

# George Snape of Brough Lane



George Snape [family collection]

## Family Life

George Henry Snape was born in 1886 on Church Lane, Hanford. His parents were Charles and Emma Snape and by 1901 the family were living at 79, Longton Road, Trentham when Charles gave his profession as "hall porter and messenger", presumably at Trentham Hall. At this time George was aged 14 and described as an "under gardener". He had sisters Patience, Ethel, Annie and Ellen and a brother called Ernest.

Soon after this George started working for the Corn family who owned Henry Richards Tile Company.

In 1908 George married Celia Ouldcott from Crewe - who was also in service with the Corn family - and they began their married life at 7, Brough Lane. Their daughter, Celia was born there in 1909 and their son, George Frederick followed in 1912.

On the 1911 census George and Celia were at 7, Brough Lane with Celia aged one. His occupation is listed as chauffeur. Three of George's sisters, Patience, Annie and Ethel were all in domestic service at houses in the area.

The photo taken at Trentham Hotel on June 19th 1915 shows the Snape family after the wedding of George's sister, Annie. Charles Snape, George's father is on the far left. After the First World War George and Celia had a third child, and named him Alfred Edmund.

George Frederick and Alfred Edmund both worked for the Corn family at Richards Tiles. George Frederick married Mildred Ann Salmon in 1944 and their daughter, Elaine was born after the war. Elaine has provided most of the photographs and information for this display.



George and Celia's wedding photo 1908 [family collection]

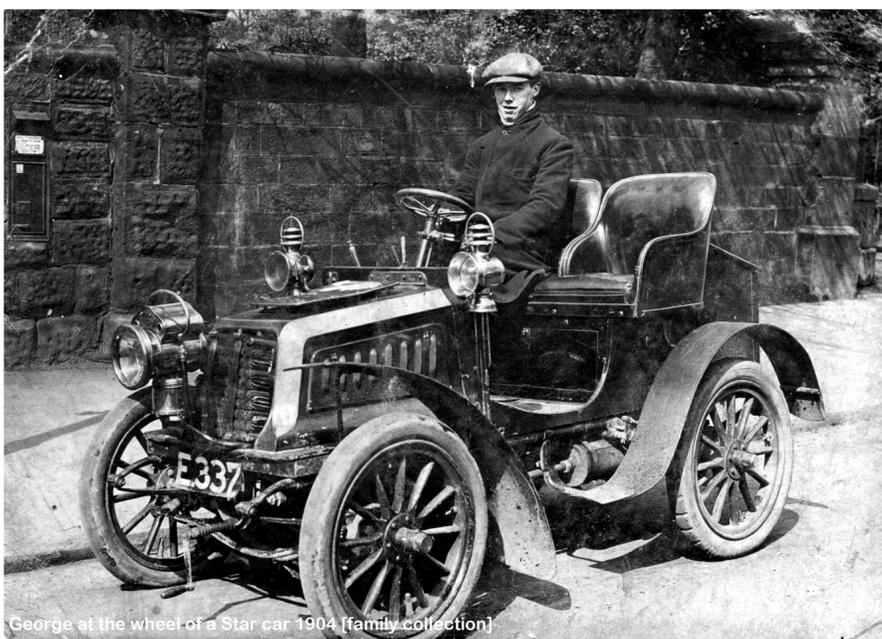


George and Celia with their children [left hand of seated party] 1915 [family collection]

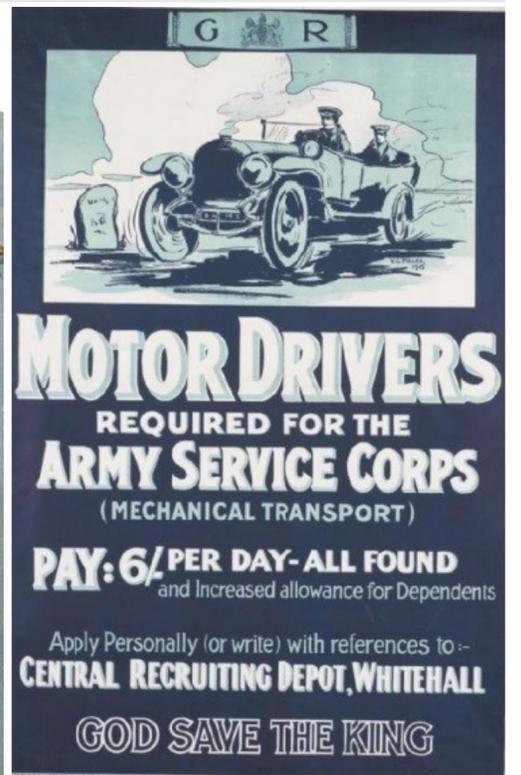
## War Service

As a proficient driver, George was in great demand during World War One. He joined the army in 1916 and went into the Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport). From 1916-20 he served in France, not on the front line but doing the essential job of transporting food, water and fuel as well as technical and military equipment.

In 1918 the corps received the "Royal" prefix in gratitude for their invaluable service to the war effort and the fact that George was not demobbed until 1920 illustrates how vital the drivers were to the cleaning up operation that followed the Armistice.



George at the wheel of a Star car 1904 [family collection]



## Chauffeur service

Mr Edmund Corn was one of the first men in Trentham to own a motor car and he sent George away to Rolls Royce to learn how to drive and also maintain his new motor.

The two seater car in the photo dating from around 1904 was a "Star" car made at the Star Engineering Works in Wolverhampton at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. George is at the wheel.

After four years driving heavy trucks for the Army Service Corps George came home in 1920 and, almost immediately he was asked to drive Edmund Corn and his wife Nancy, in their Silver Ghost Rolls Royce to the south of France. In the photograph taken in Cannes, Edmund and his wife sit in the front and George takes an unusual seat in the back of the car!

George Snape died in 1936 aged only 50. In his obituary it said: "He was head chauffeur to Mr Edmund Corn and had been in the service of the family for 35 years. He was a most devoted servant and faithful friend."



Edmund Corn at the wheel, George Snape in the rear seat - [family collection]