

Frank Clarke

1888 -1930

Frank Clarke is the brother of Edwin Clarke who is on the memorial amongst those who fell.

Frank Clarke was born in Runwell, Essex about **July 1888**.

He first appears on the **1891** Census aged 2 years.

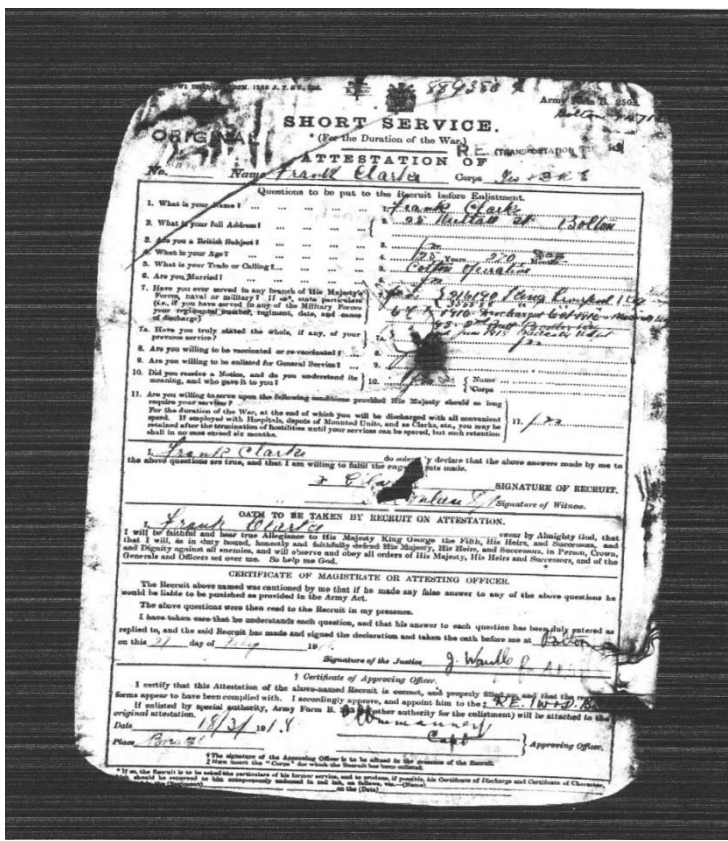
His father was **Joseph Hingley Clarke** (born about **1859** in Smalley, Derbyshire) and his mother was **Ruth** (nee Roberts born **1856** in Cropwell Butler, in the borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire). They married in Chelmsford in July 1883. He had a brother **John Roberts Clarke** aged 6 (born **19 January 1885** also in Runwell). His youngest brother was **Albert Hingley Clarke** (born **October 1889** in Runwell)[see piece below about **Albert's WW1 Service not recorded on the Memorial!**]. They lived in Church Road.

His father was employed as a Butler in Domestic Service. In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described Runwell as having a "Manor, with R. Hall, belongs to T. Kemble, Esq.". Is this where Joseph worked?

In **1901** Frank lived with the family but they now lived in Wishford Road, Runwell.

In **1911** the family are living at 9 St. Pauls Place (now Elliot Street close to the Ainsworth Arms on the corner of Moss Bank Way and Halliwell Road and within easy walking of Smithills Hall), Halliwell, Bolton. Joseph is a Butler "Domestic". The family have an additional son named **Edwin** aged 6 years also born in Runwell [Edwin died in the First World War and is on the Smithills Hall Chapel Memorial]. They must have moved to Bolton after 1905.

Joseph is a Butler working at Smithills Hall, Frank is a "Shop Assistant (Drapers)", Albert is a "Cabinet Maker" and Edwin is a "Drapers Apprentice". Frank's parents have been married 27 years and have had four children who were all living.



Frank's Short Service Record (see below dated **1915**) shows that he had enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment (twice) and the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment, and had acquired three service numbers, perhaps denoting three separate periods of service. He had also been in the Royal Engineers Transportation Branch. The record also shows that he was twice discharged as medically unfit. Frank lived at 25 Nuttall Street, Bolton, was married and had worked as a "cotton operative."

Other WW1 Service Records (1914-1920) show him in the Royal

Service under para 392 K.R (Kings Regulations). It also records that he was of "V. Good" military character and was "Honest, sober & trustworthy". "Disability result of ordinary military service".

Probate records² show that he died **5 November 1918** and left his widow Eliza Clarke £109 1s 10d

² England & Wales National Probate Calendar