

WILLIAM 'DICK' ATTEWELL

The Attewell family figure prominently in the history of Keyworth Cricket Club and none more so than the village's most famous cricketing son. On 12 June 1861, William Attewell was born on Old Lane, now known as Elm Avenue and alongside the site of the Keyworth home ground from 1939 to 2012, the son of Samuel & Deborah (nee Disney). Later, he married Fanny Hornbuckle and lived on Main Street in the heart of the village. He worked in the knitwear trade but for a time owned a butcher shop in Keyworth, he died in Long Eaton on 11 June 1927 on the eve of his 66th birthday. The first indication of his future potential came at the age of twelve, when he obtained a hat trick for Keyworth School v Plumtree School and from the age of 17 years he took up a professional engagement with Nottingham Commercial CC which lasted until 1881 when he made his debut for Nottinghamshire CCC versus Middlesex CCC at Lords. This had followed an appearance for the Notts Colts in 1880, playing against the County team, a form of trial match.



William struggled to gain regular selection for several seasons whilst seven leading pro's continued a dispute with the Notts

Committee before he went on to stay in the team for nineteen seasons. It is said that on joining the Nottinghamshire CCC team, he was quickly re-christened 'Dick' because they already had a full compliment of 'Williams'.

He was recorded as being 5'10" tall and weighing 12 stone and was an accurate right arm medium pace bowler with great variation of pace, making him notoriously difficult to score runs from, he took 100 wickets a season on ten occasions and dominated the Nottinghamshire bowling attack for a greater period of time than any other bowler in the long history of the club, claiming 1949 wickets in total between 1881 and 1900 at an average of 15.34 in 429 matches. He was also a brilliant cover

point fielder who could also bat - he made a first class century and scored 8086 runs at an average of 14.04.



WILLIAM ATTEWELL
1861—1927

WILLIAM 'DICK' ATTEWELL continued...



William took all ten wickets for MCC & Ground against Worcestershire CCC for 48 runs in 1883 and in partnership with William Gunn for MCC & Ground against Northumberland CCC he scored 200 in a 419 runs second wicket stand.

Athletically built, with a tanned complexion, he was the Wisden Cricketer of 1892 and played in 10 Tests for England, taking 28 wickets at an average of 22.35 and scoring 150 runs at an average of 16.66 and toured Australia three times. He was on the staff at Lords from 1881 to 1903 and played 53 first class matches for the MCC. His last first class match was in 1900 and after retirement as a player he became a first class umpire until 1909.

When not engaged with Nottinghamshire, the MCC or England, William occasionally played for Keyworth CC and in 1889 he scored 133 not out and became the fourth Keyworth player ever to score a century. He also completed the double twice for Keyworth in a match - 50 runs & 6 wickets for 50 runs on the 2nd of July 1887 in an away game against Ruddington CC and 50 runs & 7 wickets for 32 runs at Cropwell Bishop on 20th September 1888. In total he scored 854 runs at an average of 17.08 for Keyworth and took 177 wickets at an average of 5.17 between 1875 and 1903.



William was also an outstanding footballer with Keyworth FC between 1878 and 1885 and good enough to be selected to play for the Nottinghamshire FA representative XI against the Lincolnshire FA on 6 October 1883.

His brothers John, Samuel and leg spinner Thomas Attewell and cousins Walter and Ezra Attewell were all prominent Keyworth born cricketers and footballers in the late 19th and early 20th century period.

Cousin Walter, a big built man, born 29 January 1865, was selected to play for Nottinghamshire Colts in 1890 and 1891 and made one appearance for the County versus Surrey in 1891 and after a spell of coaching in Philadelphia (USA) became the professional at Shrewsbury School from 1906 to 1912, where Neville Cardus was his assistant for a period and

immortalized him in subsequent writings. Walter died aged 54 years on 3 February 1919 and is buried in the local churchyard.

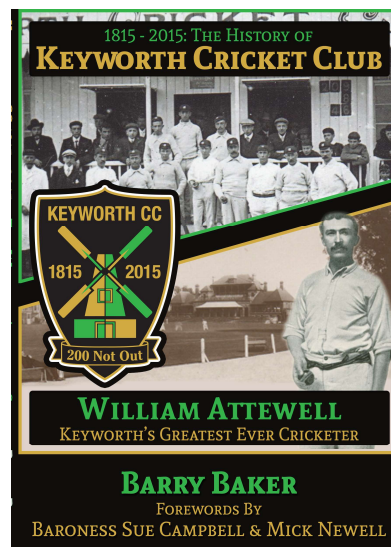
WILLIAM 'DICK' ATTEWELL continued...

Brother Thomas, born 7 November 1869, was a very effective right hand batsman and right arm medium pace bowler and made seven appearances for Nottinghamshire CCC between 1891 and 1894. He was the first Keyworth player to achieve a 'Hat-trick' on 20 April 1895 v Digby Colliery CC and he was on the ground staff at Lords from 1893 to 1925. He died on 6 July 1937 in Nottingham.

Brother John, born 1868 played for Keyworth CC from 1883 to 1910 and was captain 1906 to 1907 and was a dashing winger with Keyworth FC. He died 1943.

Brother Samuel, born 1865, also a fine cricketer and skilful inside forward, died in 1940.

William's life story is described in Barry Baker's book published 2015 (photo right)



William 'Dick' Attewell's Keyworth career statistics...

	Mat	Inns	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Ct
1 st XI	40	48	4	133*	828	18.40	555.2	209	850	169	5.03	8
2 nd XI	5	5	0	5	8	1.60	7	2	14	5	2.80	1
Youth XI	2	3	0	28	29	9.67	16	3	51	3	17.00	4
CAREER	47	57	4	133*	865	16.32	578.2	214	915	177	5.17	13