



John Bramson Power

108 Kedleston Road



Silhouette of a First World War soldier
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We know very little about John Power, other than his family lived on Kedleston Road briefly during World War One and the Register of Electors tell us that he was away on active military service in 1918.

The eldest of four children, John was born in 1897, in Derby. His father, a Gas engineer, died when John was small, although his mother described herself in the 1911 census as a widow with “private means”

The family probably moved to Kedleston Road sometime near the start of the war. As a widow Georgina is difficult to track through the Register of Electors as she does not appear as a voter until the 1918 Register of Electors where she is listed with her son and another male resident – Horace Mabey - presumably a lodger.

Information from John’s descendants suggests that he served in the Royal Navy during the war. Because there were a number of men named John Power in the

navy we cannot be certain which is his naval service record. At the start of the war he was only 17 – he may have waited until March 1916 to be conscripted.

When he returned sometime late in 1919 the family moved elsewhere but possibly not far as when he married Frances Esther Allen in April 1925 he was living at 26 Cowley Street. The couple married at St. Michael’s Church on Queen Street (now converted to offices) and his occupation is listed as “Clerk”. John and Frances had one daughter Sheila, born in 1931.

Sadly Frances died in 1941, but in June 1950 John remarried – Esther Chadwick, a clerk with East Midlands Gas Board, who lived on Burton Road. However, their happiness was short-lived as in November of the same year John died at the young age of 53. His death certificate states that he was living at 63 Rowditch Avenue and his occupation was a Clerk for a Mineral Water company.