



# Ernest William Cook

## 24 Wheeldon Avenue



Silhouette of a First World War soldier  
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From the 1918 Register of Electors we know that Ernest Cook was away on military service at the date the list was compiled. We know nothing more about his military service – there are about 24 listings for the name “Ernest W Cook” and about 110 for “Ernest Cook” so it has not been possible to narrow down which regiment he served with or where.

From the census returns and local directories we know a little about his civilian life. He was born in Derby in January 1888 and christened at St Alkmund’s Church (which stood opposite St Mary’s Church, near where Jurys Inn now stands). In 1901 his family were living at 57 Longford Street and, aged 13, Ernest was a herbalist’s apprentice. By 1911 the family had moved to Melbourne Street when his father, David, and stepmother, Fanny, ran a “Pie and Chip Potato Business” – by this stage Ernest, aged 23, was Herbalist Manager.

On 26 March 1913 he married Frances Ada Bircher at St Peter’s Church, Derby. The following spring their daughter, Gwendoline, was born in Basford, Nottinghamshire so the family may have been living there before returning to Derby during the war.

Ernest was home from military service by Spring 1920, but after that we have very little information about his life. In a local trade directory from 1935 he is living at 24 Wheeldon Avenue and his occupation is listed as “Chemist”. The following year the listing for 24 Wheeldon Avenue is Miss Gwendoline M Cook “ladies hairdresser”.

We know from the Electoral Registers that Ernest, Frances and Gwendoline continued to live at 24 Wheeldon Avenue until late 1938 – early 1939 when they are crossed off the Register for this area.

We don’t know where the family moved to although there was a hairdressers run by G. Cook in Macklin Street in 1941 who may have been Gwendoline. There is no evidence that the family lived “over the shop”.

Frances died in Skegness in October 1966, when probate was granted to Gwendoline, so this suggests Ernest had predeceased his wife. Unfortunately we have not been able to track down this information.

**If you have any information about Ernest Cook please contact us at [6streetshistory@gmail.com](mailto:6streetshistory@gmail.com)**