

JOHN WILLIAM ‘JACK’ WILSON (Wagon Repairer) 1889-1982

The Railway Work Life & Death database (<https://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/>) shows that Jack Wilson was injured at work in 1911. The accident occurred just a few months after Jack had started work at the Aston Fields Wagon Works.

“1911 Sep 2 - Bromsgrove, wagon Shops - Chest and right shoulder blade injured - Caught between vehicles - While Wilson was standing between 2 wagons, removing rubbish from the track, one wagon was moved by hand by Lewis and Jones, and Wilson was caught between the buffers - J Lewis (wagon repairer), C Jones (labourer) - Lewis failed to warn Wilson”.

Like his parents and grandparents before him Jack was born and raised in Bromsgrove. Many of his family also worked on the railways around Bromsgrove. Frank served in WW1 in the Royal Engineers, Railway Operating Division.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_Operating_Division

After the war Jack returned to work at Bromsgrove Wagon Works and raised a family. He passed away in 1982 age 93.



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Jack’s grandfather Edwin was born at Bromsgrove in 1834. He was the son of William & Sarah, both were Nailmakers. The 1841 census finds the family living in the Strand, Bromsgrove. The 1851 census finds the family living in Birmingham Road. Edwin was by then also working as a Nailmaker.

23 Jan 1856 Edwin was married at St Martin church, Birmingham, to Elizabeth Grimmit (born 1835 at Little Heath, Bromsgrove) The 1861 census finds them living in the Strand, Edwin was working as a Railway Plate Driller. At the time he and Elizabeth had 3 children (including Alfred age 2months). The 1871 census finds Edwin and Elizabeth living at 6 Rose Cottages Stoke Prior. Edwin is now a Railway Breaksman. He and Elizabeth had 5 children, Back then Stoke prior had a busy Railway Station. It was at the junction of lines from Droitwich and Worcester and close to the Stoke Prior salt works. - Map link below:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.2&lat=52.29761&lon=-2.08515&layers=168&b=1>

The 1881 census finds the family at 9 Station Row Stoke Prior. Edwin still working as a Breaksman. He and Elizabeth have 7 children, including Alfred age 20 working as a Railway Labourer. The 1891 census finds Edwin has passed away and Elizabeth has moved to Little Heath, Linthurst Road with 4 children and 2 grandchildren. The 1901 census finds her still at Linthurst road. The 1911 Census finds her at Hewell Road, Barnt Green age 73. She passed away at Kings Norton in 1919.

Jack's father Alfred, was born January 1861. On 17 Apr 1881 he married Sarah Ann Fisher (Born Bromsgrove 1861). The 1891 Census finds them living at School Lane, Worcester Street, Bromsgrove. Alfred is a Journeyman labourer, Sarah is a Nailmaker. They have 2 Children including John William (Jack) age 2. The 1901 census finds them at Court 46 Worcester Street, Bromsgrove with 6 children. Alfred is a sawmill Labourer and the eldest son Harry is a carpenters labourer. The 1911 census finds the family still at Court 46. with 6 sons. Alfred is a Sawers labourer (Rail Wagon Works). Sarah age 50 is still working as a Nailmaker. 2 of the sons, Jack 22 and George 19 are also working at the wagon works. Alfred passed away in Birmingham in 1940.

Note:- Bromsgrove nailmaker's families lived in courts - a group of houses with a forge. The nailmakers would work in shifts to keep the forge working around the clock.

<https://www.bromsgroveadvertiser.co.uk/news/829654.the-workers-lot-was-not-a-happy-one>

Jack - John William Wilson, was married at Bromsgrove in 1915 to Elsie Warman (Born 5 Feb 1894 to Joseph & Emma Warman of catshill, Bromsgrove).

The Railway Records show he had started at the Wagon works on 17th April 1911 as a wagon labourer at a wage of 17 shillings a week. He left on 22 March 1915 "Volunteered for duration of War - Railway Operating division" Jack resumed work at the wagon works on 28th July 1919 and continued there until he retired around 1954.



Taken between 1951 & 56 - Courtesy of Ian Tipper.

Does anybody know if Jack is in this picture??

Jack and Elsie are known to have had at least 2 children - John Francis Frederick born 1916 and Violet Mildred born 1920. The 1939 Register finds the family at 27 Barnfield Road, Bromsgrove. Jack passed away in Bromsgrove early in 1982 age 93 ((Q1.129.0013).

