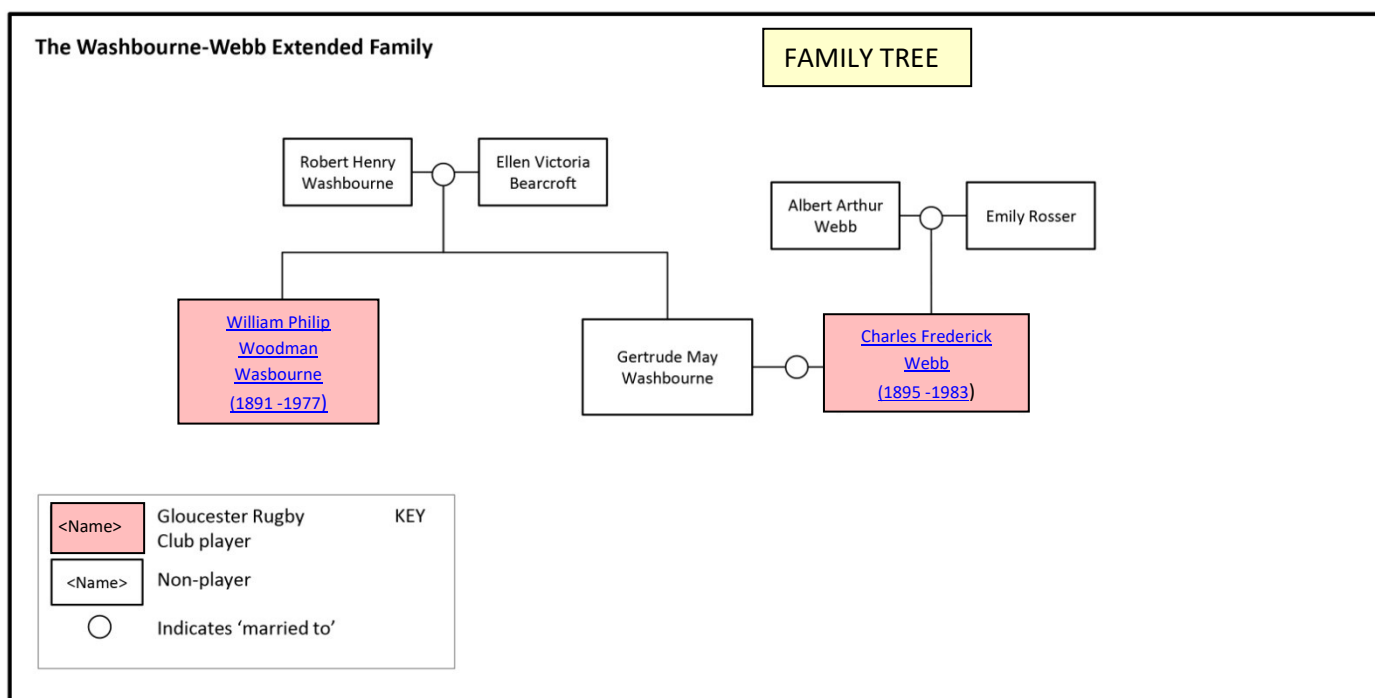


EXTENDED FAMILIES: The WASHBOURNE and WEBB Greater Family: The relationships based on marriage between the families of the [William Philip Woodman \('Quedge'\) Washbourne MM](#) and their brother-in-law [Charles Frederick \('Fred'\) Webb](#).



The WASHBOURNE Family – William Philip Woodman Washbourne ('Quedge') MM

William Washbourne was born at Gloucester on 9 May 1891, the son of Robert Henry Washbourne (1849-1927), a Shipwright, and Ellen Victoria Washbourne (née Bearcroft) (1852-1906). The couple were married at Gloucester in 1872 and had twelve children, four of whom did not reach adulthood – these included one of the twins who died within a year. William's sister Gertrude May Washbourne married [Charles Frederick Webb](#) who was consequently William's brother-in-law. The family lived variously in Barton Street, Moor Street and Ladybellgate Street, Gloucester. By 1914 William was working as an Engineering Fitter at the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Works after completing an apprenticeship at Messrs Fielding and Platt Limited (Engineering Works).

Prior to the Great War William had served for four years with the local Territorial Force (TF) unit, the 5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. However by August 1914 he was no longer a member of that unit but on 31 August 1914 after the declaration of war, he re-enlisted, joining many of his fellow rugby players in the 5th Gloucesters. He landed at Boulogne as a Private in D Company, 5th Gloucesters on 29 March 1915; also with him was his younger brother, William Fryer Washbourne who although wounded would also survive the war and [Charles Frederick Webb](#) who would become his brother-in-law in 1921.

In May 1916 William was promoted to the rank of Corporal when he joined the 145/2 Trench Mortar Battery which was attached to the 145 Brigade which was comprised of four infantry battalions including the 5th Gloucesters. William fought throughout the Somme Offensive in 1916 and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. Sadly he was wounded towards the end of 1916 and spent ten weeks undergoing treatment at a base hospital along with fellow players [Charles Cook](#) and **William Parham**.

On 22 January 1917 William returned to Great Britain for a period of convalescence but he was subsequently discharged from active service on 28 June 1917 and transferred to the Class W(T) Reserve as the authorities had decided that his civilian engineering expertise could best be utilised on vital war work. He was sent to Glasgow and joined the Labour Department of Messrs William Beardmore and Company Limited (Parkhead Works); the works

supported the war effort with a variety of products including armour plate and ordnance. William spent the remainder of the war in Glasgow.

William was a modest man which was evidenced by the fact that he has only made a passing mention in a letter home of his award of the Military Medal and by the fact that he chose to have the medal simply posted to him rather than to be given it at an official ceremony. Before his move to Glasgow in 1917 William married Ellen Alberta ('Nellie') Charlee at Gloucester; the couple had one son, William Leslie Fryer Washbourne (1918-1999).

By 1939 William was working as an Aircraft Fitter while his son William Leslie Fryer Washbourne was an Electrician. **William, a wing, played 169 games for the Gloucesters First XVB, scoring 77 tries in two periods from 1909 to 1914 and from 1918 to 1922. He also played 34 games for the Gloucester Second XV between 1909 and 1923, scoring 28 tries. His services at county level were recognised and he was awarded 16 Gloucestershire County caps, scoring 7 tries between 1910 and 1914.** William died on 5 January 1977 at Wickwar aged 86 years with his funeral held at the Gloucester Crematorium. His wife, Ellen, died in 1978 aged 85 years. [There is a detailed profile of William Washbourne](#) in the People/Player Profiles section of this website. Also see the [Gallantry Awards in the People/Honours/Military Honours section of this website](#).

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The **WEBB** Family – **Charles Frederick ('Fred') Webb**

Charles Frederick ('Fred') Webb was born at Abersychan, Monmouthshire on 3 October 1895, the son of Albert Arthur Webb (1866-1914), a Caterer and Confectioner/Baker and Emily Webb (née Rosser) (1862-1946). The couple were married in Stroud on 2 February 1890 and had four children. However by 1891, not long after the birth of their first child, Fred's father, Albert, moved to Trevethin near Pontypool where he was a lodger in order to pursue his occupation as a Confectioner/Baker. The family soon joined him at Pontypool where Fred was born in 1895 and a set of the twins were born in 1898 although both died shortly after birth; sadly Fred was their only child to survive into adulthood. By 1901 Fred, their only surviving child, and his parents moved back to Gloucester. After leaving school Fred got a job as a Great Western Railway (GWR) Clerk.

On the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 Fred enlisted as Private (2652) in the 1/5th Battalion (TF), Gloucestershire Regiment and along with many other members of the Gloucester Rugby Club, landed in France on 29 March 1915 as a member of C Company. He was promoted to Corporal but was wounded on 12 July 1915 while attending a grenadiers' course at the School of Instruction for Brigade Grenadiers when a hand grenade accidentally exploded injuring him in the face and ear. Fred himself thought that two men were killed and twenty-two injured in the explosion but the Battalion War Diary puts the figures far lower; during this incident [Sid Smart](#) a fellow Gloucester Rugby Club player escaped unscathed. A similar incident had occurred nine weeks previously when [Walter Cromwell](#)¹ another Gloucester Rugby Club player lost his sight in one eye; at this stage of the war much of the ordnance but particularly hand grenades were unstable and accidents were common. Fred was wounded for a second time in July 1916, probably during the Battle of Pozières Ridge in five Gloucester players were killed.

Fred returned home to Gloucester in March 1919 and re-joined his pre-war company the Great Western Railway. On 14 May 1921 Fred married Gertrude May ('May') Washbourne at St Mary de Crypt Church; Gertrude; May was the sister of [William Phillip Woodman Washbourne](#) who was therefore Fred's brother-in-law. The couple had two children. Shortly after the marriage the couple moved from Gloucester to Carmarthen and had two children. The family subsequently moved to Neath in 1934. Fred worked throughout for the GWR as a Clerk in the Signal and Telegraph Maintenance Department. **Fred, a centre and wing, played 115 games for the Gloucester First XV between**

¹ See Family [Relations set 14](#)

1911 and 1923, scoring 60 tries; he captained the Club in the 1920-21 season. He also played 19 games for the Gloucester Second XV between 1911 and 1923, scoring 14 tries. Between 1913 and 1922 he was also awarded 8 Gloucestershire County caps. As with so many players of his generation his contribution to the Gloucester Club would have been far greater had it not been for the intervention of the Great War.

He left Gloucester because of work commitments, at the start of the 1921-22 season and following a move to Carmarthen he joined the Carmarthen Harlequins RFC (aka Carmarthen 'Quins) whilst still initially remaining available for Gloucester away games against Welsh opposition; he actually played 18 games for Gloucester in that season. After a single game for Gloucester in the 1922-23 season, Fred became focused on playing his rugby for Carmarthen Quins and captained the side in the 1924-26 seasons. Fred continued to play until at least 1929 whilst also serving on the Carmarthen Quins Committee. Fred died at Launceston, Cornwall early in 1983 aged 88 years. [There is a detailed profile of Fred Webb](#) in the People/Player Profiles section of this website.

[We are indebted to Percy Jones, Club Historian, Carmarthen Quins for help with Fred Webb's later rugby career]

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