

ARTHUR ERNEST BLOGG

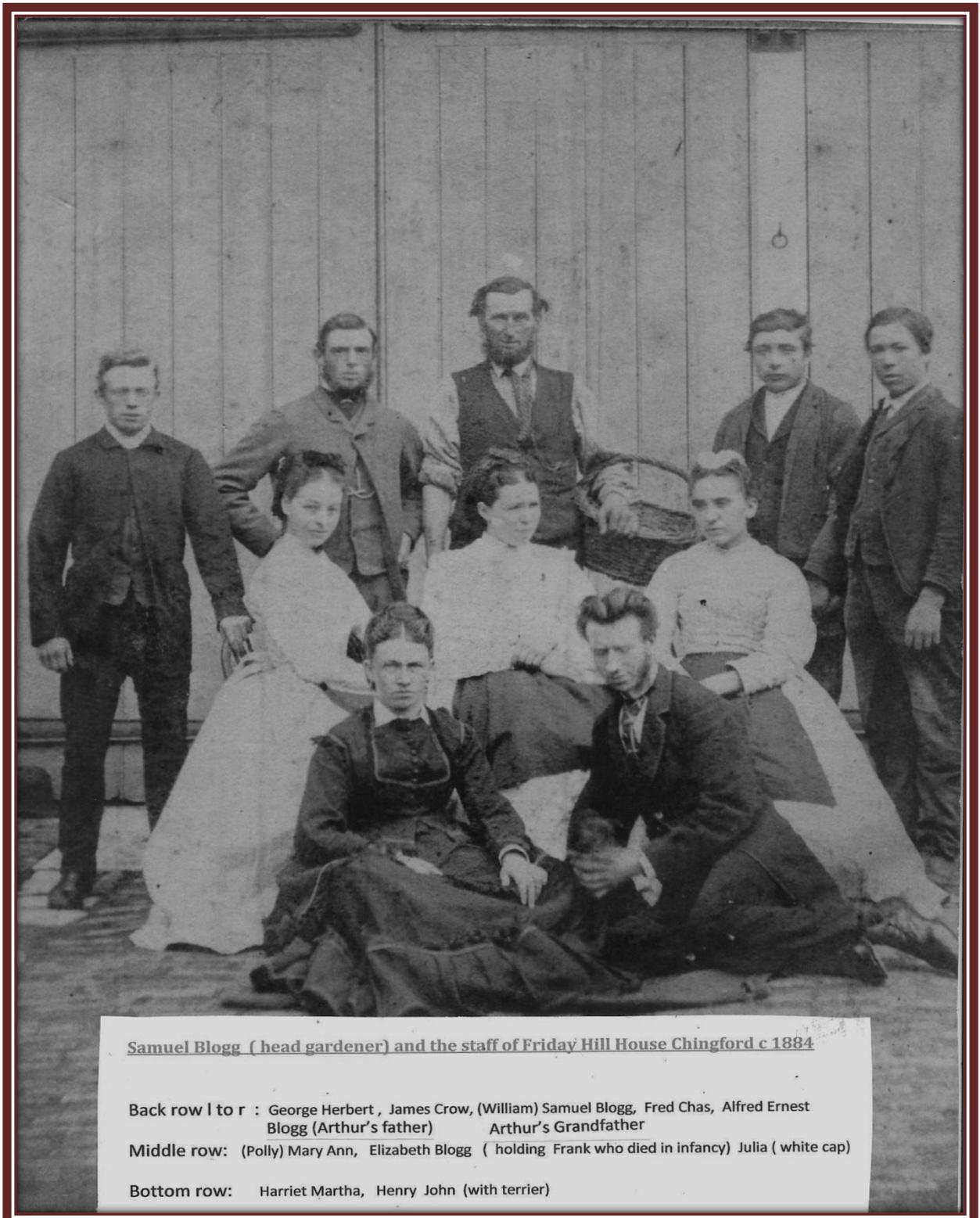
Arthur Ernest Blogg was born in Wanstead on 7th January 1891, the son of George Herbert and Laura Blogg. Arthur's father was born in Chingford in 1863 whilst his mother, whose maiden name was Jessop, was born in Chingford Hatch in 1865. They married in early 1890. Arthur had a younger sister called Edith May who was born on 17th February 1893.

The Jessop family rented Larks Farm Chingford until 1920 from the Boothby Heathcote family of Friday Hill House. Arthur and Edith Blogg often visited their grandparents Charles and Deborah Jessop at the farm. Before Laura married George she taught piano and French at a Dame School in Woodford.



Photo courtesy of the Forster Family

George Herbert Blogg, Arthur's father, was employed as a coach page at Friday Hill House where his father (Arthur's Grandfather) Samuel Blogg was the Head Gardener. George stayed in service for a few years and then worked as a valet at Little Blake Hall in Wanstead.



Samuel Blogg (head gardener) and the staff of Friday Hill House Chingford c 1884

Back row l to r : George Herbert , James Crow, (William) Samuel Blogg, Fred Chas, Alfred Ernest Blogg (Arthur's father) Arthur's Grandfather

Middle row: (Polly) Mary Ann, Elizabeth Blogg (holding Frank who died in infancy) Julia (white cap)

Bottom row: Harriet Martha, Henry John (with terrier)

Photo courtesy of the Forster Family

By 1891, the year Arthur was born, George was employed as a baker and the young family lived at 6, Carlton Terrace, Nightingale Lane, Wanstead. In 1896, the family were living at 20, Cowley Road, Wanstead.

In 1901, the Blogg family had moved to 40, Cowley Road, Wanstead, and George was employed as a carpenter at Jolliffe's Builders in the High Street, Wanstead. George and Laura became members of Wanstead Congregational Church on the 3rd April 1907.

In 1911, the family had moved once again and were living in rooms at the Wanstead Men's Meeting Institute which was situated at "Overton House", High Street, Wanstead. In 1911 Arthur, now aged 20, was employed as an Assistant Inspector with a company called Smith and Son, (possibly W.H. Smith and Son.)



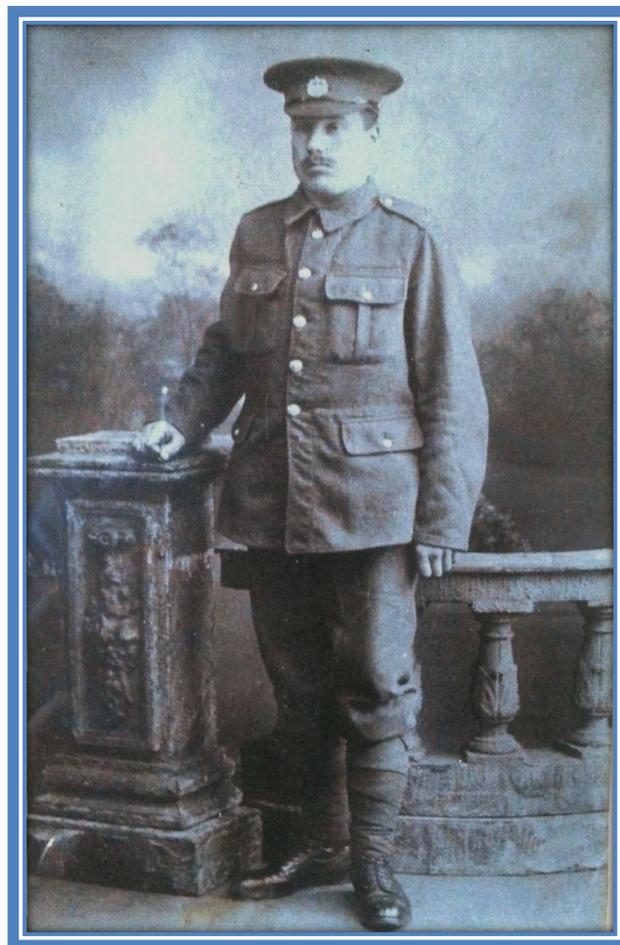
Arthur Ernest Blogg (1891-1916) Photo courtesy of the Forster Family

On 27th October 1914, an article in the London Gazette stated that the Wanstead Men's Meeting Institute was dissolved by Instrument on 20th

October 1914, so the Blogg family moved again, this time to 47, Wellesley Road, Wanstead.

Arthur enlisted into the 8th Reserve Cavalry Regiment (Private 23354). Men who enlisted into the cavalry, either as volunteers or conscripts, served with the cavalry reserve to carry out their basic training. (On his Medal Record Card Arthur is also listed as Private 20994 Essex Regiment)

Arthur was not posted to a cavalry regiment overseas but was transferred to the 14th (Service) Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment (Private 26492) which needed more men at the time. The Battalion was originally formed in Portsmouth on 3rd September 1914 by the Mayor and local committee in Portsmouth and it was taken over by the War Office on 30th May 1915.



Private 26492 Arthur Ernest Blogg 14th Battalion Hampshire Regiment

(photo courtesy of the Forster Family)

In October 1915, the Battalion moved to Witley Military Camp, Surrey and joined the 116th Brigade of the 39th Division. On 6th March 1916 Arthur's Division was mobilized for war and landed at Le Havre and immediately engaged in various actions on the Western Front. Arthur and his Regiment were engaged in the Somme Offensive which lasted 18 weeks, from 1st July – 14th November 1916.

By late September and early October conditions on the Somme were appalling and the men found themselves defending waterlogged trenches and shell holes. They were involved in the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge and the Battle of Ancre Heights

On 6th October 1916, the 14th Battalion Hampshire Regiment was in the Front line near the village of Englebelmer (about an 8 minute drive to Mesnil) in France, under extremely bad weather conditions. It was a quiet time with no attacks by either side, but “ normal wastage “ i.e. by sniper or shell, saw 3 men including Arthur Blogg , killed in action on this day.

“Wastage“ was the word used in the official communiques and histories. It seems to reflect at that time, the General Staff's utter disregard and lack of humanity for the ordinary soldier. The Somme was an Allied and in particular a British disaster with 60,000 casualties on the 1st day in July. The continued slaughter cut the heart out of the Kitchener volunteer armies so that conscription had to be introduced for the first time in British history.

Arthur Blogg died aged 25, he survived six months on the Western Front. He earned the War and Victory Medals.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
BLOGG	Essex R. Stamps R	Pte	20994 26492
Arthur. E.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	6/1/10303	329	
BARRAGE	do	do	
STRAN			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
K. 1380			

Arthur Bloggs' Medal Record Card

At the time of his death, Arthur was engaged to be married to Miss Kate Elizabeth Manby, born in Wanstead on 4th September 1891. Her father James died when she was ten, leaving eight children. Kate's mother Susannah made a living by taking in washing. Kate, having lost her beloved fiancé Arthur in the war, did not marry and she died in 1981 aged 90.



Miss Kate Elizabeth Manby (1891-1981) Photo courtesy of the Forster Family

Arthur rests in Grave 111 E 2 at the Mesnil Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

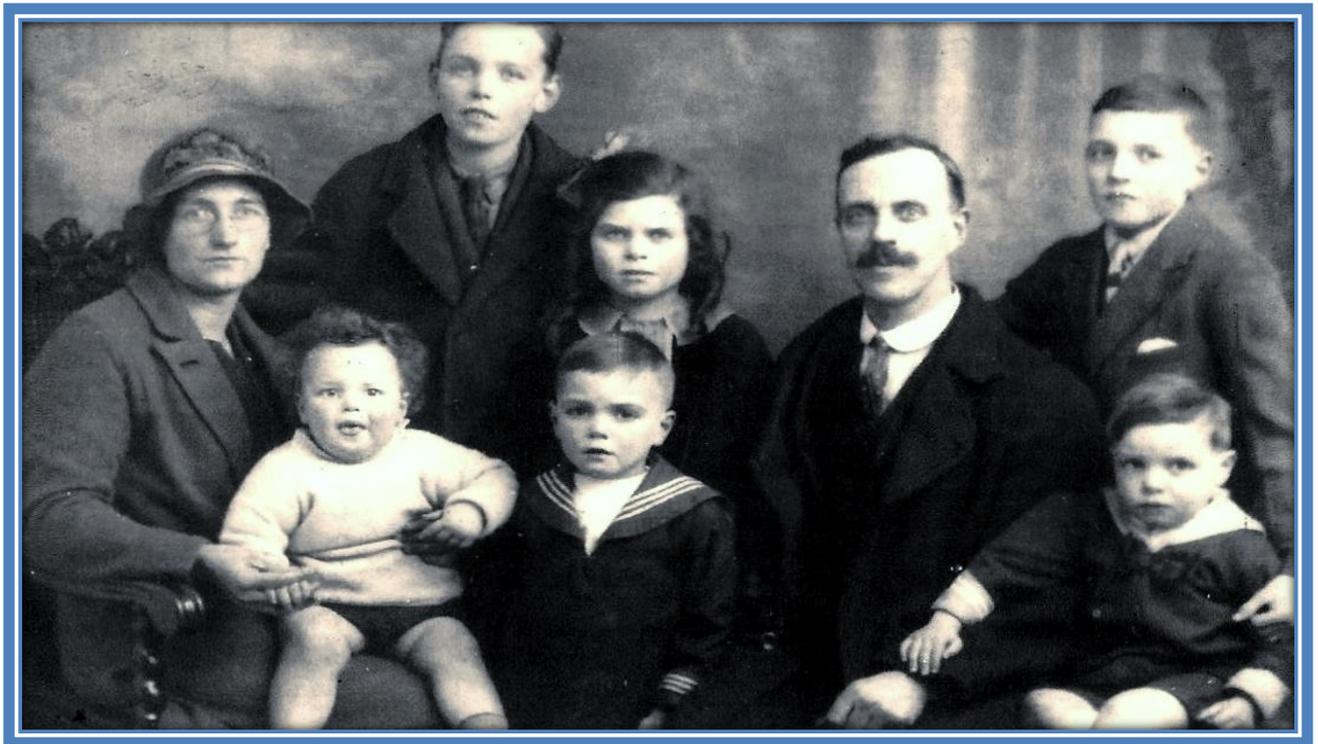
George Blogg, Arthur's father died in 1925 aged 62 and his mother Laura Blogg died in 1947 aged 83.

Arthur's sister Edith May Blogg married Frederick Arthur Forster (1887 – 1957). Frederick, of 6, Selton House, High Street Wanstead also served in WW1. He enlisted in 1915 joining the 8/7th Battalion (City of London) Regiment. However, Frederick became sick and was eventually discharged under King's Regulations on January 1917, as he was no longer fit for active service.

Edith and Frederick Forster had 6 children, Victor Verdun born in 1916, Bernard Arthur born in 1918, Elsie Winifred born in 1920, Ronald born in 1924, Roy born in 1926 and Gordon Ernest born in 1928.

Frederick Forster died on 14th August 1957 and Edith May Blogg died on 26 October 1983.

Several of the Forster family are still active members of the Wanstead United Reformed Church.



The Forster Family (photo taken on 13th April 1929)

From left to right:-

Front row: - Arthur Blogg's sister Edith with Gordon on her lap, Ronnie and Roy.

Back Row: - Victor, Elsie, brother in law, Frederick Forster and Bernard.

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Margaretha Pollitt Brown for Wanstead United Reformed Church.