death took place just a few days after the famous Christmas truce involving a series of widespread unofficial cease fires along the Western Front. George was 'killed in action' so he probably died in an 'encounter battle' or skirmish. He was 24. George is buried in the Rue Du Bacquerot (13th London Graveyard) Laventie, which was begun by the 1st Royal Irish Rifles in November 1914. Graves of the fallen 'Kensingtons' were added from December onwards.



Six months after George was killed, his wife Louisa gave birth to a daughter, Joan Winifred. The baby must have been a blessing for Louisa, but it would also be a struggle to bring up a child with no financial support. In Sep 1915 Louisa, who was now living at 33 North St., placed an advert in the Middlesex Chronicle advertising a "Furnished room in quiet house close to trams and seven minutes from Isleworth Station, clean, comfortable." Woodley. 33 North Street Isleworth. Louisa was probably hoping to sub-let. Mother and daughter can be found in the 1939 Census living together at 22 Aylett Road. In 1940 Joan married Joseph Rene Sevigny.

George's granddaughter tells us the final chapter of this story. Joan and Joseph had two daughters, Helene (b1941 Brentford) and Michale (b1943 Surry Kent) before emigrating to Canada in about 1945. Their son Clifford was born in Canada in 1946. George's daughter Joan died in February 2004 aged 88.

