



Woodford Remembers



Pte. John Thomas Sawford

September 1895 - 27 June 1916

Family

George Sawford was born in 1860 in Slipton and married Harriett Ruff in 1892. Their marriage was registered at Thrapston in the fourth quarter of 1892. George was born to Christopher and Sophie Sawford and was baptised at Slipton on 2 December 1860. Harriett Ruff had been born to James (b Slipton, Ironstone labourer) and Elizabeth Ruff (nee Blott m 1861 b Sudborough) in 1866.

There is some discrepancy as to where John, their first child was born. The 1901 census indicates he was born in Slipton, yet when signing on, military documents give his birthplace as Woodford. John also had a younger sister, Nellie born a couple of years later in Twywell. In 1901 both the Ruff and Sawford families lived in Twywell, the former living at "London End" near Slipton and the latter mid village.

George and Harriett Sawford had moved with their youngest son, Arthur, to Woodford by the time of the 1911 census but John remained in Twywell, living with his maternal grandparents (James and Elizabeth Ruff). Nellie had moved to her Aunt's in Cheadle, Cheshire. John was employed as a farm labourer.

John's father, George is thought to have died in 1915 and his mother Harriett in March 1920

Army Service

John enlisted at Kettering on 16th November 1914 aged 19 years and 60 days as a soldier in the 1st Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment, regimental number 16282. He gave his father's name, George Sawford as his next of kin.

John was admitted to the 1st Scotland Hospital in Aberdeen for a minor operation between 24th October 1915 and 9th November 1915. He was moved to the Dartford Convalescent Hospital from where he was sent home on sick leave from 19th until 28th November. He was transferred to Southampton on 19th February 1916 and the 1st battalion in France on 7th March. John's medals were sent to his aunt, Elizabeth Ruff.

Burial / grave

No known grave

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Arras Memorial panel 7



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If you can help with more information please contact clerk@woodfordpc.co.uk