

121: John W. Cartmel

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: John W. Cartmel

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: Royal Army Service Corps.

Service Number: M2/191013

Date of Death: 20 September 1920

Age at Death: 29

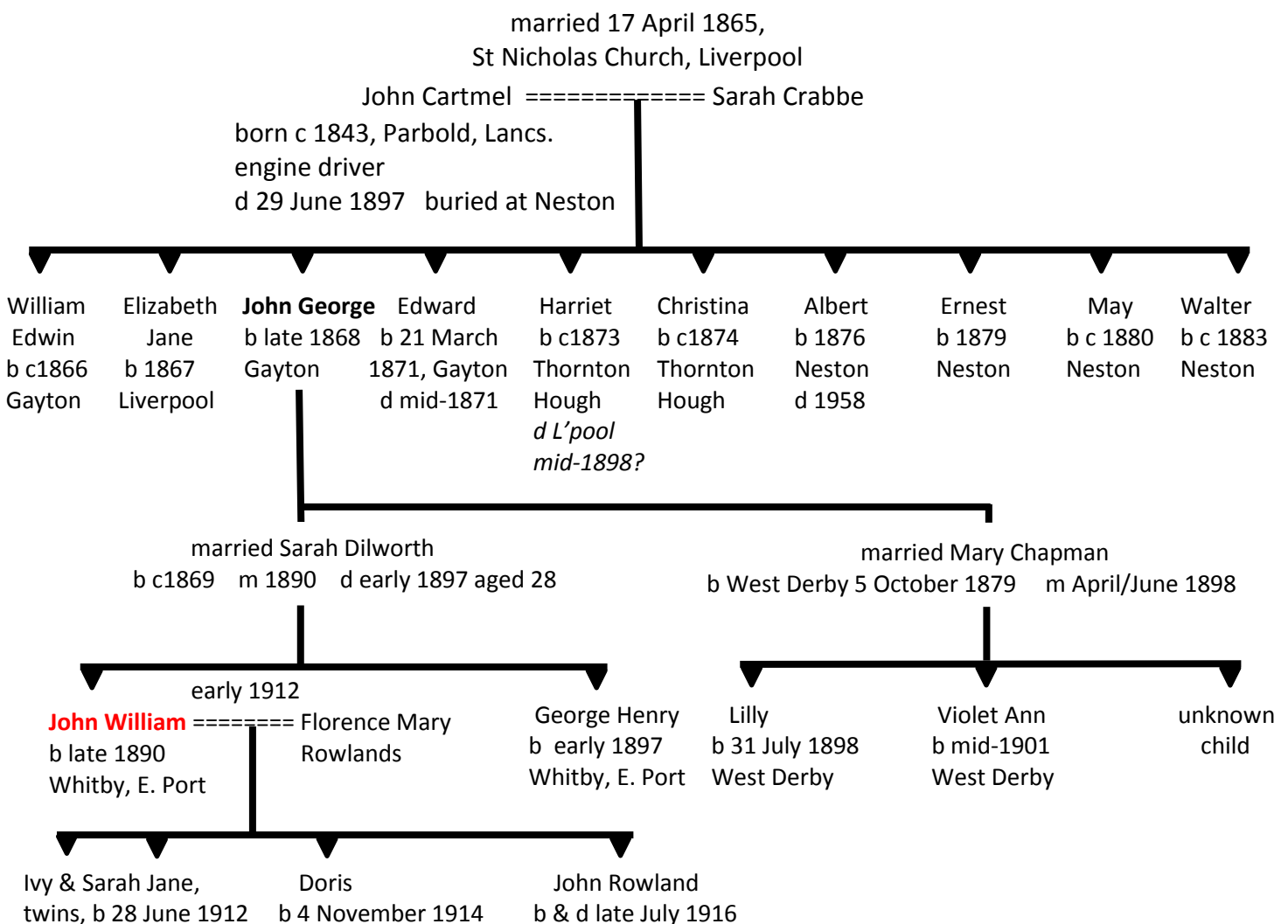
Buried / Commemorated at: Neston Cemetery, Raby Road

Additional information given by CWGC: The husband of Florence M. Cartmel of 8, Raby Rd., Neston

Although John (Jack) William Cartmel died in September 1920, almost two years after WW1 had ended, he is recorded here as he appears on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database as a war casualty.

John was a son, and first child, of John George Cartmel (the name is commonly misspelled as *Cartmell*) and Sarah and he was probably born in late 1890 or early 1891 in the Eastham area.

The family relationships, which are somewhat complex, are shown best on a simplified family tree with John William Cartmel, the subject of this account, indicated in red:



John George Cartmel had married Sarah Dilworth at St Lawrence's Church, Stoak (near Little Stanney), in April / June 1890 and in 1891 he was recorded as a ship canal labourer living in Whitby, Ellesmere Port:

John Cartmell	Head	M	22	Ship Canal Labourer	+	Lanes Preston
Sarah do	Wife	M	22			Chester Little Stanney
John W do	Son					do Ellesmere Port

1891 census (extract) – Church Terrace, off Church Street, Whitby, Ellesmere Port

John Cartmell	22	ship canal labourer	born Preston
Sarah	22		born Little Stanney
John W.	4 months		born Ellesmere Port

John William Cartmel, the first son of John and Sarah, was probably born in the Eastham area in late December 1890 and his birth was registered in early 1891.

John George Cartmel was, quite probably, working at this time on the Manchester Ship Canal which opened in January 1894. Interestingly, John George Cartmel's parents were also named John and Sarah; this John, born in Parbold in Lancashire, married Sarah Crabbe at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church, on 17 April 1865 and they had a large family. This John was an engine driver and, in 1881, the family was living on Mill Street in Neston having moved to the town in about 1876:

John Cartmel	38	engine driver	born Parbold, Lancashire
Sarah	38	engine driver's wife	born Gayton
William Edwin	15	assistant to father (engine driver)	born Gayton
Elizabeth Jane	13		born Liverpool
John George	12		born Gayton
Harriet	8		born Thornton Hough
Christina	7		born Thornton Hough
Albert	5		born Neston
Ernest	3		born Neston
May	1		born Neston

Sarah Crabbe was a daughter of wheelwright Edward and Margaret Crabbe of Gayton. It is not certain as to whether John Cartmel was the driver of a railway locomotive or, more probably, whether he worked a stationary steam engine.

Although three of the children had been born in Neston - and Walter was born in Neston in about 1893 - only the baptism of Albert (at the Parish Church on 4 December 1877) has been found.

In the 1891 census the family was still in Neston, now living on Raby Road, Walter had been born and John George married Sarah Dilworth and had moved away:

John Cartmel	Head	M	48	Engine Driver		Lancashire Parbold
Sarah do	Wife	M	48			Cheshire Gayton
Harriet do	Daughter	L	18			do Thornton
Christina do	do	L	14			do do
Albert do	Son		15	Apprentice		do Neston
Ernest do	Son		13	Schooler		do do
May do	Daughter		11	do		do do
Walter do	Son		8	do		do do

John Cartmel died on 29 June 1897 and was buried in Neston Parish Churchyard; at the time of the 1901 census Sarah was still living on Raby Road with some of her family including the two sons of John George Cartmel, John (who died as a result of WW1 and is the subject of this account) and George:

Sarah Cartmel	Head	wid	58	✓	Housekeeper		at Home	Heswall, Cheshire
Ernest Do.	Son	S.	23	✓	joiner	worker		Neston, Do.
Walter Do.	Do	S.	18	✓	House Decorator	Do.		Do. Do.
May Do.	Daugh ^r	S.	21	✓	Dressmaker	own account	at Home	Do. Do.
John Do.	G. Son		10	✓	Scholar			Whitby Do.
George Do.	Do		4	✓	Do.			Do. Do.

1901 census (extract) – Raby Road, Neston

Sarah Cartmel	58	widow, housekeeper	born Heswall
Ernest	23	joiner	born Neston
Walter	18	house decorator	born Neston
May	21	dressmaker, own account, at home	born Neston
John	10	grandson	born Whitby
George	4	grandson	born Whitby

Of the other children of John Cartmel and Sarah (née Crabbe) it is known that:

William Edwin Cartmel married Elizabeth Bithell at St Michael's Church, Shotwick, in early 1890. It is not known when or where he died.

Elizabeth Jane Cartmel, 27, married Robert Durham, 26, on 24 August 1895 at Neston Parish Church. Elizabeth recorded that her father, John, was an engine driver and Robert, a fireman, recorded that his father was John Durham, a coal merchant. Elizabeth and Robert had several children including Eric Reginald Durham (died 11 December 1905 aged 6) and Robert Langston Durham who died on 2 February 1934 aged 29.

In the 1939 Register Elizabeth was recorded at 14 Gorseville Road, Bebington, with two of her children:

Elizabeth J Durham	born 15 August 1867	widow
Marion Durham	born 22 January 1908	single shop assistant - coats
Marjorie Williams	born 7 February 1900	widow
Elizabeth Williams	born 8 April 1926	

It is not known when Robert Durham, Elizabeth's husband, died.

Marion Durham's birth was registered in West Derby; it is not known whether she married or when she died.

Marjorie Durham's birth was also registered in West Derby and she married William H Williams at St John The Evangelist Church, Walton-on-the-Hill, Liverpool, in mid-1923. Although Marjorie is recorded as a widow, it is not certain when William died. It is also not known when Marjorie died.

Harriet Cartmel married Thomas Kendrick at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church, in April / June 1898. Nothing further is known of her.

Christina Cartmel married William Bebb at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in mid-1911 and it is known that they had at least two children (Edith Mary in late 1911 and Thomas David Bebb in late 1914). Both children were born in Neston.

Christina died, aged 51, in Neston in late 1924, and in late 1925 William married Mary Richards in Newtown, Montgomeryshire. In the 1939 Register they were living at The Garage, Hadlow Road, Willaston:

William Bebb	born 11 April 1880	garage proprietor
Mary	born 18 March 1881	
Thomas D	born 2 September 1914	aircraft welder

William Bebb died on Wirral, aged 62, in late 1942. Around the same time Thomas married Maud Edna Cornes at Christ Church, Ellesmere Port. Thomas died, aged 53, in early 1968.

Ernest Cartmel (born 12 December 1879) married Rachel Woodcock of Church Minshull, Cheshire, at St Mary's Church, Tarporley, in late 1901. In the 1911 census they were recorded as living at 11 Devonshire Place, Handbridge, with their three children: Edward Ernest (9, born Tiverton); Herbert (7, born Hoylake); Clarice Mary (5, born Chester). Ernest was recorded as a joiner aged 33 and it is believed that he died in South Liverpool in April / June 1943 aged 65. At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September), when he was recorded as a builder and contractor, he was living with wife Rachel (born 30 October 1875) at 'Rose Villa' on Hadlow Road, Willaston.

May Cartmel, 27, married George Dodd, 28, at Neston Parish Church on 11 June 1907. May, of Raby Road, recorded that her deceased father, John, was a ship's carpenter. George Dodd, of Little Neston, was a joiner and his father was farmer John Dodd. May and George had several children including George Duncan Dodd who died, aged 14, on 10 September 1928. May died in early 1962 aged 81.

Walter Cartmel married Mary Josephine McNally at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne Church, the Liverpool Parish Church, in April / June 1905 and at the time of the 1911 census they were living on Victoria Road, Little Neston, where Walter (29) was a house painter. At that time they did not have any children. In the 1939 Register they were recorded at "Burgold", Lees Lane, Little Neston:

Walter Cartmel	born 10 May 1882	house decorator
Mary	born 18 March 1881	
John Dunn(?)	born 8 November 1925	

One line of the record has been redacted

Walter died, aged 59, in early 1942 and Mary died, aged 75, in late 1962.

Little further is known of Albert Cartmel although it is believed that he was unmarried, died in Crosby in late 1958 and was buried at Neston Parish Church.

John George Cartmel's wife, Sarah (née Dilworth, John William Cartmel's mother) died in early 1897 aged just 28 and, just over a year later, John George Cartmel married Mary Chapman. Mary was a daughter of John and Ann Chapman of Kirkdale, Liverpool; John and Ann had been born in Ruthin and their first children had been born there before the family moved to Liverpool in about 1880. Mary, their second child to be born in Liverpool, had her birth registered in April / June 1883 and in the 1891 census, when the Chapman family was living at 2, Frith Street, Kirkdale, her age was recorded as being 8.

It appears, therefore, that when John George Cartmel married Mary Chapman (born 5 October 1879) in the West Derby district of Liverpool in April / June 1898 Mary may have been 18½ and was already expecting their first child; Lilly Cartmel's birth (as *Lily*) was registered at Kirkdale, Liverpool, and it is known from the 1939 Register that she was born on 31 July 1898.

It seems possible that, following his marriage to Mary Chapman in 1898, John George Cartmel abandoned the care of his sons John and George to his first mother-in-law, Sarah, in Neston, whilst he established a new home with Mary in Kirkdale. Certainly, at the time of the 1901 census John and George were with Sarah on Raby Road in Neston (see census extract on previous page) and John and his new family were living at Studholme Street (since redeveloped) close to the Huskisson Dock in Liverpool:

John Cartmell	Head	M	28	Traction engine driver	do	Tipperary Ireland
Mary do	Wife	M	26			Liverpool Lancs
Lilly do	Daughter	S	3			do do
Violet do	do	S	1 mo.			do do

1901 census (extract) – 2, Studholme Street, Kirkdale

John Cartmell	28	traction engine driver	born Tipperary, Ireland
Mary	26		born Liverpool
Lilly	3		born Liverpool
Violet	1 month		born Liverpool

It appears, from this census return, that John and Mary were attempting to alter their identity; John had certainly not been born in Tipperary (and may never have been to Ireland) and both adjusted their ages to disguise their age difference) - John would really have been about 31 and Mary was 21½. Interestingly, John was now recorded as a traction engine driver, the occupation recorded previously for his father.

Ten years later, at the time of the 1911 census, John William Cartmel (now employed as a domestic gardener) and his brother George were still living with his widowed grandmother, Sarah Cartmel, on Raby Road, Neston:



The location of Studholme Street (arrowed), off Derby Road [AtoZ Street Atlas of Liverpool]

1	Sarah Cartmel	Head	68	Widow	70	7	5					Heswall Cheshire	
2	Christina Cartmel	Daughter	35	Single								Thornton Cheshire	
3	John Cartmel	Grandson	20	Single				Gardener (domestic)	4	8		Ellesmere Port Cheshire	
4	George Cartmel	Grandson	14	Single								Ellesmere Port Cheshire	
5	William Bebb	Boarder	31	Widower				Chauffeur (domestic)	4	6		Welshpool	490
6													

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Total	Males	Females	Persons
	3	2	5

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Sarah Cartmel
Postal Address: Raby Road, Neston, Cheshire

June (5)

1911 census (condensed) – Raby Road, Neston

Sarah Cartmel	68	widow	born Heswall
Christina	35	daughter, single	born Thornton
John	20	grandson, gardener (domestic)	born Ellesmere Port
George	14	grandson	born Ellesmere Port
William Bebb	31	boarder, widower, chauffeur (domestic)	born Welshpool

Sarah had ten children of whom seven had survived to 1911.

Boarding with the family was widower William Bebb; he married John's sister, Christina, a few months later.

Meanwhile, John's father, John George Cartmel, was still living with his second family, and in-laws, in Rosalind Street, Liverpool, a road which no longer exists. On this census return the ages of John and Mary are approximately correct:

1	John George Cartmel	Head	41	Married	14	9	1	Engine Driver	390	Emigration	9	Thornton Hough	Cheshire
2	Mary Cartmel	Wife	32	Married								Liverpool	Cheshire
3	John Chapman	Son-in-law	68	Widower				Sawyer	4	Timber Merchant	4	Ruthin	Denbigh
4	Evan Chapman	Brother-in-law		Single				Engineer	22	Engineer	4	Liverpool	Cheshire
5	Lilly Cartmel	Daughter	13	Single								Liverpool	Cheshire
6	Violet Cartmel	Daughter	10	Single								Liverpool	Cheshire

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Total	Males	Females	Persons
	3	3	6

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: John George Cartmel
Postal Address: 145 Rosalind Street, Liverpool

1911 census (condensed) – 145, Rosalind Street, Kirkdale, Liverpool

John George Cartmel	41	engine driver	born Thornton Hough
Mary	32		born Liverpool
John Chapman	68	father-in-law, widower, sawyer, timber merchant's	born Ruthin
Evan Chapman	22	brother-in-law, engineer	born Liverpool
Lilly Cartmel	13		born Liverpool
Violet Cartmel	10		born Liverpool

John and Mary had been married for 14 years and one of their three children had died.

John William Cartmel married Florence Mary Rowlands at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church, in January/March 1912. Florence was a daughter of Neston colliery underground labourer George and Josephine Rowlands of Neston High Street and the 1911 census recorded her as being 20 and born in Birkenhead.

Florence's younger brother, George Rowlands, fought with the 9th Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) in WW1, contracted influenza and was brought back to Britain where he died on 15 July 1918 [see 80: George Rowlands].

John and Florence appear to have had at least four children:

Ivy and Sarah J	born 28 June 1912 Ivy married John Joseph Lowans at Neston Parish Church in early 1937 and it is believed that they had two children, Jean Mary (1938) and John David (1940). Nothing further is known of Sarah J Cartmel.
Doris Josephine	born 4 November 1914 married Charles William Cottrell at Neston Parish Church in early 1934. Charles died in 1991 and Doris in 2011; both are buried in Neston Cemetery.
John Rowland	born in late July 1916 and buried, aged 4 days, on 2 August 1916 at Neston Parish Church. The address was recorded as High Street, Neston

The address of Florence was recorded later as 8, Raby Road, probably the home of John's grandmother, Sarah, as she had died, aged 70, in October 1912.

As no Service Record has been found for John Cartmel, few details can be given of his life in the Royal Army Service Corps. or of his death in September 1920, when he was 29. However, it is known that he enlisted as a Private on 1 December 1915 in the Motor Transport unit

The Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) was a corps of the British Army responsible for land, coastal and lake transport, air despatch, barracks administration, the Army Fire Service, staffing headquarters' units, supply of food, water, fuel and domestic materials such as clothing, furniture and stationery and the supply of technical and military equipment. Although a support organisation, the RASC personnel were considered to be combatants and, at the height of the war, the RASC numbered an incredible 10,547 officers and 315,334 men.

The Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920, notes that John was discharged from the RASC on 5 June 1918, well before the end of the war. The reason for his discharge is quoted as being under Paragraph 392 (XV1) of King's Regulations - this applied to anyone deemed to be *no longer physically fit for war service*.

(xvi) No longer physically fit for war service:— (a) During a period of war or demobilization. (i) If the soldier is a patient in hospital. (ii) If not a patient in hospital	Officer i/c Hospital Records G.O.C.-in-C. Officer i/c Records	A soldier found medically unfit by a military Medical Board for further service, irrespective of his length of service, i.e., unfit for any medical category required in the Army, will be discharged under this heading. A soldier found medically unfit to re-engage and any man discharged for insanity, irrespective of his length of service, will be dealt with under this heading. See paragraphs 399 and 410.
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On this extract of (XV1) King's Regulations, the sections in red indicate changes to the previous form of these regulations

John was recorded as being aged 27 and it is believed that he was a

victim of a gas attack which left him with severe respiratory problems. Indeed, a grandson of John Cartmel, Dave Lowans, wrote in March 2018:

I never got to know or meet him as he died of Mustard Gas that destroyed his lungs so badly that the only way he could sleep was in the open air. He spent most of his life sleeping in what were then the Laundry fields between Neston and the Dee. Thanks to him and men like him we still enjoy a good life.

[<http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Cheshire/Neston/CH64/News/Local-News/314062-Christopher-Bushells-VC-Commemorative-Stone-is-Laid-in-Neston>]

On discharge, John applied immediately for a Silver War Badge to demonstrate that he had served honourably ¹.

Although discharged from the RASC John was still entitled to receive the normal military medals at the end of the war.

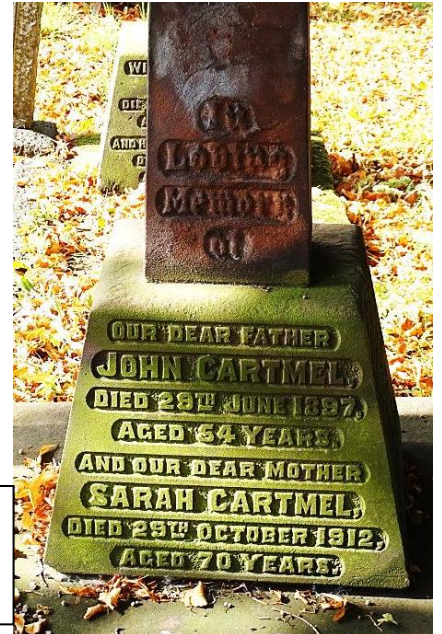
NR 191013	"	CARTMEL	R.A.S.C. No. 191013							Discharged, 5/8/18,
		John.	Private,							Para. 392. (XVI) K.R'a.

WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920

British War Medal and Victory Medal

Name	Corps.	Rank	Regt. No.	
CARTMEL. John.	A.S.C	Pls	M2/191013	
Medal.	Roll.	B.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RASC/101.135	13884	Dis.	
BRITISH	- do -	- do -		
STAR				
S.W.B. list ASC/2462				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920



The base of the gravestone in Neston Parish Churchyard recording that John Cartmel died on 29 June 1897 aged 64 and Sarah Cartmel died on 29 October 1912 aged 70.

A soldier and vehicles of the 960 Motor Transport Company, ASC.

[Source: <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-army-service-corps-in-the-first-world-war/> (IWM image Q71933)]



¹ Over one million Silver War Badges were issued to men and women who were honourably discharged due to illness or injury during World War One. The badge was first issued in 1916, and could be applied for by all of those discharged since the start of the war. Approximately half of the almost two million men and women who were eligible to wear the badge applied for it. The small circular silver badge bears the initials of the King and a crown and is inscribed with the words 'For King and Empire, Services Rendered.' [<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBM/SILVERWAR/BADGES/789636>]

The grave in Neston Cemetery is also inscribed:
Also Florence Mary, his wife, who died 26 September 1929 aged 39 years Also their grandchild Irene J. Williams 1940 – 1964.

A separate marble slab on the grave commemorates Charles Cottrell, 1912 - 1991, and Doris Cottrell, 1914 – 2011.

Doris was the third child of John and Florence Cartmel and she married Charles W. Cottrell in early 1934.



The grave also encloses a slab near the foot inscribed *In Loving Memory of Irene, Wife of David*. David B. Williams married Irene J Cottrell on Wirral in mid-1961.

No mention of the Cartmel family has been found in contemporary newspapers.

It is believed that John George Cartmel, John's father, died in the Abercromby area of Liverpool in mid-1925 when his age was recorded as 54.

At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) Mary, John William Cartmel's step-mother, was living at 72 Clare Road,

Bootle, the home of her daughter Lily and her family. Lily married Michael Sheridan at West Derby Register Office in mid-1925 and she died, aged 98, in West Lancashire in December 1996:

Michael P Sheridan	born 2 February 1894	clerk, Ministry of Labour
Lily	born 31 July 1898	barmaid, part time
John F	born 20 December 1927	

One line of the record has been redacted

Mary Cartmel	born 5 October 1879	widow, hospital cleaner
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Mary Cartmel died in the Liverpool district, aged 77, in early 1957.

Michael P Sheridan died, aged 74, in the Bootle district in late 1968.

John William Cartmel had one full-blood brother, George Henry, who was born in Whitby, Ellesmere Port, on 25 December 1896. In early 1922 George married Cissie Eveline Wheeler (born 28 September 1896) at a Civil Marriage in Chester and it is believed that they had at least two sons, John J (born 31 January 1923) and Derek (born mid-1931). George died, aged 57 in the Chester district in early 1954.

In the 1939 Register George, recorded as being disabled, and Cissie were living at 12 Well Lane, Newton, Chester. With them was unmarried son John, an electrical storekeeper. A further line of the Register has been redacted.

Violet Ann, a half-sister of John and George Cartmel, married Henry E Price at St Athanasius Church, Kirkdale, in mid-1921 but they have not been found in the 1939 Register and nothing further is known of her.

Ivy was one of the twin daughters of John and Florence Mary Cartmel. As noted previously, Ivy married John J Lowans at Neston Parish Church in early 1937 and it is believed that they had two children, Jean Mary (1938) and John David (1940). In the 1939 Register they are recorded as living at 24 Cottage Close, off the Burton Road, Neston:

John J Lowans	born 1 August 1912	journeyman plasterer
Ivy	born 28 June 1912	
George Rowlands	born 8 December 1863	caretaker, retired

George Rowlands was Florence's father and the father of George Rowlands jnr who died as a consequence of WW1 [see [80: George Rowlands](#)]. George Rowlands snr died in East Wirral in mid-1943 aged 78.

It is not known when John and Ivy Lowans died.

Doris, as noted previously, married Charles William Cottrell at Neston Parish Church in early 1934. Charles died in 1991 and Doris in 2011 and both are buried in Neston Cemetery (see previous photographs). In the 1939 Register they are recorded at 6 Norman's Cottages, Newtown, Little Neston:

Charles W Cottrell	born 13 May 1912	joiner - carpenter
Doris J	born 4 November 1914	

One line of the record has been redacted

It is believed that Doris and Charles had two children, Joyce (born mid-1935) and Irene Josephine (late 1940)

Irene Cottrell married David B Williams in April / June 1961 and they had a son born in April / June 1964.