## Introduction

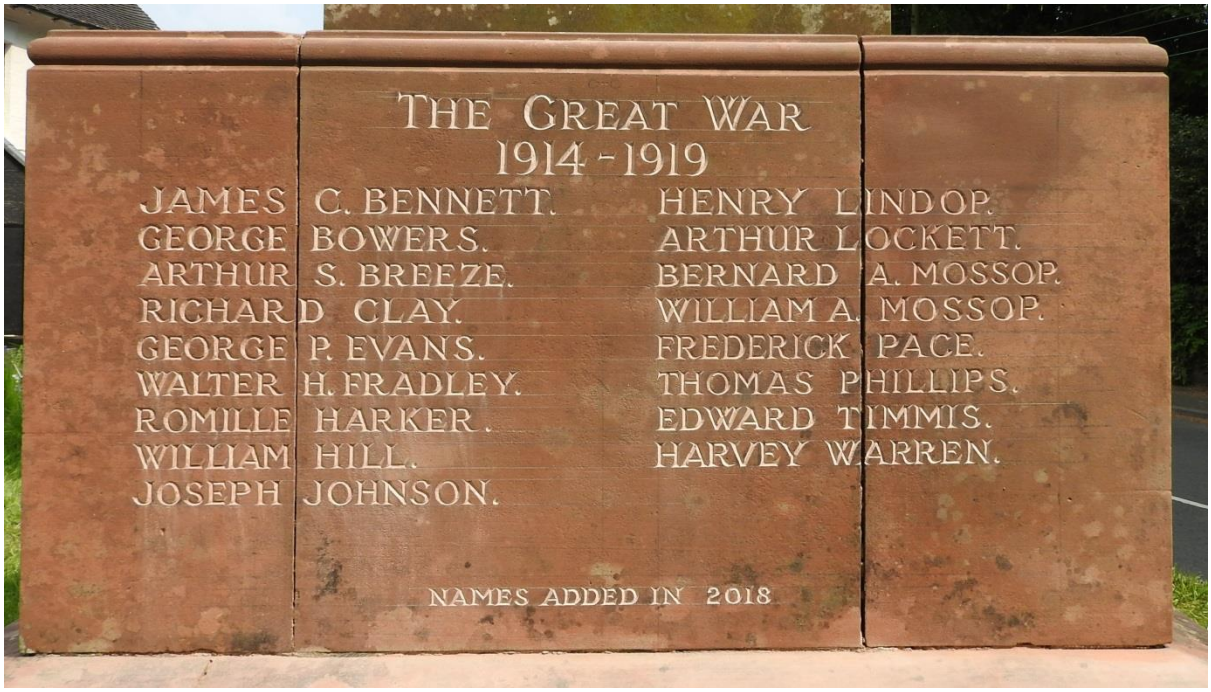
In 2013, the **Eccleshall Historical Society** instigated a project to research the 46 names on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Churchyard to commemorate the anniversary of the Great War. Within nine months, the research was complete, a great success and a limited edition of a book documenting that research was produced in time for the Eccleshall Festival week of 2014.

During the research, it became clear that there may well have been other names that could be regarded as ***missing***! A second phase of the project was started to research all possible names that could be considered for recognition. The criteria was as follows

1. A strong connection with Eccleshall Parish.
2. Recognised by the C.W.G.C. as casualties.
3. Not remembered on any ***local*** war memorial.

By late 2015, a list of 17 names were officially recognised as eligible to be put forward to be added to the memorial. Funding was raised and the work was completed in time for the Eccleshall Festival of June 2018 culminating with a service of rededication on Sunday 24th June.

***This book records the stories of those 17 men who gave the ultimate.***






## Bennett James Cooper

- **Full name**: James Cooper Bennett
- **Date of birth**: 1898, Eccleshall
- **Date of death**: 23rd October 1918
- **Age of death**: 19
- **Regiment and Number**: Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment - 1st Bn. 39950
- **Rank**: Private
- **Additional information**: Son of James Cooper Bennett and Margaret Bennett, of 126, Victoria St., Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent.
- **Medals awarded**: Victory British

39950 PRIVATE
J.C.BENNETT
WILTSHIRE REGIMENT
23RD OCTOBER 1918 age 19



GOD HIMSELF
THE SOUL WILL KEEP
GIVING HIS BELOVED SLEEP

- **Interred at**:
  - Awoingt British Cemetery
  - Grave Reference: I. D. 4.

Awoingt is a village some 3 Kms east-south-east of Cambrai and a little south of the main straight road, the N43, from Cambrai to Le Cateau.



Awoingt British Cemetery

  - **Family History**: **Current research shows:**
    - **James Cooper Bennett (Snr)** - Father of the fallen. :
      - James Snr lived at Newcastle-u-Lyme and was a coal merchant, and was the son of John Cooper Bennett and Mary Emma (Simcock)
      - The family were Methodists.
      - After the death of his mother, Mary in 1872 and his father, John in 1873, James Snr lived with their grandfather, Job Bennett, a farmer and local preacher who in 1881 was living at Mucklestone.
      - In 1891 James Bennett Snr was living (as a farm labourer) in the Croxton area, still with Job. Specifically, we believe living at **Penny Quart Well** .
    - **James Cooper Bennett (Jnr)** :
      - Parents - James Cooper Bennett (Snr) and Margaret (Needham)
      - Born 15th November 1898, registered in Eccleshall
      - Baptised 28th November 1898, living at Sugnall, Eccleshall

        - Siblings: (like James, all were born in Eccleshall)
            - John Needham Bennett (1895)
            - Gladys (1896)
    - 1911 Census document the Bennett family living at 39 Seagrave Street, Newcastle-u-Lyme:
        - James Cooper Bennett (Snr) age 42 head of house, coal merchant
        - Margaret Bennett age 44 wife
        - John Needham Bennett age 16 son, assisting in business
        - Gladys May Bennett age 15 daughter
        - **James Cooper Bennett (Jnr) age 12 son**
    - 1918 James Cooper Bennett (Jnr) died of wounds received on the 23rd October.
    - 1921 James Snr and his wife, Margaret (Needham) had now moved to live at Victoria Street, Hartshill
- **Military History**
    - Enlisted: Stoke-on-trent, Staffs
    - Regiments:
        - Middlesex Regiment – 86375
        - Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment - 1st Bn – 39950

          1st Bte Wiltshire Regiment was part of 21st Division. The Division took part in many of the battles towards the end of the war: the 100 Day Offensive , the attacks on the Hindenberg Line and the final advance into Flanders These included the battles of:
            - Epehy (18 Sept)
            - St Quentin Canal (29Sept-2Oct)
            - Cambrai (8-9 Oct)

          As Bennet died of wounds on 23 Oct and is buried 3km from Cambrai, it is likely he received his wounds in the latter battle.

## Bowers George

- **Full name**: George Bowers
- **Date of birth**: 1881, Eccleshall
- **Date of death**: 20th July 1916
- Private 7000 Royal Welsh Fusiliers 2nd Bn.
- **medals** - Victory, British and 14 star
- Brother of Thomas H. Bowers, of 15, Gaddesly Rd., King's Heath, Birmingham.
- **Interred**: Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval (IV. F. 2.)






7000 PRIVATE
G. BOWERS
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS
20TH JULY 191

**Family history**:

- Parents (married Stafford 1872):
  - Thomas Bowers (1845)
  - Harriet (Cockram)
- Children:
  - Sarah (1873) - born Fenton
  - Thomas (1874) - born Fenton
  - Lucy (1876) - born Eccleshall
  - Harriet (1879) - born Eccleshall
  - **George (1881) -born Eccleshall**
  - Ellen (1887)
  - Arthur (1890)
- The census of 1881 documents **George** aged 2 months and living at Johnson Gardens Cottage, presumably with his father, Thomas working at Johnson Hall.
- The family stayed in Eccleshall until at least 1884 when their daughter, Harriet Stringer Bowers died.
- Sometime after, the family moved to Tettenhall (Kingswinford) where Thomas was a gardener.
- Harriet died in 1894 and Thomas married Martha Griffiths in 1895.
- In 1901, George was at Brewood( working on the Chillington Estate as a gardener).

- George's brother, Thomas (1874) was at Kings Norton in 1911.
- In 1911, Thomas and Martha and their daughter, Elizabeth were living in West Bromwich
- **George Bowers** embarked 22/9/1914, killed in action 20/7/1916
- Step-mother, Martha died in 1919, living at that time in the King's Norton area.

## Breeze Arthur
## Remembered in St. Leonards Church in Dunstan

- **Date of death**: 28th August 1916 age 19
- **Private 4503** - North Staffordshire Regiment 1st/6th Bn.
- **Medals**: Victory British
- **Additional information (CWGC)**
  Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Breeze, of Dunston, nr. Stafford.
- **Interred**: Mont Huon Military Cemetery Le Treport (I. H. 9.)



A. BREEZE
N. STAFFORDSHIRE REGT
28TH AUGUST 1916



HAVE MERCY UPON HIM, LORD
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON HIM

**Family history:**

- Born 1897.... Arthur Samuel Breeze (Ankerton, near Slindon)
  - *Ankerton lies between Drake Hall and Slindon and within the Parish boundary*.
- 1901 census documents the family living in Ankerton Lane
  - William Breeze(1850) born Eccleshall – labourer
  - Mary (Whitfield) born Eccleshall
  - Florence Breeze age 19 born Eccleshall
  - James Breeze age 16 born Eccleshall
  - Lizzie Breeze age 11 born Eccleshall
  - Albert Breeze age 8 born Eccleshall
  - Samuel Breeze age 4 born Eccleshall
  - Berty Breeze age 2 born Eccleshall
- 1911 census shows that they had moved to Swan Lane, Nr Penkridge, Staffs Swan Lane lies nearer to Dunstan, hence the comment on the CWGC.
  - William Breeze age 62
  - Mary Breeze age 53
  - James William Breeze age 26
  - Lizzie Breeze age 11
  - Albert George Breeze age 18

- Arthur Samuel Breeze age 14
- Berty Breeze age 12

**Military history:**

**Attestation**:

Most Attestation documents were destroyed in the Blitz. Many of those that survived showed signs of fire and water damage. Breeze's Attestation and related documents show signs of burning (bottom of each page missing) and water damage (writing from other pages showing through, either back-to-front or upside down). However, it can be seen that Breeze signed a 4 year Territorial Force Attestation, with his service dating from 2/12/15.

**The Mills Bomb**:

This was hand grenade used in WW1. It was pineapple shaped with a safety spoon and pin. In order to increase the range of the bomb a cup-type launcher was attached to the muzzle of the rifle. The grenade was placed in the cup and the pin removed. The cup held the safety spoon in place. A blank cartridge was inserted into the rifle and the stock placed on the ground. On firing, the safety spoon flew off. Attached to a Lee Enfield, the bomb could be fired 200 yds.

**The following report is attached to Breeze's records.**
**4/5/16 Court of Enquiry at Scotton Camp, Catterick Bridge**
order of Colonel D.G. Prendergast
Commanding A Group 3rd Line North Midland Division
upon how 6 men were injured on 3rd inst.
President: Major B.F Neill 4th (Res) Btn Leicestershire Regiment
Members Capt. A.T. Shaw 5th (Res) Btn Leicestershire Regiment
Capt. C.C. Cooper 5th (Res) Btn South Staffordshire Regiment

**First Witness**:

I was superintending the firing of the West Spring Gun by the Officers and Men attending the 3rd Line, North Midland Divisional Grenade School. Three officers and five NCO's and men were under the instruction of myself and the Sergt. Instructor (No 8698 Sgt. Beards 5th (Res) Btn South Staffordshire Regiment) in the immediate neighbourhood of the gun, the remainder of the class, about fifty in number, being about five yards behind under cover. Live grenades were being used, seven having been fired successfully, the tension in the springs being 78% of the possible On firing the eighth grenade, the ash arms carrying the cup which held the bomb broke at the point where they are screwed to the cup. The Grenade went upwards and slightly backwards and fell near some men who were running from their cover on seeing the bomb travelling through the air above them. It burst on the ground and wounded the six men who gave their names to me as per the attached schedule.

R. Wykes, 2/LA.

**Second Witness**:

2Lt. S.B. Bridgwood , 5th (Res) Btn South Staffordshire Regiment who was attending the course gave essentially similar evidence. He said the grenade fell about thirty

yards behind the gun among the class who were 'at the moment scattering in all directions'.
The Court decided that the springs were defective and no-one was at fault. Prendergast concurred with the decision, noting that if the men had sat tight in their safety positions instead of getting up and running, the damage might have been much less. One of the injured was 4503 Breeze 5th (Res) Btn North Staffordshire Regiment. As all men were able to give their names to the officer, it would appear that the injuries were not too great. Certainly, Breeze was sent to France on 16/6/16. He was reported wounded in the field on 6/8/16. This was at the height of the Battle of the Somme.

**Arthur Breeze died of wounds in Le Treport Military Hospital on 2nd September 1916.**

## Clay Richard

- **Full Name**: Richard Clay
- **Regiment**: 2nd Batt Prince of Wales (North Staffordshire Regiment)
- **Rank**: Private Service No: 9392
- **Date of death**: Thursday 21st October 1915 (dysentry) Age: 23
- **Interred**: Murree Bengal
- **Remembered**:
    - Karachi 1914 -1918 War Memorial, Pakistan This memorial commemorates those who served and died in Pakistan in the 1914 -18 war and are buried in various cemeteries that have been impossible to look after.
    - All Saints Church, Speke, Liverpool (see below)



Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial

**Family history**:

- Census of 1901 Shows the family living at Grange Road, Gnosall
    - Richard Clay (Snr) age 36 Farm Servant/Stockman, born High Offley
    - Clara (Snr) age 36, born Eccleshall (sister of Alfred Gray)
    - Clara Emily age 13, born Eccleshall
    - Arthur H age 11, born Eccleshall
    - Henrietta age 10, born Eccleshall
    - **Richard Clay age 8, born Gnosall**
    - Frank age 7, born Eccleshall
    - Harriet age 4, born Mucklestone
    - Wilfred age 3, born Mucklestone

**Military history:**

- Prior to WW1, one of the two regular battalions of the North Staffordshires was based in India. 2nd Battalion was based there at the outbreak of war and was one of only eight battalions which remained there throughout the war. They were based in Rawalpindi as part of the Rawalpindi Division. Rawalpindi is in modern-day Pakistan near the North West Frontier. In 1915, a joint Turkish-German mission went to Afghanistan to persuade the Afghans to attack India, many of whose armies were serving overseas. However, Amir Habibulla maintained the neutrality of Afghanistan though there were factions who wished to side with the Ottoman Sultan. Throughout 1915, there were a series of local wars against various tribes, but no widespread conflict.
- Clay's Regimental Number suggests that he joined up in 1910-11 (aged 17-18). He was living at at Great Bridgeford when he enlisted at Stafford. He died of dysentry on 21st Oct. 1915 and was buried at Murree Bengal the following day. The service was conducted by Army

Chaplain E.S. Thomas. Murree Bengal is in the modern day district of Islamabad, which in turn is only 9 miles from Rawalpindi.

- It is recorded that the battalion received very few reinforcements during the war and lost few men in battle. However, by the end of the war, the battalion was very considerably reduced in strength. This suggests that death from disease was high, particularly from cholera and dysentry. In these circumstances, bodies were disposed of rapidly, often in mass graves, to reduce the risk of infection spreading. This may account for the statement no known grave on the Speke memorial, Liverpool.
- Clay received the 1914-15 Star. This could mean he was one of the very few replacements sent to India after the outbreak of the war. It could however be that the North West Frontier was only designated a 'Theatre of War' after the Turkish-German mission to Afghanistan.
- As a humorous aside, it is recorded that the battalion CO was Major Fox and his adjutant Captain Squirell.

**Summary:**

It appears likely that Clay was born in Gnosall but his and his family connection to Eccleshall and the area is very strong. However, his name does not appear on the memorials at Eccleshall, Gnosall or Mucklestone.

At the moment, the reason for his name appearing on the Speke memorial at All Saints Church remains a mystery. Within the church is a framed Roll of Honour that states Richard was born in Eccleshall.



Speke War Memorial
All Saints Church

## Evans George Price

- **Full Name**: George Price Evans
- **Parents**: Son of Picton and Annie Evans, of Green Farm, Wentnor, Bishop's Castle, Salop.
- **Regiment**: Royal Welsh Fusiliers 24th Bn.
- **Rank**: Private Service No: 315984
- **Date of birth**: 1898
- **Date of death**: 24th or 25th July 1918 (killed in an air raid)
- **Age**: 20
- **Medals**: British and Victory
- **Interred**: Etaples Military Cemetery (LXVIII. F. 5.)

GEORGE PRICE EVANS
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS
25TH JULY 1918



THOSE WHO KNEW HIM BEST
LOVED HIM MOST
HIS MOTHER
R.I.P.



**Etaples Military Cemetery**

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. The Military Cemetery is to the north of the town, on the west side of the road to Boulogne.

- **Remembered**:

The parish church of St, Michael and All Angels, Wentor, Shropshire.






**Family history:**

- 1895 Forden, Welshpool - Picton Evans married Annie Price
- 1898 - George Price Evans is born in Eccleshall, mother's maiden name: Price
- 1901 census records the following living at The Green, Wentnor, Shropshire
    - Picton Evans head of household age 29 Horticultural Labourer - born Norbury
    - Annie Evans wife age 30 born Chirbury
    - Thomas Evans son age 4 born Montgomery
    - **George son age 2 born Eccleshall**
- 1911 census records the following:
    - living at School House Wentnor:
        - Picton Evans head of household age 39 general farm Labourer - born Norbury
        - Annie Evans wife age 40 born Chirbury
        - **George Price Evans son age 12 born Eccleshall**
        - Alice Evans daughter age 7 born Wentnor
    - Thomas ( George's brother ) is living and assisting on farm with his grand parents in Church Stoke:
        - Edward Price age 74 farmer
        - Fanny Harriet Price age 68
        - Thomas Picton Evans age 14
- 1957 - Probate records show Picton was still living at School House Wentnor when he died

**Military history:**

- enlisted Ludlow 23rd January 1917
- age: 18 years 7 months
- Place of residency: School House, Wentnor, near Bishps Castle, Shropshire
- Occupation: Carter
- Given birthplace: **Eccleshall**
- Weight: 87 lbs (just over 6 stone)
- Height: a fraction under 5 foot
- **Physical development: poor (under height and weight)**
- In May 1917 George was placed into category C1
    - Free from serious organic diseases, able to stand service in garrisons at home.
    - Able to march 5 miles, see to shoot with glasses, and hear well
- During 1917 George spent 2 bouts in hospital in England,
  6 days for laryngitis during February and
  13 days for mumps during December.
- George transferred from the territorial regiment on 18th June 1918 and embarked to France
- He was admitted to 4 Gen Hospital with infliuenza on 26th June 1918
- He was discharged to 3 Med B.B,Depot Camiers 19th July 1918
- George was killed in an air raid on 24th or 25th July 1918

*The 1st/1st Battalion, Denbighshire Yeomanry were a cavalry unit and part of the Territorial Force, consisting of part-time soldiers. In 1915, they were dismounted and in 1916 were transferred to Egypt. Here they became the 24th Bte Royal Welsh Fusiliers (Denbighshire*

*Yeomanry), part of 231st Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division. Their main duties in Egypt were to provide a defensive force if the Turks attacked the Suez Canal.*

*In May 1918, they moved to France and on 21st June, became part of 31st Division. The circumstances of Evans death are unclear from the evidence available. Whilst 31st Division was involved in many actions, his date of death does not correspond to any of them.*

*As far as Evans service is concerned, the Territorial Force would take volunteers of all shapes, sizes and ages from 14 to 40. However only those aged 19 or over were allowed to go abroad. They also had to pass the medical, which put the height requirement at 5ft 3ins. (It is recorded that many recruits had a growth spurt after being fed on army rations). Bantams battalions took men who were physically fit though below the minimum height. The first such battalions were drawn mainly from miners, but later recruits were generally not fit enough to serve.*

**Conclusion:**

The link to Eccleshall is not strong other than George was born there but spent less than 2 years in the area. One suggestion is that his father travelled round as a farm labourer accompanied by his family.

## Fradley Walter Henry

**Full Name**: Walter Henry Fradley
Died of disease 2nd December 1916 age 30 at No8 Gen Hs Rouen
Gunner 85915 Royal Garrison Artillery 18th Bty. 7th Heavy Artillery Group The CWGC refer incorrectly to his number as 35915, and so does the inscription on the Keele memorial



85915 GUNNER
W. H. FRADLEY
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLARY
2ND DECEMBER 1916

- Interred: Bois-Guillaume Communal Cemetery (II. B. 17A.)
- Husband of Sarah Beatrice Fradley, of 30, Deansgate, Newcastle, Staffs.
- Medals awarded
  - Victory
  - British
  -



Bois-Guillaume Communal Cemetery

- Parents
  - Henry Fradley - born 1843 at Bloxwich
  - Ann Fradley (nee Breeze) born 1843 at Ashleyy
  - In 1881 Henry and Ann lived at Wood Cottage Croxton.... next to Blore Pipe
  - Ann was the daughter of James and Ann Breeze.... living in Podmore in 1851. Ann's brother, William, (1851) was the father of Arthur Breeze who is one of the men in our lists
  - Walter Henry Fradley and Arthur Breeze were cousins.

- **1891 census** documents the Fradley family in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
  - Henry Fradley age 48 - born Bloxwich
  - Ann Fradley age 48 Born Ashley
  - Arthur Fradley age 19 - born Easington
  - Emma Fradley - daughter age 12 - born Doley
  - Fanny Fradley - daughter age 10 - born Doley
  - **Walter Henry Fradley** (son) age 5 - born Eccleshall 1887

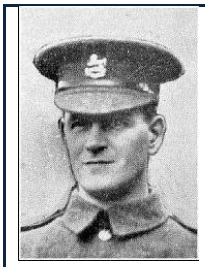
- **1901 census** documents the Fradley family at Boggs Cottages, Keele Road, Newcastle, Staffs
  - Henry Fradley age 58
  - Ann Fradley age 58
  - Emma Bromley - daughter age 22 - born Doley
  - Arthur Bromley - son-in-law age 25 - brickyard labourer
  - **Walter Henry Fradley** (son) age 15 - gardener - born Eccleshall

- **1911 census** documents the Fradley family still at Boggs Cottages, Keele Road, Newcastle, Staffs
  - Henry Fradley age 68
  - Ann Fradley age 68
  - **Walter Henry Fradley** (son) age 25 - Assurance Agent

- **Other research**:
  - Enlisted Newcastle-under Lyme
  - Walter married Sarah B Whittingham in 1916
  - Walter is remembered on the Keele War Memorial


Keele War Memorial

## Harker Romille


Thought to be Harker Romille

- **Full name**: Romille Harker
- **Regiment**: The King's (Liverpool Regiment) - 1st Battalion
- **Rank**: Serjeant
- **Service number**: 23708
- **Date of death**: 25th September 1915
- **Place of Birth**: Eccleshall, Staffs
- **Residence**: Bolton, Lancashire
- **Age**: 36
- **Decorations**:
  - Victory Medal
  - British War Medal

- **Remembered at**: Loos Memorial -panel 27 to 30

  The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the N943, the main Lens to Bethune road.


Loos Memorial

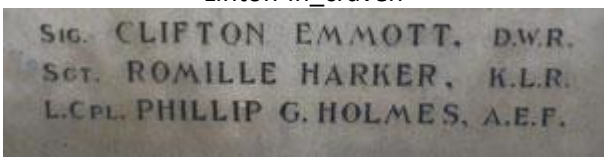
**Family History**

- **Romille Harker** was born 1st June 1879 at Redhill Eccleshall, son of Bailey J Harker and Amy (Smith)
- Bailey was a independent minister and moved around a lot. Bailey was as born in Yorkshire (it is thought in Linton where he also died in 1916)
- In 1911 **Romille** was living at 37 Lyndhurst St Bolton, with his wife Alice (Hargreaves) who he had married in 1909
- At some time, **Romille** went to Argentina. Prior to leaving he had been in 5th Loyal Lancashire Reg (scout sergeant).
- Records of the **ARGENTINE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY** list **Romille** as a member of staff (Chief Mech. Engineer's Dept., C. & W.) who volunteered for active service.
- He returned from Santa Fe Rosario Argentina to enlist at Wigan as a Pte. He was unable to obtain his previous rank in his old Regiment.
- His widow remarried Joseph McWilliam in 1918 and she died in Blackpool in 1942

Romille  is also remembered at Linton-in-Craven



Linton-in_craven



**Articles taken from Craven Herald**

**11th Dec 1914: Grassington-7000 miles to the front.**

Mr Romille Harker, third son of the Rev Bailey J Harker of Grassington has arrived in England from Argentina, after a voyage of over 6 weeks, the steamer being delayed by having to dodge the German cruiser. Mr Harker paid a short visit last weekend to his parents and left on Sunday evening for The Kings Liverpool Regiment at Seaforth Barracks. There are many wishes for his safe return from the Front, to which he is expected to go immediately.

**9th July 1915**

The Craven Herald published 2 of his letters. he describes what is happening on the front, some of which is gruesome.

**15th October 1915: SERGEANT ROMILLE HARKER KILLED IN ACTION**

Much sympathy will be extended to the Rev. Bailey J. Harker of Grassington, upon the receipt of official information received last Saturday of the death of his eldest son, Sergt. Romille Harker, of the 1st King's Liverpool Regiment, who was killed during the current heavy fighting in France.

The sad intelligence reached the parents unofficially on Thursday last week. It was contained in a letter written by a comrade of Sergt. Harker to relative Pte. Hilton. The first communication briefly stated that "Romille Harker is killed," Further details as to how he met his death were forthcoming in a subsequent letter.

From this it appeared that the unfortunate young fellow was first wounded in the leg and was heard to call for the stretcher-bearers. Immediately afterwards he was hit in the head, and as he fell received three more shots in the body. The writer of this letter, in a further communication to Pte. Neville Harker, of Bolton, refers to Sergt. Harker as having "died game," and adds that he was buried in accordance to the rites of his Church.

Sergt. Harker was born at Eccleshall, Staffordshire, 36 years ago, and was educated at Caterham Congregational College. For 16 years he was employed as clerk and cashier at a factory in Bolton, Lancashire, but about three years ago obtained a position

While at Bolton he was a member of the Territorial Battalion, and on the declaration of war was one of about half a dozen employees of the Central Argentine Railway who answered the call - since then about 300 have joined the Colours. He made the 7,606 miles voyage to England in a tramp steamer and was on the way five weeks, the greatest vigilance having to be exercised in avoiding the German commerce raiders, who were at that time in the midst of their piratical campaign.

Sergt. Harker enlisted as a private in the lst King's Liverpool Regiment and was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant. He might have remained in this country with the rank of Quarter-Master-Sergeant, and prospects of still further promotion, but he preferred to remain with this regiment and left England for France on his birthday, June 1st. Since that time he has been more or less in the firing line, and was appointed sergeant of the bomb throwers in 'B' Company.

Deceased was a young man of modest disposition, but possessed a charming personality and considerable intellectual attainment. He was an artist, a literary critic, and wrote much poetry, while he was a keen naturalist. He was a frequent visitor to Grassington when resident in this country, and was very popular in the neighbourhood.

Since receiving news of the sad occurrence, the Rev. B. J. Harker has found the following verses, written by the deceased on the fly leaf of a book, which in present circumstances are singularly appropriate:-

Mid the busy toll and rush.
Some poor souls are sighing;
Here amidst a holy hush
Lies a good man dying.

Why those useless, welling tears?
Why that trembling finger?
Death for good men has no fears
Save for those who linger.

Selfish still we 'gin to mourn,
For our circle broken;
Garb of grief is meekly worn,
Or some death-like token.

But our brother hears the songs.
Happier saints are singing;
To that home that knows no wrongs
His free soul is winging.

Constant for his Master here,
In his course diurnal;
Christ will lead him gently there
Into peace eternal.

## Hill William

**William Hill** was an elder brother of Albert Hill who is one of the names on the War Memorial and fully documented elsewhere in the original project. Not a lot is known of William but he is interred in the Churchyard of Holy Trinity and died in May 1921. The following information can be found on the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** web site which suggests that he is regarded as a war casualty. The year of his death is the same as the dedication of the War Memorial.

- **Regiment**: Royal Field Artillery - 6th Reserve Bde
- **Rank**: Gunner
- **Service No**: 155868
- **Date of death**: 25th May 1921
- **Age**: 43
  (although his death certificate states 42)
- **Interred**: Holy Trinity Churchyard, Eccleshall



155868 WHEELER
W. HILL
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLARY
23 RD MAY 1921
AGE 43
THY WILL BE DONE

**William's death certificate records the following:**

- **When and where died**
  - 25th May 1921
  - Stone Road, Eccleshall
- **Age** 42
- **Occupation** Bachelor Wheelwright (Army Pensioner)
- **Cause of death** Pulmonary Tuberculosis Exhaustion
- His brother, John Hill was in attendance

**So far no other military history has been found.**

## Johnson Joseph

- Full Name: Joseph Johnson
- Date of death 21st March 1918
- age 35
- Private 202522 - North Staffordshire Regiment 2nd/5th Bn.
- medals: Victory British
- Remembered: ARRAS MEMORIAL (Bay 7 and 8)
- Husband of Sarah Ann Johnson (nee Foster), of Fradswell, Stafford



Arras Memorial

- 1883 - 27th October - Joseph Johnson was born at Badenhall, Eccleshall.
- 1891 census - living Fradswell:
  - Joseph Johnson head age 29 born Gaydon, Staffs
  - Ellen Johnson wife (nee Shaw) age 27 born Stafford
  - Mary Ann Johnson daughter age 11 - born Fradswell
  - Ellen Johnson daughter age 9 - born Fradswell
  - **Joseph Johnson** son age 7 - born Eccleshall
  - Fanny Johnson - daughter age 4 - born ?
  - Geffery Herbert Johnson - son age 1 - born Fradswell
- 1901
  - **Joseph** was at Chartley, working on the next door farm to where his parents lived.
- 1905
  - **Joseph** married Sarah Ann Foster (of Abbots Bromley) on 30th December at Uttoxeter Parish Churh. Joseph's residence was give as Leigh.
- 1911 census - living at Yew Tree Cottage, Fradswell:
  - Joseph Johnson head age 27 - farm labourer - born Eccleshall
  - Sarah Ann Johnson - wife (nee Foster) age 28 - born Uttoxeter
  - Sarah Ellen Johnson daughter age 4 - born Fradswell
  - Joseph Frederich Johnson son age 2 - born Fradswell
- 1913
  - Albert Edgar Johnson was born on 19th March at Fradswell. Father's occupation was gamekeeper.
- At sometime it is thought that Joseph was a gamekeeper at Bagots Park, Abbots Bromley.
- **Military History**:
  - Attested:
    - Stafford 1st September 1902
    - South Staffordshire Regt 6730

        - Short Service: 3 years with the Colours and 9 with the Reserves.
        - Age 18 years 10 months (labourer)
    - Registered fit for the army, 2nd September 1902 at Lichfield
    - Posted January 1903 (to where not known)
    - Discharged 31st February 1903 having served 174 days under 'Article 1148 iii R. W.'
        - Current research has not found the specifics of this article. There is however no evidence of injury or illness, or any disciplinary matter.
        - One suggestion is that the Boer War had recently ended, so was it possible that the size of the army was being reduced.

Joseph re-enlisted 10th June 1916 and embarked for France on 2th December 1916.

The 2nd/5th North Staffordshires was a reserve battalion and remained in Britain during the early part of the war. The battalion moved to Ireland in April 1916 at the time of the Easter Rising. On 25/2/17, the battalion moved to Le Havre. On 6/2/18, the battalion was absorbed into 1st/5th Bte and ceased to exist. On 30/1/18, 1st/5th Bte became part of 176th Brigade in 59th (2nd Midland Division).

Johnson was killed in action on 21/3/18. The 59th Division were at the Battle of St Quentin, attempting to hold off the Germans during their 'Spring Offensive'. During the night of 21/3/18, they were subjected to heavy artillery fire. Only 100 men of 176th and 178th Brigades answered the roll call in the morning.

His wife, Sarah was granted £12/11/5 war gratuities.

| |
|---|
| Fradswell, Abbots Bromley, Uttoxeter and Gayton have been checked for any rememberence without success. |

## Lindop Henry

- **Full Name**: Henry Lindop
- **Regiment**: North Staffordshire Regiment 7th Bn.
- **Rank**: Private
- **Service No**: 14491
- **Date of death**: 17th July 1917 (heat stroke)
- **Interred**: Baghdad North Gate Cemetery (grave reference: XX. H. 5)


Baghdad North Gate Cemetery

In a lonely part of Baghdad in a poor part of town, stands a cemetery to the British Empire's war dead.

Most of the headstones date to the Mesopotamian Campaign of World War One, a grueling trek across the desert fighting a stubborn Ottoman foe. While the Turks were a danger, disease and heat exhaustion took even more lives. On 20 July 1917, for example, the temperature in Baghdad was 123 F (50.6C).

The cemetery is poorly maintained. While there is a guard, plastic bags and wrappers from the nearby road blow amidst the headstones and at night it's a popular place for sneaking a drink. Broken beer and whiskey bottles are scattered in the less visible corners of the cemetery.

**Family and Military history:**

- **Henry** was born in Eccleshall in 1889, the son of John Lindop (1854) and Elizabeth Mary (Barlow).
- John (Henry's father) married Elizabeth in 1879 in Cotes Heath.
- John was the son of Richard Lindop and Ellen(Barlow) and uncle to Bertram Lindop (on the Eccleshall War Memorial).
- John lived in Eccleshall up to 1901, working on his father's farm and then as a labourer.
- His children, all born in the Eccleshall area were, John, (1882), Mary Ann, (1884), Richard(1886), **Henry(1889)** , Rose(1894), Ellen (1897), Lillian(1900) and Edith(1901).
- After 1901, the family moved to Chesterton, leaving the eldest son John in Eccleshall. He then moved to Newcastle-u-Lyme where he married Emily Wise
- **Henry** worked as a bricklayer and attested for the army on 31/8/14. He joined on 28/11/1914.

- **Henry** originally joined the 11th North Staffs(No 9334) and remained on Home soil until he was transferred to 7th North Staffs, embarking on 14th September 1915 as part of the Med Ex Force.
- His army records show that he suffered a series of illnesses until he died of heat stroke.
- A court of enquiry was convened to investigate his death. This concluded that his helmet was sound and serviceable. Henry was awarded the British War and Victory medal as well as the 1914-1915 star.

## Locket Arthur

- Full Name: Arthur Lockett
- killed 14th March 1917 age 21
- Private 202018 North Staffordshire Regiment 1st/5th Bn.
- Remembered THIEPVAL MEMORIAL - Pier and Face 14 B and 14 C Medals awarded: British Service Victory Medals


Thiepval Memorial

- **Family History:**
  - The Lockett family originally came from Biddulph... Marsh Green
  - The Grandparents, Richard Locket (snr)(1818) and Frances farmed at Biddulph in 1861 and then before 1871 they and their large family moved to Sugall
  - Parents:
    - Richard Lockett (jnr)(1853)
      - born at Bidulph and was a milk dealer at Eturia
      - Although Richard had been born at Biddulph, he had lived with his parents at Sugnall, where his father Richard(1818) was a farmer
    - Mary Selina(Williams) (1871) - born in the Baden area of Eccleshall daughter of William Williams (1817---Slindon) and Charlotte (Ashley) - born in 1836 at Walk Mill. After William's death, Charlotte lived with Richard and Mary Selina
  - Arthur was born in 1895 - census records state **Eccleshall** , possibly Garmelow.
  - His brother, George(1898) and sister Ada(1896) were born at Eccleshall
  - The 1901 census gives Richard and Mary living at Etruria, Arthur's birthplace is given as Garmelow There is no record that Arthur married as all war gratuites went to his mother.
- **Military reseach:**
  - Served with 1st/5th North Staffs (a Territorial Unit) part of 46th (North Midland) Division. No 202018
  - Received British Service and Victory Medals so did not go to France before 1916.
  - On the date of his death, the 46th Division were involved in the Actions of the Ancre, where after the Battle of the Somme, the German Army was falling back to the Hindenberg Line, its strong defensive position.

## Mossop Bernard Alfred

- **Full name:** Bernard Alfred Mossop
- **Date of birth**: 4th 1888 Eccleshall
- **Date of death**: 11th October 1915 (lost in action)
- **Age of death**: about 33
- **Regiment**: Gloucestershire Regiment 10th Bn
- **Rank**: Corporal 15835
- **Enlisted**: Smethwick or Birmingham
- **Medals awarded**:
  - British
  - Victory
  - 15 Star


Bernard Alfred Mossop

- **Commemorated**: Loos Memorial (Panel 60 to 64)

  The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the N943, the main Lens to Bethune road.


Loos Memorial

- **Some Military History**
  - Bernard originally enlisted in Birmingham 6th October 1906.
    - Royal Worcesterhire Regiment - 7422 (there is a mention of also serving with the South Staffs)
    - Birth place – Eccleshall
    - Residing at 2 Highfield Road, Smethwick, Birmingham
    - His given occupation: Silver Smith (for Messrs Barker Brothers, Constitution Hill, Birmingham).
  - Bernard served with 10th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, part of Kitchener's Armies. He is recorded as landing in France on 9/8/15 which corresponds to the battalion's deployment. They were part of 1st Brigade in 1st Division. The date of his loss in action and the place on the Loos Memorial confirm that he was serving with 1st Division in the bloodiest part of the battle: the assault on the Hohenzollern Redoubt, the strongest part of the German line.

- On 8th Oct. the Germans launched an offensive which was repelled. From 9th-12th Oct, the British prepared for a counter attack which took place on 13th Oct.
- This included the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt where the North and South Staffs who sustained heavy casualties. The 10th Gloucesters, as part of 1st Division were in action on the Hulluck road. Mossop had been killed in the build up to this offensive.

There were four Mossop brothers who served, only two survived. Their family story is fascinating and has survived thanks to two of the Great Grandsons. The people of Eccleshall should be proud of such a family who moved out before the war.

The full ***Mossop Family Story (The Lost Heroes)*** is published in a book. This can be downloaded free. Please see the web for either of the listed Mossop brothers

## Mossop William Augustine

- **Full name**: William Augustine Mossop
- **Date of birth**: 13 November 1884 Eccleshall
- **Date of death**: 16th September 1917 (died of wounds)
- **Age of death**: about 32
- **Regiment**: Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) (Formerly 11299, South Staffs) Rank: Private 73146
- **Enlisted**: Smethwick or Birmingham
- **The medals section state**:
  - South Staffordshire Regiment, Notts and Derby (Sherwood Foresters)
  - Regiment Regimental Number: 11299, 73146
  - Awarded:
    - British
    - Victory
    - 15 Star



William Augustine Mossop

The photograph is the only one of William and was taken in Nottingham when he moved to the Sherwood Foresters. He kept it with him, inscribed to his daughter, throughout his subsequent service. It was sent back to his daughter after his death, who kept it all her life and eventually gave it to her grandson. It is still visibly blood stained.

His daughter died just a few years ago aged 98, would have been thrilled to have seen her beloved father on the website. She often recalled his trips home from the battlefield, especially his last Christmas visit in 1916.

**Interred** at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.
**Grave Reference**:
XIX. D. 4A

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery is located on the Boescheepseweg 37, 1 1/2 miles from Poperinge town centre.



PRIVATE
W.A.MOSSOP NOTTS
AND DERBY REGIMENT
16TH SEPTEMBER
1917



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

Some Military History

- William originally enlisted in Birmingham 2nd October 1905.
  - Royal Warwickshire Regiment – 9856
  - For some reason he gave his birth place as Birmingham
  - Residing at 8 Princes Corner, Harbourne, Birmingham
  - He had also resided in the Smethwick area during the previous 12 months.
  - His given occupation: labourer
  - His next of kin was given as his farther, Edward who was residing at 2 Highfield Road, Smethwick.

There were four Mossop brothers who served, only two survived. Their family story is fascinating and has survived thanks to two of the Great Grandsons. The people of Eccleshall should be proud of such a family who moved out before the war.

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## Pace Frederick

- **Full name**: Frederick Pace
- **Born**: 1874 Eccleshall
- **Enlisted**: 1892
- **Regiment**: South Staffordshire Regiment 8th Bn
- **Service No**: 10221
- **Date of death**: 16th February 1916
- **Medals Awarded**:
  - British
  - Victory
  - 15 Star
- **Additional Information**:
  - Husband of Mrs. G. A. Stringer (formerly Pace), of 2 Back, 114, Bath St., Walsall.
- **Commemorated**: Ypres (Menin Gate) - Panel 35 and 37

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin (Menen) and Courtrai (Kortrijk).

Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arch.



Menin Gate(Ypres)

- **Family History:**
  - **Parents**:
    - William Pace(1844)
    - Frances (Shelley) - married 1869
  - **Children**:
    - Albert (born Eccleshall)
    - William (born Eccleshall 1872)
    - **Frederick (born Eccleshall 1874)**
    - Thomas (born Tunstall 1878)
  - William Snr took his family to Stafford, St Chads Place, where he was a bricklayer and Frederick worked as a boot finisher
  - **Frederick** joined the Army in 1892
  - William snr and Francis had moved back to Eccleshall by 1901
  - William snr died before 1911
  - **1908 Frederick Pace** married Gertrude Alice Lloyd.
  - 1911 census shows the Pace family living at 55 Balls Street, Walsall

        - **Frederick Pace** Head of household age 36, born Eccleshall, Staffordshire - bricklayers labourer
        - Alice Pace age 36 wife - charwoman born Stafford
        - Ada Lloyd age 12 born Dudley
        - Bertha Lloyd age 10 born Stoke-onTrent
        - William Lloyd age 9 born Dudley
        - Florence Lloyd age 5 born Walsall
        - Thomas Lloyd age 3 born Walsall
        - Edward Pace age 1 born Walsall
    - **1916** the death of **Frederick Pace** is reported as 16th February
    - **1917** it is thought that **Frederick's** widow, Alice married Edward Stringer in Walsall.

- **Military History**:

  The first Attestation Form shows that in 1892, Pace volunteered for 3rd Bte. North Staffordshire Regiment at the age of 18. This was a Militia Regiment. The militia was made up of part-time volunteers, training for several months at an army base, taking part in a two week camp, and then returning to their civilian occupation. For this they were paid and it made a useful addition to their wages from their civilian job. It thus appealed to those in casual occupations.

  Pace served with the 3rd Bte until 1898 when the second Attestation Form shows that he re-enlisted quite soon after the first, and served for a further three and a half years until 1902.

  > *At the time of his second Attestation, he was living in Jail (Gaol) Butts, Eccleshall and was working for Mr. Espley of Eccleshall as a finisher (assumed boot finisher).*
  >
  > *He was confirmed fit at a primary examination at Lichfield on 15th June 1898, and was finally confirmed fit for the militia at Leominster on the 8th July. His service number was 4748.*

  In 1914, aged 40, he volunteered for 8th Bte South Staffordshire Regiment, part of Kitchener's Army. The Bte moved to France in July 1915, as part of 51st Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division.

  On 14th Feb. 1916, the Germans launched an attack on The Bluff, a hill south of Ypres on the Comines Canal. Capturing The Bluff would give the Germans a good view of the Ypres Salient. The counter attack was led by 17th Division where Pace was killed on 16th Feb 1916. Incidentally, the British were wearing steel helmets for the first time. The Bluff was recaptured. The battle was part of a series of engagements referred as **The Actions of 1916**.

## Phillips Thomas

- **Full name**: Thomas Phillips
- **Parents**: Son of John and Mary Phillips (nee Furber)
- **Regiment**: The King's (Liverpool Regiment) 1st/9th Bn.
- **Rank**: Private
- **Service number**: 204279
- **Killed in action**: 22nd September 1917
- **Age**: 37
- **Awards**:
    1. Victory Medal
    2. British Medal

- **Remembered**:
    - Tyne Cot Cemetery, Flanders
    - Reference:
        - Panel 33
    - Liverpool Town Hall,
      Hall of Remberence
    - Reference:
        - Panel 52

**Tyne Cot** is well signposted, and is located just south-west of Passchendaele and is the largest CWGC Cemetery on the Western Front with 11,953 burials. This includes those believed to be buried in the Cemetery, or whose graves had been destroyed. This would have occurred because the Cemetery was started in October 1917, after the taking of the nearby village of Paschendaele, but fighting continued in the region and the Germans retook the ground and held it between 13 April to 28 September 1918.



Tyne Cot Cemetry





**Family History**

**1880**

- Thomas Phillips was born at Garmelow, Eccleshall Parish on 20th April

**1881 Census living at Garmelow, Eccleshall Parish**

- John Phillips (father) age 59
- Mary Phillips (mother) age 27 (nee Furber)
  - John (brother) age 11
  - Mary (sister) age 12
  - William (brother) age 9
  - **Thomas Phillips age not yet 1**

**1891 Census still living at Garmelow, Eccleshall Parish**

- John Phillips (father) age 70
- Mary Phillips (mother) age 40 (nee Furber)
  - **Thomas Phillips age 10**
  - Joseph (brother) age 7

**1901 Census now living at Offley Hay, Eccleshall Parish**

- John Phillips (father) age 75
- Mary Phillips (mother) age 50 (nee Furber)
- John (brother) age 29
- **Thomas Phillips age 21**
- Joseph (brother) age 17
- Joseph Furber age 52 (uncle (Mary's brother))

**1911 Census:**

- Mary Phillips (Thomas's mother)age 60 now a widow living alone in Church Street, Eccleshall.
- **Thomas Phillips age 29 (a cowman**)
  now living at 53 Fielding Street, West Derby with the Bradbury family. We have no information of when he moved out of Eccleshall Parish.

**1914**:

- **Thomas** married Emma Jane Caddick (a dairymade, born 13th JUly 1878)
  on the 16th of March 1914 in West Derby, in the County of Liverpool. Both were resident at 53 Fielding Street, West Derby.
- The couple had a daughter 'Elsie May' early in the year.

**1917**:

- **Thomas** was reported Killed in action at Passchendaele on the 22nd September, although it could have been one or two days before.
- The address of his widow (Emma), is given as 16, Munster Rd., Old Swan, Liverpool. The family story is that Emma moved there after Thomas joined up, and stayed there until she died in 1961.

- Thomas had a family connection to others on the war memorial, see the section ***Cousins United in Death*** – page TODO.
- Many thanks to Thomas Phillips's Great Granddaughter, Angela Dunkerley (Liverpool) for providing so much information and her enthusiasm and determination to ensure that Thomas is remembered in the Parish of Eccleshall where he spent many of his early years.

## Timmis Edward

- **Full Name:** Edward Timmis
- Killed in Action 20th October 1918
- Age 33 Corporal 12th Battn Manchester Rgt No 44548 (formerly 24911 East Lancashire Regiment)
- Awarded:
    1. Victory
    2. British



Edward Timmis

**Interred**:

- Montay-Neuvilly Road Cemetery

**Grave ref**:

- II. D. 13






Montay-Neuvilly Road Cemetery

**Current research:**

- 1875 April 17th
  Thomas Timmis (a farmer from Whittington Croxton) married Jennett Holland at St Marys, Stafford
- **Edward Timmis** was born in Eccleshall (the 1901 census states, Croxton) 3rd Quarter 1885, registered in Stone
- 1891 Census living in Blythe Marsh, Staffordshire:
    1. Father Thomas Timmis (Farmer, born Eccleshall)
    2. Mother Jennett Timmis (born Eccleshall)
    3. Brothers - (all born in Eccleshall):
        - Percy Rowland, born 1876 - employee on farm

        - Henry Bayley, born 1879 died 1913
        - Frederick, born 1882
    4. Sister:
        - Lucy H, born 1890 in Cheadle
- Therefore the family must have moved from Eccleshall between 1882 and 1890
    1. 1901 Census living and working at Newton Farm, Draycott in the Moors, Staffordshire:
        - Head of the household is Sampson Bagnall
        - Both Edward and his brother, Henry, are described as farm labourers
- Enlisted Blackburn, Lancs
- Residence at enlistment : Newton Heath, Lancs
- At the time of his death he was attached to the Light Trench Mortar Battery.
- He and Private George Holgate were the only 2 men from the 12th Manchesters who were killed on 20th October. It is possible they could have been killed in an accident with the mortar, they were unpredictable things, a lot of men were killed by accidental explosions with these things.
- They are buried side by side.
- Place of residence at date of death was 239 Meir Lane, Meir.
- He was unmarried and left an amount of war gratuities to:
    1. Thomas, probably his father, but could be his brother
    2. R.P. Preston

Edward was first cousin John Cooke , one of the 42 original names on the memorial.
No memorial has yet been found where Edward is remembered.

## Warren Harvey


19461 PRIVATE
H. WARREN
SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGT.
28TH OCTOBER 1918 AGE 36
FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

- **Full name**: Harvey Warren
  Husband of Lucy Warren, of 18, Clinton Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire
- **Date of birth**: 1883 Garmelow Eccleshall
- **Date of death**: 28th October 1918 (killed in action)
- **Age of death**: 36
- **Regiment**: South Lancashire Regiment 2nd Bn.
- **Rank**: Private 19461
- **Attested**:
  - 5th June 1915 in Leamington
  - Living at 18, Clinton Lane, Kenilworth
  - Occupation – Agent
- Joined his unit at Warrington on the 7th June 1915
- Posted to the Expeditionary Force 10th October 1915
- Embarked at Southampton 11th October 1915
- Joined the number 3 Infantry Base Dept, Rouen 12th October 1915
- Joined his Battalion 15th October 1915
- Attached to the 75th Infantry Bde. 23rd October 1916
- Granted leave 22nd November 1916 to 2nd December 1916
- Attached to the 75th Infantry Bde. 17th March 1916
- Granted Class 1 4th December 1917
- killed in action 28th October 1918
- Medals awarded:
  1. Victory
  2. British
  3. 1914-15 Star

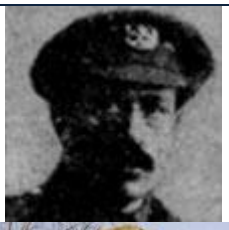

Pommereuil British Cemetery

- **Interred at**: Pommereuil British Cemetery
- **Grave Reference**: B. 1.

Pommereuil is a village 3 kilometres east of Le Cateau. The British Cemetery is on the south side of the D959, Le Cateau to Landrecies.

In June 1918, 2nd Bte South Lancs became part of 89th Brigade in 30th Division.

30th Division played a major part in 'The Final Advance in Flanders'. In particular, they fought at 5th Battle of Ypres (28th Sept - 2 Oct) and Courtrai (14th-19th Oct). By now the Germans were retreating before the British advance and it was during the advance that Warren was killed.



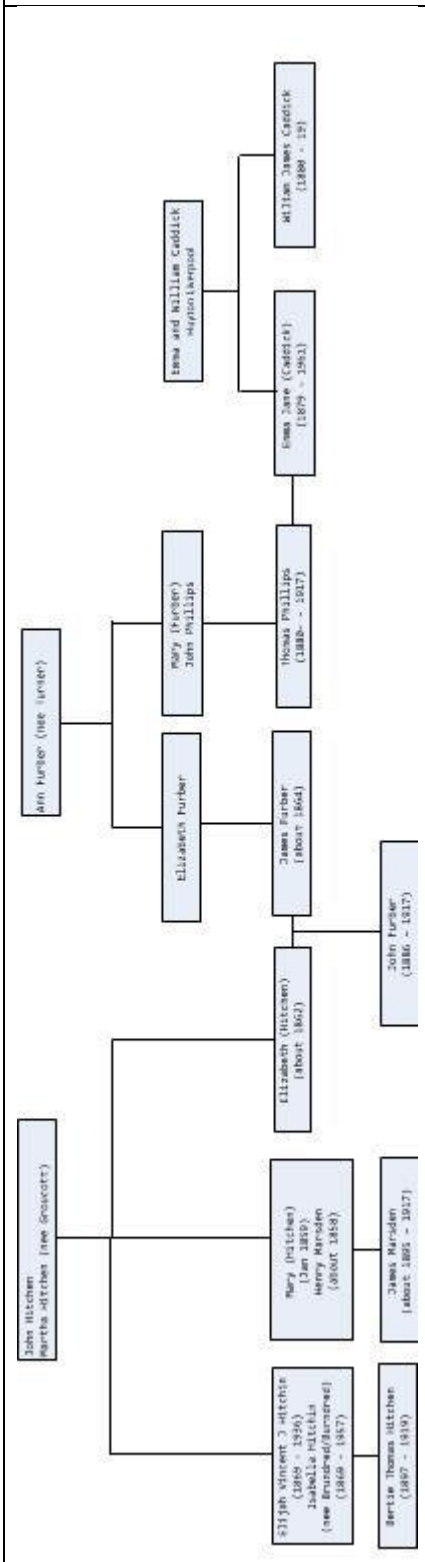


**Research so far:**

- Son of John Henry Warren and Myra(Turner)
- Children (all were born at Garmelow)
    1. George(1879)
    2. Jesse (son 1880)
    3. Phoebe (1882)
- In 1881 the family was living next door to John and Mary Phillips Parents of **Thomas Phillips** .
- In 1891 the family was living at Penkhull and in 1901 John Henry had a farm at Hilderstone Harvey married Lucy (Cox) August 9th 1910 at St Pauls, Leamington. She was living at Kenilworth.
- In 1911 Harvey was living at Lapwood at Henley in Arden... working as a domestic coachman
- Chidren of the marriage:
    1. Lucy May, born 8th Februray 1912 – Tamworth
    2. Harvey Charles, born 17th March 1913 – Kenilworth
    3. James Roland, born 1st February 1917

***Harvey is remembered on the Kenilworth War Memorial***

# Cousins United in Death




During the research for the **Great War Project**, we discovered family connections for four who are remembered on the Eccleshall war memorial, and one who is not.

- **Bertie Thomas** Hitchen (bottom left)
- **James Marsden** (bottom middle)
- **John Furber** (bottom right)
- **Thomas Phillips** (3rd level down and 5th across)
- **William James Caddick** (3rd level down and 7th across)

The family tree shows the following relationships

- **Bertie**, **James** and **John** had the same Grand Parents (John and Martha Hitchen), making them cousins.
- **John** and **Thomas** were first-cousins, once removed.
    - Ironically, they both died within one month of each other and both can be found at **Tyne Cot Cemetery, Flanders**, but only John has a known grave.
- **Thomas** and **William** were brothers-in-law and both died aged 37 within 6 weeks of each other.

**One more family connection - Bertram Harding**

One of the cousins, **John Furber** had a sister, **Lavinia (Maud)** who married **Bertram Harding**, another of the fallen.

This meant that:

- Lavinia lost a brother, husband, two cousins and a first-cousin, once removed.
- The widowed mother of John Furber, Elizabeth Furber lost a son, a son-in-law, and two nephews.

In June 2018, their names were added to the war memorial and on Sunday June 24th, a service of (re)dedication took place to honour these men.

The order of service and the dignitaries in attendance were duplicated as close as possible to that of the original dedication of 1921.

