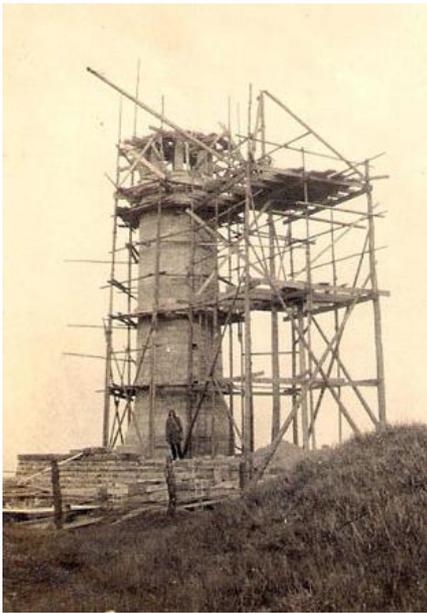


Joseph Payne (1876–1961)

Joseph was born in about 1878 at Heage, was the son of Joseph and Leah Payne. He married Florence Elizabeth Smith in June 1905 at Crich and the couple lived on the Dimple, Crich. He enlisted in June 1916 and was called up in March 1917, at Derby, aged thirty-nine, a married building contractor. Serving in the Royal Artillery Garrison as a gunner with the 431 Siege Battery in France from September 1917, he was demobbed in February 1919.



**Crich Stand under construction
pre 1923**

After the war he won the contract to build the new Sherwood Foresters Memorial Tower (commonly called Crich Stand) to replace an earlier stand which had been severely damaged. Advertisements placed in local newspapers of the time show that he was clearly proud of the fact. It must have been quite a task, for the dome, which sits on the top of the Tower weighs some forty tons. One has to marvel at the men who raised it to the height of 64 feet. The Memorial was erected at a cost of approximately £2382 with the money being raised through public subscription. The tower was opened in 1923 and dedicated to all the men who died serving the Sherwood Foresters during WW1.

He was a founding member and first chairman of the Comrades of the Great War Crich Branch. He was also one of the signatories who registered the Comrades Club Crich LTD with the Friends Provident Society on 6th June 1921 and became the Comrades Clubs first chairman when it officially opened in September 17th 1921

Around 1930, Joseph Payne left Crich. After several years living in the Skegness area, he settled at Kimberley, Nottinghamshire, where he had previously been responsible for building a new sewerage works during 1928/29. Joseph passed away on 8 March 1961 and was interred in Kimberley Cemetery. As the building contractor who built Crich Stand, Joseph's headstone features an engraved image of the tower. It is appropriate that the hilltop cemetery commands an impressive panorama, and on a clear day Crich Stand can be viewed in the distance.



Joseph Payne's headstone at Kimberley Cemetery

Medal Roll Index Card

He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals.