

HERBERT DAWSON

Born: 20th February 1897, Wood Norton¹

Enlisted: Not known

Medals: Not known²

Herbert George Dawson was born in 1897, and baptised on the 18th May 1897, in Wood Norton parish church, the son of William and Elizabeth Dawson (see Figure 1).³

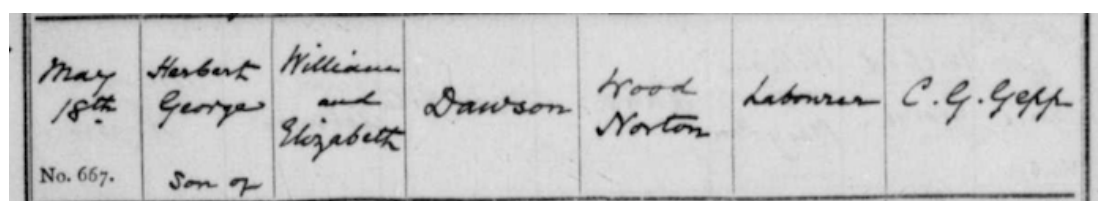


Figure 1: Extract from the Wood Norton Baptisms, 1887

Although Herbert 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 Herbert 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, Herbert 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 Herbert'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

¹ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 197) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1887, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.79* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Date of birth given on the FreeBMD Death record.

² Without Herbert'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 Herbert, Herbert G., and Herbert George Dawson listed on the Medal Roll Index Cards, but without a service number it is impossible to tell, which if any, is this Herbert.

³ Baptism Register, Wood Norton, 1897 (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).

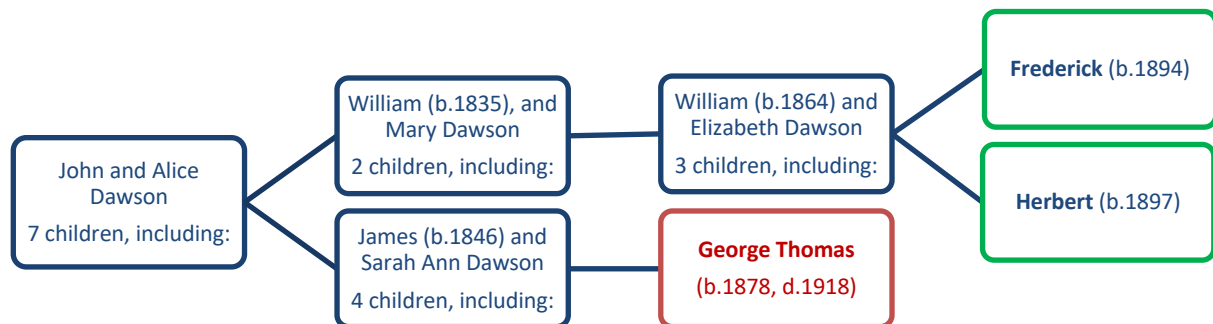
⁶ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1890 (p.97).

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).

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 Norton parish church.¹⁰ In the 1911 census for Wood Norton, Herbert is aged 14, and a farm worker.

Herbert married Dorothy Mary Dodman in 1919¹¹ and they went on to raise a family. In the 1939 Register, Herbert is living with his wife and family at 12 Swaffham Road, East Dereham.¹² Dorothy died in 1992, aged 95.¹³ Herbert died in 1971, aged 74.¹⁴

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 census¹⁵ (see the figure below).



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).

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

¹¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1919, Mitford, Vol.4b, p.716* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹² 1939 England and Wales Register, East Dereham RD, Enumeration District TQDB, Schedule 64 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹³ England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, *Quarter to March 1992, E.Dereham, Vol.10, p.1237* (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1971, E.Dereham, Vol.4b, p.1484* (www.freebmd.org.uk); the Death record gives his date of birth as 20th February 1897.

¹⁵ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedules 172 and 194) (www.ancestry.co.uk).