

FREDERICK DAWSON

Born: 1st November 1894, Wood Norton¹

Enlisted: Not known

Medals: Not known²

Frederick Dawson was born in 1894 in Wood Norton, the son of William and Elizabeth Dawson.³

Although Frederick appears on the Wood Norton War Memorial, it has not yet been possible to identify the details of his war service (and many of the WW1 British Army Service Records were destroyed in the London Blitz). The Medal Roll index cards for the period have survived, but there are several men named Frederick Dawson, so it is not possible to identify him with any certainty. We do, however, know something of his life before and after the war, and that in the 1918 electoral roll, Frederick is listed as living in The Street, Wood Norton, and he is not recorded as one of the absent voters due to military or naval service.⁴

Further research indicates that Frederick's father, William was baptised on the 9th July 1863 in Wood Norton, the son of William and Mary Dawson.⁵ He married Elizabeth Crowe on the 22nd March 1890, in Wood Norton parish church.⁶ Elizabeth was born in Grimston on the 5th April 1865, the daughter of John and Mary Ann Crowe.⁷

In the 1911 census, William is aged 47, and a farm labourer; Elizabeth is aged 45. The return notes that they had been married for 21 years, and had three children, their two sons (Frederick and Herbert) being listed on the return. The 1901 census for Wood Norton records an older sister, Eva Mary, then aged 10, born in 1891 in Wood Norton.⁸ In the 1911 census she is aged 20, and a domestic cook for William Edmund Norris's family, at Cromes Farm.⁹ Eva married Albert Gray (aged 31, and a carpenter) on the 4th November 1914, in Wood

¹ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 197) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1894, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.87* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Date of birth given on the 1939 England and Wales Register and on the FreeBMD Death record.

² Without Frederick's service record, it is not possible to tell if he was awarded any medals. If he served in a theatre of war abroad, he would have received at least the British War Medal and the Victory Medal; service at Home, unfortunately, did not necessarily qualify for the award of a medal. There are several men named Frederick Dawson listed on the Medal Roll Index Cards, but without a service number it is impossible to tell, which if any, is this Frederick.

³ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 197) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ First Register of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors, 1918; Polling District: Foulsham, Parish: Wood Norton (*Norfolk Heritage Centre, microfilm MF1038*).

⁵ Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1863 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁶ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1890 (p.97).

⁷ 1871 census, Congham (Page 7) (www.ancestry.co.uk); 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 197) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1865, Freebridge.L, Vol.4b, p.337* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Date of birth given on the 1939 England and Wales Register, St Faith's and Aylsham RD, Enumeration District TRUL, Schedule 8 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

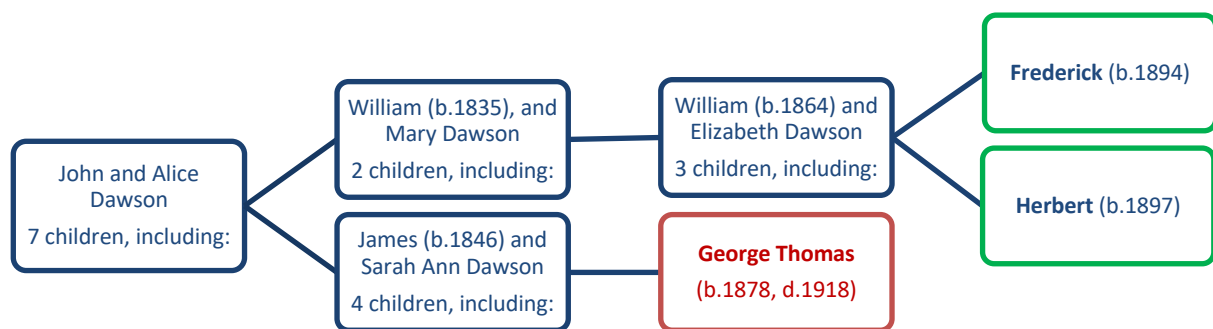
⁸ 1901 census, Wood Norton (Page 5) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1891, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.73* (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 158) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Norton parish church.¹⁰ In the 1911 census for Wood Norton, Frederick is aged 16, and a farm worker.

It is possible that Frederick married Florence Bunn in 1923; she died in 1924 aged 25, leaving a child.¹¹ Certainly in the 1939 Register, Frederick is listed as a widower. He is a jobbing gardener and is living with his widowed mother, Elizabeth, his sister Eva and her husband Albert, in London House, in [Horsham] St Faith's and Aylsham rural district.¹² He died in 1971, aged 77.¹³

The Wood Norton War Memorial lists two other related Dawson men: Frederick's brother Herbert (who survived the conflict) and their cousin George Thomas (who died on 19th September 1918). Frederick's grandfather and George Thomas's father were brothers (William aged 76, and James aged 65), who were living in Wood Norton at the time of the 1911 census¹⁴ (see the figure below).



¹⁰ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1914 (p.102).

¹¹ FreeBMD, Marriage, *Quarter to June 1923, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.585* (www.freebmd.org.uk); FreeBMD, Death, *Quarter to June 1924, Norwich, Vol.4b, p.140* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹² 1939 England and Wales Register, St Faith's and Aylsham RD, Enumeration District TRUL, Schedule 8 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1971, Wayland, Vol.4b, p.2005* (www.freebmd.org.uk). The Death record gives his date of birth as 1st November 1894.

¹⁴ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedules 172 and 194) (www.ancestry.co.uk).