

Emsworth's *Titanic* Baker

Walking down South Street you would be forgiven for not noticing No. 23. It sits amongst the old cottages and some modern buildings, very unassuming. Behind the front door though is a story, a story that many of you may not know.

So let's go back to 1851, and a family by the name of Farrenden – George and Ann Farrenden. They live in Tower Street, Chichester with their son William, eight years old.

In 1876 William marries a young lady named Elizabeth Hammond from Portsea. William is a baker and after their marriage they move out to Emsworth, to No. 32 Nile Street, from where they run a bakery. By 1891 they have five children: William (jnr.), Elizabeth, Francis, George and Ernest. One would imagine the small house in Nile Street was rather cramped, so at 13 William jnr. goes to live with his widowed grandmother, Phoebe Hammond, who lives on the Square in Emsworth. Sadly Elizabeth Farrenden (née Hammond) passes away in 1900 aged 46. William is devastated and with the help of his sons Ernest and George, carries on with his bakery business.

About 1901 William is given the chance to move his business to larger premises. Mr Griffiths of 23 South Street had been running his family bakery for many years but was not in good health. He wanted to retire and offered the business to William Farrenden and three of his children, Francis, George and Ernest, moved with him. After several years William found love again. Elizabeth's sister, Francis Hammond, had been living at South Street for some time and they eventually decided to marry in 1905. Together they made a good living from the bakery and George and Ernest also became bakers, learning the trade from their father.

By 1911 all the children had left home and this brings me to Ernest, the youngest of William's children. He stayed working at the bakery in Emsworth for some time. I do not know Ernest's whereabouts after the 1901 census as he is not living at No. 23 on the 1911 census. But during that period he decided to join up with the White Star Line and his first posting was on RMS *Olympic*. His profession at the time was as a baker/confectioner and he received £6 a month salary.

Then on 4 April 1912, he was transferred to the marvellous new ocean-going liner, RMS *Titanic*. He boarded her on 5 April at Southampton.

Below decks Ernest was in good company; with him on this voyage were fellow workers from RMS *Olympic*, Charles Joughlin and Archibald Leader. Joughlin was head baker and he was in charge of 13 staff, including Ernest and Archibald. His salary was £12 a month, making him one of the best paid crew members. Ernest received £8 a month salary, which was also a very good wage. Archibald Leader had worked alongside Ernest on RMS *Olympic* and as assistant confectioner his salary was £5.10s.0d a month. Leader originated from Cardiff and had spent many years based in Southampton, living at Fanshawe Street in a lodging house.

As we know, the *Titanic* sank on that fateful night of 14 April 1912 with a tremendous loss of life, and sadly Ernest and Archibald were among those missing, presumed dead. Reports list them as drowned and their bodies, if recovered, were never identified. His father continued to live in Emsworth and died on 25 December 1917.

Charles survived. On that night he had gone to his cabin to have a few whiskies as he was off duty. When the accident happened Charles left his cabin and once informed of the situation ordered his staff to take 50 loaves up to the lifeboats for provisions. He returned to his cabin

and proceeded to finish off his bottle of whisky; he then went up to where his assigned lifeboat was located and helped women and children into the boat. He himself did not get in and the lifeboat was launched without him. He then made his way down to Deck B and climbed over the railings, waiting for a chance to jump. Once the *Titanic* started listing heavily Charles launched himself into the sea and began swimming away. As daylight broke Charles was found by RMS *Carpathia*, clinging to an upturned collapsible lifeboat.

Charles Joughlin was called to give evidence to a Board of Trade enquiry and he died in December 1956 in Paterson, New Jersey, USA.

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