

GEORGE EDWARD DOUGLAS (PLATE LAYER) 1881-1936

George was born in 1881. He was the third of 11 children born to George & Rachel Douglas of Pug lane, (Now Newland Close) Eynsham, Oxfordshire. (Q3 Witney 3a 755). The 1891 & 1911 census records him, age 29, living at Pug lane and working as a farm labourer. By 1920 he was living in Lye, Stourbridge and working as a Platelayer for the GWR. On 11th October 1920 George (age 39) was married at St Marks Church, Stambermill, Stourbridge to Lottie Price (age 28) of Lye.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/>

[#zoom=17.1&lat=52.45805&lon=-2.12592&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.457314,-2.125492](https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.1&lat=52.45805&lon=-2.12592&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.457314,-2.125492)

The 1911 census showed Lottie's family at 11 Cemetery Road. Head of the household was Joseph Price, age 55 working as a "Frost Cog Maker" (a type of horseshoe nail for winter weather). Also at the address were his wife Millbroe Price, age 52, daughter Alice Mary age 31 (single) a Brickyard Labourer, son Joseph, age 21 a Bucket Maker, Lottie age 19, a Bucket Maker, daughter Edith age 17, a Trunk Painter and a son Walter Harry age 6.

On 21 November 1921 a son, George Edward Douglas, was born to George and Lottie. At the time they were living with Lottie's family at 11 Cemetery Road, Lye. The building would have stood at the northern end of Cemetery Road close to where the Lye Town FC football ground is today.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.6&lat=52.45706&lon=-2.12218&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.456718,-2.121817>

A daughter Freda was born to George and Lottie on November 10th 1923 at 11 Cemetery Road.

By April 1936 George, Lottie and their family were living at 9 Green lane, Lye.

The building would have stood to the left of where the Fox Inn now stands.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=18.8&lat=52.45487&lon=-2.11845&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.454437,-2.118442>

On 22 April 1936 George was knocked down and killed by a passing engine while working on the railway near Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

George was buried at Lye & Wollescote Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Lye (*Section M, Grave 43C*).

The 1939 Register Shows Lottie & son George at Waste, Bank, Lye, then an area of poverty and deprivation. Back in the 17th century, the "Waste" was a spoil tip for local mines and iron works. It was gradually settled by squatters who built an assortment of dwelling houses and industrial buildings, mainly in the area north of Cemetery Road, around Cross Walks and King Street, Lye.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=18.1&lat=52.45477&lon=-2.11151&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.454813,-2.111074>

The old terraces and cottages of Waste Bank were mostly swept away in the years after WW2 and replaced by modern housing. It is an area with a fascinating social history. *For further reading:-*

https://www.stourbridge.com/stourbridge_photos-50s-60s.htm

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Lye-Waste-Very-Horrible-History/dp/1514813300>

<https://simonbriercliffe.com/2015/12/07/slums-of-the-black-country-waste-bank-lye/>

The 1945 electoral register shows Lottie, son George and daughter Freda all living at 86 Pedmore Road, Lye. The building would have stood close to the junction of Pedmore and Cemetery Road.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=19.1&lat=52.45539&lon=-2.11891&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.455354,-2.118958>

Lottie passed away in 1975 and was buried in the same Plot as her husband in Lye Cemetery.

Son George married in 1953 and was living in Wentworth Road, Wollaston when he passed away on August 12th 1979, age 58. He too was laid to rest in the same plot as his parents.

No clear record could be found of daughter Freda's life story after 1946.

Daily Gazette - Thursday 23 April 1936

RAILWAY FATALITY

A workman knocked down by a light engine on the G.W.R, permanent way outside Kidderminster station, and who died in Kidderminster Hospital later, has been identified as Edward Douglas of 9. Green-lane, Lye, Stourbridge.

An inquest will be held this afternoon.

Birmingham Daily Gazette - Friday 24 April 1936

FATAL FAMILIARITY?

Platelayer killed by Engine

"An accident pure and simple which perhaps arose from familiarity breeding contempt," was the comment of the North Worcestershire Coroner (Mr. F. Percival Evers) yesterday at the inquest on George Edward Douglas aged 54, G.W.R. platelayer, 9. Green lane, Lye, who was knocked down by a light engine outside Kidderminster Station.

A yard foreman. Frederick William Mills of Elmfield, Baldwin Road. Kidderminster, said as the light engine, going at walking pace. was backing, Douglas stepped in front of the tender without looking round. Witness had no time do give a warning.

He agreed with a juryman that the noise of a passing train would deaden that of the light engine. The jury returned verdict of "Accidental death".

Note - press reports transcribed from records found at - <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>