



## Frederick Arthur Bussey

205858 Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Formerly 265414 Suffolk Regiment

He was killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1917 in Flanders, aged 20

Frederick was buried at Hooze Crater Cemetery, Ypres, West Flanders, Belgium

Back in 1861 Frederick's father, the then 6 years old George Bussey was living in Metfield with his parents, a couple of older siblings and a 2 years old younger sister – not that remarkable but not only was his father 50 years old but so was his mother – poor woman had probably spent the last 30 years producing children!

The father was a Journeyman Carpenter as was one of the older sons so at least a reasonable amount of money was coming into the household. 10 years later and the one remaining older son had also followed in his father's footsteps and was a Journeyman Carpenter, three young lodgers who worked at the local Brickworks were also lodging in the house so although there would have been nothing grand, again the family should have been financially secure.

George decided to break away from the family tradition and 1881 found him amongst the bright lights of Lowestoft, employed as a Railway Porter, lodging with another, more senior, employee of the railways – a Railway Horse Foreman.

With this steady employment, George took himself a wife, marrying Rosa Rayner in late 1881. Although Rosa had been born into an Agricultural Labourer's family out on the Rushall Road in Starston, by 1871 her family had also embraced the railway. Living next to the Railway Tavern in 1871, Rosa's father Thomas was a Coal Porter, almost certainly working in and out of the railyard, the oldest son at home, George, was a railway porter whilst in the actual railway yard, living next to the Station master's house, another older son, William Rayner, was also working as a railway porter. In this census, Rosa, only 11 years old, was working as a 'day servant'. The following, 1881, census had her working for the elderly local Bigwig, James Pratt, in the Beeches, near the Magpie.

Rosa and her new husband set up home in Lowestoft, baptising their older sons out there before returning to Harleston in time to baptise a child there in 1890. 1891 finds the family living in Ellis' Yard on the London Road (vaguely opposite the Beeches where Rosa had been working 10 years earlier). At this point George had given up the Railway work and was working as a painter, an occupation he stayed with for the rest of his working life.

With three other children in the house, their eight years old son, George, born in Lowestoft, was staying with his maternal grandparents who had moved to Wilson's Yard at the other end of town, not far from where they had been living in 1871. Farming out of children, particularly to relatives, was a widely practiced way of coping with small houses and large families!

The Bussey family remained on the London Road although they may have moved to one of the now demolished houses near Wilderness Terrace by the 1901 census when Rosa's widowed mother

had joined the household. This property they remained in to appear in 1911, in a nice reflection of the father's situation 30 years earlier, with a young Railway Porter lodging with them. All six of their children had survived to adult hood, we can see the three younger all had decent jobs. The two younger boys, Bertie Frederick and Frederick Arthur were a Tailor and Shop Assistant respectively, whilst their slightly older sister was working in the Hosiery factory that was to make vast amounts of olive socks for the troops in the first world war.

One of Frederick's older brothers, Ernest, who was acting as a page boy (junior footman?) in 1901, having survived the war went on to marry, in 1920, Florence Ellen Cook nee Ling, the widow of Pte Frederick James Cook, who died in Flanders in 1918, aged 40. As matter of interest, all other records of Pte Cook give his name as James (Frederick).

During the interwar period various Busseys appear in the local papers participating in activities associated with the local Methodist chapel – socials, concert parties and various fundraisers. Basically the Bussey family appear to have been a steady hard working family, reasonably ambitious for their children, doubtless if Frederick Arthur had survived he too would have continued with a quiet and respectable life and been a modest pillar of the local community.

#### **THE LATE MRS. R. BUSSEY**

The funeral took place at the Parish Church, on Saturday, of Mrs. Rosa Bussey (84), of London Road. She was the widow of Mr. G. Bussey and in former years had been a prominent worker in the Methodist cause.

The Rector (Canon B. M. Pickering) officiated and the family present were Mr. William Bussey, Mr. George Bussey, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bussey, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Musk, Mrs. Gurr and Mrs. Chaplin.

Others present included Mr. H. F. Howard, Miss Page, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Borrett, Miss Borrett, Mrs. R. Pipe, Mrs. J. Pearce, Mrs. C. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pearce, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. H. Brett, Mrs. F. Talbot, Mrs. C. Snowling.

Ps. Important not to confuse this family with that of Clifford Charles Bussey from Gorleston who for many years had a successful grocers in the town.