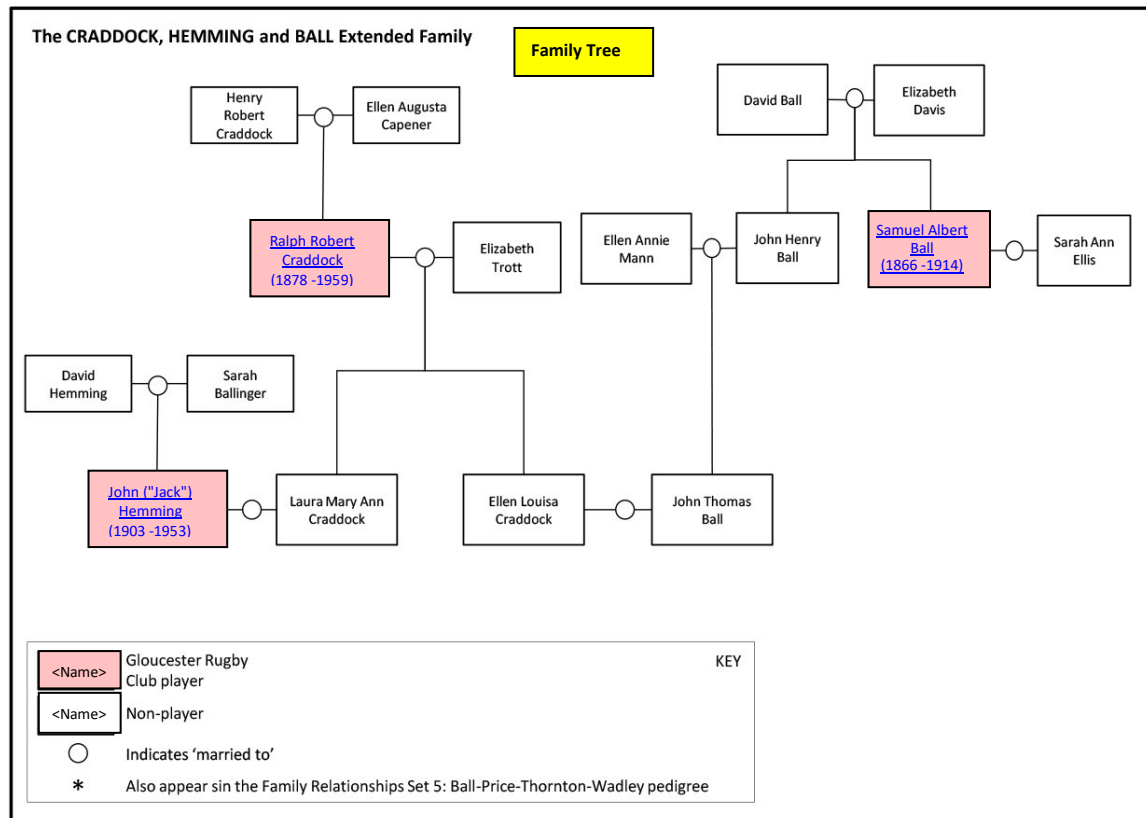


EXTENDED FAMILIES: The [CRADDOCK](#), [HEMMING](#) and [BALL](#) Greater Family: The relationships based on marriage between the families of [Ralph Robert Craddock](#), his son-in-law [John \('Jack'\) Hemming](#) and his other son-in-law's uncle [Samuel Albert Ball](#).



The CRADDOCK Family – Ralph Robert Craddock

Ralph Robert Craddock was born in Gloucester on 10 August 1878, the son of Robert Henry Craddock (1852-1904), a Labourer, Cabman and Groom, and Ellen Augusta Craddock (née Capener) (1852-1940). The couple had married on 11 August 1869 at St. James' Church and together they had four children, all of whom survived to adulthood; Robert was the youngest of the family. For most of their married life they lived at Barbican Cottages, Barbican Road, Gloucester. Ralph left school aged 12 years and was employed as a General Labourer. On 7 February 1895 aged 17 years and 7 months he enlisted as Private 3549 in the 4th Battalion (Militia), the Gloucestershire Regiment; at the time Robert was 5' 3½" tall and weighed 133 pounds. He served for three years until 5 April 1898 when he purchased his discharge after having signed up for six years. On 25 May 1896 Ralph married Elizabeth Trott at St Catharine's Church, Gloucester. At the time Ralph still worked as a Labourer and although initially living in Park Street soon moved to Barbican Road and then to Fords Passage, Longsmith Street, Gloucester. The couple had four children between 1897 and 1909. Their eldest daughter, Ellen Louisa Craddock married John Thomas Ball whose uncle was **Samuel Albert Ball**. Their youngest daughter Laura Mary Ann Craddock married [John \('Jack'\) Hemming](#) who was therefore Ralph's son-in-law. In 1914 whilst still living at Fords Passage in Gloucester Ralph enlisted at Whitehall, London on the 18 August 1915 as Pioneer 115506 in the Labour Battalion, the Royal Engineers; on his Attestation Form he stated that he had never served before, a false statement which could have rendered him liable to imprisonment with hard labour; it is possible that Ralph did

not want the authorities to know that he had previously bought himself out of the army. Because of his stated occupation – navy – and because of his age, Ralph landed in France on 26 August 1915 in a non-combatant role only seven days after enlistment; he did however qualify for the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In July 1917 he transferred to the Labour Corps and was finally discharged from the Army on 7 April 1919. Whilst away on active service, Ralph's son William aged 9 years died of a heart condition. **Ralph, a forward, played 50 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1905 and 1909, scoring 2 tries. He also made 43 appearances for the Second XV between 1904 and 1908 scoring 4 tries. He was awarded a single Gloucestershire County cap in the 1907-08 season.** By 1939 Ralph and his wife were still living at Fords Passage together with his mother; he now earned his living as Deal Carrier/Porter. Ralph died in Gloucester in 1959 aged 81 years; his wife, Elizabeth, had died six years earlier in 1953 aged 75 years.

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The **HEMMING** Family – **John ('Jack') Hemming**

John ('Jack') Hemming was born in Gloucester on 10 November 1903, the son of David Hemming (1878-1923) and Sarah Hemming (née Ballinger) (1884-1951). The couple were married at St. Mary de Lode Church on 17 May 1902 and had nine children, four of whom died in infancy. In 1929 at Gloucester Jack married Laura Mary Ann Craddock, the daughter of [Ralph Robert Craddock](#) who became his father-in-law. Their marriage was celebrated by the Gloucester Rugby Club players who presented Jack with a clock. The couple had six children and by 1939 the family lived in Albert Street, Gloucester while Jack was employed in the aircraft stores at the Gloster Aircraft Factory. **Jack, a forward, played 267 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1923 and 1933, scoring 28 tries. He also represented the Second XV on 24 occasions. He was awarded 11 Gloucestershire County caps between 1925 and 1932 and scored 1 try.** Jack died at the Royal Hospital, Gloucester on 20 October 1953 aged 49 years. His wife, Laura, subsequently re-married in 1955 and died in 1980 aged 71 years. There is [a detailed profile of Jack Hemming](#) in the People/Player Profiles section of this website

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The **BALL** Family – **Samuel Albert Ball**

Samuel Albert Ball's nephew John Thomas Ball married Ellen Louisa Craddock, the daughter of [Ralph Robert Craddock](#).

For a detailed profile of **Samuel Albert Ball** please refer to the [Family Relationship Set 5](#), the Ball, Price, Thornton, Wadley extended family.

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