

Frederick was born on 23rd Jan 1892 at Adelong, NSW, the son of Edmund Lyons Seth Cottam and Julia Hannah Cottam, nee Hicks. His father, Edmund, died the year he was born, and his mother remarried a Charles Whitehurst in 1894. In 1909 Frederick joined the Royal Australian Artillery but was posted as a deserter after less than 12 months service.

On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in A Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a labourer and that his mother at "Memphis", Ennis St, Balmain as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 7th March 1916 he married Alice Elizabeth Smith. When Alice died on 13th Oct 1943, he married Maria Elizabeth Ridout on 13th October 1943.

Frederick died in Katoomba on 7th Sept 1956.