



# Ellen Pool (nee Benfield)

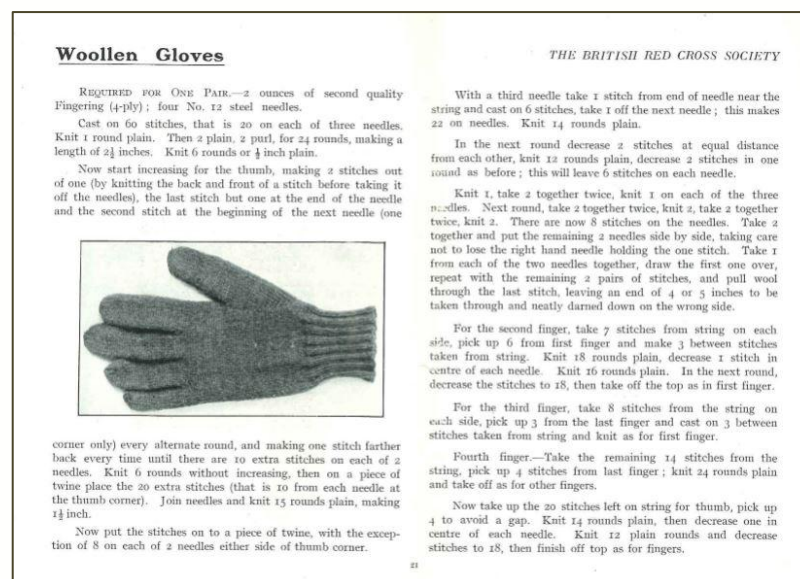
## 9 White Street

Ellen Pool volunteered with the Joint War Committee (Red Cross and St John's Ambulance) as a Homemaker in January 1916. We don't know her exact role but she would be sewing, knitting and possibly preparing hospital supplies such as swabs and bandages .

Ellen lived on White Street with her husband Ebenezer and family of four children: George, Charles, Lilian and Ellen. She originally came from Leicester and was probably born in late 1860. We don't know anything about her early life but as Ebenezer was working in Leicester as a Clerk in 1881 this may have been where they met. They married in Derby in 1887 and by 1891 they were living at 15 Cowley Street with their two young sons. By 1901 the family had moved to 22 West Avenue and two daughters had been born. By this stage Ebenezer was a chartered accountant and the family's financial security allowed them to employ Annie Emery as a live in general servant.

Ebenezer and Ellen were some of the first residents in the newly built White Street living here from late 1901. By 1911 son George was a Chemist with the Sewage Department of Derby Borough Council; Charles was a Mechanical Engineer apprentice with a bridge building company and Lilian was an Art Student. Ellen aged 13 was still at school. Many of Ebenezer's

family lived locally – his father ran a Carriageworks business on Kedleston Road where ATS Tyres now stand. Brother Harry lived at 25 Wheeldon Avenue, brother George at 41 Wheeldon Avenue and for a time sister Rosa and her husband lived at 13 Bromley Street.



From a book of instructions issued to Home Workers by the Red Cross© BRCS: British Red Cross Society

Ellen may have volunteered for home working along with a group of neighbours – Mrs Hagley (12 White St); Mrs Richards (27 White St); Mrs Neal (53 White St). All continued with their voluntary work until December 1919.

After the war Ellen and Ebenezer continued to live at 9 White Street until about 1927 when they moved to a newly built house at 21 Highfield Road. Son George and his wife Amy lived next door – both detached houses almost identical. Ebenezer died in 1941, and Ellen survived him by 8 years dying in December 1949 aged 89.