

Tatton Park

Memorial Book



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Self publishing

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**This book is dedicated to all the brave soldiers
who lost their lives during World War One.**

With special thanks to:

**The Tatton Park Volunteers, without whom this project
would not have been possible**

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their kind funding and support**





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THE EGERTON OF TATTON COUSINS: AN ESTATE MEMORIAL?



Preface

The purpose of this book is to commemorate the employees of the Tatton Park Estate, who served during World War One (1914-18). It is the culmination of two projects taking place at Tatton Park between 2014 and 2018 and is intended as an informative, accessible volume for our visitors. It can also be used in conjunction with our resource pack 'Tatton to the Trenches' (available at www.tattonpark.org.uk via the Learn tab) by teachers hoping to deliver this topic in the classroom.

'We Will See It Through'

This project officially started in 2013, when a team of volunteers came together with the aim of identifying those who lived in and/or worked for the Tatton Park Estate and had served during World War One. The intention was to find and list all the men to create a Memorial Role, before going on to develop detailed listings for each one. The listings would give an insight to their lives before, during and after the war. An exhibition was planned for 2014 to display their findings.

Very few documents from the period survive at Tatton, so the research team relied heavily on newspaper articles – including the local paper 'The Knutsford Guardian.' The archives provided: letters home from soldiers in France, tales of the receipt of bad news, notices for feats of bravery and the activities of those left serving on the Home Front.



From consultation of these documents, as well as exploring wider archive and Internet research, the volunteers built up a comprehensive list of soldiers with a Tatton connection, as well as a selection of detailed war stories for some. Unfortunately, there were more stories to develop than there was time and space for in terms of the exhibition, so some entries remain fairly sparse.

The exhibition itself proved very popular and some visitors were even able to contribute to the soldier's profiles, having identified a relative or family friend amongst the Memorial Book entries.

A Soldier's Story:

In 2018, an opportunity was identified to make use of the research conducted back in 2014, which had lain dormant ever since. The Education Department applied for support from the Heritage Lottery Fund under their 'Then and Now' project. £10,000 was donated to support the delivery of two free, large scale family education events and the printing /binding of the Memorial Book - created under the 'We Will See It Through' project.

In May and August 2018, the Education Department successfully delivered the two events and welcomed approximately 500 visitors collectively. The events had activities suitable for every member of the



family group, who were brought together to trace the history of a soldier. The soldiers chosen were selected from the Memorial Book and subsequently had a historical link with Tatton Park and the local area. The event also included: creative writing, storytelling, crafts, artefact handling, informative displays and drama performances. The concept was that through participating in these events, families would gather snippets of information about the soldier they were researching and complete their 'fact file', having only had their name and service number at the beginning of the day. They would have the opportunity to verify the information gathered once they 'met' the soldier, in an interactive storytelling performance at the end of the event.

This book is the final part of the project and is very important for a number of reasons. Firstly, it formally recognizes the hard work of the volunteers who have given so much time to the project over the past 5 years. Secondly, it allows us to share this research with our visitors in an accessible and usable format. And finally, this book pays tribute to the men detailed in the volume and recognizes the sacrifices they made for our country. To them, we are eternally grateful and of them, we are very proud.

Laura Armitage, Learning and Visitor Services Manager
(October 2018)



Introduction

The Memorial Book currently contains over 100 entries of people whom have been identified as having been employed on the Tatton Estate, or who had connections to it through their family, living arrangements and and/or farming.

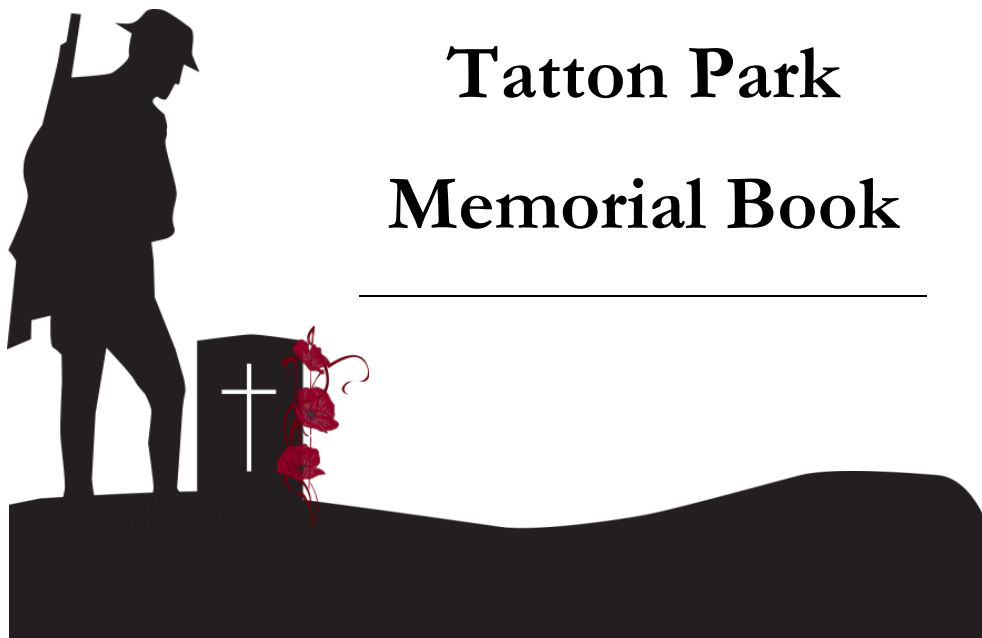
The Tatton Estate was far wider than Tatton Park itself. In fact, the overall size is estimated to have been approximately 40,000 acres – 8000 of which being Tatton Park itself. At the time, it was said that it was possible to walk from Tatton Park to Manchester without leaving estate land. The estate included over 80 tenanted farms and a vast array of houses, shops and nurseries. Tatton Park was the centre of the estate and the home of the prestigious Egerton family.

This volume contains a selection 30 of the 100 entries. Soldiers have been selected based on the fullness of their 'fact files', as well as identifying those with particularly interesting stories to tell. In the fullness of time, we hope to bring all entries to the same level of detail and welcome any information readers of this book may have about anyone referenced here. We have included a full Memorial Roll of all men identified with a Tatton connection, at the back of this book. To read the full profile of



any soldier recorded in this volume, to contribute to our research or to speak to one of our volunteer research team, please contact: tatton@cheshireeast.gov.uk / 01625 374400.

This book also contains new, interesting research about the role of the Egerton family (who lived at and owned Tatton Park) within World War One. This has been carried out by one of our volunteer researchers and is the first time it has been shared.



Tatton Park

Memorial Book



Henry (Harry) Bailey

Henry was the eldest son of John Bailey and his wife Elizabeth Stockton. John was the Assistant Park Keeper at Tatton. In total they had 7 children.

Very little of Henry's War Service Record has survived. We only know that he was awarded the Victory and British War Medals, which means that he didn't serve in the very early part of the war.

We know that Henry survived because he is shown on a staff list at Tatton from 1919 when he was living in the village of Rostherne and probably married to Lucy.

There was another Bailey family in Mobberley and Henry's sister Jane married Alfred Ben (Alf) Bailey. Alf was an estate worker at Tatton. We need to carry out more research to sort out the relationships between these two families who shared forenames and place of birth in many cases.

Born: 9th March 1888 in Mobberley

1911: Working at Tatton as a joiner/carpenter

Age in 1916: 26

Regiment: 5th Battallion, Cheshire Regiment

Number: 5087/15078/244035

Rank: Private

Medals: Victory and British



Samuel Wright Baker

Samuel was the youngest child of Cain and Annie Wright. From 1908, he worked as the driver of a stationary steam engine at Tatton Dale. There are photos which show the engine being used for cutting fencing posts and rails, doors, and processing timber for other uses.

In 1911, Samuel was 32 years old and lived in Rostherne. He probably lived alongside other members of the Tatton community. In 1914, Samuel was 35 years old and although we haven't found a date for enlistment, it must have been in the early months of the War, as he was awarded the 1915 Star. He was posted to France on 3rd June 1915.

We know Samuel married in 1902 to Mary Ellen Hobson and they had 3 children. The youngest, William Hugh, was born in 1910 in Rostherne. Although we have no date for Samuel's demobilisation, we know he survived the war as he is listed on a staff record as living in Rostherne in 1919. A death record is available which could be for Samuel. This is in 1934 at the age of 56.

Born: 1st June 1878 in Crewe

1911: Engine driver at Tatton Dale

Age in 1916: 35

Regiment: 41st Company, Army Ordnance Corp.

Number: 04803

Rank: Private

Medals: Victory, British & 1915 Star



John Belsham

John was one of 13 children born to Albert Belsham and Emma Street. In 1911, at age 24, he was working as a cowman on his father's farm alongside his younger brother, William. Their father had been born in Burnham, near Norwich so it's uncertain as to why he ended up in Cheshire.

In 1901, John was working as a milk lad at Home Farm, Mere. He probably lived in as a farm servant. In 1909, alongside his brother William, he attended the funeral of Lord Egerton, representing the Farm Dept.

Unfortunately, John's full Military Record has not survived so we are unable to confirm when he enlisted but we know that he was demobilised in November 1917. As this was before the end of the war, he may have sustained an injury. John died on April 9th 1945 and probate was granted at Chester to Susannah Potts. This may have been his daughter as Susannah Belsham was born in 1882.

Born: 5th November 1885 in Millington

1911: Working as a cowman

Age in 1916: 29

Regiment: Royal Army Service Corps.

Number: SS/17586

Rank: Private

Medals: Victory and British



William Belsham

William was born Thomas William. He was a younger son in a large family. His parents were farmers and William and his older brother John worked on the farm. Alongside his brother William attended the funeral of Lord Egerton in 1909 as a representative of the Farm Dept.

William enlisted at the end of 1915 but his war was short lived. Although he was mobilised in April 1916, he was discharged at Pembroke Dock in July 1916 as he was lame. The note on his file states that " due to an old fracture of the right tibia and varicose veins extending to the thigh, he is unable to march a reasonable distance. Very lame and not likely to become an efficient soldier".

Some of William's War Records have survived including the his Pension Record where he names his father as next of kin. In 1918 William married Jane Saunders . They had a son Harry, born in 1919 who lived only to 1924. William predeceased him on the 10th July 1920. He is buried at Rostherne Church.

Born: 16th April 1887 in Millington

1911: Working as a teamsman on a farm

Age in 1916: 24

Regiment: 12th December 1915

Number: 24266

Rank: Private

Demobilised: 14th July 1916



Robert Talbot Butt

Robert's family lived at Tatton Dale and but all the children were born in Abbotsbury, Dorset where their father, Herbert, worked as an estate carpenter and joiner. We cannot say how the family came to be living at Tatton but it was probably for work reasons.

Robert's military records have mostly survived and we might assume that he served alongside his brother. Where the initial 'R' appears on some pages of the records it has been amended to 'Rollo'. However, this was Walter's (his brother's) name. It might have been that a senior officer who knew them both made this alteration. It has also created confusion in finding out about their war service.

As Robert was awarded the Silver War Badge, he must have been injured on active service. We cannot tell if this resulted in his early demob but the injuries must have been fairly serious and required hospitalization. By the time Robert received his award, he was living at 2 Hillview, Chipstead Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, the same area as his brother, Walter.

Born: 25th May 1892 in Dorset

1911: Assistant Land Agent living at Tatton Dale

Age in 1916: 21

Regiment: 43rd Bty, RFA, 24th Bde

Number: 26865/6179

Rank: Cpl/Lieut/2nd Lieut

Medals: Victory, British, 1914-15 Star & Silver War Badge



Charles Frederick Clinch

Charles was one of 11 children according to the 1901 Census Return. He was born in Maidstone Kent but went to school in Lambeth, London. He attended the Jessop Road School which had opened in 1876. His father was James Francis Clinch, an Iron Plater, and his mother was named Mary.

By 1911, Charles was working as a footman for Arthur Hammersley and his family. He was a banker who lived at 56 Princes Gate, London.

Charles was an early volunteer in the war, enlisting at Rostherne at a recruitment drive presided over by their employer, Sir Alan de Tatton Egerton. This was on September 4th with Percy Jones, another footman at Tatton Park. The 2 footmen are listed on a Roll of Honour in the Knutsford Guardian.

This means Charles must have changed jobs after 1911. We have no record of how he obtained employment in Cheshire but the Egertons had a London home, or perhaps Charles and Percy were recruited through an agency.

→ PTO



On April 7th 1915, Charles was posted to France and Belgium fighting with the Royal Irish Dragoon Guards. In a letter he wrote he describes his wartime experiences fighting at St Julien about 3 miles north of Ypres and how the 14 days he spent here were the worst of his life. The weather was bitterly cold, with snow.

In May 1915, Charles was hit by a piece of shrapnel in his right arm. Unfortunately, Charles' full Military record has not survived but we know that he spent time at Huntroyde Hall Auxilliary Hospital, Burnley. This was a private home owned by the Starkie family which had been converted into a war hospital.

Charles' letter thanks Dr Mackenzie and Sister Reynolds for his care and kindness there.

Charles was discharged as a result of his wounds August 4th 1916. He was awarded the Silver War Badge which honoured soldiers who were wounded in action.

Born: 17th May 1892 in Kent

1911: Working as a footman for a family in London

Age in 1916: 22

Regiment: 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards

Number: GS/8637

Rank: L/Cpl

Medals: Victory, British, 1914-15 Star & Silver War Badge



Bertie Corby

Bertie was the youngest in the family with 3 older brothers and 2 sisters. All the family, except Bertie, were born in Empingham, Rutland. On the 1901 Census Return the family were living in Rostherne village. The family must have relocated between his brother, Charles' birth in 1890 and Bertie's birth in 1895. We have no record of why this was but presumably it was to secure work. The family were still living in Rostherne when the 1911 Census is taken although not all the children were living at home.

Not all of Bertie's military service records have survived so we cannot say where he served, but we can assume he survived, as he was awarded the Victory and British Medals. As he did not receive the 1914 or 1915 Star, he may not have enlisted until later or perhaps through conscription in 1916.

There is a death recorded under the name of Bertie Corby in March 1977, aged 82, but we have been unable to confirm that this is 'our' Bertie, although it is likely.

Born: 12th January 1895

1911: Working as a joinery apprentice

Age in 1916: 19

Regiment: Loyal North Lancashire Labour Corps.

Number: LNLR/34324/LC/579734

Rank: Private

Medals: Victory and British



Charles Arthur Corby

Charles was a member of a large family. 5 sons and 2 daughters. He was born in Rutland where his father worked.

They lived in Rostherne Village, where his father rose from working as a gardener to Foreman Forester from 1893. From 1904 Charles also worked as a Forester so his military service was appropriate.

Unfortunately, most of Charles' Military records have not survived so we don't know when he enlisted.

We don't have any information about his life after the war but there is a death recorded in 1966 at age 76, which could be him so he may have returned to the area.

Born: 1889 in Rutland

1911: Working as a woodman/forester in Cheshire

Age in 1916: 25

Regiment: Cheshire Regiment, 545 Agricult. Corps

Number: 61248/34319

Rank: Sergeant

Medals: Victory and British



John Edward Corby

John Edward Corby was one of 4 sons born to John William and Jane Corby. By 1911, the family were living in Rostherne near to Knutsford and the Tatton Estate.

John Corby worked as a domestic gardener in 1911 and he was at Greyfriars, Broughton, near Preston where he worked and lodged alongside 2 other Cheshire-born gardeners. He is obviously literate as he signs his name as Head of Household on the Census Return.

His war service with the Royal Welsh (Welch) Fusiliers took him to France and then to the Balkans Theatre in Salonica where he was killed in action on the 15th November 1917. He is buried in Doirani, a regional military unit of Kilkis in central Macedonia, Greece.

Born: 1886 in Rutland

1911: Working as a domestic gardener

Age in 1916: 28

Regiment: 11th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusilliers

Number: 13769

Rank: Lieut. Corporal

Medals: Victory, British & 1915 Star



Robert Corby

Robert was the second eldest son of John William and Jane Corby. In total there were 7 children in the family. They were living in Rostherne at the time of the 1911 Census Return. His father worked as a Forester, possibly on the Tatton Estate. Robert, however, at age 20 was boarding at 130 Stamford Park Road in Hale near Altrincham. He was working as a Nurseryman's Gardener.

Six weeks after the declaration of war, Robert enlisted in Nottingham as part of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters. He was already part of the Territorial Forces in the same area.

Unfortunately, Robert's war was a short one as he was discharged as medically unfit for service due to venereal disease. His father's contact details are noted. At this period of time it was not uncommon to contract venereal disease and large numbers of the population may have unwittingly suffered from it. This was before the development of antibiotics and sex education.

We have no further information about Robert's life after the war but he may have been living in Rostherne in 1919. There is a death record for Robert Corby, aged 83 in March 1974. This is registered in Bucklow, Cheshire. If this was the same Robert, he obviously had a long life and continued living in the same area.

Born: 10th March 1891 in Rutland

1911: Nurseryman's gardener in Hale

Age in 1916: 23

Regiment: Notts. Territorial Forces

Number: 2873

Rank: Private

Demobilised: 1st December 1914



Sidney Davies

Sidney was aged 13 years old by the time of the 1911 Census Return and was shown living at Mere Heath Lodge, Tatton with his widowed father and a housekeeper. His mother was still living at the time of the 1901 Census and his grandmother, Martha Hewitt, was living with them. Sidney had an older sister, Lily.

In common with many other servicemen, Sidney's Military Record has not survived intact so we have a sketchy picture of his military career.

We know that Sidney survived as he was discharged on October 25th 1918 as "Permanently Unfit". We don't know if this was due to illness or injury.

We know from a staff list at Tatton that in 1919, Sidney was living at 2, Lady Mary's Square, Rostherne.

Born: 1898 in Rostherne

1911: Living at Mere Lodge, Tatton

Age in 1916: 16

Regiment: 101 Batt., RFA/Royal Artillery

Number: W/4355; 215339

Rank: Driver

Medals: Victory and British

Demobilised: 25th October 1918



Maurice Egerton

The Right Honourable Maurice Egerton was born in London in 1874. He was the son of Alan, 3rd Baron Egerton of Tatton and Anna Louise Watson Taylor. Alan inherited the estate after his brother, Wilbraham, died leaving no male heir. Maurice was the 3rd son of Alan and Anna. Normally, he would not have been expected to inherit but his 2 older brothers had predeceased their father.

On the 1911 Census Return Maurice was at Lemster Lodge, Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey. He signed the Return as Head of Household. He was spending time with George Bertram Cockburn, a pioneer aviator. Maurice also flew early aircraft from the Isle of Sheppey and became an early member of the Royal Aero Club which was based at Eastchurch.

The Declaration of War came on Maurice's 40th birthday when he was in Russia so he possibly didn't return to England until November 1914. In his absence he had been promoted to Major in the Cheshire Yeomanry but it is thought that he did not take up his commission until March 1915, although it is hard to substantiate this fact. However, we do know that Maurice spent time in the USA as he is listed as a passenger arriving in Liverpool on September 30th 1916. His gives his rank as Lt Cmdr RNVR.

→ PTO



Maurice's diary in May 1918 notes that he was in Toronto at the HQ of the Royal Flying Corps. This is the only diary which covers the war years. This diary also gives his address as Buffalo, New York where the HQ of the Curtiss Company was located. Glen Hammond Curtiss was manufacturing aircraft for the war and Maurice acted as the overseer for the H-16 flying boat contract. Developing this aircraft was a long, slow process and it needed constant modifications. When America eventually came into the war, Curtiss & Co were well up to date and they built the N.C.4 which American pilots flew from Newfoundland to Plymouth.

Maurice's diaries and letters give very little information about the impact of the war and he makes no mention of the Armistice, except to note that it had delayed a journey. On January 30th 1919, he closed down his office in Detroit where he had relocated to from New York.

He then spends time visiting friends and shopping in New York. He arrived in Liverpool on February 24th 1919 and went to Tatton.

Born: 4th August 1874 in London

1911: At the flying ground in Eastchurch

Age in 1916: 40

**Regiment: Cheshire Yeomanry, Royal Naval Volunteer
Reserve**

Rank: Major/Lt. Commander

Theatre of War: USA



Noel Thompson Flood

Noel's story is particularly sad. When war was declared, he was living at New Tatton, Tatton Park and working as Bank Clerk. He was aged 16. He was 18½ when he enlisted in May 1916, probably as a result of conscription. Initially, he was sent to the Eastern Front but then transferred from the 8th to the 26th Battalion of the Royal Artillery in March 1917. He was then fighting in France. On the 1st November 1918 he was wounded by a shell, gunshot wound and poisoning (gas?). At the end of November, Noel was returned to England and spent time at the War Hospital in Dundee. The injury left him with a 40% disability and he was awarded a pension of 16s per week, indefinitely. He had served 3 years and 309 days.

He was discharged from the army, aged 21, on the 15th October 1919. He returned to Tatton Dale at Tatton Park. His service record even contains the checklist for the army clothing which had to be returned.

Unfortunately, Noel died on the 12th June 1934, aged 36. At the time he was a patient at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry. Administration of his estate was granted to his father, Thompson Flood, in Manchester on 17th September 1934. Noel left £401-11s-7d.

Born: 1891 in Altrincham

1911: Working as a bank clerk

Age in 1916: 16

Regiment: 8th Res Batt. Royal Regiment of Artillery

Rank: Gunner 02/10/16, Signaller BEF France

Number: 161038

Medals: Victory & British



Benjamin Gathercole

Benjamin was aged 75 in 1914 so would not have been on active service. However, he was a private in the 5th Reserve Battalion of the 8th Battalion Cheshire Regiment. For his duties, he was awarded the British War Medal but as there is no Military Record for him other than the Medal Index Card, it is difficult to discover where he served. He probably remained in England. He was one of 5 children and by the time of the 1861 Census he was married to Charlotte, his first wife. His father James was living with them.

From 1891 he worked as a Gamekeeper in Rostherne.

It is possible that Benjamin's second wife, Harriet was mentioned in the Knutsford Guardian on Friday, July 22nd 1915. It is mentioned that a Mrs. Gathercole had sent a large parcel of supplies to soldiers at the Front and received an acknowledgement.

Benjamin did not live to see the end of the First World War. He died on the 22nd July 1915, 2 months before his son, Thomas Victor Gathercole. Benjamin is buried in Rostherne Churchyard in a family grave which includes his 2 wives, Charlotte and Harriet, and also displays a tribute to his son Thomas.

Born: 1839 in Norfolk

1911: Working as a gamekeeper

Age in 1916: 75

Regiment: 8th Batt. Cheshire Regiment

Number: 244736

Rank: Private

Medals: British



Thomas Victor Gathercole

Thomas's mother was Harriet Lucy, and she would have been aged 40 when Thomas was born. He had a brother Benjamin who was born in Mere, Cheshire and worked as a Cattleman on a farm. By the time of the 1911 Census, the family were living at New Mills, Mobberley where Benjamin worked as a Gamekeeper. Thomas states that he worked as domestic gardener.

Thomas' Military Record shows that he enlisted quite soon after the outbreak of war in August 1914 and joined the British Expeditionary Forces in France in 1915. From there he travelled to fight in the Balkans and found himself under heavy fire on more than one occasion. The War Diaries for the Regiment show that the conditions were challenging. There was a great deal of sickness, especially dysentery.

On the 23rd September 1915 during the Battle of Lala Baba in Gallipoli, Thomas was killed in action. He was almost 26 years old. He was buried in Azmak Cemetery in Suvla, Turkey. He was commemorated on the family gravestone in Rostherne Cemetery. One of the papers in Thomas' Military Record shows that his mother received a posthumous award of a Memorial Scroll and Plaque. Thomas was awarded the British and Victory Medals. His name is also listed on a Roll of Honour for Knutsford Lads who did not return home.

Born: November 1890 in Rostherne

1911: Living in Mobberley and working as a gardener

Age in 1916: 24

Regiment: 8th Batt. Cheshire Regiment, General Service

Number: 11415

Rank: Private

Medals: British and Victory



Henry (Harry) Hope

Harry was a member of a large family which all had connections with Tatton. His father was James Hope and his mother Charlotte Blackburn. He was the eldest son with 2 younger brothers and 2 sisters.

His war career is a little sketchy but we know that he enlisted in to the 8th Battalion of the Worcester Regiment in June 1910 and in 1911 transferred to the 5th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment. At that time he was living at New Tatton and working as carpenter and joiner. He rose through the military ranks to become a Corporal in 1913.

He was posted abroad in early 1915 but seems to have been taken ill as he was demobilized a couple of months later as unfit for further service. He had suffered a bout of pneumonia which left him with a heart problem. As a result he was granted a pension of 14s/6p, plus 12 months board. His record states that he was not considered to be an invalid.

Not much else is certain about his later life. There is a marriage record in Bromyard, Hereford in April 1914 which might be possible given his service with the Worcesters. Harry has not shown up on the 1911 Census Return in Cheshire although we think he was serving with the Cheshires at that time.

Born: 1889 in Tatton

1911: Working as a joiner/carpenter/beekeeper

Age in 1916: 22

Regiment: 8th Worcester Regiment, 5th Cheshire Regiment

Number: 1264

Rank: Private/L Cpl/Cpl



Percy Harold Jones

Percy was born in Putney, London in 1894, the fifth of ten children, to William Henry Jones and his wife Charlotte Eleanor. William and Charlotte owned and ran a grocery store where Percy worked as an assistant.

In 1912 Percy left East London for rural Cheshire, joining the household of Alan de Tatton as a footman at Tatton Park. In 1914 he left his position to enlist in the army, joining the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards as a private. Charles Clinch, another footman at Tatton Park, enlisted at the same time and their names are listed in the Knutsford Guardian Roll of Honour on January 15th 1914.

Five of Percy's brothers also fought in the war. His elder brother, William, was killed in action in 1917 and poignantly, a family photograph of the brothers in uniform, taken after William's death, pictures him 'pasted in'.

Percy survived the war and was hopeful of a return to his duties at Tatton. Transcripts of the letters between Percy and Alan de Tatton illustrate the changed environment in the grand houses which were awaiting the return of soldiers to their old roles in service. On December 12th 1918 Alan de Tatton wrote to Percy explaining that " We should very much like to have you back again as footman. But I

→ PTO



doubt if you would care to come as everything is so different to what it was.”

As far as we can tell, Percy did return to Tatton in the summer of 1919. He remained for 4 years and then returned to London and took up a position as a waiter at the Army and Navy Club. He married Dorothy Field in 1925. She had been adopted and her birth name was Agnes Jane Smith. They had two daughters, Thelma and Marian. Both his daughters visited Tatton Park to view their father’s workplace.

Percy died in Sutton, London, on December 6th 1970 at the age of 76.

We are grateful to Percy’s daughters for their information and to his great-nephew, William Elliott for his help in researching Percy’s life.

Born: 27th December 1894 in Fulham

1911: Working as a shop assistant for the family business

Age in 1916: 19

Regiment: Royal Dragoons

Number: 2316

Rank: Driver

Medals: British and Victory



Samuel Pownall

On the 1911 Census Return, Samuel was aged 16 and living at Lane End, Ashley. He had 3 brothers. William, George and Walter worked as Railway Porters. His father, Thomas, had worked as a Railway Plate Layer but by 1911, he had died leaving his mother, Sarah, a widow.

When Samuel enlisted in 1915, he gave his mother as next of kin. He was posted to France on 7th September 1916 as part of the British Expeditionary Forces. By 18th November 1916, Samuel's Service record shows that he had been promoted to Corporal, although his pay was not increased immediately.

On 7th June 1917, Samuel was seriously wounded with a gunshot wound to his head and right leg. It fractured his skull. He was sent to the General Hospital in Calais where he remained dangerously ill until February 1918. As a result of his injuries, Samuel suffered 50% disability and was awarded a pension. He had also made a will which was returned to him in March 1920 when he was officially demobilized.

There is a marriage record for a Samuel Pownall to Daisy Waite in Bucklow, in early 1929, and also a death record in 1987 in Eastbourne, Sussex. Both fit the description of Samuel.

Born: March 1895 in Ashley

1911: Working as a nurseryman's clerk

Age in 1916: 19

Regiment: 11th Cheshire Batt., 3rd Batt. Cheshire Regiment

Number: 4620/49551

Rank: Private/Cpl

Medals: British and Victory



Jack Rushton

Jack was the second eldest of 7 children. His father, John, was an umbrella and basket maker at Gidman's on King Street, Knutsford. The family lived with mother, Elizabeth at number 16.

On the 1911 Census Return, Jack was working as grocer's boy. His brother Llewellyn was the Chauffeur to Lady Egerton in August 1914.

Jack enlisted early 1914 in to the 2nd Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment. The 2nd Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment was in India on the outbreak of war but were returned home and posted to France on the 17th January 1915. They saw action in the second Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Loos. Jack joined them in France on the 6th March 1915. He was assumed killed in action on the 8th of May 1915, only 59 days after arriving. Jack is named In Remembrance on the Menin Gate.

Born: 1897 in Knutsford

1911: Working as a grocer's boy and living at 16 King Street

Age in 1916: 17

Regiment: 2nd Batt. Cheshire Regiment

Number: 18621

Rank: Private

Medals: British, Victory & 1914-15 Star



Llewellyn Rushton

Llewellyn was the older brother of Jack Rushton. We know he was born in Knutsford and baptized on the 26th May at the Dissenters Chapel in Knutsford. On the 1911 Census Return, he was working as a butcher. His father, John, worked as basket maker at Gidman's on King Street, Knutsford where the family lived at number 16.

From August 1914, he was working as chauffeur to Lady Egerton. Given his age and occupation, Llewellyn probably served in the forces during World War 1 but unfortunately, none of his Service Records have survived. However, there is one record for an L Rushton, Driver, in the Medal Index Cards. This might be him, given his previous profession.

We know nothing about Llewellyn's career and work after the war ended but it is possible that he survived as there is a death record with the same birth date in Bangor, North Wales. This was in March 1976 at the age of 80.

Born: 9th April 1895 in Knutsford

1911: Working as a butcher

Age in 1916: 18



Arthur John (Jack) Russell

The Census Return for 1901 showed that Jack was aged 14 and living at home in Lewisham, London with his parents, Arthur and Rebecca Russell. He was working as a Brewer's Assistant and was the eldest of seven children.

By the time of the 1911 Census Return, Jack was boarding with James and Selena Finch in Rostherne. James was a blacksmith. Jack stated that he is married but his wife is not listed at the Rostherne address.

Jack's Army Medal Rolls Index Card is dated 19th August 1914 and the 1914 Star has been awarded to him so Jack must have signed up as soon as war was declared. We don't know where he served but given he was posted in the early days, it was probably France. He was promoted to Sergeant and then awarded the Military Medal and the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Jack returned to Cheshire after the war and is listed on the Tatton employee lists for 1919, 1927 and 1939. He worked as a carpenter. There is a death record listed in September 1950 at age 63 years. This is registered in Bucklow, Cheshire, so could have been Jack.

Born: 1886 in Middlesex

1911: Working as the caretaker of the Egerton Public Hall

Age in 1916: 28

Regiment: 30th Batt. Royal Field Artillery

Number: 32760

Rank: Sergeant

**Medals: British, Victory, 1914 Star, Military Medal, Clasp & Clasp
with Roses and Distinguished Conduct Medal**



Herbert Sant

Herbert was born in 1890 in Rostherne and baptised on the 28th June at Rostherne Church. In the 1891 Census Return, Herbert at 9 months old, was living with his grandparents, Charles and Jane Sant, 2 uncles, Henry and Arthur, and his aunt, Mary. In 1891 she was 14 years old. His uncle Henry gives his occupation as a Gardener, on Army Reserve leave.

By the time of the 1901 Census, Herbert was still living with his grandmother, Jane Sant, who is now a widow and aged 62. She gave her occupation as a Charwoman. The 1911 Census Return shows him living at Tatton Dale with his aunt, Mary, the caretaker. Perhaps this is because his grandmother has now died. His mother's name was Charlotte Ann Sant but his father is not listed. Herbert is working as a Pork Butcher in 1911 but by the date of his enlistment in 1914, he gives his occupation as a Forester.

His war career was probably very difficult given that he was posted, initially, as part of the Expeditionary Force in the Mediterranean, to Alexandria, Egypt. He embarked with the 68th Brigade RFA Ammunition Column from Avonmouth on the 17th June 1915 arriving, on the 5th July 1915.

Herbert left Alexandria on the 17th September 1915 to join the 59th Brigade at Gallipoli. He stayed here until the 8th October 1915 when he rejoined the 68th Brigade in Salonica. He remained there operating in the field until the 16th June 1916.

→ PTO



From September 1917 his health suffered. Many of the Eastern Front theatres were badly hit by disease. Herbert suffered several bouts of malaria. He was hospitalized in Mustapha until he re-joined his unit on the 13th September 1918. His malarial infection became more severe towards the end of 1918. He was demobilised in 1919.

Herbert's Service Records are damaged and in parts very faded but the postcards which he returned in acceptance of his medals have survived and show his signature very clearly.

After demobilization he married Elsie Byron at the end 1920 when he was back living at Tatton Dale.

The 1939 list of Tatton employees shows that he worked as a Blacksmith from 1930 earning 43/- shillings weekly. He continued to live in the Cottage at Tatton Dale as a caretaker. He and his wife had 2 children.

Born: 4th May 1890 in Rostherne
1911: Pork butcher living at Tatton Dale Farm
Age in 1916: 24
Regiment: 215th Batt Royal Regiment of Artillery
Number: 91756
Rank: Driver
Medals: British, Victory & 1914-15 Star



Percival Sleight

Percival was Alan de Tatton Egerton's chauffeur for six and a half years, from 1901 to 1915. It was his first job after completing his five-year apprenticeship as a motor engineer with Victor Ashby at the Pioneer Motor Works in Towcester, about 5 miles from his home. During his time with the Egertons, Percival visited the South of France, driving for them when they wintered at their villa on the Côte d'Azur. When he left in August 1915, Lord Egerton gave him a glowing reference. "He is a first rate driver, sober, honest and trustworthy".

According to his enlistment record, Percival joined the Motor Transport Branch of the Army Service Corps and was sent to France as part of the Ambulance Convoy Company. We can only speculate as to whether this decision was influenced by his knowledge of Lady Egerton's Red Cross work. Indeed, during the War many owners 'lent' their cars and drivers to the Red Cross for ambulance work with the Home Hospitals and suitable able volunteers were encouraged to put themselves forward for service abroad.

Whatever the reason, Percival enlisted by special authority, obtaining a letter from QMG3 at the War Office on the 3rd September 1915, with instructions for the Recruiting Officer at his home town.

He attested at Bletchley on 7th September, passed his medical examination and was given a railway warrant for travel to ASC Depot at

→ PTO



Grove Park where he was approved on the 13th. Three weeks later, he was in France with Motor Ambulance Convoy 15, which had only been formed in August.

Percival served in France for nearly two and a half years before being transferred to Egypt. It took him eight days to get there from France and he arrived on 27th March 1918. Percy's war did not end at the Armistice, for he did not leave Egypt until 22nd June 1919. He was finally demobilised on 7th August 1919 at Woolwich Dockyard. Happily, Percival survived the war unscathed, or at least he did not claim any disability on his Form Z22. Afterwards, we do not know for certain what happened to him. He may have gone back to Lillingstone Lovell, for there is a Marriage Index entry for a Percy Sleigh marrying Eva Clarke in the Buckingham Registration district in the last quarter of 1921.

Born: 3rd January 1889 in Buckinghamshire

1911: Chauffeur living at Tatton Hall

Age in 1916: 25

Regiment: Army Service Corps, MT Branch, 568 Company

Number: M2/120544

Rank: Private

Medals: British, Victory & 1914-15 Star



John Ambrose-Smith

John Ambrose-Smith was born in Heaton Mersey, near Stockport on August 2nd 1878. He was the son of John Thompson Smith and Mary Ann Wilson Povah. He lived with his family at Tattondale and he was educated at Shrewsbury School. His father worked as the principal Land Agent for Lord Egerton's Lancashire Estates up until 1908 and John set up a land agency business with his father. He gained a Professional Associateship of the Surveyors Institute on October 30th 1899 followed by a Fellowship on February 22nd 1904.

He was also listed in the London Gazette on May 19th 1896 when he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

By 1908, John had sailed to Canada where he spent time travelling before settling in Winnipeg and establishing a business in 1910. Adverts for the Smith Construction Company regularly appeared in the Winnipeg Evening Tribune from 1912. On February 10th 1914, John was listed as attending the Lord Mayor of Manchester's Reception, a report of which appeared in the Manchester Courier and the Lancashire General Advertiser.

When war was declared at the beginning of August 1914, John reported to the British War Office and was posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers as Captain of the 15th Battalion. He also served with the 16th and 19th Battalions.

→ PTO



He saw action in France in 1915 with the 19th Battalion, 96th Brigade, as Company Commander.

His career from this point was nothing short of heroic. He was promoted to Major in June 1915, mentioned in Dispatches in June 1916 and promoted to Second in command on June 10th 1916.

John fought in the Somme Offensive from July 1st 1916. On July 17th, the Battalion took and held the Leipsig Salient. He was also with the 2nd South Lancashire Regiment in capturing Ovillers La Boisselle. The battalion then transferred to the 49th Division and fought at the battle of Nieuport and Ypres in 1917. John was mentioned in Dispatches in April 1918.

He had been promoted to Acting Lieutenant-Colonel on February 1st 1918 and the battalion was en route from Ypres when it was diverted with orders to hold up the German advance on Kemmel Hill. They occupied trenches on the forward slopes of the hill and repulsed three German attacks. The French 99th Regiment came to their assistance and John was decorated on the field with the Croix de Guerre (Ordre de Division). When the British battalion was relieved from the line they became the counter attack and support battalion for the 99th French. On April 21st, the 99th French were relieved by the 416th French Regiment which held the position until the night of the 24th April when a German attack broke through. The remnants of the British battalion

→ PTO



held up the German advance long enough for a rear line to be established but were finally surrounded. John was injured by a bullet to his right shoulder, and taken prisoner.

John was mentioned in Dispatches on the 21st March 1918 when it was recommended that he be awarded the DSC. This was before his capture, but it was not granted. He was repatriated on December 10th 1918 and the War Office investigated the circumstances of his capture. No blame was attached to John Ambrose Smith. The Manchester Guardian ran 2 articles about this in July 1919. Knutsford Guardian also ran a large biographical article about John Ambrose Smith which included a photograph.

Following the war, John entered into a lengthy conversation with the War Office about whether his rank of Lieutenant-Colonel was Acting or Temporary and on the subject of his repatriation to Canada. He also claimed a Disability Pension. These claims were overridden. At this point he seems to have been staying at Birch Hall, Rusholme, Manchester. John was finally returned to Canada on SS Melita on June 3rd 1919 accompanied by his wife, but correspondence between the War Office and solicitors in Canada was still on-going in 1922.

John had married Margaret Grand in Canada in 1914 and after the war he continued to live at 916 North Drive, Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Canada until he returned to England on the death of his father. Passenger Lists

→ PTO



show that his father had regularly travelled from Liverpool to Boston, USA, en route to Canada. He gave his profession as Contractor which might have meant he was working there, but possibly also visiting his son and family.

John was obviously very active in the community where was living and there is a long list of activities and events reported in the newspapers in Knutsford, at Tatton, and also in Winnipeg. Through his family, he was well connected, attending Receptions held by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, a ball in Knutsford in 1908 and a Tatton Garden Party. He became Chair of the Knutsford Conservative Club in 1908.

He was well received in Winnipeg too and his business seemed to be thriving. He attended a horse show in 1912 which was also attended by the Lieutenant-Governor. John had won prizes for cavalry horses at a show in Altrincham. He is listed in the Winnipeg South Census Return in 1921 and in 1923 the Winnipeg Evening Tribune reports his election as President of the Imperial Veterans in Canada Association. He acted as President of the Imperial Veterans in Canada, Winnipeg Unit in 1922;1923;1924 and was active in the Junior Army and Navy Clubs.

Born: 2nd August 1878 in Lancashire

1911: Living in Canada

Age in 1916: 36

Regiment: Manchester Regiment 1896-1899, Lancashire

Fusilliers

Medals: Croix de Guerre

Demobilised: June 1919



Alfred Taylor

Alfred was born in Rostherne in 1893, probably in March. On the 1901 Census Return he was living with his parents James and Margaret Taylor at New Tatton where his father was a Teamsman on the farm. He had a younger sister Ethel. At the time of the 1911 Census, Alfred was an apprentice wheelwright, still living with his parents but it seems that his sister may have died. The Census records that one child has died and Ethel is no longer listed. His father gives his occupation as a Waggoner on the farm.

When Alfred enlisted in 1915, he gave his father as next of kin which probably indicates that he is not married. He was posted to France in March 1915 and was promoted to L/Cpl.

Throughout 1915, he was attached to different companies of the ASC. The 304 company in May and the 199 company in June.

His Service Record shows he was granted leave to the UK on 2 occasions. Once in June 1917 and again in March 1918.

Alfred returned home finally from Boulogne on the 27th June 1919. His demobilisation was given the following day and he gave his home address as The Lodge, Mere Heath Lane, Knutsford. The lodge is still there today on the boundary of Tatton Park estate.

Born: March 1893

1911: Living at New Tatton and working as an apprentice wheelwright

Age in 1916: 21

Regiment: Army Service Corps

Rank: Driver

Medals: Victory, British & 1914-15 Star

Demobilised: 28th July 1919



Arthur Tomlinson

Arthur was one of 4 brothers born to John Francis and Mary Bowers Tomlinson. All the sons fought in the armed services and their stories are contained following Arthur. The family lived at Coppice Cottage in Ashley near Knutsford, where Arthur was born. He was baptized on the 25th September 1892 at St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley. On the 1901 Census Return, Arthur was aged 8 years old and still at school. By the 1911 Census, he is 18 years old and working as a domestic gardener. It doesn't say where. His eldest brother William has the same occupation so perhaps they worked together.

Unfortunately, Arthur's Military Service Records have not survived so we can only guess at the date of enlistment.

The Medal Index Card is available and we can see that Arthur was awarded the Victory and British Medals, but not the 1914-15 Star. This might indicate that he enlisted later or even under conscription in 1916. The card shows that he transferred from the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment to the Royal Army Service Corps on the 24th November 1917. His Regimental Number suggests he was in a transport corps.

We have no way of knowing what became of Arthur at the end of the war although there is a possible death record for him in Manchester in 1950.

Born: 26th July 1892 in Ashley

1911: Aged 18 and working as a domestic gardener

Age in 1916: 21

Regiment: Royal Army Service Corps

Number: M/40275

Rank: Private then Lieutenant

Medals: Victory and British



Walter Tomlinson

Walter was the second eldest son in a family of 4 brothers and 1 sister. All the sons seem to have enlisted. The family lived at Coppice Cottage, Ashley, near Knutsford, where father, John Francis worked as farm labourer and then, later, as a Teamster.

Like his brothers, Walter was baptized at St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley, on the 18th May 1884.

In 1901, Walter was aged 16 and working as a groom. He may have worked alongside his father looking after the team of horses on the farm. By the time of the 1911 Census Return, Walter is aged 27, probably still unmarried and working as a domestic coachman.

As Walter's Service Record has not survived, we know little of his time in the Army Service Corps but his Medal Index Card has survived. His Regimental Number suggests he was in a transport section. He is aged 30 in 1914 so may have enlisted when older men were conscripted.

Born: 1884 in Ashley

1911: Aged 27 and working as a domestic coachman

Age in 1916: 30

Regiment: Army Service Corps

Number: M2/178144

Rank: Private

Medals: Victory and British



Wilfred Tomlinson

Wilfred was the youngest of 4 brothers who all enlisted to fight in the First World War. Like his brothers he was baptized at St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley although there may be an error in the date. It states 4th August 1895. As Wilfred was not born until the 26th, the baptism may have taken place on the 4th of September.

Their father was a farm labourer when the 1901 Census was taken. Wilfred was aged 5 at that time. All the brothers were still living at home in 1911 when the next Census was taken. By this time, Wilfred was aged 15 and working as a grocer's clerk. By 1911, his father John Francis Tomlinson, was working as a Teamster which meant handling horses for work around the farm. Wilfred was the only son who chose a profession away from the land.

We know that Wilfred enlisted as his name appears in the 'Absent' Voters List. He was with the Army Pay Corps but the regiment has been crossed out and the '1st Suffolks' written in. This might have been a transfer to another regiment which was a common event.

We know little else about Wilfred's army career as his Service Records do not seem to have survived. However, we can see from a Tatton employee list dated 1919, that Wilfred was living at the family home, Coppice Cottage in Ashley, so he survived but we have no information about him after that date.

Born: 26th August 1895 in Ashley

1911: Living in Ashley and working as a grocer's clerk

Age in 1916: 18

Regiment: Army Pay Corps or 1st Suffolks

Number: 64922

Rank: Private



William Henry Tomlinson

William was one of 4 brothers who all fought in the First World War. Their parents were Mary and John Francis Tomlinson and the family were living at Coppice Cottage, Ashley in the Census Returns of 1891, 1901 and 1911.

In 1911 William was working as a domestic gardener. He joined up in February 1916 probably when conscription was introduced. At the age of 32, he was one of the older recruits who were conscripted to the Army Reserve. He was mobilized in April 1916 and on the 20th August 1916 he married Sarah Houlden at St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley. His brother Arthur stood as a witness.

William stayed in the UK at the Army Reserve Base until December 10th 1916 when he was posted to Salonika. He stayed in that theatre of war until the 4th January 1919 when he was posted home by ship.

William's Military Records show that on the 26th February 1918 his wife was awarded a Separation Allowance and her address is then given as Astle Park, Chelford. The Record also shows that when William was demobbed he was suffering from Malaria so he was granted a weekly pension of 5s/6d. He returned to Coppice Cottage, Ashley.

Born: 8th December 1882 in Knutsford

1911: Aged 29 and working as a domestic gardener

Age in 1916: 32

Regiment: 22nd R Batt, Royal Horse and Field Artillery

Number: 131656

Rank: Driver

Medals: Victory and British



Stanley Victor Walley

Stanley was born in Rostherne. His father, Thomas was from Minshull (Crewe). He began his working life as farm labourer. By 1911 his family were living at Hill Farm in Rostherne and his father was a widower. By the time Stanley enlisted in November 1916 in Altrincham, he was a joiner and carpenter. He was assessed by the Army and considered skilled. This meant he earned a higher rate of pay.

As a Sapper in the 66th Batt, he was erecting wagons in the Railway Division. He gained promotion to Acting 2nd Corporal on 22nd July 1919 shortly before he was demobilised. Stanley's Service Record shows that his rate of pay rose in line with his skills and promotion. Initially rising from 1s/4d to 1s/8d and then, in 1917, to 2s/0d.

Stanley's record also notes that on the 26th October 1918, he was admitted to hospital. He does not seem to be wounded but the reason noted in his papers is not legible. When he is demobilised, he makes a claim for an extra pension due to disability from Myalgia. This is refused. Stanley returned home in November 1919. Stanley probably died in December 1969, aged 72. The death was registered in Bucklow so it seems that Stanley and his wife had continued to live in the area.

Born: 23rd May 1897 in Rostherne

1911: Working as a farm labourer and living in Rostherne

Age in 1916: 16

Regiment: 66th Royal Engineers Railways

Number: 203950/260730

Rank: Sapper

Medals: Victory and British



In memory of the Tatton soldiers who served during World War One:

Daniel Bailey – Cheshire Regiment
Edwin Bailey – Machine Gun Corps & Tank Corps
Henry (Harry) Bailey – Cheshire Regiment
John Bailey – South Lancashire Regiment
John (Jack) Bailey – Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
James William Bailey – Cheshire Regiment & Labour Corps
Harry Baker – Cheshire Regiment
Samuel Wright Baker – Army Ordnance Corps
Harry Barber – Field Corps
Henry (Harry) Baskerville – Cheshire Regiment
Joseph Baskerville – Cheshire Regiment
Walter Baskerville – East Lancashire Regiment, Royal Engineers
Henry (Harry) Bell – Army Service Corps, Horse Transport & No
1 Field Ambulance
Joseph Bell – Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
John Belsham – Royal Army Service Corps
William Belsham – Kings Shropshire Light Infantry Rifle Corps
Percy Blackburn – Cheshire Yeomary & Shropshire Light
Infantry
Samuel Brown – Kings Liverpool Rifles



Robert Talbot Butt – Royal Field Artillery
Walter Rollo Talbot Butt – Royal Field Artillery
John William Chapell – Army Ordnance Corps
Bertie Chorlton – BEF Lancers & Rifle Brigade
George Chorlton – Royal Field Artillery
James Chorlton – Royal Fusilliers
Cyril Clayton – HMS Vivid
William Taberer Clayton – Lancers & Cavalry Regiment
Charles Frederick Clinch – Royal Irish Dragoon Guards
Arthur Corbishley – Lancashire Fusilliers
Bertie Corby – Loyal North Lancashire Labour Corps
Charles Arthur Corby – Cheshre Regiment & Agricultural Corps
John Edward Corby – Royal Welsh Fusilliers
Robert Corby – Notts Territorial Forces & Sherwood Foresters
Frederick J Cubberley
Oliver Curbishley – Cheshire Regiment
William Curbishley
Charles Davenport – Army Auxiliaries
John (Jack) Turner Davies – South Lancashire Regiment
Sidney Davies – Royal Artillery
Isaac Earlam – Cheshire Yeomanry, Army Service Corps, Kings
Shropshire Light Infantry
Noel Thompson Flood – Royal Regiment of Artillery
Thomas Victor Gathercole – Cheshire Regiment



(Joseph) Edward Goodacre – Royal Welsh Fusilliers & Cheshire
Regiment

William Goodacre – Kings Hussars & Household Cavalry
Frank Hayes – Seige Battalion

Henry (Harry) Hope – Worcester Regiment & Cheshire Regiment
Herbert Hope

Walter Hope – Army Service Corps, Motor Transport

Thomas Newton Jackson – Merchant Navy

Charles William Johnson – West Lancashire Battallion & Royal
Regiment of Artillery

Leonard Johnson – RASC

Norman Johnson – South Lancashire Regiment

William Henry Johnson – Field Ambulance

Percy Harold Jones – Royal Dragoons

William Arthur Jones – Agricultural Corps

Herbert Kirkham – Army Service Corps

Alfred Leah – RWF

Herbert Leah – RAVC

John W Lowe

Walter Lowe

Harry Lowndes – Army Cyclists Corps

Robert Mahoney – Royal Munster Fusilliers, Labour Corps

Ernest Mason – ASC

Sydney Mason – Machine Gun Corps



Ernest Matthews – Monmouth Regiment
Samuel Merrill – Army Brigade
Arthur Moores – Field Corps & Royal Engineers
Leonard Sidney Mousley – Liverpool Regiment
George William Overend – East Kent Regiment
John Parkes – Cheshire Regiment
Arthur Pennington – Loyal North Lancashires
Herbert Victor Pickston – Royal Engineers
Normal Thomas Power – Shropshire Yeomanry
Samuel Pownall – Cheshire Regiment
George William Rimmer – Agricultural Corps
Jack Rushton – Cheshire Regiment
Llewellyn Rushton
Arthur John (Jack) Russell – Royal Field Artillery
Herbert Sant – Royal Regiment of Artillery
Alfred Saunders – Field Corps, Royal Engineers
Charls Saunders – Army Service Corps & Manchester Regiment
Herbert Shakeshaft – Cheshire Regiment & Labour Corps
Percival Sleigh – Army Service Corps
John Ambrose Smith – Manchester Regiment & Lancashire
Fusilliers
Robert Launcelot Smithies – Royal Marines Light Infantry
Charles Herbert Stead – Gloucester Regiment & Royal Engineers
Wilfred Stead – Cheshire Regiment



Arthur Stelfox

Douglas Stelfox – Sherwood Foresters & Cheshire Yeomanry

Herbert Whinfield Stelfox – Cheshire Regiment

John Stelfox – Cheshire Regiment & Royal Lancashire Regiment

Alfred Taylor – Army Service Corps

Arthur Taylor – Cheshire Regiment & Machine Gun Corps

Arthur Tomlinson – Royal Army Service & Cheshire Regiment

Walter Tomlinson – Army Service Corps

Wilfred Tomlinson – Army Pay Corps

William Henry Tomlinson – Royal Horse & Field Artillery

George Clemont Vost – Cheshire Regiment

John Alfred Vost – Cheshire Regiment

Frederick Waite – Royal Engineers

Frederick Walley – Cheshire Regiment

Stanley Victor Walley – Royal Engineers Railways

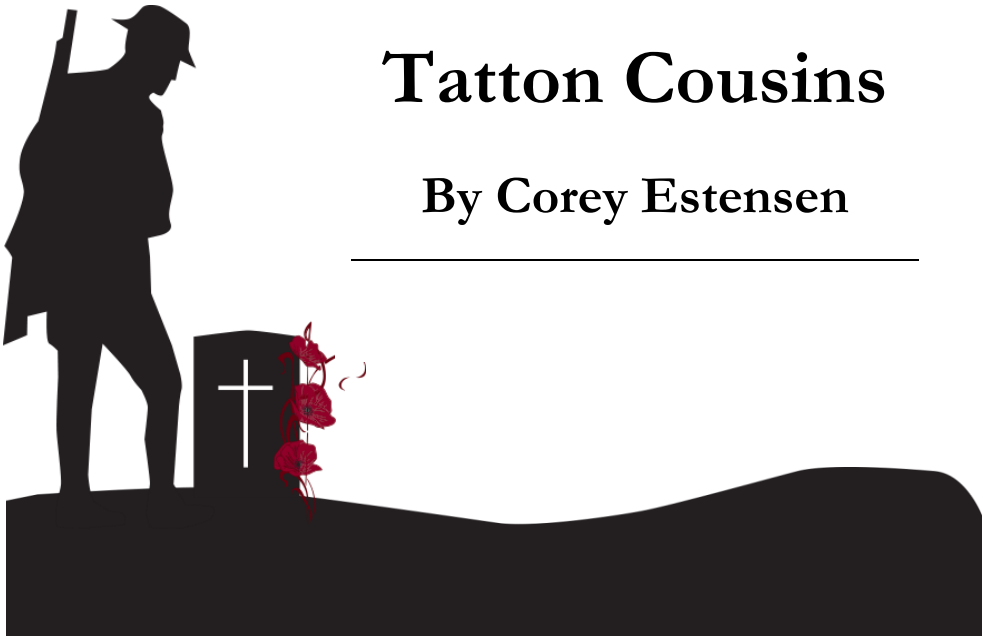
John Wolfe – Cheshire Regiment

To read the full profiles of these soldiers or to contribute information to our research, please contact tatton@cheshireeast.gov.uk



The Egerton of Tatton Cousins

By Corey Estensen





THE EGERTON OF TATTON COUSINS WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR

It would be inconceivable to create a Memorial Book for Tatton Park, without mentioning the Egerton family itself. The Wartime activities of the owner of Tatton Park (Alan, 3rd Baron Egerton, his wife Anna-Louisa and son Maurice) are dealt with in another section. But Tatton's Great War was not just about the nuclear family occupying the family seat in 1914; it also irrevocably changed the extended Egerton family network, for whom this great Estate acted as a lodestone, attracting them into its sphere of influence, and acting as the centre of their world order.

The three family members at the nucleus of Edwardian Tatton all survived the War; but several close relations did not. [See Fig. 1]. To go back two generations, beyond Alan's father William: the owner of Tatton was Wilbraham Egerton Esquire, who had a large family of four sons and four daughters. All his sons married, and it was Wilbraham's great-grandsons who were the generation that faced the trenches, bullets, gas, flames and bombs of World War One.

These cousins of Maurice (the fourth and final Baron Egerton) knew Tatton Park well; having visited, stayed, played, and

hunted its grounds. Some even had financial dependence, having had bequests from the Estate. This account examines four Egerton cousins, of Tatton lineage, who saw active service, and ended up surrendering their lives.



1/ Second Lieutenant John Frederick Egerton

John was born in 1896, the only son of the diplomat Sir Edwin Henry Egerton and his Russian wife, Lady Olga Egerton (born Princess Olga Lobanow de Rostoff). Edwin's father was the

Reverend Thomas Egerton, a younger brother to Alan Egerton's father William. William kept a collection of miniatures, and you can see a miniature of the Reverend Thomas (left) in the Egerton Room at Tatton.

Born in Athens, where his father was British Ambassador, John was brought up bi-lingual in Russian and English. John



John aged 17, on enlistment. Photo courtesy of Winchester College at War.



visited Tatton Park several times as a young boy with his parents, while his uncle¹ Wilbraham was the owner². Wilbraham, having had no sons himself, was very mindful of providing for the future of the youngest male generation of the family line. He appears to have been particularly fond of John, because when he died in 1909, Wilbraham left the sum of £5,000³ to him in his will, to provide for his education. The money paid for John to attend Winchester public school; where he joined the Rifle club and became an expert shot.

John was just 17, and had completed only one term at Christ Church college, Oxford, when he joined up in 1914. He chose the Kings Royal Rifles, joining the 8th (Service) Battalion, which was raised in Winchester as part of Kitchener's First New Army. The Battalion trained at Aldershot and S.E. England for several months; and then embarked for Boulogne in May 1915⁴.

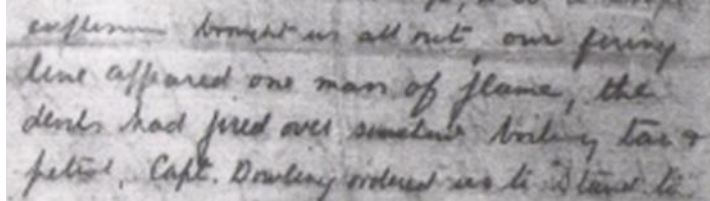
¹ Wilbraham would have referred to John as his nephew, even though the exact relationship is cousin once removed.

² In August 1905; August 1906; and September 1908. From Estensen, C: *Tatton Park Visitor Book, 1886 – 1909*, a database in the Tatton Park archives.

³ An enormous sum at the time, equivalent to more than half a million pounds today.

⁴ Available at <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/1508/kings-royal-rifle-corps/> October 23rd 2018

At the Battle of Hooge, Belgium, in June 1915, John's Battalion



had the dubious distinction of being the first division to face a

"Our firing line appeared one run of flame, the Devils had fired over somehow boiling tar and petrol, Capt. Darling ordered us to stand to..." a letter from a Lancashire soldier serving with the Kings Royal Rifles,

deadly new German weapon: the *flammenwerfen*, an horrendous petrol-fuelled giant flamethrower that torched all in its path⁵. The losses were tremendous: out of 4,000 men in the combined brigades fighting at Hooge, only 720 remained by July 21st 1915⁶.



John survived his Brigade's involvement in the second attack on Bellewaarde Farm, in September 1915 (this was part of the second Battle of Ypres,

John aged 18 or 19. Courtesy of Imperial War Museum

⁵ Account of the flammenwerfen available at: <https://www.greatwarforum.org/topic/41116-atrocity-story-from-hooge-1915/> Accessed October 23rd 2010.

⁶ Brigadier-General Nugent wrote that the Brigade had lost: "Officers... of a class we shall never be able to replace, the pick of English Public School and Varsity life." Hutton, E.T.H. *A Brief History of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps* 1917: page 74.



notable for the first mass use by the Germans of chlorine gas). He was even posted to a relatively safe position, acting as Aide de Camp on the personal staff of the Divisional Commanding Officer – a job which was removed from the danger of the trenches. He could have remained; but he chose to return to trench duty with the Battalion⁷. With his Bi-lingual skills, there was talk of another posting, as interpreter, to Russia; it did not come to pass. John's luck ran out in April the following year, when 7th and 8th Brigade were posted to the Somme.

The Kings Royal Rifles War Diary records:

"02/04/1916: As work on the chalk mound opposite I.65 N of the Railway still continued our guns fired salvoes of shrapnels over this spot during the night. Lewis gun fired at it intermittently. A stray bullet hit 2nd Lt EGERTON on patrol early in the evening...He was right on the German wire, but his company fetched him in.

03/04/1916: 2nd Lt Egerton died at 10.45pm at the 42nd CCS DOULLENS⁸. The battalion has lost a very keen & capable, as well as popular officer.

⁷ Available at

<http://www.winchestercollegeatwar.com/archive/john-frederick-egerton/> Accessed May 15th 2018

⁸ The 19th Casualty Clearing Station (Field Hospital), taken over from the French earlier that year.



04/04/1916: Funeral of 2nd Lt EGERTON at Doullens attended by 2nd Lts HILL & HARDY".⁹

John was buried in plot II.A.2. of Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme, France. He was 19 years old.



Doullens Cemetery, shortly after the War. Often, the wood from these original grave markers was brought back when they were replaced by War Commission headstones, and incorporated into memorials in England – see Louis Egerton, below. Photo courtesy of the Find a Grave website.

John is commemorated in a stained glass window in St. Michael and All Angels church, Cheriton, Hants (left), which was put in place by his aunt, Mary Augusta Phipps Egerton.

Depicted as the Arthurian knight of 'Loyalty', the



⁹ *War Diaries of the Kings Royal Rifles: The National Archives, record WO 95/1896/3*



artist has used John's likeness for the face. His shield is the Egerton of Tatton family crest, of a lion rampant with the darts facing downwards; beneath the shield is the Tatton Egerton's family motto, '*sic donec*' ("Thus, until"). Above his shoulders are the crests of John's school, and his University college. Outside the church, a stone corbel (right) shows the date and place where he died.

2/ Captain Louis Edwin William

Egerton

Born in 1880, Louis was one of four sons born to Colonel Sir Alfred Mordaunt Egerton, a career soldier and Royal courtier. Alfred's father was the Reverend Thomas Egerton, a younger brother to Alan Egerton's father William.

Louis was 34 when the War started. Educated at Eton, and Christ Church,

Oxford, Louis was already married (in 1912), to Jane Seymour, a granddaughter of the 5th Marquess of Hertford. They had four children - the last, Francis Louis, born

after his death. His main career was as a Merchant Banker with



A pre-War Louis, in his Oxford University Cricket Club uniform. Photo courtesy of Christ Church College Oxford archives.



an American bank; and pre-War, the family lived a very comfortable upper-class life in Pimlico, London, and Chilton House, Bucks.

As with his nephew John Frederick, Wilbraham, 2nd Baron Egerton was very fond of his nephew¹⁰ Louis, who was invited to stay often at Tatton Park¹¹. When Wilbraham died in 1909, he crucially named Louis as one of the co-executors of his will. The administering of the Tatton Estate, one of the richest in the land, would have been a heavy responsibility to task a young relation with, and demonstrates the closeness of the link.

As an officer in the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry (a Territorial Army) since 1907, Louis was in the first tranche of men to be called to serve in the War – a duty he would have accepted and welcomed, as he had been a member of the National Service League¹² since at least



¹⁰ Wilbraham would have referred to Louis as his nephew, even though the exact relationship was cousin once removed.

¹¹ Louis stayed in December 1899, September 1902, September 1904 and January 1907. From Estensen, C: *Tatton Park Visitor Book, 1886 – 1909*, a database in the Tatton Park archives.

¹² A pressure group formed to promote the idea of four years compulsory military (National) service, for every British man



1909. Louis had also been heavily influenced, since the death of his own father in 1908, by the robust brand of evangelical/ecumenical Christianity supported by his father-in-law, The Reverend Lord Victor Seymour. Louis worked with Church missions supporting the poor in the East End of London; his sense of public and Christian duty was very strong.

Louis served during WW1 as a Captain in the Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars, attached to X1V Corps Heavy Artillery. After serving in Egypt and Palestine, Louis was killed in action on the Western front on August 1st, 1917, at the battle for Pilckem Ridge (Ypres), France.

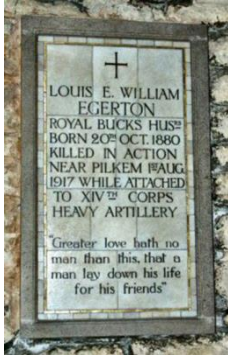


Stretcher bearers carrying a wounded man through the mud at the Battle of Pilckem Ridge on August 1st 1917 – the day Louis died. Photo courtesy Imperial War Museum.

On the day Louis died, the XIV had been ordered to advance on Pilckem

Ridge and take it, which they did; but the heavens opened and pelting rain turned the battlefield into a quagmire of mud; which is what Passchendaele is now remembered for. He was 36.

between the ages of 18 and 30. Louis was an Honorary Secretary of the Buckinghamshire League (as reported in *The Bucks Herald*, Saturday October 9th 1909, page 5).



Louis is buried in grave II E 11 Canada Farm Cemetery near Ypres. He is commemorated at St Mary’s Church, Chilton near Brill, Buckinghamshire (pictured). The original makeshift wooden cross from his grave forms part of a memorial to him.

Louis is also commemorated on a memorial in St Stephen’s Church, Gloucester Road, London SW7 – the parish church of his father in law, and the church where he was married.

3/ Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur George Edward Egerton

Born in 1863, Arthur was Louis Egerton’s elder brother, by one year: one of four sons born to Colonel Sir Alfred Mordaunt Egerton, a career soldier and Royal courtier. Alfred’s father was the Reverend Thomas Egerton, a younger brother to Alan and Wilbraham Egerton’s father William; and Alfred visited Tatton Park frequently whilst it was owned by his cousin Wilbraham.

Colonel Sir Alfred Mordaunt Egerton (the father of both Arthur and Louis Egerton), visiting Tatton Park, in a 1900 photograph from the Tatton Park Visitor Book. Alfred (indicated) is on the extreme right of the photograph, which was posed for at the Family Entrance to the Gardens. His cousin Wilbraham – by now Earl Egerton of Tatton, after being elevated in the peerage in 1897 – stands left of him (bearded; wearing trilby hat). To the left of Wilbraham is his only grandson, Walter Egerton George Lucien Keppel, styled Viscount Bury at this time. Walter also fought in the War, in the Scots Guards, but survived.



Arthur also visited Tatton Park; but only once, in 1913, with his wife Nora¹³. It may be that his military duties took him elsewhere, because Arthur was a career soldier well before the outbreak of the War.

Educated at Eton and the University of London, Arthur was commissioned, age 20, into the Coldstream Guards in 1899, and served in South Africa in the Boer War. From 1909, he was the first Adjutant of the University of London contingent of the Officers Training Corps. Arthur also married into the military: in

¹³ September 3rd, 1913 – when Alan Egerton was the owner of Tatton. From Estensen, C: *Tatton Park Visitor Book*, 1910 - 1916, a database in the Tatton Park archives.



1905, he wed Nora Mary Fynvola Mackinnon, the daughter of Major-General Sir William Henry Mackinnon, the General Officer Commanding of the Western Command; and the Director of the Recruiting Office in 1916. After this, promotion came rapidly. A keen cricketer, he played for the Guards.



Arthur was 35 years old in 1914; and served as a Major in the Coldstream Guards, 1st Battalion. He was mentioned in Despatches. His promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, in August 1915, lasted for just one month. He was killed in action, reported wounded in the arm and the leg, while commanding the 1st Battalion at the Battle of Loos, September 1915, at age 36.

Arthur was in the Chalk Pit - a scene of heavy fighting - and a shell impacted as he emerged, killing both him, and his Adjutant, Lieutenant the Honourable Maurice Browne, a son of the Earl of Kenmore.

Arthur is buried at Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, VI.G.6.



Vermelles Cemetery, immediately after the War with the original Grave markers. Photo courtesy of Find A Grave website.

Arthur is also commemorated at St Mary's Church, Chilton near Brill, Buckinghamshire, alongside his brother, Louis. The two brothers have separate memorial plaques within the church. There was another memorial plaque to Arthur, in the old Guards chapel on Birdcage Walk, Westminster (now lost; as the Guards chapel was bombed in WW2). The inscription on the marble tablet read:



*"LIEUT.-COL. ARTHUR GEORGE EDWARD EGERTON,
COLDSTREAM GUARDS 1899-1915. SERVED IN SOUTH
AFRICA 1901-2. KILLED AT LOOS WHILE COMMANDING
1ST BATTALION, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1915".¹⁴*

4/ Captain Edward Brassey Egerton

Born in 1889, Edward was the son of Charles Augustus Egerton, of Mountfield Court, Sussex; whose father was Edward Christopher Egerton, a younger brother of William Egerton. Charles, like many of the younger Egerton sons, married extremely well: to Lady Mabelle Brassey, the daughter of a flamboyant (and extremely wealthy) iron and railway magnate, Thomas Brassey, 1st Earl Brassey.

Charles and Lady Mabelle were frequent visitors to Tatton Park from 1888 right through until 1905. Edward visited with them just once, in 1905 when he was 16.

¹⁴ Inscription is from The Imperial War Museum (lost memorials) available at:
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/48567>



Educated at Eton and Christ Church college, Oxford, Edward took a commission aged 20 as a Lieutenant in the 17th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Royal Lancers (Cavalry) in 1909, and served in India, where he saw service as Aide De Camp to the Governor-General of Bombay¹⁵. He inherited Mountfield Court aged only 23, when his father died in 1912. Edward was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in June 1913; and got married in 1915, to Lady

A photograph of Edward's Military Record, showing his service in the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) and the medals he was awarded.

Note the entry "D. of Wds 1/9/16", recording his death.

Photograph taken from the National Archives, Record No. WO 339/7683

Campaign: — B. E. F. 1914

(A) Where decoration was earned.
(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A) EGERTON	17 th Lancers	Lieut.		
(B) <i>L. B.</i>	14 th Lancers	Captain		

MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
VICTORY	04/1/78	7
BRITISH		
14 STAR	04/1/72	2

Action taken: *W. 2257/M. 1/10/12-18. Auth. WS/3/1897. L. 29/1/14. W. 2866/W. d/s. 11. 20. Authy. no/3/1897.*

D. of wds 1/9/16.

Disentitlement date: *WS/3/1897*

WS/5/849 Poll Shows 17-11-14.

(6 24 46) W8138—RP433 50,000 12/17 HWV(P1947) ©17/1048

W. 2/6/2241

FOYER
S.S.

Eleanor Rachel Butler, the daughter of James Arthur Wellington Foley Butler, 4th Marquis of Ormonde.

¹⁵ Edward would almost certainly have attended George V's Coronation Durbar in Delhi, 1911.



At the start of the War, in October, 1914, Edward was still serving as Second Lieutenant with the 17th Royal Lancers; who were quickly deployed to the Western Front as part of the 1st Indian Cavalry Division, arriving in France on 7th November 1914.

Sadly, Edward did not survive. Promoted to Captain in December 1914, he died on September 1st, 1916, from wounds received at Arras, France, on August 31st. He was aged 26.

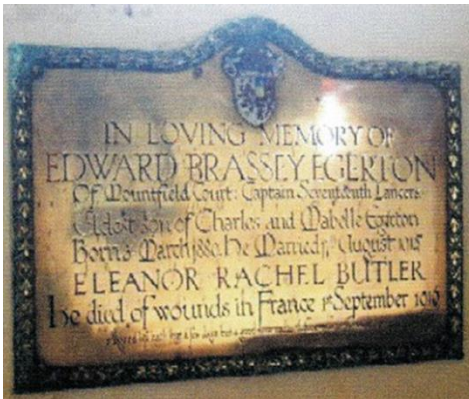
At this time, the 17th Lancers were taking their turn with other battalions in the trenches: from January 1915, they were part of the line near Festubert, France; but it appears Edward was not in the front line when he was wounded. The *Eastbourne Gazette* reported that:

"Captain E.B. Egerton...was not in action when wounded, but that he was hit by a stray shell a little way



behind the line on August 31st. He was taken at once to the Hospital, where he received every attention. He passed peacefully away at noon on September 1st".¹⁶

Edward was buried at Habarcq Communal Cemetery Extension Plot VIII E 3. He is commemorated at All Saints Church, Mountfield (pictured); on the Mountfield War Memorial, Sussex; and at Christ Church college Chapel, Oxford.



THE EGERTON OF TATTON COUSINS: AN ESTATE MEMORIAL?

The Parish Church for the great estate of Tatton Park is at Rostherne. It is a pretty church, well endowed by successive

¹⁶ *Eastbourne Gazette*, Wednesday September 20th 1916, page 5.



generations of Egertons; and it has many memorials to the family.

But it has no Great War memorial plaque to the Egertons who gave their lives. They *are* commemorated elsewhere: at their own parish churches, their schools, universities and sports clubs. But perhaps they should also be commemorated here.

