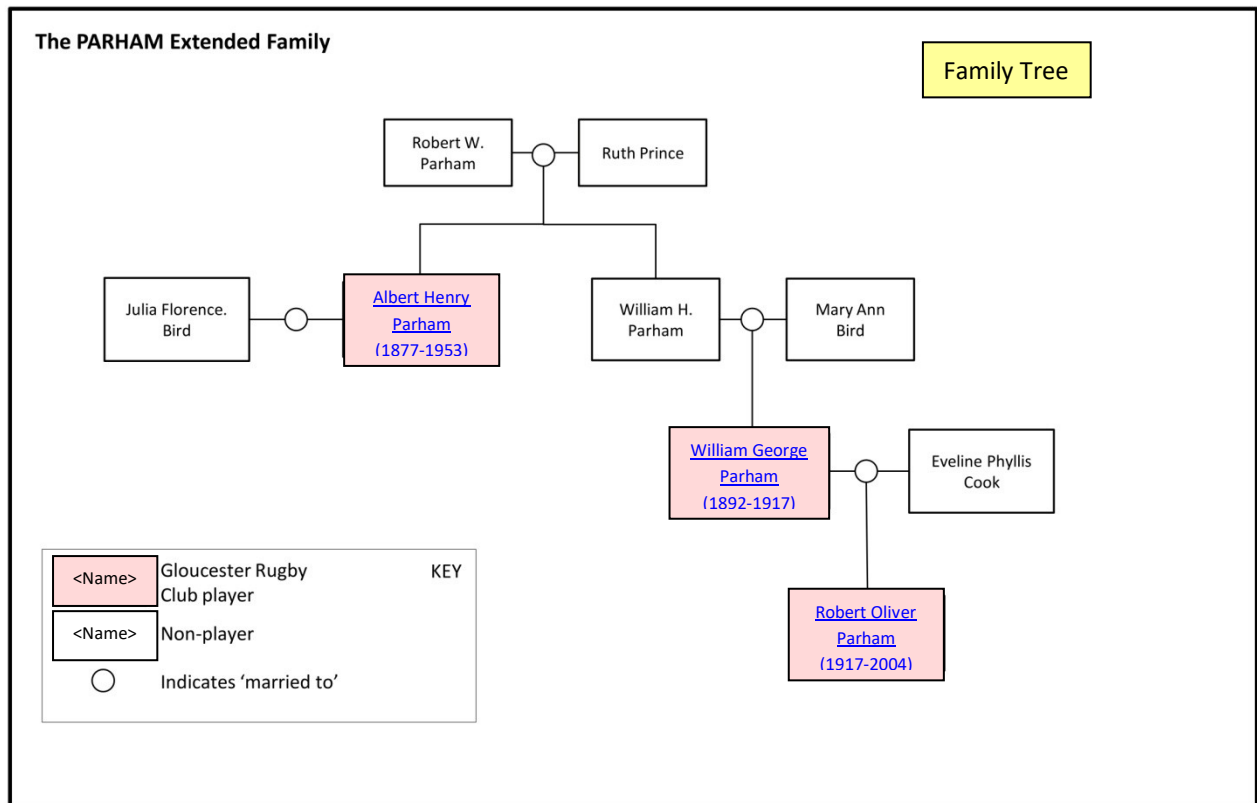


EXTENDED FAMILIES: The PARHAM Family: The relationships between [Albert \('Bert'\) Henry Parham](#), his nephew [William George Parham](#) and William's son, [Robert Oliver Parham](#).



Albert ('Bert') Henry Parham was born in Gloucester on 12 March 1877, the son of Robert William Parham (1840-1890), a Horse Nail Maker, and Ruth Parham (née Prince) (1842-1914). Robert and Ruth had married in Bristol in 1865 and had five children, all of whom survived into adulthood. Bert was the uncle of [William George Parham](#) and the great uncle of William's son, [Robert Oliver Parham](#) (aka Ecclestone). He lived variously at Prince Street and Albert Street, Gloucester and worked as a Telegraph Wiremen. On 17 April 1908 he married Julia Florence Bird at St Mary de Lode Church. Bert's wife was the sister of Mary Ann Bird who in 1891 had married Bert's elder brother, William Herbert Parham. Hence Bert was the uncle to their children which included [William George Parham](#). Bert and Julia had three children and lived at Albert Street and the by 1911 Herbert Street where they were still living in 1939 while Bert was now a Railway Signal Repair Clerk. **Bert, a forward, played 265 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1898 and 1909, scoring 57 tries. He played a further 52 games for the Second XV between 1898 and 1902 scoring 16 tries. He was also awarded 12 Gloucestershire County caps.** Bert died at Herbert Street, Gloucester in the house where he had lived for over forty years on 20 March 1953 aged 76 years while his wife, Julia, died at Gloucester on 29 April 1962 aged 86 years. There is a [detailed profile of Bert Parham](#) in the People/Player Profiles section of this website

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William George Parham was born at Gloucester in 1892, the son of William Herbert Parham (1866-1932), a Foreman Telegraph Wireman, and Mary Ann Parham (née Bird). The couple were married in 1891 at St Mary de Lode Church, Gloucester. Mary Ann Bird was the sister of Julia Florence Bird who married her husband's brother [Albert \('Bert'\) Henry Parham](#); the latter was therefore the uncle of William George Parham. The family lived in Albert Street where William was employed by the Midland Railway in the Engineer's Department as a Labourer for a Telegraph Wireman, possibly his father. **William, a forward, played 36 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1912 and 1914, together with 22 games for the Second XV between 1912 and 1914; there is no doubt that had it not been for the Great War he would have represented Gloucester on many more occasions.** In August 1914 William, along with many of the Gloucester players, enlisted in the 1st/5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment and landed in France on 29 March 1915. On 25 January 1916 whilst home on leave, he married Eveline Phyllis Cook at St Mary de Crypt Church, Gloucester; on their marriage certificate William had recorded his occupation as a Private in the 1st/5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. The couple had only one child, [Robert Oliver Parham](#) who was born on 19 July 1917. Promoted to a Corporal, he was wounded in his right knee at Le Sars in 1916 at the end of the Somme Offensive. In September 1917 William was granted home leave and was able to see his two month old son for what proved to be the one and only time; he had travelled back to Gloucester with his friend **Charles Cook** (157 games for the Gloucesters First XV) who had also been granted leave. Both men soon returned to their battalion and it was reported that in an attack on 4 October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele both men were amongst the 'light' casualties suffered by the battalion. **Charles Cook** had suffered a gun shot wound to the head and lost his sight in one eye while William had been killed in action. William's body was never recovered from the Flander's mud and he is commemorated amongst the Missing on the Tyne Cot Memorial; he was 25 years old. In 1919 Eveline Parham subsequently re-married Ronald William Ecclestone and died in Merthyr Tidfil in 1977 aged 84 years.

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Robert Oliver Parham was born on 19 July 1917, the son of [William George Parham](#) (1892-1917) and Eveline Phyllis Parham (née Cook) (1893-1977). Two years after the death of William at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, Eveline Parham re-married Rowland William Ecclestone and the couple had two children who were Robert's step-siblings; Robert subsequently adopted his step-father's surname of Ecclestone. Robert's was the great nephew of [Albert \('Bert'\) Henry Parham](#). By 1939 the family were living in Merthyr Tidfil but in 1940 Robert, now using the surname of Ecclestone, married Evelyn Maud Holland in Essex where he remained for the rest of his life. **Robert, a scrum-half, played three games for the Gloucester First XV between 1945 and 1949 scoring 1 try. He also played 4 games for the Second XV in the 1946-47 season.** Robert died at Saffron Walden, Essex in 2004 aged 87 years while his wife, Evelyn, died in 2006 aged 90 years.

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