

# BARBY'S WORLD WAR I CASUALTIES



BARBY LOCAL  
HISTORY GROUP  
JANUARY  
2022



## INTRODUCTION

Barby's war memorial, situated in Rectory Lane at the foot of The Derry, lists no names. The war dead are commemorated by name on a window in St Mary's Church; however, this list is not comprehensive.



For many years after World War I, there was no central record of the men who died; local memorials depended on information provided voluntarily by members of the public. This document, therefore, lists, not only those commemorated in the Church, but others about whom information has been gathered since the memorial was installed. Sources include parish registers, national censuses and surveys and private individuals; photographs are from the archives of Barby Local History Group.

A map of the centre of the village, showing where many of the men lived, is to be found following the individuals' life stories; the remarks about the state of the properties are taken from the Evaluation Survey of 1910 (probably carried out in 1914).

The men described here, in alphabetical order, are:

Bertie Allibone	William Pittom
George Berridge	Joseph Prestidge
William Elkington	Lewis Randle
William Ellard	Harry Sargent
William Everton	William Tompkins
Jesse Foster	Harry Watts
Harry Gibbons	Walter Wildman
Thomas Goodyer	Albert Woodward
Frederick Hancox	
William Lee	
Joseph Matthews	
John Messenger	
Joseph Muddiman	

## **BERTIE WALWYN ALLIBONE**

Bertie was born in the second quarter of 1892 in Barby, but not baptised there until 1896. He was one of seven children, the son of John and Harriet Allibone. His father's occupation was farm worker and in 1901 the family lived at 1 Bridle Hill, where they still lived at the time of the 1910 Valuation Survey.

John is in Barby for the 1911 census with two of his children but without his wife who died later that year. He is also listed in the Rugby Directory for Barby from 1912-1915 but not for 1916, which suggests that he moved then.

In the 1911 census Bertie is a bricklayer's labourer at 29 Highfields Road, Coventry, with the Webb family of Stowe and Staverton. There are two other Allibones at the address for this census which suggests family links. John had been born in Staverton so Mrs Webb may be Bertie's aunt. This is also the address given for John after Bertie's death in 1916.

Bertie was killed in action on 16 June 1916 aged 24. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ypres, as Private 10191 of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northants Regiment. Today, his war medal is in the possession of a relative who lives in Kilsby. (Allibone is spelt with one L on the memorial window.)

## **GEORGE EDWARD BERRIDGE**

George was born in the last quarter of 1894 in Barby and baptised in November. He was the son of George and Mary Ann Berridge (known as Annie in 1901). He had one younger brother at the time of the 1901 census. The family were living then, and probably in 1911, in a cottage which stood in Star Corner; now only a wall with a date stone remains. The national Valuation Survey of 1910 described the family as tenants of R Farden of Brighton Road, Sutton. The cottage (shown below c1960) was built of stone, mud and thatch.



George's father was a groom and his mother a laundress, who is listed as such in the Rugs directory for the years 1912-1916.

By the time of the 1911 census George had become a footman in a large household in Falconers Hill, Daventry. He was seventeen. His parents and brother still lived in Barby.

George died on 13 May 1915 aged 20 years and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres (panel 46-48 and 50) as Rifleman Z/419, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Rifle Brigade.

## **WILLIAM ELKINGTON**

William was born on 20 November 1892. He was the eldest of four children at the time of the 1901 census, all born in Barby and living at 2 Cleavers Cottages. His parents were John Charles and Lettie Elkington (née Roberts); his father was a postman.

By the time of the 1911 census there were seven children and John was now a general labourer on a farm. William has no occupation against his name. He was 18.

William was killed in action on Saturday 17 June 1916 aged 24 and is buried in Norfolk Cemetery, Becordal-Becourt, Somme, France, as Driver 11137 "C" Bty, 78<sup>th</sup> Bde, Royal Field Artillery.

William's cousin George served in the RAF and survived the war.

For more information about the Elkington family see: [www. barbylhg.org.uk](http://www.barbylhg.org.uk), *The Elkington Family of Barby*.

## **WILLIAM JOSEPH ELLARD**

William was born in the first quarter of 1891, in Sawbridge. His parents, Zaccheus and Susan Ellard, were born in Willoughby but both his grandmothers were Barby-born. William was a second cousin of William Elkington (see above) who also died during the conflict.

In the 1911 census the family are at the Manor House, Sawbridge, but by the time of the War Commission citation Zaccheus and Susan are said to be of Barby, where they later died.

William died on 30 October 1918 aged 27 and was buried at Cremona Town Cemetery in Italy. His medal card states that he died of influenza. He was Private 145706 in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry.

For more information about the Ellard family and its relationship with the Elkington family, see: [www. barbylhg.org.uk](http://www.barbylhg.org.uk), *Barby and Willoughby: Family Connections*.

## **WILLIAM HENRY EVERTON**

William was born in Taunton in the last quarter of 1884. His parents were John and Martha Everton and he seems to have spent most of his life in Lutterworth. Martha was born in Cornwall.

In 1901 William was living in Lutterworth with his parents and brother and sister and was a stationer's errand boy. In 1911 he was with his father (a roadmender ) who had been widowed by this time. William was still single at 26 and was an insurance agent.

William enlisted in Rugby but his link with Barby is unknown. His father John was born at Walcote near Lutterworth as was Mary Owen (née Everton) who was living at Onley in 1901. They do not seem to be siblings but may have a family connection.

William died of his wounds on 8 August 1918 aged 33 and is buried in Crouy British Cemetery, Somme, France, as Private 76214, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn Tank Corps.

## **JESSE HAROLD FOSTER**

Jesse was born in Barby, in the first quarter of 1891 and baptised in May. He was the son of older parents: John and Mary Foster. His brother was 18 years old and his sister aged 11 in 1891. John was a sawyer.

Jesse's sister appears with the family on the 1911 census as Harriet Emily Forsdick, a widow, with her one-year-old daughter. Jesse is still living with his parents and is an under-gardener.

Jesse was killed in action on 9 May 1915 and is commemorated at Ploegsteert Memorial in Hainault, Belgium, as Rifleman Z/10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade.

## **HARRY GIBBONS**

Harry was the son of Jesse and Caroline Gibbons of Steppingly, Bedfordshire. His father was a gamekeeper.

He went to France on 9 September 1915 so was an enlisted man, not a conscript. He was listed on the Absent Voters List of 1918 as living at Onley House. Perhaps he had come to Barby to work before he enlisted.

Harry was killed in action on 27 September 1918 as 17743 L/Cpl 4<sup>th</sup> Bedfordshire regiment.

## **THOMAS HENRY GOODYER**

Thomas was born in the third quarter of 1899 at Wibtoft near Lutterworth. He had an older sister and an older brother and three younger siblings. They still lived in Wibtoft at the time of the 1911 census.

Thomas died on 31 August 1918 aged 19 and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Flanders, as Private 47066, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

His medal card is WO372/8. His citation states that he is the son of Mrs A E Goodyer of Barby but little has been found out about the link with Barby. Mrs Goodyer was born in Pailton but she may have had a relative here.

## **FREDERICK JAMES HANCOX**

Frederick was born in Barby to James and Emma Hancox and baptised on 30 May 1886. His father was a publican. By 1901 his father had died and his mother had remarried and was living in Barby.

Private Frederick Hancox 25574 9<sup>th</sup> Bn Leicestershire Regiment was killed 3 May 1917, aged 33. He is commemorated on the Arras memorial.

## **WILLIAM LEE**

William was born in 1895 in Birmingham to William Howard Lee and his wife Sarah. William's father was from a Barby family (who owned Fairholme Farm in the nineteenth century) and had spent much of his childhood and early adulthood in the village.

In 1901, William and his parents and two sisters (one older, one younger) were living in Odstone, Leicestershire. His father died in 1903. At the time of the 1911 census he was living with his mother Sarah in Dunchurch, with his sisters, a younger brother and an older cousin.

Private William Lee 266050, 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment, died on 27 August 1917 and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium, panel 23-28.

## **JOSEPH WILLIAM MATTHEWS**

Joseph was born in Barby in the fourth quarter of 1879. He was living with his father James, mother Martha and sister Rose in Kilsby in 1881 and 1891.

In 1911 he was living in Willenhall, Coventry, and was a roadman. He married his wife Elizabeth in 1903 and they had two daughters born in Bilton and Cawston.

Joseph enlisted in Dunchurch and was a corporal in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, number 3609. He saw action in France and Flanders and was killed in action on 12 April 1918. He is commemorated at Ploegsteert in Belgium.

His wife probably moved back to family in Thurlaston after his death.

## **JOHN THOMAS MESSENGER**

John Thomas was born in Barby in the third quarter of 1887 and baptised in September. He had a brother and a sister. He was the son of Thomas and Abigail Messenger. His father was widowed by the time John Thomas was 3 years old, and later married Frances (Fanny). In the censuses of 1901 and 1911, Thomas is listed as a grazier and in the Rugby Almanac of 1912-1916 he is a carrier.

In the survey of 1910 Thomas is the owner-occupier of property 142, a cottage with garden, valued at £226 and made of brick, mud and slate with two rooms upstairs and two down. It had a closet, hovel and yard, a wood and iron stable and cart hovel and a 'good piece of garden'. Thomas also owned the cottage next door, property 143, which was occupied by J G Crisp. These were in Kilsby Road near its junction with Ware Road.

Fanny is a midwife in the 1901 census but by 1911 she is helping with Thomas' business, as are his two sons William and Thomas. It seems that John Thomas is known as Thomas at this stage.

John Thomas died on 6 August 1916 aged 29 and is commemorated at Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in the Somme, as Private 1756, 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Imperial Force.

## **JOSEPH EDWARD MUDDIMAN**

Joseph was born in the last quarter of 1885 in Long Buckby. He was the youngest son of William, a bootmaker, and Ann Muddiman of 4 West End, Long Buckby, and, aged 15, was already a board school teacher in the 1901 census.

In 1911 he was a Certificated Assistant Teacher at an elementary school and living with his parents and his sister Kate in Long Buckby.

By 1914 he was head teacher of Barby School, leaving to go to the war on 28 February 1916. He died less than nine months later on 15 November 1916 aged 31.

Joseph is commemorated at Thiepval memorial in the Somme and also on the Long Buckby war memorial and his mother's gravestone in Long Buckby. He was Private PS\9893, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

For more information about Joseph, see *From Blackboard to White Board: 150 Years of Barby Schools 1865-2015* (Barby: Barby Local History Group, 2014).

## **WILLIAM WYNN PRATT PITOM**

William was born on 9 October 1888 to Thomas and Mary and was baptised in Barby Church on 11 November of that year. His family lived at Ashleigh House. His father died in 1905.



He was a scholar of St John's College, Cambridge, and became a graduate of both London and Cambridge universities.

He enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment on 21 January 1913 as a territorial. He died on 10 October 1914, the day after his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

William is buried in Barby churchyard near the south west corner of the church. He is not one of those listed on the memorial window but has a window in the south aisle of the church, not far from his grave, dedicated to both him and his sister, Lesley Norrey Pittom, who died only a year after William at the age of 19.

For more information about William's family, see [www.barbylhg.org.uk](http://www.barbylhg.org.uk), *The Pittoms of Barby, Northamptonshire*.

## **JOSEPH PRESTIDGE**

Joseph was born at Onley in the parish of Barby, in 1894, being baptised in April. Three of his four brothers and sisters were born in the village of Barby. The eldest boy was born in Ashby St Ledgers.

Joseph was the fourth child at the time of the 1901 census. The family probably lived in what is now Kilsby Road, next to the blacksmith's shop which was then there, near to the bottom end. Later on they lived further up towards the Church.

Joseph's parents were George Edwin and Jane Prestidge. George was a shepherd. In 1911 Joe was working for William Smith at Ashby Grange as a farm worker.

Joseph's uncle John had joined the army in 1888, serving in Ireland and South Africa before finishing his 12 years' service and retiring to Yorkshire. He re-enlisted at the outbreak of war in 1914, aged 44, and was sent to the Middle East. He returned to live in Barby eventually, and died aged 85. John's brother Edwin also enlisted, in the Yorks & Lancs Regiment, and served in France. After the War, he spent the rest of his life in Yorkshire.

Joseph died on 11 April 1915 aged 21 and is commemorated at the Ploegsteert Memorial in Hainault, Belgium, as Rifleman Z/7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. His brother George was fortunate enough to survive the War; he continued to live in Barby until he died in 1954 and was buried in St Mary's churchyard.

## LEWIS RANDLE

Lewis was born in the first quarter of 1892, in Barby, one of six children, and possibly living in the Star Corner area. His parents were George and Bertha Randle. George was born in Claybrook, Leicestershire, and was an agricultural machinist in 1901. One of Lewis' brothers was a butcher's apprentice.

In the survey of 1910 George Randle is listed as living in house 118, one of the houses now known as Shakespeare Terrace on Rugby Road, and described as brick/slate, cement & stucco front. In the 1911 census, Lewis is living with his family in a house with five rooms, presumably this same house. He may have been living in Rugby by the time he enlisted for war service.

Lewis died of his wounds on 19 October 1917 and is buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Westvleteren, Belgium. He was Gunner 135247, 124<sup>th</sup> Siege Bty, Royal Garrison Artillery.

## ALBERT HARRY SARGENT

Albert Harry (known as Harry) was born in the last quarter of 1887 in Barby and baptised in January 1888. He was one of nine children born to Joseph and Maria Sargent; his father was born in Leamington and his mother in West Haddon. Joseph was a church warden for over forty years in Barby.

Joseph was a builder/bricklayer employing others and possibly living at, what is now, Grey's Orchard in the 1910 survey. There were 7 rooms in the house.

In 1911 Harry is listed as a general labourer and his brother Arthur Joseph is a bricklayer. They were probably employed by their father.

Albert Harry was killed at Ypres on 23/24 October 1917 in his thirtieth year. He was in the 10<sup>th</sup> (Pioneer) Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and was working on the Ypres-Zonnebeke road.

Although in the memorial window he is Harry Sargent, the faculty (permission for the window) puts Albert Harry in brackets beside his name. He is also commemorated on his parents' grave in Barby Churchyard, beside the south path.



## **WILLIAM TOMPKINS**

William was born in Barby in the first quarter of 1898, the second of two sons. His older brother was ten years older than him. He was the son of Arthur John and Eliza Tompkins. His father was a stockman from Bletchley and his mother from Brixworth. They were married at Great Brington.

In 1911 they were living in a house with twelve rooms (Manor Farm) and in the Rugby Almanacs of 1912-1916 Arthur is described as a bailiff. He is still listed as such in the 1918 edition although this might be William's brother, also Arthur, as the father had died in 1914.

Eliza and William moved to The Cottage when Arthur died.

William died of meningitis during training in London, on Sunday 25 March 1917, aged 19. He is buried in Kensal Green (All Souls') Cemetery, London, and is commemorated on the Screen Wall. He is also mentioned on his parents' tombstone in Barby, in St Mary's churchyard, not far from the South door. He was Private TR/10/14846, 24<sup>th</sup> Training Reserve.

## **HARRY WATTS**

Although born in Barby, Harry Watts was living in Coventry at the time war broke out. He was born to William and Louisa Watts and baptised on 2 June 1868.

He was sent to France on 13 October 1915 and served with the Royal Engineers (124036), then transferred to the Labour Corps (295156).

Harry was killed on 21 October 1918 and is buried at the St Sever Cemetery extension at Rouen.

## **WALTER WILDMAN**

Very little is known about Walter. He attended his son Peter's baptism on 6 June 1915 at St Mary's Church, but he does not appear in the census of 1911. According to the baptism entry he belonged to the Rifle Brigade but it has been difficult to ascertain any more facts.

## ALBERT WOODWARD

Albert was the son of Leonard and Agnes Woodward of Church Hanborough, Oxfordshire; but he had married Elsie Worster of Kilsby in Spring 1915. He was killed at Gallipoli in August 1915.

By the time of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission citation, Elsie had remarried and was living in Barby.

Albert is commemorated on the Church Hanborough war memorial, as Lance Corporal 10929, 7<sup>th</sup> Bn, South Staffs Regiment.

