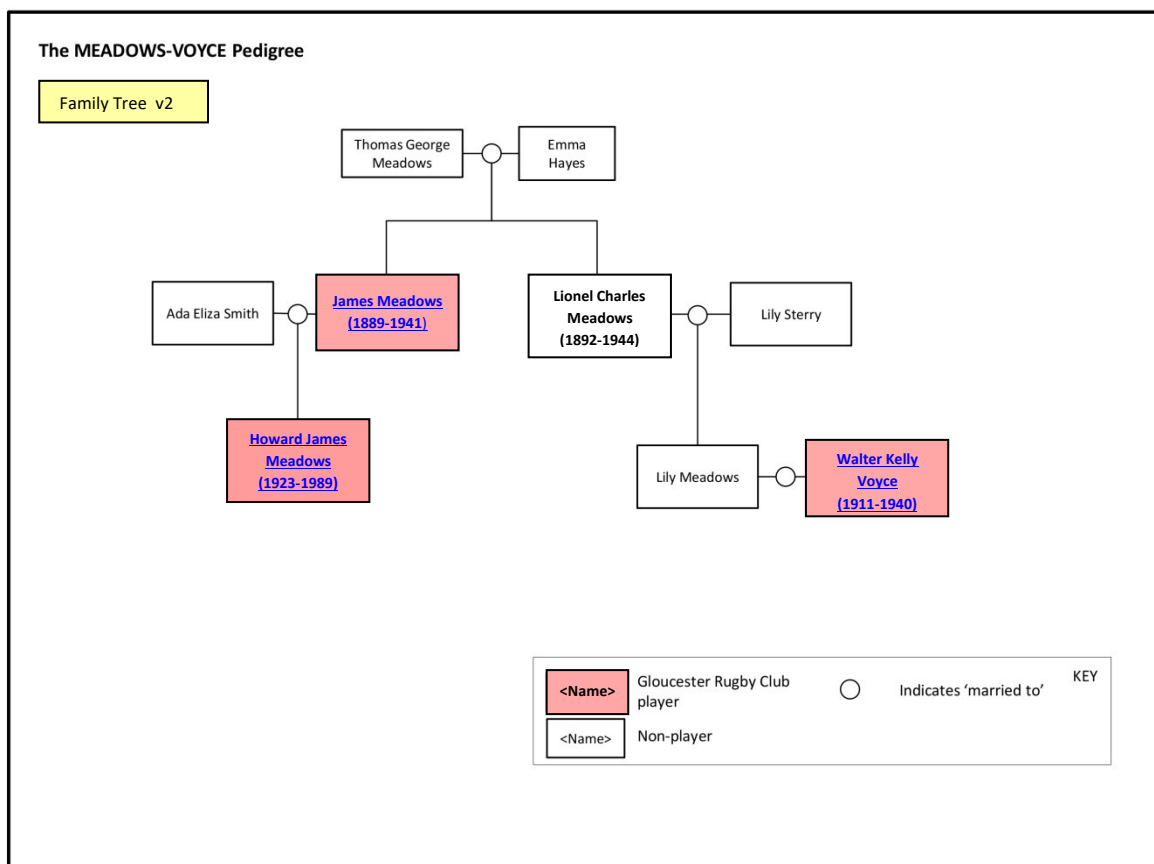


EXTENDED FAMILIES: The MEADOWS and VOYCE Greater Family: The relationships based on marriage between the father and son [James Meadows](#) and [Howard James Meadows](#) and James' niece who married [Walter Kelly Voyce](#).



The **MEADOWS** Family – father and son [James Meadows](#) and [Howard James Meadows](#)

James Meadows was born at Gloucester on 16 March 1889, the son of Thomas George Meadows (1858-1928) and Emma Meadows (née Hayes) (1860-1927). The couple married in 1879 and had eight children. The family lived variously in Morton Street and Hanman Road, Gloucester. One of James' brothers, Lionel Charles Meadows was the father of Lily Meadows, James' niece, who married [Walter Kelly Voyce](#). In 1908 James joined the 5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment as a part-time Territorial Force soldier and in March 1915 went with the battalion to fight on the Western Front in the Great War; he rose to rank of Company Quarter Master Sergeant. In March 1919 he returned to England relatively unscathed except for damaged ribs which he received whilst playing rugby for the 48th (South Midland) Division two months earlier. On 10 January 1917 he married Ada Eliza Smith at Gloucester where his marriage certificate recorded his occupation as a Soldier in His Majesty's Forces; the couple had two children, one of whom [Howard James Meadows](#) would also play for Gloucester. On his return home after the war, James earned his living as a Carpenter. He also volunteered as a Special Constable. James as a forward played 74 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1910 and 1914, scoring 5 tries. He died on 19 July 1941 aged 52 years with his funeral held at All Saints Church, Gloucester. His wife Ada died in 1963 aged 75 years.

One of our contributors in Australia, Dr. Andrew Wilson, has carried out additional extensive research on James Meadows. His [very detailed report](#) is available on this website.

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Howard James Meadows was born in Gloucester on 14 January 1923 the son of [James Meadows](#) (1889-1941) and Ada Eliza Meadows (Née Smith) (1888-1963). His cousin Lily Meadows married [Walter Kelly Voyce](#). He attended The Crypt School where he captained the rugby team and was the first Cryptian to have gained a Blue for rugby at Oxford University after playing in the 1949 Varsity Match as a hooker. During the Second World War he served as a Captain in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and took part in the Anzio landings in Italy where the British Army successfully got ashore but were subsequently pinned down on the beach head. In 1953 he married June Kathleen Munns at Dover. Howard earned his living as a School Master. As a half-back he played 58 games for the Gloucester First XV between 1946 and 1950, scoring 1 try. He was also awarded 3 Gloucestershire County Caps. He died on 27 July 1989 at Barnstable aged 66 years whilst living at Basra Squires Close, Barnstable. His wife, June, died in 2013 aged 89 years. Howard and June are buried together in the St John the Baptist Churchyard, Bishop Tawton, Devon.

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The **VOYCE** Family – [Walter Kelly Voyce](#)

Walter Kelly Voyce was born in Gloucester on 5 November 1911, the son of Frederick William Voyce (1872-1941) and Emma Avery Voyce (née Robins) (1875-1955); the couple had nine children. Walter attended the Archdeacon Street Council School. In 1926 the school was visited by **Tom Voyce** who presented a lecture on his experiences with the British Lions in South Africa. He concluded his lecture by congratulating his namesake, but no relation, **Walter Voyce, on being the sixth pupil from the school to be capped for England at the school boy level.** After leaving school **Walter as a scrum half played initially for Gordon League and Gloucester United. However between 1933 and 1935 he played 17 games for the Gloucester First XV, scoring 2 tries.** Lionel was employed as a Store Keeper at an iron foundry. On 5 August 1939 at St Aldate Church Walter married Lily Meadows who was the daughter of Lionel Charles Meadows and the niece of [James Meadows](#). However Walter's marriage lasted only six months as he died at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary on the 2 February 1940 aged 29 years; his funeral was held at St Mary de Lode Church and he was buried in Gloucester Cemetery. His wife, Lily, remarried in 1945 to a Thomas James Brown from London and died in 2006 aged 87 years.

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