

In Memory of

Driver

G Hammond

48097, 22nd Div. Ammunition Col., Royal Field Artillery who died on 16 January 1917 Age 35

Son of William and Julia Hammond, of The Causeway, Occold, Eye, Suffolk.

Remembered with Honour

Pieta Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Self: Private George HAMMOND

George was born 1882 in Occold, the son of William HAMMOND and Julia CANHAM. He came from three generations all of whom were born, lived and died in Occold, Rishangles, Bedingfield or Thorndon. For the most part, they were relatively impoverished farm labourers.

In 1891 he was living in Rishangles but moved to The Causeway, Occold by 1901, working as a farm labourer. Strangely, he appears in the census as Herbert George albeit we have no idea why. In 1911, he was living with his siblings Frederick, Arthur, Ernest and Forence and his mother Julia who was on her own as his father William was working as a dock labourer in Parkeston Quay.

He joined as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery, service no 48097, and saw action in Gallipoli and Salonika where he was injured. He died in the Military Hospital in Malta on 16 Jan 1917 – see below. He is commemorated at Pieta Military Cemetery, 2km west of Valetta, Malta.



During WW1, it was common for soldiers to write a will and we have managed to locate a copy of the will made by George in which he leaves everything to his mother still living in The Causeway, Occold.

A copy of the document which recognises it as a valid will is attached at the end of this document

Uncle:

A slight digression at this stage. George had an uncle Syer HAMMOND, brother of George's father, and an aunt Susannah 'Annie' HAMMOND (no relation!) living in Thorndon. Syer and Annie had 8 children.

Of these, Albert Edward was KIA 23 Feb 1915 whilst serving in Belgium and his brother Nathan Alfred was KIA 21 Jun 1916 whilst serving in France. Both are commemorated on Thorndon War Memorial.

Siblings:

George had 5 siblings including Charles, Arthur and Ernest and.....

His brother Frederick HAMMOND, born 1877, died 2 Feb 1916 and is buried in Occold Cemetery aged just 39. There is no evidence that his death was attributed to service in WW1.

His sister Florence Rose HAMMOND married Walter William HUNT in 1913 but he was KIA 3 May 1917 after action in France & Flanders at almost the same time as his daughter Gladys R HUNT was born.

Thus, George's parents lost not only a son and a son-in-law but two close nephews.

Parents: William HAMMOND and Julia CANHAM

His father William was born 1857 in Bedingfield to parents Robert HAMMOND and Elizabeth WARD. He grew up initially as a farm boy in 1871, a stockman in 1881 and an ag lab in 1881 at Rishangles in 1891. At this point, he must have wanted a career change. In 1901 we find him as a navvy in Walthamstow, Essex and a dock labourer for the Great Eastern Railway Co. at Parkeston Quay in 1911.

During these past 20 years, he has spent most of his time away from his wife who remained living at The Causeway in Occold. He must have returned at some point as he died on 29 Dec 1931 and is buried in Occold – no grave found.

He married Julia CANHAM in 1876. She was born 1856 in Occold to parents George CANHAM and Sarah EBBAGE. She remained in Occold all her life apart from a brief spell in Rishangles and, since 1901, lived in The Causeway. She remained there until her death on 29 Feb 1934, buried in Occold but no grave found.

They had 6 children – Frederick, Charles, George, Arthur R, Ernest E and Florence Rose.

Paternal Grandparents: Robert HAMMOND and Elizabeth WARD

Robert was born 1816 in Bedingfield to parents John HAMMOND and Hannah CRACKNELL. He was a fairly typical male in rural Suffolk and spent his entire life working as an ag lab in Bedingfield. He died 1889 aged 73 whilst living at Bucks Green Cottage, Bedingfield – and as it looks today:



He married Elizabeth WARD in 1838. She was born 1823 in Bedingfield to parents James WARD and Maria SMITH and spent her early years in Bedingfield. She died 1881 aged just 63, again living at Bucks Green Cottage.

They had eleven children – George, James, John (died 1844), John, Syer, Eliza, Robert, William, Charles, Albert and Emma – so just 2 girls and 9 boys!

Maternal Grandparents: George CANHAM and Sarah EBBAGE

George was born 1832 in Occold to parents Joseph CANHAM and Ann SHIP. He spent his early years in Occold primarily as a groom and in 1891 as a farm steward at Bridge House, Badingham. By 1901, he was a pork butcher at Fore St, Framlingham and later expanded to being a butcher and general shopkeeper. He died 1920 probably in Framlingham.

He married Sarah EBBAGE in 1854. She was born 1832 in North Walsham but, despite her unusual surname, we have not managed to track down her parents or her early life and, specifically, when or why she came to Occold. Strangely, we also cannot find when or where she died.

They had just 5 children – David George, Julia, Frederick, Anna and Rosa.

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INFORMAL WILL.

W.O. No.: E1341353/1

DOMICILE, *English*

Record No. *210/384554/16/17*

The enclosed document

dated *Sep' 1916*

Name *George Hammond*

and signed

G Hammond

Regt. No. and Rank *48094 Driver*

appears to have been written

Regt. *22 D A B Royal Field Artillery*

or executed by the person

Died at *Malta*

named in the margin while

Date of Death *16/1/17*

he was "in actual military

service" within the meaning

of the Wills Act, 1837, and

has been recognised by the

War Department as con-

stituting a valid will.

WAR OFFICE.

A. Lawrence

Date *22/5/17*

for the Assistant Financial Secretary.

WILL.

I on the eve of my death
 I give the whole of my
 belongings to my
 mother Mrs W
 Hammond the care
 and custody of
 the same to
 Dr G
 Hammond
 Va S A
 sep 1910