

World War One

THE FALLEN OF COLNEY HEATH

Graham Clark | January 17, 2014

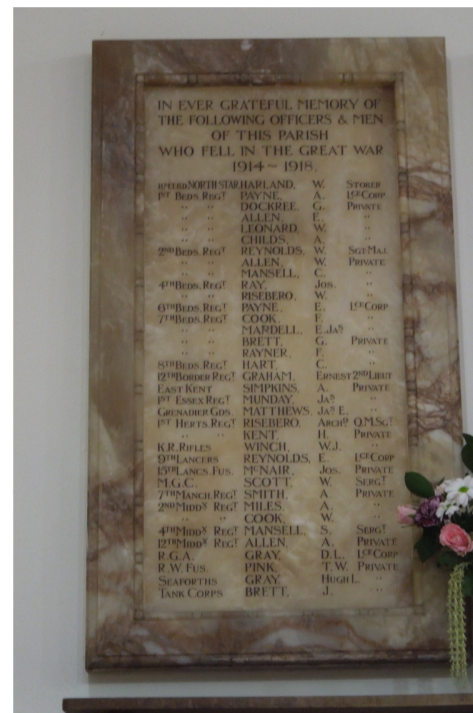
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Introduction

As part of the centenary commemorations for the First World War, which began in the summer of 1914 and culminated with the signing of the Armistice in the autumn of 1918, this document has set out to record all the men from the Parish of Colney Heath, Hertfordshire who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

It has attempted to include every man that died; identifying and recording at least their basic service and personnel details, but in many cases much more. It is intended that this document will ultimately provide a unique research source for the parish, way beyond 2014.



The research began with the war memorial within St Mark's Church, Colney Heath, upon which is inscribed the servicemen's surname, initial, rank and regiment. Further research was then carried out using the sources and resources as identified in this document.

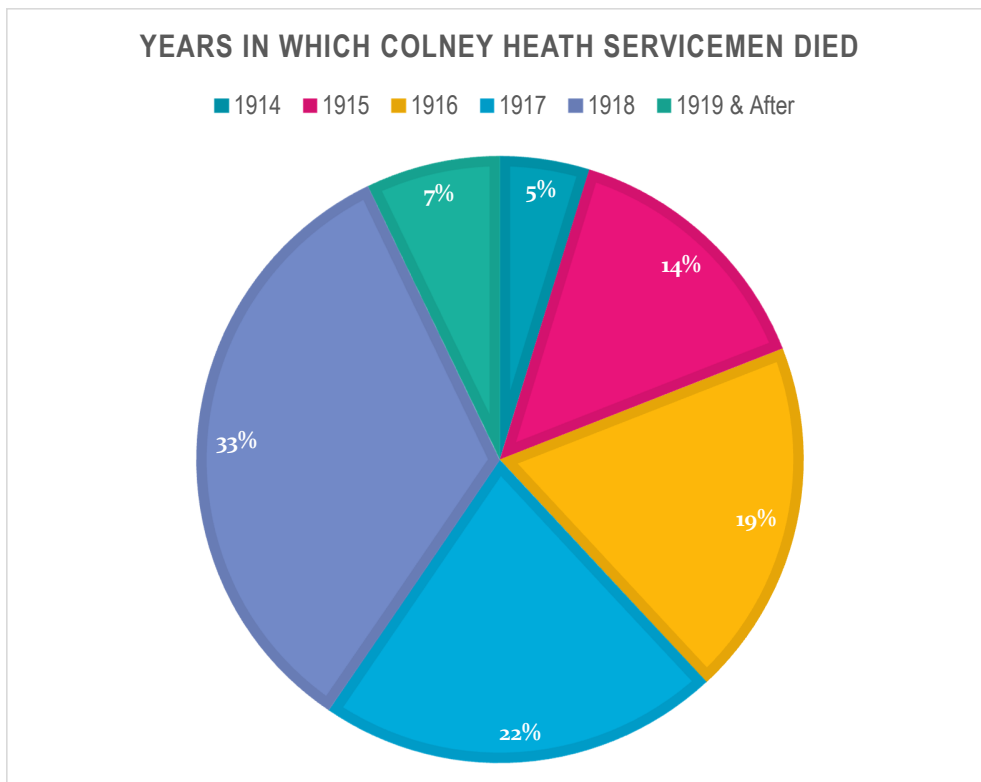
During the course of the research a number of factors became apparent:

- 1) That there are a number of minor errors on the St Mark's Memorial itself, namely
 - a) G [George] Dockree was actually in the 6th Bedfordshire Regiment rather than the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment as recorded on the memorial,
 - b) W [William] Leonard is actually Joseph William Leonard, it could surmised that this may be due to the fact that in real life he was referred to as William rather than Joseph, and
 - c) E J^{as} Mardell should read C J Mardel.

- 2) That the memorial was unveiled and dedicated in a church service a few days before Christmas 1920, as confirmed in the Herts Advertiser of the time (21/12/1920). However, records show that Joseph William Leonard did not in fact die until 5th August 1924, as confirmed in the St Mark's Burial Register.
- 3) That there were a number of servicemen who in the Herts Advertiser were identified as residing in Colney Heath and/or through research demonstrated that they had strong connections to Colney Heath, but for reasons unknown were not included on the memorial within St Mark's Church. These servicemen are listed below and have also been included within this document.
 - a) Bertie Leonard Bunn
 - b) Arthur Dormer
 - c) William Charles Dormer
 - d) John Walter Hills
 - e) Frederick Charles Stratton
 - f) William Welch

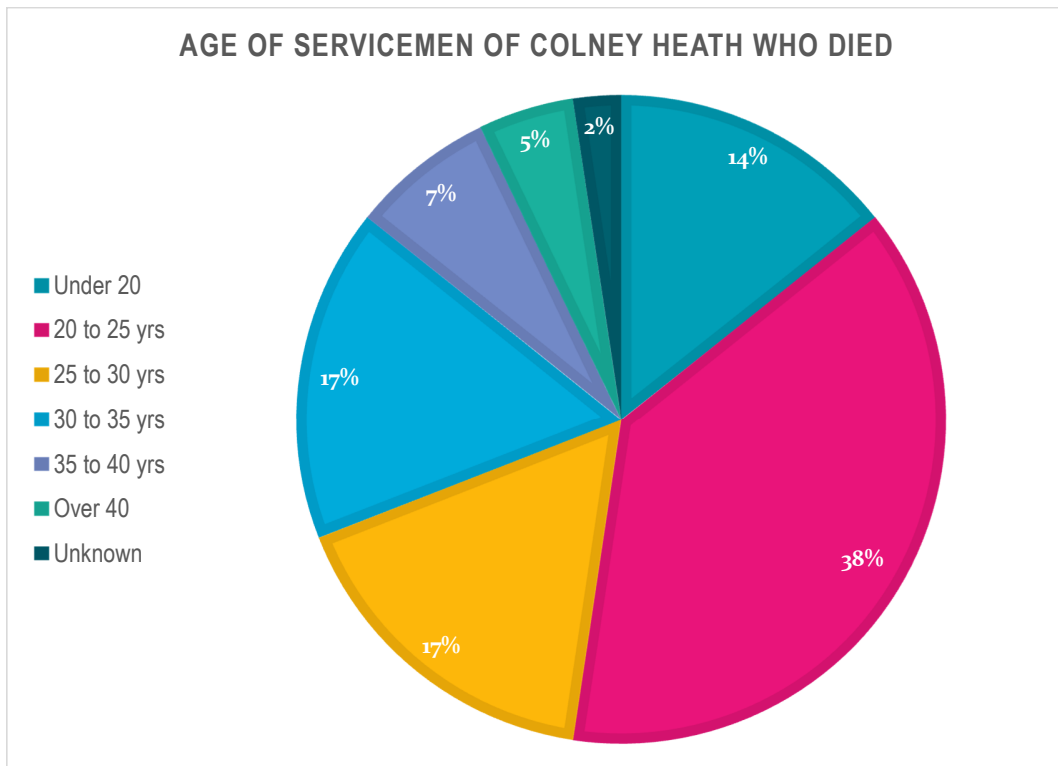
At a high level, the research on the servicemen has also provided an insight into the dynamics that the Great War played on the life and make-up of the Parish of Colney Heath.

In total the parish saw forty two men sacrifice their lives for their country during the course of the conflict, what is apparent is that more lives were lost to the village as the war drew on, as indicated below, probably as a result of conscription between 1916 and 1919.



As the Great War drew on the effects on the age demographic of the village began to become apparent and without a doubt would have had an impact. Of the forty two service who lost their lives almost 70% of them were under the age of thirty and probably the saddest fact is that 14% were under 20. It is likely that these servicemen who were under twenty went from school to the army recruitment office, through some basic training and onwards to a theatre of war.

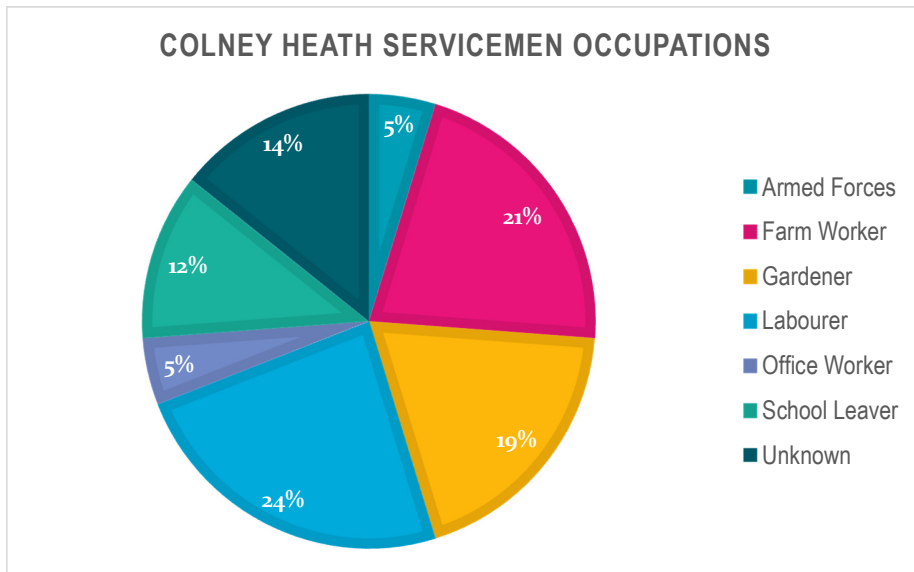
A more detailed breakdown of the ages of the servicemen can be seen overleaf.



Occupations within a rural parish tend to centre round farming and supporting local landowner estates, but given Colney Heath's proximity to St Albans there would also be the need for occupations that would support the local economy and business enterprises, this is mainly in terms of labouring.

This mix of opportunity clearly helps the villages of the wider parish such as Tyttenhanger, Smallford, Sleepshyde and Colney Heath itself, the 1901 and 1911 Census indicates that most people of working age are actively employed in some way or another.

Where appropriate occupational information has been identified, the servicemen follow this trend in that 86% are either employed or in education; in addition to that 64% are employed in farming, gardening on estates or labouring within the local industry. A more detailed breakdown is shown overleaf.



This remainder of the document has been split into three key sections:

- 1) Summary of Servicemen
- 2) Family Links
- 3) Individual Servicemen Record Sheets

Each of these sections are described in more detail over the next few pages.

Summary of Servicemen

This section summarises the key information about each of the servicemen including:

- 1) Full name
- 2) Rank
- 3) Service number
- 4) Regiment
- 5) Date of Death
- 6) Age at Date of Death
- 7) Village where the servicemen lived – the parish incorporates modern day Tyttenhanger, Smallford and Sleepshyde
- 8) The Servicemen's Medal Entitlement

Family Links

During the course of the research it became quite apparent the interwoven nature of the servicemen's families within the parish and this section sets out to summarise the different relationships, where known, between the servicemen's families.

Individual Servicemen Record Sheet

This is the main section of the document and sets out to record the following information:

- 1) Regiment, rank and regimental number
- 2) Birthplace, date of death and age at date of death
- 3) Place, or places, of residence during the servicemen's lifetime
- 4) Occupation, or occupations, prior to enlisting and / or serving in the Great War
- 5) Medal entitlement
- 6) Notes taken from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records
- 7) Any notes relating to the individuals service record
- 8) Additional personal notes, these would relate to life outside of their military service, where such information is available

Research Sources and Resources

The research undertaken in compiling the information found within this document used the following sources and resources:

- 1) Commonwealth War Grave Commission's database.
- 2) Databases and information held by the National Archives, including:
 - a) British Army War Diaries 1914 – 1922
 - b) British Army Medal Index Cards 1914 – 1920
 - c) Royal Navy Ratings Service Records 1853 - 1923
- 3) Ancestry Website Databases, including:
 - a) 1911 Census
 - b) 1901 Census

- c) 1891 Census
 - d) 1881 Census
 - e) 1871 Census
 - f) Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914 - 1919
- 4) Colney Heath JMI School Log and Admissions Register
 - 5) St Mark's Church Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers
 - 6) St Peter's Church Baptism and Marriage Registers
 - 7) Herts Archive databases including the Online Archive Catalogue and the Names Online Database (access to Herts Advertiser & Herts Mercury newspaper articles)

Colney Heath First World War Servicemen

Name	Rank	Service Number	Regiment	Date of Birth	Date of death	Age	Village Lived In	Medal Entitlement				
								1914 Star	1914/15 Star	British War Medal	Victory Medal	Military Medal
Albert Allen	Private	G/13742	12th Bn Middlesex Regiment	Exact date unkown	15-Jul-16	18	Colney Heath			✓	✓	
Ernest Allen	Private	413837	1st Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	12-Mar-15	36	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	
William Joseph Allen	Private	16471	2nd Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	16-Jun-15	25	Smallford		✓	✓	✓	
George John Brett	Private	18195	7th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	01-Jul-16	29	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	
John Reuben Brett	Private	301568	13th Bn Tank Corps	Exact date unkown	23-Aug-18	24	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	
Bertie Leonard Bunn	Private	328332	2nd Bn Suffolk Regiment	Exact date unkown	28-Mar-18	20	Sandridge			✓	✓	
Arthur Edward Childs	Private	10326	1st Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	15-Dec-93	05-May-15	21	Smallford		✓	✓	✓	
Frederick James Cook	Lance Corporal	19209	7th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	31-May-89	14-Mar-17	27	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	
William Cook	Private	PW/6119	2nd Bn Middlesex Regiment	Exact date unkown	31-Jul-17	16	Tyttenhanger			✓	✓	
George Dockree	Private	19207	6th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	10-Apr-17	30	St Albans		✓	✓	✓	
Arthur Dormer	Private	3332	1st/5th The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment	Exact date unkown	25-Jun-16	23	Colney Heath			✓	✓	

Colney Heath First World War Servicemen

Name	Rank	Service Number	Regiment	Date of Birth	Date of death	Age	Village Lived In	Medal Entitlement				
								1914 Star	1914/15 Star	British War Medal	Victory Medal	Military Medal
William Charles Dormer	Private	4/6548	4th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	18-May-15	23	Colney Heath		✓	✓	✓	
Ernest William Graham	Second Lieutenant	NW/6/19817	12th Bn Border Regiment Also - 2nd Bn East Lancashire Regiment	Exact date unkown	18-Oct-16	24	St Albans			✓	✓	
David Leslie Gray	Lance Corporal	25092	6th Siege Bty, Royal Garrison Artillery	Exact date unkown	21-Aug-17	27	London Colney		✓	✓	✓	
Hugh Leslie Gray	Private	1273	2nd Bn Seaforth Highlanders	Exact date unkown	09-May-15	19	London Colney		✓	✓	✓	
William Harland	Stoker	303027	HMS Northstar (Torpedo Boat Destroyer)	Exact date unkown	23-Apr-18	33	Sittingbourne					
Charles Hart	Private	22681	8th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	27-Nov-17	27	Tyttenhanger			✓	✓	
John Walter Hills	Lance Corporal	S/9014	1st Bn Queens Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment	Exact date unkown	18-Mar-15	32	Colney Heath		✓	✓	✓	
Herbert Kent	Private	265874	1st Bn Hertfordshire Regiment	29-Sep-93	30-Aug-18	24	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	✓
Joseph William Leonard	Private	L/9640	1st Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	05-Aug-24	31	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	
Cecil Percy Mansell	Private	22682	2nd Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	23-Oct-18	19	Tyttenhanger			✓	✓	
Samson Mansell	Sergeant	13023	4th Bn Middlesex Regiment	Exact date unkown	15-Mar-16	23	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	

Colney Heath First World War Servicemen

Name	Rank	Service Number	Regiment	Date of Birth	Date of death	Age	Village Lived In	Medal Entitlement				
								1914 Star	1914/15 Star	British War Medal	Victory Medal	Military Medal
Charles James Mardel	Lance Corporal	18669	7th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	28-Sep-16	33	Tyttenhanger			✓	✓	
James Edward Matthews	Private	23450	2nd Bn Grenadier Guards	Exact date unkown	15-Sep-16	41	St Albans			✓	✓	
Joseph Henry McNair	Private	56953	15th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers	Exact date unkown	16-May-18	19	Horse Shoe			✓	✓	
Albert Edward Miles	Private	L/14421	2nd Bn Middlesex Regiment	10-Feb-94	01-Jul-16	21	Sleaps Hyde		✓	✓	✓	
James Munday	Private	30320	1st Bn Essex Regiment	Exact date unkown	18-Mar-17	37	Smallford			✓	✓	
Arthur George Payne	Lance Corporal	7769	1st Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	24-Oct-14	28	Roe Stock	✓		✓	✓	
Ernest Edward Payne	Lance Corporal	103453	6th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment & 10th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	21-Apr-18	21	Colney Heath		✓	✓	✓	
Thomas William Pink	Private	202380	4th Bn Royal Welsh Fusilliers	Exact date unkown	06-Apr-18	27	Borehamwood			✓	✓	
Joseph Ray	Private	22045	4th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	25-Aug-18	41	Colney Heath			✓	✓	
Frank Rayner	Private	3/7726	7th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	25-Oct-17	37	Bowmans Green		✓	✓	✓	
Edward Reynolds	Lance Corporal	L/4112	9th Bn Queens Regimant Lancers	Exact date unkown	30-Oct-14	19	Tyttenhanger		✓	✓	✓	

Colney Heath First World War Servicemen

Name	Rank	Service Number	Regiment	Date of Birth	Date of death	Age	Village Lived In	Medal Entitlement				
								1914 Star	1914/15 Star	British War Medal	Victory Medal	Military Medal
William Reynolds	Sergeant Major	6825	2nd Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	06-Aug-18	34	Tyttenhanger			✓	✓	
Archibald Risebero	QM Sergeant		1st Bn Hertfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	19-Jun-19		Hatfield					
Walter Robert William Risebero	Private	23433	4th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	25-May-17	22	Hatfield			✓	✓	
Walter Scott	Sergeant	3650	Machine Gun Corps	Exact date unkown	22-Sep-18	28	Colney Heath			✓	✓	✓
Albert Simpkins	Private	G/25955	10th Bn East Kents (Bufs) Regiment	Exact date unkown	28-Oct-18	33	Horse Shoe			✓	✓	
Arthur Smith	Private	44958	7th Bn Manchester Regiment	Exact date unkown	05-Jul-18	20				✓	✓	
Frederick Charles Stratton	Private	10797	2nd Bn Bedfordshire Regiment	Exact date unkown	09-Oct-17	20	St Albans		✓	✓	✓	
William Welch	Chief Motor Mechanic	1688	Royal Air Force	Exact date unkown	26-Apr-18	23	Roe Stock					
William James Winch	Private		Kings Royal Rifles Corps	Exact date unkown	03-Oct-19	20	Smallford					

Colney Heath First World War Servicemen

Name	Fathers Name	Mothers Name (Maiden)	Wife's Name (Maiden)	Links with other village families
Albert Allen	Richard Allen	Elizabeth Mary Allen		
Ernest Allen		Mary Ann Allen		
William Joseph Allen	Richard Allen	Elizabeth Mary Allen		
George John Brett	George Brett	Ellen Brett (Smith)	Ellen Olivia Brett (Childs)	Arthur Edward Childs (Brother-in-law)
John Reuben Brett	George Brett	Ellen Brett (Smith)		
Bertie Leonard Bunn	Frederick Bunn	Susan Bunn		
Arthur Edward Childs	George Edward Childs	Sarah Anne Childs (Gray)		George John Brett (Brother-in-law)
Frederick James Cook	Ernest Fred Cook	Francis Fanny Cook (Henshaw)		George Dockree (Brother-in-law)
William Cook	Ernest Fred Cook	Francis Fanny Cook (Henshaw)		
George Dockree	Caleb Dockree	Sarah Dockree	Minnie Dockree (Cook)	Frederick James Cook (Brother-in-law)
Arthur Dormer	Charles Dormer	Dorceas Dormer		
William Charles Dormer	Charles Dormer	Dorceas Dormer		
Ernest William Graham	Thomas Hodgson Graham	Ruth Elizabeth Graham		
David Leslie Gray	William Nicol Gray	Isabella Gray		
Hugh Leslie Gray	William Nicol Gray	Isabella Gray		
William Harland	James Harland	Mary Ann Harland		
Charles Hart	William Hart	Emma Atkin (formerly Hart)		
John Walter Hills				
Herbert Kent	Thomas Kent	Emma Jane Kent		
Joseph William Leonard	Joseph Leonard	Alice Leonard		
Cecil Percy Mansell	Samson Mansell	Alice May Mansell		
Samson Mansell	Samson Mansell	Alice May Mansell		
Charles James Mardel	Samuel Mardel	Fanny Mardel	Mary Anne Mardel (Fitzgerald)	Frederick Charles Stratton (Nephew)
James Edward Matthews			Ellen Matthews	

Colney Heath First World War Servicemen

Name	Fathers Name	Mothers Name (Maiden)	Wife's Name (Maiden)	Links with other village families
Joseph Henry McNair	John McNair	Mary Ann McNair (Welch)		
Albert Edward Miles	Frederick Miles	Mary Elizabeth Miles (Keeling)		
James Munday	James Munday	Charlotte Munday	Kate Munday (Hale)	
Arthur George Payne	William George Payne	Lillian Payne	Emily May Payne (Turner)	
Ernest Edward Payne	William George Payne	Lillian Payne		
Thomas William Pink			Mary Jane Pink	
Joseph Ray	Samuel Ray	Thirza Ray	Ada Rose Ray	
Frank Rayner	Henry Rayner		Ann Rayner (Potter)	
Edward Reynolds	George Reynolds	Ebber Reynolds		
William Reynolds		Ann Reynolds	Rose Reynolds	
Archibald Risebero	Reuben Risebero	Betsy Risbero		
Walter Robert William Risebero	Reuben Risebero	Betsy Risbero		
Walter Scott	James Scott	Emily Scott		
Albert Simpkins	William Simpkins	Annie Simpkins (Miles)		
Arthur Smith				
Frederick Charles Stratton	John Charles Stratton	Sarah Elizabeth Stratton		Charles James Mardel (Uncle)
William Welch	George Welch	Sarah Welch		
William James Winch	William Winch	Sarah Winch		

Albert Allen

12th Duke of Cambridgeshire's Own (Middlesex) Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

G/13742

Birthplace:

Hatfield, Hertfordshire (Died: 15th July 1916 – aged 18)

Place of Residence:

33 Timion Lane, Hatfield (1901)

5 Colney Heath, St Albans (1911 to 1915)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Labourer

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

CWGC Notes:

Albert is remembered with honour on the Thiepval Memorial.

This memorial is for the missing of the Battle of the Somme (July – November 1916).

Service Record Notes:

Albert enlisted at Mill Hill on 19th July 1915. His sign up papers show that he was just over 19 years old, however the 1911 census declares that he was 13 years old at the time of the census. Therefore at the date he signed up he would have been 17 years old; Albert never even made it past his nineteenth birthday as he died a year after signing up.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Richard & Elizabeth Mary Allen.

The 1901 census record indicates that the Allen family were living in Hatfield. It also records that at the time Albert had two brothers, William Joseph and Edward; and two sisters, Phoebe and Beatrice.

By 1911 the Allen family had moved from Hatfield and were living in Colney Heath. The census record for 1911 shows that Albert was single, Phoebe had moved out and there were now two further siblings, Isabel and Joy.

William Joseph was also a casualty of the Great War and is remembered on the

Albert Allen

12th Duke of Cambridgeshire's Own (Middlesex) Regiment

Colney Heath memorial.

Ernest Allen

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private
413837

Birthplace:

Tythenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 12th March 1915 – aged 36)

Place of Residence:

Tythenhanger Green (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Bricklayer's Labourer

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

CWGC Notes:

Ernest is remembered with honour on Le Touret Memorial.

Given the date of his death, and place of his memorial, it is likely that Ernest was killed in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle.

Service Record Notes:

The Bedfordshire Regiment war diaries at the time of Ernest's death record the following:

3rd March 1915: The Battalion move to Ouderdan, South East of Ypres and camped in the newly constructed huts.

4th March 1915: The Battalion marched at night to take up position in support from the Royal Scottish Fusiliers.

10th March 1915: The Battalion relieved the Dorset Regiment in trenches (trench ref: 32a) at about 6.30pm that night.

11th March 1915: The situation in the trench is recorded as "unpleasant". The Germans held one end of it, with the French parallel to it. It was impossible to show the periscope for more than a few seconds without getting a bullet through it. It was also impossible to see where any firing was coming from as there were no heads (enemy) above the parapet and no rifles appearing at the loopholes.

12th March 1915: The war diaries record that the enemy bombed the junction of the trench (ref: 32a) and the French held trench (ref: 33) with heavy trench

Ernest Allen

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

Howitzer's. Almost 20 yards of parapet was blown in, killing and burying 16 men. The enemy continued to drop bombs onto this location all day, thereby isolating the men from any sort of relief or ability to evacuate the injured men. [It is likely that Ernest was killed in this incident as his death is recorded the same day.]

Additional Personal Notes:

In 1911 Ernest was living in Tyttenhanger Green with his mother Mary Ann (widow).

The census also indicates that Ernest was single and had six brothers and/or sisters, although none of them were living with him and his mother at the time.

William Joseph Allen

2nd Bedfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

16471

Birthplace:

Hatfield, Hertfordshire (Died: 16th June 1915 – aged 25)

Place of Residence:

33 Timion Lane, Hatfield (1901)

5 Colney Heath, St Albans (1911 to 1915)

Butterwick Cottages, Smallford, Hertfordshire (unknown)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

General Labourer

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

William enlisted in Hertford and was sent to France on the 25th May 1915, less than a month later he was killed in action in France.

CWGC Notes:

William is remembered with honour on the Le Touret Memorial.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Richard & Elizabeth Mary Allen.

The 1901 census record indicates that the Allen family were living in Hatfield. It also records that at the time William had two brothers, Albert and Edward; and two sisters, Phoebe and Beatrice.

By 1911 the Allen family had moved from Hatfield and were living in Colney Heath. The census record for 1911 shows that Phoebe had moved out and there were now two further siblings, Isabel and Joy. The 1911 census also shows that William was single.

William's brother, Albert, was also a casualty of the Great War.

George John Brett

7th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

18195

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died 1st July 1916 – aged 29)

Place of Residence:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

George was employed, for fourteen years, at Highfield Hall by Charles Morris

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

George enlisted in the Bedfordshire regiment in St Albans in December 1914 and went out to France in July of 1915. From the moment George went out to France the records would indicate that he had no home leave.

George was officially reported as killed in action on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Herts Advertiser reported that:

“Mrs Brett first received news that her husband was missing, but later the worst was reported, and a letter of sympathy came from the King and Queen.”

The report went on to describe how:

“Earlier in the month Mrs Brett had a letter from a friend of her husband – Pte H Morgan – who said [George] Brett was reported missing and believed to be killed. Pte Morgan wrote: “He was my best pal. Just before the great attack on July 1st we were talking together of what we should do if we came through the fight. The platoon miss him greatly. He was one of our best bombers.”

CWGC Notes:

George is remembered with honour in Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz.

George John Brett

7th Bedfordshire Regiment

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: George and Ellen Brett.

Wife: Ellen Olivia Brett (formerly Childs – Arthur's sister)

George was the elder brother of John who was also lost in the Great War.

George John Brett was baptised in St Mark's Church, Colney Heath, on 29th August 1886.

The 1891 census shows George, aged 4, and his family as living at the house next door to The Plough in Tyttenhanger Green. Along with his immediate family, George's mother's parents John and Jane Smith were also living in the house at the time of the census.

The 1891 census also records the neighbours in Tyttenhanger Green as: Arthur George Payne and his parents William and Lillian; and Frederick James Cook and his family.

The 1901 census shows that George also had a sister, Mary Ann. It also confirms that George was employed as a rural boy worker undertaking domestic duties, this was probably the start of his employment with Charles Morris at Highfield Hall.

George married Ellen Childs in St Mark's Church on 4th September 1909.

Prior to enlisting in the Great War George was a member of Highfield Hall Cricket Club and was vice captain for many years. He was wicket keeper / batsman for the team.

At the time of the Great War, George was married but had no family.

When George's death was reported his wife, Ellen, was living with his father, also Mr George Brett in Tyttenhanger Green.

John Reuben Brett

13th Tank Corps

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private
301568

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 23rd August 1918 – aged 24)

Place of Residence:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (1901)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Unknown

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

John originally enlisted in the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment (Private 14185) before being transferred to the 13th Tank Corps.

After enlisting in the army John was sent to France on 1st April 1915.

CWGC Notes:

John is remembered with honour on Vis-En-Artois memorial.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: George and Ellen Brett.

John was the younger brother of George who was also lost in the Great War.

The 1901 census shows that John (6) also had a sister, Mary Ann.

John is mentioned in the Colney Heath School log under an entry on 30th November 1906.

“A boy J Brett has been a great source of trouble playing truant after remaining at home for a week with a sore foot. Cases of this kind are most exceptional and have punished for the offence”.

Bertie Leonard Bunn

2nd Suffolk Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private
328332

Birthplace:

Sandridge, Hertfordshire (Died: 28th March 1918 – aged 20)

Place of Residence:

Church End, Sandridge, Hertfordshire (1901 & 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

It would appear from records that Bertie joined the army directly after leaving school.

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

Bertie is remembered with honour on in Wancourt British Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Frederick & Susan Bunn

The 1901 census indicates that Bertie (2) lived with his parents, brother Frederick (5) and two sisters Rose (8) and Hilda (6 months).

By 1911 the census would appear to indicate that Frederick and Rose had moved out of the family home. It also records two further siblings Winnie (5) and William (2). However, the 1911 census has no record of Hilda, who may have passed away.

Bertie's brother Frederick also perished in the Great War and is remembered on the Sandridge memorial, however there is no record of Bertie on the same memorial.

The Herts Advertiser of the time reported Bertie as living in Colney Heath, although the exact whereabouts are unknown.

Arthur Edward Childs

1st Bedfordshire Regiment



Woodrake Cottage, Smallford

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

10326

Birthplace:

Smallford, Hertfordshire (Died: 5th May 1915 – aged 21)

Place of Residence:

Woodrake Cottage, Smallford (cottage behind The Barley Mow PH) (1901 & 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Cowman on farm. This could well have been Hill End Farm which was close by to Woodrake Cottage (1911). From the 1901 census it would appear that Ellen Childs, Arthur's sister, is also working on the farm as a general domestic servant.

Immediately prior to enlisting Arthur was employed at Messrs. Saunders' Orchid Houses, which were located around the junction of the Alban Way and Camp Road, and at the end of Cavendish Road.

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British war Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

After enlisting Arthur had been at the front since the beginning of the war.

The regimental war diaries for the 5th May 1915 state that:

"At a little after 8.00am enemy attacked with gas laid on from two points opposite own trenches".

It is very likely that Arthur died as a result of this engagement with the enemy.

CWGC Notes:

Arthur is remembered with honour on the Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial.

The Menin Gate is one of the memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It is likely that Arthur lost his life in the Second Battle of Ypres. This was the first battle in which either side used poison gas.

Arthur Edward Childs

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: George Edward & Sarah Anne Childs

The St Mark's Church records confirm that Arthur was born on 15th December 1893 and baptised on 28th January 1894.

According to the 1901 census Arthur was one of five children (three girls and two boys) and the eldest son. Also living in the four rooms of Woodrake Cottage were Sarah Ann's mother (Elvina Gray) and grandmother (Sophie Easthall), a total of nine people. However, there was another sister, Ellen, who eventually became Mrs George John Brett.

According to the 1911 census Arthur's mother, Sarah Anne, had given birth to nine children of whom eight were still alive. However, in 1911 only three of the children were still living at Woodrake Cottage, Arthur, George (14) and Florence (12).

Not sure in what capacity, but the Herts Advertiser records Arthur as "connected with Colney Heath Church".

Frederick James Cook

7th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Lance Corporal
19209

Birthplace:

Tythenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 14th March 1917 – aged 27)

Place of Residence:

Third cottage away from The Plough PH at Tythenhanger Green, Hertfordshire.
(1891 to 1911, at least)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Domestic Gardener

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Frederick's medal roll index card indicates that his mother, Fanny Cook, had to apply for the 1914/15 Star in respect of the services of her late son.

Service Record Notes:

Frederick enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment in Bedford and was sent to France on 26th July 1915.

CWGC Notes:

Frederick is remembered with honour on Thiepval memorial.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Ernest & Fanny Cook

Frederick James Cook was born on 31st May 1889 and according to the records at St Mark's Church baptised on 30th June 1889.

The 1891 census indicates that Fred (1) lived with his parents and elder sister Minnie (4). What is interesting to note from this census are the neighbours, who were:

- Directly next door Arthur George Payne and his parents, William and Lillian, who eventually moved to Colney Heath.
- Next door, but two (next door to the Plough Inn) John and Jane Smith

Frederick James Cook

7th Bedfordshire Regiment

lived with their daughter and son-in-law George and Ellen Brett, and their son George John Brett (4).

The 1901 census shows the family growing to a total of five children: Minnie (14), Fred (now 11), Lizzie (8), George (5) and William (9 months).

It is also interesting to note that Edward Reynolds and his family are living two doors away at this time.

At the time of the 1911 census Frederick had three brothers, George (15), William (10) and Percy (8); and a sister, Elizabeth (17). Records (1891 census) indicate that there was another older sister, Minnie, who was now married to George Dockree and no longer living with them.

Both Frederick and William perished in the Great War.

William Cook

2nd Middlesex Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

PW/6119

Birthplace:

Tytenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 31st July 1917 – aged 16)

Place of Residence:

Third cottage away from The Plough PH at Tytenhanger Green, Hertfordshire.
(1901 to 1911, at least)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

It would appear from records that William joined up after leaving school.

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

From the medal roll it would appear that William enlisted in the East Kent Regiment (Private 10149), prior to being transferred to the 2nd Middlesex Regiment.

CWGC Notes:

William is remembered with honour on Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial.

The Menin Gate is one of the memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It is likely that William lost his life in the Third Battle of Ypres.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Ernest and Fanny Cook.

William's elder brother, Fred (by ten years) also died as a result of service in the Great War.

The 1901 census confirms that Ernest and Fanny had a family of five children: Minnie (14), Fred (11), Lizzie (8), George (5) and William (9 months). The 1901 census also indicates that two doors away are Edward Reynolds and his family.

The 1911 census would appear to indicate that William Cook (born 1901) was a scholar at that time.

George Dockree

6th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

19207

Birthplace:

London Colney, Herts (Died: 10th April 1917 – aged 30)

Place of Residence:

Waterside, London Colney (1891 and 1901 Census)

49 Church Street, St Albans (1911 Census)

"Ferndale", 4 Beresford Road, St Albans (1917)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Bricklayer's Labourer (confirmed in the 1911 census), this would have been casual seasonal work, given the time of the census.

George's main employment, prior to enlisting, was as a gardener to Charles Morris of Highfield Hall, which he had been doing for 15 years, since around the age of 12-13.

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

Victory Medal

British Medal

Service Record Notes:

George joined the Bedfordshire regiment shortly after the outbreak of war and went to France on 26th July 1915. He returned to England in November of that year with shell shock and was in hospital for twelve months, returning to France in December 1916.

George had three elder brothers who all served in the Great War. In addition to this, his brother-in-law, Fred Cook, also served his country.

The Bedfordshire Regiment war diaries at the time of George's death record the following:

2nd April 1917: In billets for training (Etrée-Wamin).

5th April 1917: Marched to Hauteville (8 miles).

7th April 1917: Marched to Wanquentin (3 miles).

8th April 1917: Marched to Warlus (2 miles).

9th April 1917: Marched to Arras (6 miles) and drew fighting equipment: advanced

George Dockree

6th Bedfordshire Regiment

to road N & S through Feuchy Chapelle (4 miles) and dug in.

10th April 1917: Captured La Folie Ferme & La Bergere, in conjunction with attack of 11th Battalion on Moncey-Le-Preux. Lt Shaw killed. Battalion entrenched on the La Mergere crossroads – Guemappe. Lt Hedges, Pattison, Davidson, Freeman wounded.

In April 1917 Mrs (Minnie) Dockree received a letter from George's commanding officer Lieut Dudley W Wright, announcing with deepest regret that George was killed in action on the afternoon of April 10th. Dudley confirmed that he [George] was shot through the body and felt that his death would have been instant. He also confirmed that George was one of his best bombers and was most popular with his comrades. Dudley was close by George at the time and during the action only managed to retrieve George's identity tags which he sent to Minnie.

The above was all confirmed in an article in the Herts Advertiser.

CWGC Notes:

George is remembered with honour on the Arras memorial.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Caleb and Sarah Dockree.

Wife: Minnie Dockree (formely Cook – Fred's sister)

In 1891 George (2) is the youngest of four children living in London Colney with his parents. George's older siblings were all girls, Annie (10), Emma (8) and Alice (6).

In 1901 George is the eldest of three children, living with their mother Sarah. The other children are George's two sisters, Florence and Agnes; the older sisters having left the family home. According to the census George's father has either died or left the family, as Sarah is identified as Head.

In 1911 George was a bricklayer's labourer boarding with Arthur and Eliza Savill; and their daughter Rose, a straw hat finisher.

An article in the Herts Advertiser at the time of George's death [April 1917] stated that Lance Corporal Fred Cook was his brother in law. The sad fact was that Minnie lost her husband and brother, Fred, within a three week period. The article also went on to say that in addition to Minnie, George also left two children. One of which, Ronald Ernest, is recorded in the St Mark's register as being baptised on 26th July 1914 (born 18th June 1914). Exactly a year later George would be sent to France.

The last place of residence, "Ferndale", was the family home with his wife, Minnie, and this was confirmed through a note on George's Medal Index Card.

Arthur Dormer

1st/5th The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment

**Rank and Regimental Number:**

Private

3332

Birthplace:

Chillinghurst, Oxfordshire (Died: 25th June 1916 – aged 23)

Place of Residence:

Beech Cottage, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (1899)

Cottage No 1, Tilehouse Farm, Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire (1901)

Low Hill, Roydon, Essex (1911)

Old Cottages, Courser's Farm, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (1916)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Farm Servant (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

Arthur is remembered with honour in Amara War Cemetery. This cemetery would tend to indicate that Arthur lost his life in Mesopotamia, which is now modern day Iraq.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Charles & Dorceas Dormer

The St Mark's baptism register confirms that Charles and Dorceas's daughter Florence was born on 11th May 1899, and baptised in the church on 25th June 1899. The record also indicated that at the time they were living in Beech Cottage, Colney Heath.

The 1901 census records that the Dormer family were living in Borehamwood and that Arthur had four brothers: Henry, William, Joseph and Albert; and three sisters Lilly, Rachel and Florence. The 1901 census also indicates that Dorceas was born

Arthur Dormer

1st/5th The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment

in Colney Heath.

The family then moved to Royden, as confirmed in the 1911 census and at the time Arthur was living there with his parents, sister Rachel and brothers Albert, Fred and Thomas.

At some stage between 1911 and 1915 the family move again, back to Colney Heath. This is confirmed in the school admissions register, as Arthurs brothers Frederick (pupil no 276) and Thomas (pupil no 277) commenced at Colney Heath School. The record also confirms their father as Charles and indicates that the school they previously attended was Trinity School, Royden, Essex.

Further evidence of Arthur living in Colney Heath can be found in his will, where he left all his property and effects to his mother.

William Charles Dormer

4th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

4/6548

Birthplace:

Wallinheagh, Oxfordshire (Died: 18th May 1915 – aged 23)

Place of Residence:

Beech Cottage, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (1899)

Cottage No 1, Tilehouse Farm, Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire (1901)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Not known

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

The medal roll index indicates that William was first sent to France on 8th November 1914.

CWGC Notes:

William is remembered with honour on the Le Touret Memorial.

Given the date of his death, and the place of his memorial, it is likely that William died in the Battle of Festubert.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Charles & Dorceas Dormer

The St Mark's baptism register confirms that Charles and Dorceas's daughter Florence was born on 11th May 1899, and baptised in the church on 25th June 1899. The record also indicated that at the time they were living in Beech Cottage, Colney Heath.

The 1901 census records that the Dormer family were living in Borehamwood and that William had four brothers, Henry, Arthur, Joseph and Albert; and three sisters Lilly, Rachel and Florence. The 1901 census also indicates that Dorceas was

William Charles Dormer
4th Bedfordshire Regiment

born in Colney Heath.

The family then moved to Royden, as confirmed in the 1911 census, however William did not move with them. William (20), as confirmed by the 1911 census went to live as a boarder with John and Jane Smith and their two sons in London Colney.

It is interesting to note that John and Jane Smith's son in law is George John Brett.

Ernest William Graham

12th Border Regiment & 2nd East Lancashire Regiment



East Lodge Oaklands

Rank and Regimental Number:

Second Lieutenant

NW/6/19817

Birthplace:

Carlisle, Cumberland (Died: 18th October 1916 – aged 24)

Place of Residence:

East Lodge Oaklands, Hatfield Road, St Albans (1901 and 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Builder's Merchant Book Keeper (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Ernest enlisted in the Imperial Light Horse in Cape Town in 1914 and served in German South West Africa.

Ernest also served in France.

Ernest began his service as a private in the Imperial Light Horse. At some point transferred to the Border Regiment, being awarded an officer's commission on 1st August 1916, as confirmed in the London Gazette of the time.

CWGC Notes:

Ernest is remembered with honour on Thiepval Memorial.

This memorial is for the missing of the Battle of the Somme (July – November 1916).

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Thomas Hodgson (Coachman) & Ruth Elizabeth Graham.

According to the 1901 census Ernest (9) lived with his parents, two sisters, Lillie and Louisa, and his brother James, on the Oaklands Estate (East Lodge) that was owned by Graham Fish and his wife, Sarah.

The 1911 census indicates that Ernest (19) was still living in the five roomed house of East Lodge with his two sisters and younger brother George (records indicate that George was baptised at St Mark's church on 29th December 1901).

Ernest William Graham

12th Border Regiment & 2nd East Lancashire Regiment

James is employed as an asylum hall boy and is living at Hill End Asylum.

Ernest attended Colney Heath School and at the age of 13 was appointed temporary school monitor (the school log indicates that this occurred on 21st July 1905).

Ernest's appointment was made permanent and he stayed in the role until 1st March 1907. The school log reads:

"Ernest Graham, monitor, leaves today by permission of the managers. He has obtained a post in an office in St Albans as he did not intend becoming a PT" (Pupil Teacher). It is likely that the post was as a book keeper in a builder's merchant, as indicated on the 1911 census.

Ernest's sister Lilly also had connections with Colney Heath School. The log records (6th May 1904) that the headmaster has "asked the managers to consider the application of Lilly Graham as a likely candidate to become a monitoress with the idea of her becoming a PT" (pupil teacher).

Following her application (June 3rd 1904), the log records "Lilly Graham appointed monitoress on a three month trial with the idea of her becoming a PT".

For Lilly this role of monitoress ceased on 31st March 1905. After this date the log goes quiet on Lilly, the likelihood is that she left as Violet Kent is recorded beyond this date as the PT.

Ernest's other sister Louisa also had strong connections with Colney Heath School. The attendance register records her as pupil no 8, starting at the school on 8th June 1903 and leaving on 12th July 1912. Two years later Louisa is back at Colney Heath School in that she "took up duties as monitoress last Wednesday and is giving what help she can to the teachers of STS [Standards] 1 & 2" (3rd July 1914 – school log record).

The school log then continues with a number of entries associated with Louisa:

4/8/1916 – "Miss L Graham and G Swain, moniteresses have each had their notices to cease duties on August 31st."

15/9/1916 – "Miss B Lewis, supplementary, resigned Sept 8th the charge of the infants. Miss L Graham as a supplementary has been reinstated and will take charge of the infants with the help of the monitoress Miss G Swain who has also been reinstated."

Louisa finally left Colney Heath School at the end of January 1920, she gave her reason for leaving as to having to reside at home on account of her mother's illness that may last indefinitely. She was described as a most promising teacher.

As for Ernest's brothers, it is very likely that James attended Colney Heath School, however as he was four years older than Louisa he does not appear in the attendance register. As for his other brother George, the attendance register clearly records him (pupil no 58) as commencing on 9th April 1907 and leaving on 21st January 1916.

David Leslie Gray

6th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Lance Corporal

25092

Birthplace:

Barnet, Hertfordshire (Died: 21st August 1917 – aged 27)

Place of Residence:

Park Farm Ride, Cheshunt (1891)

35 Bancroft, Hitchin (1901)

The Farm, London Colney, St Albans (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

David enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery in London.

David was originally a Gunner when he entered the war on 25th September 1914, before being promoted to Lance Corporal.

Notwithstanding the fact that David is registered as residing at The Farm in London Colney, he was in fact stationed with the army in Fort Tighe, Malta at the time of the 1911 census.

CWGC Notes:

David is remembered with honour in the Maple Leaf Cemetery, located 14 kms south of Ypres, France.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William Nicol & Isabella Gray.

According to the 1891 census David (14 months) was living with his parents in Cheshunt and was one of seven children, with three brothers and three sisters.

The 1901 census indicates that David (10) was one of six children, four boys and two girls; and was now living with his parents in Hitchin.

David Leslie Gray

6th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

At some stage between 1901 and 1911 the Gray family moved from Hitchin to The Farm at London Colney, where David's father William was the bailiff. Also during this time it is likely that David's mother, Isabella, died as the 1911 census records William as a widower.

David's father, and the Gray family, eventually moved from the London Colney Farm (1911) to 36 Stanhope Road, St Albans (circa 1915) before ending up at Hill End Farm near Tyttenhanger Green (circa 1917).

It is probably this factor that finally concludes as to why the two brothers David and Hugh are commemorated on the Colney Heath memorial.

Hugh Leslie Gray

2nd Seaforth Highlanders

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

1273

Birthplace:

Cheshunt, Hertfordshire (Died: 9th May 1915 – aged 19)

Place of Residence:

35 Bancroft, Hitchin (1901)

The Farm, London Colney, St Albans (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Farm worker (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Hugh enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders (aka the Duke of Albany's Ross Shire Buffs) in Barnsley, Yorkshire and was sent to France / Flanders.

CWGC Notes:

Hugh is remembered with honour on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

The Menin Gate is one of the memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It is likely that Hugh lost his life in the Second Battle of Ypres.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William Nicol and Isabella Gray.

The 1901 census suggests that Hugh (5) was the second youngest of six children, four boys and two girls.

According to the 1911 census Hugh (15) lived with his father, who was the farm bailiff, and his elder sister, Marion. However his mother had died in the years between the 1901 and 1911 census.

Hugh's father eventually moved from the London Colney Farm (1911) to 36 Stanhope Road, St Albans (circa 1915) before ending up at Hill End Farm in Tyttenhanger (circa 1917).

Hugh Leslie Gray

2nd Seaforth Highlanders

It is this fact that finally concludes as to why two brothers Hugh and David are commemorated on the Colney Heath memorial.

William Harland

HMS North Star



HMS North Star

Rank and Regimental Number:

Stoker

303027

Birthplace:

Sittingbourne, Kent (Died: 23rd April 1918 – aged 33)

Place of Residence:

23 George Street, Sittingbourne, Kent (1891)

37 Malcomb Place, Sittingbourne, Kent (1901)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Brickfield Labourer

Medal Entitlement:

No details found

Service Record Notes:

William's service record indicates that he signed up as a Stoker on 9th February 1903, and details all the ships he served on and the period of service; it also indicates that during his naval service, in the main, he was of "very good" character.

During his time in the Navy William was either based at, or served on the following ships:

- HMS Pembroke – Shore barracks based at Chatham Dock
- HMS Pembroke II – Royal Naval Air Station, based at Eastchurch
- HMS Jupiter – Majestic class pre-dreadnought battleship
- HMS Vindictive – Arrogant class protected cruiser
- HMS Blenheim – First class protected cruiser
- HMS Shannon – Minatour class armoured cruiser
- HMS Yarmouth – Town class light cruiser
- HMS Eclipse – William served on this ship (a protected cruiser converted to a minelayer) during the first year of WW1
- HMS Apollo – Second class protected cruiser
- HMS Lucifer - Destroyer

His final service was on HMS North Star (M-Class destroyer) and in summary the naval war diaries of the time record the following:

William Harland

HMS North Star

On the morning of 23rd April 1918 the Royal Navy launched a raid on the Belgian port of Zeebrugge, which was used as a submarine and light shipping base by the German Navy.

The two key objectives of the Zeebrugge raid were to:

- a) Scuttle three old cruisers each packed with concrete and mines in the neck of the canal leading to the harbour of Zeebrugge, and
- b) Using the cruiser Vindictive and two ferry boats Iris and Daffodil, attack the great half-moon Mole, which guarded the Zeebrugge canal, land troops upon it, destroy what stores, guns, and Germans they could find, and generally create a diversion while the block ships ran in and sank themselves in their appointed places.

Both of these objectives were to be carried out in the near perfect conditions of an overcast night with only a slight wind. In addition to this, and to avoid any detection from the on shore searchlights, the flotilla also laid down a smoke screen.

Unfortunately the wind changed direction and blowing from the south west swept away the cover of the smoke screen. Star shells then lit up the night sky, shortly followed by gun fire, machine gun fire and shells from the batteries along the Mole.

Under this enemy fire the Vindictive, and her two support boats managed to get alongside the Mole, offload her troops and engage with the German troops. British troops on the Mole managed to destroy several machine gun emplacements and supply buildings.

The three block ships, guided by rockets illuminating the lighthouse at the end of the Mole, managed to manoeuvre themselves into position, so that when scuttled they would block the canal at the entrance to Zeebrugge Harbour.

Meantime the destroyers North Star, Phoebe and Warwick, which guarded the Vindictive from action by enemy destroyers while she lay besides the Mole, had their share in the battle.

North Star, losing her way in the smoke, emerged to the light of star shells, and was sunk. The German communique, which stated that only a few members of the crew could be saved by them, is not particularly accurate in this instance, as the Phoebe came up under a heavy fire in time to rescue nearly all. Unfortunately this did not include William.

CWGC Notes:

William is remembered with honour on Chatham Naval Memorial.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: James & Mary Ann Harland

No photograph has been found of William Harland, however a mental picture can be created of his appearance from his service records. William's service record states that he was 5ft 5in tall, of fair complexion with light hair and blue eyes.

From the 1891 census it would appear that William (6) had four brothers and two sisters, and he was one of the youngest members of the family.

By 1901 William (15) is still living with his parents and four brothers, it would

William Harland

HMS North Star

appear that both his sisters, Audrey and Martha, had left home.

It is Audrey that provides the connection to Colney Heath, as on 25th May 1901 she marries Edward Henry Cook in St Mark's Church, all as recorded in the registers of the time.

Charles Hart

8th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

22681

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 27th November 1917 – aged 27)

Place of Residence:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (1891)

2 Ballard Path, Edgware (1901)

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Labourer on farm (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Charles enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1915 and prior to his death had been in France for about a year and eight months.

CWGC Notes:

Charles is remembered with honour in Rocquigny – Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manacourt.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William & Emma Hart.

The 1891 census records that Charles (1) was living with his father William and four brothers in Tyttenhanger Green. The record also indicates that the Hart's next door but one neighbours were the Reynolds family and their son William. For some reason Charles mother Emma is not recorded on the census as living in the house at Tyttenhanger Green.

Charles father William died on January 26th 1893, aged 53 years and is buried in the Old Churchyard, St Mark's. Shortly after this in 1895 Emma re-married and Charles was brought up by his step-father George Atkins and his mother Emma.

Emma and George Atkins next appear on the 1901 census as living in Edgware with their children Mabel and Edward; and Emma's children from her first marriage

Charles Hart

8th Bedfordshire Regiment

Walter, George and Charles.

By 1911 the family, all eleven of them, are living back in an eight room house in Tyttenhanger Green.

Charles's brother Walter passed away on April 16th 1901, aged 16 years and is buried in the same plot as his father William.

Charles's older brother George went on to live to the age of 86, he died on 10th October 1973 and is buried in the New Churchyard at St Mark's.

Charles also had two other brothers William and Frederick, along with five other step brothers and sisters. William, of the Northampton regiment, served throughout the South African War. He was wounded in France during the early part of the war, and on his recovery was then sent to Egypt. He proceeded from there to Palestine and served out the rest of the war there. Frederick served with the Bedfordshire Regiment and was awarded the Military Medal.

Charles's two half brothers, John and Edward Atkins also served in the Great War. John served in Italy, and Edward in France, however Edward was discharged from the Army in September 1916, due to having his left hand shattered during an engagement on the Somme.

John Walter Hills

1st Queens Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment

**Rank and Regimental Number:**

Lance Corporal

S/9014

Birthplace:

Unknown (Died: 18th March 1915 – aged 32)

Place of Residence:

Not known

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Not known

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

John was sent to France on 26th October 1914.

CWGC Notes:

John is remembered with honour on Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial.

The Menin Gate is one of the memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It is likely that John lost his life in the Second Battle of Ypres.

Additional Personal Notes:

According to the Herts Advertiser of the time, John was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on 18th March 1915, aged 32. It also reported that:

“He was the son of Mrs Baldock, of Colney Heath, in which village he was well known, had served with his regiment in India, and proceeded straight to the Front soon after the outbreak of war.”

Herbert Kent

1st Hertfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

3175

Birthplace:

Ridge, Hertfordshire (Died: 30th August 1918 – aged 24)

Place of Residence:

Fourth house after the rectory, the road that is now Church Lane. The original house is no longer standing (1901).

The Gardeners Lodge, Tyttenhanger House (1911).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Gardener

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Military Medal

Service Record Notes:

Herbert enlisted with the Bedfordshire Regiment and was Private 265872, shortly afterwards he was transferred to the Hertfordshire Regiment.

Herbert was first sent to France on 21st January 1915.

Amongst the various engagements with the enemy Herbert fought in the Battle of Pilkem (one of the battles that formed the overall Battle of Ypres) in 1917.

The Hertfordshire Regimental war diary states that in September 1917 Herbert was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty on 31st July 1917.

The entry in the war diary for 31st July 1917 is as follows:

“At 3.50am the battalion moved forward in four lines behind the 116th and 117th Infantry Brigades. As the 116th Infantry Brigades captured enemy first and second line systems so the battalions moved forward in the rear finally passing through the 116th and 117th Infantry Brigades east of the river Steenbeck. Up till this time the casualties had been very slight indeed but as the battalion advanced from the Steenbeck toward the Langemark line (the battalion objective) casualties grew heavier from the sniper and machine gun fire. However the battalion continued advancing. About half way to the objective some of No. 3 Company came upon a German strongpoint which they gallantly charged, capturing or killing most of the

Herbert Kent

1st Hertfordshire Regiment

garrison and sending the remainder back as prisoners. On reaching the enemy wire this was found to be practically undamaged (except in one place) and very thick. Second Lieutenant Marchington and a handful of men of No. 3 Company got through the only gap into the enemy trench and killed a lot of Germans. The remainder of the battalion, being unable to get through the wire and suffering severe casualties from enfilade MG fire and the Germans making a strong counter attack from our left flank about this time, had to fall back having suffered exceptionally heavy casualties. The remnants of the battalion subsequently dug themselves in, in line with the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment on the west side of the Steenbeck.”

The war diaries record that there were 459 casualties in this one single engagement.

The Colney Heath School Log (5th July 1918) records that “Miss Kent, unclassified assistant, was granted leave of absence to go to visit her brother [Herbert] who is in hospital in Rouen, and in a dangerous condition from gas poisoning”.

The 11th May 1918 war diary entry may provide a clue as to the events relating to the gas attack.

“The battalion embossed at Orville at 5.00pm and on debussing at Souastre marched to some old British trenches east of Fonquevillers. The battalion as it moved through the village of Fonquevillers and into the old line east of the trenches east of the villages was subjected to a very heavy gas shell bombardment. The commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Roger Wilkinson and the remainder of the officers with the exception of Captain Norman Gold were evacuated to hospital during the night. All the NCO’s and men with the exception of seven were evacuated to hospital. Captain Norman Gold and the remaining seven ordinary ranks returned to the transport the following morning (May 12th) and late in the day this officer and five of the men who returned were evacuated to CCS”.

CWGC Notes:

Herbert is remembered with honour in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Thomas and Emma Jane Kent.

Herbert was born on September 29th 1893 and baptised in St Mark’s Church Colney Heath on July 29th 1894.

According to the 1901 census Herbert was one of ten children (five daughters and five sons). All five sons served in the Great War.

Herbert’s sister was Violet H Kent, who at the age of 14 was the school / pupil teacher at Colney Heath School (confirmed in the 1901 census), and at the age of 24 was a School Teacher for Herts County Council, employed at Colney Heath School (confirmed in the 1911 census).

Within the Colney Heath School Log there are two further entries that relate to Violet:

22nd June 1923 – “Miss Kent sends in her resignation today having obtained a post

Herbert Kent

1st Hertfordshire Regiment

elsewhere”.

20th July 1923 – “Miss Kent ceases duties today. She has been quite a great number of years and has most valuable work in all branches of school life. Too much praise could not be expressed here on her behalf. A gold watch and bracelet were given to her on behalf of the staff and scholars”.

Herbert also had connections to the school through his sister Elise (ex pupil and scholarship holder) who according to the log “commenced duties last Monday as a Student Teacher in training. She will give most of her time in helping with STS 1 & 2 where so much teaching is needed”. (6th Oct 1916)

The log records (9th March 1917) that:

“Miss E E Kent ceased duties today as Student Teacher to act as a temporary Supply Teacher in London Colney.”

Although not recorded as attending Colney Heath School it is likely that Herbert did attend as a number of his siblings are in fact recorded as attended. Setting aside Violet, these include; Herbert’s sister, Olive (pupil no 27) and Donald (pupil no 63). Olive attended the school between 3rd April 1905 and 19th February 1915, whereas Donald attended between 28th May 1907 and 4th August 1916.

None of the Kent family are recorded as being buried in either of the St Mark’s churchyards.

Joseph William Leonard

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

L/9640

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 5th August 1924 – aged 31)

Place of Residence:

Seventh cottage away from The Plough PH at Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire.

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Casual Labourer (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Joseph's service paper (dated 12th July 1911) indicates that he joined up in the 4th Bedfordshire Regiment "Special Reserve", but later transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment.

His medal roll index card confirms that he was sent to [5a Asiatic – This represents one of three possible countries: German East Africa, Nyasaland or Northern Rhodesia] on 6th February 1915 and was discharged from the Army on 9th February 1916.

The following summarises these countries into their modern day contexts:

- German East Africa – now modern day Burundi, Rwanda and Tanganyika
- Nyasaland (British Protectorate at the time of WW1) – now modern day Malawi
- Northern Rhodesia (British Protectorate at the time of WW1) – now modern day Zambia

Colney Heath parish records would appear to indicate that on his discharge from the Army Joseph was sent to the Hertford County Asylum at Hill End. The Colney Heath Funeral Register confirms that Joseph died in the asylum on August 5th 1924 and is buried in the new grave yard at St Mark's Church, Colney Heath. Unfortunately, the actual plot for Joseph is not recorded, however from the various records held by the church it is likely that his plot is somewhere along the hedge running adjacent to the gate and directly behind the Church Centre.

Joseph William Leonard

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

CWGC Notes:

Unfortunately Joseph was not on the CWGC database, however, as previously stated he is buried in St Mark's Church yard, and is remembered with honour on the St Mark's Church memorial, Colney Heath.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Joseph and Alice Leonard.

According to the 1901 census Joseph was one of three children, Joseph (8) was the eldest and had a younger sister, Evelyn (5) and a younger brother Charles (11 months).

The 1911 census would indicate that Joseph (18) is not living with his parents in Tyttenhanger, but is in fact stationed at Hertford Militia Barracks, Hatfield where he is a Private in the 4th Bedfordshire Regiment "Special Reserve".

Cecil Percy Mansell

2nd Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

22682

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 23rd October 1918 – aged 19)

Place of Residence:

Last house in Tyttenhanger Green away from The Plough PH (1901)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Prior to enlisting Cecil was in the employ of Charles Morris at Highfield Hall.

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Cecil enlisted in the Machine Gun Corps in Ampthill on 5th October 1915, not yet aged 16 years.

Prior to the posting in the Bedfordshire Regiment Cecil was Private 31541 in the Machine Gun Corps.

Cecil departed for France on 21st May 1918 and died of his wounds on 23rd October 1918 following his first visit to the trenches of France in Western Europe.

CWGC Notes:

Cecil is remembered with honour in Awoinght British Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Samson and Alice May Mansell.

On 28th January 1900 Samson and Alice's youngest son was baptised as Cecil Percy at St Mark's Church Colney Heath.

The 1901 census records Cecil (1) as one of seven children (five boys, two girls), his brother Samson (older by 7 years) also died serving in the Great War.

The 1911 census confirms that Cecil is still a scholar.

Samson Mansell

4th Middlesex Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Sergeant

13023

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 15th March 1916 – aged 23)

Place of Residence:

Last house in Tyttenhanger, away from The Plough PH (1901).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Before enlisting in 1910 Samson worked at Highfield Hall for Charles Morris.

Medal Entitlement:

1914/1915 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Samson joined the 4th Middlesex regiment in 1910, aged 17, and went out to the front on 13th August 1914. Having been through many engagements he returned to England after being wounded and went back again in November 1915, returning to the trenches around Christmas of 1915.

CWGC Notes:

Samson is remembered with honour in Cite Bonjeau Military Cemetery, Armentieres.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Samson and Alice May Mansell.

The parish records of St Mark's Church indicate that Samson was baptised on 28th August 1892.

The 1901 census identifies Samson (8) as one of seven children (five boys, two girls). Samson was the brother of Cecil, who also died serving in the Great War.

Prior to the outbreak of war Samson was a prominent member of Highfield Hall Cricket Club. At over six feet tall he made a fine bowler, in fact he achieved a cricketing "hat trick" in an important game and was presented with a club cap by the team for his achievement.

Charles James Mardel

7th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Lance Corporal
18669

Birthplace:

Wormley, Hertfordshire (Died: 28th September 1916 – aged 33)

Place of Residence:

Farm Yard, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (1891)
Bramfieldbury Cottage, Bramfield, Hertfordshire (1901)
Flint Cottage, Hedges Farm, St Albans, Hertfordshire (1911)
Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (circa 1913)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Agricultural Labourer (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Charles enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment in Bedford.

CWGC Notes:

Charles is remembered with honour in Mill Road cemetery, Thiepval.

Given the date of his death, it is likely that Charles was involved in the offensive to capture the town of Thiepval from the German Army.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Samuel & Fanny Mardel (the 1911 census would indicate that Fanny was a widow)

Wife: Mary Anne Mardel (formerly Fitzgerald)

The census records for 1891 shows the Mardels as a family of ten living in Welwyn, Hertfordshire. Charles (7) at the time is a scholar, there is a good chance that he may have attended St Mary's School.

In 1901 the family move to Bramfieldbury Cottage, Bramfield, where Charles (16) is an agricultural labourer, along with his three brothers Samuel, Albert and Joseph. Also living with them are Charles' other siblings Edward, Arthur, Emily and

Charles James Mardel

7th Bedfordshire Regiment

Daisy.

Then in 1911 Charles (27) appears to have left the family home to live with John and Sarah Stratton at Flint Cottage, Hedges Farm, St Albans. Sarah Stratton is identified on the census as Charles' sister, this is also supported on the 1891 census. Also living with the Strattons are two other people: Sarah and Charles sister Cecilia; and Mary Fitzgerald, an Irish girl, who would become Charles wife. Within the Stratton family is Charles's nephew Frederick Charles Stratton.

On the 15th June 1912, at St Peter's Church St Albans, Charles marries Mary and they set up home in Tyttenhanger Green. The St Mark's parish records confirm that on 28th July 1913, they had a little girl, Mary Fanny Alice Mardel, who is subsequently baptised on 31st August 1913.

The Colney Heath Admissions Register shows that Charles' nieces and nephews attended the school (brother Samuel's children):

- Caroline Mardel (pupil no 113) attended the school from 5th April 1910 until 19th December 1919 (DoB 22/10/05)
- Frederick Mardel (pupil no 164) attended the school from 10th June 1912 until 20th July 1921 (DoB 03/08/07)
- Francis Hilda Mardel (pupil no 338) attended the school from 2nd May 1916 until 31st July 1925 (DoB 07/06/11)

James Edward Matthews

2nd Grenadier Guards

**Rank and Regimental Number:**

Private

23450

Birthplace:

Thetford, Norfolk (Died: 15th September 1916 –aged 41)

Place of Residence:

Napsbury Cottages, St Albans, Hertfordshire (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Farm Labourer (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

James is remembered with honour in Serre Road Cemetery (no 2).

Additional Personal Notes:

James was married to Ellen for 11 years; and left not only a widow, but also four children: Ada Mary, Lizzie, James Edward and Frederick William. All as confirmed in the 1911 census.

Joseph Henry McNair

15th Lancashire Fusiliers

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

56953

Birthplace:

Ridge, Hertfordshire (Died: 16th May 1918 – aged 19)

Place of Residence:

“Horse Shoes” Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire (1901 to 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

The Colney Heath School records would indicate that Joseph joined the army direct from school.

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Joseph enlisted for the army in Watford.

CWGC Notes:

Joseph is remembered with honour in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: John and Mary Ann McNair (formerly Welch).

According to the 1901 census Joseph was John and Mary McNair's only child.

Joseph was pupil no 17 (commenced 21st March 1904) in the Colney Heath School admissions register. The register has recorded his birthday as 23rd June 1899. Joseph left Colney Heath School on 19th June 1912.

It would also appear that Joseph had a sister, Mildred, but affectionally known as Millie, (pupil no 34), who commenced at the school on 13th October 1905. The register has recorded her birthday as 8th July 1901, hence she is not shown on the 1901 census.

Albert Edward Miles

2nd Middlesex Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

L/14421

Birthplace:

Sleaps Hyde, Hertfordshire (Died: 1st July 1916 – aged 21)

Place of Residence:

Third cottage away from The Plough PH at Sleaps Hyde (1901 and 1911).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Office Boy, at the St Albans Water Works office on Holywell Hill (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Having enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment, Albert was sent to France on 7th November 1914.

CWGC Notes:

Albert is remembered with honour on Thiepval Memorial.

This memorial is for the missing of the Somme (July – November 1916); Albert died on the first day of the battle.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Frederick & Mary Elizabeth Miles (formerly Keeling).

Albert Edward Miles was born on 10th February 1894 and baptised at St Mark's Church just over a year later on 10th April 1895.

According to the 1901 census Albert was one of six children (four sons: Herbert (13), Frederick (9), Albert (6) and Charles (2) and two daughters: Annie (11) and Louisa (4)). It was also apparent that Albert's mother was previously married as the 1901 census shows an additional child called Alfred Keeting, listed as "wife's son", who was eighteen.

The 1911 census shows that the family were still living in the same house in Sleapshyde, but of the siblings only Herbert (23), Frederick (19), Albert (16),

Albert Edward Miles

2nd Middlesex Regiment

Louisa (14) and Charles (12) were living there with their parents.

Albert's brother, Charles Miles, attended Colney Heath School from 17th March 1902 to 30th July 1912. He was number 3 on the original school admissions register. He was born on 26th August 1898.

Albert's parents Frederick (died January 17th 1931 aged 74) and Mary Elizabeth (died March 14th 1930 aged 72) are both buried in the new graveyard at St Mark's Church, Colney Heath.

Albert's brother Charles Joseph Miles passed away on 24th September 1936, aged 38 and is also buried in the new graveyard at St Mark's.

James Munday

1st Essex Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

30320

Birthplace:

Butterwick Cottages, Smallford, Hertfordshire (Died: 18th March 1917 – aged 37)

Place of Residence:

Butterwick Cottages, Smallford, Hertfordshire (1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Farm Labourer (1901)

General Labourer, in a timber merchants yard (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

James enlisted in the Essex Regiment in St Albans.

CWGC Notes:

James died of his injuries in England, and is buried with honour in Bishop's Hatfield (St Luke's) Churchyard, Hatfield.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: James and Charlotte Munday.

Wife: Kate Munday (formerly Hale)

Records (CWGC) would suggest that James was born circa 1881, the census of the time shows the Munday family living at Butterwick Cottages. However, James is not listed as one of the children of James and Charlotte Munday, at this time the children are Frederick, Mary, Martha and Mark. However, the St Mark's Baptism Register records James as being baptised on 25th March 1883.

James first appears on the 1891 census aged 2 (doesn't quite tie up with the St Mark's baptism register), and the family are still living at Butterwick Cottages. The other children in the household at the time were William, George, Emily and Arthur.

The census data from 1901 and 1911 would indicate that James Munday (Senior) died sometime during that period. James had a brother, Arthur (3 years older) and

James Munday

1st Essex Regiment

an adopted sister Ada Slough (7 years younger), both living with them at the time of the 1901 census. The 1911 census indicates that James Munday (Junior) is living at Butterwick Cottages with his mother Charlotte, who is a widow.

At the age of 30, James marries Kate Hale (24) on 4th August 1913 at St Mark's Church.

Shortly after they are married on 1st December 1913 their little girl Emily is born and she is baptised in St Mark's Church on 25th January 1914.

There is some evidence that James probably attended Colney Heath School, as James's brother Arthur is noted in the log (6th March 1889).

"Arthur Munday st.iii suffers continually from some disease of the ear, rendering him deaf and otherwise interfering with his mental faculties. He cannot progress with the standard and requires exceptional treatment". This is likely to be the reason why Arthur did not serve, on medical grounds, in the Great War.

Arthur George Payne

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Lance Corporal

7769

Birthplace:

Roe Stock, Hertfordshire (Died: 24th October 1914 – aged 28)

Place of Residence:

Second house away from The Plough (PH) in Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (1891)

High Street, Colney Heath (Second house before the village hall – opposite side to the former School House) (1901)

“Bloomfield”, Blue House, Roe Stock (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Bricklayer's Labourer (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star & Clasp

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Arthur joined the army as a private in 1903 as a territorial member of the Bedfordshire regiment, but was later promoted to Lance Corporal.

Arthur was the first man from North Mymms / Colney Heath to lay down his life in the Great War. One of the brave 'contemptibles' he went out with the Bedford's in August 1914, was wounded in the early days, and 'died of wounds' in Boulogne General Hospital.

The war diaries would indicate that in mid October 1914 the battalion were ordered to move to Chapelle St Roch. On arrival they were ordered to assist in the attack on German held farms near Violaines. However, the attack was not pushed home and the battalion retreated to a new line near Givenchy, about a 1 mile east of Festubert. The enemy was particularly active making attacks on various farms night and day; all of which were successfully repulsed. However, the war diary records that on the morning of 22nd October 1914, 23 men were wounded during heavy shelling and it is likely that Arthur was one of these men.

CWGC Notes:

Arthur is remembered with honour in the Eastern Cemetery in Boulogne.

Arthur George Payne

1st Bedfordshire Regiment

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William George & Lillian Payne. Both of whom are now buried at St Mark's Church (new graveyard), William died May 24th 1927 and Lillian died January 12th 1926.

Wife: Emily May Payne (who at the time of Arthur's death was living in "Bloomfield" Colney Heath, St Albans Hertfordshire).

Arthur George Payne is first mentioned in the 1891 census, aged 5, and living with his parents in Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire.

It is interesting to note that the Payne families next door neighbour's are:

- Fred Cook and his family
- George John Brett and his family

At some stage between 1891 and 1901, the family move to Colney Heath.

According to the 1901 census Arthur was the eldest of five children; William and Lillian had three daughters (Lillian, Daisy and Violet) and two sons (Arthur and Ernest). Arthur was the brother of Ernest, who was eleven years younger. By the end of the Great War William and Lillian had lost both of their sons.

On 2nd July 1910 and at the age of 23, Arthur marries Emily May Turner (22) daughter of the publican at the Chalkdrawer's Arms, at St Mark's Church.

They then proceeded to set up home in "Bloomfield", Blue Houses, Roestock, this is also confirmed in the 1911 census.

There is evidence in the Colney Heath School register that Arthur's sister Violet (pupil no 2) attended the school, it is therefore very likely that Arthur did as well.

The North Mymms parish records indicate that as well as Emily, Arthur also left two children.

Arthur George Payne is also commemorated on the memorial within St Mary's Church, North Mymms.

Ernest Edward Payne

6th Bedfordshire Regiment & 10th Sherwood Forresters (Notts & Derby) Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Lance Corporal

103453

Birthplace:

Ridge, Hertfordshire (Died: 21st April 1918 – aged 21)

Place of Residence:

High Street, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (Second house before the village hall – opposite side to the former School House) (1901).

“Hazeldene”, 7 High Street, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (1911).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

School / Pupil Teacher (1911).

General Labourer (1911).

Stockman on farm (1915).

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Ernest enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment in St Albans and entered the war in France on 30th July 1915.

Prior to becoming a Lance Corporal with the Sherwood Forresters, Ernest was a private (12956) in the 6th Bedfordshire Regiment.

CWGC Notes:

Ernest is remembered with honour in Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William George & Lillian Payne. Both of whom are now buried at St Mark's Church (new graveyard), William died May 24th 1927 and Lillian died January 12th 1926.

According to the 1901 census Ernest was one of five children (three daughters: Lillian, Daisy and Violet and two sons: Arthur and Ernest) of William and Lillian, his elder brother was Arthur. At the end of the Great War both brothers had been lost.

Ernest Edward Payne

6th Bedfordshire Regiment & 10th Sherwood Forresters (Notts & Derby) Regiment

The 1911 census also confirms that Ernest was living with his parents and sister Violet, it would appear that all his other brothers and sisters had moved out of the family home.

Ernest took over from Violet Kent as the School / Pupil Teacher at Colney Heath School. Although there is no school log entry, only the data from the 1911 census, it is likely that this role commenced early 1905, as the log does suggest that Violet Kent ceased these duties at that time. However, at some point during 1911 Ernest ceases duties as the Pupil Teacher at Colney Heath and earns a wage as a general labourer, before eventually becoming a farm stockman prior to enlisting.

Thomas William Pink

4th Royal Welsh Fusiliers



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private
202380

Birthplace:

Bow Green, Kent (Died: 6th April 1918 – aged 21)

Place of Residence:

8 Clarendon Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire (1911)
Roestock Lane, Roestock, Hertfordshire (circa 1918)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Platelayer with the Midland Railway at Elstree (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Thomas enlisted on December 8th 1914 in the Bedfordshire Regiment. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and proceeded to France with that regiment in July of 1916.

Thomas was then home on leave in October 1917, returning to France in early November.

The war diaries indicate that on the night of 6th April 1918 when he died, Thomas was working on the construction of a broad winch which was designed to fulfill the purpose of a tank trap. This was on the Amiens to Albert road, about 600 yards north of Buirie Sur L'Anere.

CWGC Note:

Thomas is remembered with honour on Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.

Pozieres is a village 6 kilometers north east of the town of Albert. The memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields.

Additional Personal Notes:

Wife: Mary Jane Pink.

The 1911 census confirms that Mary was born in Nast Hyde and their eldest child, Amy Florence was born in Smallford, it also indicates that Thomas and Mary had

Thomas William Pink

4th Royal Welsh Fusiliers

been married for 10 months (circa May 1910).

It is known from an article in the Herts Advertiser that Thomas left a widow, Mary Jane, and three children, one of whom was Amy Florence (DoB 15/6/1910).

The school log records Amy Florence (pupil no 324) as attending between 24th January 1916 and 31st July 1924. There is also a younger brother, Thomas William James (DoB 17/7/1911) identified as pupil no 335, who started on 28th March 1916 and left on 17th July 1925. Both children are shown as having William James Pink as their guardian and living in Sleafshyde. They had both previously attended a school in Borehamwood.

It is likely that at some point just before Thomas was sent to France the family moved from Borehamwood to Sleafshyde to live with Thomas' brother. Once they re-establish themselves locally Mary and the children move to Roestock Lane sometime between the beginning of 1916 and early 1919.

The school log also records Winifred Georgina Pink (pupil no 450) of Roestock Lane, who started at the school on 5th May 1919 and left 29th 1929 (DoB 03/03/15). She was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Pink, the register shows Mary as the parent as by this stage she would have been a widow.

The records at St Mark's Church also indicate that both Thomas William James (31/12/1911) and Winifred Georgina (25/4/1915) were baptised there.

Joseph Ray

4th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

22045

Birthplace:

St Peter's, St Albans, Hertfordshire (Died: 25th August 1918 – aged 41)

Place of Residence:

Cottage next door to Round House Farm, Roestock Lane, Roestock (1881)

Cottage next door to Roe Hyde Farm, Roestock (1891)

Cottage next door to the Chalk Drawers Arms PH heading up Roestock Lane, Colney Heath (1901 & 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Bricklayers Labourer (1901)

General Labourer, for Moss & Sons (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Joseph enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment in St Albans.

Died of wounds in Western Europe.

CWGC Notes:

Joseph is remembered with honour in the extension of Bucquoy Communal Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Samuel & Thirza Ray

Wife: Rose Ada Ray, to whom Joseph was married for eleven years.

Joseph was baptised in St Mark's Church Colney Heath on 26th June 1881.

Joseph first appears on a census in 1881, aged 3, living with his parents and his five older brothers and sisters, namely: John (18), Rebecca (13), Jane (11), Robert (8) and Emily (6).

The 1891 census indicates that only Emily (17) and Joseph (13) were still living

Joseph Ray

4th Bedfordshire Regiment

with their parents.

The census of 1901 would indicate that Joseph had left the family house, got married to Rose Ada and set up home in the cottage next door to the Chalkdrawers Arms.

The 1911 census entry would appear to indicate that Joseph referred to his wife as Ada, rather than Rose; and that they had a daughter, Gladys (9). The records also confirmed that they had another child who had died sometime between 1901 and 1911.

Records confirm that Gladys attended Colney Heath School (pupil no 23) from 30th September 1904 until 2nd July 1915.

Frank Rayner

7th Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

3/7726

Birthplace:

Unknown (Died: 25th October 1917 – aged 37)

Place of Residence:

Bowmans Green Cottages, Smallford, Hertfordshire (1913)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

In the Kelly's Directory of 1908, Frank Rayner is listed as a Beer Retailer, he is one of seven in the Colney Heath parish. It would appear that this was the case until at least 1910, as confirmed by the Kelly's Directory.

Private in the British Army



Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Frank was badly caught in a gas attack in Flanders on 23rd October 1917 and died on 25th October 1917.

Frank had served nineteen years in the army and three years in the British Expeditionary Force.

The Herts Advertiser at the time records that:

“His last words to his nurse were “send my love to my wife and little girl”. This message Mrs Rayner, who resides at Smallford Farm was received with an exceedingly kind letter from her husband's commanding officer.”

CWGC Notes:

Frank is remembered with honour in the Mendingham Military Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Henry Rayner

Wife: Ann Rayner (formerly Potter)

On 2nd August 1913 Frank (34) married Ann Potter (33) in St Mark's Church, and

Frank Rayner

7th Bedfordshire Regiment

between them they have a daughter Elizabeth Nancy Rayner born on 17th September 1914 (St Mark's records shows that she was baptized on 29th November 1914).

After Frank's death in 1917, Ann at the age of 38 marries George Baldock on 7th June 1919, this also takes place in St Mark's Church.

Frank Rayner's parents in law were Edwin and Sarah Potter (both of whom are buried in the Old Church yard at St Mark's), who also lived in Colney Heath. Edwin and Sarah had five sons all of whom fought and survived the Great War.

Pte James Edwin Potter – Suffolk Regiment (served in the trenches in France and survived the Great War, died in 1945 and is buried in the New Church yard at St Mark's).

Pte Harry Potter – Royal Engineers (Harry served in France in the Great War and eventually died in March 1963, aged 79 and is buried in the New Church yard at St Mark's. Harry and Emily Potter had a son, Charles, who died on active service during WW2, and is remembered on the memorial within St Mark's Church).

Pte J Potter – Machine Gun Corps

Pte W Potter – Hampshire Regiment (served in Salonica during the Great War).

Pte Charles Potter – Life Guards (Charles survived the Great War and eventually died in March 1979, aged 83 and is buried in the New Church yard at St Mark's).

Edward Reynolds

9th Queens Regiment Lancers

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Lance Corporal

L/4112

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 30th October 1914 – aged 19)

Place of Residence:

Fifth cottage away from The Plough PH at Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire.
(1901 & 1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Farm labourer (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

The Medal Roll Index would indicate that Edward joined the Lancers as a Private and first entered the war in France on 15th August 1914.

CWGC Notes:

Edward is remembered with honour on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

The Menin Gate is one of the memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. Edward would have died in the First Battle of Ypres, during which time the British Expeditionary Force pushed the German forces back to the Passendale Ridge.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: George & Ebber Reynolds.

According to the 1901 census Edward was one of six children. Edward had three brothers: Alfred (9), Leonard (4) and Bertram (1); and two sisters Elizabeth (11) and Mary (8). The 1901 census also showed that the Reynolds family lived next door but one to Fred Cook and his family.

The 1911 census shows that Edward's parents George and Ebber were married for 37 years, and had twelve children, although one of them died in infancy. Along with the children already mentioned in the 1901 census, the 1911 census shows two further siblings, Edward's older brother Arthur (33) and his younger sister Alice

Edward Reynolds

9th Queens Regiment Lancers

Florence (3).

Edward's five brothers, also served in the Great War.

William Reynolds

2nd Bedfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Sergeant Major (Warrant Officer Class 2)
6825

Birthplace:

St Stephens, St Albans, Hertfordshire (Died: 6th August 1918 – aged 34)

Place of Residence:

Chiswell Green, St Stephens, St Albans, Hertfordshire (1891 and 1901).
Fifth cottage away from The Plough PH at Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (1911).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Domestic Gardner (1901)
Platelayer for Midland Railway (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

William is remembered with honour on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France.
Pozieres is a village 6 kilometres north east of the town of Albert. The memorial primarily relates to the period of the crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8th August 1918.

Additional Personal Notes:

The 1901 census indicates that William's mother, Ann Reynolds is a widow and that he had a sister, Emily and a brother, Walter.

In 1911 William had been married to Rose for four years and together they had two children, William George (2) and Lillian Doris (6 months).

Archibald (Alan) Risebero

1st Hertfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

QM Sergeant

Regimental Number not found

Birthplace:

Unknown (Died: 19th June 1919)

Place of Residence:

1 St Peters Cottage, New Town, Hatfield

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Not known

Medal Entitlement:

Not known (medal roll index not found)

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

Not found

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Reuben & Betsy Risebero

Archibald died in Ware Hospital, Hertfordshire.

Walter Robert William Risebero

4th Bedfordshire Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

23432

Birthplace:

Unknown (Died: 25th May 1917 – aged 22)

Place of Residence:

1 St Peters Cottage, New Town, Hatfield

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Not known

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

Walter is remembered with honour in Anbigny Communal Cemetery Extension.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Reuben & Betsy Risebero.

Walter Scott

Machine Gun Corps & Bedfordshire Regiment



Walter Scott with the Colney Heath Cricket Club

Rank and Regimental Number:

Sergeant

3650

Birthplace:

Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (Died: 22nd September 1918 – aged 28)

Place of Residence:

Primrose Cottage, High Street, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire (this is the house next door to Rose Cottage on the opposite side of the road to Colney Heath Farm (1901).

Red Cow Cottage, Colney Street, nr St Albans, Hertfordshire (1911).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Carter Contractor (1911)

Gardner at Colney Heath Vicarage (1914)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Military Medal

Service Record Notes:

Walter enlisted in the Bedfordshire Regiment in St Albans on 4th September 1914.

Prior to the posting in the Machine Gun Corps Walter was Private 14450 in the Bedfordshire Regiment.

CWGC Notes:

Walter is remembered with honour in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: James & Emily Scott.

In 1901 Walter (10) was residing in Colney Heath with his aunt and uncle, Nathan and Emily Swain. Walter's aunt and uncle are buried in the new grave yard at St Mark's church. Emily Swain passed away on 1st September 1935, aged 70 and Nathan Swain passed away on 22nd February 1958, aged 89.

It would also appear from the 1901 census that Walter's mother Emily was not in residence with his father James at the time of the census. This can be concluded

Walter Scott

Machine Gun Corps & Bedfordshire Regiment

from the fact that James Scott appears on the census as living in Colney Heath with his two grown up sons, brothers of Walter. Due to the small size of the house this is likely to explain why Walter was living with his aunt and uncle.

However, the 1911 census shows Walter living with both his parents and his brother Arthur.

The Herts Advertiser recorded Walter's death as "Another Colney Heath Sacrifice".

The newspaper article read:

"The sad news has reached Mrs Scott, 12, St Peters Street, St Albans, that her husband, Sergt. Walter Scott, MGC, of Colney Heath, was killed in action on September 22nd [1918]. Sergeant Scott voluntarily enlisted on September 4th, 1914, and was sent to France early in 1915. He saw much fighting on the Western front and was badly wounded in July, 1916, being sent to hospital at Guildford. On recovery he was again sent to France early in 1917, and experienced many a hard time. On January 9th of this year [1918] he was awarded the Military Medal for rescuing wounded men under heavy shell fire. In a letter to Mrs Scott, the Colnel of his battalion writes: "Your husband was one of my most valued non commissioned officers. He had always set a fine soldierly example and is hard to replace. We had always placed the utmost reliance in him and he was a fine example to the men of his section."

Albert Simpkins

10th East Kents (Buffs) Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

G/25955

Birthplace:

St Peter's, St Albans, Hertfordshire (Died: 28th October 1918 – aged 33)

Place of Residence:

Hatfield Road (two doors away from The Three Horse Shoes PH, opposite what is now Notcutts Garden Centre (1901 and 1911).

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Ordinary Agricultural Labourer (1901)

Farm Labourer (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

Albert is remembered with honour in Orcq Communal Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William & Ann Simpkins (formerly Miles)

According to the 1901 census, Albert (aged 17) is one of five children, he has an elder brother Frederick and three younger sisters, Ruth, Ellon and Lillian.

By 1911 Albert is now 26 years old, still single, and only he and Lillian are still living with their parents.

Albert's father William died on 2nd October 1916, aged 70, whilst Albert was serving in the Great War. Albert's mother Ann passed away on May 26th 1932, aged 83. Both of whom are buried in the old graveyard at St Mark's Church, Colney Heath.

Arthur Smith
7th Manchester Regiment

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

44958

Birthplace:

Unknown (Died: 5th July 1918 – aged 20)

Place of Residence:

Unknown

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Not known

Medal Entitlement:

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Arthur enlisted in the Manchester Regiment in Watford.

CWGC Notes:

Arthur is remembered with honour in Bertramcourt Military Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: Mr & Mrs Smith of Radwell House Cottages, nr Baldock, Hertfordshire.

Frederick Charles Stratton

2nd Bedfordshire Regiment



Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

10797

Birthplace:

Tyttenhanger Green, Hertfordshire (Died: 9th October 1917 – aged 20)

Place of Residence:

Archers Green, Tewin, Hertfordshire (1901)

Flint Cottage, Hedges Farm, St Albans, Hertfordshire (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

The 1911 census would appear to indicate that Frederick joined the army directly from school.

Medal Entitlement:

1914/15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Service Record Notes:

Frederick's medal roll card indicates that he was first sent to France on 30th September 1915.

CWGC Notes:

Frederick is remembered with honour on Tyne Cot Memorial.

The Tyne Cot memorial is one of the memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It is likely that Frederick was involved in the Third Battle of Ypres, which began in July 1917. He most probably lost his life a few weeks before the end of the campaign which came to a close with the capture of Passendaele.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: John Charles & Sarah Elizabeth Stratton

The 1901 census shows the Stratton family living in one of the cottages in Archers Green in Tewin, near Hertford. Frederick (3) lived with his parents and brother Samuel (1).

The key to Frederick's link with Colney Heath lies in the 1911 census, which confirms that Sarah Stratton, Frederick's mother, is in fact the sister of Charles

Frederick Charles Stratton

2nd Bedfordshire Regiment

Mardel.

In 1911 the Stratton family, all twelve of them are living in Flint Cottage, which is a five bedroom cottage on Hedges Farm, St Albans. In addition to Frederick and his parents are:

- His brothers and sisters: John (11), Annie (9), Albert (5), Newlon (3), Mary (2) and Fanny (2 months).
- His uncle, Charles Mardel (27) and Mary Fitzgerald (23), a visitor at the time, who most likely became Mrs Mardel.
- Cecilia Mardel (13), the sister of Charles Mardel and Sarah Stratton, Frederick's mother.

In addition to the above there is also a strong link with St Mark's Church, Colney Heath as records would indicate that five of his brothers and sisters were baptised there, all as listed below:

- Albert Samuel George – 28th October 1906
- Newlon Leslie – 27th October 1907
- Mary Elizabeth Fanny – 25th April 1908
- Fanny Kathleen – 29th April 1911
- Charles James – 25th March 1917

William Welch

Royal Air Force



Rank and Regimental Number:

Chief Motor Mechanic
1688

Birthplace:

St Peter's, St Albans, Hertfordshire (Died: 26th April 1918 – aged 23)

Place of Residence:

Hatfield Road (two doors away from the Three Horse Shoes PH, opposite what is now Notcutts Garden Centre). This hamlet was once referred to as "Horse Shoe Village". (1901)

Sleapshyde, Hertfordshire (1911)

"Vixendale", Roestock Lane, Roestock (circa 1918)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

Hay Binders Apprentice (1911)

Medal Entitlement:

Not found

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

William is remembered with honour in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: George & Sarah Welch.

George and Sarah had nine children in total, although three of them died in infancy.

According to the 1901 census William (5) was the youngest of five children living in the house at the time. He had three older brothers Arthur (17), Alfred (14) and Frederick (9); and a sister, Gertrude (12).

By 1911, as reported in the census, Gertrude is no longer living with the family; only four of the children are. Along with William (16) are Frederick (19), Alfred (25) and Arthur (29).

At some point after 1911 the Welch family moved to "Vixendale", Roestock.

William James Winch

Kings Royal Rifle Corps

No photograph found

Rank and Regimental Number:

Private

Regimental Number

Birthplace:

Odiham, Hampshire (Died: 3rd October 1919 – aged 20)

Place of Residence:

The Splash, Smallford, Hertfordshire (1911)

Occupation Prior to Enlisting:

It would appear from records that William joined up straight from school.

Medal Entitlement:

Not known, medal roll index not found

Service Record Notes:

Not found

CWGC Notes:

Not found

Additional Personal Notes:

Parents: William & Sarah Winch

The Colney Heath School log records that William (pupil no 89) attended the school with his brothers Arthur and Edward; and sisters Dorothy and Alice. The log confirms William's attendance between 5th April 1909 and left on 14th March 1913, and his birthday as 3rd April 1899.

The other school log entries are as follows:

Arthur (pupil no 90) commenced at school on 5th April 1909 and left on 9th October 1914 (DoB: 11th October 1900).

Dorothy (pupil no 92) commenced at school on 3rd May 1909 and left on 15th May 1915 (DoB: 16th May 1904).

Alice (pupil no 133) commenced at school on 22nd May 1911 and left on 27th July 1920 (DoB: 6th June 1906).

Edward (pupil no 208) commenced at school on 2nd September 1913, however he died on 31st October 1913 (DoB: 27th August 1908).

William James Winch
Kings Royal Rifle Corps

According to the St Mark's burial register William died at St Davids Home, 12 Castlebar Hill, Ealing (a hospital during WW1) and is buried in the old graveyard, near to Charles Jolly by the Christian Centre car park. Unfortunately the plot is not marked or recorded in the church records.

Interestingly enough, the St David's Home in Ealing still operates to this day as a care home of the elderly and physically disabled.