

THOMAS ARMSTRONG

Thomas was born in Keyworth on 16 March 1872, the first son of John and Hannah Armstrong. Thomas had six brothers and sisters and they lived on Old Lane (now known as Elm Avenue), the road leading into the club's former home ground.

Thomas, 5'9" tall and weighing 10 stones was selected to play for the Nottinghamshire Colts in matches against the full County team in 1892, 1893 and 1894 and to play against the Yorkshire Colts in 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1897 and between 1892 and 1896 he made six first class appearances for Nottinghamshire CCC.

At the age of 37 years he was called up to play for Nottinghamshire CCC's Second XI in a match against Cheshire CCC in which he opened the batting and took two wickets coming on as first change bowler.

A right hand batsman and right arm medium pace bowler for Keyworth between 1883 and 1928 he took over one hundred wickets and scored almost a thousand runs and on nine occasions took more than 5 wickets in an innings. His best being 8 wickets for 17 runs in a home match on July 17th 1920 against Porchester CC.

Thomas just missed out on a century in a South Notts League match against Willoughby CCC on May 27th 1922 when he was dismissed for 99 runs, having been a key member of the undefeated team that won the League that season.

Thomas spent time away from Keyworth playing as a professional, the 1891 season in Somerset with the Wellington club then the 1893 season with Notts Amateurs CC and then up in the north west with Sefton CC (1895), Werneth CC (1897 to 1905) and Moorside CC (1907 to 1910) and whilst with Sefton made one appearance for Lancashire CCC Second XI against Surrey CCC at the Kennington Oval in 1895.

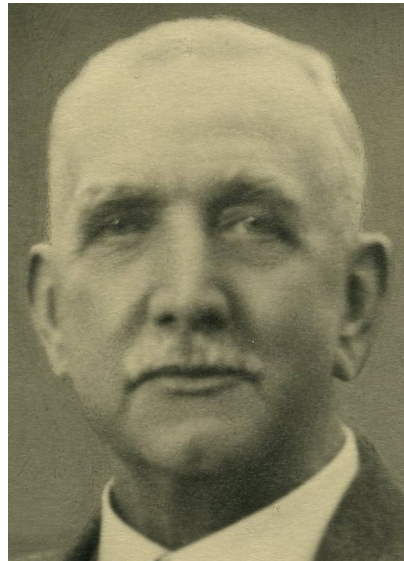
In his first season at the Moorside club they won the Central Lancashire League title and Thomas began well by taking 7 wickets for 27 runs on debut and eventually scored 252 runs and took 77 wickets in the season. In all he took 250 wickets and scored more than 1300 runs in his four seasons with them - his wage, a little under £5 per week. The League title was not retained but Thomas had been effective during that 1907 campaign, especially in the final match against their closest rivals Rochdale CC scoring 54 runs and taking 4 wickets. He then made 29 runs and took 3 for 52 in the end of season encounter against the Rest of the League XI, a match they also won.

Thomas was succeeded at Moorside by the father of future Yorkshire player Maurice Leyland and among the 'professionals roll of honour' to have played at Moorside are West Indies test players Joel Garner and Vanburn Holder.

Thomas' best return with the ball had been 8 wickets for 28 runs against Littleborough CC during the 1909 season.

Thomas played at full back for Keyworth Football Club from 1890 to 1895.

Thomas died in Keyworth on 5 July 1938 and is buried in St Mary's churchyard.



THOMAS ARMSTRONG continued

His father, John Armstrong (born 1846) and also an all rounder played for the club between 1866 and 1885 making a top score of 56 not out and taking more than 100 wickets and later became an umpire. He died in 1927.

Brother John (born 1884), usually known as Jack (pictured right), was an outstanding cricketer with 1137 runs and 199 wickets for the club between 1899 and 1932. He was also selected to play for Notts Club & Ground XI's in 1908 and 1910 but it was as a Nottingham Forest footballer he was better known. He graduated from Keyworth FC to making 535 competitive appearances for Forest between 1905 and 1922 as a wing half back and frequently as captain.



Brother Albert (born 1888) was also a very handy all rounder with 941 runs and 117 wickets from 1903 until his death at Flanders in 1917 during the World War I and was a prolific goalscorer for Keyworth FC whilst the other brother William (born 1874) was recognised for his footballing ability for Keyworth rather than his occasional appearance at cricket to make up the numbers.

Thomas Armstrong's Keyworth career statistics...

	Mat	Inns	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	6's	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Ct	St
1 st XI	101	92	14	99	1869	23.96		520.5	135	1471	214	6.87	34	
2 nd XI	8	8	0	50	118	14.75		24	6	63	7	9.00		
Youth XI	1	1	0	2	2									
CAREER	110	101	14	99	1989	22.86		544.5	141	1534	221	6.94	34	