

Frederick William Caudery

Private 5/294807 Army Service Corps

“F Caudery” appears twice on both the Roll of Honour in St Mary’s Church and the War Memorial, which should mean that both died in the war. One of these was Frank Percy Caudery, who died on 7 November 1918, only four days before the Armistice.

The Minute Book of the Amersham Memorial Cross Fund, in their initial list of names, is more forthcoming:¹

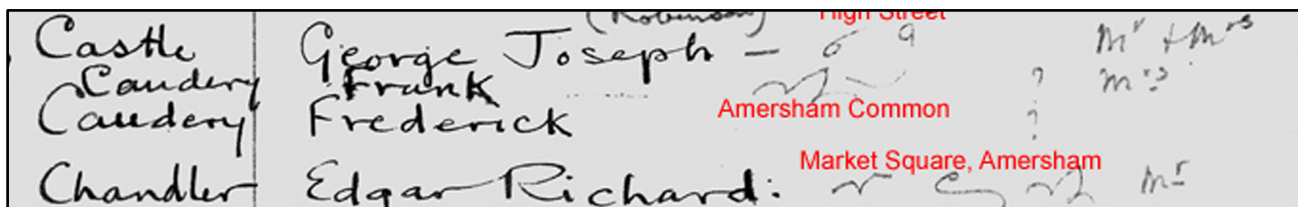


Image courtesy: Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies Ref D/X 961 p219

This states clearly that the second F Caudery was Frederick. The shorthand squiggle has been deciphered as Amersham Common.² The final column was for next of kin and for Frederick there seems to be only a question mark. It is uncertain whether “Amersham Common” is intended to apply just to Frank or to both Cauderys. Finally it is clear that the Committee first listed Frederick Caudery and that Frank was squeezed in as an afterthought.

Casualties listed on the War Memorial should also appear, with helpful extra detail regarding their military service, in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Committee. Frank does, Frederick does not. A search of military records produced only one real candidate, **Frederick William Caudery**.

Born in the Wycombe Registration District in 1885, he married Eliza Matilda Petty at Lewisham St Mary on 16 April 1906. His age is written rather indistinctly as 23 and his father’s details are given as Frederick Caudery, butcher. This enabled him to be found in the 1891 Census in Wendover High Street living with his parents, Frederick (a butcher) and Mary Caudery (née Minney). The father’s birth-year and the list of Frederick William’s siblings shows clearly that this is the same family which later moved to Chesham Villas, Amersham Common, and that Frederick William and Frank Percy Caudery are brothers, even though Frederick, the older brother, is not shown with them in the 1901 Census.

At the time of his marriage he was working, like his father, as a butcher. By 1911 the couple can be found at 74 St Ann’s Road, Harrow, and he gives his trade as “family butcher”. He attested for the Army Service Corps on 2 December 1915, giving his age as 30 years 165 days, which would suggest a birth year of 1885, not 1883, but writing his surname as Caudrey. By this time he and Matilda Eliza were living at 83 Kilmorie Road, Forest Hill, and had two children and he was working as a machine-hand at the Arsenal. He was allocated service number 5/294807 and the Army, taking advantage of his previous skills, assigned him to ‘K’ Supply Company, Field Butchery. He sailed to Le Havre on 20 March 1917 aboard the *Duchess of Argyle* and served until he was discharged, transferring to the Army Reserve on 8 December 1919, having been granted a pension because of a knee injury. By this time the couple had three children; Leslie Frederick (1912), Violet Elsie and Muriel Grace (1916).

¹ Grateful thanks are due to Richard Jones who discovered the Minute Book of the Amersham Memorial Cross Fund Committee amongst papers deposited at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies by the Reverend Allan Campbell, sometime Rector of St Mary’s, Amersham. See D/X 961, page 219.

² Thanks also to Gill Powell for deciphering the shorthand notes.

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Frederick William Caudery was awarded The British War Medal, 1914-18 and The Allied Victory Medal.

He died in 1948 on 28 February in Bexhill Hospital while a resident of 34 Elsinore Road, Forest Hill, London SE 23, aged 62, and therefore, strictly speaking, could have been included on the Roll of Honour, but should not have been named on the War Memorial. We also do not know for how long, if at all, he lived in Amersham, but clearly his parents and siblings were resident here and perhaps the family drew some comfort from seeing the brothers listed together on the war memorial.