

In Memory of  
Private  
**J Lister**

12340, 2nd Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) who died on 02 April 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Croisilles British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## **Self: Private James LISTER**

James was born 1882 in Occold, the son of George LISTER and Caroline HUNT. He had 8 brothers and 4 sisters - William, Elizabeth, Walter, Ellen, Kate, Frederick, Charles, Reginald, Lewis, Arthur, Wallace and Ida.

In 1891, he was living at Grove Farm, Occold with his parents. In 1901 he was at Bulls Hall Rd, Occold working as an ag lab. In 1911 he was a labourer on farm in Occold, most likely still at Bulls Hall Rd.

He enlisted into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt of The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment), serial number 12340 and served in France & Flanders but was KIA, 2 Apr 1917. He is commemorated at Croisilles British Cemetery, plot A, row 18. At the time of his death, he left effects of £4 17s 11d (£300 in 2015) to his father George. We would guess that this was largely his Army pay. In 1919, his father also received a War Gratuity of £3 10s 0d.

He did not marry and therefore has no direct descendants.

## **Parents: George LISTER and Caroline HUNT**

His father George was born 1856 in Occold to parents William LISTER and Sarah KNIGHTS and in 1861 was living in Mill Rd. In 1871 he was working as a groom to James BREESE, farmer at Benningham Hall. In 1881 he was an ag lab in Occold and by 1891 had moved to Grove Farm, Occold again as an ag lab. In 1901 he had moved to Bulls Hall Rd again as an ag lab and by 1911 was a labourer on farm. He died 8 Jan 1925 and is buried in Occold Cemetery, no known grave.

His mother Caroline HUNT was born 1860 in Occold to parents Lewis HUNT and Sophia LAST. She lived with her parents in Occold up until she married George in 1877 and had their 13 children. She died 25 Jul 1934 aged 74 and is buried in Occold Cemetery, no known grave.

## **Inter-relationships**

As well as losing two of their sons, Caroline (but not George) was also related to 6 others on the Roll of Honour:

**Frederick ELLIOTT** – Husband of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 1 x removed

**Ernest Arthur MILLS** – Brother-in-law of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of wife of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin

**George HAMMOND** – Brother-in-law of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 1 x removed

**Walter William HUNT** – 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 1 x removed

**James HUNT** – Nephew

**Ernest Alfred HADDOCK** – 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 1 x removed

Just goes to show how inter-related everyone was in a small community like Occold!

A short digression to take a closer look at the 1911 census, specifically for the LISTER family.

And the size of their shopping bill must have been eye watering! There were 8 grown-up men all working as farm labourers so their appetites must have been huge! And imagine mother Caroline having to cook for all those hungry mouths!

They had 13 children and the fact that they all survived despite the infant mortality rate at the time is also a bit unusual. Three children not in the house in 1911 were his 3 daughters:

**Kate** had married George Henry PLOWMAN in Occold on 8 Nov 1908 and in 1911 was living in Barracks Lane, Occold with two children George Henry and Wilfred Arthur.

**Ellen** was working as a housekeeper to Frank John SADD, retired, in Ipswich.

[illegible]



## **Paternal Grandparents: William LISTER and Sarah KNIGHTS**

William was born 1816 in Burgate, the son of William Lister and Charlotte RUDDOCK. He first married Maria LENNY, 1835 in Occold and they had 5 children – William, George (died 1843 aged 5), Hannah, Charlotte and Ann. In 1841, they were living in Benningham Rd where he was a shoemaker. Maria died ~Jul 1848 and a few months later William married Sarah KNIGHTS. Note - It was not uncommon for men who had lost their wives at an early age, often in childbirth, to re-marry very soon afterwards. After all, who was going to look after their children!!

They had moved to Redlingfield Rd by 1851 where William continued his trade as a boot and shoemaker. Over the next 15 years, they had 9 children – Rebecca, Jemma, Sarah, George (father of James LISTER), Ellen, James, Robert, Walter and Caroline. In 1861 they were living in Mill St, Occold and William was described as a cordwainer (shoemaker).

Both William and Sarah died within weeks, or even days, of each other in 1866 and are most likely buried in Occold. 'Possible' cause of death could have been cholera of which there was an outbreak at the time. This could, of course, be proven from their death certificates if one had the budget!!

Sarah was born 1822 in Syleham to parents Stephen KNIGHTS and Sarah FIELD. It is possible, but not yet proven, that she was an ancestor of Kevin KNIGHTS, recently retired as Head Teacher of Occold Primary School.

## **Maternal Grandparents: Lewis HUNT and Sophia LAST**

Lewis was born 1832 in Occold to parents Benjamin HUNT and Mary LOVET. Up until 1871 he was working as an ag lab and living in Redlingfield Rd. He married Sophia in 1854, probably in Occold, and they had 5 children – Maria, Walter William, Caroline, Anna and Lewis.

As well as being grandparents to James LISTER, they were also grandparents to James HUNT, KIA 1918 and who is also commemorated on the Occold Roll of Honour.

In 1881, he was described as an engine driver, most likely operating one of the increasingly popular traction engines being brought to Occold and which changed the face of farming. But in 1891 he was a coal seller probably supplying the other traction engines.

He died in 1896 aged 64 and is most likely buried in Occold as was his wife who died soon afterwards in 1896.

## **Brother: Reginald LISTER and Agnes E HARVEY**

Reginald was 11 years younger than his brother James and had a similar past living with his parents in Occold and working as a farm labourer.

He married Agnes E HARVEY in 1915 and had a son Eric Reginald just a few months later (!).



He enlisted in the 11<sup>th</sup> Batt, Royal Fusiliers, service number 11362 and was KIA, 19 May 1918. He left effects of £12-1s-6d (worth £750 in 2015) to his widow and, in 1919, also received a War Gratuity of £8-10s-0d.

Soon after they married, they must have moved to Redlingfield since he is not commemorated on the Occold Roll of Honour but is on the Redlingfield Roll of Honour.

From the Redlingfield web site:

*Aggie Harvey married Reggie Lister, who then served in the 1914-1918 war. The photograph of Aggie and son Eric (left) was sent as a postcard and on the back was written: "To my dear husband, from his loving wife, a little son Eric". It was addressed to Private R Lister in France and dated November 7th 1918 (see Note below).*

*Reggie never returned from the war and it is believed never saw Eric. Aggie later married Reggie's brother Arthur and had several more children. She lived in Mill Road in Redlingfield until her death (in 1966). Aggie's daughter Margery Taylor, nee Lister, lives in Eye and her son Gordon Lister lives in Cratfield.*

Note: A bit strange – Reginald died May 1918 so it seems a bit surprising that Aggie sent the postcard in Nov 1918 – so looks like she didn't know of his death? I doubt this is true – the Army were very diligent about recording soldiers who fell and would send out the dreaded black bordered telegram very quickly. Eric was born in 1915 (just a few months after they married) and he looks, in the photo, to be about 2yrs old at most. So I suspect the send date was more likely 1916 or possibly 1917.

Their son, Eric Reginald, does not appear to have married but died in 1984 aged 69 whilst presumably still living in the same house at 3 Mill Road, Redlingfield.

### **Brother: Arthur LISTER and Agnes HARVEY**

Arthur was 16 years younger than his brother James. In 1921, he married Agnes E Harvey, widow of his brother James. They had 6 children between 1920 and 1934 – Cecil Arthur, Violet C, Maurice G, Raymond L, Marjorie M and Gordon K.

Right: Arthur and Agnes – circa 1960.

The reason I say from 1920 is that Cecil Arthur, according to his death certificate, was born 13 Dec 1920 but Arthur and Agnes did not marry until Jun-Sep 1921. So it is possible that he was base born to Agnes but, without a birth certificate, we have no way of knowing whether Arthur was the father. But even if he had been base born, he would still have the surname LISTER by virtue of it being Agnes's



surname at the time so no clues there!

In 1939, he was working as a farm labourer in Rickinghall but we cannot trace his movements until his death in 1966, aged 67.

Agnes HARVEY was born 1892 in Redlingfield to parents George HARVEY (1853-1934) and Caroline MUTTOCK (1848-1912). Her parents and grandparents all came from Redlingfield and worked as farm labourers albeit her grandfather Benjamin HARVEY was also the innkeeper at Redlingfield in 1871.

Of their children, Cecil Arthur LISTER married Ivy Dora CHAMBERS in 1956 and they had a son David. Cecil died 1992 and Ivy 2003, both buried in Occold Cemetery. We have not yet found any gravestone but recording the monumental inscriptions is a work in progress so their may be one.

## **Brother: Frederick LISTER and Annie KERRY**

Frederick was 8 years older than his brother James. He lived at Grove Farm, Occold in 1891, Bulls Hall Road in 1901 and described as a labourer on farm in 1911. But what is remarkable is that he died at Green Farm, Occold in 1948 and left effects of £4,570 4s 5d (worth £159,641 in 2015 values). How did Frederick amass such a large sum as a humble farm labourer?

His executors were his step-son Percy Kerry, smallholder and his son Frank Herbert LISTER, farmer.

Note: Percy Kerry was base born to Annie, 1 Jan 1916 and then married Frederick just 4 months later. It is tempting to think that Frederick could have been the father but without the birth certificate, there is no way of knowing. However, since he kept the surname KERRY it is rather doubtful. In his 90's, Percy wrote a booklet about Farming and Rural Life in Occold which makes fascinating reading. We are currently editing and illustrating his book and hope to publish it very soon.

Frederick and Annie had 5 children, 1912 – 1923, Walter J, Gladys (died age 2), Ruby Ai, Reginald Thomas and Frank Herbert.

Annie died 1978 in Occold and both are commemorated in Occold Cemetery.

