

Ernest Frederick Walden

Ernest Frederick Walden was born in 1899. He was the youngest child of William Frederick Walden and Mary Ann Walden, nee King.

William was born in St George's-in-the-East, Middlesex in 1854. He was the son of Mary and Charles Robert Walden. Charles was born In Stonehouse, Plymouth in Devon in 1828 and he was a colour maker by trade. A colour maker was a person who manufactured the pigments that were sold to a colour man, who mixed the pigments and then sold the paint to artists. In 1861, when William was aged 6, the Walden family were living at 3, St Thomas Street in Stepney. In 1871, the Waldens were living at 20, Bridge Road in Battersea, Wandsworth. William aged 16 and his elder brother Charles aged 18, were employed as labourers in a colour-works, presumably where their father was employed.

His mother was Mary Ann née King, born in Bethnal Green in 1855. She was the eldest daughter of Mary Ann King a dressmaker born in 1832 and Robert King an assistant sorter for the Post Office who was also a silk weaver. In 1861, the King family were living at 5 East Street, Bethnal Green which was in the heart of the silk weaving district.

William Walden and Mary Ann King married on 6th April 1878 and they had ten children, although only seven were still living by 1911.

They were William Robert Walden, born in 1879, died 1960 and married in 1903 to Florence Jenny Grottick; Florence Mary Ann Walden born in 1881 died unmarried aged 59 in Sept 1940; Edith Emily Walden born in 1883 died unmarried in June 1921 aged 38; Ethel Ellen Walden born in 1888 died unmarried in 1955 aged 67; Kate Ada Walden born in 1890 died in infancy in 1893 aged 2; Lilian Gertrude Walden born in March 1892, died unmarried in 1975 aged 83; Cecilia Kate Walden born in 1894 died in infancy in 1895 aged 1; Mabel Winifred Walden born in 1896 died in 1983 aged 87 married to Charles A. Church in 1920; Ernest Frederick Walden born in 1899 died in 1918 (single) aged 19. And one other, unknown child, born?

In 1881, William Frederick Walden, his wife Mary Ann and their two children, William Robert aged 2 and new-born Florence, both born in Bethnal Green were living at 10, Roman Road. William senior was employed as an oil and colour man and was skilled in mixing paint and dyes.

In 1883, Charles Robert Walden, colour man by trade, died at his home at 60 Auckland Road, Old Ford, Bethnal Green aged 55. He left an estate of nearly £700. William and his

brother Charles who was also a colour man of 202, Duke Street, Glasgow were executors of his will.

In 1891, William and Mary Walden and their young family were living at 9, Queen Square, East Ham, Essex with 3 more children, Edith, Ethel and Kate. William Frederick Walden was now employed as a grocer.

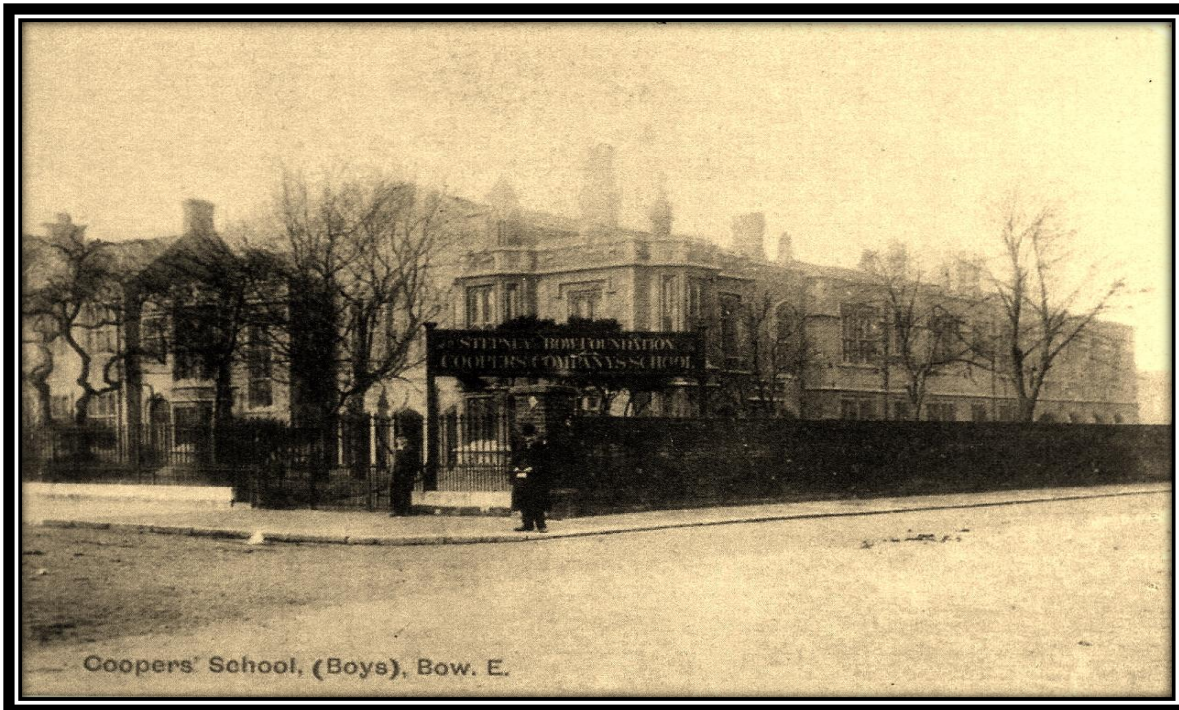
In 1901, the Walden family were living at 16, Avenue Road, Forest Gate, West Ham, Essex which is near Wanstead Park Station. William Frederick Walden is listed on the census as an employer - grocer/shopkeeper. The 7 surviving children were all living at home at this time with their youngest child Ernest now aged 2 years old.

Mary Ann Walden's parents Robert and Mary Ann King had moved to Wanstead in retirement and in 1901 they were living at 35 Dangan Road with their 19 year old granddaughter Annie.

In 1911, the Walden family had moved again to 81, Grove Road, Bethnal Green, Bow. William Robert Walden, the eldest son, and a grocer, had married Florence Grottick and left home in 1903.

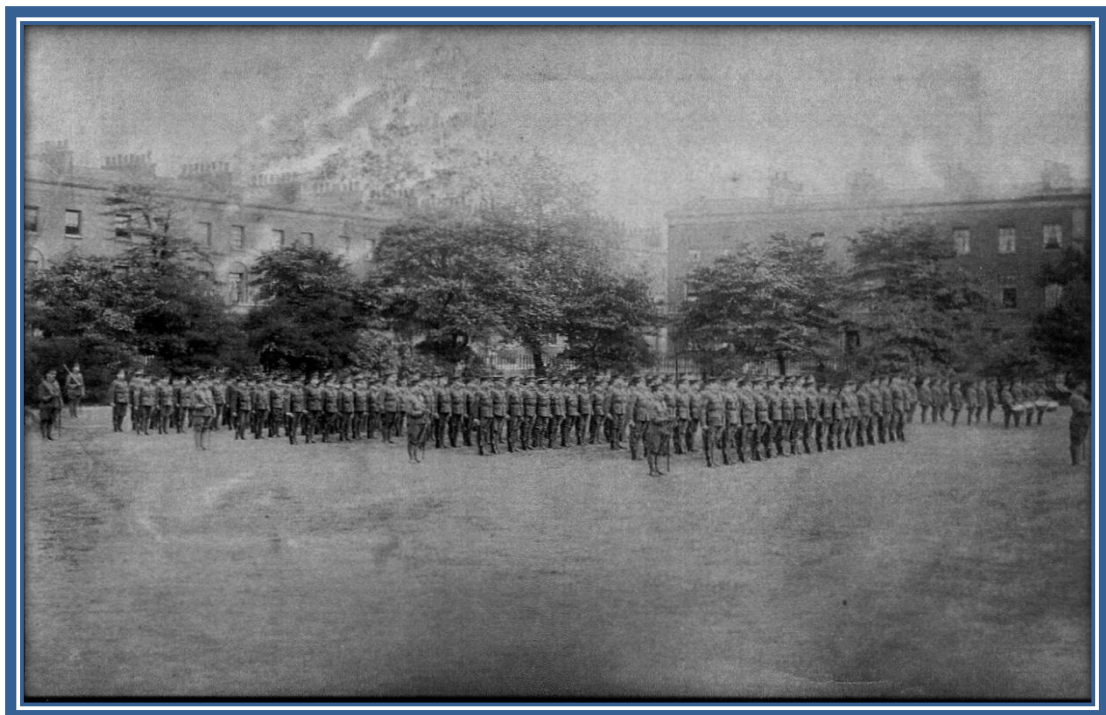
In 1911, Florence Walden was employed as a draper; Edith as a draper and shop keeper; Ethel as a milliner; Lilian as a clerk/shorthand typist; Mabel was a part-time student and Ernest aged 12 was a scholar. Ernest attended the Stepney Row Foundation Cooper's Company School, a boy's school in Bow, where he had been awarded a full scholarship by the Governing Body.

In February 1916, William Frederick Walden became a sidesman to help assist the Church Deacons.



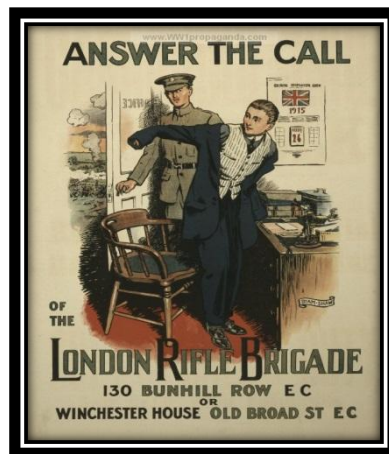
Photograph courtesy of Coopers' Company and Coborn School Upminster Essex

Ernest was 15 years old when war broke out in August 1914. He was a member of his school's Army Cadet Corps. Ernest would not have been conscripted into the armed forces until his 18th birthday in 1917. However he left school early to enlist at the Stratford Recruiting Office.



Coopers' Company School Cadets on parade

Photograph courtesy of Coopers' Company and Coborn School, Upminster



Ernest joined the 5th City of London Regiment "D" Company, London Rifle Brigade. Rifleman 305102 Ernest Frederick Walden was killed in action on 1st October 1918 aged 19, just five weeks before the Armistice was signed on 11th November 1918.

Ernest's Company had been fighting on the Cambrai battlefields in northern France. The 1918 Battle of Cambrai, the last of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line, delivered the city into the hands of Commonwealth forces, though it was very severely damaged. This was the final phase of the war when the Allies pushed the German Army back. It was dangerous and bloody, however, in comparison to fighting in trenches, which at least offered some protection. Ernest's Division was being held in reserve during the Allied attack against German positions along the Canal du Nord. Only three men of his battalion, including Ernest were killed on 1st October 1918, probably of shellfire.

Ernest is buried in grave VI A11 at the Cambrai East Military Cemetery south east of Arras in France.

Ernest Frederick Walden earned the War and Victory Medals

Ernest is commemorated on the War Memorial in Wanstead High Street, on the WW1 Memorial inside Wanstead United Reformed Church and on his school's Great War Memorial Board. The Memorial is now situated in the theatre of The Cooper's Coborn School in St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex.

Ernest had written a will and on the 16th December 1919 his effects of £175-15s 10d passed to his father, William Frederick Walden, grocer, of 26, Grove Road. Wanstead, Essex.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
WALDEN		5 Lond R	Pte	305102
Ernest F				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	TP5/1014 ^B	444		
BRITISH	— do —			
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				
K. 1330				

Ernest Frederick Walden's Medal Record Card

The Family Story

Only one of Ernest's five sisters who had survived infancy married. Mabel Walden aged 24 married Charles Church in 1920. Charles A. Church of 110, Overton Drive had become a member of Wanstead Congregational Church in January 1929. Mabel died in 1983 aged 87.

Ernest's mother Mary Ann Walden died on the 7th April 1926 aged 70.

In January 1929, William Frederick Walden and his daughter Florence Mary Walden aged 48 of 26 Grove Road, Wanstead became members of Wanstead Congregational Church.

William Frederick Walden died on 17th September 1931 aged 76. In his will, he left £4715-6s-11d to his eldest son William Robert Walden, grocer, and Raynard William Dale, solicitor.

Ernest's niece Miss Irene Winifred Grottick Walden aged 25 (the daughter of William Robert Walden) of 85, Grove Hill, South Woodford married Albert Victor Waskett aged 26, both shop assistants, in Wanstead Congregational Church on 16th September 1934.

William Frederick Walden, Ernest's father owned and ran the grocery and provisions shop at 81, Grove Road, Bethnal Green in East London for many years. His large family lived above the shop until about 1914. The family then moved to 26, Grove Road, Wanstead

when William was 60 years old. His eldest son William Robert Walden took over the running of the grocery business in Bethnal Green.

William Frederick Walden was an active Congregationalist, not only in Wanstead but also at the Plashet Park Congregational Church, Chester road in Forest Gate which was founded in 1884. In its earlier years it was one of the stronger non-conformist churches in the district, and it was still flourishing in the 1920's, with a membership of over 300, and a Sunday school of 600. In the late 1880's, a temporary pastor was the Revd Edward Thomas Egg, a former Pastor locally of the Woodford Congregational Church and who had taken part in the opening services of the Wanstead Congregational Church in 1867.

William Frederick Walden's obituary was published in the Wanstead Congregational Magazine in October 1931, it reads,

"We regret to announce the death of our friend and fellow member, Mr W.F.Walden. Prior to settling in Wanstead, he had a long record of Christian service at Plashet Park Congregational Church, and, under his superintendentship, a large Sunday school was built up. Of late years, he has faithfully served the Wanstead Men's Meeting. In this service he will be greatly missed, but his loss will be equally felt by many who have appreciated his kindly acts and words of encouragement."

Every effort has been made to contact all copyright holders of the material in the profiles of these young men. We will be glad to make good any errors or omissions brought to our attention.

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Margaretha Pollitt Brown for Wanstead United Reformed Church.