

NORFOLK WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT 1918 -1998

By Mary Ferroussat

This year, 1998, is the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War – which had touched the lives of everyone in the country: husbands, sons, lovers, friends – every family had lost someone. To commemorate the dead, memorials were erected throughout the country. In Norfolk there were 12,000 names to record. This year, a project is under way to ensure that these memorials and the men they commemorate will not be forgotten. This article explains what is being done, both within the county and in Blakeney in particular. It is envisaged that a second article will give some information about the Blakeney men whose names are listed.

The Norfolk Project

At the Imperial War Museum, in London, a National Inventory of War Memorials is being compiled. It was begun in 1989 and its aim is to recognise the historical importance of these memorials by listing every one in the country. The information from Norfolk is being organised by the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum, which aims to collect not only details of each memorial but also some biographical information about the people they commemorate.

Each year, the Regimental Museum deals with several hundred enquiries, nearly all about individual people – grandfathers, fathers, uncles. There is an increasing interest in family history and in the First World War generally. Despite continued migration into Norfolk, many families have remained in the same community since the time of the First World War and the Museum would welcome photographs of descendants as well as information about those who were killed.

Memorials take many forms: memorial halls, windows, books, as well as the cross on the village green, and plaques were erected by businesses and schools. It is important to record these memorials before they are threatened with destruction – the school that closes, the memorial hall no longer needed, or a plaque at the mercy of vandals. By raising awareness of local memorials and recording them, their future can be made more secure.

The main aims of the project are:

- to record and photograph all First World War memorials in Norfolk
- to list the names of all those commemorated, and relevant information about them
- to note any memorials under threat, forgotten, in disrepair, or without public access
- to pass on information to the Imperial War Museum
- to display material in the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum as the project proceeds
- to complete the work by 11.11.1998.

The Regimental Museum cannot undertake this work alone: help is needed. Schools are being invited to participate, but offers from organisations and individuals would also be most welcome. The survey has received much publicity in the local press, and anyone who wishes to take part, or who wishes to see if their parish is already included, should contact the Regimental Museum on 01603 493649.

The actual survey form being used by the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum is reproduced as an appendix to this article. Much of the information required should be relatively easy to find, although it may not be possible to answer every question. In particular, biographical details about some of the servicemen are difficult to come by, especially when their families have moved away from the area. An article in the Eastern Daily Press on 23rd February 1998 gave some tips about what to do and where to look, including:

- checking the Norfolk Roll of Honour – to find out in which unit the person served
- consulting the volumes of Men who died in the Great War – available in Norwich
- reading contemporary newspapers and parish magazines
- contacting the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – in Maidenhead, Berks
- visiting the Public Record Office at Kew – if all else fails.

The Blakeney Memorials

In Blakeney the memorials take three forms: the memorial on New Road listing the names of the dead, the two cottages adjacent, and plaques in the church. The memorial and cottages were built on land given by Mrs Anna Turner in 1921 with money raised by the village. In 1992, the Parish Council refaced the memorial, leaving the original surface protected underneath.

The following pages show the names which appear on the memorial and on the plaques in the church. The first list is that which appears on the New Road memorial. Unfortunately the new inscription contains four errors, all involving the use of a C instead of a G. The relevant names should read: C.A.G.Cooke, G.P.Hudson, G.King and N.G.Cooke. The second shows the wording and approximate layout of the brass inscriptions affixed to a large carved board on the wall of the north aisle, omitting the badges which head four of the five individual commemorations. The third relates to three other commemorative plaques in the church: the first is alongside the aisle board, the second (in two separate parts, on wood) is on the tower arch wall at the west end of the nave, and the third, on brass, is on the wall of the south aisle. The accompanying photographs show the cottages and the principal memorials, as well as one of the stones in the churchyard.

The author is collecting information about those who died in the two World Wars but, as yet, some of these people remain completely unknown. It is envisaged that an article summarising the results will appear in the next issue of this journal.

Other Villages

The author has also agreed to do similar work for Wiveton and Glandford, and in Cley the PCC is completing the survey form. At the time of writing (May) it is not known whether similar efforts are being made in Morston and Langham.

Mary Ferroussat is a former schoolteacher who lives opposite the Blakeney War Memorial,

**THESE
COTTAGES
ARE ERECTED IN
GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE
BLAKENEY MEN WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR
1914 -1918**

E. A. ADCOCK
P. H ALLEN
B. C. ASH
R. BALDING
V. K. BULLEN

C. CLAXTON C. KING
C. A. C. COOKE W. KING
R. COOPER T. R. D. LANE
C. HAINES J. H. LONG
C.P.HUDSON J.LONG M.M.

H. J. LONG
C. MITCHELL
J. MOORE
JAS. MOORE
J.NEWLAND
C. NICHOLLS
T. PALMER
F. W. PYKE
W. S. PYKE
C. C. G ROE
W. E. SEALES
J. W. SMITH
E. H STARLING
A. E.TURNER
H.WRIGHT
H. DANIEL

**AND IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
1939 -1945**

J. BALDING
J. A. BALDING
J. COBON
N. C. COOKE

F. W. GRIMES
R. H. HARCOURT
M. D. JACKSON
H.MILNER

DULCE

ET

DECORUM

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND
IN HONOURED AND GRATEFUL
MEMORY OF BLAKENEY MEN
WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES
FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE
GREAT WAR 1914 -1918**

Thanking God for the beloved
Memory of Cyril Charles
Gordon Roe 2nd Lieut 1st Bait
Royal Marine Light Infantry.
Youngest son of the Reverend
Canon R. Gordon Roe, Rector
of this parish and Isobel....
Alice his wife

E.A.ADCOCK
P.H.ALLEN
B.C.ASH
R.BALDING
V.K.BULLEN
C.CLAXTON
C.A.G.COOKE
R.COOPER
C.HAINES
G.P.HUDSON
G.KING
W.KING
T.R.D.LANE
J.H.LONG
J.LONG M.M
HJ.LONG
C.MITCHELL
J.MOORE
JAS MOORE
J.NEWLAND
C.NICHOLLS
T.PALMER
F.W.PYKE
W.S.PYKE
C.C.G.ROE
W.E.SEALES
J.W.SMTTH
E.H.STARLING
A.E.TURNER
H.WRIGHT

“Eternal rest grant him O Lord and
let light perpetual shine upon him.”

+

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
WARRANT OFFICER WILLIAM E. KING R-N.
26th NOV 1914 AGE 39 YEARS
ALSO HIS BROTHER
WARRANT OFFICER GEORGE A. KING R.N.
DROWNED FROM H.M.DESTROYER “CRUSADER”
DOVERPATROL 21st JAN 1917 AGE 32 YEARS
THEIR DUTY NOBLY DONE.

Giving thanks to God
for the Beloved Memory
of
Christopher Arthur
Gresham Cooke
Midshipman R.N.
Aged 18
HMS Abouku-, torpedoed
22nd Sept 1914
Battle of Jutland 31st May 1916.
Killed by explosion in
HMS Vanguard 9th July 1917.

He lived happily
and died bravely.

**IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF BLAKENEY
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE WAR
1939 -1945**

JOHN BALDING
JOHN ALBERT BALDING
JACK COBON
NICHOLAS GRESHAM COOKE
FREDERICK WILLIAM GRIMES
RAYMOND HUGH HARCOURT
MAURICE DOUGLAS JACKSON
HAROLD MILNER

TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND
IN PROUD AND AFFECTIONATE MEMORY
OF
GEORGE PETER HUDSON
WHO DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION
NEAR YPRES SEP 12th 1918
AGED 33 YEARS
HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY;
HIS SOUL TO GOD.

Giving thanks to God
for the Beloved Memory
of
Robert Balding
Aged 34
who gave his life for his Country
Sept 21st 1914
by torpedoing of
HMS Aboukir

“Thou art the same and
thy years shall not fail”

EST PRO

PATRIA

MORI

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN
DEAR MEMORY OF
FLYING OFFICER
ALEXANDER BRUCE KAY
No. 6 (A.C.) SQUADRON
ROYAL AIR FORCE
WHO DIED AT
MOSUL IRAQ
JULY 4 1928
AGE 23 YEARS

THE CLOCK IN THE TOWER
WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF
ARTHUR COOKE F.R.C.S.
AND HIS SONS
MIDSHIPMAN CHRISTOPHER
ARTHUR GRESHAM COOKE R.N.
FLIGHT LIEUTENANT NICHOLAS
GRESHAM COOKE D.F.C.
1945

AND A CONTRIBUTION TO
ITS ELECTRIFICATION WAS
MADE IN MEMORY OF
ROGER GRESHAM COOKE
C.B.E. MP.
BY HIS WIDOW AND FAMILY
1973

Giving thanks to God for the
beloved memory of Alfred
Henry Waldy Esquire Capt
46 Regt who served in the
Crimea War and was present
at Sebastopol and Inkerman
Also of Georgina his wife and
Richard Wartyr their son Capt
2nd Bedfordshire Regt M.I. who
served with the Tsazar Exped
ition 1892 and Chitral Relief
Force 1895 and died of wounds
received at Paardeburg South
Africa 1900

The Lady Chapel & the windows
in this Aisle are dedicated by
one who loved them.



