

**NOTES ON THE NAMES IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE ARISING FROM RESEARCH  
UNDERTAKEN IN DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020 IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW  
MEMORIAL STONE.**

These notes are a summary of additional information that I found whilst verifying the information in the book of remembrance prior to placing the order for the memorial stone. They were verified by copies of commonwealth war graves commission certificates and, in most cases, copies of the 1911 census document which included the person and/or their family. Trevor Payne March 2020.

**FIRST WORLD WAR**

**PRIVATE HAROLD BIDMEAD (BASSETT)**

Harold is shown in the book as being a Bassett but in actual fact he is not. The 1901 census for the family shows James (43) and Annie (40) living in Worton Road with Daughters Elsie (16) and Mabel (8) and son Harry (13) plus Harold FRENCH a male boarder age 5, born in London. The 1911 census form completed by James has him and Annie with Henry (23) and Mabel (18) and Harold BIDMEAD (15) born in London. The medal record for Harold and the CWGC certificate both have him as Bidmead. Obviously, he must have been known locally as Harold Bassett but his surname was never formally changed.

**PRIVATE FREDERICK CARPENTER**

In the 1911 census completed by his father, John Carpenter, he is shown as Fred Carpenter age 16. He had a brother Frank age 14 and a sister Alice age 10.

**PRIVATE HORACE VAWN CASTLE**

Born in 1898, in the 1911 census he was shown as age 13, living with his family: parents Moses and Annie, Sister Lily (26) and brothers Harold (18) and Kenneth (15). The spelling of his middle name is correct according to the record of birth.

**PRIVATE WILLIAM JOHN CLACK**

In 1911 William (aged 12) and family were living in Charlbury where he was at school and also a butcher's errand boy. His father Samuel was a postman. The family were parents Samuel and Elizabeth, sisters Jessie (16), Lydia (14) and Eva (4) and brothers Percival (8) and John (6). They must have moved to Westcot Barton after then.

**PRIVATE FREDERICK WILLIAM CONSTABLE**

In 1911 Frederick, aged 19 was living at High Lodge Farm, Milton under Wychwood where he was a "Farm Pupil". His family lived in Middle Barton and his father had put Fred's name on his census form and then crossed it out. Family information is in the next entry for his brother John.

**PRIVATE JOHN CONSTABLE**

The son of William and Eliza, he was living at home in 1911 (age 17). Also at home were brothers Victor (15) and Albert (6), and sisters Lily (21), Elizabeth (16), Gertrude (9), and Natalie (6). See above for his brother Frederick. He enlisted 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and it would appear that he was sent to France in May 1915 and returned home about 7<sup>th</sup> August with pleurisy. One of the reports states that the cause was exposure. He was treated in Portsmouth hospital and sent home on convalescence. He then went to Bicester camp where he contacted Tubercular peritonitis and something else on October 15<sup>th</sup> 1915. He was invalided out as unfit for service on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1916. He died at home on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1917 and is buried at Steeple Barton.

**PRIVATE ALBERT EDWARD HAWKINS**

He was the son of Stephen and Martha and brother of Ernest James and George both of whom also died (see below). In 1901 he is at home with his parents, older brother George and younger brother William. I could not find him in the 1911 census.

### **GUNNER ERNEST JAMES HAWKINS**

Born in 1877, the son of James and Harriett; in 1881 he had three brothers Stephen (17), William (14) and Harry (6) and a sister Edith aged 11. His mother died in 1885. In 1895 he joined the militia serving in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Oxfordshire Regiment and was discharged, time expired, in October 1901. In the 1911 census he is on his own. He married Elsie Maud Timms in 1916 and I believe they had a daughter, Edith, in the same year.

### **PRIVATE ERNEST JAMES HAWKINS**

He was born in 1895 to Stephen Henry Hawkins and Martha Walker who were married in 1886. In the 1911 census he is living in Jacobs Yard with his parents and older brother George (23). A search of the CWGC site found three Ernest Hawkins who died in 1917: Pte Ernest Hawkins 37594 10<sup>th</sup> battalion Worcestershire Regt died 20.09.1917; Pte Ernest Hawkins 43489 11<sup>th</sup> battalion Suffolk Regiment died 28.04.1917 and Private Ernest James Hawkins 106940 202<sup>nd</sup> Company, Machine Gun Corps died 9.10.1917. It is difficult to be absolutely sure that he is the person who served in the Machine Gun Corps, but this is the most likely match given the second name.

### **PRIVATE GEORGE HENRY HAWKINS**

George, son of Stephen and Martha was the first of the three Hawkins brothers to die (17.01.1917). Family details are shown in the entry above.

### **PRIVATE WILLIAM EDWARD HUMPHRIES**

William was the son of William Edward Humphries and Ellen Grace Simson. According to the national birth records he was actually named Edward William Humphries but he was obviously known as William as seen in the 1911 census and the CWGC certificate. In 1911 he was a farm boy age 13 living at home with his parents and brothers Frederick (12,) James (11), Robin (10), Frank (8), and Vernon (4 months).

### **PRIVATE WILLIAM KEEN**

Born in 1896, in 1911 William was living in Westcot Barton with his parents Edward and Martha (nee Smith); brothers George (19), Henry (16), & Edward (12); sisters Eva (11) & Edith (7) and Stepbrother John Smith (27) who also died (see below). According to previous research he died on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916, the same day as Frederick Carpenter. Interestingly, there is another William Keen on the Thiepval Memorial, the only difference being their army numbers. The second William Keen, who was also in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry but a different battalion, died on 15 August 1916. I presume that the previous researcher had access to family information to confirm that the correct one was 12112 Private Keen.

### **PRIVATE GEORGE FELIX KIRBY**

His birth was registered in Highworth, near Swindon, in the third quarter of 1896. His father came from Middle Barton and his mother from Steeple Aston. In 1911 he was at home with his family and is shown as assisting in the business (his father was Grocer and Draper). Also at home were his parents Felix and Marianne, two sisters: Winifred Annie (13) and Mona Alice May (4) and two elderly ladies, surname Luing, shown as boarders with private means.

### **PRIVATE FREDERICK JOHN LUING**

He could not be located in the 1911 census and his family seemed to be spread out. In 1901 he was with his family in a cottage shown as in Cleavers Gardens: parents William and Emma, brother William (23) and sisters Florence (13), Hester (11) and Eva (9). His birth is registered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1879. He was married to Elizabeth A Jarvis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1913. It would appear that they had a child, Stella E in 1916.

### **LIEUT JENNER STEPHEN CHANCE MARSHALL**

His birth is recorded in Bromsgrove in the second quarter of 1895. In 1911 he was at School at Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey and his mother (by then a widow) was living in Westcot Barton Manor with his sister Elizabeth Eleanor de Peystor Marshall age 7. He is recorded as having joined the Ox and Bucks in 1912.

### **PRIVATE WILLIAM JAMES PARSONS**

His birth is registered in Westminster in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 1881. His father James was from Middle Barton but was a Police Officer and had married Jane Lenton in Kensington in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1880. In 1891 James, Jane and William were living in Harris Place, St James, Westminster. By 1901 James had retired and was landlord of the Fox Inn and they had a daughter Jane age 6 who was born in Middle Barton. In 1911 James, Jane and Jane were living in North Street. The whereabouts of William in 1901 and 1911 could not be firmly established but in 1902 he joined the Hussars and served in South Africa. On the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1905 he was discharged on payment of £18. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1911, he married Winifred Daisy Tubby who was born in Waterperry and who, in 1911, was a parlour maid at 39 Museum Road, St Giles, Oxford.

### **SAPPER WILLIAM DANIEL PROFFITT**

He was the son of William and Ellen Proffitt. His name was definitely William Daniel. In 1901 William was 10 and the family lived in the Old Toll Gate, Steeple Barton: he had one brother Frederick age 4 and two sisters Ellen 13 and Violet 6. By the 1911 census Ellen had left home. William is shown as having been born in St Ebbes and the younger two siblings in Holywell, Oxford. Both William D. and his father were Shepherds.

### **PRIVATE NIGEL MALCOLM STEWART RIACH**

His birth was registered at Woodstock in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1899. In 1911 he was at school at Wellington College in the parish of Crowthorne, Berkshire and is shown in the list for “the Towers”, presumably his house. In 1901 the family were living in Fife in Scotland.

### **PRIVATE JOHN EDWIN SMITH**

His birth was registered at Woodstock in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1883. In 1911 he was living with his mother Martha (who had re-married) and stepfather Edward Keen. See information for William Keen above. His marriage to Ethel Gibson was recorded at Woodstock in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1914. The birth of a son, John E Smith is recorded at Woodstock in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1916.

### **PRIVATE HORACE PERCY STEWART**

His birth was registered at Woodstock in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1895. Interestingly, in the national record, his name is shown as Percy Horace. In 1911 he was living with his family in Westcot Barton: parents Thomas & Lucy, sister Martha (11) and brother William? (7).

### **PRIVATE FELIX FRANCIS GEORGE STOCKFORD**

His birth was registered at Woodstock in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1898 and his mother's maiden name was Kirby. In 1911 the family were living in Fox Lane: Felix age 12 at school with parents Mark Thomas and Anne Hollis Stockford, brothers M T Jeremiah (13 –presumably Mark Thomas Jeremiah), Ralph Richard (11), William Vincent (6), Thomas George (5) and Sisters Muriel Anne (18 –a schoolteacher) and Rachel Rhoda May (9).

### **PRIVATE WALTER ALLISON WOODRUFF**

His birth was registered at Woodstock in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1886, I believe that there were two other boys: Harry registered quarter 3 1881 and Edward Frank registered quarter 2 1884. His mother's maiden name was Allison, William Woodruff married Sarah Allison on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1873 in Hove in Sussex. In both 1901 and 1911 Walter was living with his mother Sarah and brother Frank 26 in Steeple Barton. In 1901 his father and brother Harry were living at 68 High Street Peacock Terrace Oxford; William was a brewers labourer and Harry a gentleman's gardener! In 1911 William was a boarder at 5 Pensions gardens, St Ebbes and still a Brewers labourer; obviously he must have worked away from home at the Oxford Brewery. Despite the CWGC certificate referring to his father as the “late William” the only death record that looks correct is for 1921 recorded at Woodstock.

### ***CHARLES STEVEN***

This person is in the book of remembrance with no other details. It appears that the name probably came from St. Mary's Steeple Barton roll of honour which shows a Harry Steven and a Charles Steven, the latter having a K against his name to indicate he was killed in action. A previous researcher had found Charles Bernard Steven on the CWGC site and suggested it might have been him although there was no evidence of any link to the Bartons. I searched census data for the parishes for 1891, 1901 and 1911 and found no family with the name STEVEN; there were STEVENS. There was no Charles Stevens in either of the two parishes in 1891, nor 1901, but in 1911 I found a Charles Stevens aged 70 and a Charley Stevens age 3; neither could have served in the first world war. The CWGC site only shows one man called Charles Steven: Charles Bernard Steven who came from Warwick, served in the Warwickshire regiment and then the Lincolnshires and is commemorated on a memorial in Grimsby and also records at Warwick; I could not find any evidence to link him, or his parents to the Bartons. The only other fact of slight interest is that the vicar at the time was Simon Stephen but he was single, Greek and born in Mesopotamia; it is just possible that he had a relative called Charles Stephen and asked for him to be included and the person writing the roll of honour got the wrong spelling. There are 5 records for Charles Stephen on the CWGC site but no obvious link to the Bartons. In the light of the above information, the BVMHF management committee agreed that it was not appropriate to put the name Charles Steven on the new memorial stone.

## **SECOND WORLD WAR**

### **PRIVATE WALTER HENRY BOFFIN**

Walter's birth was registered in Willesden in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1911. His parents Charles Henry Boffin and Edith Wise were married in 1905 in Hendon, Middlesex. In 1911 the family were living at 6 Redfern Road Harlesdon: mother, father, daughter Edith (8) and son Charles (5). The 1939 register shows Charles (builder born 14 August 1881 also ARP warden) and Edith (born 18<sup>th</sup> December 1881) in the Bartons, but the other family members are blanked. The CWGC certificate shows him as Walter Harry but his father was Charles Henry and it is most likely that his second name was Henry.

### **GUNNER FREDERICK JOHN SHIRLEY**

His birth was registered in Woodstock in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1919, his mother's maiden name was Carpenter. The 1939 register shows him (born 15 December 1919 – lorry driver) with his parents Frederick W Shirley (born 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1893 – general labourer) and Florence M Shirley (born 21<sup>st</sup> March 1893). Also shown at the same address is William Keen (18<sup>th</sup> January 1915 – constructional engineer), and Reginald Shirley (3<sup>rd</sup> July 1923 – bakers assistant).