



World War I Casualty Biography

Frank Ernest Gardner Driver W/4320

Frank Ernest was born in the March Quarter of 1895 and is registered in the Warwick Registration District, the son of Henry Walter and Agnes Ellen Gardner (nee Nicholls). He was baptised on the 28th April 1895 in Radford, Warwickshire.

The 1901 census shows the family as residing at Eaton Terrace, Bowdon, Bucklow, Cheshire, where Frank's father, Walter worked as a domestic coachman, aged 39 and from Walton in Warwickshire. Frank's mother Agnes is recorded as aged 37 and as having been born in Oxfordshire. Four children are recorded including Frank Ernest who was aged 6 and born in Radford, Warwickshire. The other children were Henry George, aged 7, born in Leamington; Florence Agnes, aged 3, born in Warwickshire and Charles Edward, aged 1 born in Bowdon, Cheshire

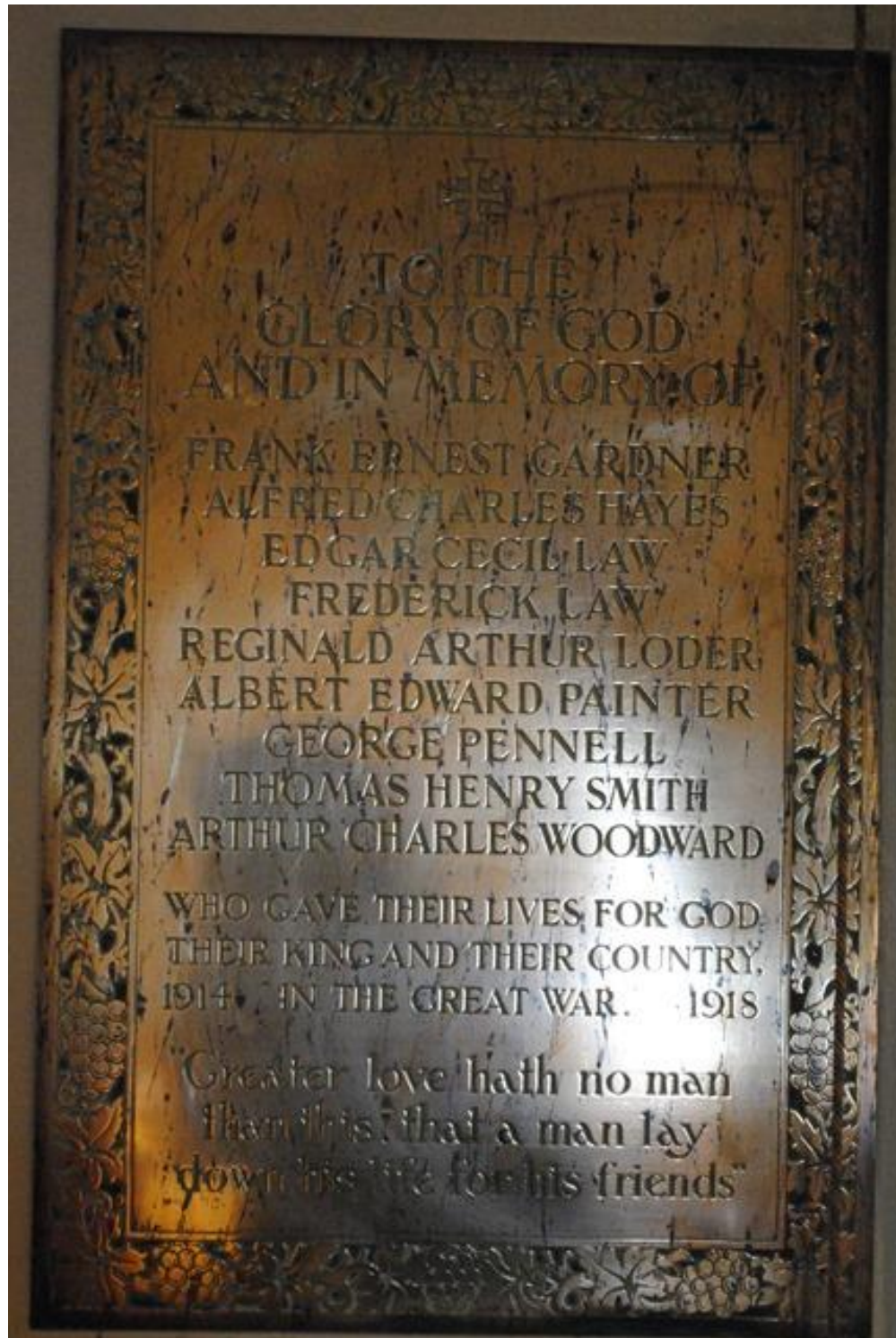
By 1911 the family had moved to Hankerton where Henry Walter was still employed as a domestic coachman. The rest of the family were recorded as Agnes Ellen, wife, Henry George, son, employed as an Odd job man at the Priory, Frank Ernest now working as a farm labourer, Charles Edwards was at school and Kate Helen had been born in 1902 in Bowdon, Cheshire. Florence Agnes had died in 1902 in Bucklow, Cheshire aged 5. The family lived at Church Farm.

In 1912, aged 17, Frank joined the workforce at the Great Western Railway in Swindon as an Engine Cleaner. He then progressed to 3rd Group Fireman in Cardiff.

In 1915, Frank requested permission from G.W.R. to join the army but was refused so he resigned and joined up anyway, enlisting in his now home town of Cardiff. His father sat on the Hankerton Parish Council throughout the war.

Driver W/4320 Frank Ernest Gardner, A Battery, 121st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on the 8th June 1917 in Flanders. He is buried in Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. He is commemorated with a Commonwealth War Graves headstone but has no personal inscription, the location is Plot 3. Row D. Grave 22.

Frank is also commemorated on the WWI War Memorial in Holy Cross Church, Hankerton and on The Great Western Railway Memorial, Central Station, Cardiff, Glamorganshire



Holy Cross Church Memorial, Hankerton



GWR Memorial Plaque, Cardiff Central Station