

George Nash

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- In 1889, 32-year-old Richard Nash married Miss Edith Day from a well known Somerset horse racing family. They had 7 children, 4 sons and 3 daughters, yet only two survived in to old age: Miss Barbara Frances, the 6th child, and Slade Nash, the 7th child. Their third son died aged 2 days.

Dorothy Alice, the eldest daughter, died suddenly of acute myelitis (a form of polio) at The Noak on 16th May 1911 within days of returning from a May Ball in Cambridge where her brother George was a student. All three of the Nash boys, George, James and Slade, went to School House, King's School, Worcester. This was to be expected as their mother was the daughter of the Rev. Maurice Day, Headmaster of King's for 20 years from 1859 (and later vicar of Wichenford).

George, the eldest son, was at School House for 4 years from 1900 and then went on to Repton. From there he won an open scholarship to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where, in 1912, he graduated with a BA Hons degree in History. Wishing to be ordained, he then studied Divinity at Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford, and it was from there that he joined the Worcestershire Regiment.

The second son James was at School House for longer, 1903-12. He won a Meeke scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford, to read Classics but, before graduating, he joined the East Surrey Regiment in August 1914.

Within a year, these two bright young men were dead. Later, the George Nash Divinity Prize and the James Nash Classical Prize were endowed in their honour, both for the Fifth Forms of King's School.

James was the first to fall in action, on 2nd of April 1915, in the trenches north-east of Mount Kemmel near Ypres. He was killed by a bullet coming from long range from the right flank. He was buried in the Kemmel Military Cemetery, Flanders, aged 21.

Then just two months later, Richard and Edith had another shock when a War Office telegram arrived at The Noak informing them that George had been seriously wounded in the head, on 10th June, during the Battle at Hooze. An operation was at first thought to have been successful but he deteriorated. His mother braved the dangers of travelling abroad during the war and was with him when he died at the Boulogne Stationary Hospital on 29th June 1915, aged 24.

On Thursday 1st July, Edith arrived back in Worcester with her son's body which was taken on a gun carriage first to The Noak and then, on the next day, to St. Peter's. His funeral was on the Saturday afternoon, a detachment of King's school O.T.C. lining the path.

In 1937, following the death of his father, Slade Nash returned home from Sudan, where he was a cotton planter. He died on 27th June, 1989, aged 87, at Redroofs, Everdine Lane, Colwall, but his ashes were buried alongside his father's grave in St. Peter's churchyard. Four years before he died, he set up "The Slade Nash Charity" to benefit the poor and sick, the schools and the church of Martley.

www.martley.org.uk/people/nashclose.htm

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- **Rank:**
- Lieutenant
- **Date of Death:**
- 29/06/1915
- **Regiment/Service:**
- Worcestershire Regiment
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- 6th attd. 3rd Bn.
- **Grave Reference:**
- North-East of Church.
- **Cemetery:**
- MARTLEY (ST. PETER) CHURCHYARD
- **Additional Information:**