Woodford Remembers

Pte. Cecil Frederick Braines

July/September 1891 - 27 September 1915

Family

Charles Braines was a Woodford man born in 1866 to John and Harriet Braines nee White. They lived in a cottage outside of the village known as Ironstone Cottage (possibly in Mill Road – where only one cottage and the Mill House existed at the time). John was a horse driver in the ironstone mines in 1871. In 1881 Charles still lived at home with his family, near Woodford House where father, John, was the horse keeper and Charles (aged 15) was employed as an assistant horse keeper.

Charles married Margaret Ray in early 1887.

Margaret had been born in 1865 at Molesworth and was the second daughter (of four) to William and Sarah Ray. In 1881 she worked as a parlour maid for the Rector at Brington.

In the third quarter 1888 Charles died at the age of 22 years.

Cecil was born to Margaret in the third quarter of 1891 and was christened on 3 January 1892 in Woodford (fathers' name not given).

On 13 February 1893 Margaret married Stamford Allen (of High Street Woodford) at Woodford Parish Church and their son Wilfred, was born shortly after. Cecil did not start school at Woodford in 1894/5 when other children of his age were admitted which suggests the family left Woodford about this time. Sister Eleanor was born in 1896 in Raunds and siblings, Edith and Walter were born in 1898 and 1900 respectively. By 1901 the family lived in Pemberton Street, Rushden where they were still living in 1911 where John, Grace and Ada, were also born. Cecil was listed as a "shoe laster" and his step father Stamford was a shoe riveter. At the time Cecil signed up for the army, he was working for the CWS Boot Factory.

Cecil was a cousin of Arthur Braines (see Woodford Remembers)

Army Service

Cecil enlisted for the Northamptonshire Regiment (7th Battalion), regimental number 15299 as part of a group of men from CWS and was pictured in September 1914. The Regiment moved to Southwick, followed by Woking before being mobilised for war on 2 September 1915 landing at Boulogne. He was officially reported as missing in action on 27 September 1915 at the Battle of Loos.

Burial / grave

None

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Panel 91 Loos Memorial
Rushden War Memorial
Rushden Cemetery

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