Frank Clarke

1888 -1930

Frank Clarke is the brother of Edwin Clarke who is on the memorial amongst those who fell.

Frank Clarke was born in Runwell, Essex about July 1888.

He first appears on the **1891** Census aged 2 years.

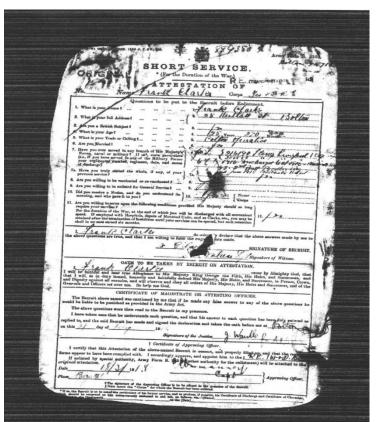
Ruth (nee Roberts born 1856 in Cropwell Butler, in the borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire). They married in Chelmsford in July 1883. He had a brother John Roberts Clarke aged 6 (born 19 January 1885 also in Runwell). His youngest brother was Albert Hingley Clarke (born October 1889 in Runwell) [see piece below about Albert's WWW1 Service not recorded on the Memorial!]. They lived in Church Road.

His father was employed as a Butler in Domestic Service. In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described Runwell as having a "Manor, with R. Hall, belongs to T. Kemble, Esq.". Is this where Joseph worked?

In 1901 Frank lived with the family but they now lived in Wishford Road, Runwell.

In **1911** the family are living at 9 St. Pauls Place (now Elliot Street close to the Ainsworth Arms on the corner of Moss Bank Way and Halliwell Road and within easy walking of Smithills Hall), Halliwell, Bolton. Joseph is a Butler "Domestic". The family have an additional son named **Edwin** aged 6 years also born in Runwell [Edwin died in the First World War and is on the Smithills Hall Chapel Memorial]. They must have moved to Bolton after 1905.

Joseph is a Butler working at Smithills Hall, Frank is a "Shop Assistant (Drapers)", Albert is a "Cabinet Maker" and Edwin is a "Drapers Apprentice". Frank's parents have been married 27 years and have had four children who were all living.



Frank's Short Service Record (see below dated 1915) shows that he had enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment (twice) and the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment, and acquired three service numbers, perhaps denoting three separate periods of service. He had also been in the Royal Engineers Transportation Branch. The record also shows that he was twice discharged as medically unfit. Frank lived at 25 Nuttall Street, Bolton, was married and had worked as a "cotton operative."

Other WW1 Service Records (1914-1920) show him in the Royal

Engineers, Transportation Branch and that he married **Lilly Hooper** on **12 August 1916**. They had two children: Robert and Nellie.

He is mentioned in an article in the Bolton Evening News (date unknown) in connection with a photograph of a Zeppelin over Smithills Hall taken by a Frank Clarke, who is described as a keen photographer, and who was living at **Smithills Hall**, Bolton along with his parents Joseph and Ruth Clarke.



The article also goes on to record that "Frank was gassed during that war (WW1) and although he survived the Armistice he died in the 1920s from this experience.". This is a little inaccurate as he died aged 42, between October and December 1930.

Frank's older brother **John Roberts Clarke** emigrated to the USA pre 1907 and married **Ida F Gunter** who was born in **Germany**. They had two children. **Elsie Ruth** (she is likely to have been called Ruth after his mother) born 26th September 1907 in San Francisco, USA and **Beatrice A** born 25th August 1909 in San Francisco, USA. Elsie died 22nd March 1987 at Carmel, Monterey, California, USA and Beatrice died 11th July 2001 at Bellingham, Washington, USA.

John Roberts Clarke died on 30th September 1948 at Alameda, California, USA.

Albert Hingley Clarke

Oct 1889 - 5th November 1918

This narrative is included because Albert fought in WW1 and died in 1918 probably as a result of his wartime experiences. He was discharged from the Labour Corps on 23rd November 1917 in Nottingham due to disability from war service¹. It is not known why he was not added to the Memorial other than he was not living in Bolton when the Memorial was inaugurated.

He married Eliza Leach on 19th May 1915 at The Parish Church, Christ Church, Blackburn when he



was 25 years of age. He was a Sergeant 348022, in the Kings Lancashire Regiment and was living at **The Cottage, Smithills Hall, Bolton**. Eliza was 23 years of age and a dressmaker living at 343 Bolton Road, Blackburn. Present were Albert's father **Joseph Hingley Clarke, Butler,** and his brother **Fran**k who was recorded as a witness. Eliza's father **Peter Leach**, Mill Manager, and Ellen Leach were also present.

In **1917** he was 28 years of age, 5' 10" tall, had brown hair and brown eyes, and was a cabinet maker living at 343 Bolton Road, Ewood, Blackburn. He was described as "being no longer physically fit for War

¹ "Proceedings on Discharge" document held

Service under para 392 K.R (Kings Regulations). It also records that he was of "V. Good" military character and was "Honest, sober & trustworthy". "Disability result of ordinary military service".

Probate $records^2$ show that he died **5 November 1918** and left his widow Eliza Clarke £109 1s 10d

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² England & Wales National Probate Calendar