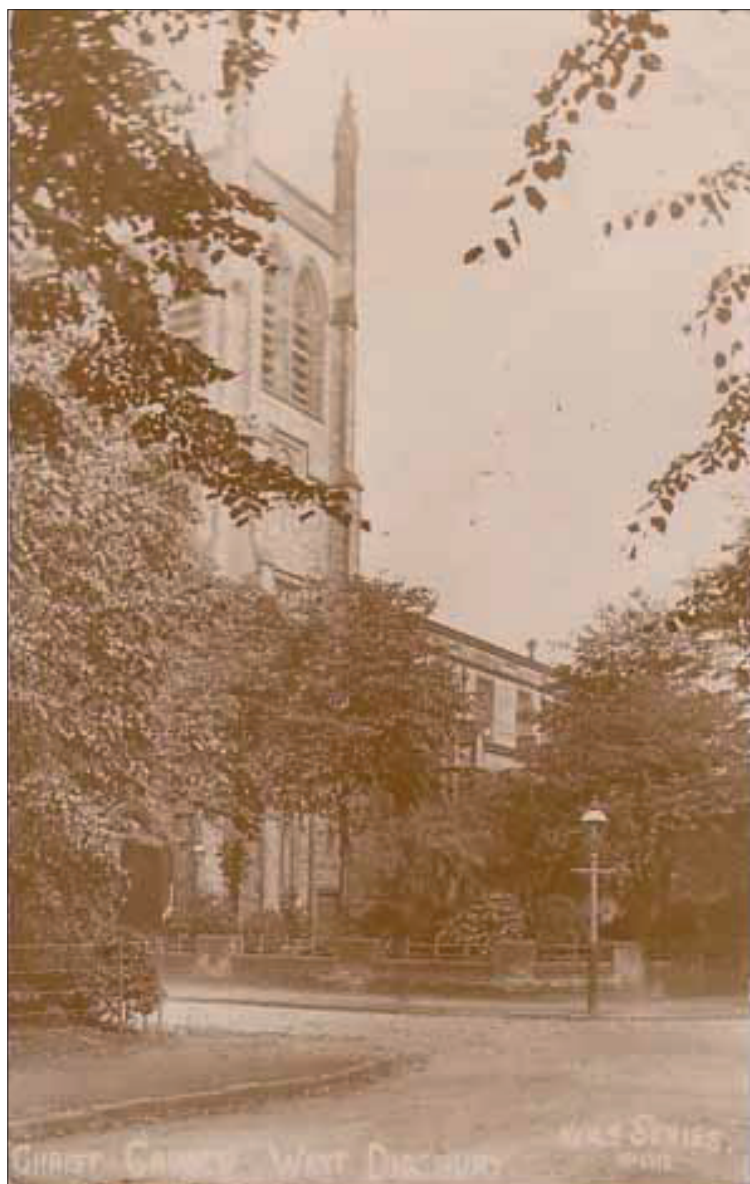


# The First World War Memorial Reredos

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# The Christ Church World War I Memorial Project.

Since 2011 Christ Church, West Didsbury, has been undergoing major restoration work to its roof. Preparatory work started in May 2011, building work started in 2012 and work was completed in early 2018, apart from internal redecoration which cannot take place until the plaster has dried out. The work was 3 times more costly than anticipated owing to the discovery of additional wet and dry rot in the timber and the theft of lead as the work progressed. Thanks to grants from English Heritage (EH) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) totalling almost £600,000 it has been possible to complete the work.

A focal point of the interior of Christ Church is a striking World War 1 memorial on the east wall behind the altar. It takes the form of a marble and alabaster reredos screen and bears the names of 80 servicemen from the locality who lost their lives. We are now a century past the First World War and the war is being commemorated nationally. As part of grant applications to EH and HLF the parish offered to research the history of those who are named. It seemed important to involve children from two local primary schools in the process so that they could learn about our artistic and military heritage and the sacrifices made for our benefit by individual servicemen and their families. We were fortunate to be awarded one of the grants on this basis.

The main tool for this project has been the Ancestry website but we have also used the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site and the British Newspaper Archive. The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society have been generous with their time and have given guidance on using different websites. We are also grateful for help from others involved in similar projects locally and to several members of servicemen's families with whom we have been in contact. The children and teachers of Cavendish Road School and Barlow Hall School have visited Christ Church and done some drawings of the memorial. Cavendish Road staff and children have also shared some of their findings which came to light when researching their own war memorial.

The Christ Church memorial was formally approved on 29 April 1921, approval being given to the rector, Rev Richard Lavers Kemp, and the Church Wardens, David Elder Anderson and Arthur Walter. A matching wall was constructed at the chancel step, replacing the original iron and brass screen which was transferred to the Lady Chapel. David Elder Anderson was the father of Archibald John Scott Anderson, the second name on the memorial.

# DOUGLAS HERBERT ADDERLY

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## Grandparents and parents

Douglas' father was Herbert John Adderly, son of John, a gentleman according to Herbert's marriage record. Herbert was born in Manchester in 1858 and was a salesman living in Didsbury at the time of his marriage. Douglas' mother was Marianne Gleave Hellyar, also born in Manchester, daughter of Thomas Broad Hellyar, merchant, and his wife Sarah Anne. She was baptised at Manchester Cathedral on 4 September 1862. Herbert and Marianne were married on 6 September 1888 at St Thomas' church in Heaton Norris. In 1891 they lived at 1 School Grove, Withington. Herbert was a salesman for a shipping house and they had 1 servant. Douglas was born later that year and when he was 10 his parents divorced. Marianne had petitioned for divorce and the final decree nisi was made on 16 December 1901. During the divorce proceedings, which coincided with the 1901 census, Douglas and his mother lived with Douglas' uncle, William A Clegg, a manufacturer's agent in cotton goods, at 35 Knights Park, Kingston upon Thames.

On 11 July 1903, at St Stephen's church, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Douglas' mother married George Richard Lloyd, a solicitor. This was probably George's third marriage and he already had a son called Harry Gordon Lloyd who was 9 years older than Douglas. By 1911 the family had moved to 21 Burlington Rd, South Shore, Blackpool.

## Douglas

Douglas was born on 7 May 1891 in Withington and was baptised on 30 July 1891 at Manchester Cathedral. In 1901 he was in Kingston upon Thames and in 1911 in Blackpool, working as a millinery warehouse salesman.

He became a rifleman with the 21st (County of London) Battalion, 1st Surrey Rifles, service number 3169. He later served with the 8th Battalion (attached to the 7th Battalion) of the Northamptonshire Regiment, where he was a temporary second lieutenant. At some point he was billeted at Brockett Cottage, Shakespeare Rd, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

He was killed in action on 16 June 1917, in Zillebeke, Belgium. His name is on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, and also on a brass memorial at St Peter's church, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire. Probate was awarded in London on 29 December 1917. He left £3291 14s to his stepbrother Harry Gordon Lloyd and his uncle William A Clegg.

## **WILLIAM ALLEN**

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We have not been able to identify this man with certainty. We know that he served with the Durham Light Infantry but there were 3 men called William Allen listed on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website:

William F Allen, service number 8585, died 21 September 1914, commemorated on the La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France.

William Allen, service number 21321, died 7 October 1916, commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 14A and 15C.

William Allen, service number 30111, died 26 September 1918, commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme, Panel 68 -72.

## **ARCHIBALD JOHN SCOTT ANDERSON**

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### **Parents**

Archibald's father was David Elder Anderson, born in Forfar, Tayside, East Scotland, on 25 May 1860, son of James and Mary Anderson. He was educated at Forfar Academy. He became a cotton merchant and was later described as a manufacturer's agent and merchant. He was a warden at Christ Church from 1918 to 1919. He died on 20 July 1931 at 28 Palatine Rd, Withington, although his address was given as 22 Moorfield Rd, West Didsbury. He left £2741 19s 8d.

Frances Gertrude Cussans was born about 1865 in St Pancras, London. She and David married in 1889 and the marriage was registered in St Pancras. She died in 1948.

They had 4 children, Dorothy Blanche, an art student specialising in metal and jewellery, Archibald, David Lindsay who died at around 8 or 9 years in 1904, and Francis Gerald, born around 1899. Dorothy was married at Christ Church in October 1923.

In 1901 the family lived at Mona House, Ballaugh, Isle of Man, with 3 servants. By 1911 they were at Restenneth, West Didsbury with a governess and 2 servants. Restenneth is variously said to be in The Beeches and Stanton Avenue.

### **Archibald**

Archibald was born on 14 March 1893 and baptised at Christ Church on 26 April 1893. Like his father he was educated at Forfar Academy. At the age of 18 he was an assistant accountant in insurance. He joined the Cheshire Regiment, serving in the 3rd Battalion attached to the 11th Battalion. He became a second lieutenant. He was killed in action on 27 August 1916, aged 23, on the Somme. He is buried at the Blighty Valley Cemetery, Authuille Wood, Somme, reference I. D. 15. At the time of his death his parents lived at White Hall, Wheelock Heath, Sandbach.

His parents presented memorials to Forfar Academy and to Christ Church. The Dundee Courier of 20 May 1919 describes the memorial in Forfar as a wall cabinet of teak and copper made from part of the training ship HMS Britannia. The memorial at Christ Church closely fits this description.

## **Restenneth**

Whilst researching A J S Anderson Jean was puzzled by his address which read “*Restennell, West Didsbury*”. What or where was Restennell? Searching revealed several references to a priory in Forfar called Restenneth. On re-examining the copy of the hand written page from the census document there had been a transcription error and the original hand written entry said “Restenneth”. Perhaps the name was chosen to remind Archibald’s father of his roots.

Restenneth Priory was founded in 1153 and was a monastic house of Augustinian Canons linked to Jedburgh Abbey. There was a pictish church on the site built in 710 for the King. The tower is all that remains of the priory.

## **EDWARD ROSE ASHWORTH**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

Edward’s father was Edward Ashworth, son of another Edward, a stockbroker. He was born in Manchester about 1849. He is variously described as a bank cashier, bank clerk and bank agent. He was sufficiently prosperous to employ 1 or 2 servants. Edward’s mother was Zillah Rose Green (1858 – 1948), born in Whitby, Yorkshire, and daughter of John Green, described as a tea and coffee dealer in 1871 and a grocer in 1887.

Edward and Zillah married at St Margaret’s church, Burnage, on 28 April 1887. He was 38 and she was 29. In 1891 they lived at 19 Chatham Grove, Withington, with Edward and his sister Florence who was 2 months old. In 1901 they lived at 18 Rathen Rd, Withington, with Edward and another sister, Lilian Maude, aged 10. There is no further mention of Florence. In 1911 they were living at 8 Pine Rd, Didsbury. They later appear to have moved to 26 Pine Rd.

### **Edward**

Edward was born in Withington on 3 July 1889 and baptised at St Margaret’s church, Burnage, on 4 August 1889. Edward was a bank clerk before enlisting. He enlisted in Manchester on 3 September 1914. His service number was 8369. He trained at Heaton Park and was promoted to lance corporal on 23 October 1914 but less than a week later he requested to revert to private and this was granted. He went overseas in November 1915 and was injured in January and June 1916. He initially served with the 17th Manchesters but left on 25 October 1916 to commence officer training at cadet school at Bisley.

He was commissioned as second lieutenant on 24 February 1917 and was assigned to the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). There is some uncertainty about his battalion but it was most likely the 56th. Edward was killed in action on 28 March 1918 near the village of Gavrelle, near Arras, France. He was originally buried near to where he died but after the Armistice the battlefields were cleared of front line burials when the land returned to civilian use. In June 1920, Edward's body was exhumed and he was buried in the Orchard Dump Cemetery, Arleux-en-Gohelle, Pas de Calais, reference VIII. G. 36.

Probate was granted in Manchester on 31 October 1918 to Edward Ashworth, bank manager. He left £429 11s 9d.

## **CYRIL BARRATT**

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We have been unable to identify this serviceman.

## **EDWIN GARNETT BATTY**

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### **Parents**

James Garnett Batty was a jeweller, born in 1848. His father William was also a jeweller. James died on 15 August 1901. At the time of his marriage he lived at 3 Bedford Terrace, Chorlton.

Ellen Robinson was born in Liverpool, the daughter of William, a cabinet maker. Her address at the time of her marriage was 24 Clarence St, Liverpool.

James and Ellen married at St Bride's church, Liverpool on 1 May 1872. By 1891 the family was living at 18 High Lane, Chorlton and were at the same address in 1901.

### **Edwin**

Edwin was born in Chorlton-cum-Hardy in 1878. He had two sisters and four brothers. He attended William Hulme's Grammar School from 1889 to 1893. After school he entered the family firm of W Batty and Sons, Jewellers of Manchester and Liverpool, and in the 1901 census he was described as a jeweller's assistant. He later became a director of the company.

At the 1911 census Edwin was living at 6 Derwent Avenue with his sister, Emily.

### **Military**

Edwin was probably conscripted in 1916. He became a gunner with 123rd Battery, 28th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, regimental no 137656. His brigade was attached to the 2nd Canadian Exploratory Force and took part in successful actions at Vimy Ridge between the 9 and 12 April 1917.

He was with the Canadian Exploratory Force at the time of his death and it is thought that he and two other members of his battalion were hit by a shell or shrapnel. He may have died while being transported from the lines to a casualty clearing station at Thelus.

He died in France on 17 May 1917 and is buried in Nine Elms Military Cemetery, Thelus, plot I. A. 32. with no cross.

At the time of his death his address was 25 Darley Avenue, West Didsbury. Probate was awarded on 7 August 1917 in Manchester to Harry Batty, jeweller, and Emily Louise Batty, spinster, in the sum of £5911 15s 1d.

## NEVILLE BERNARD BLACKWELL

### Grandparents

Isaac Blackwell, born on 2 February 1828, was the son of Matthew and Sarah Anne Blackwell. Matthew founded Blackwell Son and Booth, architects, of Essex Chambers, off King St, Manchester. Isaac took over the firm and designed the Barnes Hospital, Cheadle, now being converted to apartments. Isaac died of a stroke on 2 December 1876, shortly after the completion of the hospital. Isaac married Sarah Anne Williams, who died on 24 December 1879.

### Parents

Neville's father was Harry Gratrix Blackwell who was born about 1865 in Barton, Stretford. In 1901 he was a chartered accountant and clerk, and in 1911 he was a cashier to a cotton linen manufacturer. He was a freemason, a member of Avon Lodge until 1913. He died on 26 October 1941 at Sunnymede, Farrar Road, Bangor, but his address was 26 Willoughby Avenue, Didsbury. Probate was awarded in Leicester on 6 February 1942 to Gladys Dorothea Makin (daughter), Constance Mary Blackwell (daughter) and Kathleen Cecilia Matthews (daughter) in the sum of £731 18s 9d.

His mother, Mary Martin was born about 1866 in Hannover (she was a British subject by parentage).

The family's address in 1901 and 1911 was 176 Russell St, Moss Side.

### Neville

Neville was born in Sale on 16 March 1893. He was baptised on 2 April 1893 at St Joseph's RC church, Ashton-on-Mersey. He was educated at St Margaret's Central Boys' School, Whalley Range, and was later employed with the shipping house, Messrs Dugdale Everton and Co, Bridgewater House, Manchester.

He joined the Royal Field Artillery (Territorial Force) on 16 October 1912. He was called up at the outbreak of war in August 1914. He served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt from May 1915. He also served in France and Flanders from February 1917. His service number was 705233. He was killed in action on the Menin Road, Ypres, on 22 September 1917. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website says he was in C Battery, 210th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.



He was buried in Menin Road South Military Cemetery, plot I. U. 24.

At the time of his death his parents were living at 20 Derwent Avenue, West Didsbury. His captain is reported to have said of him, "Your son, as you will know, was on the Battery Staff and one of the best and cleverest signallers we had, as well as being a very good soldier."

We have been in contact with one of his family who visited his grave on the centenary of his death this year. A wreath from the parish was placed on his grave.

## **ERNEST BROCKLESBY**

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### **Parents**

Ernest's parents were Henry and Emily Brocklesby. Henry was born about 1851 in Rotherham, and Emily about the same year in Maltby, Yorkshire. In 1881 they lived at 8 Ellis St, Hulme, and in 1891 and 1901 at 11 Greame St, Moss Side. Henry was a brass finisher and by 1901 he was works manager. In 1911 the family lived at 9 Grosvenor Rd, Whalley Range, and Henry was a brass works manager and plumber's merchant. Henry and Emily had 5 children. Harry was born in Rotherham about 1874 and became a plumber. Annie was born in Rotherham about 1876. Charlie was born in Rotherham about 1878. Frank was born in Manchester about 1882 and in 1901 was an electrician's apprentice. The fifth child was Ernest.

Henry died in June 1927, aged 76. Emily died in July 1916 and is buried in Southern Cemetery.

### **Ernest**

Ernest was born in Manchester on 9 February 1894. In 1911 he was living with his parents and sister Annie at 9 Grosvenor Rd, Whalley Range. He was an apprentice warehouseman (cotton).

There is a 1914 record of an Ernest Brocklesby working as a civilian orderly for the Red Cross, certificate number 3231. On 15 January 1916 Ernest enlisted in the Royal Marines Divisional Engineers in Deal, register number 5709. He later transferred to the Royal Engineers (service number 244229) and fought with the 428th Field Company as a lance corporal. He became ill with pneumonia on 16 November 1918 and he died on 25 November 1918, aged 25. He is buried at the Caudry British Cemetery, Nord, France, grave reference II. B. 23. The inscription reads "On higher service". The record of the inscription mentions Miss A L Brocklesby (presumably Annie) of 38 Upper Chorlton Rd, Brooks Bar.

At the time of his death his effects were £30 4s 6d and a War Gratuity of £16 10s. Probate was given to his father in the sum of £204 12s 3d.

There was a report of his death in the Manchester Evening News of Monday 9 December 1918 under the heading Week-End Lists, Fallen Fighters. The report states that he died of pneumonia. His address was given as 38 Upper Chorlton Rd and he was said to have worked for Messrs Smith and Jones, Portland St.

## JOHN FREDERICK COBB

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*Note – on some census returns the name is spelt Cobbe but the data does correspond.*

### Grandparents

John Cobb was born about 1831. He appears in 1871 census, living in Salford with his wife, Jane, also born about 1831 in the City of London. In 1871 his occupation is shown as “Lives on income from property (homes)”. In 1871 they had 7 children, including Richard aged 1, who does not appear in 1881. At the time of son John’s marriage in 1888, John Snr is shown as deceased but his occupation is given as cabinet maker.

### Parents

John Cobb was born Salford about 1860. In 1871 he was living in Salford with his parents. In 1881 the census showed him living with 7 siblings at 123 Broomfield Lane, Hale. He was recorded as head of the family. His occupation was estate agent. A John Cobb died in Manchester in 1937 but we cannot be sure this is him.

John’s mother, Elizabeth Cobb, nee Southern, was born about 1858 in Burnley. Her parents were John Southern, born about 1825, and Ellen, born about 1823, in Burnley. In 1861 Elizabeth was 3 and lived with her parents and 5 siblings. Her father was a solicitor’s articled clerk. In 1871 the family lived at 68 Wood Nook, Burnley Wood Gardens, Habergham Eaves. The 6 children were still at home. Frederick, aged 21 was a solicitor’s articled clerk and Walter, 17 was a solicitor’s general clerk. Elizabeth was 12. John Southern died before 1888. There are 2 deaths of an Elizabeth Cobb recorded in Manchester in 1926 and 1941.

John Cobb and Elizabeth Southern were married on 7 June 1888 at Albert Park Wesleyan Chapel, Didsbury. Elizabeth lived in Burton Road at the time.

### John Frederick

John appeared in the 1891 census at 96 Burton Road, aged 5 months. The head of the household was Esther Vickers, born in Eskdale, aged 61, a confectioner. His father John and mother Elizabeth were resident along with John Frederick and 2 servants. John Snr was now a business partner/confectioner and Elizabeth a confectioner.

In 1901, the Cobbs were living at 110 Burton Road. John Snr was now 41 and a confectioner/baker (employer). They now had 2 sons, John Frederick, 10, and Harry Gilbert, 6. They had 3 employees, 2 confectioners and a general servant.

In 1911 the family was living at 2 Derwent Avenue. John Snr and Elizabeth were listed as confectioners and John Frederick was 20 and an insurance clerk, as was Harry.

John Frederick was a lance serjeant in the 20th Battalion, London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers, number PS/4693. He died on 6 November 1916 in “France and Flanders”, whilst on actual military service. He is buried in A I F burial ground, Grass Lane, Flers, IV. K. 3.

### Harry Gilbert Cobb

We found a war record under this name but cannot be sure it related to John’s brother. He served from 13 January 1915 until 27 April 1917, when he was no longer physically

fit for war service. He was a private in the 69th Training Reserve Battalion, service number TR/3/25779. There is a War Office record number H935. We can find no later records of this family or of a confectioner's business in Burton Road.

## **ALBERT FREDERICK COOPER**

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### **Grandparents**

Albert's paternal grandfather was Francis Allanson Cooper, born in Ripley, Yorkshire, about 1818. His wife, Maria, was born in Salford about 1819. In 1861 they lived in Broughton Lane and in 1871 at 151 Sussex St, Broughton. In 1861 Francis was a merchant warehouseman and in 1871 he was an agent, cotton goods. They had 6 children, Francis, born about 1842, who became an agent, Robert, born about 1845, who became a merchant's clerk, Frederick (Albert's father), born in 1846, Ann, born about 1851, who seems to have died before 1861, Mary, born about 1854, and Arthur, born about 1858.

Albert's maternal grandfather was John Heathcott, a railway inspector, who died prior to 1888.

### **Parents**

Frederick Cooper was born in Cheetham on 23 April 1846 and was baptised at the Collegiate and Parish Church of Manchester (the cathedral) on 22 May 1847. In 1861, aged 14, he was a merchant's clerk. In 1871 he was described as a commercial clerk. Aged 24, he was still living with his parents. In 1881 he was living at 156 Rydal Mount and was a cashier. He was married to Mary, who subsequently died. We are unaware of any children from that marriage.

On 10 March 1888, Frederick, a widower, married his second wife, Mary Ellen Heathcott, at St Cuthbert's church, Lytham. Frederick's address was 1 Marshall Place, Cheetham. Mary Ellen, born in Manchester about 1855, was 33 and her address was 9 West Beach, Lytham. One of the witnesses was Hannah Heathcott, Mary Ellen's sister. From 1891 onwards, Frederick and Mary Ellen lived at 108 Lansdowne Rd, West Didsbury. They only had 1 child, Albert. Frederick was a cashier in a cotton warehouse in 1911, by which time Hannah Heathcott, a nurse (sick) was living with the family.

### **Albert**

Albert Frederick was born in 1889 in Manchester. In 1911, aged 21, he was a bank clerk. At the time of his death he was serving as a second lieutenant (temporary) in the 11th (Service) Battalion attached to the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment. He had previously served with the Royal Fusiliers. He died on 9 May 1918, aged 28, at the No 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station and was buried at the Esquelbeco Military Cemetery, Nord, France.

Probate was awarded on 27 June 1918 to Frederick Cooper, cashier, in the sum of £584 2s.

# JOHN HENRY COTSWORTH

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## Grandparents

Walter James Cotsworth was born about 1843 in Manchester. In 1871 he lived at 2 Sherwood St, Withington with his wife Hannah (nee Myers), born about 1845. He was a master plumber, employing 2 men and 5 boys and they had a servant. They had 4 children, Henry Myers, 4, James Burton, 2, and Willie, who was less than a month old. The fourth child was Mary for whom we have no birth information. James died aged 2 and was buried on 25 October 1871 at St. Paul's church, Withington. By 1881 they had 5 children and lived at 138 Wilmslow Rd. By 1901 Walter (now described as a plumber and gas fitter) and Hannah had moved to Blackpool, where Walter died on 4 September 1902 aged 59. He was buried on 8 September at St Paul's church, Withington. Hannah died on 24 May 1929, aged 83. The family grave can be seen in St Paul's churchyard and the headstone records Walter, Hannah, James, Mary and John Henry (Jack, grandson).

## Parents

Henry Myers Cotsworth was born in Fallowfield on 6 May 1867 and was baptised on 7 August 1867 at the Wesleyan-Methodist Chapel, Dickenson Rd, Rusholme, by Joseph Bush. By 1881, aged 14, he was an apprentice plumber. In 1891 he lived on Barlow Moor Rd with his sister, Annie, a housekeeper. From 1888 until he resigned in 1893 he was a freemason, belonging to the Clarendon Lodge, Hyde. Henry married Mary Ellen Lees, born in 1867. In 1901 Henry and Mary lived at 96 Barlow Moor Rd and were still there in 1918. Henry was described as a plumbing and sanitary engineer and later as a master plumber. The couple had 3 children, John Henry, Jessie and Doris, all born in Didsbury.

Henry died on 24 April 1937 in South Manchester.

## John Henry

John was born about 1892. In 1911, aged 18, he was a plumber's apprentice. He became a member of the 4th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, formerly the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, rising to the rank of second lieutenant. He died in France on 28 September 1918. It is unclear where he was initially buried but he was reburied in the Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery Extension, Departement de la Somme, Picardie. The grave reference is IV. A. 14. He was identified by boots, tie and a small regimental cross. The five adjacent graves contain the remains of unknown soldiers.

# FREDERICK RATCLIFFE COX

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## Paternal grandparents

Samuel Henry Cox was born in Salford about 1842. In 1871 he was a clerk in a stationery department and in 1881 a stationer. His wife, Jane, was born in Manchester about 1844. In 1871 they lived at 15 Robson St, Hulme, and in 1881 at 18 Atkinson St, Stretford. They had at least 4 children, Frederick William (Frederick Ratcliffe's father), James Henry, born about 1866, Evelyn, born about 1867, and Joseph, born about 1870. James became a silk cloth warehouseman.

## Parents

Frederick's father was Frederick William Cox, born in Hulme on 1 September 1863. He was baptised on 25 December 1864. By the age of 17 he was a grey cloth warehouseman. His wife was Mary Hannah Ratcliffe, daughter of John Ratcliffe, a turner. Mary was born in Manchester about 1865. They were married at St George's church, Manchester, on 28 September 1889. In 1891 they lived at 262 Ashton New Rd, Beswick, with Frederick Ratcliffe, aged 7 months. In 1901 they lived at 19 Northen Grove, West Didsbury, and were still there in 1911. In 1901 Frederick Snr was described as a grey cloth buyer and in 1911 as a cotton cloth buyer, shipping merchant. Frederick and Mary had 5 children but one had died by 1911. The others, all born in Manchester, were Frederick Ratcliffe, William, born about 1893, Percy, born about 1897, and Edward, born about 1903.

## Frederick Ratcliffe

Frederick was born in Manchester on 23 August 1890. He attended William Hulme's Grammar School from 1901 to 1906. At school he excelled at cricket and football, playing in the first teams. He was prominent on school sports days in the 100 yard sprint and throwing the cricket ball. He later played for the South Manchester Cricket Club. On leaving school, Frederick became a mercantile clerk with Ralli Brothers of Stanley St, Salford.

The 5 Ralli brothers came from a Greek expatriot family. Their father started in business in Marseille but in the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars he sent the oldest son to London to explore business opportunities. The Ralli Building in Manchester was near the site of the Mark Addy pub and was demolished in 1985.

Frederick enlisted in September 1914 in B Company, 20th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, service number PS/4659, the PS signifying Public Schools. This was one of the Pals battalions. Frederick trained at Epsom and Leatherhead, at Clipstone Camp near Mansfield, and finally at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 12 November 1915. On 3 May 1916 Frederick was engaged in constructing a new trench in the Cuinchy area when he was caught in a flurry of shells and mortally wounded in the chest. At the time of his death he held the rank of serjeant and was 25 years old. His body was recovered and buried in the Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Pas de Calais, grave reference F. 5. The inscription reads "Faithful unto death". He left his effects of £191 11s 3d to his mother.

## JOSEPH CRAWFORD

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We have been unable to identify this serviceman.

## FREDERICK VICTOR CRISPIN

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### Parents

Frederick's father was Harry Crispin, born in Cork in 1864 and his mother was Alice Mary Wilson, born in 1868 at Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare. They married in 1886. In 1891 they lived at Spring Hill, Urmston, with children Minnie, Helen and Charles. In 1901 Harry was a gardener/domestic worker. He died aged 38 in 1902. In 1917 Alice lived at 26 Grove St, Didsbury.

### Frederick

Frederick's birth was registered in Chorlton in 1897. In 1901 the family lived at 12 Stenner Lane, Didsbury. Frederick was 3. There were 4 children. Also in the household was George G Harris, a groom/domestic worker.

The family were at the same address in 1911 and Frederick was 13 and worked in warehouse shipping. Minnie was a tramway clerk, Helen a book keeper, Charles an office boy and there was another brother, Gilbert, 8. There was a servant, Annie Wilson, 38.

The residents of the houses nearby are of interest. Fletcher Moss, a single man of 57, lived at the Parsonage with his nephew, Cyril Moss, 30, a medical student. Fletcher Moss was described in the 1911 census as a retired provision merchant but is described elsewhere as an alderman, philanthropist and author. He subsequently bequeathed his garden and the Parsonage to the city of Manchester. The Parsonage is the second oldest building in Didsbury, dating from the 16th century. The oldest building is St James' church.

In 1911 the Parsonage Lodge and 6 Stenner Lane were occupied by gardeners and their families.

### Military career

Frederick signed an attestation to join the Territorial Army, Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry in 1915. At some point he joined the 23rd Battalion, Manchester Regiment, service number 46517.

He was sent to France in 1917. In June the same year he was allegedly insubordinate to a non-commissioned officer and received a punishment. He had 2 weeks leave in September 1917.

He was killed in action in Belgium on 22 October 1917, at which time he was a lance corporal. His name is on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 120–124 and 162–162A and 163A.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, for which his mother signed on 6 November 1917.

# WALTER DALTON

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## Grandparents

Walter's paternal grandparents were Thomas and Rebecca Dalton. Thomas was born in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, about 1826 and was a journeyman (ie qualified) carpenter. Rebecca was born about 1832 in Catherton, Shropshire. In 1861 and 1871 they lived at Whittington Lock, Kinver. They had 8 children, the oldest, Benjamin, being Walter's father. The 3 eldest children were born in Stourport and the others in Kinver. Thomas died in Whittington in 1892.

The maternal grandparents were William and Ann Maria Nash. William was born in Shrewsbury about 1814. Ann was born in Claverley, near Bridgnorth, about 1820. In 1861 they lived at Little Gain, Worfield, Shropshire, and William was an agricultural labourer. In 1871 they lived at Hinksford, Wombourne, Staffs, and William and 3 of their sons were all carters. William and Ann had 6 children, the fifth, Hannah, being Walter's mother. The children were all born in Claverley or Worfield.

## Parents

There is some discrepancy in Benjamin Dalton's age according to different censuses but it seems most likely that he was born about 1851 in Stourport. Hannah was born in Claverley about 1854. In 1871 Benjamin was a carpenter and lived with his parents but by 1881 he and Hannah had married and lived at High St, Kinver. Benjamin was now a general labourer. By 1891 they had moved to 5 Lower Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, and Benjamin was a labourer in a forge. Benjamin appears to have died by 1901, although the census describes Hannah as married. She was now working as a needlewoman (shirts). She was living at 20 Bank St, Broughton. In 1911 Hannah lived at 2 Orchard St, West Didsbury, and her occupation was given as plain sewing. Benjamin and Hannah had 6 children, Alice, born in Swindon, Staffs, about 1874, Benjamin, born in Kingswinford, Staffs, about 1877, Florence Lavinia, born on 24 December 1879 and baptised at Kinver on 11 January 1880, Nellie, born about 1885 in Wolverhampton, Edith, born about 1888 in Wolverhampton, and Walter, born about 1892. Benjamin Jnr became a scrap cutter in an ironworks, Lavinia a knitter of wools and Nellie's occupation in 1911 was house work.

At the time of Walter's death, Hannah was living at 86 Derby Rd, Withington.

## Walter

Walter was born in Wolverhampton about 1892. In 1911 he was living in Orchard St with his mother and 2 sisters. He was 19 and a clerk in a gents outfitters. He later served with the 1st/7th Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, service number 290793. He died in action, probably at the Battle of the Ancre, on 13 November 1916, aged 24. He is buried at the Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, grave reference I. B. 16.

## THOMAS DIXON

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### Parents

Martin J Dixon was born around 1847 to 1851 (there is a discrepancy between different censuses). He was born in Ireland. His wife, Mary J Dixon, was born around 1856, also in Ireland.

In 1891 they were living at 53 Haddon St, Beswick, but in the 1901 census the address is illegible but they were in Manchester Central, parish of St Andrew, St Clement's ward. At that time they had three children, Thomas 18, James 11, and Lucy 6. They were all born in Manchester.

### Thomas

Thomas was born around 1882 and at the age of 18 he was a van driver. In 1911 he was 28 and a civil servant (postman). He was married to Mary, 29, who was born in Lowertown, Woodford, Co. Galway. They had no children. They lived at 21 Orchard St, West Didsbury.

He was a private in the 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment, serving in France and Flanders, and was killed in action at the age of 33 on 15 March 1915. His name appears on Panel 44 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. At the time of his death his wife, Mary E Dixon was living at 55 Henry St, Withington.

## HENRY PERRY DODD

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### Grandparents

The paternal grandparents were John and Sarah Dodd. John was born about 1804 in North Stoke, Oxfordshire. He became a surgeon and in 1841 they lived in Marylebone with their 4 children, Mary, 7, Caroline Eliza, 4, Henry Russell (Henry Perry's father), 2, and Charles, 10 months. Two further children were Edward Sutton, born about 1844, and Alexander Russell, born about 1851. By 1861 Sarah had died and John lived at 27 Queen's Terrace, Paddington with 4 of the children, including Henry. John died in 1861 and was buried in June at Tower Hamlets.

The maternal grandparents were George J Perry and his wife Augusta. George was born in Henbury about 1814 and became a general practitioner. Augusta was born in Portsmouth about 1816. In 1851 they lived in Reynoldston, Glamorgan, and in 1861 in Droxford, Hampshire. They had 4 children, including Augusta Jane Ayscough (Henry Perry's mother), born about 1841, Harriet, born about 1846, and Edith Mary, born about 1850.

### Parents

Henry Russell Dodd was born in Marylebone on 10 February 1838. He attended Mr Glover's School in Plumstead, Kent. He was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, on 10 June 1857, at which time his father's address was 31 Kensington Park Gardens, Notting Hill. He received his BA degree in 1861 and was ordained deacon on Sunday 22 December 1861 by the Lord Bishop of London at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall. He

was ordained priest in 1862 and became curate of St James' church, Paddington. He was Assistant Master of Charterhouse School from 1861 to 1866. He received an MA in 1864 and on 24 August 1864 he married Augusta Jane Ayscough Perry at the parish church, Droxford. The service was taken by Augusta's brother, Rev George Booth Perry. From 1866 to 1867 Henry was curate of Warrington and in 1867 he became vicar of Stretton, Cheshire, after a brief time at St Thomas' church, Douglas, Isle of Man. On 20 November 1880 he became a canon of Chester Cathedral.

The family lived at Stretton Vicarage until 1896. They had 7 children, Ruth, born about 1867, who died aged 13 in 1879, Hugh Cross Chichester, born about 1869, Geoffrey Howard, born about 1870, Katherine Mary, born about 1872, Helen Augusta, born about 1875, Harriet Augusta, born about 1877, and Henry Perry, born in 1879.

In 1896 Henry Russell was found guilty of inappropriate behaviour. An appeal on grounds of mental health issues was dismissed and he lost the vicarage and benefices. However, from 1901 until 1910 he was curate at St Mary's church, Plaistow, and from 1910 until 1916 he was vicar of All Saints church, Soulbury, Leighton Buzzard, Buckinghamshire. He married Rebecca Fitch at St Michael's church, Wood Green, on 13 July 1905. At the time of the marriage he lived at 82 Terrace Rd, Plaistow, and she lived at 8 Braemar Villas, Wood Green. They lived at Soulbury at the time of the 1911 census. Henry later lived in Croydon where he died on 21 March 1918, aged 79. The Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette for Saturday 5 June 1926 lists visitors to the Grand Pump Room Hotel and among them is a Mrs Henry Russell Dodd of Croydon. In 1901 Augusta was living at 9 Cawdor Rd, Didsbury, with Katherine, a milliner, Harriet, and Henry Perry. She later moved to 4 Rosy Bank Cottages, Burbage, Derbyshire, where she died. She was buried on 2 August 1901 in Burbage.

## **Henry Perry**

Henry was born in Stretton on 5 December 1879. He was baptised there on 1 February 1880. By 1901 he was living with his mother in Didsbury and was a warehouseman. About 1903 he married Amy Drinkwater.

Amy was the daughter of John and Agnes Drinkwater who lived at 10 Garratt St, Newton, North Manchester. John was a reed maker in the textile industry. John was born in Manchester about 1861 and Agnes Brakell in Manchester about 1860. They had 4 children, Amy, born on 18 January 1884, (she was baptised on 17 February 1884 at St Andrew's church, Ancoats), Edith, born about 1894, Harold, born about 1898, and Hilda, born in 1901. In 1901, aged 17, Amy was a compiler for Kelly's Directory. In 1911 Henry and Amy lived at 3 Disley Avenue. They had 2 children, Dorothy Mary, born on 31 May 1903, and Helen Agnes Rebecca, born on 12 February 1909.

In the war, Henry served as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery, service number 188785. He returned from the war but died on 7 July 1919 in Manchester Royal Infirmary, the cause of death being carcinoma of the colon (16 months). He is buried to the north side of the church in Stretton.

The 1939 Register documents Amy Dodd living at 9 Marlow Drive. She was described as a widow doing unpaid domestic duties. With her were Dorothy, a textile designer, and Helen, a shorthand typist for the Inland Revenue.

# WALTER ROBERT DODGE

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## Grandparents

Previous Dodges were in the cotton trade and were mayors of Stockport as far back as the 17th century. Walter's paternal grandparents were William Henry Dodge and Ann Elizabeth Daniel. William was born in Stockport about 1828 and Ann in Holywell, Flintshire, about 1831. William was an engraver and calico printer and later a die sinker. In 1861 they lived in Hewitt St, Cheetham and had 4 children, all born in Manchester, William, born about 1855, Arthur, born about 1857, Walter Lloyd (Walter's father), born about 1858, and Charlotte, born about 1860. They had a further 4 children, Anne, born about 1863, Sarah, born about 1865, Ada, born about 1867, and Herbert, born about 1869. Ann died on 21 July 1870 of typhus fever, aged 40. William married his second wife, Margaret Jowett, in 1871, and they had one son. William Henry died on 19 January 1900, with son William in attendance. He was described as a confectioner on the death certificate.

The maternal grandparents were Thomas Dalton and Sarah Ann Bower. Thomas was born in Dunham Massey about 1837 and Sarah in Wilmslow about 1842. In 1871 they lived in Grove St, Bollin Fee, Wilmslow with 4 children, all born in Wilmslow, and a servant. Thomas was a lithographic writer. The children were Mary Bower, born in 1866 (Walter's mother), William Bower, born about 1868, Robert, born about 1870, and Clara, born about 1871.

## Parents

Walter Lloyd Dodge was born about 1858 in Cheetham. At the age of 12 he lived with his widowed father and siblings at 41 Bishop St, Cheetham. In 1881, aged 22, he lived with his father and step-mother at 37 Bishop St. He was now a salesman. Mary Bower Dalton was born in Wilmslow on 1 September 1866, at which time her parents lived in Church St, Bollin Fee, Wilmslow. In the 1881 census she is shown as a boarder at a school, Clifton House, in Knutsford. Walter and Mary married on 5 October 1886 at the parish church, Wilmslow. Walter was now 28 and a buyer.

In 1891 and 1901 the family lived at Cedar Bank, Hawthorn Lane, Pownall Fee, Wilmslow. By this time Walter was a jewellery buyer and watch worker and they had 2 children, Mary Lloyd, born in Cheadle Hulme about 1888, and Walter Robert, aged 8. In 1911 Mary (mother) and Mary (sister) still lived in Wilmslow. In 1939 Mary Snr lived at 16 Oaker Avenue. (Walter's sister, now married to Tom Burgess, lived at no 14.) Walter Snr died on 15 January 1908 of influenza and bronchopneumonia. Mary died on 19 March 1954 at Sandown Nursing Home, 55 Palatine Rd, and both are buried in Southern Cemetery.



## **Walter Robert**

Walter (apparently sometimes known as Bob) was born in Wilmslow on 3 March 1893. He was educated at Wilmslow Grammar School and briefly in 1908 at Rossall School on the Fylde. We have been unable to trace him in the 1911 census but he later worked for J and N Philips and Co, a textile company who had a building at 35 Church St, Manchester. (After his death he was named on the company's war memorial which was salvaged when the building was demolished and is now on the wall of a multi-storey car park in Church St.)

Walter signed attestation papers in Manchester on 16 November 1914, aged 21. His address at the time was 16 Oaker Avenue. He joined the 20th Service Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 17337.

Walter married Mabel Spall at Holy Trinity church, Poulton-le-Sands, on 17 July 1915. At the time his address was Belton Camp, Grantham, and Mabel lived at Lingard, Park Terrace, Bare, Morecambe. Mabel was the daughter of the late George Spall, a baker. She was born in West Derby, Liverpool, on 5 June 1892.

Walter was posted to France with the Expeditionary Force on 9 November 1915. He received a commission as temporary second lieutenant on 26 February 1917. He received the Military Medal. He was killed in action on 2 October 1917 (although there is some uncertainty about the precise date) and it is likely that this was towards the end of the Third Battle of Ypres. He was buried next to his colonel, who died the same day, in the Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, grave reference I. C. 10. His major wrote to the family to say that Walter had been one of the best officers in the battalion. Walter left £127 14s 2d to his widow. He is commemorated on memorials at Rossall School, Wilmslow, the Cheshire Roll of Honour, Church St, Manchester, and on his parents' grave in Southern Cemetery. Walter and Mabel had a son, William, born in Morecambe on 25 February 1916. He later became a lieutenant colonel in WW2 and lived in Cheadle Hulme. He married Helena Marion Connolly in 1940. William died in Taunton on 29 September 1991 and Helena on 12 March 2014. We have been in contact with William and Helena's son, Simon, in the USA and are grateful for his assistance in compiling this account. During WW1, Mabel lived in Morecambe but in 1918 she was living at 97 Boswell St, Liverpool, and later had an address at 24 Thelwall Avenue, Wilbraham Rd, Fallowfield. She died on 1 November 1980 at Northwood, Middlesex, leaving £5454.

# CHARLES CYRIL FUTVOYE

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## Grandparents

Charles' paternal grandparents were Frederick Futvoye and Mary Anne Aldis. Mary's history is interesting and demonstrates that it was possible to prosper after a poor start in life. She was born on 18 October 1825 in the workhouse at Blything, Suffolk. She was baptised on 24 November 1825 in the parish of St Pancras. Her father is not named in the record. We found no other information about her prior to her marriage. Frederick Futvoye was born on 14 December 1821 and was baptised on 5 January 1822 at St Marylebone. Frederick and Mary married in March 1845. The 1851 census shows them living at 134 Regent St, Westminster, with 3 children, Marion, born about 1847, Eleanor, born about 1849, and Clara, born about 1850. Frederick was a dressing case maker. They later had several more children including Augustus Herbert, born on 5 July 1857, Charles Francis (Charles Cyril's father), born on 5 November 1858, Arthur Ernest, born on 21 January 1860, and Montague Adolf, born on 3 September 1863. The 4 boys were all baptised on 1 September 1867 in Bayswater. Their address at the time was Woodfield Place.

Frederick was involved with Messrs Futvoye and Company, who imported and supplied jewellery, clocks etc and had premises in Regent St, Beak St, Silver St and Rue de Rivoli, Paris. Newspaper articles questioned the company's absence from the Great Exhibition of 1851 but it was explained that they supplied goods to many other exhibitors and did not want to appear to be in competition. At some point, Frederick became a proprietor in the Crystal Palace Bazaar, a shopping precinct in Oxford St modelled on the original Crystal Palace. He died on 10 August 1867 and was buried on 14 August 1867 at All Souls', Kensal Green. A newspaper announcement stated that he left a widow and 13 children.

Mary Anne moved to Sussex. In 1871 she lived at 1 St Margaret's Terrace, St Mary Magdalen, Hastings, where she ran a lodging house. Two of her daughters, Clara and Florence, lived with her and they had 2 servants. In 1881 she was living with her daughter, Marion, and her husband, John Roy, a teacher of music, at 36 Silchester Rd, Hastings. In 1891 she lived at 45 Chantry Rd, Lambeth, with daughter Florence, now a professor of music. She died on 5 January 1898 at Argyle Villa, Ballard's Lane, Finchley, Middlesex, leaving £169 19s to Florence.

The only information we have on the maternal grandparents is that the grandfather was Francis William Laws, a commission agent.

## Parents

Charles Francis Futvoye was born on 5 November 1859 and baptised on 1 September 1867 at Bayswater. His first wife was Louisa Ball of the parish of Kingston. The banns were read in August 1886 in the parish of St Mary, Putney. In 1891 they lived at 77 Bayston Rd and Charles was a dress costumier. Louisa died in 1891 and on 1 April 1893 Charles married Amy Florence Laws at St Mark's church, Dalston, Hackney,

London. Charles was 34 and a buyer. By 1894 the family had moved to Manchester and were living at 27 Queen's Rd. While at that address they had 3 sons, the oldest being Charles Cyril. The second son was George Frederick, baptised at Christ Church on 9 February 1896, the third was Stanley Francis, baptised at Christ Church on 11 November 1899. By 1911 the family had moved to 63 Clyde Rd, West Didsbury, and Charles Snr was a costume buyer and George a shipping office clerk. George later became a private in the Manchester Regiment, service number M2/155056.

Charles Snr died on 17 May 1919 and is buried in Southern Cemetery. He left £2855 16s 4d to Amy. Amy died on 21 May 1938, leaving £2166 9s 8d. Her address was 23 Park Drive, Whalley Range. Probate was awarded to Stanley, now a costume and coat merchant.

### **Charles Cyril**

Charles Cyril was baptised at Christ Church on 1 April 1894. By 1911 he was a motor salesman. He signed attestation papers at Grove Park on 29 February 1916. He had previously been a member of the Manchester University Officer Training Corps for 2 weeks. He joined the Army Service Corps (MT), service number M2/156066, and went to train at Curragh Camp where he died of pneumonia on 17 March 1916 in the military hospital. He was 22 years old. He is buried in Southern Cemetery, grave reference G. 220. C/E.

### **Curragh Camp**

This army training camp was in Co Kildare. Historically it has been a military assembly area owing to its wide expanse of plain. It is now used as the Defence Forces Training Centre of the Irish Defence Forces. During the Elizabethan wars in 1599 Henry Harvey stated "A better place for the deploying of an army I never beheld." In the 19th century it was used to train soldiers for the Napoleonic Wars. The British finally built some permanent military structures in 1855, preparing for the Crimean War. Queen Victoria visited in 1861 as her son Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, was serving there. It was handed over to the Irish Free State Army in 1922. It was later used as a detention centre for prisoners in the Irish Civil War.

#### **Army Service Corps**

The function of the ASC was the transportation of supplies over land, along coasts and across lakes. The supplies included food, water, fuel and general domestic stores such as clothing, furniture and stationery. Ammunition was also transported. The suffix MT signifies Mechanical Transport, as opposed, for example, to HT, Horse Transport.

### **The Futvoye name**

According to an episode of the television programme, Who Do You Think You Are?, the name Futvoye originates from the Belgian town of Spa. It would appear that Charles Cyril Futvoye shares a great-grandfather with the actor, Charles Dance. The gentleman in question was Charles Francis Futvoye (1777–1847), an artist.

# SAMUEL HALL

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## Parents

We found very little information about Samuel's parents. His father was Isaac Hall, born about 1822 in Oldham. His wife, Jane, was born in Withington about 1842. We believe her maiden name was Worthington. In 1881 they lived on Wilmslow Rd. Isaac was a retired builder and there were 2 servants, Martha Worthington, sister of Jane, and Sarah Chorlton, a cousin of Jane. By 1891 Isaac had died and Jane lived at 196 Wilmslow Rd where she lived until at least 1901. Samuel was with Jane in 1891 and 1901, along with Martha Worthington. Sarah Chorlton was with them in 1891. In these later censuses Jane was living on her own means.

## Nellie Muriel File

Nellie became Samuel's wife in 1909. Nellie's grandparents were Joseph and Ann File, who were from the Derringstone area of Kent. (The family later had a house named Derringstone in West Didsbury.) Joseph was a butcher. Their third child, Rowland, married Jane Mellor in Stockport in 1888. Joseph and Ann had moved to Oldham by 1881, living at 73 Manchester Old Rd. By this time Rowland was an assistant to a draper. In the 1891 census Rowland and Jane were in a lodging house at 16 Victoria St, Southport, and Rowland was a commercial traveller. In 1901 they lived at 30 Moorfield Rd, West Didsbury, and Rowland was a woollen buyer. In 1911 they lived at 155 Barlow Moor Rd.

Rowland and Jane had 3 children, Nellie Muriel, born about 1890 in Crumpsall, Rowland Mellor, born about 1896 in Newcastle upon Tyne, and George Mellor, born about 1900 in West Didsbury. Rowland Snr died on 9 March 1925. His address was 31 Beech Rd, Chorlton-cum-Hardy and he left £10069 12s 10d.

## Samuel

Samuel was born on 28 February 1885 at Oak House, Withington. He was baptised at Christ Church on 22 March 1885. In the 1891 and 1901 censuses he was living with his mother at 196 Wilmslow Rd. He married Nellie Muriel File at Christ Church on 9 June 1909. At that time he was described as an architect and his address was Oak House, Withington. Nellie's address was Derringstone, Barlow Moor Rd, West Didsbury. The wedding was clearly a grand affair and was described at length in the Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser two days running on 10 and 11 June 1909. They describe a full choral ceremony conducted by Rev Walter Thompson, then rector of Crowle, Worcester, with Rev William Muzzell, rector of St Paul's, Withington, and Rev John Bamber, rector of Christ Church. There were 4 adult bridesmaids and 2 children, a best man and 3 groomsmen. The reception was held in the Public Hall, Didsbury, and about 200 guests attended. In the evening there was dancing and a whist drive. The couple honeymooned in London and on the continent. In 1911 Samuel and Nellie were now living at 196 Wilmslow Rd with Martha Worthington and 2 servants. Samuel was described as a builder.

Samuel went on to serve with the 8th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment at Gallipoli, where he died on 4 June 1915. His death and details of his will were reported in the Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser on 18 January 1916. His address was given as Cleveleys Hydro, Cleveleys, Blackpool, and he left property of £22000 with net personalty of £2885. Probate was granted to Nellie, whose address was given as 155 Barlow Moor Rd. His aunt, Martha Worthington, was given an annuity of £150.

Samuel is commemorated on the Helles memorial, Turkey, Panel 159 to 171.

Nellie subsequently married Albert Edward Pierson on 9 March 1920 at Christ Church.

## LEIGH HALES HALLIDAY

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### Grandparents

Leigh's paternal grandfather was James Halliday, born in Dunfermline about 1822. His wife, Rosamund Darlington Hales, was born in Wem, Shropshire, about 1828. In 1861 they lived at 16 Acker St, Chorlton-on-Medlock. By 1871 they had moved to 36 Acker St, and by 1881 to Broome House, Palatine Rd. By 1891 James was a widower and had moved to "Woodlawn", Fielden Park. In 1861 James was a professional accountant and by 1891 he was a managing director of the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, a forerunner of the NatWest. James and Rosamund had 10 children, Agnes, Sarah, John, Catherine, Jane, Henry Hales (Leigh's father), William, Jessie, James and George, all born in Manchester between 1849 and 1868.

### Parents

Henry Hales Halliday was born in Manchester on 17 December 1857, when the family lived at 39 Park St, Granby. He was baptised on 7 February 1858 at St Andrew's Free Church, Manchester (non-conformist). In the 1881 census Henry was described as an accounts clerk. No occupation is recorded for him in 1891 but in 1901 he was a manufacturer of dyed and polished yarn (employer). By that stage he was married to Ada Elizabeth (born about 1870 in Middleton) and Leigh was 5 years old. They were living at 35 Bath Rd, Southport, and had one servant. Henry died in 1910, aged 52.

### Leigh Hales

Leigh was born in Middleton about 1885. In the 1911 census, aged 15, he was boarding at the Vale Royal Hotel, Exeter Rd, Bournemouth, and described as a schoolboy. He later served with the 7th and 8th Battalions of the Northamptonshire Regiment and died on 31 July 1917, aged 22. The date is the start of the Battle of Pilckem Ridge, the opening attack of the Third Battle of Ypres, where the regiment is known to have fought. Leigh is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panels 43 and 45.



# **WILLIAM REGINALD HARTLEY**

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## **Grandparents**

William's paternal grandfather was Robert Hartley, a cotton manufacturer. He was born in Bury about 1817. His wife, Martha, was born in Bury about the same year. In 1851 they lived at St James' Place, Heap, Lancashire. At the time of the census, 2 children were living with them, George, 2, and Richard, 2 weeks. However, the 1861 census suggests that they also had 3 older children. They had 2 servants. In 1861 they lived at Orchard, Castleton (probably the one west of Rochdale), with 6 children, William, 18, Elizabeth, 16, Thomas, 14, George, 12, Richard, 10, and Robert (William's father), 8. All the children were born in Bury. By 1871 Robert Snr had died and Martha was living at Roe Acre House, Castleton, where Martha was described as an assistant and widow. Richard was now a cotton spinner. There were still 2 servants. We have no information on William's maternal grandparents.

## **Parents**

William's father, Robert Hartley, was born in Bury about 1853. In 1871 he lived with his mother, Martha, in Castleton and was a cotton broker apprentice. By 1881 he had married his wife, Anna Maria, born in Everton about 1859. They lived in Toft Rd, Knutsford, with son Robert Frederick, aged 6 months. Robert was now a cotton broker and they had 3 servants. In 1891 they lived at 2 Albion St, Royton, with 3 children, Robert Frederick, 10 and born in Knutsford, Reginald William (sic), 8, and Eva Maria, 6 and born in Southport. By 1901 they had moved to 9 Clarence Rd, Withington. By this time Robert Frederick was a clerk in a railway forwarding office and there was now a fourth child, Nora Frances, aged 8 and born in Fallowfield.

## **William Reginald**

William was born in Southport about 1883. In 1901 he was a clerk in a civil engineer's office. We were not able to find the family in 1911 but at some point William enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He served at Gallipoli with the 7th Battalion and died on 20 December 1915, aged 33. By this time his father had died and his mother lived at 24 Sandleigh Avenue, Withington. In 1922 William's medals were sent to his brother, Robert Frederick at Lissadel, Bramhall Lane, Bramhall. Robert also received his effects of £65 2s 10d.

William was buried in the Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Geogheghan's Bluff Plot, but graves here were not identified. His name is on the memorial, reference Sp. Mem. C. 220.

# VINCENT FROUD HASKELL

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## Grandparents

Vincent's paternal grandparents were Edward Froud Haskell and Elizabeth Abbott. Edward was born in Dorset about 1831 and Elizabeth in Bromsgrove about 1827. Edward was a stone mason. They had 5 children, Mary, born about 1861, Agnes, born about 1863, Edward George, born about 1866 (Vincent Froud's father), John William, who was born and died in 1868, and Vincent, born about 1870 (Vincent Froud's uncle). All the children were born in Bromsgrove. In 1871 and 1881 the family lived at Rock Hill, Worcester Rd, Bromsgrove.

His maternal grandparents were John Duffill and Sabina George. John was born in Bromsgrove about 1826 and Sabina in Eckington, Worcs, about 1830. They married on 8 June 1856 at St Clement's church, Worcester. John was a nail maker and Sabina a laundress. In 1861 they lived at High St, Bromsgrove, with 2 children, one aged 3 whose name is indecipherable, and Eliza, aged 1. By 1871 they had moved to Perry Cottages, Kidderminster Rd, Bromsgrove, with Eliza, 11, Mary, 9, Sarah, 7, Martha, 5 (Vincent Froud's mother), and Henry, 1. In 1881 they were at the same address with Henry, 11, Ellen, 9, and John, 6. John Snr died about 1882 and Sabina about 1917.

## Parents

Edward George Haskell was born in Bromsgrove about 1866. He was a boot and shoe maker. Martha Lizzie Duffill was born in Bromsgrove about 1867. Lizzie was baptised in Bromsgrove on 24 February 1867. In 1881 she was a domestic servant for a 61-year-old widow at New Rd, The Crescent, Bromsgrove. From 1891 until 1901 Edward and Lizzie lived at 15 Lapwing Lane, West Didsbury. Lizzie was still there in 1911 but Edward did not appear in that census. The couple had 8 children, of whom 7 were alive in 1911. Those we have identified were Elsie, born about 1892, John E (possibly appearing later as Edward), born about 1893, Vincent Froud, George, born about 1895, Edith, born about 1899, and Gertrude, born about 1904. All the children were born in West Didsbury. In 1901 the family had a servant. In 1915 Lizzie was living at 13 Lyth St, Ladybarn. Lizzie died in Manchester about 1953. One source suggests that Edward died in 1926 but we could find no trace of him in the 1911 census, although Lizzie was still said to be married at that time. Edward's name does not appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website entry concerning Vincent's death in 1915.

## Vincent Froud

Vincent was born in West Didsbury about 1893. By 1911, still living in Lapwing Lane with Lizzie, he was described as a butchering assistant. He enlisted in the Army in Stockport in 1912 and was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, service number 9831. He was sent to Ebrington Barracks in Londonderry but in 1913 he deserted. Two newspaper reports appeared in the Derry Journal and the Belfast News-Letter of 3 February 1913. He and Private Charles Jones had deserted from the barracks on 29 January and were found in a deserted cottage at Tamlaght on 31 January.

Vincent is quoted as saying “I’m fed up of the army.” Desertion seems to have been a common problem in Londonderry at that time. Vincent was returned to barracks and later went on to serve in France with the 2nd Battalion of the Cheshires. He died in action on 3 October 1915, probably at the Battle of Loos. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, Panels 49 and 50.

## **RALPH NOEL HEATHCOTE**

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### **Grandparents**

Ralph’s paternal grandparents were Ralph Heathcote and his wife, Amelia. Ralph was born about 1826 in Waltham, Leicestershire. Amelia was born about 1828 in Winterton, Lincolnshire. By 1861 they were living at 7 Chatham St, Manchester, where they lived for at least 30 years. Ralph was a surgeon (and an apothecary in 1881). They had 3 children, Ralph George (Ralph Noel’s father), Rosalea, born about 1860 (and baptised in the cathedral on 1 May 1860), Rowland, born about 1863 and later a law student, and Amelia, born about 1865. The family always had 2 servants.

The maternal grandparents were James Stanley Kipping and his wife Julia (nee Duval). James was born about 1822 in Southwark. His father, also James, was a sub agent for the Bank of England and in 1851 the family lived in Pall Mall, Manchester. Julia was born in Cork about 1837. James and Julia married on 22 August 1860 at Holy Trinity church, Hulme. They had 7 children, the oldest, Emily Victoria Julia, being Ralph Noel’s mother. Julia died in 1888.

### **Parents**

Ralph George Heathcote was born in Manchester on 11 January 1859 and was baptised at the cathedral on 6 February 1859. In 1871 he was at school in South Shore, Blackpool and by 1881, aged 22, he was a medical student. In 1891 he was a general practitioner but the censuses of 1901 and 1911 describe him as a surgeon.

Emily Victoria Julia Kipping was born in Salford in 1861. By 1881 the family was living in Rusholme. She and Ralph George were married at St James’ church, Birch in Rusholme, on 30 October 1884. At that time, Emily’s residence was given as Platt Abbey. In 1891 they were living at 7 Chatham St (presumably Ralph George’s parents had moved elsewhere). They had 3 children, Ralph Noel, aged 5, Brian Maxsted, 2, and Violet, 9 months. Brian was born on 4 August 1888, was baptised at the cathedral on 10 October 1888, and died in 1891. Violet was born on 5 July 1890 and baptised at the cathedral on 15 August 1890. She died in 1970. In 1891 they had 3 servants. In 1901 they were living in Poulton-le-Sands but had returned to Manchester by 1911, when they lived at 143 Barlow Moor Rd.

Ralph George Heathcote died on 28 November 1936. His address was 19 Oak Rd, Withington. Probate was awarded on 21 January 1937 to Emily and Violet. He left £16214 19s 6d. Emily died in 1939.

## **Ralph Noel**

Ralph Noel was born in Manchester in 1886. In 1911, aged 25, he was living with his parents and sister Violet at 143 Barlow Moor Rd. He was described as a shipper. At some point prior to December 1915 he enlisted and at the time of his marriage he was a second lieutenant in the 14th Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment. He married Eve Mary Reynolds on 18 December 1915 at Hornsea parish church, near Hull. Eve was the eldest daughter of Robert Reynolds, MA, principal of St Bede's School, Hornsea. She was born in Jersey on 24 September 1893. The wedding received extensive coverage in the Hull Daily Mail. Three clergy officiated, the Rev Canon Granville Smith, rector of Little Fransham, Norfolk, the Rev J Harrington, MA, vicar of Hornsea, and the Rev A E Brown, curate.

By 1916 Ralph Noel was serving with the 12th Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment. In 1916 the battalion fought at the Battle of Albert and the Battle of the Ancre, on the Somme. Ralph died of wounds on 17 November 1916 at the Advanced Operating Centre, Authie, France, and is buried at the Couin British Cemetery, grave reference V. B. 5. He left £342 16s to his widow. Eve died on 10 March 1979 in Scarborough.

## **PERCY HIGGINBOTHAM**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

Percy's paternal grandparents were Samuel Rudd Higginbotham and Jane Gee Stopford. Samuel was born in Cheadle, Cheshire, on 23 March 1843, son of James Higginbotham, a farmer. He was baptised on 2 July 1843 at St James' church, Didsbury. Jane was born in Withington about 1846, the daughter of James and Mary Stopford. James Stopford was a draper and seems to have separated from Mary by 1871. We have been unable to trace the maternal grandparents.

Samuel Higginbotham and Jane Stopford married on 2 February 1868 at St John's church, Manchester. In 1871 and 1881 they lived with Mary Stopford in Queen St, Wilmslow Rd. In 1871 Mary was described as the householder and in 1881 as a monthly nurse. Samuel was a coachman and Jane a seamstress. They had at least 4 children, Frederick Stopford (Percy's father), Walter, born about 1869, William, born about 1871, and Percy (uncle to soldier Percy), born about 1875. Jane died in 1893.

Frederick Stopford Higginbotham was born in Withington about 1865. By the age of 15 he was a groom. Percy's mother was Ada Scott, born in Essex about 1864. In the 1881 census she was a servant for the Welsh family at Bowbutts House, Kinghorn, Fife. She and Frederick married about 1888. In 1891 they lived at 50 Moorfield St, Withington, with their first child, Annie, born in Fallowfield about 1889. In 1901 they lived at Tolland Lane, Hale. This address seemed to have multiple families living there, most of whom were in domestic service of some kind. By this time Frederick was a coachman and they had 5 children, Annie, Christopher Walter (later a butcher), born about 1890, Percy, Mabel, born about 1898, and Ellen, born about 1900.

In 1911 the family lived at 6 Orchard Grove, West Didsbury. Frederick was now a labourer/coachman for the Corporation. The census records that there had been a sixth child who had died. All the children were born in the Altrincham area. Frederick died on 3 March 1934 and is buried in Southern Cemetery.

## **Percy**

Percy was born in Altrincham in 1896. In 1911 he was a grocer's apprentice. He signed attestation papers on 13 November 1915, aged 19 years and 10 months. His service number was 31378. He was attached to the 25th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He was promoted to lance corporal on 7 February 1916. He left for France with the Expeditionary Force on 23 July 1916. As battalions were reconfigured, he became a member of the 19th Battalion on 29 July 1916. He served for 338 days before being killed in action on 16 October 1916.

His death was remembered in family notices in the Manchester Evening News on 16 October 1917 and 17 October 1918. From these notices it is clear that both his parents were alive, his brother Walter was serving and Annie's husband was serving in Mesopotamia. In the 1917 notice Mabel seems to be married to Arthur who was serving in France. There is no mention of him in 1918, suggesting that he had died.

Percy's medals (British War Medal and Victory Medal) were finally sent to his father "without fastening" on 17 May 1921.

Percy's name is on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13A and 14C.

# **TOM BROWN HILL**

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## **Grandparents**

We have little information about Tom's grandparents. His paternal grandfather was John Hill, born in Birmingham about 1808. He was a copper plate engraver. We know nothing of his wife, who seems to have died prior to 1851. They had 4 children, John, born in Chorlton-on-Medlock about 1837, who also became a copper plate engraver, Ezra (Tom's father), born in 1842, Louisa Jane, born in Bradford, Yorkshire, about 1849, and Emma, birth place and year unknown. In 1851 the family lived at 11 Leaf St, Hulme, and in 1861 at 80 Hall St, probably in central Manchester. We know nothing of the maternal grandparents.

## **Parents**

Ezra Hill was born in 1842 in Ardwick. His first wife, Tom's mother, was Mary Jane, born in Salford about 1839. In 1871 they lived in Kingfield St, Islington, London, and Ezra was a weighing machine fitter. In 1881 they lived at 27 Wood St, Peterborough, and, according to the census, had a son, James G Brown, aged 6, born in Manchester. We wonder if James was in fact the son of John and Hannah Maria Brown (see below). In 1891 Ezra and Mary lived at 6 Providential Place, Peterborough, and Ezra was a foreman machine fitter. Tom was born in 1895 and Mary died sometime in the next

10 years. We have no information about her family but wonder if she was a Brown, given the middle name of Tom.

Ezra married his second wife, Margaret Brown, at Christ Church, Bradford, Manchester, on 3 June 1905. Their address at the time was 25 Baslow St. Ezra was 63, a widower and a gentleman, and Margaret was a spinster aged 29.

Margaret was the daughter of John Brown, an iron grinder born about 1848, and Hannah Maria Brown, born about 1849 in Levenshulme. They appear to have had 5 or possibly 6 children, of whom Margaret was the third. She was born about 1876 in Ancoats. In 1901 Margaret was living with Irish relatives at 24 Worsley St, St George's in the Fields.

Ezra and Margaret later had 4 children, one of whom died in infancy. In 1911 they lived at 16 Redruth St, Rusholme, with Tom, aged 16, Ethel, 5, Margaret, 4, and John, 6 months.

## **Tom**

Tom was born in Peterborough about 1895. We have not found him in 1901 but in 1911 he was living with his parents and step-siblings in Rusholme and working as a drapery warehouseman. He married Ethel Margaret Ashworth at Christ Church on 22 July 1916. They were living at 18 Tintern Avenue, West Didsbury and Tom was described as a salesman.

Ethel Margaret Ashworth was born on 29 October 1892 in Manchester, the daughter of Richard and Catherine Ashworth. She was baptised on 25 December 1892 at St Luke's church, Miles Platting.

Richard and Catherine were both born in Manchester about 1859. In 1901 they lived at 313 Bradford Rd, Ancoats, with Edith, 18, Herbert, 12, Gertrude, 10, and Ethel Margaret, 8. Richard was an iron foundry manager and Catherine a shopkeeper. By 1911, Richard was a widower, living with the younger three children at 25 Energy St, Miles Platting. He was now described as an iron moulder for a pump maker. Catherine had died on 15 February 1911 and Richard died on 23 February 1921. In 1911 Ethel was a typist student, aged 18.

## **Military**

Tom enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne. He served as a private in the 4th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, service number 52153, and later as a lance corporal in the 20th Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment, service number G/62137. He served in the Western European Theatre and died of his wounds at No 44 Casualty Clearing Station, Berques, France, on 30 August 1918. He is buried in the Crois-Rouge Military Cemetery, Quaedypre, Nord, France, grave reference II. B.3.

Family announcements in the Manchester Evening News mentioned that he had been a salesman for Barlow Jones Ltd, Portland St. In the register of soldiers' effects his widow was to receive £13 4s and the document suggests that by this time she may have been in New Orleans. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website gives her address as 4530, South Third, Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

## ALFRED MEAKIN HOBDEY

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### Grandparents

Henry Hobdey, born in Staffordshire about 1824, and his wife, Mary, born in Burton on Trent around the same year, were living in Bath Row, Wolverhampton, in 1851. By 1861 they had moved to 4 Marlboro Terrace, Rusholme, and Henry was a commission agent (printer). In 1871 they lived at 253 Oxford St, Chorlton-on-Medlock and Henry was an oil merchant. Given the family business history it is likely that the oil in question was oil paint. The couple had 4 children, Henry Meakin (Alfred's father), born about 1847, William, born about 1848, Charles, born about 1850, and Thomas, born about 1853. All the children were born in Burton on Trent. The family always had 1 or 2 servants. William Nurse was born in King's Lynn, Norfolk, about 1806. His wife, Jane, was born in Suffolk about 1825. In 1861 they lived in All Saints St, South Lynn, Norfolk, where William was a master block maker, employing 8 men and an apprentice. In 1878 William was described as a contractor. They had 2 children, William, born about 1852, and Fanny Maria (Alfred's mother), born in 1854.

### Parents

Henry Meakin Hobdey was born about 1847 in Burton on Trent. Fanny Maria Nurse was born in King's Lynn in 1854. She was baptised at All Saints' church, South Lynn, on 9 August 1854. In 1871 she was at school, aged 16, in Bethel St, Norwich. Henry and Fanny married on 11 July 1878 at St Margaret's with St Nicholas church, King's Lynn. Henry was 32 and a lead merchant. Again we believe the lead refers to lead paint. Fanny was 24 and lived at Nelson St, King's Lynn.

In 1881 the family lived in Upper Monton St, Moss Side. By 1891 they had moved to 53 Wilmslow Rd, Withington. In 1901 they lived at 27 Ladybarn Rd and in 1911 at 143 Palatine Rd. Henry was a lead oil colour merchant and there was a family business, Henry Hobdey and Sons, with numerous addresses in South Manchester. They were oil and colour merchants.

Henry and Fanny had 10 children, all born in Manchester. They were Henry Meakin Jnr, born on 24 March 1879 and baptised on 27 April 1879 at St Saviour's church, Manchester, Charles William Gedney, born about 1881, Constance Mary, born about 1882, Ethel Jane, born about 1884, Frederick, born about 1886, Arthur Chaston, born about 1888, George Mervyn, born about 1890, and Gladys Frances, born about 1891. The youngest was Alfred Meakin, born in 1892, who may have had a twin, Marjorie Meakin, who did not survive to the 1901 census. The family always had 2 or 3 servants. Henry Meakin Hobdey died on 26 September 1914. His address was Strathallan, Palatine Rd. He was buried on 29 September 1914 in Southern Cemetery. Probate was granted to Fanny in Manchester on 17 December 1914 in the sum of £6175 2s 10d. Fanny then travelled between England and South America, at one time having an



address of 14 Royal Crescent, Scarborough. She was probably visiting Henry Meakin Jnr, who seems to have emigrated with his wife, Rubie, to Buenos Aires, where he died on 24 August 1946. Interestingly, on one journey Fanny returned from Argentina on the Royal Mail Steam Package Company ship, the Darro, quite probably the same ship involved in the sinking of the Mendi (see Harold Mole).

Fanny died on 3 January 1939, aged 84, her address at the time being 64 Dartmouth Rd, Paignton, Devon. Probate was granted in Manchester on 27 July 1939 to Charles Gedney Hobdey and Arthur Chaston Hobdey, paint merchants. Her effects were described as nil. She was buried in Southern Cemetery on 7 January 1939.

## **Alfred**

Alfred Meakin Hobdey was born in Fallowfield on 4 November 1892. He attended William Hulme's Grammar School from September 1903 until April 1907. He was a good athlete, winning the China Cup for Under 14s at the Athletics Sports in 1906. He later attended King William's College on the Isle of Man. In the 1911 census he was a shipper's clerk. He later enlisted in the Army and served with the 1st/6th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment in the Dardanelles.

In early June 1915 the Cunard Canadian steamer, *Ascania*, was at Lemnos acting as a Naval Hospital Ship. Alfred was discharged dead from the ship on 6 June 1915 as a result of wounds received in action. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey, and on the Old Hulmeians memorial at the school. He left £591 14s 5d to his mother.

Arthur Chaston and another brother served in and survived the war.

# **GILBERT BRUCE HOSEASON**

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## **Grandparents**

The paternal grandparents were James Gilbert Hoseason, a master mariner, and his wife, Anne Hardcastle, daughter of David Smith, superintendent of the Surrey Canal. They lived in the Rotherhithe area of the London docklands and were Protestant Dissenters. They possibly had 11 children but we have details for only 6 from a document dated 31 July 1837. The document is a declaration of births of children "received, filed and registered according to the customs in use among Protestant Dissenters, at the Registry of Births kept at Dr Williams' Library, Red Cross St, Cripplegate, London." The 6 children were Cordelia Townsend, born on 4 June 1829 at 48 Paradise St, Anne Smith, born on 30 March 1831 at Dock House, Susan, born on 9 June 1832 at Jennings' Cottage, James Gilbert (Gilbert's father), born on 17 March 1834, David John, born on 12 June 1835, and Eliza Katherine, born on 30 July 1836. The last three were born at King's Mill, Rotherhithe.

## **Parents**

James Gilbert Hoseason was born in Rotherhithe on 17 March 1834. In March 1854 he started work for the Great Western Railway, initially in the accounts department

at Paddington Station on a salary of £60 per annum. He later moved to the cartage department, his salary gradually rising to £90 until he resigned in March 1866.

On 16 August 1856 James married Mary Jane Scarrott at St Saviour's church, Paddington. He was 23, an accountant, and lived at 3 Honley Place, Maida Hill. Mary was 41, the daughter of Eli Scarrott, a manufacturer, and lived at 28 Blomfield Rd. Mary was born in Birmingham. We found no record of any children although the couple were together for many years. In 1861 they lived in Fulham Place, Paddington, and James was a commercial clerk. By 1871 they had moved to Manchester, living in Woodland St, Cheetham. In 1881 they were at Fair Light, Manley Rd, Withington. James was a commercial clerk in shipping.

We do not know what happened to Mary but by the time of the 1901 census, James was married to his second wife, Caroline, and they were living at 24 Central Rd, Withington. James was retired, aged 67. Caroline, born in Manchester about 1862, was 39 and they had 1 son, Gilbert Bruce, aged 6.

James died on 18 August 1906 and was buried in Southern Cemetery. He left £528 7s 2d. His address at the time of his death was 75 Nicholas Rd, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

About 1908 Caroline married Percy Mardon Lee, born in Clapham, London. The 1911 census records their address as 12 Nell Lane and Percy's occupation as assistant salesman, straw hats.

### **Gilbert Bruce**

Gilbert was born in Manchester on 1 April 1895 and was baptised at St Clement's church, Chorlton, on 2 June 1895. The baptism register records their address as 41 Albany Rd, and James' occupation as cashier. By 1911 Gilbert was still living with his parents and his occupation was assistant salesman, furs. He later became a private in the 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, service number 316136. He died on 5 November 1918 and was buried at Pont-sur-Sambre Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, grave reference A. 18.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website shows his mother as Caroline Hoseason, not Lee, and her address as 59 Lansdowne Rd, West Didsbury.

## **FRED HOUGH**

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### **Grandparents**

Fred's paternal grandparents were William and Elizabeth Hough. William was born in Knutsford about 1826. Elizabeth was also born in Knutsford about 1825. In 1871 they lived at 2 Ladybarn Avenue and William was a day gardener and Elizabeth a laundress. In 1881 they lived at 34 Ladybarn Lane and William was a gardener and domestic servant. Elizabeth was not working. They had 4 children, all born in Withington. The oldest, Peter Jackson, was Fred's father. Thomas (born about 1860) and William (born about 1862) became gardeners and domestic servants. Sarah, born about 1864, became a laundress.

Fred's maternal grandmother was Elizabeth Garnett, probably born about 1849. She had a daughter, Mary Hannah Garnett in 1866. The Garnett family is difficult to describe with certainty. They appear to have been a farming family in the Northenden area.

## Parents

Fred's father was Peter Jackson Hough, born in Withington about 1857. He was baptised on 31 May 1857. In 1871 he was 14 and a warehouse boy. In 1881 he was 23 and a commercial traveller (trimmings). On 21 August he married Ann Garnett at St Wilfred's church, Northenden. He was living in Fallowfield and she in Northenden, where she was a school teacher. He was 26 and she was 24. We believe that Ann was a cousin of Peter's second wife. There is no record of Ann's father in the marriage documentation. In 1891, Peter and Ann lived at 91 Northern Grove. Peter was a commissions agent. They had 5 children aged between a month and 6 years. In the household were also a monthly nurse and someone running errands. The term monthly nurse refers to an unqualified woman who looks after another woman following a birth. Some time after the 1891 census Ann died.

Peter married Mary Hannah Garnett, probably a cousin of Ann, at Christ Church on 18 April 1896.

Mary was 29, a spinster, and we found no record of her father. She was born on 23 February 1866 and baptised at the cathedral in Manchester on 22 April 1866. At the baptism her mother, Elizabeth, was described as a spinster. In 1901 the couple lived at 17 Northern Grove with the 5 children from Peter's first marriage and Fred, aged 3. In 1904, Peter became a freemason in the Townley Parker Lodge. In 1911 the family lived at 174 Palatine Rd, West Didsbury, with 4 children and Ann's mother, Sarah Garnett, aged 88. Peter and the oldest son, Harry, 25, were working in dress trimmings and buttons. Bessie, 23, was an elementary school teacher.

Peter died in 1919.

## Fred

Fred was born in Didsbury on 21 January 1897. He attended William Hulme's Grammar School from January 1909 to July 1913. He played cricket in Gaskell House. He later became an ordinary seaman and gunner in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, service number Mersey Z/2101.

On 10 October 1918 he was aboard the RMS (Royal Mail Service) Leinster, a 3069 ton packet steamship built by Lairds of Birkenhead in 1895 at a cost of £95,000. The ship was sailing from Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire) to Holyhead when she was torpedoed by German submarine UB-123. Aboard her were 77 crew, more than 100 British civilians,



22 postal workers, nurses from various countries and almost 500 military personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Over 500 of those aboard perished, including Fred. His body was recovered and buried in the Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, CE New Plot 759. He is remembered on the Old Hulmeians War Memorial. One of his older brothers was a captain in the Intelligence Department.

## THOMAS MOTTRAM HOUGH

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### Grandparents

Thomas' paternal grandparents were Thomas and Anne Hough. Thomas was born in Goosnargh, Lancashire, about 1828, and Anne in Odiham, Hampshire, about 1832. Thomas was variously described as a carrier's clerk, a commercial clerk, a commercial railway clerk and a cashier. The couple had 6 children. The oldest was born in Openshaw, the others in Gorton. The fourth child, another Thomas, was Thomas Mottram's father. They lived at addresses in Gorton and Chorlton-on-Medlock. In 1901 they had moved to 80 Birch Lane, Longsight, and in 1911 Anne, now widowed, lived at 78 Birch Lane.

The maternal grandparents were John and Harriet Mottram. John was born about 1825 in Thorpe, Derbyshire, and Harriet about 1832 in Salford. In 1871 they lived at 103 Higher Cambridge St, and John was a warehouseman. In 1881 they lived at 101 Lloyd St, Chorlton-on-Medlock, and John was a salesman. In 1891 they lived at 62 Warwick St, and John was now in the straw hat and bonnet trade. The couple had 6 children, of whom the youngest was Helena Beatrice, Thomas Mottram's mother.

### Parents

Thomas Mottram's father, Thomas, was born at 20 John St, Gorton, on 18 October 1860. He was baptised on 13 January 1861 at St Stephen's church, Chorlton-on-Medlock. His first marriage was to Emily Alice Oldfield at St Stephen's church on 31 October 1885. They had a daughter, also Emily Alice, about 1887. Following her mother's death she stayed with her paternal grandparents. She was still with her grandmother, Anne Hough, in 1911, working as a babylinen saleswoman. By 1891 Emily Alice Snr had died.

Thomas remarried in 1893. His second wife was Helena Beatrice Mottram. She was born in Manchester on 19 May 1866 and was baptised with her older sister on 31 October 1866 at Manchester Cathedral. Thomas and Helena married on 11 February 1893 at St Clement's church, Greenheys. His address at the time was 23 Nelson St, and hers was 62 Warwick St. By 1897 they lived at 12 Warwick Avenue and in 1911 they lived at 185 Burton Rd, West Didsbury. Thomas was a buyer of cotton goods. They had 3 children, the second being Thomas Mottram. The others were George, born about 1894, and John Herbert, born about 1904. They both appear to have been alive in 1917.

## **Thomas Mottram**

Thomas Mottram was born in West Didsbury on 26 April 1897 and baptised at Christ Church on 27 June 1897. From 1910 to 1912 he attended William Hulme's Grammar School. While a pupil he played football (Second Eleven in 1911 and First Eleven in 1912). He went to sea after school, training on the Dimsdale from June 1912 until October 1913 and then on the Beeswing from 26 November 1913 until the same date in 1916. In January 1917 he received his Certificate of Competency as Second Mate of a Foreign-Going Ship from the Office of the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen.

On 6 April 1917 he was sailing as Third Mate on the SS Powhatan, a Mercantile Marine vessel, 25 miles northwest of the Outer Hebrides when she was sunk by a torpedo from U-66, commanded by Kapitanleutnant Thorwald von Bothmer. The master was taken prisoner and the rest of the crew lost (36 lives). Thomas is commemorated on the Cavendish Rd School memorial, the Old Hulmeians War Memorial and the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

## **ERIC BARTON HURST**

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### **Grandparents**

Eric's paternal grandparents were James Hurst and Charlotte Brooke. James was born about 1843 in Manchester and Charlotte about the same year in Lincoln. They married on 27 December 1864 at St Michael-on-the-Mount, Lincoln. In 1871 they lived at 198 South St, Gorton. James was a stationer employing 2 men, 3 boys and 2 girls. They had 2 children, Charles Alfred (Eric's father), aged 4, and Walter, aged 1. At the time of the census only Walter was at home. In 1881 they lived at 23 Park St, Chorlton-on-Medlock and James was a commercial traveller. By 1893 James had died. The maternal grandparents were Edmund Wrigley Barton and his wife, Mary. Edmund was born about 1830 in Manchester and Mary about 1834 in St Pancras, London. In 1871 they lived at 36 Tamworth St, Stretford, with their 3 children, Ada Mary, born about 1863, Minnie (Eric's mother), born in 1864 and Edmund Horatio, born about 1866. Edmund Snr was a traveller and clerk in minerals, plaster and cement. In 1881 Mary, now a widow, lived at 230 Brunswick St, Chorlton-on-Medlock with Minnie and Edmund Jnr. In 1891 Mary was at the same address, running a lodging house. Minnie and Edmund were still at home. One of the 3 lodgers was Achilles Michaelides, a shipper of Cypriot origin.

### **Parents**

Charles Alfred Hurst was born in Manchester about 1866 and baptised at St Silas' church, Ardwick, on 22 May 1866. His parents' address at that time was 176 Radnor St, Moss Side. He became a commercial traveller in paper and at the age of 24 in 1891 was boarding with James and Frances Barrow at 215 Brunswick St.

Minnie Barton was born on 15 December 1864 and baptised at the cathedral in Manchester on 26 May 1865. Her family lived in Moss Side at that time.

Charles and Minnie married at All Saints' church, Chorlton-on-Medlock, on 4 April 1893. Their address was 50 Booth St East and Charles was described as a traveller. One of the witnesses was Ada Barton. In 1901 Charles and Minnie lived at 22 Northen Grove and Charles was a shipper's manager. By this time they had 2 children, Eric and Norman Brooke. Only Norman was present for the 1901 census, aged 2. They had a servant. By 1911 the couple appear to have separated. Minnie was a lodging house keeper, living with Norman at 87 Lansdowne Rd, West Didsbury. Charles, now an agent for paper makers, was lodging at 504 Moss Lane East, Rusholme.

Norman Brooke Hurst (Eric's brother) was born on 23 March 1899 and baptised at Christ Church, Blackpool, on 16 July 1899. He married at Christ Church, West Didsbury, on 16 June 1927, the service taken by Richard Lavers Kemp (father of Norman Kemp, also on our memorial). Norman was a salesman and his wife was May Jureidini whose family were from Syria and whose father was a shipping merchant. Norman died in 1972.

## **Eric**

Eric Barton Hurst was born in Manchester on 14 February 1896. He was baptised at St Thomas' church, Heaton Norris, on 11 April 1896. In the 1901 census he appears as a visitor with the Hughes family in Rhoslan, Llandrillo, Colwyn Bay. He was only 5 at the time. The other 3 visitors were Achilles and Chrysanthos Michaelides, both British Cypriots, and Demosthenes Michaelides, born in Romania. In 1911 Eric, 15, was living at 114 Burton Rd with his aunt Ada (housekeeper) and Chrysanthos Michaelides, a shipper.

In 1910 Eric was admitted to William Hulme's Grammar School. His aunt, Ada Barton, was his guardian. He played lacrosse for Heywood House. He apparently gave an account of the King's Rally at Windsor in 1911. This probably refers to a rally of 35000 Boy Scouts in Windsor Great Park on 4 July 1911. Baden-Powell was present and the rally was visited by the King, Queen Mary, Princess May and the Prince of Wales. Eric left school in 1912.

## **Military**

Eric enlisted with the Honourable Artillery Company (founded by Henry VIII) on 2 June 1915 at Armoury House, Finsbury. His address was 10 The Grove, Blackheath. He apparently gave his age as 21 but he was actually 19. His service number was 3681. He left England on 21 July 1916, joining No 6 Entrenching Battalion on 29 July. On 25 November 1916 he was among 183 men posted to A Company, 1st Battalion at Nouvion en Ponthieu near Abbeville. The battalion was at rest. On Christmas Day 1916 Eric and 42 others were transferred to the Tank Corps but on 14 January 1917 he was admitted to the 12th Stationary Hospital at St Pol with bronchitis. He died from bronchopneumonia on 29 January 1917, aged 21. He is buried in the St Pol Communal Cemetery Extension, reference D. 5. He is commemorated on the Old Hulmeians War Memorial.

Interestingly, although his mother was named as next of kin, his personal effects were sent to his father but not until 11 October 1918. They were listed as letters, card, ring, purse, cigarette case, wallet, photos, wrist watch (broken), pipe, safety razor in tin, diary, testament, initial, belt, compass, card case and bag.

## JOHN HENRY HURST

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### Grandparents and parents

John's father was William Henry Hurst, baptised on 25 March 1855, son of William and Jane Hurst. His mother was Emily Ann Hurst, also born about 1855. William Henry was born in Newton le Willows and Emily in Hulme. In 1891 they lived at 103 Darncombe St, Moss Side. William was a bookkeeper for a stationer and binder. They had a son, William Thomas, aged 2. In 1901 they lived at 4 Beaufort Avenue, West Didsbury, with their 2 sons, William Thomas and John Henry, aged 12 and 9. William Henry was now a printer (manager). In 1911 they were living at 173 Burton Rd.

### John

John was born in Moss Side on 17 February 1892. He attended William Hulme's Grammar School from 1904. In 1911, aged 19, he was living with his parents and working as a printer (traveller). In the war he fought with the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers, service number PS/5101. It is unclear whether he was a private or a lance corporal at the time of his death. He received serious head injuries and was admitted to hospital in Boulogne. He died of his injuries on 22 April 1918, aged 26. At the time his parents lived at 10 Derwent Avenue, West Didsbury. At the time of his hospital admission, his brother was also in hospital, having been gassed.

John is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, grave reference XI. E. 10. He is also commemorated on the Old Hulmeians War Memorial.

## VINCENT HARRY JACKS

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### Grandparents

According to the 1861 census, Vincent's paternal grandparents were Thomas and Hannah Jacks. It seems more likely that they were his great grandparents. In the 1871 census, his father, Samuel, was recorded as the grandson of Thomas and Hannah. Thomas was born about 1808 in Oswestry and Hannah in Diddlesbury, Shropshire. In 1861 they lived in Lower Broad St, Ludlow. Thomas was a road man and Hannah a charwoman. They had 7 children, Thomas, born about 1835 and a road man, Elizabeth, born about 1837 and a day nurse, William, born about 1841 and a general labourer, Richard, born about 1844 and a road man, Eliza, born about 1849, Anne, born about 1851, and Samuel, born about 1858. It seems likely that Elizabeth was

in fact Samuel's mother. They were still at the same address in 1871. Thomas was a labourer, Richard also a labourer, Eliza possibly a dressmaker, and Samuel, now 13, described as Thomas' grandson, a scholar.

Anne Jacks later married William Morris and was the mother of another man on the memorial, William Thomas Morris.

The maternal grandparents were Henry and Martha Griffiths. Henry was born about 1827 in Beguildy, Radnorshire, and Martha about 1831 in Shrewsbury. Henry was a stonemason but in 1881 he also kept a beer house. They lived at the Builders Arms in Beguildy. They had at least 7 children, Elizabeth, born about 1851, Mary, born about 1853, Maria, born about 1855, Catherine (Vincent's mother), born about 1860, Louisa, born about 1869, Alice, born about 1870, and Beatrice, born about 1873.

## **Parents**

Samuel Henry Jacks was born in 1856 in Ludlow. He was baptised in Ludlow on 19 November 1856 and his mother is given as Elizabeth Jacks. In 1881, aged 23, he was a grocer's assistant, living in a boarding house at 67 Castle St, Ludlow. Catherine Griffiths was born about 1860 in Llanfair Waterdine, Shropshire. In 1881 she lived with her parents and was described as a domestic servant.

By 1891 Samuel and Catherine lived at 68 Burton Rd with 2 of Samuel's nieces. Samuel was now a grocer. In 1901 and 1911 they lived at 82 Burton Rd. They had 3 children. The oldest, Louisa Eliza, was born in 1887 and baptised at St Stephen's church, Chorlton-on-Medlock, on 16 February 1887. She died a few months later. Elsie Helena was born about 1893. She married James Castledine at Christ Church on 11 January 1922. The third child was Vincent.

Samuel died on 5 September 1921 at the High Elms Nursing Home, Victoria Park. He left £1199 18s 6d to Catherine.

Catherine remained at 82 Burton Rd until her death on 27 March 1933. Probate was granted to Elsie Helena Castledine. She left £1953 18s 5d.

A point of interest is that on the 1901 census, living with the family was William T Morris, described as Samuel's nephew and a grocer's assistant. From other information it seems that the three Morris brothers all moved from Ludlow to work with Samuel Jacks (see William Thomas Morris).

## **Vincent**

Vincent was born in West Didsbury in 1898 and was baptised at Christ Church on 21 September 1898. He enrolled at Burton Rd School on 18 January 1904, one week after it opened. He left just before his 14th birthday. He later served as a private in A Company, 7th Battalion, the South Lancashire Regiment, service number 50595. He died on 20 September 1917, aged 19. He is buried at the Oxford Road Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, grave reference II. A. 4. His name also appears on the memorial at Cavendish Road School.

# HENRY NORMAN KAY

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## Grandparents and parents

Norman's paternal grandparents were Edward and Jane Kay. Edward was born about 1835 and Jane about 1839. In the 1881 census they lived at 8 Thurley St, Cheetham. There were 4 children with them, Henry aged 21, William Edward, 20, Mary, 16, and Elizabeth, 11. Edward and Henry were both clerks but "out of employ". William (Norman's father) was an undersalesman and Mary a stationery assistant.

William was born on 26 November 1860 and baptised on 3 March 1861 at St John's church, Manchester. The family address at the time was 11 Autumn St, Oldham Rd, and Edward was a clerk. William married Mary Alice Moore on 12 September 1889 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Raby St, Moss Side. He was 28 and his address was 31 Barton St, Moss Side. Mary was 20 and lived at 89 Prince's Rd, Moss Side. By this time Edward Kay was described as a retired cashier. Mary's father, Henry Moore, was an ironmonger.

In 1891 William and Mary lived at 5 Stratford Avenue, Didsbury, with Norman, aged 9 months, and a servant. William was a cashier. By 1901 they had moved to 45 Northen Grove with Norman and his sister Constance Mabel, aged 6. In 1911 they all lived in Northen Grove and William was a cashier and book keeper for a glove importer. Mary was said to be at home with no occupation but below that is written "except management of the home".

## Norman

We have called Henry Norman by his middle name as that is how he appears on the war memorial. He was born in West Didsbury on 2 July 1890 and was baptised on 31 August 1890 at the Moss Side Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Raby St. By the age of 20 he was a bank clerk.

He married Ellen May Thompson on 5 April 1915 at St. Clement's New Church, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

## Ellen

Ellen's paternal grandparents were Frederick and Sarah Thompson. Frederick was born in Nottingham about 1833 and was an auctioneer and valuer. Sarah was born in Halifax about 1831. Their oldest son was Lawrence Taylor Thompson, born in Lower Broughton about 1864. In 1881 the family lived at 107 Camp St, Broughton. Lawrence also became an auctioneer and valuer. Between 1895 and 1898 he was a member of the United Grand Lodge of England, West Lancashire Century Lodge, Blackpool. He died on the Fylde in 1900. His wife was called Ellen (daughter of Alderman John Milling of Manchester) and their first child was Ellen May, born in Didsbury about 1890. In 1891 they lived in Catterick Rd.

At the time of Norman and Ellen's marriage, her address was 26 South Drive, Chorlton.

## **Military**

Norman served as a lieutenant in the 7th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He served at Gallipoli and in Egypt and died in France on 21 August 1918, aged 28. His wife's address was given as 2 South Drive, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. Norman is buried at Queens Cemetery, Bucquoy, Pas de Calais, reference II. C. 6.

## **ROBERT WILLIAM KELLY**

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### **Grandparents**

Robert's paternal grandparents were Robert and Jane Kelly. Robert Snr was born in St Asaph, Flint, about 1827 and Jane in Caerwyn about 1829. In 1861 they lived in Denbighshire with 6 children, of whom the fourth was John Shelmerdine, Robert's father, then aged 5. The family appear to have moved from Wales to the West Midlands and returned later to St Asaph. Robert Snr was a painter and plumber. In 1871 they lived at Lower St, St Asaph. Robert Snr was now a plumber and glazier.

The maternal grandparents were William and Maria Hall. William was born in Odd Rode, Cheshire, about 1833 and Maria in Lawton, Cheshire, about 1839. In 1871 they lived at the Lawton Salt Works and William was a bricklayer. They had 3 children and a lodger. The oldest child was Olive (Robert's mother), then aged 6.

### **Parents**

John Shelmerdine Kelly was born in Darlaston, Staffordshire, in 1855. By the age of 15 he was a painter but later became a plumber. We failed to definitively identify him in the 1881 census but believe he was married and living in lodgings. His first wife later died.

Olive Hall was born in Lawton and was baptised there on 2 April 1865. In the 1881 census she was working as a nurse (servant) for George C Holt and his family at Green Bank, Lawton. Mr Holt was a surgeon and lived with his wife, 4 children, a governess, 2 nurses, a housemaid and a cook.

John and Olive married at Christ Church on 30 January 1888. By this time John was a plumber and a widower. Olive's father, William, was deceased. The couple's address was 13 Moor St, West Didsbury. In 1901 the family lived at 1 Cavendish Avenue with 3 children, Fred M, 18 and a carpenter/joiner, Joseph, 11, and Robert William, 3. In 1911 they lived at 12 Moor St. By this time one of the older boys had died and they had a fourth son, James, aged 9.

### **Robert William**

Robert was born Manchester in 1897. At some point in his early years the family lived in Orchard Grove. It is unclear whether his first school was St Paul's or St Cuthbert's but he joined the junior department at Cavendish Rd in August 1906, moving to the senior department in August 1907. There is no record of his leaving date. In 1911 he was still at school, aged 13, but was also working as an errand boy. His father was now described as a house plumber.

Robert became a lance corporal with the 11th Battalion, the Lancashire Fusiliers, service number 8132. He died on 21 October 1916 and is buried at the Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, grave reference II. B. 35. He is commemorated on the memorial at Cavendish Rd School.

## **NORMAN KEMP**

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### **Grandparents**

Norman's paternal grandparents were Joshua Joseph Kemp, born in 1839, and Elizabeth Lavers, born in 1843, both in Cork. Between 1863 and 1870 Joshua was a grocer and he also had an Italian warehouse and his address was 32 Great George's St, Cork. They married on 10 April 1862. In the 1911 census the family lived in 11, Dyke Parade, Cork City. Joshua was a house and land agent. Elizabeth had 11 children born alive, 5 of whom were still alive in 1911.

The maternal grandparents were John Woodhouse and Elizabeth Ann Cheetham. John was born in Preston about 1829 and Elizabeth in Salford about 1831. They married at St Philip's church, Salford, on 29 September 1853. They had 9 children, of whom Emily Maud, Norman's mother, was the seventh. Mary, Frances, Elizabeth, John and James were all born in Goosnargh. Herbert, Emily and Alfred were born in Farnley, near Leeds, and Edward in Sunderland. In 1861 they lived at Park Cottage, Whittingham Lane, Whittingham, and John was the curate of Goosnargh. At this point they had 5 children and a servant. Elizabeth died on 27 March 1871. John remarried. His second wife, Jane, was born in London about 1828. There is no record of any children.

In 1871 John was living with 6 children in Bishop Wearmouth, Durham and was a curate. In 1881 John and Jane were living with 6 children at The Vicarage, 15 Byker Village, Northumberland, and John was the vicar of Byker. John Jnr was now a teacher.

### **Parents**

Richard Lavers Kemp was born at No 6, South Center, City Cork on 3 November 1866. He was the oldest child of Joshua and Elizabeth. His name appears in the Cork Constitution newspaper on 7 June 1888 when he won second prize in the President's Prizes of the Church of Ireland, Cork Young Men's Association. The subject was the Book of Nehemiah, 1st and 2nd epistles to Timothy. In 1889 his name appears in the same newspaper, advertising properties to rent. For £12 you could rent unfurnished lodgings with piped water. His address was 32 Great George's St, Cork. It would seem that he either worked with his father or had taken over the family business.

He subsequently obtained an MA degree and by 1895 he lived in Chadderton. It is not clear exactly when he entered the church but at the time of his marriage in 1893 he was Senior Curate of Byker. By 1901 he was a clergyman in Blackpool. His address was St Paul's Schools, Egerton Rd, Blackpool. In 1911 his address was given as St Paul's Vicarage, Egerton Rd, Blackpool. On 15 December 1911, the Manchester Courier reported that the previous day the Bishop of Manchester instituted the Rev Richard

Lavers Kemp to the rectory and parish church of St James, Moss Side. From 22 April 1913 until 5 September 1918 he was at St Mary's church, Radcliffe. From 1918 to 1929 he was rector of Christ Church and his name can be seen on the rectors board in the church. On the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website he is referred to as the Rev Canon Kemp.

He died on 24 December 1952 at King Charles Vicarage, Tunbridge Wells, also having an address at 70 Barnhorn Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. Probate was awarded in London on 7 February 1953 to Brian Charles Lavers Kemp, schoolmaster, in the sum of £2294 6s 11d.

Emily Maud Woodhouse was born in Farnley on 3 May 1864 and was baptised on 20 September 1864. Her first marriage was to the Rev John Peart. He died on 28 March 1891 at Netherwitton, Northumberland. Probate was awarded to Emily on 3 July 1891 at Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the sum of £401 11s. At the time, Emily's address was 12 St Mary's Avenue, Harrogate. They had a child, Mona, born about 1892 in Harrogate. Richard and Emily married on 27 November 1893 at St Mary's church, Harrogate, according to the Cork Constitution. The ceremony was carried out by the Rev John Woodhouse, vicar of St Peter's church, Middlesbrough (brother of the bride), assisted by the Rev G R Taylor, vicar of Byker (brother-in-law of the bride) and the Rev Herbert Woodhouse, Senior Curate of Otley (brother of the bride).

They went on to have 2 children, Norman, born in 1895, and Brian, born in 1901.

### **Norman**

Norman was born in Oldham and baptised on 4 June 1895 at Christ Church, Chadderton. At the age of 6 he was living with his family in Blackpool. By 1911 he was being educated at Rossall School, Fleetwood, and his name appears on the school war memorial. He held a mathematical scholarship at the school. He was head of his house and captain of the choir and the hockey team. He left Rossall in July 1914 and won an open mathematical exhibition at Magdalen College, Cambridge, with the intention of taking holy orders. At the outbreak of war he obtained a commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He went to the front in May 1915, becoming very popular with his men. He was wounded in the head and thigh on 8 December 1915. He was invalided home a second time in April 1916, when he was bombing officer for his battalion. He rejoined his unit on 14 July 1916.

In September 1916 he was a second lieutenant in the 5th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. He died in action in France on 9 September 1916 and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 3 C and 3 D.

# HAROLD BOWATER LARGE

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## Grandparents and parents

Harold's paternal grandfather was Joseph Jerome Large (1822–1903). He was born in Birmingham. In 1871 he lived in Ladywood, Birmingham, with his wife Mary (born about 1823) and their 2 sons, Arthur and Frank Jerome (Harold's father). His occupation was given as pawnbroker in 1871 and as an optician in 1878. His death was registered in Chorlton in 1903.

Frank Jerome Large was born in Birmingham on 26 June 1853 and was baptised at St Thomas' church, Birmingham, on 31 July 1853. Phoebe Bowater, daughter of William Bowater, a dentist, was born about 1861 in Kidsgrove, Staffordshire. They married on 29 August 1878 at St Bartholomew's church, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

In 1881 Frank and Phoebe lived at 28 Alvington Crescent, Hackney with their daughter, Eleanor. Frank was an East India merchant. In 1891 they lived at 114 Birchanger Rd, Croydon with Harold, aged 9, and Mabel, 6. In 1901 they were at 25 Heaton Rd, Withington, with Eleanor, Harold and Mabel. Frank was now described as a commercial traveller. We know that they had a fourth child who had died before 1911 but have no details. In 1911, still in Heaton Rd, Frank was described as a printer's agent. Mabel was the only child living with them.

Frank died on 8 June 1917, described as a lithographic printer. Probate was awarded in Manchester on 28 July and he left £310 to Phoebe. Phoebe died in 1930.

## Harold

Harold was born about 1882 in the Islington/Stoke Newington area of London. In the 1901 census he was 19 and an architect pupil. He married Mary Jane Griffiths (1875–1951) on 7 April 1906 at St. Paul's church, Withington. The priest was the Rev W Muzzell. Mary's address at the time was 1 Egerton Crescent, Withington, and her father was recorded as Edward William Griffiths, a works manager. A report in the Manchester Courier of 3 December 1909 states that Mr Arthur M Samuel, prospective Conservative and Unionist candidate for the Stretford Division, addressed a meeting in West Didsbury the previous evening and that Mr Harold B Large was supporting him. We have not been able to find Harold and Mary in the 1911 census. We know that at some point Harold was a freemason in the Lodge number Manchester 2554.

Harold and Mary had at least one daughter, Joan Muriel, born on 11 April 1914, who married Harold Vernon Wilkes at Christ Church on 6 February 1937. Joan and Harold Wilkes both died in 1989.

## Military

At the outbreak of war the British resolved to protect oil supplies in the Middle East by occupying the area around Basra in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). A series of campaigns towards Baghdad took place against the Turkish forces of the Ottoman Empire. In



March 1917 the Turks retreated towards Baghdad and destroyed the bridges across the River Diyala. Various British units of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force tried to cross the river, eventually succeeding on 10 March 1917, forcing the Turks to retreat. Following the retreat the 9th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with whom Harold was serving as a second lieutenant, cleared a position in palm groves around Saida and Dibaiyi and then caught up with Turkish rearguard positions. Harold died on active service on 10 March 1917. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website gives his age as 33 but the censuses would suggest he was 34 or 35 years old.

Probate was awarded to Mary in London on 25 April 1917. Her address was 12 Derwent Avenue, West Didsbury. Harold left £478 10s.

Harold is commemorated on the Basra Memorial (Stone 9) near Zubayr, Iraq, which commemorates 40682 Commonwealth forces members whose graves are not known. The Basra Memorial was originally located on the main quay of the naval dockyard at Maqil, north of Basra. Because of the sensitivity of the site it was later moved by presidential decree. It was designed by Edward Prioleau Warren and was unveiled on 27 March 1929. The site was a major battleground in the first Gulf War. The Telegraph reported on the 10 November 2013 that the memorial had suffered deliberate sabotage, with some of the its items missing, including the Cross of Remembrance and the bronze plaques from the Wall of Remembrance, carrying the names of the fallen.

## **WILLIAM HENRY LORD**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

William's paternal grandparents were John and Mary Lord, both born about 1828. Mary was born in Bury. In 1851 they lived in Newchurch, south of Burnley, and had their first child, Ann, aged 5 months at the time of the census. John was an apprentice clogger. In 1861 they lived at 14 Cheapside, Burnley, John was a clogger, and they had 3 children, Ann, now 10, George, 3, and Henry, 1. By 1871 John was a widower and lived at 92 and 94 Corporation St, Manchester, with his 5 children. The younger 2 children were Helena, 9, and Albert, 5. John was described as a shoe factor. By the 1881 census John had moved to 140 and 142 Corporation St and was now a master boot maker. Ann was now a family domestic, George a book keeper, and Henry a cutter out (tailor). Helena does not appear and the youngest child is now recorded as John A. We believe he was John Albert, previously recorded as Albert, and he was to become the father of William Henry. In 1881 he was an assistant tailor, aged 16. All of John and Mary's children were born in Burnley.

John Albert Lord was born in 1865 and was married by 1891. His wife was Annie, also born about 1861 in Manchester. At the time of the 1891 census they were living at 25 Wilbraham Rd, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. John Albert was a boot factor and commercial traveller and Annie a boot saleswoman. In 1901 they lived at 9 Keppel Rd and John

was now a bootmaker (employer) but by 1911 they had returned to Wilbraham Rd. They had 4 children, Annie Jane, born about 1889, John, born about 1890, William Henry, born about 1892, and Mary, born about 1895. All the children were born in Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

### **William Henry**

William was born about 1892 and by 1911 he was an assistant in the family business. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, service number 352539. He served with the 3rd/2nd East Lancashire Field Ambulance, attached to the 1st/1st Northumbrian Field Ambulance. He died on 1 November 1918, aged 26. He was buried at the Pommereuil British Cemetery, Nord, France, grave reference B. 48.

## **LIONEL MARSH**

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### **Grandparents**

Lionel's paternal grandparents were William Marsh (1834-1864), a grocer and pawnbroker, and Jane Kneale (1839-1868). At the time of William's death on 3 November 1864 they lived at 222 City Rd, Hulme. His maternal grandparents were Thomas and Sarah Clarke. Thomas was born about 1816 in Manchester and in 1861 was a brewer, living at 8 Bury St, Hulme, with Sarah and 6 children, of whom the youngest was Charlotte, aged 4. Thomas was described as a shopkeeper in 1877.

### **Parents**

William Marsh was born in Eccles on 3 June 1861. By 1871 both his parents had died and he was living at 222 City Rd, Hulme, with an aunt and uncle. He married at the age of 16 in 1877. At that time he was a pawnbroker.

Charlotte Clarke was born in Manchester about 1857. She and William married on 1 August 1877 at All Souls church, Ancoats. Their address at that time was 189 Every St, Ancoats. By 1881 they had moved to 69 Lower Moss Lane and had 2 children and a servant. In 1891 they were living at 93 Boston St, Hulme, with 5 children. William was now a newsagent and stationer. Charlotte's mother was also living with them, described as a retired beer house keeper. In 1901 they lived at 61 Darnley St, Stretford, with 8 children. In 1911 they were at 89 Ayres Rd, Old Trafford, with 5 children. William was now described as a milk dealer. The couple had been married for 34 years. They had had 10 children of whom 3 had died. Their oldest child was William Marsh who also died in the Great War in 1917 (see below). Lionel was their ninth child and he had a younger sister, Mona Eveline. Mona was born on 1 October 1896 and was baptised at St George's church, Hulme, on 25 December 1896. She married Hugh Rowlands at Christ Church on 7 August 1920 and they lived at 19 Buxton Avenue. William Marsh Snr died in 1928 and is buried with his father in Sale Cemetery. Charlotte died in 1940.

## **Lionel**

Lionel was born on 4 June 1895 and was baptised on 18 August 1895 at St George's church, Hulme. In 1911, aged 16, he was an apprentice in letterpress printing.

On 5 July 1912 he sailed from Liverpool to Quebec on the Allan Line ship, Victoria. He seems to have travelled alone and the passenger list describes him as a milkman, aged 18. In 1914 he was still resident in Canada.

He served as a private with the 42nd Battalion of the Canadian Infantry, service number 150523. He died in service on 2 October 1916 at No 9 Casualty Clearing Station, France. He left £72 11s 11d.

He is buried at Contay British Cemetery, Somme, France, reference II. E. 22.

## **WILLIAM MARSH**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

For details of William's family please see notes on Lionel Marsh above.

### **William**

William was the oldest child of his parents. He was born in Manchester on 23 October 1882 and was baptised on 25 December 1882 at St George's church, Hulme. He married his wife, Florence about 1906 and they had 6 children. In 1911 they lived at 22 Grasmere St, Ardwick with 3 children. William was a foreman, wine and spirits.

William served as a private with the 13th Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, service number 36592. He was killed in action in Salonika, Greece, on 25 April 1917. He is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial in North Greece close to the border with Macedonia.

Florence died on 12 May 1928 at the Royal Manchester Infirmary. She left £165 0s 4d.

## **FRANK MARSLAND**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

We found little information about the maternal side of Frank's family. His paternal grandparents were James and Mary Marsland. James was born about 1819 in Sale. Mary was born about 1830 in Longsight. James was an agricultural labourer and Mary a laundress. In 1861 they lived on Chorlton Green but had moved to Didsbury by 1871. They had 6 children. Amy, born about 1857 in Chorlton, became a laundress. Leonard (Frank's father) was born in Chorlton and was baptised on 25 July 1858 at St Clement's church. Ada was born in Chorlton about 1862. The other 3 children were all born in Didsbury, Edith about 1867, Arthur about 1869 and William about 1870. By 1881 Mary was a widow and lived with 5 of the children at Little Heath, Didsbury. Also there was Mary Cookson, aged 75, presumably Mary's mother.

Frank's parents were Leonard and Emma Marsland. Emma was born on 23 July 1864 in Withington. In 1891 they were living at 51 Pownall St, Altrincham, and Leonard was a gardener. By 1901 they lived at 7 Albert St, Withington, and Leonard was described as a shopkeeper, off licence, and gardener (not domestic). At that time they had a servant. Leonard died on 27 August 1907 and was buried at St Paul's church, Withington, on 3 September 1907, apparently on the orders of the coroner. In 1911, Emma, now 46 and a widow, was living at 12 Beaufort Avenue, West Didsbury. Leonard and Emma had 6 children. The first three were born in Altrincham, Ethel about 1887, Arthur Chorlton on 12 January 1889, and William about 1891. The younger three were all born in Withington, Frank in 1895, Alice on 22 November 1896, and Harold about 1902. Alice was baptised at St Paul's church on 20 December 1896. Ethel became an elementary school teacher and Arthur a yarn tester, shipping.

Emma appears in the 1939 Register, living at 33 Melbury Avenue, Didsbury. She is described as incapacitated. Also resident were Arthur and his wife, Beatrice Maude Seymour (nee Armstrong), and their 2 children, Alice and Frank. Emma died on 29 October 1954 and was buried at St Paul's church on 2 November. Her address then was 85 Heaton Moor Rd, Stockport.

## **Frank**

Frank was born on 4 March 1895 and was baptised at St Paul's church on 14 April 1895. At that time the family lived at 6 Oxford Terrace, Cotton Lane. In 1911, aged 16, he was an insurance clerk. He served as a private in the 21st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 19198. He later served as a pioneer with the 2nd Special Company of the Royal Engineers, service number 156565. Pioneers mainly performed construction or engineering tasks. Frank died in action on the Messines Ridge on 29 May 1917 and was buried at the Strand Military Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium, grave reference II. C. 3. The family grave can be seen in St Paul's churchyard and records the names of Leonard, Emma, Frank and Harold who died in 1938, aged 37.

It is interesting to note that Frank's brothers Arthur and William appear on the Roll of Honour in Christ Church.

## **CHARLES CAMPBELL MAY**

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### **Parents**

Charles' parents were Charles Edward May, born 4 February 1858 in Rotherhithe, and his wife, Susan Laura, born about 1864 in Woolwich. Charles and Susan married about 1882 and had 3 children, 2 of whom were still alive in 1911. Charles was apprenticed to Siemens Bros who had a cable factory in Woolwich and he helped fit electric lighting in the Royal Albert Dock. He spent a year in Glasgow with the Electric Light Company and then returned to Siemens. Siemens arranged for him to go to New Zealand where he worked for the Otago and Southland Telegraph Department. The office was destroyed by fire in 1887 and he was inspired to find ways

to prevent such disasters. He invented the first automatic fire alarm, patented as the Mays Automatic Fire Enunciator. With George Oatway he formed the May-Oatway Alarm company and Charles returned to England to run the London office. In 1911 the family were living at 7 Forest Glade, Leytonstone. At that time Charles Edward was 52 and a general manager of the fire alarm company. Charles Campbell lived with his parents and they had a servant.

Charles Edward's military career is a little vague. For 6 years from the age of 18 he was a member of the 9th Kent Artillery, a volunteer corps. It is not known when or why he joined the New Zealand forces but he became a major. He served in Cairo at some point and gave his house over to wounded soldiers. He was at Rouen hospital when he heard of his son's death. At some point he was awarded the OBE.

### **Charles Campbell**

Charles was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, on 27 July 1888. In 1911 he lived with his parents in Leytonstone and worked as a secretary for the fire alarm company. In January 1912 he married Bessie Maud Holl in West Ham. Bessie was the third of 4 children of Charles Ernest and Rachel Bessie Holl. Charles Ernest was born about 1858 in Norwich and Rachel was born about 1863 in Woodford, Essex. In 1911 they lived at 142 Hainault Rd, Leytonstone and Charles was a ribbon merchant. The family had a servant. Bessie Maud was born in Leytonstone and was baptised at St John the Baptist church on 6 May 1888.

Charles and Bessie had a daughter, Maude Pauline, born on 20 July 1914 and baptised at Christ Church on 11 October 1914. By this time the family had moved to Manchester and lived at 2 Lyndhurst Rd, Withington.

We do not know what brought the family to Manchester but Charles wrote regular columns for the Manchester Evening News and the Sheffield Weekly Telegraph. He is described elsewhere as an author and poet.

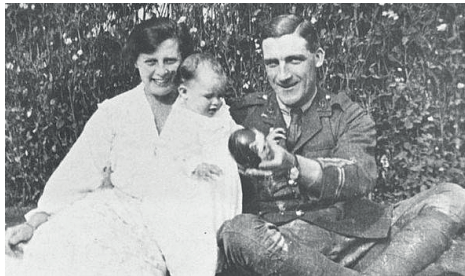
Charles fought with B Company, the 22nd Battalion of the Manchesters. He was a lieutenant from 12 January until 6 February 1915. He became a captain on 7 February 1915. He served in France from 11 November 1915 and was killed in action on 1 July 1916, the first day of the battle of the Somme. He was leading his company during an attack on the Dantzig Alley trench system. It has been said that the attack was successful but most of the officers were killed or wounded. His colonel wrote that, "Though mortally wounded he gallantly continued to give orders and encourage his men to the last. Had he lived I would have recommended him for the DSO."

The Manchester Evening News reported their deep regret at his death, saying that he had contributed to their columns for many years and that his robust stories of the trenches were much appreciated. His pen pictures of trench life betrayed a spirit which could jest at dangers and discomforts. The article also states that he had served 6 years with King Edward's Horse and had founded and commanded the Legion of Volunteers in Manchester.

Charles' WW1 diaries have been published as a book, *To Fight Alongside Friends*, edited by Gerry Harrison.

Charles is buried at Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, reference II. B. 3. He is also commemorated in the Derby Chapel in Manchester Cathedral, which is dedicated to the regiment. His widow bought an oak chair for the chapel in his memory.

He left £852 4s 6d. After his death Bessie married again in West Ham in 1919. Her second husband was Captain Francis John Earles. He had made a promise to Charles on the eve of the battle of the Somme to provide for his wife and child in the event of his death. Bessie lived in Paris at one time but died in Folkestone on 15 April 1966, aged 78. Maude Pauline died in 1971 and her death was registered in Chorlton.



*Charles with Bessie and Maude*

## THOMAS McGUCKIAN

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### Grandparents

Thomas's paternal grandfather, also Thomas, was born about 1834 in Balmaghie, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. His wife was Mary Ann Burgess, born about 1836 in Kirkpatrick Durham, Kirkcudbrightshire. In 1861 they lived at Drumhumphry, a school in the parish of Kirkpatrick Durham. Thomas was a labourer. We were unable to find them in the 1871 census but in 1881, although still married, Thomas and Mary were at different addresses in the Dalbeattie area. Thomas was with their son, George (Thomas Jnr's father) and Mary was at Hillhead House with 6 other children. Mary was a sick nurse.

The couple had at least 8 children, Mary, born about 1858, George William Lawrence (Thomas Jnr's father), born in 1859, Annie, born about 1862, John, born about 1864, another Thomas, born about 1866, Jane, born about 1872, William, born about 1875, and Agnes born about 1878. Thomas Snr died on 11 November 1877.

Thomas's maternal grandparents were William Ballatyne and Margaret Keith. William was born in Paisley about 1822 and Margaret in Neilston, Renfrewshire about 1823. William was variously described as an iron turner fitter, a foreman engine smith, and an engine fitter before a career change after moving to Manchester. In 1851 William and Margaret lived at 18 Reid St, Calton, with their first child, also William, born about 1850. In 1861 they lived in Netherlee, Cathcart, and in 1871 at a public house, also in Cathcart. They had 6 children, William, Mary, born about 1855, Matthew Shields, born about 1856, Janet, born about 1859, Margaret, born about 1860, and Agnes Keith (Thomas's mother), born in 1861.

By 1881 they had moved to Manchester and lived at 7 Laburnum Terrace, Barlow Lane, Levenshulme. William was now a foreman in a cake and biscuit warehouse.

## Parents

George William Lawrence McGuckian was born on 7 September 1859 in Kirkpatrick Durham. In 1861 he lived at Drumhumphry with his parents and older sister, Margaret, born about 1858. Agnes Keith Bannatyne was born on 8 November 1861 in Cathcart, Renfrewshire. Their marriage was registered in Chorlton in 1882. Margaret was born on 15 June 1883 and was baptised on 30 December 1883 at Manchester Cathedral. Thomas was born about 1885 and there do not seem to have been any more children. In 1891 George, two of his siblings, William and Agnes, and Margaret and Thomas were living at 1 Orchard Terrace. The head of the household was Ann McGuckian, aged 55, described as George's mother – presumably this was Mary Ann (nee Burgess). A public tree on Ancestry states that in 1891 Thomas's mother, Agnes, was living at 65 Broom Lane, Levenshulme, and working as a sewer in a print shop. In 1901 George was living in Didsbury, possibly Beaver Rd, with Margaret and Thomas. George was a carpenter/joiner.

## Thomas

Thomas was born in Manchester about 1885. He seems to have lived mostly with his father until at least the age of 15. He attended Didsbury National School, now Didsbury Church of England Primary School. In 1911 he was a boarder at 35 Maskell St, Chorlton-on-Medlock, and was a bricklayer.

On 1 October 1914 he enlisted at Derby into the Notts and Derby Regiment, otherwise known as the Sherwood Foresters, service number 17604. On 23 October 1914 he was discharged because a medical condition made him “not able to become an efficient soldier”. On the attestation forms he gave his next of kin as his mother, Agnes, of 21 Orchard St, West Didsbury. He appears to have re-enlisted under the name of McGregor and he served as a gunner with the 34th Battalion, Heavy Artillery Group, Royal Garrison Artillery, service number 47723. To confuse matters further his surname appears as McGucking on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, although they also state that he fought as McGregor. He died on 1 September 1916, aged 31. He was buried at Becourt Military Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, grave reference I. N. 12. His name appears on the memorial outside Didsbury Church of England Primary School on Grange Lane.

## GEORGE WILLIAM MELLOR

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### Grandparents

George's paternal grandparents were William and Ann Mellor who lived on Barlow Moor Road. William was born about 1832 in Withington and worked as a gardener. Ann was born in Withington about 1835. They had 6 children, of whom the third was George's father, also called William.

The maternal grandparents were George and Emma Washington. George was born about 1836 in Ketley Bank near Ironbridge. He worked as a puddler in a forge and

later as a coachman. Emma was born in Red Lake, Telford, about 1841. They had 6 children, the second being George's mother, Mary.

### **Parents**

William Mellor was born in Withington about 1864. In 1871 he was a grocer's assistant and in 1891 at the age of 27 he was a nurseryman. Mary Washington was born in Ketley Bank about 1870. In the 1891 census she lived at 124 Lansdowne Rd, aged 20 and working as a servant for Edward Lavey, a waterproof manufacturer.

William and Mary married at Christ Church on 8 July 1891. In 1901 they were living at 17 Moor St, West Didsbury, and William was a florist and gardener. By 1911 Mary was widowed and working as a domestic washerwoman. The couple had 6 children, one of whom had died by 1911.

### **George**

George was born in West Didsbury on 28 April 1896 and baptised at Christ Church on 10 June 1896. He attended Cavendish Road School and is named on the school war memorial. At the age of 14 he was an apprentice plumber.

He served as a private with the 19th Battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment, service number 52227. He died on 23 July 1917, aged 21. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Panel 4 and 6. At the time of his death his mother still lived at 17 Moor St.

## **JOHN LUKE MELLOR**

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### **Grandparents**

John's paternal grandparents were William and Ann Mellor. Both were born in Withington, William about 1832 and Ann a year later. They lived on Barlow Moor Rd and William was a gardener. They had 5 children, John, born about 1860, James (John Luke's father), born about 1862, William, born about 1864, Joseph, born about 1866, and Thomas, born about 1868. All the children were born in Didsbury. In 1881 William was a grocer's assistant.

The maternal grandparents were Edward and Ann McGinty, both born in Manchester, Edward about 1834 and Ann about 1838. Edward was a brass moulder. In 1871 they lived at 17 Ellen St, Salford. They had 4 children, Mary, born in Manchester about 1857, Elizabeth (John Luke's mother), born in Sheffield about 1863, Edward, born in Hulme about 1868, and Thomas, born in Salford about 1870.

### **Parents**

James Mellor was born in Didsbury about 1862. In 1881 he was living with his parents on Barlow Moor Rd and he was a plumber. Elizabeth McGinty was born in Sheffield about 1863. In 1881 she was boarding in Salford and was a throstle spinner. In 1888 she lived at 26 Burton Rd. James and Elizabeth married at Christ Church on 28 November 1888. In 1891 they lived at 12 Orchard Grove, Withington with 2 boarders. By 1901

they had moved to 22 Matlock Avenue, Withington. By 1911, James had died and Elizabeth and their 5 surviving children (3 had died) lived at 10 Buxton Avenue. The children at that time were John Luke, Elizabeth Ann, born about 1894 and a general servant, William, born about 1896 and an ironmonger's errand boy, Joe, born about 1900, and Florence, born about 1901. All the children were born in Manchester. We have no information on those who died.

### **John Luke**

John was born in Manchester on 5 August 1891. He was baptised at Christ Church on 4 March 1894, along with his sister, Elizabeth. The family's address at the time was 90 Burton Rd. He attended Christ Church School and then Burton Rd School, leaving in September 1905, aged 14. By 1911 he was living with his mother and siblings in Buxton Avenue and was a house painter, aged 19.

John married Sarah Jane Dingle at Christ Church on 1 May 1915. His address at the time was 10 Moor St, West Didsbury, and he was described as a decorator and soldier. Sarah was the eldest of 3 children of Nehemiah and Harriet Dingle. She was born about 1892 in Warrington although the family was from the Dudley area of Worcestershire. In 1911 she was a servant at 147 Burton Rd. At the time of the marriage she lived at 24 Cavendish Rd. Her father was an ironworker.

John enlisted between November 1914 and January 1915. He served with the 11th Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, service number 15572. He died on 8 October 1918 and is buried in the Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, grave reference IV. E. 29. His name appears on the memorial at Cavendish Rd School, although he never actually went there.

We found a Sarah Jane Mellor in the 1939 Register, living at 34 Golborne Avenue. We believe she died about 1972.

## **ALFRED MERCHANT**

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### **Grandparents**

Alfred's paternal grandfather was William Merchant, born about November 1826 in Hereford, son of a wheelwright also called William. On 27 August 1849 he married Jane How, born in Luton about 1829. Her father, another William, was a baker. The marriage was at the parish church, Bengoe, Hertfordshire. At the time William was a baker and Jane a bonnet maker. In 1861 William and Jane lived at 4 Dunstable Rd, Luton, with 6 children and William was a straw hat manufacturer. By 1871 they were at 92 Queen's Rd, Manchester with 8 children. William was described as a hat and bonnet cleaner, employing 2 women. William died aged 82 and was buried at St Luke's church, Cheetham, on 16 May 1908. He had been living in Moss Side.



Alfred's maternal grandparents were Thomas and Emma Ferris from Ashburton in Devon. Thomas was a tailor and draper.

## **Parents**

Alfred's father, another William, was born on 18 May 1851 in Luton. He was the first of his parents 8 children. He married Sarah Harriet Ferris (1853–1937), a dressmaker, in Lymm on 16 August 1876. In 1881 they lived at 122 Smedley Lane, Cheetham. William was a hat manufacturer and they had 2 children. In 1891 they lived at 18 Chatham Grove, Withington, with 4 children, including Alfred who was 8. William was now described as a warehouseman. They were at the same address in 1901 with 6 children. William was now a millinery agent. The eldest son, William, was a shipowner's clerk. There had been 2 other children who had died within a couple of years of being born. In 1911 the family lived at 38 Reynard St, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, and William was an agent in fancy goods. William and Sarah subsequently lived at 81 Claude Rd, Chorlton. William died in 1933.

## **Alfred**

Alfred was the fourth child of his parents. He was born on 13 November 1882, in Cheetham. He attended William Hulme's School from 1895 to 1897. He was a county lacrosse player and held the office of Assistant General Secretary of the Old Hulmeians Association for several years. By the age of 18 he was an accountant's clerk. In 1911, aged 28, he was still living with his parents and was an accounts clerk, chartered section. In 1915 he joined the OTC and obtained a commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was promoted to temporary lieutenant in April 1917.

Elizabeth Beatrice Taylor was born about 1890 in Pendleton, daughter of Job Taylor, a designer for a calico printer (later a coal agent), a British subject but born in Belgium, and his wife, Eliza or Elizabeth, born in Ormskirk.

Elizabeth was probably known as Beatrice. She and Alfred married on 11 July 1917 at the Macfadyen Memorial Church in Chorlton. His address at the time was 81 Claude Rd, and hers was 8 Lime Grove, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

Alfred joined the Manchester Regiment, Lancashire Fusiliers, service number 36921. He fought with the 6th Battalion, attached to the 11th Battalion. He rose to the rank of lieutenant. On 18 April 1918 the Manchester Evening News stated that he had been reported missing on 23 March but had subsequently written home to say that "he was all right and with his battalion." The MEN reported on 17 April that he had previously been reported missing on 21 March and "is now reported wounded. After much fighting he succeeded in rejoining his battalion on 26 March." On 24 April the MEN reported that he was wounded and missing. In fact, he had died on 10 April 1918, reflecting delays in getting information home at that time.

Alfred is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium, Panel 4.

Elizabeth died on 9 April 1927 at Manchester Royal Infirmary. The cause of death was acute appendicitis and peritonitis.

## **Macfadyen Memorial Church**

Chorlton-cum-Hardy Congregational Church started life in a masonic hall in 1879. It was initially under the control of the Chorlton Rd and Stretford churches but the former took over full responsibility in 1881 under Rev J A Macfadyen. A combined school and chapel was opened in September 1883, with 47 members enrolling in December. Dr Macfadyen died in 1889 and in 1890 a fund was set up to build a new church in his memory. The opening service of the Macfadyen Memorial Church was held on 25 October 1894. With the union of the Presbyterian and Congregational churches it became known as Macfadyen United Reform Church. In October 1975 it joined the McLaren Baptist Church to become Chorlton Central Church.

## **THOMAS ELMSLIE MIDDLEMISS**

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### **Grandparents**

Thomas's paternal grandparents were George Middlemiss and his wife, Ann (nee Gustard). George was born about 1834 in Morpeth, Northumberland, the son of Thomas Middlemiss, a mason. At the age of 17 he was living at Newgate St, Morpeth, with his parents and was a mason's apprentice. George could not be found in the 1861 census but a George Middlemiss of the right age appeared in the Canadian census. He appeared again in the 1881 census, married, and had become a schoolmaster at the North Eastern Reformatory in Stannington, about 10 miles north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he remained until at least 1901, by which time he was the superintendent, with his own house in De Merley Rd, Morpeth. The school was built in 1853 as a reformatory for delinquent boys. It was opened by Earl Grey. It closed in 2014. Ann, who was born in Newcastle about 1835, also worked at the school, becoming matron by 1891. They had 6 or 7 children, the oldest of whom was John Thomas Middlemiss, Thomas Elmslie's father.

The maternal grandparents were Magnus Mail and his wife, Eleanora (nee Burnop). Magnus was born on 28 February 1824 on the Shetland Isles and became a master mariner. He died on 25 March 1903, leaving £7357 14s 7d. Eleanora was born on 12 June 1827 and died on 23 November 1900. The couple had 7 children, the youngest of whom, Eleanora Burnop Mail, married John Thomas Middlemiss.

### **Parents**

John Thomas Middlemiss was born in 1857 in Morpeth. In 1861 he lived with his mother and brother at the Old Gaol Yard, Bridge St, Morpeth. In 1871 he was living with his family at the North Eastern Reformatory. He was educated at Morpeth Grammar School and St George's Presbyterian School. In 1881, aged 23, he was a theological student at the English Presbyterian College, based at Queen Square House, Queen Sq, Bloomsbury. The Morpeth Herald of Saturday 18 October 1879 reported that 2 years earlier he had received the Anderson Scholarship of £30 for 3 years and had now received a further scholarship from the College of £20 for 3 years.

Eleanora Burnop Mail was born on 1 February 1863 in Monkwearmouth. By the 1891

census the couple had married, he was a Presbyterian minister, and they lived at 7 Dundas St, Monkwearmouth Shore with a servant. In 1901 they lived at The Manse, Roker ward, Sunderland. In 1911 they lived at 21 Roker Park Rd, Sunderland. The couple had 3 children, Thomas Elmslie, Eileen and Mary Gertrude.

John Thomas Middlemiss was not only a Presbyterian minister but also a historian and author, writing on such subjects as John Ruskin and the history of the Sunderland Moor. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and a curator of the Antiquities Collection, which is now exhibited at the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh where a new building was designed specially to house the collection.

The family later lived at 3 The Beeches, West Didsbury. It is not clear where the Rev J T Middlemiss worked at that time but the local Presbyterian church was what is now Didsbury United Reform Church on Palatine Rd.

In 1910, in Sunderland, a local newspaper reported that the Rev J T Middlemiss had been unwell and off work from his parish in North Bridge St and welcomed him back to the pulpit after 5 months absence. On Wednesday 14 April 1920 the Evening Telegraph reported that the minister had been missing since 31 March and asked for information on his whereabouts. The Sunday Post of 18 April 1920 reported that his body had been found at Eyemouth, on the east coast north of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and that he had suffered from a nervous breakdown and loss of memory. He was 63. He left £4165 8s 11d to Eleanor. Eleanor is recorded in the 1939 Register as living at Flinton Hill Farm, Sunderland, a widow of private means. She died about 1946.

### **Thomas Elmslie Middlemiss**

Thomas was born on 10 July 1891 in Morpeth. He attended Taunton School as a boarder. In 1911 he was a marine engineer apprentice. In February 1915 he appeared on the passenger list of the SS Peleus, owned by Alfred Holt and Company. The ship was sailing from Kobe, Japan, to London via Falmouth, due to arrive on 22 February. Thomas's occupation was recorded as engineer. He was gazetted as second lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery on 22 March 1915 and promoted to lieutenant in July 1917. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from June 1916 and was killed in action near Ypres on 17 October 1917.

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website he was serving with B Battery, 223rd



*This family photograph was taken at his maternal grandparents' Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1898. Thomas is seated on the floor in the centre of the front row.*

Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. He was 26. His commanding officer of the 63rd Royal Naval Division Artillery wrote, "By his death his country and our Divisional Artillery have lost a very excellent officer, whom we could ill afford to lose. He was the life and soul of the mess, always cheerful under all conditions, and we shall miss him terribly. We shall cherish his memory, as he leaves behind him a host of friends who will often think of him. He was exceedingly well known and liked all over the division, infantry as well as artillery."

He was buried at Hospital Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, reference E. 6. He left £483 14s 3d to his father. He is remembered on a plaque in the WW1 and WW2 Memorial Hall at Taunton School.

## **GEORGE WILLIAM MILLWARD**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

George's maternal grandparents were Benjamin Millward (about 1856-1932) and Mary Louisa Davis (about 1857-1915), both born in Wribbenhall, Worcestershire. In 1881 they lived at Spring Terrace, Kidderminster, but by 1891 they had moved to 21 Moor St, West Didsbury. Benjamin was a labourer and in 1911 was employed by the Corporation as a sanitary labourer. In 1901 and 1911 they lived at 8 Park Avenue, West Didsbury. They had 6 children, Thomas, Mary Louisa Jnr, Arthur, Harriet, Sarah and Edith. In the 1911 census George was at Park Avenue with his grandparents.

We believe that George's mother was Mary Louisa Jnr (about 1878-1950). His father is unknown. His mother married Charles William Turner, a gardener and widower, of 10 Dale View, Cliffe Rd, Fairfield. They married on 8 November 1909 at the Albert Park Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Barlow Moor Rd. Mary was a domestic servant. Charles had 6 children from his previous marriage and he and Mary had 2 more after they married. At the time of George's death, Mary Turner lived at 163 Love Lane, Heaton Norris.

### **George William**

George was born in 1897 and his birth was registered in Chorlton. George enlisted in Manchester, service number 18945, and served with the 6th Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) in Mesopotamia. He died on 29 August 1916 and is buried in the Amara War Cemetery, reference XIV. F. 2.

### **Amara War Cemetery**

Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3 June 1915 and it immediately became a hospital centre. The accommodation for medical units on both banks of the Tigris was greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917, seven general hospitals and some smaller units were stationed there. Amara War Cemetery contains 4621 burials of the First World War, more than 3000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. 925 of the graves are unidentified. In 1933, all

of the headstones were removed from this cemetery when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. Instead a screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon it. Plot XXV is a Collective Grave, the individual burial places within this are not known. There are also seven non-war graves in the cemetery. Whilst the current climate of political instability persists it is extremely challenging for the Commission to manage or maintain its cemeteries and memorials located within Iraq.

## JOHN CURTIS MOAKES

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### Parents

John's parents were Joseph and Mary Ellen Moakes. Joseph was baptised on 13 August 1832 at Holy Trinity church, Kingston upon Hull. His first marriage was to Mary Ann Beck at the same church on 28 November 1857. In 1861 they were living at 3 Willow Place, Stepney. The census records that Joseph was a coal merchant and that Mary Ann was born in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. They had a daughter, Kate Kiero Moakes, aged 2. Presumably Mary Ann died because by 1881 Joseph was married to his second wife, Mary Ellen. They lived at 61 Downs Park Rd, West Hackney, and Joseph, now 48, was a ship broker. He and Mary Ellen had a servant. Mary Ellen was born in Kirton, Ipswich, about 1853. Joseph remained a ship broker until 1901 and died between 1901 and 1911. Mary Ellen died between 1891 and 1901. They had 7 children, Albert, born about 1882, Alice Nina, born about 1883, Ellen Mary, born about 1884, Constance Martha, born about 1886, John Curtis, Gertrude, born about 1889, and James Kiero, born about 1891. They were all born in Hackney. In 1901 Joseph and 6 children lived at Kildare, Palace Gates Rd, Wood Green. Albert was a builder's clerk and Ellen a draper's assistant.

By 1911 both John's parents had died and he was recorded on the census as head of the household at 7 Cromer Avenue, Withington. Living with him were Alice, Ellen, now a teacher of domestic economy, Constance and Gertrude, both elementary school teachers, and his future wife, at that time a student aged 22.

### John

John Curtis Moakes was born in Hackney in 1887. He was employed as an apprentice and draughtsman by Hans Renold, Chain Manufacturers, of Didsbury and 3 Brook St, Manchester. He registered at the Manchester Municipal College of Technology in 1908–09.

On 23 December 1912 he married Marjorie Mary Dearden at St Paul's church, Withington. Marjorie was 24 and the daughter of Vernon Kitchen Dearden and his wife, Sarah. Marjorie's address was Princess Christian College, Withington. Vernon was born in Denton around 1841. In 1861 he lived with an uncle in Denton and in 1871 he lived with his uncle in Wybunbury, Cheshire. In 1881 he and Sarah lived at Holly Bank, Burlington Rd, Withington, and he was a medical student. In 1891 he

was a general medical practitioner and they lived at 1 Palatine Rd, Withington, with 3 children, a cook, a housemaid and a page boy. They were at the same address in 1901. Marjorie was their third child, born about 1888.

The 1911 census describes John as a mechanical engineer and a transmission gears expert for a driving chain manufacturer. In 1914 John passed the associate membership examination of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

John and Marjorie had 3 children. The first, Marjorie, was born in March 1914, and later married Reginald Lloyd. John Kitchen Moakes was born on 27 September 1915 and died in 2003. The third child, a boy, was born on 27 September 1916, just 22 days after John died.

Marjorie died at Hutton, Shinfield Green, Reading, on 17 January 1980, leaving £10191.

## **Military**

According to the Manchester Guardian, prior to the outbreak of war John completed 4 years service with the Duke of Lancaster's Own Imperial Yeomanry. This is probably inaccurate as the Imperial Yeomanry was used in the Boer War from 1900 to 1902 and the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry was not formed until 1914. It seems likely that he served with a territorial force. Shortly after war was declared he enlisted with a number of colleagues in the 12th Battalion, Rifle Brigade. He was later selected for service with the motor machine gun section and was promoted to serjeant. He spent some time in France and on 31 March 1915 he became a second lieutenant in the Corps of Royal Engineers. After training in England he returned to France where he trained young officers at divisional headquarters.

He was killed in action on 5 September 1916 on the Somme. He was a lieutenant in the 155th Field Company of the Royal Engineers. His obituary stated that his "future was full of exceptional promise, as he had a strong and attractive personality and was a brilliant officer and a clever engineer."

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 8A and 8D and on the Manchester Municipal College of Technology Memorial in the Sackville Building, University of Manchester.

# **HAROLD MOLE**

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## **Grandparents**

Harold's paternal grandparents were Henry and Caroline Mole. Henry was born about 1821 in Kings Nympton, Devon, and Caroline about 1831 in Minsterworth, Gloucester. They lived in the Bratton Fleming area of Devon and Henry was a miller. They had 6 children, Charles (Harold's father), born about 1857, Mary Ann, born about 1860, Caroline, born about 1864, George and William, both born about 1866 (twins?), and Elizabeth, born about 1868. All the children were born in Devon, either in Chittlehampton or Bratton Fleming.

Harold's maternal grandparents were James and Mary Ann Dixon. James was born about 1826 in Marple and Mary Ann about 1832 in Middlewich. In 1861 they lived at 2 Angel Meadow, Chadderton, and James was a canal lock keeper. In 1871 they lived in Chapel Field, Marple, and James was a lime agent. In 1881 they lived at Church Lane, Marple, and James was a railway labourer. They had 5 children, Elizabeth, born about 1854, John, born about 1855, Ann, born about 1858, Fanny (Harold's mother), born in 1859, and Jane, born about 1871. The children were born either in Marple or Oldham and the older 4 all worked in the cotton industry.

## **Parents**

Charles Mole was born about 1857 in Chittlehampton, Devon. Fanny Dixon was born in Hollinwood, Lancashire, on 22 December 1859 and was baptised at St Margaret's church, Hollinwood, on 29 January 1860. About 1887 Charles and Fanny were married and in 1891 they lived in Chadwick St, Marple. Charles was a railway porter. By 1901 they had moved to 27 Orchard St, West Didsbury, and Charles was a club steward. In 1911 they were living at 20 Arley Avenue and Charles was described as a club caretaker. They only had 1 child, Harold.

## **Harold**

Harold was born in Marple about 1892. In the 1901 census he was staying with an aunt, Ann Goodwin, at Chadwick St, Marple. Also in the house was his grandfather, James Dixon, now described as a retired platelayer. In 1911 he was a warehouseman for shippers. He became a Marconi operator on HMS Mendi and died on 21 February 1917 when the ship sank in the English Channel after a collision. He was 25 years old. Harold left £182 6s 11d to his father.

## **HMS Mendi**

The ship was a British single-screw steamship built in Glasgow by Alexander Stephen and Sons. Before the war she was used as a passenger liner between Liverpool and West Africa. In autumn 1916 she was chartered by the government and converted to a transport ship. On her last voyage she picked up from a South African port 1500 tons of government cargo and a battalion of the South African Native Labour Contingent (SANLC) comprising 5 officers, 17 non-commissioned officers and 802 native troops. She sailed for England, calling en route at Lagos and Sierra Leone. She stopped for orders at an English Channel port, setting sail again during the afternoon of 20 February 1917. During the night it became foggy and she slowed down.

At 5am on 21 February she was struck at right angles by another ship, the Darro, which was crossing from France to England with 143 crew under her master, Mr Henry Winchester Stump. The Darro cut 20 feet into the Mendi but then backed out and sailed on. The master of the Mendi sent for Marconi operator Harold Mole to tell him to send out an SOS signal but he did not come and was not seen again. Within 20 minutes of the collision the Mendi was listing heavily and the order was given to lower the life rafts. Because of the list, half the rafts jammed. The captain was last seen on the bridge going down with his ship.

Thirty crew members, including Harold Mole, died following the collision. 646 of the 913 passengers drowned. Mr Stump was later disciplined for travelling at speed in fog without sounding a horn and he was also criticised for failing to assist HMS Brisk in efforts to save the men of the Mendi.

The Mendi disaster was one of South Africa's worst tragedies of World War I. When the news was announced to Parliament on 9 March 1917, all the members of the South African House of Assembly, led by Boer War hero and Prime Minister Louis Botha, stood as a mark of respect. The ship has given its name to South Africa's highest award for courage, the Mendi Decoration for Bravery.

After the war, none of the black servicemen nor any members of the SANLC received a British War Medal or ribbon, a decision taken by the government of South Africa. White officers and SANLC personnel from adjacent British protectorates did receive medals.

Today the Mendi lies on the ocean floor about 11 miles south of the Isle of Wight.

### **The South African Native Labour Contingent**

21000 black South African volunteers served in France with the SANLC between 1916 and 1918, part of a labour force of French, British, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Egyptian and Canadian labourers along with German prisoners of war. They dug quarries, laid and repaired roads and railway lines, and cut tons of timber. Most were employed in the French harbours of Le Havre, Rouen and Dieppe, loading and unloading supply ships and trains.

333 men died in France and most are buried at the British military cemetery at Arques-la-Bataille. Those who died on the Mendi are remembered at the Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton. The Mendi disaster is also commemorated on a plaque at Delville Wood Museum in France, a memorial in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and the new Mendi memorial in the Avalon cemetery in Soweto, unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 1995.

## **ARTHUR MORRIS**

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### **Grandparents and parents**

Arthur's father was Isaac Morris, son of George and Margaret Morris of Mainstone, Shropshire. George and a brother of Isaac were both blacksmiths. Isaac was born in Mainstone about 1846. Arthur's mother was Sarah Eleanor, born in Ludlow about 1852. They married about 1873 and had 8 children, of whom 6 survived to 1911.

In 1881 they were living in Cotton Hill, Withington, with 4 children. Isaac was a labourer. In 1891 they lived at 27 Moorfield St, Withington, with 5 children. Isaac was described as an excavator labourer. By 1901 they had moved to 12 Claremont Avenue, West Didsbury, where they still lived in 1911. At that time, Isaac was described as a drainer. Isaac died in Chorlton in 1913. Sarah later lived at 18 Leopold Avenue, West Didsbury.

## Arthur

Arthur was born about November 1891 in Withington. By 1911 he was 19 and working as an invoice clerk (home trade warehouse). He attested in Manchester on 8 September 1914, service number 7980. He served with the 9th Lancashire Fusiliers. He was with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from 5 July 1915 until 9 September 1915. The battalion record suggests that he was at Gallipoli. On 19 August 1915 he received a wound to the right chest. He returned home on 10 September 1915.

On 23 November 1915 he married Elizabeth Pedley at Christ Church. Her address was 29 Oak St, Didsbury.

Arthur was posted again on 28 November 1915 with the rank of private but appears to have remained in the UK. On 17 July 1916 he was discharged as no longer fit for war service. He died and was buried in Southern Cemetery on 22 February 1919, aged 27. The grave reference is TConsecrated, 666, position 1. The grave is unmarked. The burial record gives his address as 31 Oak St and his occupation as traveller.

## WILLIAM THOMAS MORRIS

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### Parents

William's parents were William Morris and Anne (or Annie) Jacks. For more on Annie please refer to the article on Vincent Harry Jacks. William Morris Snr was a plasterer. He was born in Much Birch, Herefordshire, about 1840. The family always lived in Ludlow. Their address in 1891 was Old Gate Fee (also known as Holdgate or Holdgate's Fee). In 1901 they lived at 6 Waterside, Ludlow, and by 1918 Annie and William were at 13 Holdgate Terrace.

They had at least 9 children, Mary, born about 1872, Ellen or Helen, born about 1875, Hannah, born about 1877, Edith, born about 1880, William Thomas, born in 1882, Henry, born about 1885, Samuel, born about 1888, Walter G, born about 1890, and Charles H (or Herbert), born about 1893. All the children were born in Ludlow.

### William

William Thomas Morris was born in 1882 in Ludlow. In 1901 he appears in the census at 82 Burton Rd, living with his uncle and aunt, Samuel and Catherine Jacks. He was an assistant grocer. In 1911 he and two of his brothers, Walter and Charles, were lodging at 2 Moor St, West Didsbury, and all were grocers. It looks as though the Morris boys followed the Jacks family to West Didsbury.

In the war, William served with the 1st/6th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He died on 2 September 1918, aged 36. It is likely that he died in the 2nd Battle of the Somme. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, Panel 9.

## HERBERT NAYLOR

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*We have limited information about this serviceman and are largely relying on 2 family notices from the Manchester Evening News to link him to this area.*

### Family

We believe his parents were George Dobby Naylor and Emily Tindall Naylor (nee Prince). Both parents were born in Bradford, Yorkshire, George about 1868 and Emily about 1871. George's father, William, was a stuff piece finisher and Emily's father, Albert, was a wool merchant. They married at the parish church, Bradford, on 28 October 1894. In 1901 they lived at 4 Beech Grove, Bradford. George was a cloth merchant and they had 3 children, of whom Herbert was the second, aged 4. By 1911 they had moved to 230 Burton Rd, West Didsbury, and now they had 5 children, the last 2 born in Manchester. George died on 9 June 1915.

### Herbert

Herbert was born in Bradford on 16 January 1897. He was baptised on 27 February 1897 at St Peter's church (cathedral), Bradford.

He served in the 16th Battalion, Manchester Regiment, service number 6660. He was killed in action on 12 October 1916, aged 19. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13A and 14C.

A family notice was placed in the MEN on 24 October 1916 by his mother, sister, brothers and Doris. The address given was 31 Central Rd, West Didsbury. On 12 October 1940 the MEN published a notice in memoriam to Bert Naylor (Sgt H Naylor) from his mother, brothers and sister, Didsbury.

## JOHN NYE

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### Grandparents

John's paternal grandfather was Charles Nye. While there is some confusion from census data as to his birth year, it was probably 1820 as he was baptised at the cathedral in Manchester on 15 October 1820. His father was a bricklayer. Charles was apprenticed to a Mr Wolstenholme, a painter. Wolstenholme was notorious in Manchester and in 1838 he and Charles robbed Samuel Fox, a corn dealer, while painting his house and shop in Deansgate. Charles went to prison for 3 months. Perhaps he was led astray by his employer.

Letitia Thomas was born in Salford around 1820. Charles and Letitia married in September 1840. In 1861 they lived at 14 Lloyd St, Hulme. Charles was a house painter. They had 8 children. The 3 oldest, Elizabeth 18, Harriet 16 and Caroline 14, were all cotton workers. Mary was 12, Letitia 9, William Henry (John's father) 5, Emma 2 and Alice 7 months. Another child, Elisa was born about 1862.

Letitia Snr. died on 29 April 1869 and was buried on 1 May 1869 at St George's church, Hulme.

In 1871 Charles lived at 37 York St, Hulme with William Henry, now 15, Mary, 21 and

a drawing tinter in a cotton mill, Emma, Alice and Elisa. Charles married Mary Ann Fisher at St Mary's church, Manchester on 12 November 1872. He died in 1874. The maternal grandparents were John and Mary Crosby. John was a labourer and Mary a cotton operative.

## **Parents**

William Henry Nye was born in Hulme on 12 January 1856. Emma Crosby was born in Pendleton on 20 July 1857 and was baptised at St John the Evangelist, Pendlebury on 30 August 1857. They married in 1876. William became a house painter like his father. In 1881 William and Emma lived at 17 Colman St, Hulme, with 2 children, Charlotte 4 and Alice 1. By 1891 they had moved to 84 Burton Rd with 6 children, including John, aged 4. By 1901 they had moved to 98 Burton Rd with 10 children. In 1911 the family lived at 30 Cavendish Rd. John was now 24. Also still living with the parents were Charles, 20 and a greengrocer's assistant, Harry, 17 and a railway clerk, Fred, 14 and an office boy in a chain works and Bessie, 12 a scholar and news girl. Older sister Harriet also lived there with her husband, John McPherson, a clothier's assistant. The 1911 census shows that William and Emma had 12 children of whom 2 had died.

William died in 1914 and was buried in Southern Cemetery on 24 September 1914, grave reference N973. Emma died in February 1915.

## **John**

John Nye was born on 17 March 1887 in West Didsbury. He was baptised on 30 January 1889 at Christ Church. His brother, William Crosby Nye was baptised at Christ Church on 31 July 1889, at which time the family was living at 72 Burton Rd. In 1911 John was 24 and a packer in a rubber factory. He married Lilian Marland on 8 June 1913 at St Luke's church, Miles Platting. He was described as a rubber manufacturer and they both lived at 13 Wilson St, Miles Platting.

Lily was the daughter of George and Hannah Marland. Hannah was born in Stockport around 1852. Lily was born in Pittsburgh, USA. By 1891 the family had returned to 21 Enoch St, Miles Platting. George, a mechanic, had already died. Hannah was an office cleaner, her son Alfred was 17 and an apprentice fitter, Lily was 9 and George was 7. In 1901 they lived at 8 Hough St, Miles Platting. Alfred was a crane fitter, Lily a brace machinist and George an apprentice to a chemist. In 1911 they lived at 13 Wilson St, Lily was a rubber heel trimmer and George a tool storekeeper.

John enlisted in Manchester on 7 December 1914, aged 27. His address was 24 Stanway St, Gorse Hill, Stretford. His service number was 18577. He joined the 15th Battalion of the Royal Scots and served in several battalions subsequently. In February 1916 he was admitted to King George V Hospital, Dublin, where he remained for about 6 weeks with acute nephritis. In June and July of the same year he was in hospital in Dundee with protein in his urine. He was killed in action on 9 April 1917 and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, reference Bay 1 and 2. The memorial commemorates 34848 casualties.

On 6 August 1921, Lily, still at Stanway St, remarried at St Peter's church, Stretford. Her second husband was Walter Grieveson, a shoemaker.

## ERIC ROGERSON

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### Grandparents

Eric's paternal grandparents were James William Rogerson and Hester Mollart. James was born in Barton-upon-Irwell about 1837 and was a basket maker like his father, also James. Hester was born in Salford about 1842, the daughter of William Mollart, a book keeper. They married at Manchester Cathedral on 24 July 1862. His address was 198 City Rd, Hulme, and hers was 5 Nesbit St, also in Hulme. In 1871 they lived at 7 Belmont Grove, Hulme, and James was described as a manager basket manufacturer. By 1881 they were back at 198 City Rd and James was now employing 5 men and a boy. In 1891 they lived at 47 Claremont Rd, Moss Side. They had 10 children, Arthur Caleb being the second. The others were James William Jnr, born about 1864 (a pupil teacher in 1881), Frederick Alfred, born about 1867, who became a traveller in baskets, Margaret Hannah, born about 1868, Hester Frances, born about 1871, an assistant librarian in 1891, Edna, born about 1873, later a telephonist, Amy, born about 1875, later a dress maker's apprentice, Harry, born about 1879, Herbert, born about 1881, Ethel, born about 1883, and Ida, born about 1886. All the children were born in Hulme.

The maternal grandparents were Arthur and Ellen Bingham. Arthur was baptised in Manchester Cathedral on 3 January 1838. He became a leather merchant (although described on one document as a corn factor) and he died on 9 August 1870, aged 33, leaving effects stated as less than £3000. Ellen Bingham was born in Leeds about 1842. By 1871 she was widowed and living at 2 Rose Bank, Steven St, Stretford, with her 5 children. She was thereafter described as an annuitant or living on her own means. The couple had 5 children, Laura (Eric's mother), born in 1864, William Walter, born about 1867, later a grey cloth salesman, and Ada, born about 1868. They were born in Stretford. The other two were Arthur and Ellen, twins born about 1870 in Hastings. In 1891 the family were living at 68 Steven St.

### Parents

Arthur Caleb Rogerson was born in Hulme in 1864. By 1881 he was an apprentice in a Manchester warehouse and by 1891 he was a traveller. Laura Bingham was born in Stretford about 1865. They married at the Wesleyan Chapel, Edge Lane, Stretford, on 2 June 1892. In 1901 they lived at 3 Neston Avenue, Withington, with their children. By 1911 they had moved to 191 Burton Rd and Arthur was a commercial traveller in linings. They had 6 children, one of whom did not survive to 1911. Those who did were Arthur Basil, born about 1894, later a warehouseman in cotton goods, Bertram Chetwyn, born about 1895, later a junior clerk in cotton goods, Eric, born in 1896, Alan, born in 1898, and Laura Vera, born about 1900. Arthur Caleb Rogerson died on 19 October 1930.

## Eric

Eric was born in 1896 and baptised at Christ Church on 20 November 1896. He is mentioned in research undertaken at Cavendish Rd School where it is stated that he attended school in Southport before enrolling in the senior department at Cavendish Rd in 1908. He left school in 1911. The same document states that at some point he lived in Warwick Avenue. It is also



stated that he served with the 1st/8th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment but at the time of his death he was with A Company, 1st/6th Battalion of the regiment. His service number was 250627. He died on 25 March 1918 and is named on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Bay 7, Course D, Stone 19. His name also appears on the memorial at Cavendish Rd School.

In this photograph it is clear that Eric's brother, Alan, also served in the army. Eric is on the left. A copy of this photograph appears on the wall in the bar of the Metropolitan public house on Lapwing Lane.

## Christ Church Football Team

A newspaper article talks of Eric's skill as a footballer.

"West Didsbury Sharp Shooter Many capable players have been associated with Christ Church lads West Didsbury during the 6 years it has been in existence, though it is doubtful if they have ever had a more promising player than their present captain and extreme right winger, Eric Rogerson. Equally conspicuous on either wing in the forward line, he possesses pace and good control of the ball, besides putting in accurate centres from any position. It is not often that a wing player comes into the limelight as a prolific scorer but Rogerson has demonstrated he knows where the "timber" lies, having scored on 26 occasions this season. In "friendly" football Christ Church have been phenomenally successful, having played 23, won 19, lost 3 and drawn 1, scoring 102 goals against 32."

The team was founded in 1908 by a Sunday School superintendent. In 1920 it changed its name to West Didsbury A F C and played in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. The team were runners-up 4 times and won the Rhodes Cup in 1932. After a mixed career the club changed its name again in 2003 to West Didsbury and Chorlton to reflect a ground move from Christie Fields to Chorlton. The club now plays in the North West Counties Football League Premier Division.

## THOMAS SANKEY

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### Family

Census details of Tom's family are inconsistent in terms of ages and dates of birth. However, there is a consistent address from 1881 to 1901 of 23 Dingle Lane, Over, near Winsford in Cheshire. Tom's father was also Thomas and he was a sawyer. His mother was Sarah. Tom was the 5th of 9 children. His younger brother, George, married Florence and they lived at 14 Orchard Grove, West Didsbury, and later at 9 Orchard St. This is presumably why Tom appears on the memorial here. In 1939 George was divorced and living at 14 Nearbrook Rd, Wythenshawe, and was a watchman.

### Tom

Tom was born in the first quarter of 1881. In 1901 he lived with the family at Dingle Lane and was a labourer. We could not find him in 1911 but he might already have been in the Army. When he attested on 1 September 1914 in Winchester he stated that he had previous service in the Cheshire Regiment. After attestation he served with the 8th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as a rifleman, service number B/3289. He was reported wounded and missing on 15 September 1916 and was later "accepted as having died on or since" that date. The date corresponds to the battle of Flers-Courcelette on the Somme, where his battalion is known to have fought. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Panel and Face 16B and 16C.

## JAMES PARROTT SEED

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### Grandparents

The paternal grandfather, William Seed, was born around 1821 in Manchester. His wife was Martha, born around 1823 in Rishworth, Yorkshire. The maternal grandfather was Alexander Kenneth Miller, described as a doctor of philosophy.

In the 1871 census William and Martha lived at 52 Tiverton St, Ardwick. William was 50 and a mill furnisher. Martha was 48. There were 3 children, George Henry, 23, a commercial traveller, Mary, 21, a music teacher and Agnes, 17, a governess. All three children were born in Yorkshire.

By 1881 William had died. Martha and George lived at 41 Park Avenue, Gorton, with one servant.

### Parents

James' father was George Henry Seed. He was born on 3 July 1847. In 1881, aged 33, he was a dry goods clerk. He married Eleanor Sutcliffe (born around 1863) on 4 October 1882 at St Thomas' church, Pendleton. George was living at Park Avenue and Eleanor at 23 Seedly Rd. Her father was Lister Sutcliffe (deceased).

In the 1891 census the family were living at 87 Lansdowne Rd, West Didsbury. There were 3 children. James was 7, Henry Julius 4 and George Percy less than 2 months old.

They had a servant. Henry and George were born in Didsbury. The family were at the same address in 1901.

George died on 17 September 1909 and is buried in Southern Cemetery along with Eleanor who died on 8 March 1950 in her 80th year. Also mentioned on the headstone are James, Henry Julius and the latter's son, Dr Peter Gerard Seed, MBE.

### **James**

James was born in 1883 in Longsight. By 1901 he was 17 and a bank clerk. In the 1911 census the head of the household was Eleanor, George having died in 1909. The address was now 6 Darley Avenue. James was now 27. Henry was 24 and an automobile agent. Also in the household was Eleanor's aunt, Sarah Higson, 77, and a servant.

James married Elsa Harriet Miller at Christ Church on 30 April 1912. Both resided in Darley Avenue.

James served in the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, holding the rank of temporary second lieutenant at the time of his death. He was killed in action on 7 June 1918 in France. His effects sent home included money, £58 5s 6d, £7 7s 7d and £4 2s 2d in different accounts. Probate was awarded to Elsa on 23 August 1918 in Manchester in the sum of £2254 1s 1d. Elsa's address was 199 Burton Rd.

James is buried in the Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul, grave reference

IV. C. 46.

## **ALEXANDER SMITH**

### **Parents**

Samuel Smith was born about 1864 in Manchester. Mary was born in Blackburn about 1867. They were married about 1892. In 1901 they lived at 100 Linthorpe Rd, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire. Samuel was 37 and an electrician and shopkeeper. Alexander was 8 and his sister Ethel 3. In 1911 they were living at 14 Disley Avenue, West Didsbury. Alexander was an invoice clerk in a dye works.

### **Alexander**

Alexander enlisted on 4 September 1914, aged 21 years 6 months. He enlisted in the 3rd City Battalion of the Manchester Regiment (service number 9929) but later served in a number of battalions, including the 18th, in which he was serving at the time of his death on 9 July 1916. At some stage he was a signaller. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13A and 14C.

There are later documents in his service record concerned with giving his parents his medals including the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A document from 13 July 1919 gives his parents' address as 117 Burton Rd. His father's signature is witnessed by the Rev J T Middlemiss, father of Thomas Elmslie Middlemiss, whose name also appears on the war memorial. Subsequent documents refer only to his mother.

## EDWARD SMITH

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### Grandparents and parents

Edward's paternal grandparents were Edward and Anne Smith, both born in Manchester. They had at least 8 children. In 1861 they lived in Thurloe St, Rusholme, with 7 children and 2 servants. The oldest son was Edward Ambery Smith, then aged 9. Edward Snr was an assistant overseer (Poor Law). In 1871 they lived at 4 Park Crescent, Crescent Range, Victoria Park, Rusholme, and Edward Snr was described as a steam ship owner, public accountant, estate and insurance agent. They had 1 servant. Edward's parents were Edward Ambery and Mary Eliza Smith. They married about 1887 and had 6 children, of whom one died. In 1881 they lived in Lansdowne Rd, Edward Ambery was an accountant and estate agent and they had 3 children and a servant. In 1891 they lived at 61 Clyde Rd with 5 children and a servant. In 1901 they lived at 73 Clyde Rd. They were at the same address in 1911. Edward Ambery died in 1917 and Mary later moved to Spring Bank, Marlborough Rd, Buxton.

### Edward

Edward was born on 3 March 1879 in Chorlton-on-Medlock. He was baptised on 30 March 1879 at St John Chrysostom, Rusholme. He attended William Hulme's Grammar School from 1892 until 1895. In 1901 he was an insurance clerk and in 1911 a railway clerk, aged 32. He was still living with his parents and siblings.

He served as a private with the 12th (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 12452. He died on 2 September 1918 in the Somme. He is buried at A I F Burial Ground, Flers, reference III. L. 25. He is also commemorated on the Old Hulmeians War Memorial.

Probate was awarded in London on 18 December 1918. He left £468 4s 6d to his brother, Sydney Arthur George Smith, a fire engineer.

## GORDON SMITH

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### Grandparents and parents

Gordon's father was James Alma Smith, son of William and Mary Smith of Ledbury. William was born about 1827 in Castlemorton, Worcestershire. Mary was born about 1822 in Ledbury. William was a grocer and in 1861 they had 3 children, James Alma, born in 1855, William, born about 1858, and Emma, born about 1859.

James Alma Smith was born in Ledbury and baptised there on 4 March 1855. James was a railway telegraph worker. In 1881 he was lodging with other railway workers at 30 Cooperative St, Derby. Louisa Wilhemina Schulze was born in 1855 in Hannover, Lower Saxony, Germany. James and Louisa married in Chorlton in 1891. In 1891 they lived at 10 Ruby St, Chorlton-on-Medlock but by 1901 they had moved to 9 North St, Didsbury. James died on 19 October 1901, leaving £82 to his widow. Louisa moved to 16 Beaufort Avenue, West Didsbury, where she remained until her death. She died at

20 Nell Lane and was buried in Southern Cemetery (H 1094) on 6 August 1927. She left £126 19s 2d to her son, James Fred Smith.

James and Louisa had 7 children but we can identify only 6. The eldest, born in Chorlton about 1891, seems to have been variously known as James, Fritz James or James Fred. In 1911 he was a cellarman. Minnie was born in Chorlton about 1892 and in 1911 was a draper's assistant. Marie was born in Chorlton about 1893. Rudolf Smith was born in 1894 in Didsbury. Gordon was born in 1895 in Didsbury and Dorothy Hilda about 1901, also in Didsbury.

## **Gordon**

Gordon was born in Didsbury in 1895. In 1911 he was an office boy in a telephone works. He became a lance corporal in D Company, 17th Battalion, Manchester Regiment, service number 32381. He was recruited on 23 November 1915 in Manchester. On enlistment he was noted to have carious molars in the lower jaw.

He was 19 and a draughtsman. He served with the British Expeditionary Force in France from 8 July 1916. He died of his wounds in Belgium on 4 December 1917 and is buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France, grave number III. E. 45.

His effects, passed to his mother, included wallet, letters, cards, testament, 2 spectacle cases and 1 pair of spectacles.

# **RUDOLF SMITH**

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## **Grandparents and parents**

For the family history see Gordon Smith, Rudolf's brother.

## **Rudolf**

Rudolf was born in Didsbury in 1894. In 1911 he was an errand boy (confectionery). He enlisted on 6 March 1915, aged 20. His occupation at the time was baker. He enlisted in the 19th Service Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 12715. He joined the Expeditionary Force in France, sailing from Southampton on the SS Queen Alexandra on 7 November 1915. In November 1916 he was hospitalised in the Northern General Hospital, Lincoln, with trench foot. He subsequently served with the 3rd and 12th Battalions of the Manchester Regiment, joining the latter on 18 April 1917.

He was killed in action on 10 August 1917, aged 22. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, reference Bay 7, Course A, Stone 19.

## EDGAR ADOLPH JOSEPH STERNBERG

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### Parents

Siegfried Sternberg was the son of Wolff and Rieke Sternberg. He was born in Aurich, Hannover, Germany, on 31 August 1854. His wife was Luise Zander, born about 1868. They married on 3 September 1889 and moved to Manchester shortly after, appearing in the 1891 census. They had 3 children, Edgar, Rupert and Harold Edwin. Siegfried obtained UK naturalisation in Manchester on 17 January 1913, recorded by the Commissioner of Oaths at 20 St Ann's Square. He was a shipping merchant of cotton goods and was a successful and wealthy man. The family always had 3 or 4 servants. In 1891 the family lived at 170 Wilmslow Rd and in 1901 and 1911 at Lyndhurst, 120 Palatine Rd. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website records an address of 50 Whitworth St at the time of Edgar's death, but that may have been a business address as probate gave his address as Moseley Hall, Cheadle.

Moseley Old Hall is a 17th century building and is now one of the oldest buildings in Cheadle. It is hidden away near a modern housing estate in Cuthbert Rd. Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have visited there in 1745 on his way south.

Siegfried died on 23 October 1922. Probate was awarded to Luise Sternberg, Erhard Herbert Hirschberg (merchant) and Harold Edwin Stamford (merchant). Harold was the youngest son and appears to have changed his name. Siegfried left £191101 1s 7d.

### Edgar

Edgar was born in Manchester on 16 June 1890. Interestingly, his name was registered as Adolph Edgar Joseph but the order of the names changed later. He attended Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey, from 1904 to 1908. He subsequently studied medicine at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. In September 1914 he joined the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, becoming a second lieutenant. He served with the 11th and 2nd Battalions. He fought at Gallipoli and then returned to the Western Front and died in France on 16 October 1916, just 3 months after his younger brother, Rupert Sternberg. He was 26. He was buried at the Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, reference I. H. 26.

## RUPERT OSWALD STERNBERG

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### Parents

For details of Rupert's parents, please see notes on his older brother, Edgar Sternberg.

### Rupert

Rupert was born in Chorlton on 19 June 1893, the second of 3 sons. He attended Charterhouse School in Godalming from 1906 to 1911. He gained a place at Clare College,



Cambridge, to study medicine. He joined the Royal Engineers (Signals) in September 1914 and worked as a dispatch rider in France. He remained on the Western Front until July 1915 when he was withdrawn to Britain on obtaining his commission. He returned to the front in December 1915, serving with the 83rd Battery of the Royal Field Artillery as second lieutenant. He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916. He was buried at the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, reference II. A. 38.

## ALEXANDER STEWART

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### Grandparents

Alexander's paternal grandparents were Alexander Stewart (1840–1897), a joiner, and Catherine Johnston (1845–1918).

The maternal grandparents were John Kennedy, born in Ireland about 1836, and a labourer, and his wife Elizabeth, born about 1840 in either Ireland or Edinburgh. In 1881 they lived at 32 Bunyan St, Ardwick, and John was a foundry labourer. In 1891 they lived at 9 Bunyan St. They had 3 children, Harry born in Meerkut, East India, about 1860, Thomas, also born in India about 1863 and Jane Elizabeth, Alexander's mother. In 1881, Harry was a railway labourer. In 1891, Harry was a striker to a blacksmith and Thomas was an ironworks labourer.

### Parents

John Stewart was born in Belfast about 1869 and died in 1928. Jane Kennedy was born in Manchester about 1874 and died on 9 April 1922. In 1891, at the age of 17, Jane was a brace maker. John and Jane married on 26 September 1894 at St Matthew's church, Ardwick. John was a cotton goods salesman. In 1901 they lived at 9 Palmerston St, Moss Side, and in 1911 at 3 Matlock Avenue, West Didsbury. John and Jane later moved to 96 Lansdowne Rd, their address in 1914. They had 5 children, Dorothy (1896–1943), a clerk for a velvet manufacturer in 1911, Alexander, Harold (1900–1960), Robert (1909–1971) and Frank (1914–2001).

### Alexander

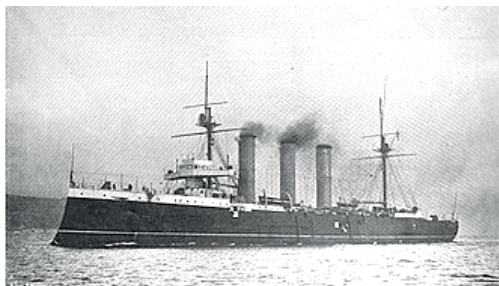
Alexander was born on 24 March 1897 and was baptised on 30 May 1897 at Holy Trinity church, Hulme. The family's address was 1 Abbey Grove. He must have attended Cavendish Road Primary School as his name appears on their war memorial plaque. Alexander enlisted in the Royal Navy in April 1914 when he gave his date of birth as 24 November 1895,



which would have made him 18 when in fact he was only 17. His service number was SS/4808. He served briefly on two ships from 7 April to 30 July 1914. On 31 July 1914 he joined HMS Monmouth as an Ordinary Seaman. He died when the ship was sunk on 1 November 1914. He is commemorated at the Plymouth Naval Memorial, reference 2, in Devon.

## HMS Monmouth and the Battle of Coronel

The armoured cruiser HMS Monmouth was built in Govan on the Clyde. She was launched in 1901 and completed in 1903. Completion was delayed by a collision with the liner Assyria in Glasgow harbour in March 1902. She was the lead ship of her class and served in the Channel Fleet and then at the China Station until 1913, when she returned home and was assigned to the reserve Third Fleet. At the start of the war she was recommissioned and assigned to the 5th Cruiser Squadron of Rear Admiral Archibald Stoddart on the Cape Verde-Canary Islands station. She was then detached and sent to the Brazilian coast to search for German light cruisers. She then went to the South Atlantic, joining Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock's squadron to search for the German East Asia Squadron. After a fruitless search of the Tierra del Fuego area,



Monmouth and two other ships were sent to search the Chilean coast. They encountered the Germans in the region of Coronel where Admiral Spee had his flagship, Scharnhorst. The German armoured cruiser Gneisenau shelled Monmouth and she later capsized and sank. The sea was too rough to attempt rescue and all 735 men were lost.

## ADIN SYBRAY

### Parents

John Sybray was born in 1845 in Matlock and was baptised on 26 November 1845. In 1871 he was living at 130 Wilmslow Rd in the home of Henry and Sarah Prime. Henry was a butcher and John, aged 26, was a servant described as a journeyman butcher.

Eva (or Eve) Ratcliffe was born at Ipstones, Staffordshire. She was baptised on 4 January 1842. Her father was a joiner. In 1871 she was a housemaid for Jane Pickles at 1 The Crescent, Withington. John and Eva were married on 11 December 1871 at St. John's church, Manchester.

They had 8 children, all born in Longsight or West Didsbury, of whom 2 had died

by 1911. Robert, John, Charles, James and Adin all became butchers and Edith was a butcher's clerk. Harold became a joiner and he married Florence Ethel Horrobin at Christ Church on 10 October 1917. In 1911 John had become a customs clerk in Rhodesia.

John Snr died on 29 November 1903 and probate was awarded to Eva on 7 April 1904 in the sum of £498 18s.

## **Adin**

Adin was born about 1887. In the 1881 census the family lived at 137 Victoria St, Gorton but by 1891 they had moved to 94 Burton Rd. In 1901 they had moved to 108 Burton Rd where they remained until at least 1911.

He attended Didsbury Church of England Primary School and is remembered on the school memorial on Grange Lane.

Adin's military service is a little unclear. By 1912 he had already served 6 years in the RAMC. On 19 April 1912 he was declared medically fit in Manchester for the Territorial Force and again for service in the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry on 22 April 1912. He enlisted in Whalley Range on 23 May 1912 at the age of 25. His service number was 3099. He became disabled on 15 November 1914 at Backhurst Park, Sussex, when he developed bronchitis and later needed a hernia operation, possibly as a result of a persistent cough. He was transferred to light duties with no riding. A Medical Board report on 28 May 1916 says he had tubercle of the left lung. He was now at Cupar in Fife. On 12 June 1916, in Preston, he was discharged as medically unfit with a pension of 10s per week after 4 years 52 days service.

He later entered the Queen Mary Nursing Home, Edinburgh and died on 4 October 1916. His death was stated not to be a direct result of his military service. He is buried in Edinburgh (Morningside) Cemetery, grave number H 682. Probate was awarded to his sister, Edith, on 18 November 1916 in the sum of £590 14s 10d.

# **ERIC TATTERSALL**

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## **Grandparents**

Eric's paternal grandparents were John Brown Tattersall, born in 1845 in Royton, and Mary Ann, born about 1846, also in Royton. John was baptised on 9 November 1845 at St Paul's church, Royton. In 1871 the couple lived in Park Rd, Royton, and John was a cotton operative. In 1881 they lived at 1 Queen St, Royton, and John was a cotton yarn salesman. In 1891 and 1901 they lived at Ash Grove, Rochdale Rd, Royton, and by 1901 John was a cotton mill manager. They had 4 children, Herbert (Eric's father), Ann, Bertha and Emma. All the children were baptised at St Paul's church, Royton, and Emma later married there.

According to an article by Michael Higgins for the Royton Local History Society, John was one of the greatest figures in Royton's cotton mill story. He was born into a tailoring family and had little schooling. He started work in a mill at the age of 10 and

worked there for 18 years. He became a member of the executive of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners. He fought employers for higher wages and shorter Saturday working hours. In 1872 he was elected to the executive committee of the Factory Acts Reform Association. In 1874 he went to London to lobby MPs, influencing the Factory Act of 1874. At the same time he began to buy shares in mills and became a director of Royton Spinning Company. By 1903 he was managing director and from 1906 until 1923 he was chairman of the board. He bought shares in many other mills. He later organised cotton spinning employers but never forgot his humble origins. He became leader of Royton's Liberal Party. He retired in 1923.

John died on 3 September 1925, at which time his address was Ash Grove, Oriel Rd, Didsbury. Probate was awarded in Manchester on 23 January 1926 to Herbert, cotton cloth merchant, and Ann, now wife of Joseph Buckley. He left £71660 19s 1d.

The maternal grandparents were Ambrose Loynd, born about 1827 in Blackburn, and Alice, born about 1828, also in Blackburn. From 1871 to 1891 they lived in Royton, initially in Brook St. Ambrose was a cotton mill manager/overlooker and Alice a cotton calico weaver. They had 5 children, John, Edward, Ambrose, Mary A and Elizabeth Ann (Eric's mother).

## **Parents**

Herbert Tattersall was born in Royton in 1868. He was baptised on 21 October 1868. By 1891 he was a clerk in a cotton cloth warehouse. In 1901 the family was living at 28 Barlow Moor Rd and Herbert was a manager for a cotton cloth merchant. We have been unable to find Herbert in 1901 but from information about Eric we wonder if the family had gone to Hannover in Germany. Herbert died on 1 February 1932 and his address was Roselea, 36 Barlow Moor Rd, Didsbury. Probate was awarded in Manchester on 27 June 1932 to his widow, Elizabeth, and to Robert Herbert Whitehead, retired salesman. He left £41986 2s 2d.

Elizabeth Ann Loynd was born in Pendleton and baptised on 7 October 1868 at St George's church, Charlestown. By the age of 12 she was a cotton calico weaver. By 1901 she was married to Herbert and no longer working.

The couple had 4 children, Gladys, Eric, Hilda and Roy.

## **Eric**

Eric was born in Didsbury on 12 January 1896. Most of our information comes from De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1918. He was educated at Oxford House Preparatory School, St Anne's-on-Sea, Rossall School, Fleetwood, and later in Hanover.

After Germany he worked in a cotton spinning mill and then a cotton cloth manufactory.

On his 19th birthday in 1915 he enlisted in the 18th (Public Schools) Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. From November that year he served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders. He obtained a commission in December 1916 and became a second lieutenant in the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. He joined his regiment in France and was attached to the 23rd Battalion. On 25 September 1917 he was shot by a sniper while examining wire entanglements at Guillemont Farm.

He died on 26 September 1917 at No 55 Casualty Clearing Station, Tincourt. He was 21. He was buried in the Military Cemetery, Tincourt, grave reference II. C. 8.

His commanding officer wrote, "Your son has always set a splendid example of pluck, comradeship and daring which has endeared him to all his brother officers, and it was really owing to excess of zeal in the performance of his duty that he met his death." Major J Foulkes wrote, "I have known him ever since he joined the Manchesters and was his Company Commander for a considerable time. He was a very good officer and very well liked by all ranks. Although very reserved, I knew his sterling qualities and was very fond of the boy, and his death is a personal loss to me."

Second Lieutenant W A Wilson wrote, "He was of a very cheerful and lovable disposition and was exceedingly popular throughout the battalion...The only consolation that you have – I know that it is not very great – is that he died as he lived, a British gentleman, and a typical example of the spirit of our public schools."

One of his men wrote, "He was my officer and I would have followed him anywhere."



*Oxford House, circa 1903*

## HARRY THORPE

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### Grandparents

Harry's paternal grandfather was Henry Thorpe, born in Broughton around 1844. In the 1861 census he was living with his family in Broughton. He was 17 and a cotton packer. He was the second of 5 children. The paternal grandmother was Mary Ann Hacking, born in Radcliffe around 1842, the third of 8 children. Henry and Mary married on 1 January 1863 at St Mary's church, Prestwich.

In 1871 they lived in Church Lane, Prestwich and Henry was described as a warehouseman. In 1881 they were at 20 Fairfax Rd, Prestwich and Henry, now 37, was a calico stuff merchant. By 1891 they had moved to Brookfield, Prestwich Park and were still there up to 1911. They had 12 children, 2 of whom had died by 1911. Mary was born about 1865 in Prestwich. She married a Mr McHardie but was widowed and back living with her parents by 1911, when she was described as a housekeeper. Elizabeth was born about 1867, Harry about 1869 and James about 1870, all in Prestwich. Harry became a cotton goods salesman. Maggie was born about 1872, Charles about 1882, Alfred about 1883, Fred (Harry's father) about 1884, William about 1886, Joseph about 1878 and Annie about 1880, all in Prestwich. James and William became cotton cloth salesmen and Charles an accountant.

Henry and Mary were still alive and living at Brookfield in 1911 with 6 of their children, Annie's husband and 2 grandchildren.

Harry's maternal grandfather was George Wood Bamford, one of 6 children of a Liverpool schoolmaster. George was born in Liverpool on 14 January 1838 and baptised on 12 February 1838 at St Peter's church, Liverpool. In 1841 the family lived in Walton on the Hill, West Derby, Liverpool but by 1851 they had moved to School House, School Rd, Maghull. By 1861 they had moved to South St, Openshaw, and George, now 23, was a warehouse salesman. George married Esther Ann Barraclough on 2 September 1863 at Manchester Cathedral but sadly Esther died in 1864. George then married Hannah Booth on 30 August 1865 at St Thomas' church, Radcliffe.

George and Hannah were living at 13 Spring Lane, Radcliffe, at the time of the 1871, 1881 and 1891 censuses. In 1901 they lived in Clifton. In 1881 George was a cotton merchant and manufacturer. The couple had 5 children, Robert born about 1867 who became a mechanical engineer, Amy born about 1868, Nelly born about 1870, Beatrice born about 1871 who became an assistant school mistress, and Constance Linda (Harry's mother) born in 1873.

George died aged 69 and was buried on 25 July 1907 at St Mary's church, Prestwich. His address was "Veradale", Rectory Lane, Prestwich.

### **Parents**

Fred Thorpe was baptised on 28 December 1873 in Prestwich. By the age of 17 he was a cloth salesman. Constance Linda Bamford was born in Radcliffe on 14 October 1873. She was baptised on 22 November 1873 at St Thomas' church, Radcliffe. Fred and Constance were married in January 1898 in Barton-upon-Irwell. In 1901 they lived at Woodville, Moorside Rd, Flixton, and in 1901 at 1 Kenilworth Avenue, West Didsbury. In 1901 Fred is described as working in a cotton rice goods merchant's warehouse. For a time between 1901 and 1911 they lived in Lytham where 2 of their children were born. They had 5 children but 2 had died by 1911. The surviving children were Harry, Kathleen Mary and Joan Hannah. In 1916 they lived at 4 Severn St, West Didsbury. There is a death registered in Ealing, Middlesex of a Constance Linda Thorpe in 1961 at the age of 87.

### **Harry**

Little is known of Harry's early life as he was only 12 at the time of the 1911 census. At the time of his death he was serving with the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers. He died in action on 13 November 1916 which places him at the Battle of the Ancre, the final phase of the first Battle of the Somme. The intention was to attack the German front line where it lay across the River Ancre as it flowed between Thiepval and Beaumont Hamel. The British Fifth Army was led by Lieutenant-General Hubert Gough and the German First Army by General Fritz von Below. The attack had been delayed by two weeks by bad weather. The battle lasted several days and was thought to be something of a success for the British but they suffered more than 23000 casualties, including Harry, who lost his life on the first day of the battle.

Harry is buried in the Serre Road Cemetery No 1, Pas de Calais, France, grave reference I. F. 37.

# JOHN KENNINGS THURLOW

## Grandparents

John's paternal grandfather was John Youngman Thurlow, son of John Thurlow, farmer, and Esther. According to the records of the monthly meeting of the Tottenham Quakers, he was born in Coopers Sale, Theydon Garnon, Epping on 19 December 1821. His wife, Maria, was born about 1814 in Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire. In 1851 they lived in Cheshunt and John was a draper and grocer. In 1861 they lived at High St, Brentwood, and John was described as a draper (linen and woollen). Living with the family was a niece, Selina Kennings, 21, a draper's assistant. In 1871 the family lived at 2 Westbury Place, Brentwood and another niece, Clara Kennings, 16, lived with them. They appear to have had only one son, Robert Youngman Thurlow.

The maternal grandparents were George and Sarah Kennings. George was born about 1815 and Sarah about 1817. George was a saddler. In 1861 they lived in Horn St, Winslow, Buckinghamshire with their 9 children, of whom Clara, 5, was the fifth.

## Parents

Robert Youngman Thurlow was born about 1850 in Buckhurst Hill, Essex. In 1861, aged 11, he was a draper's assistant, living with his parents. By 1871, still with his parents, he was a letterpress printer. By 1881 Robert was married to Clara Kennings and they lived at 7 St Kilda Villas, Queen's Rd, Chigwell. Robert was now a master printer. They had 2 children, Celia Annie, 2, and Gertrude, 9 months. They also had a servant. In 1891 they lived at Holly Croft, Queen's Rd, Buckhurst Hill and they now had a third child, John Kennings Thurlow, 7, and 2 servants. Robert was recorded as living on his own income. In 1901 the family lived at Sutherland House, Palmerston Rd, Buckhurst Hill. Robert was a retired printer, aged 51, Celia was a civil service clerk and there were 2 more children, Muriel and Geoffrey Robert Youngman Thurlow. Geoffrey became a second lieutenant in the Sherwood Foresters and died on 23 April 1917, aged 22.

Robert died in 1914.

## John and Constance

John Kennings Thurlow was born on 13 February 1884 in Buckhurst Hill. He attended Chigwell School.

Constance Grace Hunter was born in 1885 in Limehouse, London. She was the daughter of Charles David Hunter, a draper in 1891 and a constructional engineer by 1911, and his wife, Effie. Constance was the second of 5 children, one of whom had died by 1911. Her brother, Ronald, became a medical student.



*Winnington War Memorial*

John and Constance married on 26 March 1910 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Buckhurst Hill, in a double ceremony at which Constance's sister, Kathleen married Harold Stanley Taylor.

In 1911, John and Constance were boarding at 13 Springdale Avenue, Huddersfield, and he was described as a chemical manufacturer's worker. In 1915 he was a chemical manufacturer's salesman.

We know that at one time he worked for Brunner Mond & Co Ltd, a chemical firm with several factories in Cheshire, including one at Winnington, where John worked. The Winnington factory made TNT in 1917 and on one occasion suffered a major explosion.

(The company was founded in 1873, became part of ICI in 1926, was again independent from 1991 until 2006, when it became part of Tata.)

John attested on 23 November 1915, service number 357924. His address at the time was given as 35 Danesmoor Rd, Withington. Interestingly, written across the top of the form is "fit for home service only". He was part of the Army Reserve from that date until he was mobilised on 3 May 1916. He served with the 10th Battalion, the King's Liverpool Regiment. He remained in Britain until 20 August 1916, after which he served in France until 19 June 1917. He was wounded on 11 June 1917 and returned home on 20 June 1917. On the day that he was wounded he applied for an officer cadet unit. He received a commission on 27 November 1917 and died on 24 April 1918. His address was given as Russell Lodge, Buckhurst Hill, the address of Constance's parents. A later address for Constance was 110 Cromwell Rd, South Kensington. She died in 1943. We have found no record of any children. John left £3060 4s 1d.

In addition to being remembered in Christ Church, John is commemorated on the Winnington War Memorial and the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 27 to 30.

We have found no direct connection to Christ Church except a newspaper article stating that he "formerly lived in Withington" and the address given at attestation. We surmise that he moved around during his years with Brunner Mond and lived locally for a time between censuses.

## ARTHUR EVANS TOWNSEND

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### Grandparents

The paternal grandfather, John Townsend, was born about 1824 in Manchester. His wife, Sarah, was born about 1818 in Castleton. In 1861 they lived in Ardwick with 6 children including John aged 6. In 1871 they lived at 24 Leigh Place, Ardwick. John Snr was a master wheelwright employing 8 men and 3 boys and John Jnr was also a wheelwright.

Maternal grandfather, Edward Evans was born in Wales about 1821. His wife, Mary, was born in Cheetham about 1831. In 1861 they lived at 194 York St, Cheetham, with 3 children including Sarah Ann aged 4. Edward Evans was a provisions dealer, later described as a fruiterer.

### **Parents**

John Townsend was born in Manchester about 1855. Sarah Ann Evans was born in Manchester about 1857. They married on 21 July 1879 at Longsight Wesleyan Chapel. John lived at 7 Repton St and Sarah at 389 Oxford St, both in Chorlton-on-Medlock. In 1881 they were living at 46 Cottenham St, Chorlton-on-Medlock. John was 26 and a wheelwright and smith. They had 1 child, Lily aged 4 months, and a servant. In 1887 they lived at 7 Sylvan Grove, Chorlton-on-Medlock. By 1891 they were living at 79 Lansdowne Rd with 5 children and a servant. Arthur was 4 years old. They were still at that address in 1915.

John was described as a marker up and packer in 1911. He died on 9 February 1917 leaving £5993 5s 8d to his widow.

### **Arthur**

Arthur was born in Manchester on 27 December 1886 and was baptised on 30 January 1887 at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Plymouth Grove. In 1911 Arthur was still living with his parents in Lansdowne Rd. He was an insurance clerk aged 24. He had a brother, John Edward, 27, a warehouse salesman. They had 4 sisters.

Both Arthur (service number 10848) and his brother John Edward (service number 10849) joined the 3rd City Battalion of the Manchester Regiment on 7 September 1914. Arthur got a commission on 7 March 1915 and John Edward on 25 March 1915, both as second lieutenants. Arthur was accidentally killed while on active service in France on 26 November 1915, aged 28. He is buried in St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens, grave reference V. B. 8.

Probate was awarded to his father John Townsend, packer, on 10 January 1916 in the sum of £326 3s 5d.

John Edward survived the war, married in 1916, had 2 children and died in 1963 in North Yorkshire.

## **FREDERICK TOWNSON**

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### **Parents and siblings**

Both parents were born in Westmorland in the Kendal area but by 1881 the family had moved to Vicker(s) Grove, Withington. Frederick's father, John Townson, was usually described as a gardener, although in one document from 1898 he was described as a chapel keeper. It is interesting that in 1881 almost all the neighbours were also gardeners. In 1881 John was 37 and his wife, Mary, was 36. At that time they had

five children, Henry, 8, born in Kendal, William, 7, born in Barrow, Mary Harriet, 5, Robert, 3 and John Richard, 1. Mary and Robert were born in Broughton, Salford, and John in Withington.

By 1891 the family was living at 32 Orchard St, Withington. Henry was now a joiner, William a warehouse assistant and Robert a gardener. There were three more children all born in Withington, Frederick, 9, Thomas Ernest, 7, and Harold, 3.

In 1901 they had moved to 22 Orchard Street. Thomas was now an apprentice joiner. In 1911 they were at 96 Burton Road. Thomas was now a gardener and Harold a plumber.

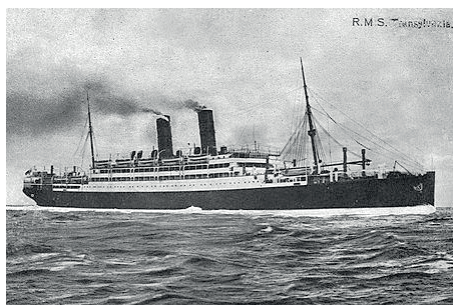
We found very little about the children except that Mary was baptised at St Philip's church in Salford on 16 January 1876 and married Joseph Swinbourne Swainson, an electrician, at the Albert Park Chapel, District of Chorlton, on 28 July 1898.

### **Frederick**

Frederick was born about 1882 in Withington. At the age of 19 he was a gardener but ten years later he was an electrician. By 1917 he was a private in the 2nd Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, service number 36274. By this stage both parents had died.

The 2nd Battalion was one of two regular battalions of the regiment. We do not know when Frederick joined up but the battalion landed at Tanga in German East Africa in November 1914, later moving to Mombasa. It transferred to Egypt in January 1917 and to France in 1918.

On 3 May 1917 the SS Transylvania, built as a passenger liner by Cunard but taken into service as a troop ship, sailed from Marseille heading for Alexandria with a full complement of troops, including Frederick's battalion. At 10am on 4 May 1917 the ship was torpedoed by German U-boat U-63. She was struck by a second torpedo and sank off the coast of Italy in the Gulf of Genoa. Ten crew members, 29 army officers and 373 soldiers lost their lives. Frederick is remembered on the Savona Memorial.



## **HENRY MALPAS TUCK**

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### **Paternal grandparents**

Henry Humphrey Tuck was born in Awliscombe, Devon around 1845. In 1881 the family lived at 19 George St, Pendleton. Henry was a policeman. He and his wife, Jessie, had three children, James Henry 6, Charles 4 and Annie 7 months. By 1891 they had moved to the police station in Bolton Rd, Pendleton. Henry was now a sergeant. The

couple had 6 children, James Henry, now 16, was a shipping clerk. Four police officers also lodged at that address. Henry was still working as a police sergeant in 1901 at the same address. However, by 1911 he was described as a police pensioner and had moved to 121 Burton Rd, West Didsbury. He died on 28 May 1913 at Pinfold Farm, West Didsbury. Probate was awarded on 28 June to Jessie and their son, Frederick George, a County Court clerk, in the sum of £525 14s 9d.

Jessie Twose was born near Buckland, Somerset about 1851. She died on 9 May 1927 and her address was given as 119 Burton Rd. Probate was awarded on 27 July to Frederick George Tuck, County Court clerk, in the sum of £276 11s 10d.

Maternal grandparents

John Reece was born in Gorton about 1833 and Mary in Manchester about 1841. They had at least 10 children, Selina being the sixth. In 1881 the family lived at the grocer's shop, Higher Rd, Urmston, and John and Mary were provisions dealers. In 1891 they had moved to 6 Claremont Rd, Pendleton and John was an electrician.

## **Parents**

Henry's parents were James Henry Tuck and Selina Jane Tuck (nee Reece)

James was born in Spalding, Lincolnshire in 1874. Selina was born in Lower Broughton, Salford about 1876.

In 1901 they lived at 4 Wharf Rd, Sale. James was described as a clerk, foreign correspondence. Henry Malpas was 2 years old. In 1911 the family lived at Spring Mount, Mellor, and James was a commercial clerk, export trade. They now had a second son, James Leslie, born in 1910 in Chorlton, who later emigrated to the USA around 1946, dying in 1980 in New Mexico. We cannot be sure if this is the same person but a Mr James Leslie Tuck was described in 1944 as a Senior Experimental Officer, Ministry of Supply and was awarded the OBE (Civil Division).

In 1918 James and Selina lived at 12 Kenilworth Avenue, West Didsbury, just opposite where the Withington Community Hospital now stands.

Both James and Selina died in Kerrier, Cornwall in 1947.

## **Henry Malpas**

Henry was born on 10 October 1898 in Swinton. He was baptised on 9 November 1898 at St. Peter's church in Swinton. At that time the family's address was 134 Manchester Rd, Swinton.

He was a second lieutenant in the 21st and 26th Battalions, Royal Fusiliers, Middlesex Regiment. He died on 26 October 1918, aged 20. He is buried in the Moorseele Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Grave reference B 15.

# JOHN HASLAM WALKER

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## Parents

John's father was Joseph Haslam Walker, (son of Joseph, a farmer) born on 18 May 1850 in Hulme and baptised on 30 June 1850 at St. James' Church, Didsbury. In 1851 the family's address was 6 Back Clay Street, Hulme. In 1871 he lived in Albert Square, Albert Street, Withington and at the age of 20 he was a shipper's commercial clerk. In 1881 he lived at 2 Vernon Place, Withington.

Joseph married Henrietta Amelia King on 14 December 1872 at St. Mary's church, Hulme.

Henrietta was born on 8 March 1847 in London and was baptised on 20 February 1848 at St. Mary's church, Marylebone. She died at Colwyn Bay on 18 October 1921. Her father, Henry, was a butler, born in Redditch.



## John

John was born on 30 March 1887 in Withington. He was baptised on 15 May 1887 at Christ Church by W. Thompson. In the 1881 census the family lived at 13 Northen Grove. Joseph was a clerk to a merchant. There were four children, Catherine 17, Ethel 12, William 10 and John 4. Also in the house was Mary Baskerville 69, described as Joseph's mother-in-law (we think Mary King must have remarried).

The family remained at that address in 1901 and 1911. In 1901 Joseph was a buyer and in 1911 he was a buyer of cotton goods (East India shipper). In 1901 Catherine, 27, was described as a professor of music. We do not know if that was an academic appointment or if she was simply a music teacher. She married Thomas Mee Lofts at Christ Church on 29 May 1909.

We have tried to find the family house but there is now no number 13 Northen Grove but there is a pair of joined semi's numbered 11 and 15.

John attended William Hulme's Grammar School from 1898 to 1905. In his last three years he was captain of lacrosse and a member of the first cricket team. He later played in the Old Hulmeians lacrosse team. This information and the photograph are taken from the Old Hulmeians War Memorial website.

He went to Manchester University where he took an MSc with honours in engineering. He went to Egypt with the 1st/6th Manchesters in September 1914. He was promoted to sergeant and served in Gallipoli from May 1915. He obtained his commission in January 1917. He was a second lieutenant in the 16th (Sussex Yeomanry) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. He was wounded in action in Sheira on 6 November 1917 and died from his wounds in the Nasrieh School Hospital, Cairo on 22 November 1917. He is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, grave reference O. 18. He is also remembered on the family grave in St Paul's churchyard.

Probate was awarded to Joseph of Holly Bank, 13 Northen Grove, on 7 February 1918 to the value of £52 6s.

## H WHITTAKER

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We have been unable to identify this serviceman.

## HARRY JOHN ROBERT WILDE

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### Parents

Harry's father, Walter Wilde, was born 9 February 1855 in Birmingham. His mother, Mary Ann Sharrott was born Welwick, East Yorkshire, approximately 1852 to 1853. They married on 20 December 1879 at St Martin's church, Birmingham.

In the 1891 census the family was lodging with Sarah Ramsbottom at 46 Clifton St, Stretford. Walter was a copper plate engraver, aged 36. Mary was 38 and they had 2 children, Walter Jnr aged 10 and Harry J R aged 9, scholars.

In the 1901 census they were living at 77 Broughton Lane, Lower Broughton, Salford. Walter Jnr was a commercial clerk and Harry a shipping warehouseman.

Walter Snr died in 1901. In the 1911 census Mary was back in Hull using her maiden name, living with 2 lodgers. We have no record of her death.

### Harry

Harry was born in 1882 in Aston, Birmingham. He came with his parents to Manchester and at some point he worked for C Macintosh & Co Ltd, a rubber company in Manchester. In the 1911 census he was boarding at 99 Slade Rd, Erdington, Birmingham, working as a clerk for the Dunlop Rubber Co Ltd. He is later reported to have been a department manager.

Also, in the 1911 census, his brother, Walter, was living at 4 Walsingham Avenue, off Burton Rd, West Didsbury.

He was a commercial traveller. Walter was married to Edith Annie and their son, Harry John was born 11 August 1910 and was baptised at Christ Church on 16 October 1910.

Prior to the end of 1913 Harry was a member of D Company (all Dunlop employees) of the 8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Territorial Force). In 1915 he was a Lance Corporal in the 1st/7th Battalion, Manchester Regiment, no 2226. He was killed in action on 29 May 1915, about a month after the battalion arrived in the Dardanelles and 2 weeks after being recommended for a commission. He died at Gallipoli and is named on the Helles Memorial, panel no 159 – 171.

He was awarded the medal 1914 -15 Star.

Probate was awarded to his brother, Walter at London on 7 August 1915, in the sum of £192 7s. At that time Walter was still living at 4 Walsingham Avenue.

A memorial service was held at Christ Church on Sunday 4 July 1915.

# ALFRED WILLIAMS

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## Paternal grandparents

James Williams was born about 1831. In 1871 he was a labourer aged 40 in Little Soudley, Shropshire. By 1881 he was said to be a farm labourer in the same place. His wife, Ann, was born about 1837. They had at least 12 children of whom the 5th was Levi.

## Parents

Levi was born about 1864 in Soudley. He was living with his parents in 1871 and 1881 but we can find no record of him in the 1891 census.

Levi married Emma Davies at St Paul's church, Withington, on 16 October 1895. His address was 21 Moorfield St, Withington and his father James was a deceased waggoner. Emma's address was 25 Central Rd, Withington and her father, George, was a bootmaker.

Emma was born in either Tunstall or Bradeley (neighbouring villages near Stoke). We could only find her in the 1891 census, staying with an uncle and aunt in Barrow-in-Furness.

A Levi Williams died in Manchester in 1944 and an Emma Williams in 1940 but we cannot be certain they are the correct people.

## Alfred

Alfred was born about 1896 in Didsbury. In the 1901 census the family lived at 50 Hill St, Withington, which still exists. Levi is described as a carter aged 37 and Emma is 28. They had 4 children. Alfred aged 5 was the oldest. In 1911 the family lived at 1 Streets Building, Didsbury. Levi was 47 and a stoker in a destructor works and Emma was 38. They now had 6 children but the census states that a further two had died. Alfred, 15, was a market gardener.

With regard to Alfred's war service, the Forces War Records site says he was a private in the Manchester Regiment, 21st (Service) battalion, (6th City), C Company, Platoon No XI, 91st Infantry Brigade. They cite a book, "Manchester Regiment city battalions 1914 - 1916". His service number was 19302.

He died aged 22 in action on 11 October 1918 and is buried in Naves Communal Cemetery Extension, about 5 km from Cambrai, France Nord, grave reference I. C. 1. Additional information was that his wife Martha Ann Dunbar (formerly Williams) lived at 17 Cromwell Grove, Levenshulme.

Alfred's wife seems to have remarried. We can find no record of a Martha Ann marrying either Alfred or a Mr Dunbar. There is a Martha Ann Dunbar buried in Southern Cemetery in an unmarked grave in 1936. Harold Raymond Dunbar died in 1933 and is in the same grave.

# WALTER ROY WILLIAMS

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## Grandparents

The paternal grandfather was Joseph Williams, a dentist, born in 1834 in Manchester. He married Emily Ann Taylor on 15 February 1860 at Union Chapel, Chorlton. They had 3 children, Ernest, Herbert Appleton (Walter's father) and Emily. Emily Ann died in Chorlton in 1875. Joseph was subsequently married again to Sarah Kate Tattersall in 1878 in Preston and they had 8 children. By 1891 they had moved to London.

The maternal grandfather was Thomas Brown Heys, calico printer, born in Stockport and deceased by 1884. The maternal grandmother was Mary Walford Binns, born in Oldham. Thomas and Mary married on 25 March 1854 at Manchester Cathedral. Thomas was 23 at the time and a salesman and he lived at 33 Radnor St, Hulme. Mary was 21 and lived at 24 Robert St, Oxford Rd.

## Parents

Walter's father was Herbert Appleton Williams, born on 23 January 1863 in Manchester. He died on 25 July 1908. His mother was Mary Walford Heys, born on 7 January 1862 in Manchester. She was baptised on 4 February 1862 in Manchester Cathedral. In 1871 she was 9 years old and living at 186 Upper Brook St with her parents, 5 siblings, 3 aunts and a servant. By 1881 her father had died and her mother was head of the household. She lived with her mother and 2 sisters at 8 May St.

The parents married on 29 November 1884 at St John Chrysostom, Victoria Park. At the time of the marriage, Herbert was living at 25 Weymouth St, Chorlton on Medlock. By 1911 Mary was in Withington Infirmary (she died on 10 July 1912).

## Walter

Walter was born in Manchester in 1891 and was baptised at Christ Church on 19 August 1891 when the family was living at 9 Warwick Avenue, West Didsbury. He had 4 siblings including George Herbert, born on 28 February 1886, described on the 1901 census as an imbecile from birth. George died on 25 May 1905. The others were Frank Taylor, Harold and Frederick. In 1901 their address was 26 Central Rd, Withington. His father was described as a manufacturing commercial agent. By 1911 the family were still in Central Rd, consisting of 4 boys and a maternal aunt. Walter is described as a manufacturing agent and merchant of haberdashery goods.

Walter married Alice Ellen Morrey in Wem in February 1913. Alice was born on 25 December 1877 and she died on 27 October 1913 of acute appendicitis and intestinal obstruction. She is buried in the family grave in Southern Cemetery. Walter became engaged in 1914 to Hilda Haines but they never married. According to a living relative of



Hilda with whom we have been in contact, Hilda's father had a clothier and outfitter's shop in Grantham and Walter may have supplied the shop. After Walter signed up he was posted to Belton Camp near Grantham. Hilda visited him at the camp and in Manchester. Hilda died in 1976, having given her engagement ring to her great niece who treasures it to this day.

Walter served as a sergeant in the 16th (Service) Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, service number 6326. He is believed to have been wounded on active service on the Somme and was hospitalised in the University War Hospital in Southampton, where he died on 17 July 1916. He is buried in the family grave with his parents, brother George and his wife of 8 months. The grave in Southern Cemetery is reference number B 717.

Probate was awarded on 8 September 1916 to brother Frank Taylor Williams in the sum of £273 14s 7d. Walter's address is given as 12a Grove Terrace, Burton Rd, Withington.



## **WILLIAM GEORGE WILSON**

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### **Parents**

George Wilson was born about 1854 in Durham and Margaret was also born about 1854 in Newcastle on Tyne. George was a bank manager.

In the 1881 census they lived at 9 Noble St, Gateshead. At that time they had 6 children, all born in Durham. They employed one servant. William was their 4th child and was 3 in 1891.

By the 1901 census the family had moved to 52 Bewick Rd, Gateshead and the parents were still there at the time of William's death.

### **William George**

William was baptised on 21 May 1887 at Christ Church, Gateshead, Durham. He was still living with his parents in 1901 but we can find no record of him in the 1911 census though we know he was still alive.

He next appears in the records when he married at Christ Church West Didsbury on 26 February 1916. He was described as a lieutenant and his residence was given as Inchcolm, Scotland. Inchcolm is a small island in the Firth of Forth and was used in both wars as part of the coastal defences for Rosyth, the Forth Bridge and Edinburgh. His spouse was Edith Mary Ward, daughter of Herbert George Ward (born in Nottinghamshire about 1858) and Jane Ward (born in Manchester about 1863). The family lived at 33 Central Rd in 1901 and 1911. Edith was 18 in 1911 and was an

apprentice in a millinery warehouse. We found no record of any children born to William and Edith.

There is no record of William's occupation before he joined the Army, nor of when or where he enlisted. It is not clear how he came to be in Didsbury.

At the time of his death, Edith was living at The Orchard, Palatine Rd, Northenden. We have not been able to locate the property.

William served in the 17th Division, Mechanical Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corp. He died on 8 May 1918, aged 31. He is buried at Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, ref I. G. 6.

## EVEREST WINDSOR

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### Parents

Thomas Windsor was born about 1843 in Kidsgrove, Staffordshire. In the 1891 census he was living at 86 Bradshawgate, Bolton with his wife, Mary, and 6 children of whom Everest was the youngest aged 6. Thomas was a sewing machine dealer. The other children were Arlene, 26, sewing machinist (shirts), Emile, 24, pawnbroker's manager, Clara, 21, sewing machinist (shirts), Carney, 19, pawnbroker's assistant and Malcombe, 8. Arlene, Emile and Clara were born in Sandbach, Carney in Crewe and Malcombe in Accrington.

Mary was born about 1841 in Kidsgrove. We have no record of their marriage.

In the 1901 census Thomas and Mary lived at 40 Weston St, Bolton with Clara (domestic servant), Malcombe (pawnbroker's assistant) and Everest.

By the 1911 census, Mary had died (no details) and Thomas was 68 and a sewing machine agent, and lived with Arlene, now a pawnbroker's assistant and Everest. They were still at Weston St.

We cannot find a record of Thomas's death.

### Everest

Everest was born on 21 October 1884, in Bolton. He was baptised on 20 May 1897 (no explanation for the delay) at Holy Trinity, Bolton le Moors, Lancashire.

By 1901 he was an art student and by 1911 he was 26 and a designer for calico printers. He married Emilia White at Wolstanton, Staffordshire in 1913. We can find no evidence of children.

Everest was initiated as a freemason on 18 December 1913 and was a member of the Royal Protector Lodge, Stretford.

We do not know when he enlisted but his first regiment was the South Lancashire Regiment where he was a private, no 203804. He later joined the 1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry where he was a private, no 204509. He is said to have enlisted at West Didsbury.

He died in action on 28 August 1917 in the Western European theatre (France and

Flanders) and was buried at Philosophers British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, grave reference I V 16.

Emilia seems to have trained as a nurse between 1909 and 1912 at Wolstanton and Burslem Union Infirmary. She was registered on 27 October 1922 in London and was still registered as a nurse in 1946. At the time of Everest's death Emilia was residing at Thursfield Villa, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent.

It is not clear what was the connection with Christ Church but perhaps Everest and Emilia lived in the parish at some point after 1913.

## **EDWARD DESFORGES WOODS**

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### **Grandparents**

Edward's paternal grandfather was John Woods, born in Sibsey, Lincolnshire, about 1822. His wife, Anne (probably Anne Overton) was born in Sibsey about 1825. In 1861 they lived in Hale Lane, Sibsey, with 2 children, Elizabeth, aged 6, and John Robbins (Edward's father), aged 4. John was a labourer. In 1871 they lived at Butterwick Fen, Lincolnshire, and John was now described as a farmer. They now had a daughter, aged 5, but her name is indecipherable on the census sheet. Anne died on 9 June 1906 and is buried in the family grave in Southern Cemetery.

The maternal grandfather was John Freeman, an agricultural labourer, born in Lincolnshire about 1807. In 1861, he and his wife, Elizabeth, lived at Lower Fenside, Sibsey, with 5 children, Thomas, 13, Charles, 11, Samuel, 10, Ellen, 7, and Jane (Edward's mother), 4. We surmise that Elizabeth's maiden name was Desforges. It was a common name in Lincolnshire and next door to John and Elizabeth were Abraham Desforges, 74, and his son, William, 44. Could Elizabeth have been Abraham's daughter? It would explain Edward's middle name.

### **Parents**

John Robbins Woods was born in Stickford, Lincolnshire, on 26 February 1857. In 1871, aged 14, he lived with his parents and younger sister in Butterwick Fen. In 1881 he was living at 128 Oldham Rd, Manchester. The head of the household was Fred Dodds, a master butcher from Lincolnshire. John was one of 3 assistant butchers, all from Lincolnshire, and was clearly training for his future career.

Jane Freeman was born in Sibsey on 13 July 1856. In 1871 she was a servant for a widowed dressmaker in Skirbeck, Boston, Lincolnshire. In 1881 she was a servant for a merchant at 4 Anson Rd, Manchester.

John and Jane married on 26 December 1889 at the Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Grosvenor St, Chorlton on Medlock. John's address was 128 Oldham Rd and Jane's was 84 Seymour Grove. In 1891 they lived at 9 Livesey St, Manchester, and John was described as a foreman butcher. In 1901 and 1911 they were living at 62 Burton Rd and by 1911 John was a master butcher (employer). At some point John and Jane moved to 4 Clifton Rd, Meols Cop, Southport. John died on 11 December 1926, aged 69 and

retired, and was buried in the family grave in Southern Cemetery on 15 December 1926. Jane died on 1 November 1936, aged 80.

### **Edward Desforges**

Edward was born in West Didsbury on 27 June 1898. He had an older sister, Alice Overton Woods, born on 20 July 1891. As a child he lived in Burton Rd with his family. At the time of his death he was training with the 60th Battalion of the Training Reserve. His service number was TR/4/13403 and from this we can deduce that he was based in Kinnel, near Abergele in North Wales. He died of pneumonia in the Military Hospital, Abergele, on 28 March 1917, aged 18. It would appear that he was never engaged in active service. He is buried in Southern Cemetery, grave reference C. Nonconformist. 1458, along with Anne, John Robbins, Jane and Alice, who died on 22 July 1942.

The Manchester Evening News of 28 March 1918 published a notice in loving memory from his parents and sister, still at Burton Rd at that time.

## **ARTHUR WORSLEY**

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### **Paternal grandparents**

John Worsley was born 1819 in Cheadle. He died about 1854.

He married Elizabeth Scowsell on 30 December 1839 in Cheadle. Elizabeth was the daughter of John and Hannah Scowsell and was baptised on 8 December 1816 in Wilmslow. John was an agricultural labourer and in 1851 the family lived at Stanley Green. Elizabeth was a silk weaver and she died in 1893.

### **Parents**

Zebuel (also appearing as Zebulon/Zebulia/Zebuland/Yebuel) Worsley was born in July 1853 in Cheadle, Stockport. He had three older siblings, Sarah, George and John. In 1861 Zebuel lived at Ivy Cottage, Cheadle Bulkeley, with his mother and sister Sarah, 20. In 1871 Zebuel, 17, lived at Stanley Green and was described as an indoor farm servant for Martha Burgess.

He married Elizabeth Bennett (1858 – 1902) and they had 11 children, including Arthur. Nine of the children were baptised at Christ Church between 1885 and 1899. In 1881 Zebuel was living at 19 Lapwing Lane with Elizabeth. The address was a greengrocer shop where there is now sheltered accommodation between the Railway pub and Frames shop.

Elizabeth died when Arthur was about 5 and Zeb married Helena Smith nee Lunn (1868 – 1935) in 1909. They had one further child. Helena is buried in Southern Cemetery.

Zebuel died in 1932 and his burial site is unknown.

## Arthur

Arthur was born in 1897 in West Didsbury and was baptised on 19 May 1897 at Christ Church. In 1901 he was 3 and lived at 21 Lapwing Lane. He attended Cavendish Road school. In 1911 he lived at 7 Moor St, and was a milk boy.

He became a private in the 8th battalion of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment (service number 15871). He served in France and Flanders and he died on 18 July 1916. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial, panel Pier and face 5D and 12B, and on the Cavendish Rd School memorial.

At the time of his death his parents were at 6 Claremont Avenue, behind Frames shop.

**LEST WE FORGET**



