

## Those Who Served in WWI

Individual Biographies Family Photographs Service Records Where They Lived

Stoneleigh History Society

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In assembling this commemorative display many documents have been consulted at Warwick County Record Office and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford; we should like to thank the archivists at both for their help. Ancestry.com and findmypast.com have been invaluable resources, along with very many websites too numerous to mention. To list a complete bibliography of books, magazines and newspapers referred to would, also, be excessive in a project of this kind – suffice it to say that there has been an extraordinary number. Perhaps of greatest importance, however, has been the war diary of the Hon. Cordelia Leigh together with the scrapbooks of letters she kept, since these offered valuable primary evidence to complement our researches.

In addition, very many people have helped in our investigations into the lives of the men from Stoneleigh who served in the Great War. We should like to thank, in particular, all those who have made family photographs and other memorabilia available to us, and who have helped us check historical fact against family reminiscences: – the Aris family, Peter AshleySmith, Shirley Ball, Dot and Dennis Craddock, the Fardon family, Celia King, Liz Lane, Betty and Brian Mills, Jenny and Richard Morris, Colin Parker, Bill Prime, Sheila Rench, Sheila Skinner, the Smith family, Vince and Joyce Taylor. Others who have provided valuable research help were Sue Crofts and Pete James. The membership of the Stoneleigh History Society has been unfailingly supportive of the project.

Especial thanks must go to Lisa Reay who oversaw the project and compiled our researches via the creation of a Stoneleigh History Society family tree on the Ancestry.com website: through her tireless efforts many of her findings unlocked the key to discovering the men's stories; Pam Baker's extraordinary presentational expertise has given the narrative a shape and form of which the society can be justifiably proud.

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh History Society

#### **COUNTRY LIFE**

#### Ernest Aris's letter to Cordelia Leigh was published in Country Life. "The Surrender of the German Navy"

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#### COUNTRY LIFE.

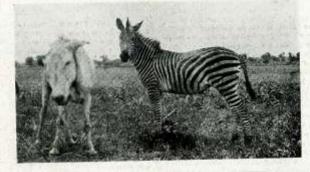
(Dec. 21st, 1918)

A STONE INSIDE A TREE.

A STONE INSIDE A TREE. [To the Entron or "Country Lines"] Stm.—There is nothing in the embedded sions which need cause surples. It is not uncommon to find foreign substances when sawing timber. As a case in point, I know of an eak in which a large piece of rock is partially embedded in a fork about twenty feet from the ground. The tree stands-near a quarry, and this rock—about sixteen inches by twelvo inches—was thrown up by a blast and index in the fork. It is there still, and I have thrown of its measure for thirty-fore year. Being large, it is still. Being large, it is still

-a point of a salue was found by the plane when preparing a piece of old calk. It must a parce of our cas. If whis near the centre, so that the free was evidently a sapling when it was struck by the sabre.-C. E. Course.

A TAME ZEBRA. [To THE EDITOR] SIR,-Thuys been asked by Mr. fustice H. Madden to wind you this snapshot of a cebra which, after being chased by wild cogs, tools refuge among the ranch donkeys and bas.



THE ZEBRA AND ONE OF THE DONKEYS.

THE ZEBRA AND OF from its curves, become one of the herd and quite tame. The photograph shows the zebra with one of the donkeys..........J. G. C. INTYPE.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF EGVPT. [To THE ENTOR OF "CONTEX LIFE."] Sun,—I and schding you some photographs, taken in Egypt, which may be worthy of reproduction in CONSTRY LIFE. The new of four which mules, all over trib, should be of interest to those of your readers who, during the war, have tad dealings with these useful animals. That of ploughing in the rountry is the morth of Lodd should amuse your agricultural readers. They will see puny, camel and oven drawing an almost prohistoric implement. It is usually

THE SURRENDER OF THE GERMAN NAVY. [To the Entron or ""lowner Line."] Six.--You may, perhaps, care to insert another description of the surrendue of the German navy, as seen by a Warwickishke lad who has been tor four years in H.M.S. *Quern Ethaberts*. "I guess you know by this time that things have been were existing on based the Ocean Ethaberts." years in H.M.S. Quern Elizabeth? "I guess you know by this take mat liking-ingly how very exerting on board the Queen Elizabeth of these, with German Admirals coming on board at Admiral Beatty's request, and then Their Majszica the King, Queen and Prince of Wales inspecting the ship, and then the great day. November rais, with the surrender of the German Fleet. We left Rosyth at 4.39 in the morning and met the German Fleet at 9.49 a.m.

which we escorted back to our hase. Just before we got back the Quern Elizabeth stove to let the other two fleets pain, Gar-man on one side of us and the Grand Fleet on the other, which gave three load cheers for pave three load cheers for Admiral Heatty as they passed. We were flying the largest white easign we could, also Admiral's flag, which was extra large and mode of silk, which look d very nice to the Ger-mans, no doubt. We waited a little longer while the tight http://http://wikit.the.fight-force.com/www.btm.www.sawa-sight-like a pack of grey-hounds----so Garman destruyers-concred by 150 of our our. After we saw them all in wale, we left them in charge of the Y-set Bottle Soundern for the First Battle Squadron for the

5 OF THE DONKEYS. First Battle Seguadron for Use night. Then we went on our way to Resyth, where we had to pass the U.S. Navy and our battle creaters, who also gave us three cheers, some bunds playing "God Sava the King," and others, " Rule Britannia," and " Over There," IL was a very mice sight. and others " tone Beitamin " and " Over There." It was a vary nice sight to us. Then at 6 p.m. we had a Thankogiving Service throughout the Floct on behalf of the handling over the German Floet. We never did expect them to come in so quictly ; we were all cleared for action in case it was necessary to open fire, but it was not needed. It was showy spoul to be on the Queen Elizabeli, but now I am pronder still, and thank God that we wan that great victory without losing a man or ship."—M. C. L.

A WAR MEDAL FOR ALL THE ALLIES. To THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

# THE ARMY'S STRUCTURE DURING THE GREAT WAR

(Adapted from *Doing Its Part Nobly*, by Chris Holland and Rob Phillips.)

Soldiers from Stoneleigh belonged, as we have indicated, to a variety of regiments. These units were, however, sub-divided into battalions, and understanding these subdivisions can be difficult.

A soldier might already have been part of a regular battalion during peacetime, either serving at home, recruiting and training, or serving overseas. Once he had served seven years with a regular battalion, he would be released from service but remain on the reserve list for a further five years. He would be called upon if the country was at war.

In much the same way as today, the Territorial Force (TF) battalions were parttime volunteers who attended a training session one evening a week and an annual two week camp. The Yeomanry were the cavalry component of the TF; many men from Stoneleigh, familiar with horses, belonged to the Yeomanry before the war.

At the outbreak of war the reserves and territorial forces were mobilised initially, and as they were put on active service, their battalion numbers were preceded by 1, so, for example, the 5th Battalion Royal Warwickshires became the 1/5th Battalion. Their duties of home defence were taken up by reserve volunteers who formed the new 2/5th (Reserve) Battalion.

The first appeal for Kitchener's "New Armies" was made on August 11th 1914 and within a fortnight 100,000 men had volunteered. These men were placed in new battalions of existing regiments, and called Service Battalions.

Each battalion at full strength, which was rarely, if ever, achieved, consisted of just over 1,000 men, commanded by a Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel. A battalion would be sub-divided into 4 Companies, each commanded by a Major or Captain; companies would, themselves, be split into 4 Platoons, each led by a Lieutenant or 2nd Lieutenant.

In addition, whilst researching a soldier, one will discover men in combat units such as artillery, cavalry and tanks, as well as those troops who became engineers, medics, or part of communications units.

Over 5 million men joined the British Army during the Great War, 2,631,000 having volunteered before conscription came into force in February 1916. Of these 888,000 were killed in action and well over a million wounded.



The Stoneleigh History Society has so far identified 94 men from Stoneleigh who served in the Great War, of whom 15 died during or shortly after the war.

#### INTRODUCTION

During the war years of 1914-1918 it was felt appropriate to keep a list of all those men from Stoneleigh who served their country. In 2014, as part of the national commemorations of the centenary of World War One, this project by the Stoneleigh History Society aims to remind us of their contribution.

A memorial to those men who died was erected in St Mary the Virgin Church in 1920, and the Victory Hall opened the following year, as a fitting place where villagers could meet socially once the dark days of war were over. Right from the start there were plans to create a roll of honour in this building, to mark the service of all those who fought for their country. It was not until 1961, however, when the present Village Hall replaced the worn-out Victory Hall, that the roll of honour we see today was finally created, by then, of course, including a further set of names, of those men and women who served in World War Two.

Now, a hundred years after the outbreak of the "war to end all wars", we have attempted to discover something of the lives and war service of the men who served in World War One. From a simple list of names we have done our best to reconstruct a small part of Stoneleigh's long history: where had the men lived? What were their families like? What were their occupations? What did they do in the war, and afterwards? It has been the work of many months, often seeming like a complex detective story with twists and turns and some very surprising discoveries! We have enjoyed following this "long, long trail" even when we have not been able to be certain of our facts: we have done our very best to be accurate and have acknowledged occasions when we have relied on guesswork. We hope that visitors will be able to correct any mistakes and add to our current knowledge.

#### Lest We Forget

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh History Society

#### **CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE**

By November 10th 1914 several young men from the Stoneleigh Company of the Church Lads' Brigade had already enlisted.

STONELEIGH, COMPANY NO. 2,912. Avis, H.M.S. Impregnable. E. R. Avis, 11th Hussars. S. Callimore, Oxford and Bucks L.I. H. King, Oxford and Bucks L.I. F. Mills, Oxford and Bucks L.I. A. Morris, Oxford and Bucks L.I. W. Morris, Oxford and Bucks L.I. Paget, South Staffordshire L.L. Simpson, 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. F. Smith. Oxford and Bucks LI. G. H. Thorley, Oxford and Bucks L.I. J W. Thorley, Warwickshire Yeomanry. S E. Thorley, 9th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. E. Wooding, Oxford and Bucks L.I. R. Worrall, Oxford and Bucks L.I.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, November 10th 1914



Stoneleigh Church Lads' Brigade, after World War One

#### **REGIMENTS IN WHICH THEY SERVED**

ARMY VETERINARY CORPS CAMERON HIGHLANDERS COLDSTREAM GUARDS DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT DRAGOON GUARDS (PRINCE OF WALES OWN) EAST KENT REGIMENT GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT KINGS OWN (ROYAL LANCASTER) REGIMENT KINGS SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY LABOUR CORPS MACHINE GUN CORPS NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS **OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT** INFANTRY ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT ROYAL ENGINEERS ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY ROYAL FLYING CORPS ROYAL FUSILIERS **ROYAL NAVY** ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT WARWICKSHIRE YEOMANRY WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

#### **SPENNELL'S DIRECTORY 1920**

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#### SPENNELL'S ANNUAL DIRECTORY FOR 1920.

#### Stoneleigh (continued).

Vicar of Stoneleigh, Rev. H. E. Cooke, M.A.; Vicar of Westwood, Rev. E. de B. Saunderson; sexton (Stoneleigh), R. Harris; (Westwood), W. Thornton.

POSTAL.—STONELEIGH post, money order, telegraph office and Savings Bank (Wm. Hand); letters delivered 7-30 a.m. and 3 p.m.; despatched 9-5 a.m. and 5-20 p.m.; Finham box cleared 8-20 a.m.; Sunday, delivered 7 a.m., despatched 11-40 a.m.; Sunday, post office open from 8-30 till 10 a m. STARTON, letters delivered 8-30 a.m., box cleared 6 p.m. WESTWOOD, post office (Mrs J. Smith); letters delivered, 8 a.m.; despatched, 5-15 p.m.; no Sunday post. Nearest money order office, Spon End. Telegraph office. Coventry or Stoneleigh; postal distance from Westwood Heath, 4 miles; from Burntpost and Canley, 2 miles.

\* Letters for Parish of Westwood, Post town, Coventry; Cryfield, Crackley, and The Hurst-Post town, Kenilworth.

STONELEIGH.

Adoook W., farmer, The Leasowes Armitt Mrs Atkinson C., engineer Beeby Benjamin Bottrill E., turner Burbury T. S., jun., labourer Buswell Edwin, labourer Carter Harry, labourer Chattaway Joseph, labourer Chattaway Alfred, labourer Cooke Rev. H. E. Coventry Golf Club, Finham Dexter J. H., steward, Golf house, Finham Edmunds B., shepherd England Leonard, machine shop storekeeper Ellis H., bricklayer England Thomas, labourer Fardon Mrs B. N., "Stoneleigh Arms" Fardon Charles Fardon Edward Langley Fardon E. L. & Son, engineers Flint Albert, blacksmith Franklin Ernest, Field Barn French Benjamin, farmer, The Hill Gardner Capt., The Crew fm Goode J., smith Gowling Jos., Grange farm Green George, frmr, Finham Hand William, postmaster Hand W. J., grocer, etc. Harris Robert, gardener and sexton Harvey A. E., deer keeper Henton Thomas, shepherd Hewitt John Hill P. Rowlend, Kyneton House Hollick W. J., farmer, Millburn Grange Hollick E., Dale House farm Hollick Reginald, farmer, Finham farm Holtom Leslie, labourer Hollis Mark, cowman Hulbert Mrs King Joseph, waggoner

Leigh Rt. Hon. Francis Dudley, Lord Leigh, J.P., c.c., Stoneleigh Abbey Louch William E., labourer Lovelock Ernest J., gardenr Major Henry, coachman Metters W. H., Manor hae fm Miller E., motor car driver Mills Mrs H. Mills Arthur, gamekeeper Mills George, bricklayer Mills John, painter Mills William, jun. labourer Mills William, roadman Morris Henry, baker Morris Joseph, Co-op. stores Nicholls -, clerk of works Oakley Thomas, labourer Pinney Fred, estate agent, Stoneleigh Abbey Preston James Prime Wm., shoemaker Prime Mrs Rench Thomas, labourer **Rogers** George Samman John, constable Sibley Miss Simpson Mrs Smith Mrs Smith William, labourer Spiers John Sparrow W. A., smith Stoneleigh Co-operative & Provident Society, Ltd. Stoney Samuel, labourer Stuart Robert, gardener Sturgess Wm. Geo., motor driver, Wainbody Swinnerton Wm., farmer, Stivichall Grange, Coventry Taylor Joseph, stockman, Finham Thomas R., labourer Thorley John H., carpenter Tickle J., farmer, Waverley Thorley J., watchman Thornton Mrs M. A., Rose Cottage Upton John, labourer Village Club Reading Room Walden James, labourer

Walden Mrs, shopkeeper

Walford Capt.EricW.,patent agnt, The Gables, Finham Walton Frank Walton Bros., carpenters and joiners and contractors Walton Thomas Walton William, gardener Ward Frank, Finham lodge Wardell Alfred, labourer Wells William H., schoolmastr, assistant overseer. clerk to council White F. William, carpenter Wilcox Mrs Woodfield Alfred, labourer Woodfield Ernest, labourer Woodfield John, labourer Wooding George Worrall Mrs W. Worrall George, waggoner Worrall Henry, labourer Wyatt Wm., butler, Old Lodge

#### STARETON.

Andrews Raymond, labourer Barnacle W., fmer, Furzen hl Barnes J. S., farmer Beasley William, labourer Carley J., Park farm Dick Major, Stareton Honse Hewitt Charles, labourer Lovell William, stockman Morgan Henry Parish Mark, groom Parker Miss C. Tickle Jos., farmer, Waverley Woodfield Thomas, labourer

THE KENNELS, STARETON.

Garrett John T, labourer Hutton Richard, gardener Mills Arthur, head gamekpr Parker Frank, carter Rose William, gamekeeper Sweatman Wm., labourer Thomas William, watchman

KING'S HILL. Cooper John, farmer French Benjamin

#### SOME OF THOSE WHO RETURNED



The Stoneleigh Church Lads Brigade 1928, including Rev. Cooke and some others who had served in the war.



Some village men and estate workers who returned from the war, pictured at the church gates.

## VICTORY HALL

After the war an old "Derby" hut of wood and galvanised metal was dismantled from Cannock Chase in Staffordshire where it had served as an army pay office. These huts had been named after Lord Derby, the Director of Recruiting in 1915 and later Secretary of State for War, who introduced the Derby Scheme, a half-way house between enlistment and conscription. The hut itself cost £180 although dismantling it cost £81.13.6d. It was brought to Stoneleigh by Frank and Bill Parker on Lord Leigh's "Sentinel" engine, and after the ground was levelled and other costs added, the total bill was £417.1.6d. The Victory Hall was officially opened by Lord Leigh on October 26th 1921.

Together with the two and a half acres of land on which it stood, the hall was leased to village representatives by Lord Leigh at one shilling a year for 21 years. It became a great asset to village life although as the end of the lease approached it was in a very dilapidated condition. A new village hall was therefore built to replace it and this was opened in 1961.

As details of the new hall were being discussed, at a management committee meeting in 1960, "the Vicar explained the proposals of the British Legion regarding a new Roll of Honour with the names of those serving in both world wars, which is to be made by Mr Frank Parker.

The committee expressed itself in full agreement with the suggestion that this should be erected in the main hall of the new building."





Frank Parker and his son Bill in front of the Sentinel Engine carrying sheets of corrugated tin for the Victory Hall

Victory Hall c.1920

#### VILLAGE HALL ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-18 THOSE WHO SERVED AND RETURNED

ARIS E.	METTERS H.H.	Rose W.
BARNACLE H.	MILLS A.	SIMPSON W.
BARNES S.	MILLS A.	SMITH F.
BEASLEY H.	MILLS A.	SMITH W.
BOWCOCK E.	MILLS H.	STEVENS G.
BURBURY C.	MILLS H.	STONEY W.
BURBURY F.	MILLS J.	SWEATMAN W.
BURBURY S.	MILLS J.	THORLEY G.
BURBURY W.	MILLS T.	THORLEY J.
CARLEY H.	MILLS T.	TIMMS C.
CARLEY J.E.	MILLS W.	TIMMS W.
CHATTAWAY A.	Morgan A.	TIMMS W.
CARTER G.	MORRIS A.	UPTON J.E.
COLEMAN C.	MORRIS A.	UPTON M.
COOKE H.E.	Moss A.	Vickerman S.
CRADDOCK J.	PAGET C.G.	WALDEN T.
EDMUNDS R.	PARKER F.	WALTON J.
FARDON G.H.	PARRISH A.	WALTON W.
GALLIMORE S.	PARRISH M.	WARD T.
GARDINER F.G.	PARRISH S.	WARDELL G.
GARRATT J.	Prime J.	WOODING E.
HARVEY A.	PRIME W.	WOODING S.
KING A.	REDFERN G.	WORRALL A.
KING C.	RENCH A.	WORRALL D.
KING H.	RENCH S.	WORRALL L.
LEE W.	ROSAMOND P.	WORRALL R.
LOVELL H.	Rose G.	WORRALL W.



**Ernest Aris** was born in Middleton Cheney on February 27th 1898. He was the illegitimate son of Alice Maud Aris who was from Middleton Cheney, Oxfordshire (a location connected with the Leigh family of Stoneleigh) but had moved to Learnington to be in domestic service. In 1901, therefore, the three-year-old Ernest was boarding with a Mrs Sarah Prickett, a widow, at Odd Things Shop in Hornton, not far from where he was born. However, Alice married **Alfred Chattaway**, from Stoneleigh, in Learnington in 1902 and began a new family. Alfred was a labourer and by 1911 Ernest lived with them in Stoneleigh and worked as a farm boy. He was christened in Stoneleigh church on February 5th 1914 shortly before he entered the navy aged 15 years and 11 months. Cordelia Leigh was his godmother and she kept a close interest in him throughout his service during the war.

Through Cordelia we know that Ernest trained on HMS Impregnable and then served with great pride on HMS Queen Elizabeth, the most powerful in the British fleet and the great flagship of the Dardanelles Between February 25th and May 14th 1915 the ship campaign. bombarded the forts on the Narrows in support of the Gallipoli landings. Ernest not only wrote about this, but also sent photographs to Cordelia Leigh. In the closing stages of the war the ship became the flagship of the Grand Fleet and Ernest's account of witnessing the German Fleet's surrender was forwarded by Cordelia Leigh to "Country Life", where it was published. Admiral Lord Beatty, the 1st Sea Lord, the King, the Queen and the Prince of Wales had all been aboard the ship whilst the terms of the German surrender were finalised, he wrote, and then they escorted the German Fleet to the Firth of Forth. "I was always proud to be on the *Queen Elizabeth* but now I am prouder still," he wrote.

Ernest had had time to meet and marry Margaret Bird Copeland in Dunfermline on October 11th 1918. He was 20. They had 3, possibly 4 children – Ernest James Aris (born in Dunfermline in 1919), John Copeland Aris (1921), Gordon Robert Aris (1924); Margaret had a daughter, Jessie, who was born in 1931.

However, Ernest left his family before the birth of his third son Gordon Robert and emigrated to Australia on the 20th May 1924. He had signed up on May 6th with the Royal Australian Navy and travelled from London to Melbourne on-board the 'Moreton Bay' as a naval rating. He served with the RAN until 1928 when, now 30, he was recommended for the Royal Australian Field Reserve, a service consisting of ratings who had completed at least three years full-time with the RAN. Records show that he was a part of this reserve at least until 1935.

Ernest's family had remained in Stoneleigh and lived at North Lodge. During the Second World War Ernest's son **John Copeland Aris** had followed in his father's footsteps and joined the navy. He was killed while serving on *HMS Nigeria* in 1942, and is commemorated on the church war memorial. After the war all remaining Aris family members travelled to Canada and ultimately settled near Akron, Ohio, USA. Ernest and Margaret later divorced.

Ernest continued to live in Australia and remarried Gabriele Weyl, who survived him by ten years. He died in Sandringham, Australia on the 5th October 1983. His first wife Margaret had died in October 1980 in Ohio.



Ernest Aris 1914



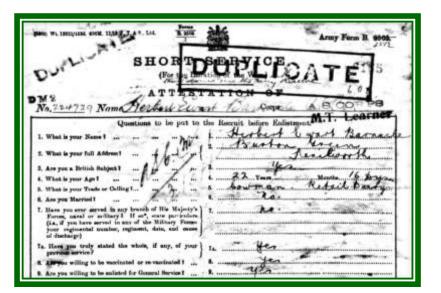
Ernest Aris in 1959



#### HERBERT EWART BARNACLE

Herbert Barnacle owes his place on the Stoneleigh Roll of Honour to his father's residency here, it seems. One of eight children of William and Ann Barnacle (nee Sewell) Herbert was born in November 1893 in Kentish Town, London, where his father was a railway guard with the Midland Railways. By 1901 his father's job had taken the family to Leicester, where they lived at 40, Chatsworth Street. Ten years later, however, they had moved to Burton Green, where father William was a farm worker, as was his son Herbert. Sadly, by now two of the children had died. William had moved once again by 1915, and was living at Furzen Hill Farm in Stoneleigh, though Herbert was employed as a cowman and retail dairyman at a Burton Green dairy farm; in this year he enlisted, at Coventry, in the Royal Army Service Corps in the Motor Transport Division, his service number being 224729. He arrived in France in February 1917 having trained as a motor transport driver and continued there until September 1918 when he received a gun shot wound to his head. After some treatment there, he was invalided home on the hospital ship Panama and transferred to a variety of hospitals, ultimately to Grove Park. By January 1919 he was deemed unfit to drive owing to his head injury, and discharged. His father confirmed that he had previously worked for him on the farm, and said that he was prepared to offer him work henceforth as a ploughman.

Herbert spent most of the rest of his life as a farmer, at Gun Hill in Arley. His brother Frederick Sewell Barnacle also farmed, at Cromwell Lane in Westwood Heath. Herbert died in Bournemouth at the age of 89, in 1983.



### JOHN STANLEY BARNES

**John Stanley Barnes** was the eldest child of nine in the family of John Salkeld and Margaret Barnes (nee Davies) of the Stone House, Stareton, a farm of some 320 acres. Living at Bentley Heath at the time of his baptism in Knowle, he had moved with his family to Stoneleigh by the age of four. Such a large farm required much manpower, and in January 1917 it was reported locally that John's father had applied four times to exempt him from war service on the grounds of his being needed on the farm; only one other man was still employed there at that time. On that occasion the case was adjourned but it could not have been long before he was conscripted. Unfortunately no service details are known. He died aged 53 in December 1949, just three months after his father.

> A single man, 20 years of age, passed for general service, was John Stanley Barnes, whose father, Mr. J. S. Barnes, of Stone House, Stareton, made a fourth application for his son's exemption. The case was adjourned for substitution, the military agreeing to this in view of the declaration that there was only one other man employed on a farm of 320 acres.



#### HARRY BEASLEY

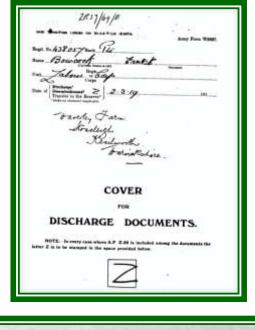
Little is known of **Harry Beasley**, who was born in October 1896 in Leek Wootton, the ninth child of William and Hannah Elizabeth Beasley (nee Mason). His father was a stockman on a farm in Leek Wootton in 1901, where Harry first attended school. The family had moved to Stareton by 1909 as he briefly attended Stoneleigh School, leaving in 1910. Mysteriously the school admission register notes that he was a chronic invalid, which makes his war service uncertain. His first job, on leaving school, was as a ploughboy, and he died in 1922 at the extremely young age of 25.

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#### **ERNEST BOWCOCK**

Ernest Bowcock was born in January 1896 in Warrington, Lancashire, the youngest child of seven, of James and Annie Bowcock (nee Truelove). James was a butcher there, at 133, Liverpool Road, and Ernest was ultimately to follow his father's By the 1911 census, however, he was boarding in profession. Cheshire where at the age of 15 he was a farm pupil, and in December 1915, at the time of his attesting to the army reserves, he was a farm student at Waverley Farm, Stoneleigh, the farmer being Mr Tickle. Ernest was mobilized in June 1916 as Private 51838 with the Royal Fusiliers, and went to France at the end of November. Unfortunately he was first treated for anaemia and in March 1917 for trench foot; by May 1917 his illness resulted in him leaving France for the Norfolk War Hospital in Norwich. His service did not end there, however, as his farming skills enabled him to be transferred to 620 Agricultural Company's Labour Corps at Budbrooke, where he was given a new military number of 438057. He remained in reserve when his war service came to an end in March 1919.

Ernest returned to Lancashire after the war and was married in December 1937 to Mary Zipporah Beresford in Prescot. He became a butcher, and died in October 1952 aged 56.



BOWCOCK Ernest of Winmarlegh Broadgreen-road Huyton Lancashire died 21 October 1952 at Broadgreen Hospital Liverpool 14 Probate Liverpool 12 February to Mary Zipporah Bowcock widow.

## **THOMAS SEYMOUR BURBURY**

All four Burbury brothers are named on the Roll of Honour in Stoneleigh. They were the children of Thomas James and Elizabeth Burbury (nee Miles) who also had a daughter, Clara.

The eldest boy, **Thomas Seymour Burbury**, was born in July 1882 and in 1891 he was at Crewe Farm with his grandparents William and Elizabeth Burbury. Thomas married Kate Morby on Boxing Day 1903 in Newbottle, Northamptonshire, and was the father of four children by the time of the 1911 census, when he was an estate labourer in Stoneleigh, working with timber. He and his wife had four further children over the next eight years. However, he enlisted in December 1915 at the age of 33, in the Devonshire Regiment, when he was employed as a coal checker. He went to France the following June. Having been transferred to the Labour Corps he was wounded in 1917 and treated in hospital at both Frevent and Etaples. He was transferred again to the Agricultural Company in 1919 though was hospitalised once again, this time for 88 days. He died in 1952, aged 68.

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### **CYRIL WILMOT BURBURY**

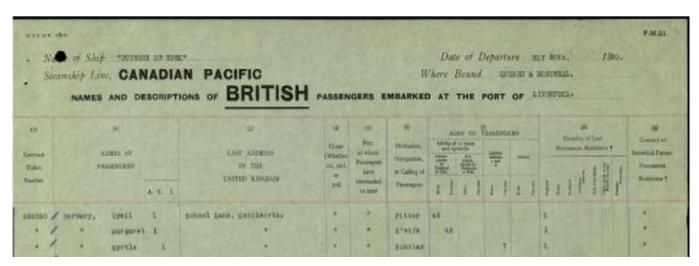
**Cyril Wilmot Burbury**, was born in 1887 and in 1891 the family lived in Winslow, Buckinghamshire where father Thomas James was a carpenter and joiner. Their move to Crewe Farm, where they lived by 1901, was to join their father's parents, William and Elizabeth, who had used to run the farm but were by now retired. Thomas James had now taken on the running of the farm. Ten years later, however, in 1911, Cyril was boarding in Deptford, London, where he was working as a bus driver, but in March 1913 attested in the army reserve for a period of one year in the Army Service Corps. He was re-engaged in March 1914 for another year, and mobilized at Bristol in August 1914, being sent to France as part of the BEF straight away, where he remained until March 1916, when he was discharged, having served for three years. He was part of the special reserve forces until March 1919.

Cyril married Mary Ann Young in December 1919, and in 1930 they decided to emigrate to Canada. They settled at first in Saskatchewan where Cyril farmed, but by 1949 were in British Columbia where Cyril worked as a mechanic. He died there aged 66 in 1954.





The Burbury and Young family on board "The Duchess of York"



The "Duchess of York" had 459 passengers on board for the 14 day voyage

## FRED EWEN BURBURY

**Fred Ewen Burbury** was born on July 6th 1891 whilst the family were still in Buckinghamshire. As a 19 year-old he was assisting on the family farm in 1911, at Crewe Farm. In 1921 he married Louisa Alice Craddock, the daughter of **Alfred Thomas Craddock** who had been killed on the Somme in 1916 and who is commemorated on the church war memorial. He died in 1943 at an emergency hospital in Bromsgrove, having lived at Bridge Cottage, Stoneleigh. Nothing is known of his war service.



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The Burbury Family at Crewe Farm in 1901 with Fred age 9

BURBURY Fred Ewen of Bridge Cottage Stoneleigh Warwickshire died 14 September 1943 at Barnsley Hall Emergency Hospital Bromsgrove Worcestershire Administration (with Will) Birmingham 3 November to Louisa Alice Burbury widow.

### WILLIAM HAROLD BURBURY

The youngest of the Burbury brothers, **William Harold Burbury**, was born in June 1893 in Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Like his brother Fred he was assisting on the farm in 1911, but joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and was gazetted in 1919 as an army Staff Sergeant. In the Peace Gazette he was also recognised by being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his service in Salonika. William died, aged 80, in 1973.



Records
Awarded the "Meritorious Service Medal."
Corps R.A. G.C SALONICA.
Regimental Number 4/1442
Surname BURBURY
Christian Name_ William Karold *
Rank & armer St- Sq -
Date of Gazette Peace Gazette.
Registered Paper 0137 5606 Schedule }
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#### JAMES EDWARD CARLEY

**James Edward Carley** – generally known as Edward – was the elder of two brothers, sons of James and Matilda Carley (nee Reading), who farmed at Stareton. Their father James had married twice, the first marriage producing a girl, Ethel, and the boys were the products of his second marriage, along with a second girl, Kathleen. In 1904 both brothers left Stoneleigh School to attend secondary school in Learnington and in 1911 James was home working on his father's farm at 5, Stareton. A lancecorporal in the Warwickshire Yeomanry (service number 2195) James later became a sergeant in the Machine Gun Corps. Initially he went to Egypt, arriving at Alexandria, his ship the Wayfarer having been torpedoed 60 miles off the coast of the Scilly Isles, on April 24th 1915. The 1/1st Warwickshire Yeomanry landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, and took part in the difficult battles at Chocolate Hill and Hill 112 on August 21st. As a result of numbers of battle casualties the Warwickshire Yeomanry merged with the 1/1st Worcestershire Yeomanry and in December 1915 they returned to Egypt. He was listed in the local press as wounded in January 1917. On 27th May, 1918 the troopship Leasowe Castle was torpedoed by UB-51 whilst in a convoy 104 miles north-west of Alexandria and sank within 90 Bound for Marseilles she was carrying troops of the minutes. Warwickshire Yeomanry and 102 lives were lost - it is possible that both James Edward Carley and another Stoneleigh man, Alfred King, were aboard. James married in December 1922 and he and his wife Sarah Ann (nee Green) lived at Park Farm thereafter. He died in 1968.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR. Local Casualties. Included in to-day's list of examplies are the RANK<sup>®</sup>AND FILE. KILLER Mason, 10281. T. (Stratford-on-Aven) H.W.R. Taylor, 2820, T. (Longford), Yeomasry. Dunkley, 1211. Sergt. P. (Coveniry), H.P.A. PRINTONIAL TREPORTED MINEDIA, NOW REPORTED KILLER. Labrum, 11633, Lee-Cpl. J. J. (Numeaton), E.W.B. WOUNDED. YEOMANHY. Barnard, 2146, Les-Opl. E. A. (Stratford-on-ATONA Beiscos, 2000, G. H. (Rughy). Brastoe, 2005, G. H. (Huguy).
 Garley, 2195, Cpl. J. E. (Kenitwurth).
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 Funlocabridge, 2545, A. (Coventry). Hopkins, 2004, E. G. (Coventry), King, 1580, A. (Kenfluorth), Mur-den, 2013, Sergt, T. F. (Coventry)



## HERBERT ARTHUR CARLEY

**Herbert Arthur Carley** was born in Lillington in 1894 and baptised at Whitnash in March that year. Like his brother he worked on his father's farm until joining the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, service number SE/25620. Again, no service record survives. He returned to farm at Park Farm and in 1922 married Annie Bowcock, the sister of **Ernest Bowcock**, in Warrington, Lancashire, where the Bowcock family had relocated. Evidently they had met in Stoneleigh. The Spennells Directory of Leamington in 1926 shows that Herbert was farming at Budbrooke Farm, but he died comparatively young in Upton on Severn, Worcestershire, aged 45, in 1940.

Marriage: 28 Feb 1922 Holy Trinity, Warrington, Lancashire, England Herbert Arthur Carley - 27 Farmer Bachelor of Stonleigh, Warwickshire Annie Bowcock - 31 Spinster of 12 Winmarleigh Street Groom's Father: James Carley, Retired Farmer Bride's Father: James Bowcock, Retired Butcher Witness: James Edward Carley; Doris Ada Horton; M. J. Carley Married by Banns by: A. J. Bratt Vicar Register: Marriages 1915 - 1927, Page 76, Entry 152 Source: LDS Film 2068607

Reference: http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Warrington/holytrinity/marriages\_1915-1927.html

BOWCOCK James of 12 Winmarleigh-street Warrington died 4 January 1938 Probate Liverpool 5 April to Annie Carley (wife of Herbert Arthur Carley) Ernest Bowcock butcher and Arthur Percival Vernon Pigot solicitor.

Annie Carley née Bowcock and her brother Ernest after the death of their father.

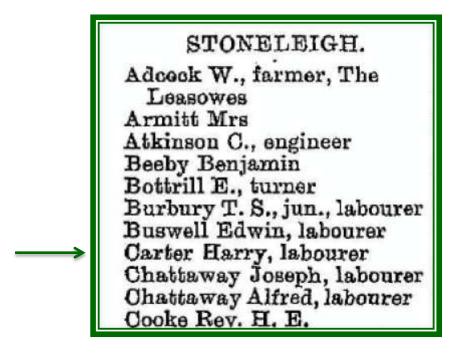
## **GEORGE RICHARD CARTER**

**George Richard Carter** was born in 1892, the son of Henry and Georgina Emily Carter (nee Chamberlain), a South Warwickshire family who had married in Snitterfield, which was where George was born. His father Henry, a labourer, moved around the county a great deal, however, and later children were born in Budbrooke. Some time after 1911 they had moved to Stoneleigh and this is where George married Nellie Webb on November 13th 1919. They had a son, Cyril, in 1921.

No service details are at present known about George, but he died in 1962 when his address was Randall Road, Kenilworth. He is thought to have been buried in Ashow Churchyard.

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George Richard Carter boarding in Lower Norton in 1911



Extract from Spennell's Annual Directory 1920 showing Henry Carter in Stoneleigh



**Alfred Chattaway**'s family was associated with the Stoneleigh estate for many years. In fact his father Joseph, who died aged 80 in 1934, was remarked upon in the parish magazine as having worked all his life for Stoneleigh Abbey as a hedger and fencer. Alfred, however, was born in Kenilworth in 1878 and baptised at St John's on May 5th that year. He was the first of six children born to the marriage, and his only brother William Henry Chattaway was to die on the Somme on July 3rd 1916.

By 1901 the family lived at 3, Hudson's Bridge Bank Cottages and at 23 years old Alfred was a road labourer living with his parents. The following year he married Alice Maud Aris on August 21st in Leamington, where Alice was living. The couple had four children, three boys and a girl, as well as Alice's child Ernest Aris, born before she married Alfred.

Details are uncertain about Alfred's war service. He was 36 years old at the outbreak of war and had three children by then; a man bearing his name served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment after 1915 as Private 15631, but it is unclear whether this is Stoneleigh's Alfred Chattaway, as no service record exists. He died in 1943, aged 65.

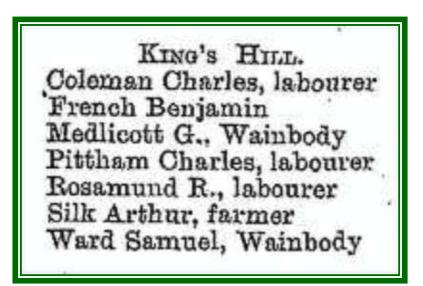


#### **CHARLES EDWARD COLEMAN**

Little is known at present about **Charles Edward Coleman**, although he was born on July 29th 1884 and in 1914 appeared in the register of electors at Stoneleigh, living at The Hill where he was employed as a labourer. Someone with the same name is recorded as Private 266042 in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, but there is uncertainty about whether this is "our" man. In 1920 he was in Leek Wootton, and died in 1975.

- 96-R. Wan. R. 26 6041

"Our" Charles E. Coleman?



Extract from Spennell's Directory of Learnington 1914

## **Rev. Herbert Edward Cooke**

Few men played a more important role in the life of Stoneleigh at the time of the Great War than the **Reverend Cooke**. He had been born in April 1880 in Buxton, Norfolk, the eldest of four sons of the Reverend Frederic Cooke, the then curate there, and his wife Ada. As the Reverend Frederic moved parishes, so did the family, and Herbert's youth was largely spent in Shropshire. In 1910 he married Edith Maud Harrison at Welshpool Church in Montgomeryshire and became vicar of Stoneleigh in that year. From 1930 he became vicar in charge of Ashow as well as Stoneleigh and Honorary Canon of Coventry. He played a significant part in supporting the community, not least by starting the Church Lads' Brigade, and during the war in helping to organise support for the men who had gone to fight, as well as their Nevertheless, by the end of 1915 he also families who remained. attested his willingness to serve as a non-combatant and served as chaplain in France with the 1st Battalion the King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment, and later with the 3rd Battalion the West Yorkshire Regiment, carrying on lengthy correspondence with Cordelia Leigh about what might be done to help the young men at the Front. No service record survives but he certainly saw the Spring Offensive in 1918 and was still away at the end of the war.

The Reverend Cooke had three children, Reginald James, who became a Major in the army in the Second World War, Dorothy Monica and Wing Commander Humphrey Desmond Cooke who lost his life over Germany in 1942 during the Second World War, and who is commemorated on the church war memorial. The Reverend Cooke died in November 1953 having retired to Craven Arms, Shropshire.



#### **THOMAS JAMES CRADDOCK**

**Thomas James (Jim) Craddock** was born in Bromyard, Herefordshire in October 1894 the second of five children of James and Eliza Craddock (nee Mantle). In 1911 he was a 16year-old waggoner's boy at the farm of John Potter in Stanford Bishop, Herefordshire, but had evidently moved to Stoneleigh pre-war as he joined up, with other friends from the village in the early days of the war in 1914. He served both in the 7th Battalion the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and the Royal Berkshire Regiment, his service numbers being 13750 and 45350.

After the war he married Mary Ann Wardell on July 30th 1921, who was the sister of **George Alfred Wardell** who also served. He died in 1960.







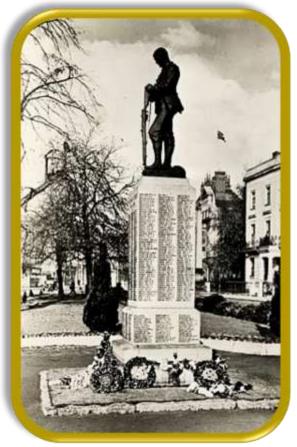
**Ernest Richard Avis** was not born in Stoneleigh but in Reading, in 1892. His father George was a musician in an orchestra and seems to have moved about with his profession. In 1901 Ernest, his mother Mary and four younger siblings were living at 10, Paddington Place, Leamington, which was the address his father gave in Spennells Directory. In 1911 father George was absent from home but the whole family lived in Stoneleigh, and had evidently been there for a couple of years, since Avis children were admitted to Stoneleigh School in 1910, having previously been at Clapham Terrace School in Leamington.

In that year, 1911, Ernest was working as an assistant gardener (domestic) – probably at the abbey. Later he was employed by Rover in Coventry, but enlisted on August 4th 1915 in Warwick in the 2nd Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment, service number 22000. He later became a Lance Corporal. The 2nd Battalion moved to Salonika in late November 1915 and it was whilst serving there that he was killed on December 7th 1916, probably at the Battle of Tumbitza Farm. He was 24, and is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial in Macedonia. He is also commemorated on the Leamington Spa War Memorial and that of All Saints Church, Leamington.



Ernest Avis

Ernest Avis



Leamington Spa Memorial



Doiran Memorial in Macedonia

## WILLIAM HENRY CHATTAWAY

William Henry Chattaway was born in Hill Wootton in February 1886, one of eight children of Joseph and Catherine Chattaway (nee Fell). One of his brothers was Alfred **Chattaway** whose name is inscribed on the Village Hall Roll of Honour, having returned safely from the war. William was baptised in March at Leek Wootton church, and after a brief residence in Warwick Road Kenilworth, the family moved to Stoneleigh. They lived at 3, Hudson's Bridge Bank, one of the four cottages now known as Motslow Cottage, and in 1901 the fifteen-year-old William was employed as a sexton's assistant, perhaps digging graves. By 1911, at the age of 25, William was a domestic chauffeur, still living at home with his parents, and Cordelia Leigh remarked in 1916 that he was under-chauffeur at the abbey. It is difficult to know why William joined the 12th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers as Private 28102, enlisting in Newcastle; how and why he found himself there is unknown.

No service record exists to tell us of William's movements with his battalion, but they arrived in France in September 1915 and were thrown into reserve for the battle of Loos, where they sustained heavy losses. It was to be during the Battle of the Somme, however, in July 1916, that William lost his life. At the outset of the battle on July 1st the 12th Battalion were carrying supplies and ammunition to forward brigades but were moved up the line during the night of the 2nd. On the night of July 3rd they were in an attack on Shelter Wood, where there were heavy losses as a result of machine gun fire from the enemy. There was even hand-to-hand fighting, and later that night intense fire from German 15cm Howitzers.

At first William Henry Chattaway was recorded as missing, and Cordelia Leigh made enquiries of the Red Cross on behalf of his family. His body was never found for identification, however, and his name is one of over 72,000 soldiers inscribed on the Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval, on Pier/face 10/11/12B.

#### William Henry Chattaway



Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval



**John Rattray Clark** was not a Stoneleigh man, but was married in Stoneleigh. He was born in 1885, the son of James and Julia Clark of Sandyford, Glasgow. By 1911, in his mid-twenties, he was living with a cousin, Robert Gellatly, in Coventry, who was a foreman in a naval ordnance engineering works. John himself was a clerk in a cycle factory; one assumes that both men had come to Coventry for employment.

How he met his future wife is unknown, but he married Lucy Walton on February 10th 1915. By this time he was already a sergeant in the 7th Bn. Cameron Highlanders, having joined up in Inverness in September 1914; he must have travelled to Scotland specifically to be part of a Scots regiment. In April 1915 he was training on Salisbury Plain and sailed on the SS Arundel from Folkestone to Boulogne on July 8th. He died on September 25th during the particularly vicious Battle of Loos, when 687 of his battalion became casualties. Although his service record survives it records that he left "no effects", a poignant reminder of the chaos of battle. He is buried at Loos Cemetery, Loosen-Gohelle, Pas de Calais, Reference XII A1.





#### John Rattray Clark





Loos Cemetery



**Alfred Thomas Craddock** was born in Bishop's Frome, Herefordshire in 1872, one of six children of Thomas and Mary Craddock (nee Perigo). He met a Stoneleigh girl, Alice Garratt, and married her on July 16th 1894. In 1901 they lived at 2, Manor Farm Cottage and had two daughters; later they moved to North Lodge and had a son. A farm labourer, Alfred enlisted at Rugby, joining the 11th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He certainly enlisted before conscription and would have been in his early forties (his exact date of birth is open to debate).!

The 11th Battalion, as part of the 37th Division, left for active service abroad in August 1915 and went at once to Hebuterne, just west of Bapaume in the Somme Department. They served in trenches there until June 1916, and it was here that Alfred was killed, though the cause of his death is unknown. He is buried at Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, Grave reference III C2.





Alfred Thomas Craddock

Craddock Family



#### Alfred Thomas Craddock





Bienvillers Military Cemetery



Tom Hewitt was born in Birmingham, the eldest son of Thomas and Emily Hewitt (nee Kefford). The Hewitt family had resided in Stareton for several generations, but Tom's father became a railway worker in Birmingham, where Tom was educated at School before returning Lane Garrison to live with his grandparents in Stoneleigh in 1899. The reason for this was that Tom's father had died aged only 34 - from an "abscess on the brain"- and whilst his widow Emily remained in Birmingham with their three younger children (the youngest only 3 months old) Tom was sent to Stoneleigh aged 10 and was admitted to the school in June 1899 (it is remarked in the school logbook that he had an impediment in his speech). He left school to become a "garden boy".

Tom joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and had probably seen service before 1911 as Cordelia Leigh records that he spent 5 years in India (his mother having moved to Whitchurch in Shropshire by then, working as a railway attendant herself). The 5th Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry was formed in August 1914 and initially Tom served in Belgium, where in February 1915 he suffered from frost-bitten feet and was sent home to hospital in Brighton. He had a mild bout of typhoid in April but was back at the Front by July, in action at Hooge.

Tom was killed in action on September 25th 1915 when the KSLI as part of the 14th (Light) Division were heavily engaged at the second battle of Bellewaarde, a diversionary battle to distract German attention from the Battle of Loos. It failed; casualties were catastrophic. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, Panel 47 and 49.

Tragically Tom's younger brother **George Hewitt**, also serving in the 5th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry, was killed in the same battle on the same day. Initially he was reported as missing, but his body never having been found, his name is inscribed alongside his brother Tom's. On July 29th 1918, the last remaining brother, **Charles Arthur Hewitt**, serving with the 1/4th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry, was killed in the Ardennes and is buried at Omont Communal Cemetery. Thus Mrs Emily Hewitt had lost her husband and three sons within a ten year period. A daughter, Edith, remained, both living in Whitchurch, Shropshire.

#### Tom Hewitt

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WJ	HINKSMAN G.J. HODGSON T.

George and Tom Hewitt







Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres

### **EVAN LLEWELLYN HOWELLS**

Evan Llewellyn Howells was born on July 31st 1899, the only son of Evan and Florence Howells of "Haynstone", Stoke Park, Coventry. He attended King Henry VIII School, Coventry between 1907 and 1914, after which he became a builder's pupil – probably working for his father, who was a builder. Enlisting in the Royal Flying Corps in January 1917, he was passed fit as a pilot on January 15th 1918 and was gazetted as Second Lieutenant on August 7th. He joined the 23rd Squadron in France on September 30th 1918. By October 1918 23rd Squadron were flying Sopwith Dolphins. These were single-seater fighter planes, and so, flying solo, Evan Howells took off at 9am on October 23rd as part of an offensive patrol - to find and attack enemy formations in the air or, in their absence, to attack enemy positions on the ground. In poor weather conditions his machine was involved in a collision at 5,000 feet, probably with an enemy aircraft, and he was seen to spin to the ground.

Evan Llewellyn Howells is buried at Ovillers New Communal Cemetery near Cambrai. He was 19 years old and was the last old boy from King Henry VIII School to die in combat in the Great War. He is also commemorated on his parents' gravestone in Stoneleigh Churchyard.

(Information adapted from 'Doing Its Part Nobly' by Chris Holland and Rob Phillips)

Evan Llewellyn Howells is not recorded on either the church or village hall Rolls of Honour. Despite Evan and his family being commemorated on a gravestone in Stoneleigh Churchyard, the reason for the family's association with the village remains unknown. At the time of his father's death the family's address was Coventry Road, Kenilworth; perhaps they had worshipped at our church. Evan is, we feel, rightfully included in our list of "men who served" since although his remains lie far away in France, his name is recorded here in our village churchyard.

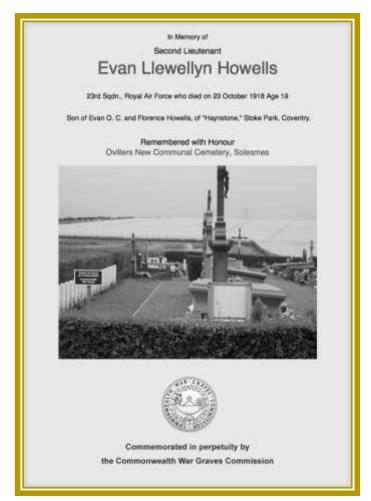
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FLORENCE HOWELLS wife of EVAN O.C.HOWELLS of
Haynstone, Stoneleigh died 15.11.1947 aged 73.
Also only son EVAN LLEWELLYN HOWELLS 2nd Lt.
23rd Fighter Squadron died in action 23.10.1918
aged 19. Also EVAN O.C. HOWELLS died 3.5.1956
aged 84.
```

Stoneleigh Monumental Inscriptions

#### Evan Llewellyn Howells



A Sopwith Dolphin as flown by Evan Llewellyn Howells



Ovillers New Communal Cemetery near Cambrai



Henry Mills was born in 1886 in Ashow, the fifth child of eight of Arthur and Louisa Mills (nee Anderton). Arthur was Head Gamekeeper for Lord Leigh for many years and all four of his sons served in the war. Henry lived with his parents, first at Thickthorn Lodge and later at The Kennels; he attended Stoneleigh School. In his early twenties, however, he moved to Berkshire to become a chauffeur to two elderly ladies; he was in residence there in 1911. Nevertheless at the outbreak of war he joined up at Reading, joining the 3rd Dragoon Guards (Prince of Wales' Own) of the Household Cavalry. The Guards landed in France as early as October 31st 1914, and in September 1915 took part in the Battle Unfortunately on of Loos. the nights of September 25th/26th/27th they sustained a counter-attack which led to a heavy loss of life. Private Henry Mills, GS/7294, was killed in action on September 27th and has no known grave. His name is recorded on the walls of Dud Corner Cemetery, on Panel 1 of the Loos Memorial to the Missing, one of 20,589 names inscribed there.



Henry Mills

#### Henry Mills



Dud Corner Cemetery



**William James Mills** was the youngest son of four of Arthur and Louisa Mills (nee Anderton). He had four sisters and all four boys in the family served in the war. Two of them, John and Arthur, have their names inscribed on the Village Hall Roll of Honour as having safely returned from the war; two – Henry and William James – are named on the church war memorial, having lost their lives.

William was very much younger than his three elder brothers who were born in 1882, 1884, and 1886. When he was born and baptised in Ashow in 1898, the family had lived for some time at Thickthorn Lodge, as father Arthur Mills was Lord Leigh's head gamekeeper; by 1901 they had moved to The Kennels. Another of William's brothers, Arthur, had been an estate carpenter, and when William enlisted in Leamington in May 1916 he was, at eighteen years old, a carpenter's apprentice.

At the outset of his service in the Royal Engineers, Sapper William Mills number 203970 was paid 1/- a day, which was paid directly to his mother. By February 12th the following year it had risen to 1/4d as he was now considered a "skilled" carpenter. He joined the British Expeditionary Force in April 1917 in a reserve battalion and eventually found himself in the 154th Field Company, part of the 37th Division. It is likely that William saw action in the Arras Offensive and the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917; by mid-1918 when the Allies' strategy had become more coherent, momentum began to alter in the Allies' favour. The Battle of Amiens and the "Hundred Days" which followed caused some 80,000 men to be lost by the British, whilst a million men had been lost by the enemy in the offensives of Spring and Summer 1918. In October William James Mills was part of an operation to push the enemy back towards the Sambre-Oise Canal - this became known as the Battle of the Selle and lasted from October 20th-25th. It was a highly significant and successful operation, but resulted in William's death on October 22nd. He was 20 years old, and became the last of the Stoneleigh soldiers to die on the battlefield in the Great War, just 20 days before the Armistice was signed. He is buried at St Aubert British Cemetery, grave reference V.E. 11.

#### William James Mills





St Aubert British Cemetery

Army Form B. 104-126. WIIIANA-HIIIN'S 100,000 477 HWY/PHIA/31 203940- Wills Frun further latter on th Plac Housing the abbe Sin Date 30.5.19 atha I have to acknowledge receipt SIN I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private of the articles as stated opposite. property of the late No. 2039 Yo Bank Sapper. Name L. g. Unill Regt. Roy al Supe Superers would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipt of the same on Yours faithfully, has pour at 3 (Sign her thous 51 SI 0 4-The Officer i/o Records, These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles be received at any time they will be duly forwarded, Stati Yours faithfully, 16-20.00 Officer in Charge of Records.

Personal property after death



**Walter Morris** was the twin brother of Albert **Morris**, born in 1892, the sons of Joseph and Elizabeth Morris (nee Brown) who had ten children altogether. Joseph had worked for much of his life as an agricultural labourer but by 1911 at the age of 58 he was running the Co-Operative Stores in Coventry Road, Stoneleigh, and had become a well-known character in the village, also heavily involved in the running of the village club. Both **Albert** and older brother **Arthur** are named on the Roll of Honour as having returned safely from the war.

Walter and Albert were baptised in Stoneleigh Church in September 1892 and lived with their parents at the Co-Operative Stores. After attending Stoneleigh School Walter was first employed as a gardener but by 1911 was working as a driller at the Daimler motor works. He quickly enlisted in 7th Bn. 1914 in the Oxfordshire September and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as Private 13590; after a period of rather makeshift training for new recruits (khaki uniform and equipment was not made available until February 1915) he embarked for France with his battalion as part of the 26th Division, being concentrated west of Amiens. In November 1915, however, the Division moved to Salonika, where it remained until the end of the war.

Walter Morris was killed on March 18th 1918, having participated in several battles in Salonika in 1916 and 1917. There is no certainty about how he died and the War Diary records that March 18th was "a quiet day". There had been persistent light shelling, however, and Walter is recorded as having been killed in action on that day. He is buried at Karasouli Military cemetery, Thessalonika, Greece, grave reference 1387.

News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris, Co-operative Stores, Stoneleigh, of the death in action on the Salonika front on March 18 of their son, Private Walter Morris, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. His ago was 25. Before joining up he was employed at the Daimler.

#### Walter Morris





Karasouli Military Cemetery, Thessalonika



**John Charles Prime** was born in Stoneleigh in June 1886, one of four sons of Charles and Eliza Prime (nee Prentice). The Prime family had lived in Stoneleigh for several generations; John Charles and his brothers had a sister, Jane (Ginny), who lived in Birmingham Road all her life, and died unmarried in 1964. All the siblings attended Stoneleigh School, and lived in Birmingham Road, first at number 5 and later at number 17, next to the Stoneleigh Arms. Only the eldest brother Henry did not serve in the war, having become an acclaimed gardener at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Both Jonathan and William have their names inscribed on the Village Hall Roll of Honour, having returned safely from their service.

John Charles was a gardener like his eldest brother, and in 1911 had become employed at "The Gardens", Welbeck in Worksop, later moving to Windsor, where he was to meet and marry a local girl, Helen Cooper, on July 13th 1913. Their son, Henry Arthur John Prime, was born on May 29th 1914, by which time John was working in Paignton, Devon. Towards the end of 1915 when it had become clear that more men were needed to fight than had come forward voluntarily, "the Derby Scheme" was introduced by the Director General of Recruiting, Lord Derby, initially requiring only single men to "attest their willingness" to serve. As time went on this was extended to married men and John Charles received his notice to join in November 1915. He enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and after being mobilized at the end of May 1916 was transferred in September to the 3rd Bn. East Kent Regiment (The Buffs), presumably as the army needed to "fill up" various regiments after the heavy losses at the Somme. Very quickly thereafter John sustained a minor injury - a sprained ankle - which was to be the precursor to many more. For almost the whole of 1917 his service record shows him being transferred from one Casualty Clearing Station to another. At the end of October 1917 he received a gun shot wound to his arm and to the left side of his back, causing damage to the nerve and "fairly extensive laceration", necessitating the removal of a large bullet from his fore-arm. How he received these injuries is not known, but finally he was shipped back to England where he was admitted to the Western General Hospital, Cardiff just before Christmas.

John was never to return to the Front. In mid-1918 he was transferred to Pirbright Camp, where he contracted influenza and

was admitted, a week after the Armistice was signed, to the Military Hospital in Woking.

John Charles Prime died, aged 32, 19 days later, on December 4th 1918, after septic bronchitis and bronchial pneumonia had set in. He is buried at Windsor Cemetery, Berkshire, grave reference BN 80.

The only son of John Charles and Helen Prime, who was just 4 years old when his father died, was killed on March 18th 1944, serving in World War Two in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He is buried at Heliopolis War Cemetery, Cairo, Egypt.





### FREDERICK GEORGE STONEY

**Frederick George Stoney** was born in Stoneleigh in 1898, the younger brother of **William Henry Stoney**. Their parents were Sam and Fanny Stoney (nee Michelwight) and the family lived in Birmingham Road, at Croome Cottage. Frederick served in the war, though his health was delicate. In 1916 Cordelia Leigh recorded that he was wearing an armlet waiting to be called up, and in March 1917 that he would soon be going. He served in the Royal Engineers, number 259160. Sadly he died in September 1921 at the early age of 23, the parish magazine noting that he "broke down when it was all over" - the awful conditions of war having been too much for his delicate constitution, presumably.

His death came too late for his name to be recorded on the church war memorial, but it was added to the list of those who had died, on the Roll of Honour in the Village Hall.

STONEY	R-E.	Hank Breeth No. Pom 259160
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Theatre of War first sorved in Date of sutry therein		E. 1380

Frederick George Stoney was on a government training scheme as a carpenter at Hatton Asylum. His cause of death was given as phthisis, pulmonary tuberculosis.

**STONEY** Frederick George of Stoneleigh Kenilworth Warwickshire carpenter died 13 September 1921 at the Lunatic Asylum Hatton Warwickshire Administration Birmingham 25 October to Samuel Stoney estate carpenter.

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**Maurice James Taylor** was born in July 1897 in Epwell near Banbury in Oxfordshire, the eldest son of James and Betty Taylor (nee Box). Father James was a shepherd and by the turn of the century the family had moved to 2, Leicester Lane in Stoneleigh, and by 1904 to Ashow. Altogether seven children were born to the family. Initially Maurice became a farm labourer but by the time he enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment he was employed by A. Williamson & Co, motorcycle manufacturers in the Earlsdon district of Coventry. The firm built 8hp machines powered by Bristolbased Douglas engines; perhaps it is significant that Maurice soon found himself attached to a Machine Gun Company in the army.

Maurice enlisted at the age of 20 in Coventry in July 1917 as Private 20491 in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment; by now the family had moved again to Finham Park Farm, all the time remaining on the Stoneleigh estate. At some point later (his service record has not survived) he became number 57689 in the Machine Gun Corps.

In March 1918 the Germans launched Operation Michael, which drew British forces to defend Amiens; on April 8th they launched, further north, Operation Georgette, attempting to choke the British into defeat. Within two days matters were so perilous that Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig issued the famous "Order of the Day" on April 11th: "With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end."

By the end of Operation Georgette losses on both sides were roughly equal, approximately 110,000 being wounded or killed. Maurice James Taylor received the wounds from which he was to die on April 13th, as part of the intense fighting in the Nieppe Forest. There was desperate fighting with machine guns through fog, to point blank range. Maurice is buried at Ebblinghem Military Cemetery reference 1.A.9, halfway between St Omer and Hazebrouck. Still 20 years old, he had been in the army for less than a year.

#### Maurice James Taylor





Ebblinghem Military Cemetery

### SAMUEL ERNEST THORLEY

**Samuel Ernest Thorley** (known as Ernest) was the son of John and Maria Thorley (nee Wallbank). He was one of six children – three boys and three girls – and both his brothers, Jack and George, served in the war. Their father John was the Stoneleigh policeman for many years, the family having moved from Nuneaton via Bishops Tachbrook as John's profession dictated. They lived in the police house in Birmingham Road and later at London Lodge (now known as Tantara).

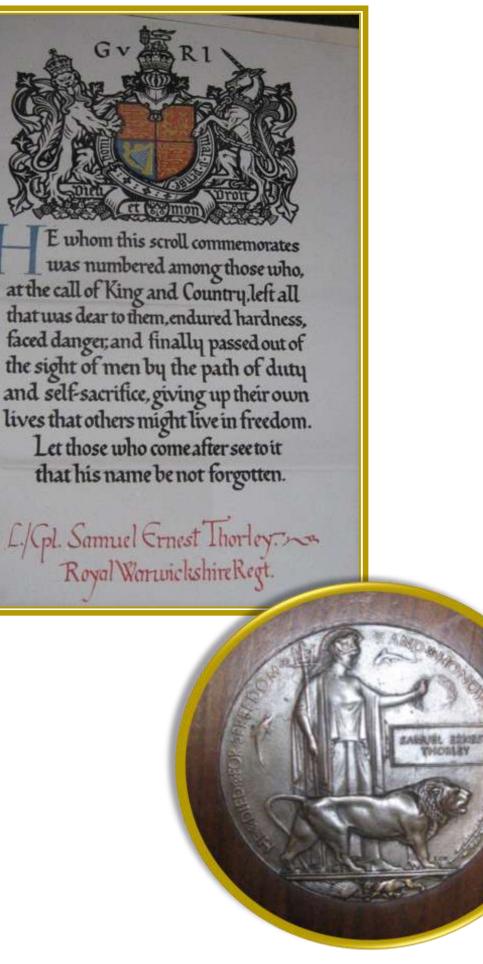
Ernest attended Stoneleigh School from September 1903 and left to become a garden boy. He later became a mechanical engineer in a machine tool factory, but enlisted quickly at the outbreak of war, in Nuneaton. He joined the 9th Bn. the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, number 2593, and by May 1915 was on his way to the Dardanelles, according to Cordelia Leigh. After August 10th the 9th Battalion occupied a 150 yard line of trenches at Gallipoli, an area which was open to sniper fire; this may have been how he sustained his fatal wounds. Witnessed by fellow soldiers from Stoneleigh, as he fell he suffered a fracture to the base of his skull and was taken by transport ship to Cairo, where he died of his wounds on August 25th.

Ernest's grave was, initially, marked by a simple cross which had been paid for by Cordelia Leigh. She corresponded with the regimental chaplain and arranged for the cross to be made and photographed so that Ernest's mother could see his last resting-place. In addition, a memorial certificate was specifically inscribed. His Commonwealth War Grave, in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, is Reference D62.



Thorley Family - George, Jack and Samuel Ernest, standing at the back

#### Samuel Ernest Thorley





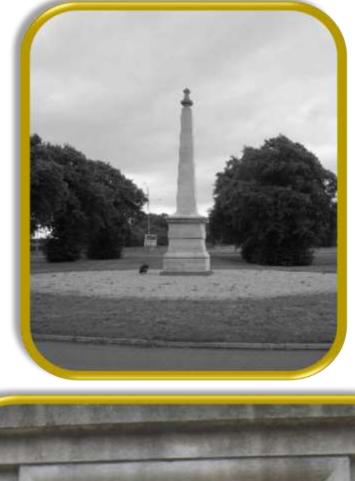
**Alfred Thomas Walden** (known as Tom) was born in April 1890 in Burton Green, one of nine children of William and Sarah Walden (nee Wagstaff). He was baptised at Westwood the following month. His father was a stockman at "The Hollies", and his mother, who was widowed early, kept a shop in Stoneleigh.

Tom first joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in November 1914 as service number 746 but was later transferred to the 2nd Bn. the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), number L/14977. This battalion had been in Calcutta prior to January 1915 but from that month, as part of the 29th Division, found themselves billeted in the Midlands. It was here that the entire Division was inspected by King George V at Stretton-onDunsmore on March 12th 1915. Shortly afterwards they embarked for Alexandria and landed at Gallipoli on April 25th, at 6am.

About 24 per cent of the Division's rifle strength became casualties that day, under a "withering bombardment", and Tom was killed in action, apparently carrying documents. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial to the Missing, Panel 37-41 number 02 328.



Alfred Thomas Walden Stretton-on-Dunsmore Memorial



<text>



Little is known of **Arthur Willson** and it is interesting to discover his inclusion on the church memorial in Stoneleigh. He was actually born in 1892 in Hackney, London, parents unknown at present. By 1901 he was living with the family of his uncle and aunt Richard and Harriet Jenner in Lingfield, Surrey, and ten vears later he was a domestic servant there. How did he find himself in Stoneleigh? He enlisted in Coventry in the 9th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment; the battalion was sent to Gallipoli on July 14th 1915 after the disastrous Allied landings there in April. They were transferred to Anzac Cove on August 3rd, and moved forward for attack on August 8th, to gain a series of mountain ridges from the Turks, known as Sari Bair. The Royal Warwickshires' War Diary records that "the trenches were enfiladed by machine gun fire and our men were mown down." Private Arthur Willson was killed in this action on this day and having no known grave is named on the Helles Memorial to the Missing, Panel 35-37. His next-of-kin seems to have been his cousin Bertram Jenner of Lingfield in Surrey.



Helles Memorial

# **RUPERT HENRY EDMUNDS**

**Harry Edmunds** was born on July 18th 1897 and baptised in Stoneleigh Church on August 29th. He was the third child of Benjamin and Matilda (Tilly) Edmunds (nee Goode). He first tried to enlist when too young to do so, but attested in Warwick in December 1915 at the age of 18, and was put in the Reserve Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, service number 5411. He was mobilized in July 1916 but discharged, unfit, in August. Harry married Annie Evans in December 1920 in Forden, Montgomeryshire and then lived and worked for the rest of his life in Stoneleigh. He died in 1978.





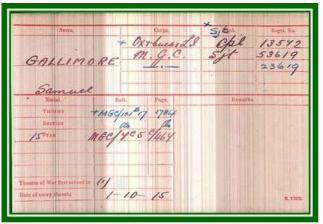
# **GEORGE HENRY FARDON**

George Henry Fardon, born in Stoneleigh in July 1877, was the youngest child in the large family - nine children - of the renowned Stoneleigh blacksmith Edward Langley Fardon and his wife Mary Ann (nee Cook). A motor cycle engineer in 1901, in 1911 George described himself as a motor engineer (constructing) at a motor works. He served as a driver in the Royal Marines Howitzer Brigade - howitzers being built at the Coventry Ordnance Works. George Henry would probably not have "seen action" as such. He was a mechanic, not an artilleryman, and was addressed variously at GHQ, at RMA Repair Workshops, at 9th Division Railhead. Presumably he was in the rear, using his skills as a motor mechanic, and perhaps also his family skills as blacksmiths, to repair guns and equipment returned from the Front. His brother Charles was occupied in munitions work at home. George married Millicent White in June 1920 and died in March 1946.



### SAMUEL GALLIMORE

Although **Sam Gallimore** was born in Cheshire in October 1895, the eldest of six children of Samuel and Mary Ann Gallimore (nee Nixon), the family had moved to Stoneleigh by 1904 where his father became a shepherd. In 1911 Sam junior was working at a car factory as a driller, and in 1914 was one of the first young men from the village to join up, becoming Corporal 13572 in the 7th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He later served in two different sections of the Machine Gun Corps. No service record survives although it was reported in August 1918 that Sergeant S. Gallimore 23619 in the Machine Gun Corps was a prisoner of war in Germany; presumably this is the same man. In 1923 he married Gertrude Louisa Buswell at Westwood, and he died very young in June 1939, aged just 43.



1	Coventry and District
ł.	Casualties.
ľ.	The following are included in the latest
¢.,	ISTUILY IISLS
	Killed.
	Ison, 1249, LBdr. A. (Coveniry), R.F.A.
	Died of Wounds.
-11	Clarke, 196061, L.,Cpl. V. L. (Coventry), W.R. (attached Trench Mortar Baitery), Harris, 41237, G. (Coventry), Duke of Corn- al's L.1.
	Accidentally Killed.
v	Hendry, 45226, T. (Learnington), Duke of Schirgton's Regiment.
	Died.
	En or, 86782, LEdr., S. (Coventry), R.F.A. Moule, 14665, LCpl. A. (Learnington), oldstreart Guards, Lowe, T/365198, F. E. (Nunexton), A.S.C.
	Wounded.
1	Baker, 57837, J. (Noneaten), Middlesex R. Dation, 614195, Bdr F. (Learnington), H A.
	Sammons, 614529, While, T. P. (Coventry), .H.A. Skandley, 614280, Bdr. J. (Leannington),
P	H.A.
	Bennett, 35828, A. J. (Rugby), R.W.N. Rayward, 12287, T. H. (Coveniry), Royal dest Kent Regiment.
1	
	Prisoner of War.
N	Gallimore 23619, Sergt, S. (Coventry), .G.C.

# FREDERICK G. GARDINER

**Frederick George Gardiner** (sometimes known as Fritz) has perhaps only a tenuous link with Stoneleigh, although it was evidently thought appropriate to include him on the Roll of Honour. He was born in May 1889, the youngest son of Frederick and Alice Gardiner (nee Evans). Frederick senior was a wealthy Liverpool ship-owner, and the family lived at The Gables, Allerton, Liverpool.

By 1913 Frederick junior had bought Walton's Farm in Kineton, and was hunting with the Warwickshire. He enlisted with the Royal Engineers in 1915, and served as a Captain in France with the Signal Section. Awarded the Military Cross in May 1916, he was also Mentioned in Despatches on May 31st 1916 and again on December 14th 1917. During this time he had lent his house as an extension to the Clarendon House Hospital in Kineton. The circumstances of his being awarded the MC remain unknown at present.

It would seem that Captain Gardiner owned land locally: certainly by the 1920 Electoral Roll he was listed as a non-resident voter at Crewe Farm. In January 1917 he had married Beryl Mayfield at All Saints' Church, Allesley, the marriage being performed by the Archdeacon, the Reverend Bree. He was elected a churchwarden of St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoneleigh, on January 26th 1922, though he retired from this office on April 14th 1925, being replaced by Albert Morris. His family travelled a great deal, his sister Katie becoming a renowned mountaineer; nevertheless by the 1930s he had settled in Oxfordshire, where he was a county magistrate.

Mrs Gardiner died in 1947, and her husband is described in her probate documents as a commander in the Royal Observer Corps. He remarried in 1955 at the registry office in Chelsea, his second wife Violet Williams being a staff nurse. He died in 1958, residing at Partway House, Swalcliffe, Banbury, and is buried in Swalcliffe Cemetery.

GARDINER-MAYFIELD-January 24, at All Saints' Church, Allesley, Warwickshire, by the Venerable Archdeacon Bree, assisted by the Rev Canon H. Gibson Sm th. Captain Frederick Gardiner, M.C., R.E., youngest son of Frederick Gardiner of Allerton, Liverpool, to Beryl elder daughter of Joseph Mayfield of Allesley.

#### Frederick George Gardiner



Photo from Warwickshire County Record Office DR746/29/1-50 By kind permission of St. Peter's Church, Kineton



Clarendon Hospital Kineton

Correspondence Address at Crewe Farm

REC 01 259.13.9.20

# JOHN THOMAS GARRATT

**John (Jack) Thomas Garratt**, born in 1881 in Stoneleigh, was the youngest son of Samuel John and Mary Ann Garratt (nee Hawtin). In June 1902 he married Mary Eva Aris, the aunt of **Ernest Aris** who also served in the war. The couple lived at The Kennels Lodge in 1911 with their daughter Alice, where Jack worked as a dairyman. Although Jack joined the 12<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment when he was 34 in 1915 and was posted in August 1915, by January the following year he was discharged as unfit, having become deaf as a result of diphtheria. Still a dairyman, his address was Mary Lodge.

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Hospital Report from Wool (Bovington) Camp

## **ARTHUR EDWARD HARVEY**

**Arthur Edward Harvey** was born in Woolland in Dorset in January 1873, the son of John and Susan Harvey (nee Moors). The first 40 years of his life were spent in Dorset or Hampshire, though he married Mary Elizabeth Mayo in 1897 in Chipping Norton. At around the time of the war, however, he had moved to Stoneleigh as a gamekeeper for Lord Leigh, and was called up in September 1918, by this time in his mid-forties. On his service papers he described himself as a rabbit catcher, and he served in the Army Service Corps as Private 440657 until early in 1919, giving his address as "Deer Park", Stoneleigh.

Arthur continued to live in Stoneleigh for the rest of his life, and was living at 26 Hall Close when he died in January 1952. He has a very distinctive gravestone in Stoneleigh Churchyard, on which he is described as "local gamekeeper to Lord Leigh".

D. 1105 118797 Army Form B. 2513. RECORD OF SERVICE PAPER. OBIGINA al in H.M. Regular Forces for General Service wi al of the Wor, or Ex-Soblices resulted for Service revisions of the Military Service Acts, 1916 to 1918 to the Reservict on Join Dur Bar IN LOVING MEMORY OF ARTHUR EDWARD HARVEY OCAL GAMEKEEPER TO LORD LERH DIED 20 JANUARY 1954 22 AGED 79 arthur Edward Hawey a Fitter Flaxed 18 5 1018 Later. EXEMPTION FROM COMBATANT SERVICE ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS on enemyeed by a Tribu-MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON JOINING TPP= W THINCK The signature of the Approving Office to to b the Research is to be acted the performines of his former service, and in produce, if po-article despits in minerary to has compared to and red tok, as follows, via



Three of the King brothers are named on the Stoneleigh Roll of Honour. There were six boys in the family altogether and one girl, the children of Joseph and Mary King (nee Lowe). The youngest boys were not old enough to serve in the war

Alfred King was born in 1889 in Priors Marston, but the family had moved to Stoneleigh by 1901. He was a carpenter on the estate and also in the Abbey fire brigade. He served in the Warwickshire Yeomanry (service number 1689) before the outbreak of war and like James Edward Carley went to Egypt, arriving at Alexandria, his ship the Wayfarer having been torpedoed 60 miles off the coast of the Scilly Isles, on April 24th 1915. The 1/1st Warwickshire Yeomanry landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, and took part in the difficult battles at Chocolate Hill and Hill 112 on August 21st. As a result of numbers of battle casualties the Warwickshire Yeomanry merged with the 1/1st Worcestershire Yeomanry and in December 1915 they returned to Egypt. He was listed as wounded in January 1917, again, like Later that year the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Carley. Yeomanry were renumbered in the Corps of Hussars, and Alfred became number 310198. On 27th May, 1918 the troopship Leasowe Castle was torpedoed by UB-51 whilst in a convoy 104 miles north-west of Alexandria and sank within 90 minutes. Bound for Marseilles she was carrying troops of the Warwickshire Yeomanry and 102 lives were lost - it is possible that both Alfred King and James Edward Carley were aboard. Alfred was "disembodied" from the army on May 14th 1919. He had married Marie Richards in 1912 and they had a son Maurice who was born the following year. Alfred died in Kenilworth in 1955.





Leamington Spa Courier 20th June 1902

#### STONELEIGH.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., the scholars who attended the evening Continuation School and the Carpentry Class, with a few friends, met in the schoolroom for tes and the distribution of prizes. The Vicar (the Rev. Canon Thorn) presided, and among others present were Mr. and Mrs. Bean (Committee), Mr. Walton (teacher of carpentry), Mrs. Walton, and Mr. and Mrs. Wells (teachers at the Evening Continuation School). After tea was over, Canon Thorn addressed those present, urging them to continued effort, and read the report of H.M. Inspector as follows :- "This Class has been taught in an interesting and suitable manner, the attendance and order have been very satisfactory, and good progress has been made." The grant earned from the Board of Educa tion has been calculated on the 3s. hasis. usual votes of thanks were carried with much heartiness, and the evening being wet, songs and games were indulged in indoors. The following is the prize list:-Evening School:-Needlework: Elsie Norton, Lucy Walton, Lily Wardell, and Maud Henton. Drawing and Arithmetice Archie Walton, John Leonard Worrall, James Bench, and King. Drawing: Walter Worrall and Worrall, Carpentry: William Ch Frank Woodheld,

## JOSEPH CHARLES KING

**Joseph Charles King (known as Charles)** was born in Priors Marston, but had lived in Stoneleigh since very young. In 1911 he was like many of his brothers working as a farm labourer and on September 3rd 1914 joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was in France between July 1915 and September 1916 but sustained a gun shot wound to the hand in August 1916 and was later transferred to the Military Police Corps, where he was at Command Depot, Ballyvonare in County Cork before being discharged in 1919. It is unclear whether he was at Ballyvonare convalescing or at the barracks in a policing capacity after the Uprising. In October 1917 he married Ethel Walker at St Mark's Church in Leamington. He died in 1980 at the age of 90.



The 'Knapsack' Bible given to Joseph Charles King by Cordelia Leigh.

# HARRY ARTHUR KING

**Harry Arthur King**, born in Stoneleigh, October 1895, had enlisted right at the outbreak of the war. An athletic young man, he was captain of the village football team and a farm labourer. No service record survives, but letters are written suggesting that early in 1915 he was in the "Ox and Bucks." His cap badge confirms this in his photograph. He married Lucy Glover in 1921 but died in 1929, aged just 34. He is buried in Stoneleigh churchyard.





The King Family lived in Vicarage Road in 1901, prior to a move to Church Lane by 1911

## FREDERICK WILLIAM LEE

Frederick William Lee (known as William) was born on September 15th 1888 in Ashow where his father Charles Bentley Lee was a farmer. He was baptised there on November 11th 1888. By 1891 however his mother was a widowed dressmaker living at '1' Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh and five years later William was admitted to Stoneleigh School, when his brother Charles was noted as his guardian. (Charles lived at '10', Vicarage Road and William was living with him and his family in 1901). When William left school in 1902 it was to be a carpenter's apprentice, his brother Charles being a carpenter. Whilst Charles is still at the same address in 1911. however, and by now is an electrical engineer, William is boarding in Bristol where he is a body builder for a motor works. Nothing more can be found about this William Lee, but as he resided and was educated in Stoneleigh it seems possible that he might be the one whose name is inscribed on the roll of honour.

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1901 Census



### HERBERT HENRY LOVELL

**Herbert Henry Lovell** (Harry) was born in April 1885 in Compton Verney, the third child (of twelve) and second son of Joseph and Sarah Lovell (nee Stacey). By 1891 the family was living in Stareton, and Herbert Henry had married Eliza Annie Morgan at Stoneleigh Church in 1907. She was the sister of Alfred Morgan, whose two sisters had married two of the Lovell children. By 1911 Harry was a domestic groom in Stareton, where he remained until at least 1915. Later in life he lived in the village, in The Square and at The Bank. His war service is unknown, though he <u>may</u> have served in the 7th Gloucestershire Regiment as number 11188. He died in 1954 aged 69.

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Herbert's marriage to Eliza Annie 1907

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Herbert & Annie in Stareton 1911

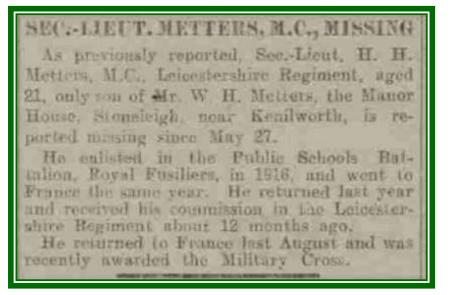
## HENRY HANDS METTERS

**Henry Hands Metters** is the most highly decorated soldier from Stoneleigh, having received the Military Cross. His father, William Henry Metters had farmed in Stoneleigh since 1891, and took over from his brother John at Manor Farm in Vicarage Road. Henry's other forename, Hands, was his mother Helen's maiden name. Henry was born in Stoneleigh on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1891. First having served in France with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Royal Fusiliers, he was later discharged to a Commission in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment and in 1917 returned to France. On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918 he was taken prisoner near Cauroy and was eventually repatriated, arriving home on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1918.

He wrote the following statement regarding his capture: On the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918 I was ordered to take a Lewis Gun and 4 men and block a Communication Trench so as to enable the remainder of the Battalion to take up new positions about 400 yards behind me. About half an hour afterwards I found that the enemy had penetrated the new positions, thus I was in an isolated position but I still held on as I had not received orders to withdraw. I still kept the Enemy at bay until all my ammunition and bombs were exhausted and eventually the Enemy rushed my position taking the 4 men and myself prisoner.

Lieutenant Metters was awarded the MC for this action, as follows: For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He was sent out with twenty men and a Lewis Gun on to the flank of the battalion, and by his skilful handling of his men checked the enemy and caused them considerable casualties. He showed great pluck and endurance.

He died aged 54, in November 1952, living at Grove Farm, Ashow.





# **ARTHUR HENRY MILLS**

#### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 1)

**Arthur Henry Mills** was one of three, possibly four brothers named on the roll of honour, the others being **Harold**, **Albert** and **William Leonard**. Their parents were William Herbert and Christina Mills (nee Southam) and they lived at 1, The Bank. Arthur Henry was the eldest child of nine, and was born and baptised in Kenilworth before the family moved to Stoneleigh in 1880/1. In 1911 he was still living at home and was employed as an estate labourer/hedge carpenter; he was nearly 36 years old when he attested in December 1915 and joined in March 1916, describing himself as a roadman.

Beginning with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment he soon became Pioneer 22643 (roadman) with the Royal Engineers in France. He worked with the Road Construction Company in France until June 1917 but was admitted to hospital in early August that year and returned to Base Depot. He was still employed by the army until September 1919 in constructing roads, by which time his home address had become 56 Shrubland Street Leamington. He died in December 1935, aged 55.



# WILLIAM LEONARD MILLS

#### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 1)

**William Leonard Mills** was two years younger than his brother Arthur and was born and baptised in 1882 in Stoneleigh. He married Edith Ellen Chattaway in 1904 at Stoneleigh Church and they had a son and a daughter by the time of the 1911 census (Edith, born in Hill Wootton, had a brother, **William Henry Chattaway**, who was killed on the Somme in 1916 and is commemorated on the church war memorial). William Leonard Mills joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as service number 21489 but was discharged as no longer fit in April 1917. He died in December 1956 aged 73.

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#### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 1)

**Harold Mills** was born in Stoneleigh in 1897 and baptised on Boxing Day that year. He was the third man from this Mills family on the roll of honour,!though only scraps of service records for him exist.

Harold joined the army in January 1916, and by September he wrote to Cordelia Leigh that he was in B Company of the 6th Worcesters at Devonport, ready to embark for France with a great contingent of 36,000 men. He was still in France the following June, in the Rifle Grenade Section and yet in February 1918, he wrote from Blyth in Northumberland, that he was on guard duties there and learning to drive a GMC again (an army ambulance). He had received a fractured jaw on active service and had been invalided out to Ballyvonare. In January 1918 he had been transferred to England and was in need of dental treatment as he was unable to eat hard food. With the 1/10th Cyclist Battalion of the Royal Scots, he was on coastal defence duties at Berwick until 1918. By May 1918 he was at Phoenix Park in Dublin with C Company the 2/1st Queen's Own Worcesters, doing a signalling course and helping to keep the peace. He was learning Morse and flag work, and looking forward to receiving more teeth.

In March 1919 Harold was still in Ireland, giving his address as Signaller H Mills, R Company, 2/3 Scottish Horse, Ennis County Clare, and saying that "the people round here are very strong Roman Catholics" and that they are also "strong Sinn Feiners, and the troops who have been demobilized are worse." It is not known when Harold left the army after such a varied war service.

William Recent With Ston togk Laborne Achert Harold in A Sin deis Tena No. 114.



### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 1)

We believe that a fourth member of this Mills family, **Albert**, is the Mills A. named on the roll of honour. He was the sixth child of William Herbert and Christina Mills (nee Southam) and was baptised in Stoneleigh Church on June 1st 1890. Although it has not been possible, so far, to verify facts, he seems to be the Albert Mills who married, in 1911, Lily Bates, the marriage being registered in Alcester. Spennells' 1926 Directory shows an Albert Mills working as a labourer at Pipe's Mill. We have no record of his war service, at present.

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#### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 2)

Two brothers from a different Mills family, **Harry and Joseph Herbert Mills** are on the roll of honour.

**Harry Mills** was born in December 1884 and baptised on February 8th 1885 in Stoneleigh, the third child of Henry and Hannah Mills (nee Pollard). The family had moved to Thickthorn Lodge by 1901 where father Henry was a wood labourer, as was the 16-year-old Harry. By 1911 however, Harry had decided on a new life and was a police constable at the Gerald Road station in south-west London, which is where he met his future wife, a housemaid at 6, Marble Arch, close by. He and Jane Ann Smart were married in June 1912 and their three children were all born in London.

Harry later changed profession once more, becoming a painter and decorator, and moved to Birmingham Road Stoneleigh. After his wife died in 1933, Harry's second marriage came in 1937, to Mary Ann Fox, and he died in Kenilworth in 1966, aged 81.

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# JOSEPH HERBERT MILLS

#### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 2)

**Joseph Herbert Mills** was born in April 1890 in Stoneleigh and baptised in May. He had become a motor car driver by 1911, for a garage and repair business in Castle Street in Warwick. He married Edith Bosworth in 1912 but after enlisting he was based initially at the Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, where his driving skills led him to drive armoured cars for the Anti-Aircraft Brigade attached to the Royal Marine Artillery. He wrote to Cordelia Leigh that "we have to learn semaphore signalling and there are two drivers on each car and five marine gunners." Their cars were "fitted with a pom pom gun specially made for firing at aircraft." From February 1916 until May 1917 he served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and later as a corporal with the Howitzer Brigade until demobilization in June 1919.

He died in Learnington in 1964.





#### MILLS - FAMILY 3

**John Mills**, the second son of this Mills family, was born in 1882. His parents Arthur and Louisa Mills also had two younger sons, Henry and **William James** who died in the war. We are uncertain about John's A medal roll card exists for a John Mills in the war service. Worcestershire Yeomanry, service number 2739, and later Corps of Hussars 325460, and it is known that John was in Constantinople at some point. It is reasonable therefore to surmise that his experience would have been similar to that of Alfred King and James Edward Carley, arriving at Alexandria on April 24th 1915, his ship the Wayfarer having been torpedoed 60 miles off the coast of the Scilly Isles. The 1/1st Warwickshire Yeomanry landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, and took part in the difficult battles at Chocolate Hill and Hill 112 on August 21st. As a result of numbers of battle casualties the Worcestershire Yeomanry merged with the 1/1st Warwickshire Yeomanry and in December 1915 they returned to Egypt. If this is "our" John Mills, it is likely that his war service was spent entirely in the Middle East. He is listed in a post-war Spennell's Directory as a painter.

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John Mills baptism 1882

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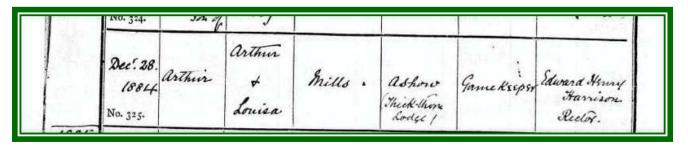
Mills Family 3 at Ashow 1891



### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 3)

A third family of Mills brothers to serve in the war has two men named on the roll of honour, **Arthur and John**.

**Arthur Mills** was born and baptised in 1884 in Ashow where his father, also named Arthur, was the head gamekeeper on the Stoneleigh Estate. He was the third child of eight, of their parents Arthur and Louisa Mills. In 1911, aged 27, Arthur was living at Kennels where he home at Cottage was а carpenter. Unfortunately, nothing is known of his war service. He married Elizabeth Poulter in September 1917 and by 1920 he was living in Ryton on Dunsmore. He lived for most of his life in Stretton on Dunsmore, however, and died in 1960 aged 75.



The Mills family at Thickthorn Lodge in 1884 prior to moving to The Kennels



### **THOMAS BANT MILLS**

#### (MILLS ~ FAMILY 4)

Thomas Bant Mills was the cousin of Harry and Joseph Herbert Mills. He was born in October 1892 and baptised in Stoneleigh in December. He was the elder son of George and Louisa Mills. In 1911 he was a farm labourer living at home, his father having married for a second time. Although no service record exists we know something of his war service from Cordelia Leigh, with whom he corresponded. He had joined the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment and was fighting on the Eastern Front, thanking her for sending a sunshield. In September 1915 he was invalided out to a Red Cross Hospital in Burton on Trent. He wrote from here that his leg was almost well and his ears were better and that he could "hear splendidly now". He was back with the forces in Egypt by March 1916 and writing during the following year of how hot it was and how they were troubled by mosquitoes and flies, being "somewhere in the desert, where we see nothing but rocks and sand"; by May 1917 Cordelia reported that he was said to be a prisoner there. Thankfully he was home again at the end of December 1918, and just a week later went to see Cordelia, saying that he had been better treated than some prisoners probably because he had worked in a hospital. The only thing not taken from him had been the "knapsack" Bible she had given him.

Thomas married Annie Palmer in 1920 and they lived at Rose Cottage in Ashow. Tragically Thomas was killed at the Ashow Crossroads on his motorbike in July 1933, at the age of 40.





#### MILLS ~ FAMILY 5

There is another **Tom Mills** (i.e. not Thomas Bant Mills) on the roll of honour, and although nothing at present is known of him in Stoneleigh, he is frequently referred to by men writing to Cordelia Leigh, as being "one of the Stoneleigh men" and in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

In fact he is first referred to in her diary as one of several men who offered to enlist as early as September 3rd 1914. He is one of many who had passed as an excellent marksman, and writes, as Private Company Battalion RS 3rd Oxfordshire and 1357, Buckinghamshire Regiment, from Cambridge Barracks. Portsmouth, that he is digging 6 foot deep trenches – presumably as part of the measures against possible invasion. He is in France by June 1915 but has been invalided home, "quite deaf", and is in a Leicester hospital by mid-July.



Regimental Badge of the Ox and Bucks



Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth

# **ALFRED JOHN MORGAN**

**Alfred John Morgan** was born in January 1898 in Redmarley in Worcestershire and when he was young his family moved around the county and into Gloucestershire. However, he married a Stoneleigh girl, Daisy Margaret Lovell in 1921, two of whose brothers, remarkably, **Henry Herbert Lovell** and Frederick Lovell, had married Alfred's two sisters Eliza Annie and Florence Phoebe. They all lived close to one another in Stoneleigh village.

In 1915 Alfred was serving as a Driver in the 7th Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery, as number 118952. During his war service he spent time in France in 1916 and 1917, later in 1917 being transferred to the Italian Front.

After the war, living at 3, The Bank, he formed a dance band and was a leading member of the **Stoneleigh Melody Makers**. He died in 1984 aged 86.

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Casualty Form showing France and Italy postings



**Arthur, Albert and Walter Morris** were sons of Joseph and Elizabeth Morris (nee Brown). Joseph had worked for much of his life as an agricultural labourer but by 1911 at the age of 58 he was running the CoOperative Stores in Coventry Road, Stoneleigh, and had become a wellknown character in the village, also heavily involved in the running of the Village Club. He and his wife had ten children, and three of their boys served in the war.

**Arthur Morris**, had been born in June 1884 whilst the family lived at Temple Balsall. Later they moved to Stoneleigh where they lived, first, at the Hill before moving to the Co-Op Stores. Arthur seems to have given up the farm life (he had worked as a carter at first) and by the age of 27, in 1911, he had joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and was living at Newhaven in Sussex, where he was a Gunner at No 1 Depot. His war service remains unknown. Otherwise though, he married, and died in August 1951.







**Albert Morris** born in 1892, was the second of the three Morris brothers to serve in the war. By 1911 he had become a driller at the Daimler motor works, and also joined the "Ox and Bucks" as service number 13575. He received gun shot wounds to both legs in July 1916 at Longueval, France, and was sent home to hospital in Cambridge. Later he spent time in hospital at Ripon, being hospitalised altogether for six months. Nevertheless, he returned to the Front in March 1917 and in September was trained as part of the Machine Gun Corps, ultimately becoming Colour Quarter-Master Sergeant 3886. In September 1918 he was Gazetted for winning the Military Medal, according to Cordelia Leigh for riding back and forth repeatedly under heavy fire to carry rations.

In later years he became a stalwart of the Church Lads' Brigade in Stoneleigh, and in 1921 married May Worrall in Stoneleigh Church.





The Military Medal



Our researches have not yet been successful in discovering anything about this man. Can you help?

# **STEPHEN GEORGE PAGET**

**Stephen George Paget** was born in February 1893 the son of Henry Paget, the head forester on the Stoneleigh Estate and Fire Brigade Captain. They lived at Home Farm, Stoneleigh Abbey, and by 1911 Stephen was a clerk in a county medical office. His war service was in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (service number 03593) where he became Staff Quarter-Master Sergeant and he spent some time at the Royal Artillery barracks at Woolwich in 1914. He married Dorothy Wilks in 1917, in Meriden, and died in Glamorganshire at the grand age of 90.



The Fire Brigade

The wicker basket at the rear of the engine acted as a filter for frogs. Water was drawn from the river and the frogs were returned.

## FRANK PARKER

Another "in-comer" to Stoneleigh was Frank Parker who had been born in March 1875 in Mickleton, Gloucestershire, the son of John and Mary Parker. He had married Hannah Elizabeth Cox of Langley in May 1897 at Wootton Wawen but by 1901 was living at The Bank Stoneleigh, and at around this time was head driver of the horse-drawn Stoneleigh Abbey Fire Engine. Frank and his wife ultimately had a large family of ten children, the youngest, Ernest Frank being born in 1914. Nevertheless, in January 1915 Frank, for some years now a waggoner living at The Kennels, had joined the army, serving as Driver 58152 in the 37th Reserve Battery Royal Field Artillery and later with the Royal Horse Artillery. From September 1915 he served in France but was injured in action on September 16th 1917, receiving a gun-shot wound to his neck and left shoulder. After several further years he was finally discharged in March 1919 and awarded an army pension for 52 weeks, with traumatic arthritis of the left shoulder. Throughout the war Frank carried a "lucky" half-sovereign, saying later, "It got me through the war."

From the 1920s Frank was a waggoner, mechanic and general worker on the Abbey estate, and drove the Abbey Sentinel steam lorry, with occasional journeys transporting coal to Lord Leigh's London residence, assisted by his son Bill. By 1940 he had become a bailiff.

Remembered by his grandson Colin as a quiet, serious and kind man, Frank was immensely proud of his workshop and garden tools, always hanging them on wall hooks after cleaning and oiling each one. He liked an occasional stout which he would warm by dipping in a poker, heated for a few seconds in the coal fire. He would sit close to the roaring fire, surrounded by a screen to keep out the draughts. Frank died in 1955.



Frank Parker



France, August 4th 1917



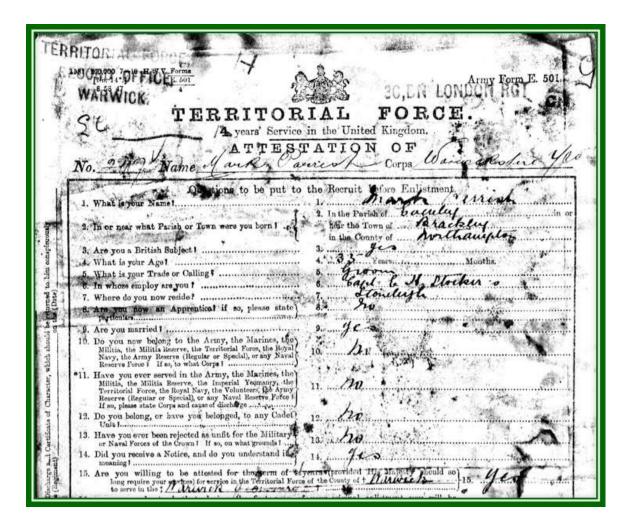
Frank in the peaked cap

Frank on the left, the driver of Lord Leigh's Sentinel Engine



# MARK WILLIAM PARRISH

The Parrish family had come to Stareton by the start of the war; certainly they were living at Stareton House in 1916. Mark had been born in 1863 Father in Evenley. Northamptonshire and worked with horses in various locations in England, being a coachman and later a stud groom. This led to his joining the Warwickshire Yeomanry and naturally in August 1914 he attested his willingness to serve in some capacity, despite being 51 by this time. In June 1917 he was appointed a corporal in the Staffordshire Yeomanry Cyclist Regiment, though six months later he was compulsorily transferred to the Labour Corps presumably because of his age, as his medical category was by now B3. He was discharged in March 1919 with a "very good" character.



Mark apparently gave his age as 35 when joining, despite being 51.



Mark and his wife Emily (nee Garrett) had eight children – four sons and four daughters – his son **Arthur**, and probably also his son Sam, served in the war. Born in Wigan, Lancashire, in 1893, Arthur had become a carter by 1911 but when he joined the army in 1916 he described himself as a valet and ex-policeman. He served with the King's Royal Rifles, training between April and November 1916, and then going to France. By this time he had become a lance-sergeant. Unfortunately the rest of his service record is illegible; he was married in July 1917, however, to Hilda Snell at Stoneleigh Church.

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There is less certainty about **Sam's** war service. Like his siblings he was born in Bolton, in 1897, and the family were in Warwickshire by the time of the war. There is a medal roll card for a Corporal Sam Parrish, which gives his number as 16430 in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment; a Silver War Badge record indicates that he enlisted in 1915, served abroad, and was discharged, wounded. He married Mary Elizabeth Elston in 1922 and his death is recorded in 1947 in Warwickshire. Although it is not yet proven that this is "our" Sam Parrish, it seems likely to be the man named on our Roll of Honour.



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The Prime family had lived in Stoneleigh for many generations. **William, John Charles and Jonathan Prime** all served in the war, though their elder brother Henry did not, and had moved away to Hertfordshire where he was an acclaimed gardener at Hatfield House. Their only sister Jane (Ginny) lived in Birmingham Road all her life, and died unmarried in 1964.



The Prime Family

**William Prime** was born in October 1881, the second son of Charles and Eliza Prime (nee Prentice) and baptised the following April. His trade was boot-making and after a short spell in Smethwick carrying on this trade he returned to Stoneleigh where, apart from his war service, he remained for the rest of his life.

William was called up on May 23rd 1916, which was, as Cordelia Leigh reported, "a loss to the village as he mends all the boots." His war service details are unknown, though his photograph shows that he was in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment; he lived in Birmingham Road until his death in February 1956.

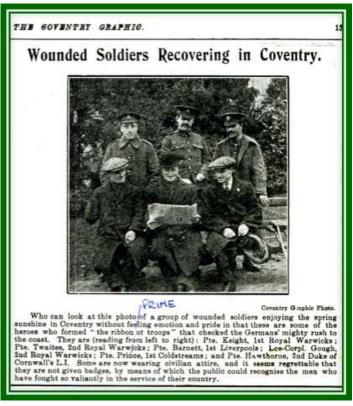




### JONATHAN PRIME

**Jonathan** the youngest of the Prime brothers, was born in Stoneleigh in January 1893 and baptised in April. Leaving school in 1906 to be a steward's room boy, by the age of 18 he had become a regular soldier in the Coldstream Guards, service number 8748. In the early stages of the war, in August 1914, he was wounded in Belgium and by November was in the Mercers Hospital in Dublin, with serious wounding to his shoulder. Still suffering from his wounds the following May, he was one of a party of 100 wounded soldiers entertained at Stoneleigh Abbey. Invalided out of the army, he married Maggie Johnson in March 1916 and became a postman in May. Many years later in 1953 he was paid tribute as a long-serving trade union member of the Union of Postal Workers "whose untiring efforts had helped to make the union respected by their employers." He died aged 80 in 1973.





# **GEORGE JOHN REDFERN**

**George John Redfern** was born in 1898 in Middleton, in the north of the county, one of four children of George Henry and Esther Redfern (nee Hill). His father was a domestic coachman, but he died in 1908 and George was, in 1911, with his widowed mother, his three siblings and his maternal grandparents at Stipes Hill Farm in Polesworth, where his grandfather was a stockman. Perhaps this land belonged to the Leigh family's Warwickshire holdings; in 1912 George's mother Esther remarried and came to live at The Hill, Stoneleigh, with her new husband George Arthur Banks, and her youngest child, twelve-year-old Frank, was admitted to Stoneleigh School in 1916.

George joined the Royal Warwickshires as number 268210 in December 1915 but in March 1917 the Coventry Telegraph reported him as being wounded. He was reported as wounded again on November 27<sup>th</sup> 1917, in the War Office Weekly Casualty List. By this time he had become a Lance Corporal. He was awarded the Silver War Badge and discharged on December 12th 1918.

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**Sydney Rench** was born in September 1892 in Stoneleigh, the second son of Thomas and Emily Rench (nee Mitchell). Although, in 1911, he was working as a baker's assistant, he left England for Canada in April 1912, sailing from Liverpool. He was going to join his older brother James who, delicate in health, had gone there himself in 1911 in hopes of improving his condition. James had returned by 1914, but Sydney (Sid) remained for many more years.

In 1915 Sid joined battalions in Winnipeg and trained recruits in the 105th Saskatoon Fusiliers. On March 9th 1916, aged 23, he signed attestation papers for the Canadian Expeditionary Force and in November of that year came with the Canadian contingent to England.

In 1931 Sid married Fanny Maria Dale at Stoneleigh Church and spent the rest of his life here, becoming a well-known figure in sporting circles and running his business in Church Lane. He died in September 1965.

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### **ALBERT HENRY RENCH**

**Albert Henry Rench** (Bert), born on September 23rd 1898. Bert Rench was just 16 at the outbreak of war but was determined to enlist as soon as possible. This he did on January 22nd 1917 at the age of 18. Cordelia Leigh recorded that he was the youngest Stoneleigh boy to be called up, at that stage, and that he had in fact originally volunteered when he was 16! His military record is difficult to verify but he was probably Private 42397 in the Hampshire Regiment.

In March 1922 he married Alice Gertrude Tidmarsh and died aged 72 in 1970.



## **PERCY FRED ROSAMOND**

Little is known of **Percy Rosamond**, who was born in 1883 in Stretton-onDunsmore, the third son of Joseph and Frances Rosamond. He spent his youth in Kenilworth but he married Mabel Middlicott in July 1909 and by the 1911 census was working at The Hill farm, Stoneleigh, as a waggoner. His military service is difficult to verify, but he possibly served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, number 240616. He died aged 72 in 1955.

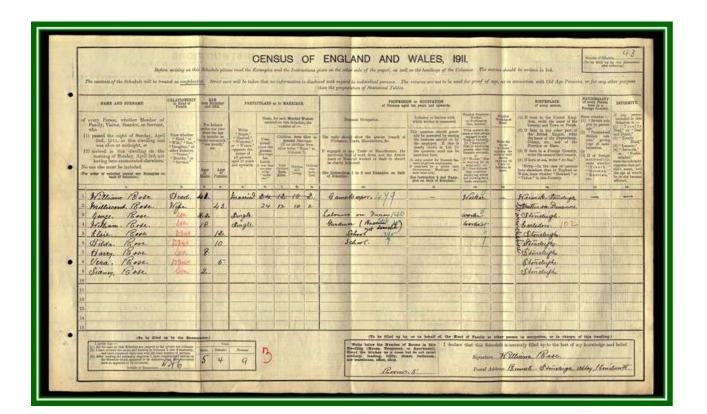
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# **GEORGE CHRISTOPHER ROSE**

George Christopher Rose was the eldest of twelve children. His parents were William and Millicent Rose (nee Howkins) and he was born in January 1889 in Stoneleigh, and baptised on April 28th that year. Although the family lived for a few years in Earlsdon, Coventry, where William was employed as a polisher, by 1901 they were living at The Kennels and William had become a gamekeeper, in which position he remained. George was working as a farm labourer there in 1911 but enlisted quickly when war broke out and by August 1915 was at the Front in France; he served as 8508 in the 10th Bn. the King's Royal Rifles. In December 1915 he was awarded a badge, according to Cordelia Leigh, for taking a dug-out from the enemy; in late June 1916 he had been wounded in the left arm and had been sent home to a hospital in Bristol (thus avoiding the battle of the Somme, fortunately for him...). George died in 1934 at the early age of 45.





**William Rose** was born in October 1892 in Earlsdon, Coventry, during the family's short stay in the city. He was, however, baptised in Stoneleigh on May 14th 1893, his father having returned to his birthplace to become a labourer there. In 1911 William jnr. was working as a gardener, and still living with his parents at The Kennels. Like his brother George he enlisted as soon as war broke out, in August 1914, and served in the 9th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment – he may have been disappointed to be discharged just a month later, however, suffering with varicose veins. William died aged 66 in 1958.

Description of William Rose. on Enlistment. at Age 2/ enre 350 Dates Distinctive marks. Girth when fully exponded \$42; 22 Ey Blue Bioun Church of England yo Presbyterian Wesleyan Baptist or Congregat Other Protestants n Catholic Jawish Certificate of Medical Examination I have examined the above-named man and find that he does not pr ection specified in the Regulations for the Army Medical Services. He can see at the required distance with either eye : his heart and lungs are healthy se use of his joints ardlimps, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any des I consider him • \_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Army. 1/81. 1914 6 oventry Medical Officer. Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the Certificate of Primary Military Examination hereby certify t Survice · P 10 a · Certificate of Approving Officer. on of the above med recruit is War, Ile to have Im ngly approve, Leu. erv rity, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the In a pproving Officer is to be effixed in the press

# WILLIAM HENRY SIMPSON

**William Henry Simpson** was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Simpson (nee Letman). Born in Stoneleigh in July 1893 he lived in 1901 with his parents at '5', Coventry Road, his father being a watchman. Ten years later the family had moved to Birmingham Road and William was employed as a labourer in a motor works. Although it is known that he married Emily Violet Robinson in March 1919, his war record remains unknown. Emily had been born Emily Colwell, but her husband William Robinson had been killed in France in 1916.

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1901 Census Coventry Road



### WILLIAM SMITH

**William Smith** was born in 1893. Unfortunately, nothing else is known of him at present.

William William Edwin Hilliam Smith Stonekigh Labourer C.R. Gilber 180 June 25 No. 56.

1893 Baptism

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1901 Census

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5	Frederick Smith	Son	15	112.5	Juigle_





**Fred Smith** was born on December 20th 1895. He entered the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as Private 13576 in September 1914 and later served also with the South Wales Borderers as 65710. He was wounded five times and retained shrapnel in his leg all his life. He married Margaret Lewis in December 1929 at Monks Kirby Church and died in March 1981.







## **GEORGE STEPHENS**

George Stephens (or Stevens) was born around 1886 in Harpley, Herefordshire but by 1911 was employed at the Abbey as a domestic coachman. He was living at The Gatehouse, Stoneleigh Abbey. He joined up in 1915 as Private 3608 in the 11th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Cordelia Leigh noted that in 1915 he was alongside others from Stoneleigh, e.g. Ernest Thorley and Overton, the abbey footman. Wounded in August of that year in Gallipoli he was transferred home to Netley Hospital in Hampshire in July 1916; Albert Worrall was being treated in the same hospital. By December 27th he had returned to the Abbev as underchauffeur, having been invalided out of the army with a lame leg. Earlier that year, in October, he was awarded the Silver War Badge. He appears in the Electoral Roll for Stoneleigh in 1920 with a wife, Elizabeth, and there is a record of a George Stephens' death in Coventry in 1973, but these details remain unverified.



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## WILLIAM HENRY STONEY

**William Henry Stoney** was born in Stoneleigh on April 10th 1896, the elder brother of Frederick Stoney who was born in 1898. Their parents were Sam and Fanny Stoney (nee Michelwight) and the family lived in Birmingham Road, at Croome Cottage. William was baptised on May 24th 1896 and was later to play a large part in church life as a sidesman. In 1910 he left school and worked in the Stoneleigh estate office under Mr Gilpin Brown until 1914, when he went to Birmingham. He joined up there in September 1915. By October he was regimental number 66971 in the 140th Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and was living in galvanised huts in Salisbury, 32 men to a hut. He had also joined a choir.

In 1929 William married Elsie Alexander and left Stoneleigh to live in Leamington; he died at the grand age of 90 in Poole, Dorset, in 1986.

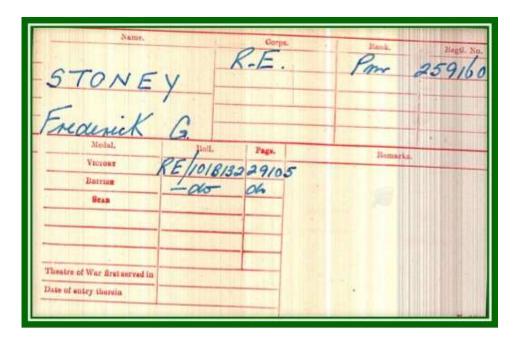
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## FREDERICK GEORGE STONEY

William Henry's brother **Frederick George Stoney** had also served in the war, though his health was delicate. In 1916 Cordelia Leigh recorded that he was wearing an armlet waiting to be called up, and in March 1917 that he would soon be going. He served in the Royal Engineers, number 259160. Sadly he died in September 1921 at the early age of 23, the parish magazine noting that he "broke down when it was all over" - the awful conditions of war having been too much for his delicate constitution.

His death came too late for his name to be recorded on the church war memorial, but it was added to the list of those who had died, on the Roll of Honour in the Village Hall.



**STONEY** Frederick George of Stoneleigh Kenilworth **Warwick-shire** carpenter died 13 September 1921 at the Lunatic Asylum Hatton Warwickshire Administration **Birmingham** 25 October to Samuel Stoney estate carpenter.

Frederick George was on a government training scheme as a carpenter at Hatton Asylum. His cause of death was given as phthisis, pulmonary tuberculosis.

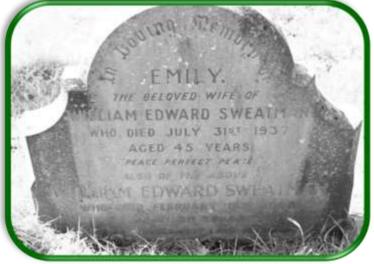
## WILLIAM EDWARD SWEATMAN

**William Edward Sweatman** was born in January 1886 in Priors Marston, the eldest child and only son of John and Lucy Sweatman (nee Lowe). Presumably, as Priors Marston was part of the Stoneleigh estate, employment was found for his father in Stoneleigh, since by 1901 they were living in Stareton, and father John was a stockman. In 1911 the family had moved again and were living in Ashow; William was working on a farm (unidentified) as a cowman.

Ashow is where William remained, and married Emily Lowe in 1913; he was still living there, at Church Cottage, upon his death aged 80 in February 1966. William's sister Sarah married Ernest Darlow, an Ashow man who also served in the war along with his brother William.

Unfortunately nothing is known of his war service.



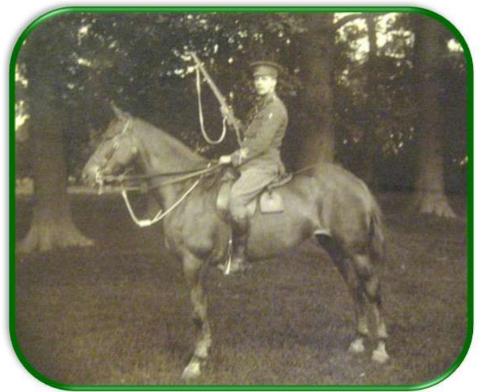


## JOHN WILLIAM THORLEY

**John William (Jack) Thorley** the eldest son of John and Maria, was born in Nuneaton in April 1893. By July 22nd 1910, when the family had moved into the police house on Birmingham Road, he was working as a carpenter on the Estate and attested for the Territorial Force in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. Thus it was that, as a reservist, he joined his yeomanry regiment at the outbreak of war. He had been married just a fortnight earlier, on July 13th 1914, to Alice Bate, at Stoneleigh Church.

Jack was to spend the war in the UK, becoming a sergeant in April 1915; he sustained minor injuries in working with horses, and was awarded a pension. In March 1918 he was transferred to another territorial force, the 2/1York Hussars, and was finally demobilised in March 1919. He died in July 1951, having lived at School Cottage, Vicarage Road.





### **GEORGE HENRY THORLEY**

**George Henry Thorley** was born in January 1897 in Nuneaton, and by 1911 at the age of 14 was already a mechanic, a driller in a car manufacturer in Coventry. Just short of 18, he enlisted on September 7th 1914 into the 7th Bn. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, along with several other Stoneleigh men. Initially his service number was 13569 but he was later to be 1790 in the Army Cyclist Corps, keeping his number when with the Durham Light Infantry. He went to the Front in September 1915 but was hospitalised in October with enteric, later being sent home for Christmas. After the war he married Frances Lizzie Wigley in March 1921 and had eight children including twins David and Dorothy. He died on March 17th 1950.



### **THE TIMMS FAMILY**

On the Stoneleigh Roll of Honour there are three Timms names: **Timms C., Timms W. and Timms W**. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to establish beyond doubt the identities of these men. The following is therefore entirely a matter of surmise:-

### WILLIAM, CHARLES AND WALTER TIMMS?

A **William** Timms lived at Field Barn Cottage, certainly recorded in 1905, 1907 and 1911. His son **Charles** born in 1898 is admitted to Stoneleigh School in 1905, the register stating that the family had previously been at Stretton-on-Dunsmore. Again, in 1907, the register records the admission of **Walter** Timms, son of William of Field Barn Cottage; the family is at the same address at the time of the 1911 census. These two sons are unlikely to have served in the war, as being too young, though it is possible that Charles might have done so in the later stages of the war. Unfortunately no definitive service record or military medal roll index identifies the man.

### WILLIAM, CHARLES AND WALTER TIMMS?

However, **William Timms**, born in Marton in 1873 but living in Stoneleigh, had a brother **Charles** born in 1879 and another brother **Walter** born in 1882. Walter was living in Bubbenhall in 1911. Is it possible that these three brothers are the ones named on the Stoneleigh Roll of Honour? They would all be in their thirties in 1914, but that would not prevent their serving...

# MARK UPTON

**Mark Upton** was born in Banbury in April 1879. He attended Stoneleigh School and married in Coventry in October 1898; by 1901 he was living at Pipes Mill, where in a neighbouring house there also lived his father John Upton. In 1911 his address was given as Green Lane and he was a farm labourer, perhaps on Mr Adcock's farm at the Leasowes, since his wife was Mary Elizabeth Adcock.

Mark enlisted in August 1916, as service number 21071 in the Warwickshire Regiment, but was discharged Roval in having been "dangerously December 1918. wounded" according to Cordelia Leigh on April 12th "in the great battle in France" i.e. the Spring Offensive. He was awarded the Silver War Badge which alerted others to the fact that you had been, or wished to be, in the service of your country. He died in September 1934 aged 55.

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# JOHN ERNEST UPTON

**John Ernest Upton** was the eldest child of Mark and Mary Elizabeth Upton (nee Adcock), and was born in Coventry on January 24th 1899. The family had moved to Pipes Mill by 1901. He served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from July 1916 and later the Gloucester Regiment, being discharged in September 1918, owing to sickness. Like his father he was awarded the Silver War Badge. He died in December 1973 aged 74.

\* R War R 39342 He Name Date of Discharge Corps Reg. Rank 491 Erous (a) Badge Date of application (b) Medal No. of File 101 8 24. 4830 Address of applicant :-Action takendest y W6749-H8226 200,000 8/17 HWV(P988) 1528-RP2053 200,000(25) 5/18 R630



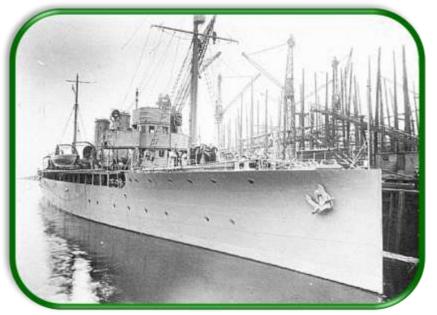
# SAMUEL VICKERMAN

**Samuel Vickerman** was born on February 17th 1898 in Southsea, Portsmouth, the son of Ernest Vickerman, a carpenter, and Clara Spiers, a Stoneleigh woman. Clara seems to have been a single parent. Sadly Clara died at the young age of 27 in 1901 whilst working as a servant in Coundon, Coventry. During this time Sam had been put out to nurse in Leamington but came to live in Stoneleigh with Clara's sister, his aunt Mabel Hand, who ran the village post office on Coventry Road with her husband James Hand. He attended Stoneleigh School from 1907, and left in 1912 to help professionals on the golf links.

Sam evidently had the sea in his blood as he joined the navy on May 31st 1913 as a boy sailor on the training ship *HMS Impregnable*, and by April 1915, aged just 17 and having served on a number of ships, he was on the brand new minesweeper *HMS Magnolia*. He became Ordinary Seaman on February 17th 1916 and signed up for a further 12 years. Nevertheless he was given a free discharge after the war ended, completing his service as an Able Seaman on the *Defiance*.

Able Seaman Sam Vickerman married Gladys Stella Robins in Lancashire in April 1919; they were both working on her father's poultry farm and the following year with their baby son departed from Liverpool for Quebec; by June 1921 they had set themselves up in British Columbia as poultry farmers. Sam stayed there all his life and died at the age of 85 on March 18th 1983. He is known to have had one child, Harold. Descendants still live in British Columbia.





HMS Magnolia

# JOHN THOMAS WALDEN

**John Thomas Walden** was born in Stoneleigh on April 4th 1891 – in fact, the census of that year, held on April 5th notes that he is just one day old. The youngest child of five, he was baptised on August 16th, 1891. His parents were John and Emily Walden (nee Bullock). His father had been a farm bailiff, though by 1911 he had retired; in that year, John was a fitter, apprenticed to Mr Edward Langley Fardon, the Stoneleigh smith.

At the age of 23 John enlisted on November 16th 1914 in the Coldstream Guards, number 13712. He was posted to a Pioneer Battalion in August 1915 and appears to have served in France for the next three years. During this time he suffered some illness and eventually contracted influenza at the height of the epidemic in November 1918. He was demobilized in April 1919. He married Hannah Field at Ufton on February 3rd 1920 and they had four daughters and a son, Eustace John. He died in September 1977.





# JOHN REGINALD WALTON

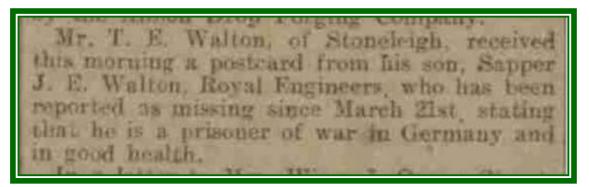
**John Reginald Walton** the eldest child of a second marriage, was born in early 1894, and was baptised at Stoneleigh on February 4th. By 1911 he was a carpenter, presumably working for his father Thomas Edward Walton who was a well-known carpenter in the village. Engaged as Sapper 63460 in the Royal Engineers he was at the Front by August 1915, and the following year, "looking thin" according to Cordelia Leigh, he was home on leave for ten days over Christmas, and speaking of the "horror of the trenches." In April 1918 he was reported "Missing" and had been taken prisoner. Thankfully in December 1918 the school head-teacher, William Wells, wrote in the school logbook that he went to meet John on his return home from Germany. He had apparently been imprisoned since March 21st.

(William Wells had married John's aunt Clara Walton, the younger sister of Thomas Edward.)

John married Daisy Greenfield in 1923 and they lived on Motslow Hill. John died in December 1976 aged 83.

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### Baptism 1894



June 29 1918



**William Thomas Walton** the youngest son of Thomas Edward Walton the Stoneleigh carpenter, was born in January 1898 and baptised on March 6th that year. The Walton family lived at 1, Hudson's Bridge Bank, now known as Motslow Cottage. At the outbreak of war he was only 16 and although he is named on the village roll of honour nothing further is known about his war service at present. He married, in April 1935, Margaret Alice Welch at Stoneleigh Church.

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# **THOMAS EDWIN WARD**

Tom Ward was born on October 31st 1894 in Wasperton, one of eight children born to Samuel and Eliza Ward (nee Bourton). He was baptised there on January 6th 1895. His father was a shepherd and in 1901 the family lived in Withybrook, but had moved to Wainbody Wood Farm in Stoneleigh by 1903 as a son, Norman, was born in that year. Once again, the family moved in 1907, the school admissions register recording this fact. They seem to have continued to move regularly, being back at Wainbody Wood Farm by the 1911 census: nevertheless in that year, aged 16, Tom was an apprentice wheelwright with Eusebius Holmes at Eastern Green. Generations of men named Eusebius Holmes are recorded in the area, one such being a marriage witness in Stoneleigh in It therefore seems as if the connection between 1828! Stoneleigh and the Eastern Green wheelwright's business was strong, and it would not be unusual for a Stoneleigh youngster to be apprenticed there.

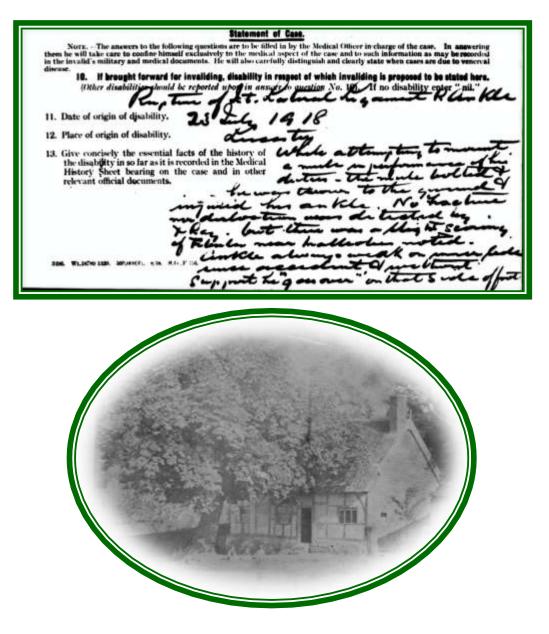
Cordelia Leigh recorded in her diary that Tom Ward was one joined several the of men who Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in early September 1914 - he was just 19. He was assigned to the 6th Battalion on September 7th as service number 13566 and became a Lance Corporal. He was discharged on May 21st 1918 having been wounded, presumably in the intense battles of the Spring Offensive, and was awarded the Silver War Badge The only other speculative fact about Tom is that someone of his name is recorded as dying in Coventry in 1971. There must be uncertainty about this, given that it is not an unusual name.



1911 Census Eastern Green, Allesley, Coventry

### **GEORGE WARDELL**

George Wardell was born in Stoneleigh in April 1876, the son of Thomas and Mary Ann Wardell (nee Hewlett), and was baptised with his twin John on June 4th. In the 1881 census, when he was five years old, the family's address was Tree Cottage - otherwise known as Chestnut Cottage today. His mother had family in Leicestershire/Northamptonshire (boundary changes occurred) and by 1901 George was living in Little Bowden and working as a groom. Two years later he married Alice Wells there, and before the outbreak of war they had had three children. In October 1915, at the age of 38, George enlisted at Leicester and served as a stud groom number 109098 in the 53rd Remount Squadron of the Royal Army Service Corps, apparently in the UK for the whole war. In July 1918 he was thrown from a mule and ruptured a ligament in his right ankle; this was serious enough for him to have been hospitalised for six months, when he was discharged as unfit and awarded a pension. His address was 30, Gladstone Road, Market Harborough. He died on December 15th 1962.





**Samuel Wooding**, born in 1893, was one of ten surviving children of George and Jane Wooding (nee Armstrong). His father George was the deer-keeper on the Stoneleigh Estate and they lived at the Deer Keeper's Lodge. By the time of the 1911 census he was however living at Thomas Green's Church Farm in Old Milverton, where he was working as a dairy lad. By January 1916 he was wearing an armlet, waiting to be mobilised, and later joined a Machine Gun Company, from which he wrote to Cordelia Leigh. No service records have been found, however.

In 1924 he married Nellie Gertrude White and died in 1966 aged 72.

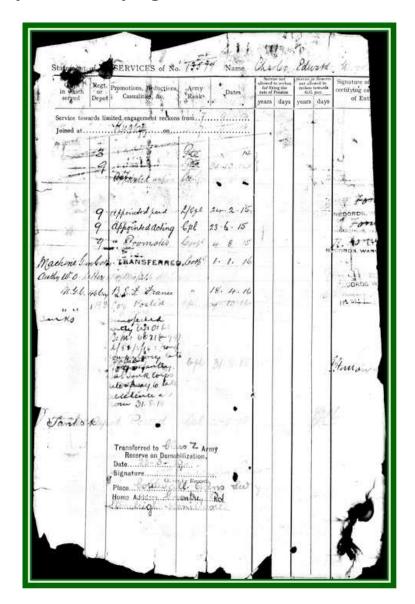


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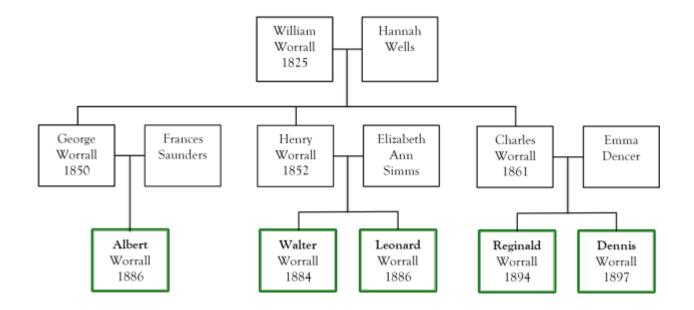
# **CHARLES EDWARD WOODING**

**Charles Edward Wooding** (known as Ted) was born on September 26th 1895 and baptised in Stoneleigh Church on December 1st. He was still living with his parents George and Jane Wooding in 1911, at the Deer Keeper's Lodge, where he was employed as a house painter on the Estate. On September 2nd 1914 he enlisted at Rugby in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, regimental number 13577. He was appointed lance-corporal two months later and was a corporal by August 1915. In January 1916 he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and sent to France the next month. Unfortunately he was hospitalised when wounded in October 1916. By August 31st 1918 he was transferred to the Tank Corps in Wareham, Dorset, where he was also wounded.

Finally discharged in 1921, he was married in June 1924 to Marjorie Alice Tullett in Yardley; Charles was now employed as a builder. He lived to be 94 years old, dying in December 1989 in Herefordshire.



# THE WORRALL COUSINS



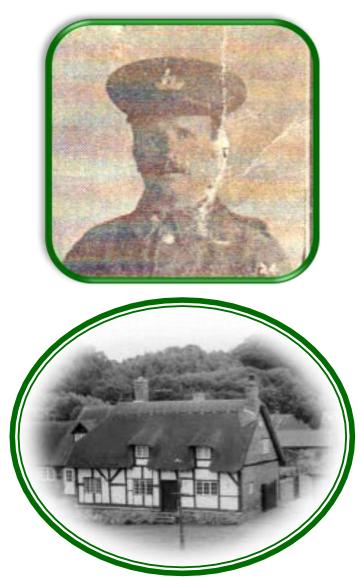


#### (WORRALL - FAMILY 1)

**Albert Worrall** was born in April 1886, the third son of George and Frances Worrall (nee Saunders) who had six children altogether. Albert was baptised at Stoneleigh on May 30th 1886 and by 1901, aged 15, he was living with his family on The Green, where he was a carpenter's apprentice. By 1911 however he had become a gardener.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 he enlisted – in November – in the 11th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, becoming Private 9211. He was certainly at the Front in France by the summer of the following year, as he served alongside Craddock at Hannescamps. In July 1916 he was wounded on the Somme and sent home to Netley Hospital.

Tragically Albert was killed by lightning in Stoneleigh on June 12th 1920, aged 34. Employed as a gardener at the abbey, he was sheltering in a hollow under a tree, sitting on a lawn mower, when struck and killed. So ended the life of one who had so recently been through the horrors of war.





#### (WORRALL - FAMILY 2)

**Walter Worrall** was born in Stoneleigh in 1884, the eldest child and first of four children of Henry and Elizabeth Ann Worrall (nee Simms). In 1901 he was employed as a groom, his father being a gardener at the Abbey. Perhaps wishing to earn more money, by 1911 he was, aged 27, working as a shunter on the railway, and in 1912 he married Alice Maud Greaves at St John the Baptist Church, Baginton, Alice's parish. Their son Cyril was born the following year.

When the Derby Scheme was introduced to increase voluntary recruitment numbers, he attested his willingness to serve, in December 1915, aged 31. At this time he was working and living at The Cottage, Coundon Hall, Coventry.

In June 1916 he was posted for training before being sent to France on 11th October 1916. He was transferred from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment to the Royal Engineers as a signaller. Owing to several transfers he has several regimental numbers i.e. 20306,19584, 268056, 503911, WR282950. Walter died in January 1960.



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## LEONARD WORRALL

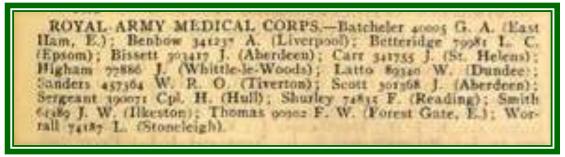
#### (WORRALL - FAMILY 2)

**Leonard Worrall** was born in October 1886 in Stoneleigh, the third son of Henry and Elizabeth Ann Worrall's (nee Simms) four children. The only daughter of the marriage, May Worrall, went on to marry another Stoneleigh soldier, **Albert Morris**.

When Leonard was 13, in January 1900, he was engaged as a pupil teacher at Stoneleigh School, where he worked until October 31st 1903, being replaced by James Rench. In 1911 his occupation was listed as "plumber"; he was still living at home.

Leonard enlisted in October 1915 as number 74187 and was attached to the Army Medical Corps. He was wounded in October 1917.

Leonard is numbered among the civilian war dead in Coventry, having died during enemy air raids on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1941. He left a widow, Kate.



The Wounded. War Office Weekly Casualty List October 30th 1917

WORRALL, LEONARD, age 54; of 93 Lavender Avenue, Coundon. Husband of Kate Worrall. 9 April 1941, at 93 Lavender Avenue.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission 'Civilian War Dead in the U.K. 1939–1945'

### **REGINALD WORRALL**

#### (WORRALL - FAMILY 3)

**Reginald Worrall** (known as Reggie) was the eldest child of three, of Charles and Emma Worrall (nee Dencer) and was born in Kenilworth in 1894, his baptism there being on October 11th that year. By the 1911 census he was employed as a farm labourer, living at the Kennels with his family, but at the age of 20 in 1914 enlisted with Oxfordshire September he the and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and was posted to France in August 1915. A proficient signaller, he was wounded on September 3rd 1916 and sent home. Early in 1917, however, he was again posted to France, and joined the 4th Field Survey Company in the 7th Observation Group of the Royal Engineers. He was discharged in March 1919. In July 1920 he married Ethel May Ward at Stoneleigh. Living at Arnold Avenue, he died in Keresley Hospital, Coventry, aged 70, on February 8th 1965.





Reginald Worrall's 1918 Christmas Card Photo from Warwickshire County Record Office WCRO DR 553/22/30

#### Reginald Worrall's 1918 Christmas Card



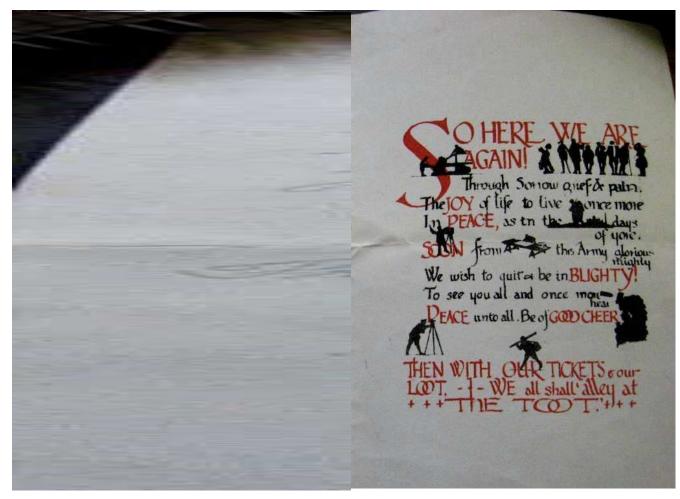


Photo from Warwickshire County Record Office WCRO DR 553/22/30

## **DENNIS EDWIN WORRALL**

### (WORRALL - FAMILY 3)

**Dennis Edwin Worrall** was born in Stoneleigh in July 1887, the middle child of three, and second son. He was baptised here on September 5th 1897. In 1901 the family lived at '19', Birmingham Road, father Charles being an under-gardener at the Abbey. By 1911 the family had moved to live at The Kennels and Dennis was a garden boy.

In 1916 he had gone into training in the Army Service Corps, regimental number DM2/195342.

Current research has revealed only that at the end of the war he lived in Church Lane; he was employed as a grinder in 1947, married Dinah Heritage in 1957, and died in 1968.

