

*The
Eynsham
Record*



**Anniversary Issue
Number 26 – 2009**

Note on abbreviations

Bodl.	Bodleian Library, Oxford
Chamb. 1936	Chambers, E.K. <i>Eynsham under the Monks</i> . Oxfordshire Record Society, vol.18, 1936.
Ox.Studies	Oxfordshire Studies, Central Library, Westgate, Oxford
EHG	Eynsham History Group
E.R.	<i>The Eynsham Record</i>
Eyn.Cart.	<i>Cartulary of the Abbey of Eynsham</i> . Salter, H.E. (Ed.), in 2 volumes, Oxford Historical Society, vol.49 (1907) & vol.51 (1908).
Eyn.Cens.	Eynsham census returns at 10 year intervals from 1841 to 1901, transcribed by members of the EHG.
Eyn. MIs	Monumental Inscriptions at St Leonard's, recorded by the Oxfordshire Family History Society, 2002.
Gordon, 1990	Gordon, Eric. <i>Eynsham Abbey: 1005-1228</i> , Phillimore, 1990.
O.S.	Ordnance Survey
O.R.O.	Oxfordshire Record Office (formerly Oxfordshire Archives)
P.R.O.	Public Record Office
V.C.H. Oxon.	<i>The Victoria History of the County of Oxford</i>

FRONT COVER

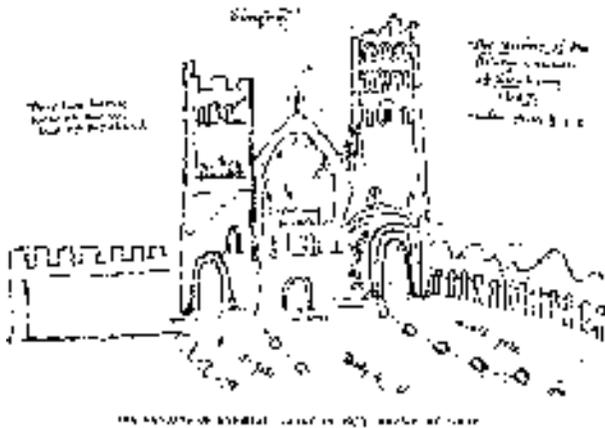
The kneeler in St Leonard's Church that portrays the EHG's logo. The lead ornamental plaque was found during the Abbey site excavations. A photo of the original was used on the front cover of this journal no.8 1991, but was at the time misidentified as a horseman with bow. It is now seen as a mitred bishop with his crosier. Some have speculated that it represents Thomas à Becket.

(see the article on the church kneelers p.10 *et seq.*)

THE EYNSHAM RECORD

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EDITORIAL

This year will be the 50th anniversary year of the Eynsham History Group which was founded in 1959. So this issue of the Eynsham Record carries a coloured front cover for the first time. A similar illustration was used on the front cover of E.R. no 8 in 1991 but this is an opportunity to correct the identification. It depicts a mitred bishop with his crosier.

The Fantasy Press of Swinford seems to recur in these pages. There were articles by Peter Way (E.R.no.18) and Don Chapman (E.R. no 19). Here it reappears as the publisher and printer of David Raikes poems (p.4 et seq), and quite independently I've received a note from Chris Hall, Chairman of OLHA, as follows:-

"I have a soft spot for the Fantasy poets because as an undergraduate I knew some of the later ones, e.g. George Macbeth of whose first collection (published as a limited edition by the Fantasy Press) I have a signed copy. Some of his contemporaries when they had to live out of college in their final years set up a communal establishment in Eynsham. I think that the poet Anthony Thwaite (he edited Larkin's poetry, another Fantasy poet) was one of these and perhaps Jonathan Price also. In those days undergraduates were not supposed to live out of college beyond a radius of three miles from Carfax and they had to obtain a special dispensation to do so.'

Michael Farthing has loaned me an old book 'By Thames and Windrush' by William J.Monk of Burford, 1926 Holywell Press. Although this copy is incomplete the section on Eynsham (3 pages) is entire. Unfortunately it contains nothing which is not widely known or out-of-date.

We report the deaths of four men who, although not members of the EHG, have connections with the village history.

First John Golby, a professional historian with the Open University, who lived in the village and between 2001 and 2008 contributed nine mostly substantial articles to this journal. His pieces were always thoroughly researched and immaculately written. He told me that he was too unwell to write for this number, and died on 21st February.

Pullen Blake, who owned and ran the DIY shop before Robin Saunders, would have been well-known to many older inhabitants. He was a keen photographer and his photo of the garage with its mock-Tudor frontage, next to his shop, was used as the 'THEN' picture in E.R. no.21, 2004.

On 22 May Harry Lange, the Oscar nominated film designer, died. His best known work were perhaps the special effects he created for Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), but his art work on the plaques of the Heritage

Trail around the precinct of Eynsham Abbey is how we shall remember him. Typically he submitted his account of his expenses, and promptly returned the money in the form of a donation to the project. See *The Independent*, 21/8/08 for his obituary.

We should also record the death of the distinguished historian, Christopher Hibbert (*Times* obituary 29/12/08) who, with his brother, Edward co-edited the superb Encyclopaedia of Oxford, MacMillan, 1988. Edward, who lived in the village, wrote two articles for the E.R. and compiled the index for the first nine numbers.

Thanks to all contributors to this anniversary issue, but I must make special mention of John Blakeman, whose many hours of meticulous research have resulted in nearly half the number of pages of this issue. As readers will quickly realise, my attempt in E.R. no.23 to discover something about the men whose names are on the War Memorial was inadequate and premature; John Blakeman had access to more resources.

If you have a computer, you should know that the web address of Eynsham Online is www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk; and that the Eynsham Record has its own address, www.eynshamrecord.info/. This now has a fairly comprehensive contents table for ER numbers 1-20, with a direct link from each entry to the relevant issue. For readers in search of a specific item, the Search, which is extremely thorough, is available at the top of each page of the website.

Many thanks to Joan Stonham, the webmaster for the Parish Council, for all her work on behalf of the EHG.

Extract from *Jackson's Oxford Journal* of 21 May 1853, under the heading ENSHAM

DEATHS FROM DROWNING

On Monday last an Inquest was held by W.Brunner, Esq., coroner, at Mr. John Hambidge's, Cassington Wharf, on the body of Henry Howard, son of Mr. C.A.Goodwin, aged 18 years; and on the body of of Thos. Franklin, labourer, aged 40 years. It appeared that on Sunday afternoon Goodwin, and James Cox, of Longworth, got into the boat at Ensham Wharf, but Cox, foreseeing the danger, got out soon afterwards. Franklin, however, accompanied by Goodwin, rowed down Ensham Wharf stream into the River Isis, intending, it is supposed, to go to Godstow. On Monday morning the two deceased not being at home as usual, fears were entertained that something serious had happened; several persons then went to the river, and just below Cassington Lock the boat was found with no one in it; search was immediately made, and ultimately the bodies of both the unfortunate men were found, clasped together, about 100 yards from the spot where the boat was found. Verdict, "accidental death".

The parish records tell us that both men drowned on Whitsunday and were buried on 22 May, but in contradiction to the figures above, it gives their ages as Franklin 47 and Goodwin 17. (Ed.)

...and here's an earlier, even more bizarre tragedy.

On December 6th 1807 Henry Tooley and Elizabeth Ovenall were married in St Leonard's. Elizabeth Tooley (aged 24), the new bride, *died the same night*. She was buried in St Leonard's churchyard on December 9th.

THOUGHTS ON A BICYCLE RIDE TO EYNHAM

by David Raikes

Sue Raikes, OBE, who lived in Abbey Street from 1974 to 1981, and subsequently in Queens Lane (she and Adrian Moyes run a small pottery business in the Old Forge, Newland Street) is the niece of David Raikes, a poet, killed at the age of 20 just before the end of WWII. She kindly lent me his collected poems in book form (*The Poems of David Raikes*, with a lengthy introduction by Charles Wrinch, 1954, The Fantasy Press*) I've chosen one of his verses for this journal for obvious reasons!

Peter Way, who lives in Abbey Place, a near contemporary as a schoolboy at Radley College, and later a house master of that school, wrote a review of the book published in *The Radleian* of February 1955, and reproduced here.

The Raikes were a very distinguished family as is evinced by a book compiled by Duncan Raikes, Sue's father and David's older brother (*Pedigree of Raikes*, 1980, Phillimore). It is possible that all the Raikeses are descended from a small family of yeoman farmers in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Their descendants included generals and admirals, Governors of the Bank of England, sheriffs and mayors, eminent judges, barristers and solicitors, architects, clergymen and schoolmasters, including a promoter of the Sunday School Movement. The family pedigree lists countless military and civilian honours.

The context of the poem is as follows. David Raikes was studying philosophy at Oxford, but took the opportunity to explore the adjacent countryside on his bicycle. In February 1943 he headed towards Eynham through the floods. In his own words:- 'the floods there were vast and stretched a long way on either side of the river. The road was almost isolated by the floods, and the towpath had disappeared, the gates on the river bank marking where it lay. I managed perilously to ride my bicycle off the road, up the towpath, the water being up to the wheel axles, and I headed for a little green hump with a bush on it, an island now, entirely surrounded by water. Arrived there, I sat down and leisurely had my tea, listening to the roar of the waters, and feasting my eyes on the ever-moving flood.'

Quoted by Charles Wrinch on page 20 of his introduction to 'The Poems ...'

Brian Atkins

*See the editorial for a comment on The Fantasy Press.

THOUGHTS ON A BICYCLE RIDE TO
EYNSHAM

Think, David, of this England lying around you;
Lying, as Nature made her, in the sun,
Unconscious still of all that she has done, Of
battles bravely fought, and honour won.

Think, also of the stories that surround you;
Marvellous tales of glory and renown;
Of bravery that bought a worthless crown;
Of countless, unremembered stories, never written down.

Think, David, of the peace that Nature gave her;
A peace you found in hills, and fields of sheep. In
wide, eternal rivers, born of sleep,
In faith that stands as strong, and runs as deep.

Think, also, of her sons who died to save her,
Who, after battle, found eternal rest
In lone, forgotten graves by England blest, Who
loved so much beside, but loved her best.

Her myriad stories are the pride of England;
She folds them to her sleep, nor boasts aloud.
Enough if, when your story ends, this England
Shall take it to her bosom and be proud.



David Raikes

Review by P.D.L.Way in *The Radleian* February 6th 1955

In May 1938 David Raikes came to Radley; in April 1945, just seven years later he was presumed killed in action, flying in support of ground troops in Italy. There is no known grave. This book is his memorial.

It is a remarkably interesting and excellently printed volume. The first part consists principally of extracts, admirably edited by Mr Charles Wrinch*, from letters and a fragment of autobiography without which the succeeding poems would be much the poorer. It is to be hoped that one day we shall be allowed to see more of these letters, rich in speculative thought and vivid description. And just as the poems of another young man, Keats, need complementing by his letters so David Raikes's poetry needs to be read in conjunction with his excellent prose. This is easily understood: he was only twenty when he died, and his poems were still in formation whereas his prose was remarkably mature. Perhaps the best way to read this book is to read it in a single evening - at least, that is how the present writer read it, simply because he could not put it down - for then, as Mr Wrinch, always the most perceptive and sensitive of guides, points out, we shall see him "whole".

The two main currents of his poetry were the pastoral and the philosophical. His earlier work, the "Adventures into Poetry" of the Radley years, consists principally of acutely observed natural scenes, though the speculative spirit is always there. A good example is the poem "1914-1918", with its fine opening stanza.

Visions of well-kept gardens, new-mown grass,
Roses, and luscious borders, neat and soft: Down
in the long wet grass of uncut fields The
grasshopper still chirrups, and, aloft, The
busy blackbird, singing, asks to pass; And all
is peace, that Nature's triumph yields.

How good that "asks to pass" is! The poem then moves, rightly and inevitably for him, into its human context. His symbols throughout his poems, the Thames, mountains, trees, much of the movement of his thought is, as Mr Wrinch observes, Wordsworthian in its finest sense. But where Wordsworth remains firmly in this "mighty world of eye and ear", David Raikes is instinctively moving beyond it in symbol and allegory. In his finest poem, "Now Comes the Dawn", written abroad -emotion recollected in tranquillity - and almost certainly with his great friend, Tony Paget, in mind, the pastoral and philosophical unite in a perfect marriage of word

and idea. It is these lines, the last nine of the poem, more than any others that make one regret his untimely end, while rejoicing in his achievement.

Out of a troubled dream I woke, and stepped
Into a sudden peace. I could but stand,
As though the earth had touched me by the hand,
And said 'Be still'. For still the valleys slept.

I saw the mountains by the silent lake
Rise like great shadows from another world
Above the mist that in the valley curled
And hung like waves for ever poised to break. Dark
shapes of hills! White, drifting morning mist.

Like all fine writers, David Raikes was holistic: he was greater than the sum of his parts. His life at home, at Brambletye [his Preparatory School], at Radley, at Oxford (probably the most important six months of his life, an oasis of creative idleness between the pressure of school duties and the crowding experiences of the R.A.F.) and abroad on active service, the whole tenor of his way again recall Keats and his famous letter in which he says that, "A man's life of any worth is a continual allegory . . . his works are the comment on it."

P.D.L.W.

* Charles Wrinch was also a master at Radley.

**PHOENIX CREATIVE COTTAGE
57A SPEAR ACER LANE
E Y E N S H A M
OXON OX29 4NL**

Yet another variant on the village name!

...but the new name for the road is at least an anagram.

THE RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY

Eynsham Nurse Participates in First Penicillin Success

by Daisy Ainsley Grabsky

In 1941 I was working on Briscoe ward. I had just entered my second year. This ward boasted a very efficient Sister, a rather vague Staff Nurse, and a dragon of a ward maid named Ada. Now Ada liked to think she ran the ward, and Ada knew everything that was going on in the ward. It was from Ada that we first heard about that very new drug that was in the refrigerator in her kitchen. She couldn't pronounce the name, but she knew it was something very special.

During report time Sister told us about the drug too. Its name was penicillin. She told us that what was in our refrigerator was very, very special. All of that 'special drug' that existed was in Oxford, and was being made here in the University's laboratories with the assistance of our hospital. Dr Howard Florey, his assistant, Dr Ernst Chain and their team were growing it in bedpans. There was so little of it that they had to extract it from the patients' urine so that it could be used again.

Sometime before, the very first patient, a policeman had died because there had not been enough to complete his treatment. Our patient was a very sick woman. She was being given penicillin every three hours. Now, this penicillin was very oily. It was a thick viscous fluid looking a bit like wartime orange juice and smelling mouldy. It had to be warmed to thin it and when warm it was drawn up quickly into a syringe. It was then a case of dashing quickly to the patient before it thickened again. A wide bore needle was used. The sight of a nurse approaching quickly with this instrument must have struck terror into many a brave patient. The needle was then plunged into the upper outer quadrant of the buttock.

This woman made a miraculous recovery and all the staff felt the thrill of being involved in her care. Although I was a lowly junior nurse, I felt my role in the team was just as important as that of Professor Florey. After all, I was one of the nurses who had to save the patient's urine! We were responsible for seeing that the urine was put in a special bottle and labelled ready for the laboratory. The person who would collect these bottles was none other than the Professor's wife. She would arrive at the side door on her bicycle and carry the bottle with its bright yellow contents to her bicycle basket and take it to the laboratory.

Alexander Fleming, Howard Florey and Ernst Chain were all honoured by King George VI and won the Nobel prize in 1945 for their work on penicillin, but one 2nd year nurse is still convinced that they could not have done it without her help!

A STITCH IN TIME

The history of the St Leonard's tapestry kneelers

by Pamela Richards

In January 1983 I accompanied my husband Donald to Jerusalem. He was to be part of a team studying the Mamluk buildings of old Jerusalem, particularly around the Dome of the Rock. Mamluks were Turkish rulers of military slave origin in the middle ages. We were to be there a year staying in the British School of Archaeology.

While we were there we found our way into the community of St George's Cathedral. The congregation of the cathedral was often made up of groups from all over the world making pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Many of these groups brought gifts for the cathedral to mark their visit and in particular they brought kneelers. There was a specific request for such kneelers with a detailed instruction leaflet as to the size and background colour which had to be a particular shade of gold.

As I watched these kneelers arrive Sunday after Sunday I thought it would be nice if Eynsham could be represented. I had not done much tapestry before and there was the problem of getting the canvas and the wools; and what about a design? All these problems were solved with the aid of friends, an architect at the school using the Eynsham cross as a start and entwining it with flowers that can be found in the Holy Land. My supplies of wool came from Mr Keive who had the Art Needlework shop in Ship Street in Oxford, who became interested in the project and later came to talk to the Eynsham History Group. Before we left Jerusalem I finished the kneeler and it was spotted by a group from St. Leonard's who were there about a year later.

Before I went away we had been talking of renewing the kneelers in St. Leonard's and on my return a committee was formed and it was agreed that we could use the St. George's instruction leaflet but that the background colour would be blue, similar to that of the ordinary kneelers and thought to be a colour which was calm and peaceful. It was agreed that I would start on the first kneeler and get some of it done to present at the annual parochial church meeting so that we could gain the approval of the congregation. This was done and the kneeler which I dedicated to the memory of my father was finally completed in 1987. The cross on the kneeler is copied from one sent to us as a Christmas greeting from Canon John Wilkinson who was the Director of the British School while we were there.

I have so far used the word kneeler because that is what one is supposed to use it for — to kneel. Kneeling in church during a service was not always the standard

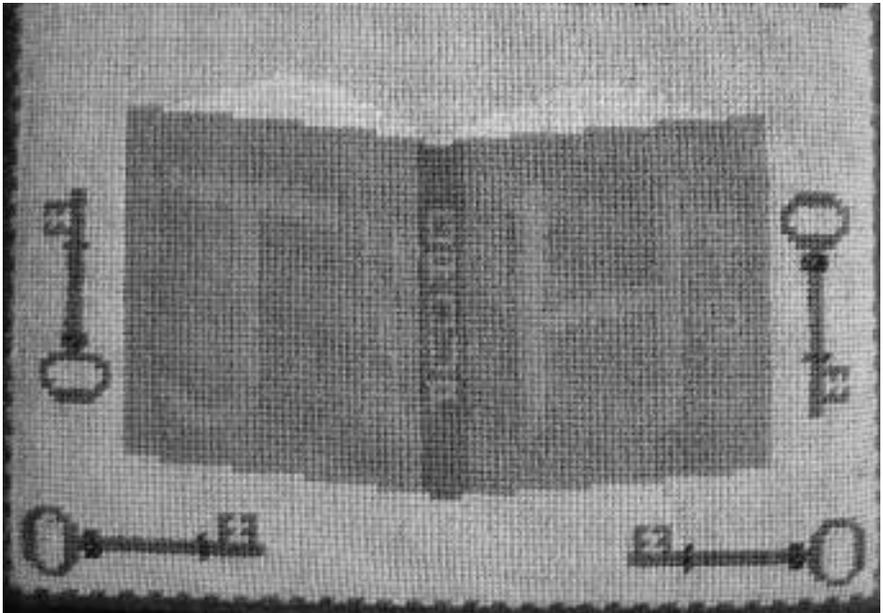
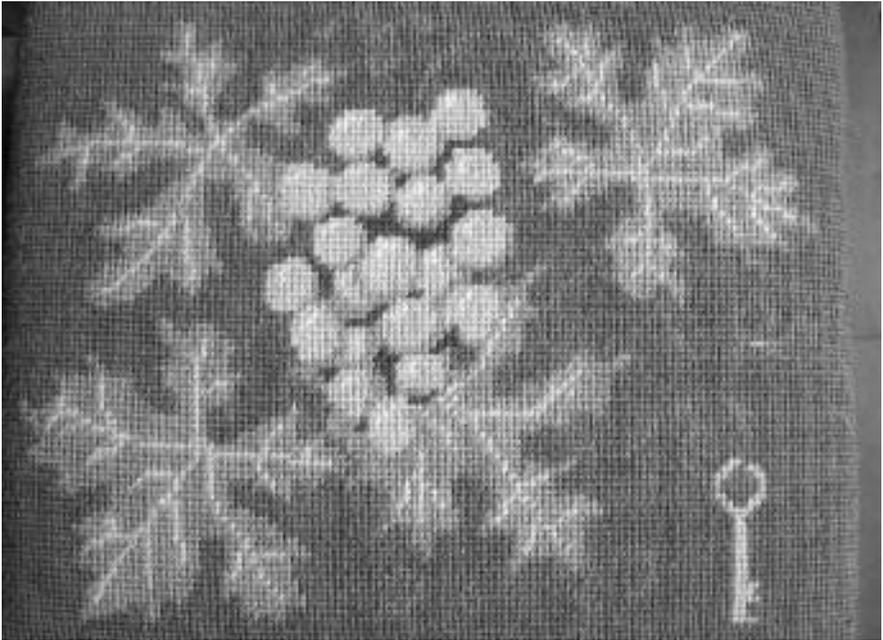
practice. Congregations would stand mostly, but when they were required to kneel there was only the cold bare floor. However, as it tells us in the Bible in several places we have feeble knees. Job Chapter 4 v. 4 "*Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou has strengthened the feeble knees.*" In Isaiah Chapter 35 v. 3 it asks "*Strengthen ye the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees*" and yet in Psalm 95 we are exhorted to "*kneel before the Lord our maker*".

The first 'comforts' which were brought to these feeble knees were hassocks, described as '*a firm tuft or clump of matted vegetation — a tussock*' or later '*a thick cushion often stuffed with rushes or straw and used to rest feet on and especially in places of worship to kneel on*'. Such hassocks were said to have been preserved up to 1877 in a church at Lower Graveshurst. The first reference I could find was in 1516 which gave a register of prices for 20 hassocks for pews. In other Vestry Books it notes in 1667 '*For a hassock & a mat for our minister 6d*'. In Addison's Spectator no 122 of 1711 it quotes '*To make them kneel he gave everyone of them a hassock and a common prayer book*' And in 1848 Henry Newman writes '*At the lower end of the church were about three ranges of moveable benches with backs and kneelers*'.

So, what about the kneelers, or hassocks, which have been sewn for the '*feeble knees*' of the congregation of St. Leonard's? The first committee that was formed consisted of Mrs Ann Chalmers, Miss Molly Cooke, Mrs Gladys Garner, Mrs Monica Wood and myself, but we were not the only sewers. Over the years others, including Phillis Pimm, Elsie Butler, Janet Jones, Leslie Gerrans, Mrs Room, Jill Keane, Pat Evans, Eve Hollis, Jean Mittell, Mary Oakeley, Ursula Goulding, Mrs Malin, Freda Deeley, Mary Streat and Norah Petts have all put their needles in the canvas.

The first idea was to base the designs mainly on the pattern of tiles which were recorded as having been used in the Abbey. Some of these are in the possession of Mrs Lilian Wright. These can be seen in the designs of the altar kneelers and several small kneelers around the church. Some of the kneelers have been made to draw attention to particular organisations and others have been to act as memorials to relatives and friends. A stone carved memorial is something that is expensive and yet we would like to have a material object to act as a reminder of a life that has gone, as the French would say an *aide memoire*.

Besides the tiles there are a number of other Abbey connections. The deer pattern shown on one kneeler is believed to be from the cloak of Richard II who visited the Abbey in 1389. The design of the kneeler which was sewn for Margaret Foote is



**(top) The 'wedding' kneeler described opposite
(bottom) The Junior History Group kneeler (see p.15)**

taken from the pilgrim badge which was found during the Abbey excavations. It is said to depict Thomas Becket.

There are reminders of the time when St. Leonard's had a regular robed choir. If the kneelers sewn for Freda & George Johnson are placed side by side you will find the beginning of what became one of the choir's favourite hymns – '*Thine be the glory, Risen Conquering Son.*'

There are two kneelers designed especially for use at weddings and as a change from kneelers which remind us of someone no longer with us. There is one to mark the occasion of the marriage of Susy Atkins and Ian Acheson, which involves a visual pun. Susy is a well known connoisseur of and writer on wine and at the time of their marriage Ian was a prison governor. The design of the grapes (the Feast of Cana) and St Peter's key, worked by Julia Loken, seemed very appropriate for the key is also associated with St Leonard, who is the patron saint of prisoners, although I suspect that the prisoners he was concerned with were probably taken in conflict or persecution rather than for illegal behaviour.

The kneeler dedicated to the youngest person is that for Jonathan Weideman who died in infancy on Christmas day 1966. His parents came from New Zealand and returned there in 1967. While she was alive Lottie Pimm attended to his grave but after her death there was no-one to look after it. It was for Jonathan and all those who die in infancy that this kneeler was done. It was designed by a nine-year old and has appealed to many children visiting the church as does the kneeler sewn for the 'balloon man' Bill Allsworth. Lottie Pimm has her own kneeler, designed by Leslie Gerrans and sewn by Elsie Butler. The bell-ringers are represented at the moment by the kneeler for Cliff Bennett and the one for Phillis Pimm. Ann Chalmers, a member of the original committee is remembered by the Arms of the Wailers, her maternal family, and perhaps it is appropriate that her husband Alec is also remembered by a significant badge, that of the Royal Gloucesters. Molly Cooke, another driving force and provider of the venue for sewing meetings, is represented by an owl and I think she would not mind being described as a 'wise old owl'.

All the kneelers are recorded in photographs to be seen in the church and now on line and are a good reminder of individuals and organisations who have added to the history of Eynsham.

Sources: Tiles of the Oxford Region by Lloyd Haberley (1920)
The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary

NARROW BOAT TRAFFIC THROUGH EYNESHAM WEIR

by Brian Atkins

Mr Hugh Compton, an authority on English waterways sent me some information on which this article is based.

In September 1912 the Eynsham weir keeper, H.A Chivers wrote to C.A.Anderson, the Secretary of the Oxford Canal Company¹ with a list of boats proceeding upstream via the weir between January and September 12 of that year. All were bound for Newbridge were they unloaded their cargoes which Mr Compton believes were of roadstone, although four boats, having unloaded some cargo at Newbridge², proceeded on to Buscot with their remaining loads. The evidence for roadstone lies in the fact that many of the boats were working from quarries at Nuneaton and moreover the tonnage carried by each boat was in most cases almost the same, suggesting the same cargo and probably the maximum they boats could carry; of the 48 boats, 43 carried loads weighing between 24 and 29 tons. In many cases the boats came in pairs, sometimes in groups of three. In five cases there was a single boat, and there was one group of four. The captains are named but there is no mention of other crew. The list gives no details of the boats returning, presumably empty, so it seems that the Oxford Canal Company was interested only in the loads and their tonnage.

Mr Compton tells me that details of workings through Eynsham weir are otherwise very rare indeed. Maureen McCreadie's article³ deals chiefly with the weir, and on page 5 she explains how narrow boats negotiated the passage.

References (see inside front cover for abbreviations)

1. Warwickshire County Record Office CR1590/269
2. For details of the methods for unloading the craft at Newbridge see E.K.W. Ryan 'The Thames from the Towpath' The Saint Catherine Press, London 1938 p.206.
3. E.R. no.21 2004, pp. 3-9

EYNESHAM JUNIOR HISTORY GROUP: 1987-2007

by Matthew J. Marks

I have fond memories of the Junior History Group from my primary school days. As we sat in the South Wing library and later in the TV room, researching everything from things like the ancient Egyptians for our school work, to the 1901 census.

The Group was run by Mrs Richards, with a variety of assistants, throughout the years. It ran for any primary school children who wanted to attend, and every term we studied something different.

I particularly remember learning about Eynsham Abbey. This involved looking at maps of how the grounds were, learning a bit of Latin, making illuminated letters, learning how the monks would have lived, and also doing a short play about Aelfric and the colloquy, which we performed for the school and for the EHG.

Another topic that I found particularly interesting was the 1901 census. We looked at maps of how the village was in 1901, and I was surprised by which parts are still around, and how small the village seemed. We also looked at the types of jobs that were around, and did research into those. A lot of names seemed familiar to us, so some of us researched a bit about family trees, and this in turn sparked an interest in where our names originated. I still remember that my surname of 'Marks' either came from from one of my ancestors being a 'marksman' (good with a gun or bow and arrow, or a stallholder at a market, who was once also called a 'marksman'. Jobs were also on the census, and I researched the rope-making business in the village.

Yes, I have fond memories of the Junior History Group, and I think that it helped to nurture my love of history, and develop my writing and research skills. I would like to take this opportunity - on behalf of all of us who ever took part - to thank Mrs Richards for leading us so well, and helping us to understand the way in which this world is what it is.

A RETURN TO SWINFORD FARM by Pamela Richards

In Eynsham Record No. 18 I wrote about trying to unlock the secrets of a 19th century Farm Account Book which appeared to be the property of one John Hedges and had many entries for 1836. A John Hedges took up a tenancy of Swinford Farm in 1811 and I believe this is probably the same man.

A document dated *'the Twelfth day of October in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eleven states that John Hedges of Swinford in the county of Bucks, Yeoman did take of the Earl of Abingdon all those Pasture Grounds, Arable Land and Meadow, the Quantity whereof is defined in a Schedule'*. The document then goes into the details of the grounds and buildings and the use to which they can be put. Looking further it seems that this document is to legalise the handing over of the tenancy from Thomas Hedges to this aforesaid John Hedges. Again I conjecture that Thomas may be the father of John. The schedule as set out in the document shows that the whole acreage is over three hundred and thirteen acres together with half the House in Wash Meadow and whole of the Stable in Wash Meadow.

There were also quite stringent conditions in the terms of this tenancy which was for the term of one year and giving during this time *'the Earl of Abingdon, his Heirs and Assigns, and his Agent and Gamekeeper for the Time being, full Liberty to hunt, course, shoot, and fish, and also reserving all the Timber Trees, Spires, Saplings, and young Trees likely to become Timber, with the Lops, Cuttings and Prunings thereof which now are or hereafter may be growing on the said demised Premises; and the Bodies of all Pollards of what Nature or Kind soever, with the Lops thereon; also the Lops of Willows under the Growth of Five Years; also all Hedges, Bushes and Underwoods, under the Growth of Eight Years, together with all Mines and Quarries of every Sort, except such Bushes as may be necessary for mounding and repairing the Fences, and all Clay, Gravel, Sand, and Stones, with free Liberty for the said Earl of Abingdon, his Heirs and Assigns, to enter into and upon the said demised Premises with his Agents and Workmen, at all reasonable Times of the Year, to view the Premises and to cut down, dig up, cart, and carry away the said Trees, Clay, Gravel, Sand, and Stones.'* The yearly rent was six hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain.

This was to be paid in two equal portions, on the sixth day of April and the eleventh day of October in every year so long as John Hedges was tenant, free from all Taxes, except the Land Tax and the Landlord's Property Tax. Besides this he was required to pay Thirty Pounds an Acre *'for every Statute Acre of the Meadow*

Land that shall be mowed Twice in any Year; and for every Statute Acre of the Pasture or Meadow Land mentioned in the Schedule on the Margin of this Agreement, that shall be broken up or converted into Tillage, without Leave in Writing first had and obtained; under the yearly Rent of Fifty Pounds an Acre to be paid and payable as aforesaid'.

The document goes on to list crops which may or may not be planted and the penalties which would be incurred if any of the regulations are not complied with. Looking at the document now, the conditions of the tenancy look to be very much in the Landlord's favour.

Other Swinford documents handed to me through Mr Ted Whelan are two letters concerning the shooting of a dog which was alleged to have been worrying sheep. The man doing the shooting, a Mr Greenwood was an underkeeper for the Earl of Abingdon. However, it is a little difficult to decide whose dog was shot. The letters are one from the Earl of Abingdon dated 2nd June 1889 from an address in Austria and the other is addressed to the Earl of Abingdon. At first it would seem that the correspondence involves Mr T. Franklin as his name and address appear at the bottom of the Earl's letter but as both letters speak of referring the problem to Mr Thomas Franklin it would seem that the owner of the dog must be someone who worked for Mr Franklin or was a Franklin relation. The letter from the Earl states that he is *'in receipt of your of the 24th ult.'* (i.e. the 24th May) and that his underkeeper Greenwood was acting on his instructions *'to seize all dogs found in the coverts'* and goes on to complain that the owner of the dog has been digging on his land to find the body of the dog. The legal position concerning the right to shoot a dog is disputed by the owner of the dog, who in his undated and unsigned letter refers to one from the Earl dated *'the 7th inst.'* and relates how he handled a similar situation. *'I should take the dog and expect the owner to compensate me which we did in a similar case a few years ago with a Witney Clergyman whose dog killed one of our lambs and he paid damages at once.'*

Obviously the correspondence took up some considerable period of time and we are unable to guess what month the *'inst.'* refers to. However, one has the feeling that the Earl would once again have had the last word and that we should be very careful taking our dogs anywhere near sheep.

Once again my thanks to Mrs Hilda Cornish (née Franklin) for all her generous cooperation.

OXFORD PLAYHOUSE
high and low drama in a University city
(ISBN 978-1-902806-86-0)

by Don Chapman

Review by Peter Way

This handsome book with its many fascinating photographic illustrations, published by the University of Hertfordshire Press for the Society for Theatre Research, is the result of thorough scholarly research by Don Chapman, Oxford Mail theatre critic from 1959 to 1994, and led to his being awarded a well-deserved doctorate by Leicester University. It is exemplary in its detail and charts the progress of the Oxford Playhouse from its opening in 1923 in the Woodstock Road opposite Somerville College as the Old Red Barn through many struggles between town and gown to its now assured position. Founded at the inspiration of Jane Ellis, to whom the book is dedicated, and its first director J.B. Fagan, the present building in Beaumont Street followed in 1938 with a succession of directors and actors of later national importance. It is encyclopaedic in its range of reference and promises to be of significance in any future study of the Playhouse and its personnel.

The main story tells of the continual battle between the University and the City in its funding, the reluctance of dons to support the development of drama and the gradual influence of those who championed its cause. There were vigorous years, once it had established itself in Beaumont Street under the direction of Eric Dance, despite continuing financial problems, from 1939 to 1956 when future stars such as Pamela Brown and Ronnie Barker were directed by figures such as Christopher Fry and Frank Shelley. In 1956 Frank Hauser ran the newly formed Meadow Players with Elizabeth Sweeting as Manager, directing a succession of striking productions until 1973. Among his greatest achievements was in staging *A Passage to India*, a dramatisation of E.M. Forster's novel, which moved from the Playhouse to London in 1960.

In 1961 the playhouse became the University theatre with dons such as Nevill Coghill, who had championed undergraduate acting for many years, and Peter Bayley as representatives from Congregation. Gordon Stratford succeeded Elizabeth Sweeting as general manager, and Judi Dench began her great career. (At this point Don Chapman notes that "Larry Nolan built the sets at the company's new workshop at Eynsham's former railway station.") The direction by Nevill Coghill of Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor in *Dr Faustus* was a special event and money from the Buttons went to the building of a studio theatre behind the Playhouse. Among other interesting productions was Jonson's *Volpone*, in which Leonard Rossiter performed

and Leo McKern was the central figure; the production was backed by Sean Connery to transfer to the Garrick. And in 1970 Alan Badel and a young Felicity Kendal were in a production of *Kean* by Frank Hauser which went to London and ran for 300 performances.

The Meadow Players ended in 1973 and Frank Hauser left the Playhouse as perhaps the greatest of its producers, to be succeeded by Gordon McDougall and Nicolas Kent who founded Anvil productions, and were followed by Barry Sheppard and Richard Williams. Developments such as a thrust stage greatly improved the theatre but once again during the country's inflationary period money became increasingly uncertain and in 1988 the Playhouse closed.

Revival followed through the inspiration of Julia Miles and successful appeals for funds until in 1955 the National Lottery made an award of £2.5m. This together with contributions from many former Playhouse supporters and performers enabled the theatre to complete modernisation; relations between the University and the professional theatre improved greatly and Tish Francis completed her stint as director in 2007.

Fresh, witty and perceptive quotations from his own reviews as drama critic enliven the later pages of this deeply and widely researched study of the varying fortunes of the Playhouse by Don Chapman, and his 15 years preparation of his tour de force will give great interest to his many readers and all those theatregoers to whom the Oxford Playhouse remains a happy memory and future pleasure.

Reference (see inside front cover for abbreviations)

1. See E.R. no.8 p.31, 1991 for a picture of Larry Nolan at work in the former goods shed at Eynsham station.

From the *Oxford Times*: Friday December 15, 1933

Postman injured by ram: A ram attacked and seriously injured Mr Wiggins of Eynsham Post Office early on Wednesday morning when he was delivering letters at Whitehall's Farm near Pink Hill, Eynsham. He sustained a cut leg, swollen ankle and a sprained wrist. Mr Wiggins said: "I had no stick or anything to defend myself with."



**Conduit Lane, looking east, winter ca. 2007
(photo by Josie Smith)**



Winter in 2009, with one of the new houses of Acre End Close.

EYNSHAM WAR MEMORIALS (WWI)

by John L. Blakeman

Between 1990 and 1995, Mr. Michael Popkin with the assistance of a small number of volunteers recorded brief details of the majority of War Memorials in Oxfordshire. Three copies of these records were distributed including a copy to the United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials (UKNIWM) based at the Imperial War Museum.

As UKNIWM require, if possible, additional information on the Memorials and as it was known that some had not been recorded while others had been repaired, moved or had names added since 1995, Oxfordshire Family History Society (OFHS) now have a project to update and improve the recorded details. The project remit does not require the family details of men listed but OFHS are accepting or obtaining copy of such details when researched and published by Local History Groups or similar.

When Eynsham Parish Council announced that it was proposed to carry out work on the War Memorial in the Square, it was the ideal time to request detailed information about it - how it was paid for, when dedicated etc.

Eynsham History Group (EHG) was also approached for any information they could provide. With his reply, Dr. Brian Atkins included details of the men named on the War Memorial who died in WW1 and as published in the *Eynsham Record*, No. 23. These details sparked off my quest to obtain information on the men listed for WW1 and WW2.

Just as it seemed that I could trace no further information, I was informed that another Eynsham resident, Mr. Michael Cross, was also doing similar research. Michael, being more familiar with military records, was able to provide the necessary information to complete the details that follow for World War 1 (and World War II to be published later).

The details have been put together on an ad hoc basis and as obtained from various official documents. No appeal having been made for information from the families of the listed men there are no photographs or personal details. From the CWGC information it can be seen that several of the men had married but I have no idea if there were children from the marriages.

Michael Cross is a volunteer researcher at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust (SoFO) with special interest in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. I am the War Memorial Co-ordinator for OFHS.

If any one can provide personal details, photographs etc. for a listed man, they would be appreciated. Any information received will be circulated to EHG, SoFO and OFHS for their records etc.

Details of the men listed on the War Memorial have been obtained from various sources as listed below. More of the military records are going on to various Web sites and it becomes easier to obtain information, via the Internet, as the years go by. Names of Regiments are those at WW1 - many have now 'disappeared' or been amalgamated into new regiments/formations .

Sources of Information

BA. Means the details of the men compiled by Dr. Brian Atkins and published in No. 23 of the *Eynsham Record* (Eynsham History Group). Extracts only may be included here. Listed Births/Baptisms at Eynsham unless stated otherwise.

JLB. Means details of the men traced by J.L.Blakeman from various sources but mainly the archives etc. of Oxfordshire Family History Society (**OFHS**). JLB is a member of OFHS and its War Memorial Co-ordinator.

OFHS archives include:-

Transcription of Registers for St. Leonard's Parish Church to 1900.

Oxfordshire Census details up to 1901 (OFHS indexed details).

Monumental Inscriptions records for church/churchyard of all three Churches in Eynsham.

Note:- Only the transcribed Parish Registers have been checked. Later original Registers are deposited with Oxfordshire Record Office (ORO). This may mean that some family details missed.

Due to the '100 year rule', only Census details up to 1901 are available. When the 1911 Census details become available they might resolve some of the outstanding queries regarding a man's connection with Eynsham. Men from Oxfordshire were serving in the Army etc. during the Boer 1899-1902 War and would not appear on 1901 Census. Some men from Eynsham may have been serving.

CWGC. Means Commonwealth War Graves Commission details obtained via Internet excluding any additional 'Certificate' details. CWGC format as follows but some 'fields' ignored on this list:-

Name:- Surname, forename(s).

Initials:- Ignored if forename(s) given.

Nationality:- Only given if other than United Kingdom.

Rank. Regiment/Service. Unit Text (battalion etc).

Date of Death. Service Number.

Casualty Type:- only noted if other than Commonwealth War Dead.

Grave/Memorial Reference.

Cemetery:- Where no cemetery listed this indicates he has no known grave.

Note:- Age at time of death may be given and also details of his next of kin.

OBLIRoH. Means the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry *Roll of Honour* for WW1. The details are very brief and give:- Rank; Service number; Name; Date of Death. (Copy of *Roll of Honour* held by OFHS).

All Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry men included in this list are included on the *Roll of Honour*. Only where there is a difference in spelling of name or similar is a mention made here.

The Book 'The Oxfordshire Hussars in the Great War (1914-1918)' by Adrian Keith-Falconer, published 1927, includes a '*Roll of Honour*' etc. for the Regiment. (Copy held by JLB).

Sol.D Means the official publication of 'Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-19'. 'Hard copy' (printed) of following held by OFHS:- Part 47 - The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Part No. ?? - Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars.

(Officers are on a different list).

The whole of the publication 'Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1918' is also now available on CD Rom but, due to cost, may not be held at all research centres etc. Only that part of the Sol.D. information providing additional details may be given in this list.

Thanks to Michael Cross who has provided additional information from the above CD Rom and other records not used by BA or JLB.

Regiment Names:- CWGC details and JLB have used abbreviated names etc. for various regiments. Some of these are as follows:-

OBLI - Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

QOOH - Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars.

Royal Berks. - Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment.

Wilts/Royal Wilts - Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regt.

Warwicks - Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

R.H.A. and/or **R.F.A.** - Royal Horse Artillery and/or Royal Field Artillery.

Glos or Glouc. - Gloucestershire Regiment.

Other Abbreviations:-

b. = born on/at. bap. = baptised on/at. e = enlisted at.

r = residing at. Batt (Battn).= Battalion. Regt.= Regiment.

k i a = Killed in action. D o W = Died of wounds.

F & F = France and Flanders. P O W = Prisoner of War.

OFHS MI Ref: = Reference number of Grave in St. Leonard's Churchyard on OFHS Monumental Inscriptions CDs which includes a photograph.

NOTES:- Spelling of some surnames on War Memorial do not agree with the spelling in Parish Registers or military records. Also there are some variations in order of forenames.

Majority of the men listed on the War Memorial are also listed on a small '*Roll of Honour*' in Eynsham Baptist Church. This '*Roll of Honour*', compiled soon after the War, lists men connected to the Baptist Church including three names not on the War Memorial and the spelling of some names different to War Memorial.

The 'Roll of Honour' in St. Leonard's Church not compiled until 1987.

A separate report on the War Memorial etc. has been compiled for local records and the United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials (UKNIWM), part of the Imperial War Museum.

Oxfordshire Studies (formerly the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies) hold information on OBLI, QOOH and Royal Berks. Regiments, the 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' CD Rom etc.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust incorporating the archives of OBLI and QOOH also hold relevant information.

The men are listed in same order as on the War Memorial.

John Blakeman completed this research in November 2008 since when the 1911 census has unexpectedly started to come online. Ed.

Captain Rene Frankland GOSSET

BA:- Son of Major Gossett of the Gables, which he sold in 1913 but was not there at time of 1901 Census (See BA for full details).

CWGC:- GOSSET, René Frankland. Captain. E. Yorkshire Regt. 1st. Batt.

Age 21 25/09/1916

Son of Colonel & Mrs. Edward F. Gosset, of Dunkirk House, Dunkirk, Kent. Born at Camberley, Surrey.

XVI.G.9 Serre Road Cemetery No. 2.

Note:-From the above would seem to be limited Eynsham connections.

2nd Lieut. Basil Britten VINCENT

JLB:- 1901 Census lists him, age 7, living in St. Giles area of Oxford with his parents. He was born in Oxford while his father was born in Birmingham and mother in London. Father was a Printer. Would suggest the family moved to Eynsham sometime after 1901.

CWGC:- VINCENT, Basil Britton. 2nd Lt. Gloucestershire Regt. 8th Batt.

23/07/1916 Pier & Face 5A & 5B Thiepval Memorial.

Note:- Eynsham connections to be established. 1911 Census might provide information when it becomes available.

William Thomas AYRES

BA:- unsure but possibly William, son of Frederick, gardener, 38 and Elizabeth, 31, aged 6, Pug Lane, at 1901 Census.

JLB:-Contact has now been made with descendants of his family and it is now known that he was the son of Frederick and Elizabeth. He was born on 2/11/1894 but not baptised until 28/ 8/1898 as William Bertie Ayers - on same day as a sister who was born 5/7/1898.

Note that the surname was generally spelt AYERS in the Registers but at other times Ayres.

GWGC: -AYRES, William Thomas. Private. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 2nd/7th Batt.

03/12/1917 28920 Panel 3 Cambrai Memorial, Louveral.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford r. Eynsham. k i a F&F

Philip BARKER

JLB:- OFHS Oxfordshire Census Indexes for 1891 and 1901 do not include a Philip BARKER. 1911 Census, when available, may provide details. Must assume the family moved to Eynsham after 1901.

CWGC:- Several possibilities but unable, so far, to tie in an Eynsham connection.

Frank BENNETT

BA:- b.12/04/1895, bap. 16/06/1895, son of Edward, sawyer & Mary, seamstress; living in Alma Place/Mill St., aged 5, at 1901 Census.

CWGC:- Not traced on CWGC database but the Sol.D. information, I believe, provides the reason. He died at home - D o W or illness ? - and not buried in 'War Grave' and not recorded on an official CWGC memorial. Place of burial not known.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Birmingham r. Eynsham.
13781 Private. Died, Home. 02/10/1915. Lancashire Fusiliers, Depot.

Joseph BENNETT

BA:- b. 03/07/1897, bap. 22/08/1897, Son of Edward & Mary as last; living in Alma Place/Mill St., age 3, at 1901 Census.

CWGC:- BENNETT, Joseph. Private. OBLI 2nd Batt.

Age 19 25/09/1915 11260

Son of Mrs. Edward Bennett of 4, Alma Place, Mill St., Eynsham.
Panel 83 to 85 Loos Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e Oxford (Eynsham) 11260 k i a F&F

Note:-Above indicates that his father, Edward, died between 1901 & 1915.

George Francis BROOKS

BA:- *possibly* George Francis, b. 28/12/1883, bap. 02/03/1884, son of Arthur (shepherd) & Fanny; living at Mill St., aged 7, in 1891 Census

JLB:- 1901 Census has him still living, age 18, with his parents in Mill St., Eynsham.

CWGC:- BROOKS, George Francis . Private. South Lancashire Regt. 8th Batt. Age 32 15/06/1917 31986

Son of Arthur Augustus & Fanny Brooks of Mill St., Eynsham;
husband of Emily Esther Brooks of Abbey St., Eynsham.

Panel 37 Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Oxford. e Deal, Kent. Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regt.)
8th Batt. kia F&F

Frederick Thomas HOLIDAY

BA:- b.16/06/1887, bap. 03/07/1887, Son of Frederick, hay-tier, & Louisa. Spelling
HOLLIDAY.

JLB:- In 1891 Census, aged 3, living with his Grandparents, Frederick & Rosehanna
Humphris at Grocers Shop, Queen St., Eynsham. His parents not traced in 1891 Census for
Oxfordshire. Neither Frederick Thomas or his parents traced in 1901 Census for
Oxfordshire.

CWGC:- HOLLIDAY, Frederick Thomas. Private. Essex Regt 1st Batt.
12/10/1916 23053 Pier & Face 10D. Thiepval Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Cardiff. r. Cardiff. kia F&F.
Formerly 105180 R.H. & R.F.A.

Harry BIGGERS

BA:- *possibly* Henry Augustus b. 27/06/1885, bap. 02/08/1885, son of William, office
clerk, & Harriett.

JLB:- 1901 Census has the family at Fringford with Henry A. aged 15 and along with his
father, listed as a Baker.

CWGC:- BIGGERS, Harry Augustus. Private. Royal Fusiliers 13th Batt.
Age 30. 18/01/1916. G/6023

Son of William Henry & Harriet Jane Biggers of Eynsham, Oxon.
A.16.21 St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen.

Sol.D:- b. Witney e Teddington r Bicester

Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.) 13th Batt. **D o W F & F**

Note:- CWGC and Sol.D. difference of christian name.

Christopher Laurence BROOKS

BA:- *possibly* Mill St., aged 3, son of George, 41, engine stoker & Ann, 39 at 1901
Census.

JLB:- 1901 Census states that he was born at Eynsham, as were all his siblings but none are
recorded as being baptized at St. Leonard's Church.

CWGC:- BROOKS, Christopher Lawrence. Private OBLI 2nd Batt.

Age 19 04/02/1918 26242

Son of George Walter & Ann Brooks, 10, Mill St., Eynsham.

11.G.12 Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery British Extension.

OBLI RoH:-Listed. 2nd forename spelt Lawrence as also CWGC. War Memorial has the other spelling.

Sol.D:- b Eynsham e Oxford k i a F & F.

Noble Charles BROOKS

JLB:- 1901 Census shows him, aged 1, living with his parents George & Ann and his siblings, including brother Christopher, at Mill Street. Born Eynsham but not baptized at St. Leonard's Church.

CWGC:- BROOKS, Noble Charles. Private OBLI 2/4th Batt.

Age 19 28/09/1918 34206(OBLI RoH)

Son of George & Ann Brooks, 10, Mill St., Eynsham.

1.D.4 Laventie Military Cemetery, La Gorgue

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham e Oxford (Eynsham) k i a F & F.

Formerly 70797 Devon Regt.

Alexander William BUCKINGHAM

BA:- *possibly* Alexander N. (as transcribed), Acre End St., aged 3, son of ... & Sarah.
1901 Census

JLB:- Alexander William b. 20/08/1897, bap. 6/Oct/1897 with his twin brother, Herbert Clifford, sons of George, dealer & Sarah. bap. privately. OFHS 1901 Census Index has brother's name as Hubert. Father George does not appear on 1901 Census - his death not traced.

CWGC:-BUCKINGHAM, Alexander William. Private Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry)
4th Sqdn. 26/03/1918 51449

Panel 93 & 94 Pozieres Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham e Oxford r Botley, Oxford. k i a F&F. Formerly 2806 QOOH.

Francis Edward BUCKINGHAM

BA:- b. 29/05/1897, bap. 19/09/1897, son of Thomas, farmer & Charlotte Elenor Elizabeth. In 1901 Census, aged 2, living in Leather Mill works, Mill St.

CWGC:- BUCKINGHAM, Francis Edward. Lance Cpl. OBLI 2/4th Batt.
28/04/1917 201373

Pier & Face 10A & 10D Thiepval Memorial.

Sol.D:- b Eynsham e Oxford k i a F& F.

Cecil CAPEL

BA:- Cecil Swiffen Capel, b. 15/07/1893, bap. 17/09/1893, son of Thomas, lab & Annie. In 1901 Census aged 7 in Mill St.

CWGC:- CAPEL, Cyril Swiffen. Private. Cheshire Regt. 13th Batt.

Age 23 04/08/1916 24700

Son of Thomas & late Annie Capel, 142, Kingston Road, Oxford. Born at Eynsham.

IV.E.9 Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford. D o W F& F.

Gilbert CLARKE

BA:- Lists two possibilities, the first of which is correct b. 13/10/1893, bap. 18/02/1894, son of Richard, mason, & Martha. In 1901 Census aged 7 at Acre End Street.

CWGC:- CLARKE, Gilbert. Private. Royal Berkshire Regt. 1st Batt

Age 27 05/10/1918 39486

Son of Richard & Martha Clarke, Eynsham, Oxon (See Cemetery Introduction)

P O W Special Memorial. Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery

(Note 'See Cemetery Introduction' not understood).

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford r. Eynsham. Died F & F. Formerly 19028, OBLI.

Herbert James COX

JLB:- In 1901 Census living at Cassington aged 6 with father James, mother Emma and other siblings. Census states he was born at Eynsham. Not baptized at St. Leonard's Church.

CWGC:- COX, Herbert James. Sgt. Somerset Light Infantry 12th Batt

Age 26 05/05/1918 37131

Son of Mrs.Emma Cox, Abbey St., Eynsham

F.136 Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. St.Pancras, Middlesex. r. Eynsham.

Formerly 13680, Northampton Regt. Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry) 12th Batt.

Robert DEAN

BA:- *probably* Robert b. 14/02/1893, bap. 21/05/1893, son of George, lab. & Ellen. In 1901 Census, he appears aged 8 in Acre End Street as stepson of James Douglas, bricklayer's lab. and Ellen.

CWGC:- A long list of men of this name or similar BUT majority do not list age or parents etc. Unable to trace correct man unless further information obtained from other sources.

Sol.D:- Unable to trace on this either.

Arthur DOUGLAS

JLB:- *probably* Arthur son of Frederick & Keziah. In 1901 Census aged 6 with his father and siblings at City Farm Cottage, Eynsham - including brother Percy who is listed on Baptist Church '*Roll of Honour*'. Mother, Keziah, died in 1900.

CWGC:- DOUGLAS, A. L/Cpl. Royal Munster Fusiliers. 2nd Batt.
04/10/1918. 20171

Son of Mr. F. Douglas of Newland St., Eynsham, Oxon.

l. A. 18 Prospect Hill Cemetery, Gouy.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford. r. Woodstock. k i a F & F. Formerly 17080, OBLI.

Hubert DRUCE

BA:- b. 31/03/1895, bap. 16/05/1895, son of Ernest, farmer and Louisa. In 1901 Census aged 6 in Newland Street with father and siblings. Mother, Louisa, died 1899.

CWGC:- DRUCE, Gunner, Herbert. 58471. No.7 Depot, Royal Field Artillery. Died of malaria 26th Feb. 1917. Age 23. Son of Mr. E.W. Druce of High St., Eynsham. CWGC Grave Eynsham St.Leonard's Churchyard. Grave 91 (G011) OFHS MI Ref: A057.

CWGC lists his name as HERBERT. JLB wrote to CWGC in April 2008 to point out their error but they will not correct their records without a great deal of documentation

Sol.D:- e. Oxford r. Eynsham. Died, Home. R.H.A. & R.F.A.

William Alfred FIDLER

BA:- States that his father was Frederick Green, 27, basket maker, that he was born out of wedlock and kept the former surname, Fidler of his mother, (see BA for full details) But Sol.D states that he was born in Holborn. JLB suggests that Frederick was, in fact, his

stepfather.

CWGC:- FIDLER, William Alfred. Private Somerset Light Infantry 1st Batt.
28/08/1918 28694 Panel 4 Vis-En-Artois Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Holborn, Middlesex. e Oxford
Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry). kia F & F

Reginald GIBBARD

BA:- b. 12/04/1898, bap. 03/07/1898, son of Edward, butcher, & Fanny Mary. In 1901
Census aged 2 living in Abbey St. with parents & siblings.

CWGC:- GIBBARD, R. Private Tank Corps 8th Batt.

24/03/1918 111839 11 .E.9 Lebequiere Communal Cemetery Extension.

Sol.D:- e Oxford. kia F& F. Formerly 184104 Royal Army Service Corps.

Frederick John GIBBONS

BA:- b. 02/09/1876, bap. 05/11/1876, son of John, farmer, & Sarah.

Wood Lid of Font in St. Leonard's Church has a memorial plate to him.

JLB:- In 1901 Census in Eynsham age 24.

His father, John, died in 1883 and mother, Sarah died in 1886.

CWGC:- GIBBONS, Frederick John. Australian L/Cpl. Australian Infantry A.I.F. 26th
Batt. 29/07/1916 2249

Son of John & Sarah Gibbons. Born at Eynsham.

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Australian Records (obtained by Michael Cross):-

At Attestation for Service Abroad:- No. 2249 Unit: 26th Batt. 4th Reinforcement.

Joined on: 21/07/1915 Age 37 yrs. 10 months. Occupation - Grocer. Not married.

For 4 years had been an apprentice in Brixton, England

Next of Kin:- Miss Ann Ruth Gibbons- Aunt living at Willow Bank, Eynsham.

Reported Missing on 09/06/1916 in France.

29/06/1917 Court of Inquiry - Now reported Killed in Action.

Note:- Michael Cross states that the Australian Records contain many letters and
documents on F.J. Gibbons.

Frederick Harold GRANT

BA:- b. 31/07/1896, bap. 20/09/1896, son of Henry William, lab., & Ann. In 1901 Census aged 4 living in Chapel Yard with parents & sister.

CWGC:- GRANT, F.H. Cpl. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 2nd Batt.

20/07/1918 25031

Son of Mr. A.W. Grant, Newland St., Eynsham.

VIII.C11 Bienvillers Military Cemetery.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford r. Eynsham. k i a F & F Formerly 10341, OBLI.

Albert John GREEN

BA:- BA gives two alternatives and CWGC Details would indicate that the second is correct as follows:-

In 1891 Census, Albert S? Green, aged 7 living in Acre End Street with father Albert, 46, basket maker and mother ? , 44, and four older siblings including Frederick, 17, also basket maker.

JLB:- OFHS Oxfordshire Census Index has mother's name as:-

1891 - Thirza C. 1901 – Thurza

1891 Census has address as - Crown Crescent, Acre End Street.

CWGC:- GREEN, Albert John. Private OBLI 1/4th Batt.

Age 32 05/11/1916 6350

Husband of Nora Alice Green of Mill St., Eynsham.

Pier & Face 10A & 10D Thiepval Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham e. Burford, Oxon (Eynsham) k i a F& F.

Frederick GREEN

BA:- See details for Albert John GREEN and also for William A. FIDLER

Death given as May 1916 (but in fact late April 1916). Died leaving a wife and 10 children (E.R.12, p33).

CWGC:- GREEN, Frederick. Private OBLI 5th Batt.

Age 42 27/04/1916 18664

Husband of Emma Mary Green of Queen St., Eynsham.

XVII.L.11 Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez

Sol.D:- b Eynsham e Oxford (Eynsham) k i a F& F.

Stanley Arthur GREEN

BA:- b. 31/01/1891, bap. 08/03/891, son of James, lab., and Mary Ann.

In 1901 Census aged 10 living in Abbey St. with parents & siblings.

CWGC:- GREEN, S.A . Private Welsh Regt. 14th Batt.

22/04/1918 60428

VII. E. 15 Contay British Cemetery, Contay

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford. D o W F& F.

Frederick Thomas HALL

JLB:- In 1901 Census aged 8 living at Alma Place, Mill St., Eynsham with mother, Louisa & his siblings. He was born in Summertown, Oxford. In 1891 Census, father Frederick & mother, Louisa, with children were living in Cutteslowe/Wolvercote area.

CWGC:- HALL, Frederick Private Royal Berks Regt. 1st Batt.

Age 23 28/09/1915 16557

Son of Frederick George Hall, of Gas House Lane, Mill St., Eynsham.

Panel 93 to 95 Loos Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Oxford. e. Oxford r. Eynsham. k i a F& F.

Bertie Samuel HARPER

JLB:-b. 08/04/1890, bap. 08/06/1890, son of Samuel, haybinder and Ellen.

On 1891 Census aged 11 months living at Alma Place/Mill Street, Eynsham. Not traced on OFHS 1901 Oxfordshire Census Index.

CWGC:- HARPER, B.S. Rifleman. London Regt.(City of London Rifles) 6th Batt.

01/03/1917 323315

VII.E.19 Railway Dugouts Burial Ground.

Sol.D:- e. Oxford r. Eynsham. k i a F& F. Formerly 3/4th R.W. Surrey Regt.

Horatio HARPER

BA:- In 1901 Census, he is aged 18, haybinder, unmarried, living in the Square with his grandparents, James (71) and Ann (69).

JLB:- b. 13/09/1882, bap. 05/11/1882, son of Annie, servant.

In 1891 Census aged 10 living at Wytham Terrace, Acre End St., with grandparents.

CWGC:- HARPER, Horatio. Private OBLI 5th Batt.

Age 34 03/05/1917 25966 Son of the late Mr. & Mrs. James Harper;

Husband of Eliza Harper of 20, Observatory St., Oxford.

Bay 6 & 7 Arras Memorial

Sol.D:- b Eynsham e Oxford k i a F& F.

Note:- The CWGC details regarding parents seem to be wrong – his grandparents listed.

Elijah HARRIS

BA:- In 1901 Census aged 19, an ag. lab., living at White House Farm, Barnard Gate with father Caleb (48), carter on farm, and mother Martha (49).

JLB:- 1901 Census provides his place of birth as Eynsham, but not traced his baptism.

CWGC:- HARRIS, Elijah. Private Monmouthshire Regt. 1st Batt

Age 35 21/02/1918 229913

Son of C. and M. Harris of Witney; Husband of Maria Jane Harris of 7, Tyler St., Roath, Cardiff.

VI.B.14 Lapugnoy Military Cemetery.

Sol.D:- b. Oxford e Cardiff,

Glam.Monmouthshire Regt. (Territorial Force). D o W F&F

Joseph HARRIS

JLB:- Cannot trace on OFHS Oxfordshire 1891 & 1901 Census Indexes. From CWGC and Sol.D. details it would seem he had moved to the Reading, Berks. area.

CWGC:- HARRIS, Joseph. Private Royal Berks. Regt. 6th Batt. Age 38
01/07/1916 14548

Husband of Sarah Ann Harris, of Oxford Lodge, Lower Basildon, Goring, Reading.
Pier and Face 11 D Thiepval Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Reading. r. Pangbourne, Berks. k i a F & F

Walter Thomas HARRIS

BA:- In 1901 Census there is a Walter JOHN Harris, aged 9 ?

JLB:- bap. 07/09/1891, Walter John son . plumber. privately.

CWGC:- HARRIS, Walter John. Private OBLI 5th Batt.

03/05/1917 32813

Bay 6 & 7 Arras Memorial.

OBLIRoH:- Has Walter John Harris listed.

Sol.D:- Harris, Walter John b. Eynsham e Oxford (Osney) 32813 k i a

F & F.

Formerly 2551 QOOH.

Richard William HARWOOD

BA:- b. 01/03/1898, bap. 15/04/1898, son of Harry, baker and Georgina. In 1901 Census aged 3 living in High St. with parents and siblings.

CWGC:- HARWOOD, R.W. Private South Wales Borderers. 2nd Batt.
16/08/1917 40791

VII.E.6 Artillery Wood Cemetery.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford. k i a F & F. Formerly 27550, OBLI.

William HATHAWAY

BA:- See details which tie in with CWGC.

CWGC:- HATHAWAY, W. Sgt. Middlesex Regt. 3rd Batt.

Age 25 28/05/1915 L/11782

Son of John & Laura Hathaway of Eynsham. Husband of Jane Venllar (formerly Hathaway) of 85, Swinbrook Rd., North Kensington, London. Enclosure No.

2.IV.A.24 Bedford House Cemetery. **Sol.D:-** b. North Kensington, Middlesex. e. Mill Hill, Middlesex. Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regt.) k i a F & F

William HIRONS

BA:- In 1901 Census aged 6, living in Newland St. with parents Frederick G. Hiorns, butcher and Elizabeth. Name spelt **HIORNS**.

CWGC:- HIORNS, W.N. Private Royal Berkshire Regt. 1st Batt.

Age 22 26/09/1915 11525

Son of Frederick C. & Elizabeth A. Hiorns of 40, Cowley Road, Oxford, native of Eynsham, Oxon.

IV.E.1 Bethune Town Cemetery.

Sol.D:- HIORNS, William Nelson. b. Eynsham. e. Walthamstow, Essex. r. Oxford. Do W F & F.

Albert John HOLLOWAY

BA:- b. 22/11/1890, bap. 14/12/1890, son of Albert, lab., and Sarah.

In 1891 Census aged 4 months, living in Swan St. with parents but in 1901 Census, family living in Abbey St.

JLB:- OFHS 1901 Oxfordshire Census Index has his name as John A. but he was baptized Albert John.

CWGC:- HOLLOWAY, Albert John. Leading Stoker. Royal Navy
H.M.S. Conquest. Age 29 13/06/1918 K/9211
Son of Albert & Sarah Holloway, 3, Abbey St., Eynsham 723 Eynsham (St.Leonard)
Churchyard.
OFHS MI Ref. D039
He died of wounds received in action 13th June 1918.
Gravestone wording indicates his father may have died around the same time.

Henry James HOLLOWAY

BA:- HOLLOWAY, Henry J. or T. Could be brother of last, aged 2 in 1891 and 12 in
1901 Census.
JLB:- HOLOWAY, Henry James, b. 01/08/1888, bap. 2/09/1888, son of Albert, lab, and
Sarah. Surname spelt various ways in the records.
CWGC:- HOLLAWAY, H.J. Private OBLI 5th Batt.
22/06/1915 10990
Panel 37 & 39 Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.
OBLIRoH:- Henry James Holloway listed.
Sol.D:- HOLLAWAY, Henry James b Eynsham e Oxford r. Botley. k i a F& F.

John Thomas JAMES

BA:- b. 18/01/1893, bap. 19/03/1893, son of George Frederick, thatcher, and Sarah. See
other details.
CWGC:- JAMES, John Thomas. Private OBLI 1st Batt.
Age 23 29/01/1916 9651
Son of George & Sarah James, Newland St., Eynsham.
P.2 Kut War Cemetery.
Sol.D:- b Eynsham e Oxford (Eynsham) D o W Mesopotamia.

George Leslie Stuart JEFFEREYS

BA:- In 1891 Census, George L. aged 6, living in Acre End St. with his father William
Walker Jeffreys, boot & shoemaker and mother Emma.
Note difference in surname spelling.
JLB:- OFHS 1891 Census Index has the surname as JEFFREYS while the 1901 Index
has the surname as JEFFERYS.
CWGC:- JEFFREYS, George Leslie. Private Wiltshire Regt. 1st Batt.

22/09/1914 6382

La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial.

Sol.D:- b.Eynsham e. Swindon r. Birmingham. D o W F& F.

Herbert William KEARSE

JLB:- 1901 Census had two possibilities;- Herbert, aged 12, with his family at Eynsham, or Herbert William, 5, with his single mother, in Witney Workhouse. Details obtained under Sol.D. now confirms that the Herbert aged 12 living in Eynsham with his parents and siblings is correct man. Census gives his place of birth as Wychwood.

CWGC:- KEARSE, Herbert William. Canadian L/Cpl .Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regt.) 10th Batt.

28/04/1917 174314

Vimy Memorial.

Sol.D:- Following information from Canadian records obtained by Michael Cross:- Born: Burford, Oxfordshire. Next of Kin:- Kears, Louisa. Brant Ave., Burlington, Ontario. D of b: 27/08/1888. Occupation: Farmhand. Married: 3rd September 1915. Age in Sept.1915 listed as 27.

Bert LEACH

BA:- *possibly* bap. 23/03/1893, son of George, lab. and Mary Ann Leach. Gives details of Pte. Leach, 11620 OBLI.

JLB:- These details Pte Leach, 11620, would seem to be wrong as follows:- **Sol.D.** lists Leach, B. 11620 as being born in Cannock, Staffs and enlisting at Nuneaton. Not on OFHS 1901 Oxfordshire Census Index.

Believe this may be Robert Leach listed as living in Eynsham in the 1891 Census. Further information regarding age etc. required to onfirm. Following CWGC and **Sol.D.** details are assumed to be correct for the man listed on the War Memorial.

1911 Census details, when available, might resolve the doubts.

GWGC:- LEACH, Bert. Private Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) 2nd Batt.

29/10/1918 G/5025

Panel 29 Basra Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Bromley, Kent r. Dartford, Kent.
k i a Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force.

Henry LINDSAY

JLB:- Following details do not explain why he is listed on Eynsham War Memorial.
1911 Census details might provide answer.

CWGC:- LINDSAY, Henry. Private QOOH 1/1 Batt.

Age 20 29/10/1917 285754

Son of Patrick Charles Nugent Lindsay & Mary Alexandra Lindsay.

IX.B.2 Dozinghem Military Cemetery.

QOOH Book:- born in Chipping Walden enlisted Oxford (Witney)

Died of wounds in France.

Sol.D:- b. Chipping Walden e Oxford r Witney

Household Cavalry & Cavalry of the Line (incl. Yeomanry & Imperial Camel). QOOH.

D o W F & F .

Samuel MOULDER

BA:- Samuel Moulder was aged 12 in 1891 Census living in Station Rd. with his stepfather, Samuel George Jepson, blacksmith and his mother Sarah Jepson. See details for notes from his daughter.

CWGC:- MOULDER, Samuel. Sgt. OBLI. 2nd Batt.

Age 34 22/10/1914 6738

Husband of Ada J. Moulder, 10, Clark's Row, St. Aldates, Oxford.

Panel 37 & 39 Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Sol.D:- b Lower Milton, Worcs. e Gosport, Hants. r St.Aldates, Oxford k i a F& F.

Percy ROWLAND

BA:- Youngest son of Albert and Anna Rowland of Home Farm. In 1915 Sgt. in East Surrey Regt. married Emmie, 3rd daughter of J.G. Pimm of the Square. See details. States that he is buried with his parents in grave in St. Leonards Churchyard - MI Ref A016.

JLB:- Above states that he was a Sergeant but CWGC lists him as only L/Cpl.

He is NOT buried at Eynsham but has a commemoration on family grave.

CWGC:- ROWLAND, Percy. L/Cpl. East Surrey Regiment. 1st Batt.

Age 32 29/07/1916 7323

Son of Albert Rowland of Home Farm, Eynsham; Husband of Emmie Rowland of High St., Eynsham.

Pier & Face 6B & 6C Thiepval Memorial.

Sol.D:- b. Paddington, Middlesex . e London L/Cpl. k i a F& F.

Edwin James RUSHER

JLB:- RUSHER, James Edward, b. 13/12/1883, bap. 03/02/1884, son of Isaac, dealer, and Sarah. Family not traced on OFHS 1891 Oxfordshire Census Index. OFHS- 1901 Oxfordshire Census Index lists name as Edwin aged 17 living with his widowed mother and siblings in Queen St., Eynsham.

CWGC:- RUSHER, E.J. Private OBLI 2/4th Batt.

11/12/1917 203631 Husband of Florence Rusher of Conduit Lane, Eynsham.
XXXI.C.15 Etaples Military Cemetery.

Sol.D:- b Eynsham e Oxford (Eynsham) D o W F& F. Formerly 3201 QOOH.

Ernest William RUSSELL

BA:- b. 24/06/1878, son of Henry, lab. and Mary Maria.

In 1901 Census, Henry and Mary lived in Acre End St. with 5 younger children but Ernest had left home and the village.

JLB:- bap. 04/08/1878 as Ernest William. OFHS Oxfordshire Census Index for 1881 gives his name as William and this seems to follow in later Census.

CWGC:- RUSSELL, William Ernest . Private OBLI 1/4th Batt.

04/04/1917 203400

Pier & Face 10A & 10D Thiepval Memorial.

OBLIRoH:- Listed as William Ernest Russell.

Sol.D:- RUSSELL, William Ernest b Eynsham e Oxford (Eynsham) k ii a F & F
Formerly 3355 QOOH.

Caleb John SHERWOOD

BA:- b. 13/08/1879, bap. 07/09/1879, son of George, mason, and Julia.

JLB:- OFHS Oxfordshire 1901 Census Index shows him living in Bicester area while his parents and siblings were living at Newland (Witney ?).

CWGC:- SHERWOOD, C.J. Sgt. Army Service Corps. 904th M.T. Coy.

27/04/1917 M/225119

XI.C.13 Suda Bay War Cemetery.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham e. Windsor r. Witney Died at Sea. Royal Army Service Corps.

William STYLES

JLB:- possibly William Styles, aged 2 in 1901 Census, living with his mother Emma (29) and siblings in Newland Street, Eynsham. Father is not listed. All noted as being born in Eynsham but William is not noted as being baptized at St. Leonard's Church.

CWGC:- A long list of men of this name or similar but majority do not list age or parents etc. Unable to trace correct man unless further information obtained from other sources.

Sol.D:- Details provided but subject to debate?

Thomas WAKELEY

JLB:- Wakeley family not on OFHS Oxfordshire 1891 or 1901 Census Indexes. Assume that the family or Thomas moved to Eynsham sometime after 1901.

CWGC:- WAKELEY, T. Private Army Service Corps.

Royal Naval Air Service and 3rd Heavy Armoured Car Bty.

25/09/1915 M2/132541

9 North Maroc Intercommunal Cemetery.

Sol.D:- e. in the Field r. Eynsham, Oxford. k i a F & F Royal Army Service Corps.

Bertie Harold WOOD

BA:- bap. 29/06/1892 son of Henry, butcher, and Fanny Elizabeth.

In 1901 Census aged 8 living in Acre End St. with his parents.

He was a machine gunner, killed in 1917 - 'Changing Faces of Eynsham - Book 2'. See other details.

CWGC:- WOODS, Bert Harold Private Royal Marine Light Infantry

1st. RM Btn. R.N. Div. Age 26. 26/10/1917 CH/2192(S)

Son of Mrs. Fanny Woods, of Acre End St., Eynsham, Oxon.

Panel 1 & 162A Tyne Cot Memorial.

On the last page, overleaf, are the names of the men on a '*Roll of Honour*' in Eynsham Baptist Church. They are not named on the War Memorial.

Percy DOUGLAS

JLB:- *probably* Percy son of Frederick & Keziah. In 1901 Census aged 4 with his father and siblings at City Farm Cottage, Eynsham - including brother Arthur who is listed on Eynsham War Memorial. Mother, Keziah, died in 1900.

CWGC:- Lists five men with name Percy or just an initial 'P'. Ages and family details not given. To try and tie in.

William GREEN

JLB:- Some indication of age etc. required to try and tie in the Eynsham family connection.

CWGC:- A long list of men of this name or similar but majority do not list age or parents etc. Unable to trace correct man unless further information obtained from other sources.

Arthur WALLIS

JLB:- OFHS Oxfordshire 1901 Census Index has an Arthur WALLIS, age 4 in Grandpont, Oxford with his father William, mother Mary J. and sister Florence age 2. Did they move to Eynsham after 1901?

CWGC:- A long list of men of this name or similar but majority do not list age or parents etc. Unable to trace correct man unless further information obtained from other sources.

There is a Family Grave in St. Leonard's Churchyard with a commemoration of interest.

OFHS Monumental Inscription A 118:-

'Also of his dear son Edward Dickens BURDEN, who died for his country in France Nov. 13th 1916. Aged 26 years.'

(Son of Edward BURDEN who died April 13th 1912 aged 50 years)

Note:- OFHS MI Transcript originally read 'France Nov. 13th 1946' Will now be corrected.

JLB:- Baptism, Eynsham:- 11/01/1891 BURDEN, Edward Dickins s Edward & Jane. Blacksmith born 25/11/1890.
1901 Census has the family living at Wolvercote.

CWGC:- BURDEN, E.D. Private OBLI 2nd Batt.
13/11/1916 9320

A. 37. Redan Ridge Cemetery No. 1, Beaumont-Hamel.

Sol.D:- b. Eynsham. e. Oxford. k i a F&F.

EYNSHAM HISTORY GROUP

Founded 1959

The E.H.G. exists primarily to encourage studies in, and to promote knowledge of the history of the village and parish of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, by means of regular meetings (normally at least ten), with invited speakers, during the winter and spring; and occasional outings in the summer.

New members are welcome.

Please apply to the Secretary for details of meetings and subscriptions.

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