

**The War Memorial
in
St Peter's Church
Hook Norton, Oxfordshire**

2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. This booklet has been produced to remind us of all those young, and in some cases not so young, men with connections to Hook Norton who paid the ultimate sacrifice in this war.

The majority are remembered on the memorial plaque in St Peter's Church. However, during the course of research I have found that there are some casualties with a connection to the village whose names are not recorded. The War Memorial in St Peter's lies underneath a stained glass window, which is a memorial in its own right on the east side of the church. I have listed the names of the fallen as they appear on the plaque and on subsequent pages I have added more details. During the course of my research I have found several other servicemen with links to the village who died for King and country.

The youngest was Ernest Alfred Heritage who was 17 years old based on him having been born during the third quarter of 1897. On this basis it would seem that he lied about his age to join up. It is tragic to note that as well as being the youngest to be killed he was also the first.

Charles Tyrrell, at 50 years old was the oldest.

Not surprisingly out of those who died in the Great War, all, with the exception of Thomas Hiatt, served in the Army.

No doubt one of the principal reasons for this is that Hook Norton is one of the furthest points from the sea in the UK. Curiously Sheila Stewart in her book “Lifting the Latch” mentions that several men from the village of Enstone, which is not that far away, joined the Royal Navy during the Great War.

At the time war broke out it was envisaged that it would be a short war and that the immediate requirements were for the army to be bolstered in order to fight in France and Flanders.

Out of the 48 servicemen who are remembered in this booklet 17 served with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, as this was the local regiment. Three of Hook Norton's sons were serving with Empire forces, while the remaining 28 served with a variety of regiments as can be seen in the following pages.

More and more records are being digitised and are now available to view online. Recently the wills of some 230,000 servicemen who died in the Great War have been scanned and can be viewed on the Governments' Probate Search website. I have been able to locate 15 such wills. The wills were written on standard forms and all stated that the individual's personal possessions would be left to the named beneficiary if they were killed or died in action or from wounds. Where a will has been located it is mentioned under the individual's entry.

When the Great War was declared in August 1914 men the length and breadth of the country had no hesitation in signing up. After all, the commentators had said that it would all be over by Christmas. Indeed some of those who signed up at the

outbreak of the war felt that the experience would be akin to playing a soccer or cricket match. As we all know it wasn't to be and the fighting continued until November 1918.

At the outbreak of the war the Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith appointed Lord Kitchener as the Secretary of State for War, the first military man to be appointed to this post. The New Army or Kitchener's Army as it was popularly called was the result of a massive recruiting campaign to recruit volunteers to fight against the Germans. The poster, designed by Alfred Leete, of the mustachioed Kitchener pointing his finger is an iconic image of the war.

As losses mounted conscription was introduced in the shape of the Military Service Bill of 1916. When the bill was introduced in January that year conscription was limited to single men aged between 18 and 41. In May the Bill was extended to married men. As the reader will see several of the village's casualties had been volunteers or regular soldiers as they met their deaths prior to the introduction of conscription.

During the course of the war some 8.9 million men from the UK and the Empire were mobilised. Of these just under one million lost their lives. When the numbers of those wounded and missing are added the total casualties were 3.1 million, meaning that 35.8% of those mobilised were casualties in one way or another. The German casualties, on the other hand, were far higher at 65% of those mobilised. At a more local level, from perusal of the last census (2nd April 1911) taken before the outbreak of war there were 679 males of all ages living in Hook Norton. This figure can be broken down further to yield 241 males born in the village between 1868 and 1900. [It must

be noted that when the census was enumerated some males were recorded as females and vice versa!] Not all those who died were born in the village as will be seen from the following pages. However, 27 who were born in Hook Norton gave their lives which equates to roughly 10% of those who were eligible for war service.

To aid this project I have made use of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and the two Censuses preceding the Great War in order to establish family connections. I also have subscriptions to two genealogical websites which have provided additional information, in particular the attestation papers for some of the men when they joined up. Ironically many of these records no longer exist as they were destroyed during a German bombing raid during the Second World War. The surviving records are held at the National Archives in Kew, London.

I am also grateful to those who have provided information about some of the men who were family members. Michael Allbrook of Deddington has undertaken a similar project, albeit on a grander scale, and I am also grateful to him for sharing information with me.

Those whose names are remembered on the war memorial are listed below. It is interesting to note that there are no officers, perhaps this reflects the demographics of the parish in that it was largely an agricultural area and in civilian life many of those who joined up worked on the land. Needless to say there are a few for whom I have not been able to find any additional information. Brief details of those for whom more information has been found are listed on the following pages.

Needless to say such a project is very much a work in progress and more information may become available both in paper form and online in years to come. In addition if any reader can provide assistance I shall be extremely grateful.

David McGill
September 2014



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Hook Norton In Memoriam 1914-1918

The Great War

E Aubrey Allen	Stanley Claude Allen
George Beavington	William Beavington
William Thomas Bloxham	William Frederick Bolton
Fred Busby	Maurice Frederick Busby
Alfred George Coleman	Percy Reginald Cooper
Albert Edward Embra	Ernest Embra
Alfred Jabez Gibbs	Arthur Grant
Lawrence Percy Grey	Donald John Hall
Ernest Alfred Heritage	Thomas Hiatt
Thomas Ernest Hone	Oliver John Horn
Richard Hyde	William Thomas Jaques
Frederick William Nash	George Paintin
James Henry Pargeter	Joseph Edward Pinfold
Ernest Frederick Robins	John Edward Robins
Thomas Frederick Rose	George Savage
Albert John Simmons	Frederick Townley

In addition to the above there is one serviceman who is buried in Hook Norton Cemetery. He is Arthur Taylor who died from wounds in 1918.

During the course of my research I found several others with a connection to the village who are not remembered on the St Peter's Church Memorial. They are:

John Benfield	George Bodfish
Thomas Henry Borsberry	Joseph William Breakwell
Walter Busby	Horace William Clarke
Thomas William D'Oyly	Albert Thomas Grant
Sydney John King	Edward John Mace
George John Robinson	Albert Edward Spencer
Walter Stowe	Alex Tyrrell
Charles Tyrrell	

There may well be more servicemen who succumbed to wounds in the years after the end of the war

The fallen from The Great War

Edward Aubrey Allen

Lance Corporal, 8th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Army No. G/3411

Killed in action 26th September 1915, aged 20.

Buried in Caberet – Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, near
Arras, France. Grave VI.G.26

Son of Herbert and Frances Blanche Allen, Council Houses,
Hook Norton, he was born in Banbury.

Stanley Claude Allen

Rifleman, 5th Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle
Brigade). Army No. 300249

Died from wounds 2nd October 1917, aged 23.

Buried in Hook Norton Cemetery. Grave 15.272

He was discharged from service on 10th March 1917 as a result
of his wounds. Awarded the Silver War Badge. Enlisted on 7th
August 1914.

Son of Herbert and Frances Blanche Allen, The Bourne, Hook
Norton, he was born in Banbury.

At the time of the 1911 Census the family was living in
Banbury where Mr Allen was a 53 year old Banker's Secretary
and accountant. When their sons died Mr & Mrs Allen were
residents of Hook Norton, perhaps in retirement. The Allens
had 4 sons and 3 daughters according to the Census. Three of
their sons saw service. Herbert, the eldest, survived and ended
the war as a Colour Sergeant in the Oxfordshire and
Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

George Beavington

Private, 1st/6th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. Army No. 285028. He previously served with The Cambridgeshire Regiment. Army No. 329770.

Killed in action 9th October 1917 during the Battle of Poelcappelle, aged 29.

Remembered on Panel 72 to 75 of the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

George was born in Hook Norton and was the son of William and Sarah Beavington of Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was a farm labourer living in Down End, Hook Norton. In his will dated 14th June 1917 he named his father as the beneficiary.

William Beavington

Private, 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 8895

Killed in action 15th October 1915, aged 28.

Buried in Quarry Cemetery, Vermelles, France. Grave No. B.20

William was born in Hook Norton and was the son of William and Sarah Beavington of Hook Norton.

William was a regular soldier and when the 1911 Census was taken he was stationed at Moore Barracks, Cheriton near Folkestone, Kent. Older brother of George Beavington.

John Benfield

Private, 1st/5th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Army No. 37227

Killed in action 17th April 1918, aged 19

Remembered on Panel 68, Loos Memorial, France

Son of William and Martha Benfield of 11 Satchwell Street,
Leamington Spa

At the time of the 1911 Census the family were living at Clay
Fields, Whitmoore, Kenilworth. John was listed in the Census
as Jack Benfield, an 11 year old scholar, who was born in Hook
Norton.

William Thomas Bloxham

Private, 18th Battalion, Australian Infantry, AIF. Army No. 4595

Killed in action 8th October 1917, aged 32.

Buried in Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Belgium.

Grave No. XIV A 13

Born in Hook Norton, William was the son of Leonard and
Elizabeth Bloxham, The Grounds Farm, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census William was living with his
parents and was employed by Hook Norton Brewery. He
subsequently emigrated to Australia and enlisted in the
Australian Forces when the war broke out.

George Bodfish

Lance Corporal, 2nd/4th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 202206

Died of wounds 12th April 1918, aged 36.

Buried in Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension, France.
Grave I.K. 18

Born in Sibford Gower he was the son of George and Emma Bodfish and husband of Sarah Elizabeth Bodfish of Albert Cottages, Hook Norton. George and Sarah nee Dumbleton married in the 3rd quarter of 1917.

William Frederick Bolton

Private, 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Army No. G/15577

Killed in action 4th December 1915, aged 28.

Remembered on Panel 37-41 of the Helles Memorial, Turkey.

Born in Deddington William was the son of Frederick T and Catherine E Bolton, Chapel Square, Deddington.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was employed in his father's business which was described in the Census as butcher, baker and farmer.

Thomas Henry Borsberry

Private, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 16587

Killed in action 25th September 1915, aged 29.

Remembered on Panels 37 and 39 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium

He was the brother of John Henry Borsberry of 33 Ayscough Street, West Marsh, Grimsby, Lincs., and the son of John and

Mary A Borsberry of Hook Norton.

In the 1911 Census he is recorded as living in Hook Norton with Thomas Harris and his family. He was born in Hook Norton and his relationship with Thomas Harris was given as brother.

Joseph William Breakwell

Private, 2nd/7th Battalion, Worcester Regiment. Army No. 3622
Killed in action 17th July 1916, aged 27.

Remembered on Panels 64 and 65 Loos Memorial, France.
Son of Henry and Rachel Breakwell, Summerfield Lane,
Hartlebury, Kidderminster.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living at Low Hill,
Hartlebury and employed as a bricklayer's labourer. He was
born in Hook Norton. In his will dated 10th March 1916 he
named his mother, Mrs Breakwell of Loin Hill, Hartlebury nr
Kidderminster as the beneficiary.

Fred Busby

Lance Corporal, 2nd/6th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire
Regiment. Army No. 24223.

Killed in action 31st March 1918, aged 40

Remembered on panel 18 & 19, Pozieres Memorial, France

Born in Hook Norton he was the son of Benjamin Busby of
Southrop, Hook Norton and husband of Beatrice Kate Busby of
High Street, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was a butcher trading on his
own account in the village.

Maurice Frederick Busby

Private, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Army No. 11986

Killed in action 28th September 1915, aged 21

Remembered on Panels 7 & 8 of the Loos Memorial, France

He was born in Hook Norton and was the son of Mary Elizabeth Hands, 1 Bournville, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with his grandfather John Busby in South Newington and working as a farm labourer. However, he joined the Great Western Railway in October 1913 and was employed as a cleaner at Banbury Station before enlisting.

Walter Busby

Private, 33rd Division, Motor Transport, Army Service Corps.

Army No. M2/051164

Died, possibly from wounds or illness 10th November 1918, aged 31. Poignantly this was the day before the Armistice.

Buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, France.

Grave X B 9A

Walter was born in Hook Norton and was the son of Henry and Emma Busby of Hook Norton and the husband of Nora May Busby of Queen Street, Hook Norton. He is also remembered on the graves of John Joseph Mullen and Marion Mullen in Hook Norton Cemetery. Marion was his eldest sister.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with his parents and siblings and was employed by Hook Norton Brewery as a motor driver.

Horace William Clarke

Private, 5th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. Army No. 3/9055.

Killed in action 28th October 1915, aged 25.

Buried in Quarry Cemetery, Vermelles, France, Grave A.27

Son of Amos and Martha Clarke of 25 Foundry Square, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

He was a regular soldier and at the time of the 1911 Census he was stationed with his regiment at their Depot in Leicester Road, Northampton. He was born in Hook Norton.

Alfred George Coleman

Corporal, 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 11258

Killed in action 28th April 1917 in the Battle for Arleux, aged 25.

Remembered on Bay 6 & 7 of the Arras Memorial, France
Born in Hook Norton he was the son of Alfred and Elizabeth Coleman, 3 Horsefair, Hook Norton. In his will dated 23rd March 1917 he named his mother, Mrs A Coleman, The Green, Hook Norton as the beneficiary.

Percy Reginald Cooper

Private, 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 22060

Killed in action 30th July 1916 during the battle for Delville Wood, aged 25.

Remembered on Pier and Face 10A and 10D of the Thiepval Memorial, France

Born in Swerford he was the son of William and Isabella Edith Cooper, Sibford Road, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with his parents and siblings and was employed as a labourer at the ironstone works. In his will dated 3rd June 1916 he named his mother, Mrs W Cooper, Sibford Road, Hook Norton as the beneficiary.

Thomas William D'Oyly

Private, 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. Army No. 32101. Formerly of Devonshire Regiment, Army No. 37653. Killed in action 22nd March 1918, aged 28.

Remembered on Panels 25 and 26 Pozieres Memorial, France Husband of Florence Cross (formerly D'Oyly) of 2 Bourne Villas, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire. He and Florence were married in the 4th quarter of 1913. Florence married William Cross in the 4th quarter of 1925.

At the time of the 1911 Census Thomas was living with his parents Thomas and Elizabeth and younger brother Gilbert at 6 Milton Street, Banbury. Thomas jnr. who was born in Banbury was employed as a sign writer.

Albert Edward Embra

Private, 97th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Army No. 7902. He was formerly a Private in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, Army No. R/15991.

Died from his wounds 1st July 1916, aged 20.

Remembered on Pier and Face 5C and 12C of the Thiepval Memorial, France.

Born in Hook Norton and was the stepson of Christopher H Dyer and son of Sarah Ann Dyer of Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living in Hook Norton with the Dyers and his siblings. Aged 14 at that time he was employed as a general labourer. In his will dated 17th March 1916 he named his mother, Mrs Anne Dyer as the beneficiary.

Samuel Ernest Embra

Private, 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 11857

Killed in action 6th April 1916, aged 22.

Remembered on Panels 26 and 63 of the Basra Memorial, Iraq

He was born in Hook Norton and was the stepson of Christopher H Dyer and Sarah Ann Dyer of Hook Norton. At the time of the 1911 Census he was living in Hook Norton with the Dyers and his siblings. He was employed as a labourer at the ironstone works. In his will dated 3rd December 1915 he named his mother, Mrs C Dyer as the beneficiary.

Alfred Jabez Gibbs

Sergeant, 1st Regiment, South African Infantry. Army No. 20806

Believed to have died from wounds on 25th October 1918, aged 35.

Buried in Hook Norton Baptist Burial Grounds.

Born in Hook Norton, he was the son of Samuel Gibbs, The Gables, Sibford Road, Hook Norton.

He emigrated to South Africa at some point after the 1901 Census was taken. At that time he was living with the Ford family at Hatch Gate Farm near Wokingham, Berkshire and was employed by George Ford as a corn merchant's assistant.

Albert Thomas Grant

Private, 2nd/4th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 32807

Killed in action at the Battle of St Quentin, Somme 21st March 1918, aged 21. He was formerly with The Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, Army No. 2738.

Remembered on Panels 50 and 51 of the Pozieres Memorial, France and also in St James Church, Newbottle with Charlton, Northamptonshire the village where he was born. Son of Mrs Gertrude Pinfold of Cowpasture Farm, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, husband of Elsie Mabel Upton (formerly Grant) of Tullamore Cottages, Clifton Hampden, Abingdon, Berkshire. Albert and Elsie nee Sykes married during the 2nd quarter of 1916 in Warwickshire. Elsie married her second husband (another Albert), Albert Upton during the 4th quarter of 1920. In his will dated 30th September 1916 he named his wife, Mrs A Grant, The Laurels, Shotteswell, Banbury as the beneficiary. At the time of the 1911 Census Albert was a bricklayer living with his grandparents Thomas and Elizabeth Adams in Charlton, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Arthur Grant

Gunner, 113rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Army No. 107257

Killed in action 28th September 1918, aged 21

Buried in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium. Grave V B 3
Son of Gertrude Pinfold (formerly Grant) of Hook Norton and the late Thomas Grant.

As well as being remembered in St Peter's Church, Hook Norton he is also remembered in St James Church, Newbottle

with Charlton, Northamptonshire the village where he was born. At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with his mother, stepfather and siblings in Culworth, Northamptonshire. His stepfather, Frederick Pinfold, was an innkeeper. Arthur, at that time, was aged 13. No occupation was listed nor was he recorded as a scholar. His Attestation Papers state that he enlisted on 9th February 1916 and the family was living at The Gate Inn, Hook Norton. Some of his personal effects were returned to his mother in April 1919. Younger brother of Albert, above.

Lawrence Percy Grey DCM

Private, 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 8540

Died from natural causes 16th April 1916, aged 27.

Buried in Kut War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave E.14

He was born in Kensworth, Hertfordshire and was the son of Ellis J and the late Jane Grey of Hook Norton.

He was a career soldier and at the time of the 1911 Census he was with his regiment in India.

Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was also Mentioned in Despatches – London Gazette 13th July 1916, page 6961.

Donald John Hall

Gunner, 107th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Army No. 114374

Died from wounds 7th June 1917, aged 20.

Buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave XIII. E. 1

Son of John and Ruth Hall of Queen Street, Hook Norton,

Banbury, Oxfordshire.

The 1911 Census lists him as Donald John Wyton the adopted son of Mr & Mrs Hall. He was born in Ratley, Warwickshire and in 1911 he was employed by Hook Norton Brewery in the stables. In his will dated 7th March 1916 he named his mother, Mrs J Hall, Queen Street, Hook Norton as the beneficiary.

Ernest Alfred Heritage

Private, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Army No. 16912
Died from wounds 2nd December 1914, aged 17 (based on birth date - 3rd Quarter 1897)

Buried in Y Farm Military Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, France.
Grave A. 1

He was born in Hook Norton and was the son of William and Sarah Heritage, South Side, Hook Norton.

The 1911 Census records him as being 13 years of age with his occupation given as House Boy Domestic.

Thomas Hiatt

Aircraftman 1st Class, 1st Aircraft Supply Depot, RAF. Service No. 268377

Died from bronchial pneumonia 26th February 1919, aged 31
Buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France.
Grave V.F.40

In addition to being remembered in St Peter's Church, Hook Norton he is also remembered in St Edward's Church, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, the village where he was born.

At the time of the 1901 Census he was living in Stow on the Wold with his family. His father, another Thomas, was born in Hook Norton and was a draper in Stow. When the 1911 Census

was taken he employed as a chauffeur at Guiting Grange, Gloucestershire.

Thomas emigrated for a time to North America in 1913, a record was found for him sailing from Bristol to Halifax. The records listed his occupation as mechanic. He returned to Liverpool from New York in February 1915, presumably to enlist for war service. In his will he named his wife, Hilda Mary Hiatt, 94 Salisbury Road, Smethwick as the beneficiary.

Thomas Ernest Hone

Private, 5th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan Regiment). Army No. 925485

Died from wounds 16th March 1917, aged 21.

Buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery, France. Grave IV. F. 26

Son of William and Alice Hone of Ceylon, Saskatchewan, native of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, however, he was born in Great Rollright. Enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 11th March 1916 giving his trade as a farmer. Family emigrated to Canada in 1913.

Oliver John Horn

Corporal, 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Army No. 15630

Killed in action 16th October 1915, aged 23.

Buried in Vermelles British Cemetery, France. Grave I.K. 31

Born in Hook Norton, he was the son of John and Diana Horn of Hook Norton, Banbury, husband of Elizabeth Horn of 49 Sandown Road, Rugby. In his will dated 2nd September 1915 he named his mother, Mrs C J Horn, The Green, Hook Norton as the beneficiary.

Richard Hyde

I have been unable to identify a man of this name. There was a Robert Hyde who was born in Chadlington and was resident in Chipping Norton who served as a Lance Corporal in the Coldstream Guards and was killed in action 15th September 1916. Army No. 15434.

The 1911 Census lists a Robert Hyde, aged 29, an ironstone digger, living at South Side, Hook Norton.

William Thomas Jaques

Private, Auckland Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Army No. 10126

Killed in action 20th September 1916, aged 20.

Remembered on Caterpillar Valley (New Zealand) Memorial, France

The 1911 Census records William Jaques, born in Hook Norton, living with his uncle, Arthur Jaques, in Hook Norton. However, the family seemed to have emigrated to New Zealand in July 1911 on the vessel "Tainui".

Sydney John King

Private, 8th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. Army No. 38690. He was formerly with The Devonshire Regiment, Army No. 45971.

Died from wounds 9th April 1918, aged 32.

Buried in Ontario Cemetery, Sains – les – Marquion, France, Grave IV.A.12.

Son of George and Mary King, he was born in Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was employed as a gardener and was living at The Gardens, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire.

Edward John Mace

Lance Corporal, "B" Company, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 17989.

Killed in action 24th January 1916, aged 20.

Buried in Talana Farm Cemetery, Belgium. Grave III.B.1

Son of Martha Elizabeth Mace and the late John Thomas Mace, born at Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

In the 1911 Census the family was living at 4 Braemar Street, Bethnal Green, London. Elizabeth was described as a widow and the whole family had been born in Oxfordshire. In his will he named his mother, Mrs Martha E Mace, 4 Braemar Street, Bethnal Green, London as the beneficiary.

Frederick William Nash

Private, 1st/4th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 201673.

Killed in action 10th September 1918, aged 20.

Buried in Granezza British Cemetery, Italy. Plot 1 Row E
Grave 1

Born in Hook Norton he was the son of Thomas Busby Nash and Annie Sophia Nash of 26 Leopold Street, East Oxford.

At the time of the 1911 Census the family was living in East End, Hook Norton. Thomas was a baker, while Frederick was still at school.

George Henry Paintin(g)

Private, 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 8383.

Died whilst in service 21st March 1917, aged 29.

Buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave XXI. Y. 36.

Born in Hook Norton he was the son of William and Martha Painting of Scotland End, Hook Norton, Banbury.

George was a regular soldier and at the time of the 1911 Census was based with the regiment at Wellington, Nilgiris, India.

James Henry Pargeter

Lance Corporal, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 11254

Killed in action 15th January 1916, aged 24.

Remembered on Panels 37 and 39 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

Son of Henry and Mary Ann Pargeter, Scotland End, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was recorded as having been born in Hook Norton and was aged 19 and living with his parents and siblings. He was employed as a carter to a coal merchant.

Joseph Edward Pinfold

Private, 1st/4th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 5992

Died from wounds 29th November 1916, aged 37.

Buried in Hook Norton Cemetery, grave 17.340

Born in Over Norton, he was the son of George and Ann Pinfold.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with his widowed mother in Asylum Yard, Hook Norton and was employed as a brewer's labourer.

Ernest Frederick Robins

Private, 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 22471

Killed in action 25th August 1918, aged 22.

Remembered on Panel 7 of the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France

Born in Hook Norton, he was the adopted son of Mr R Jakeman of Roseville, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with Robert and Elizabeth Jakeman, who were described as his grandparents, in Dove House. He was employed as a Brewer's Clerk. In his will dated 9th September 1917 he named his grandfather in law, Robert Jakeman as the beneficiary.

John Edward Robins

Private, 3rd Labour Company, Army Service Corps. Army No. SS/9912.

Died in service 20th December 1916, aged 49.

Buried in Bois Guillame Communal Cemetery, France, grave II.B.18

Born in Hook Norton, he was the son of Henry and Annie Robins of Banbury, Oxfordshire. At the time of the 1911 Census he was living with his wife, Amy Amelia Robins and six of their surviving children. They married in 1892 and had eight children. The family were living in Loose, Maidstone, Kent where John was employed as a gardener. In his will dated 10th June 1916 he named his wife, Amy Amelia Robins, Portland Place, May Street, Snodland, Manchester as the beneficiary.

George John Robinson

Private, 12th Labour Battalion, 113th Company Labour Corps. Army No. 46055. Formerly with The King's Liverpool Regiment, Army No. 70438.

Died from wounds 22nd September 1917, aged 47.

Buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium, grave VII.D.8

Born in London, he was the son of Charles Collett Robinson and Mary Ann Robinson of Wolvercote, Oxford; husband of Hannah Jane Robinson of Hook Norton, Banbury.

Thomas Frederick Rose

Private, 9th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 23084

Died from natural causes 11th June 1916, aged 19.

Buried in Wool (Holy Rood) Churchyard and Extension of the Church of the Holy Rood, Wool, Dorset.

Son of Thomas and Elizabeth A Rose of Down End, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was a 13 year old scholar, born in Hook Norton, living with his parents and siblings.

George Savage

Rifleman, 10th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Army No. R/15990

Killed in action, 28th July 1916, aged 21.

Buried in Hebuterne Communal Cemetery, France, Grave I.B.11

Born in Hook Norton he was the son of John E and Jane Savage of Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1901 Census he was living with his parents and siblings in Down End, Hook Norton. In 1911 he was living with his uncle and aunt Tom and Jane Savage at Braggs Farm, Shirley, Warwickshire. He was a farm labourer.

Albert John Simmons

Private, 4th Battalion, Worcester Regiment. Army No. 23088.

Killed in action 6th August 1915, aged 21.

Remembered on the Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panels 104 to 113.

Born in Enstone, he was the son of William J and Dinah Simmons, Crofts Lane, Hook Norton.

At the time of the 1911 Census he was employed as a delver at the ironstone quarry. In his will he named his father Mr W Simmons, Down End, Hook Norton as the beneficiary.

Albert Edward Spencer

Private, 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 8721.

Killed in action 16th May 1915, aged 32.

Remembered on Panel 26, Le Touret Memorial, France.

Born in Banbury, he was the son of William and Adelaide Spencer of Hook Norton, Banbury; husband of Sarah R E Spencer of Queen Street, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire. He is also remembered on the Deddington Memorial.

Walter Stowe

Rifleman, 17th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Army No. A/202860.

Died of wounds 8th April 1918, aged 34.

Buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France, Grave P.IX.C.58

Son of Benjamin Stowe of Baytree Cottage, Whichford, Shipston-on-Stour; husband of Matilda Elizabeth Harris (formerly Stowe) of Bridge Cottages, Hook Norton. His widow married Francis V Harris in the 3rd Quarter of 1919.

At the time of the 1911 Census the family were living in Great Rollright where Walter, who was born in Whichford, was employed as a cowman on a farm.

Arthur Taylor

Private, "D" company, 7th Battalion, Leicester Regiment. Army No. 25777.

Died of wounds in Bath War Hospital 22nd June 1918, aged 26.
Buried in Hook Norton Cemetery, Grave 7.33.

Born in Leicestershire, he was the son of Charles Taylor of 8 Highfield, Stoney Stanton, Leicester; husband of Elizabeth May Taylor of Fair View Terrace, Keresley, Coventry. In his will dated 25th May 1916 he named his wife, Elizabeth May Taylor, Station View, Hook Norton as the beneficiary.

Frederick Townley

Private, 2nd/7th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Army No. 4638

Killed in action 19th July 1916, aged 30.

Remembered on Panels 22 to 25 Loos Memorial, France

Born in Hook Norton, he was the youngest son of William and Charlotte Townley. In 1891 he was living with his parents and siblings at Lower Nill Cottages, Hook Norton. However, by the time of the 1911 Census he was working as an ironstone digger while lodging with Christopher and Annie Lockett and their family in High Street, Hook Norton.

Alec Tyrrell

Private, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 16538

Killed in action 25th September 1915, aged 18.

Remembered on Panels 37 and 39 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Born in Bloxham and resident there at the time of both the 1901 and 1911 Census. However, according to a CD entitled Soldiers Who Died in the Great War he was a resident of Hook Norton.

Charles Tyrrell

Lance Corporal, Military Mounted Police, Military Police Corps. Army No. P/101

Killed in action 12th September 1915, aged 50.

Buried in Merville Communal Cemetery, France, Grave IV.B.1.

Husband of Mary Ellen Tyrrell of 25 The Bourne, Hook Norton, he was born in Bodicote.

In 1911 the family was living at 13 Grove Street, Banbury.

Charles was employed as a coachman.

As can be seen there were four sets of brothers who lost their lives:

Edward Aubrey Allen and Stanley Claude Allen

George Beavington and William Beavington

Albert Edward Embra and Samuel Ernest Embra

Albert Thomas Grant and Arthur Grant

In addition it would also seem that John Edward Robins and Ernest Frederick Robins were related, probably uncle and nephew. John's widowed mother, Annie, married Robert Jakeman in 1891. Therefore Annie lost both a son and grandson in the conflict.

The Great War

Timeline of casualties

1914

Ernest Alfred Heritage 2nd December

1915

Albert Edward Spencer 16th May
Albert John Simmons 6th August
Charles Tyrrell 12th September
Thomas Henry Borsberry 25th September
Alec Tyrrell 25th September
Edward Aubrey Allen 26th September
William Beavington 15th October
Oliver John Horn 16th October
Horace William Clarke 28th October
William Frederick Bolton 4th December

1916

James Henry Pargeter 15th January
Edward John Mace 24th January
Ernest Embra 6th April
Lawrence Percy Grey 16th April
Thomas Frederick Rose 11th June
Albert Edward Embra 1st July
Joseph William Breakwell 17th July
Frederick Townley 19th July
George Savage 28th August
Percy Reginald Cooper 30th July
Richard Hyde 15th September
William Thomas Jaques 20th September

William Thomas Bloxham	25 th September
Joseph Edward Pinfold	29 th September
John Edward Robins	20 th December

1917

Thomas Ernest Hone	16 th March
George Painting	21 st March
Alfred George Coleman	28 th April
Donald John Hall	7 th June
George John Robinson	22 nd September
Stanley Claude Allen	2 nd October
George Beavington	9 th October

1918

Albert Thomas Grant	21 st March
Thomas William D'Oyly	22 nd March
Fred Busby	31 st March
Walter Stowe	8 th April
Sydney John King	9 th April
George Bodfish	12 th April
John Benfield	17 th April
Arthur Taylor	22 nd June
Ernest Frederick Robins	25 th August
Arthur Grant	28 th August
Frederick William Nash	10 th September
Maurice Frederick Busby	20 th October
Alfred Jabez Gibbs	25 th October
Walter Busby	10 th November

1919

Thomas Hiatt	26 th February
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Appendix

The following who were killed during World War Two are also remembered on the memorial in St Peter's Church.

Ronald Geoffrey Cassell	Arthur Sylvester Grimmett
Walter John Harris	Ronald Albert Simmonds
Reginald Henry Stanley	Horace Joseph Taylor

In addition Walter Ronald Wardell who died in 1941 is also buried in Hook Norton Cemetery.

The fallen from the Second World War

Ronald Geoffrey Cassell

Leading Aircraftman, RAFVR. Service No. 1231874

Died 28th October 1943, aged 22.

Buried in Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Grave 5 G.13.

Son of Walter George and Mabel Eleanor Cassell of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire.

Arthur Sylvester Grimmett

Sapper, 1048 Port Operating Company, Royal Engineers. Army No. 14317775

Died following an ammunition explosion 3rd August 1944, aged 20.

Remembered on Panel 12, Column 1 of the Bayeux Memorial, France.

Son of Bob and Minnie Sarah Grimmett of Hook Norton.

He worked in the Co-operative shop in Hook Norton. In addition to being remembered on the Bayeux Memorial he is also remembered on his parents' gravestone in Hook Norton Cemetery.

Walter John Harris

Sergeant (Air Gunner), 207 Squadron, RAF. Service No. 136851

Killed when his aircraft, an Avro Lancaster serial W4134, was shot down over Holland on return from a bombing raid on Essen. Originally buried at Venlo but reinterred in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Holland, Grave 16.D.3.

Son of George William and Emma Harris of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire.

Ronald Albert Simmonds

Gunner, Royal Artillery. Army No. 14254074

Died 3rd April 1945, aged 22

Buried in Hook Norton Cemetery, Section 13 Grave 190

Son of William James Simmonds and Minnie Simmonds of Hook Norton

Reginald Henry Stanley

Rifleman, 1st (Airborne) Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles. Army No. 11052761

Killed in action 24th March 1945, aged 23.

Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany, Grave 40.F.2.

Son of Vincent R Stanley and Violet M Stanley (nee Gardner).

Horace Joseph Taylor MM

Private 7th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Army No. 5388265

Died from wounds 20th September 1944, aged 26.

Buried in Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Italy, Grave XVII.G.8.

Son of Richard J Taylor and of Alice Ann Taylor of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire.

The Military Medal was awarded after an engagement against the enemy west of Salerno on 16th September 1943.

Robert Frank Tidmarsh

Sergeant, 103 Squadron, RAF. Service No. 642450

Killed when his aircraft, a Handley Page Halifax, crashed into the River Humber following a raid on Duisburg. The squadron was based at RAF Elsham Wolds.

Remembered on Panel 95, Runnymede Memorial. He is also remembered on his grandparents Robert and Elizabeth Gardner's headstone in Hook Norton Cemetery.

Walter Ronald Wardell

Aircraftman 1st Class, RAFVR. Service No. 1300932

Died 17th March 1941, aged 42.

Buried in Hook Norton Cemetery, Section 11, Grave 126.

No obvious connection to Hook Norton, however, he drowned in the canal in Banbury. A contemporary newspaper report stated that his wife had visited him in Hook Norton the day before. The family would appear to have been from Yorkshire and he had been based in this area during the war.

