

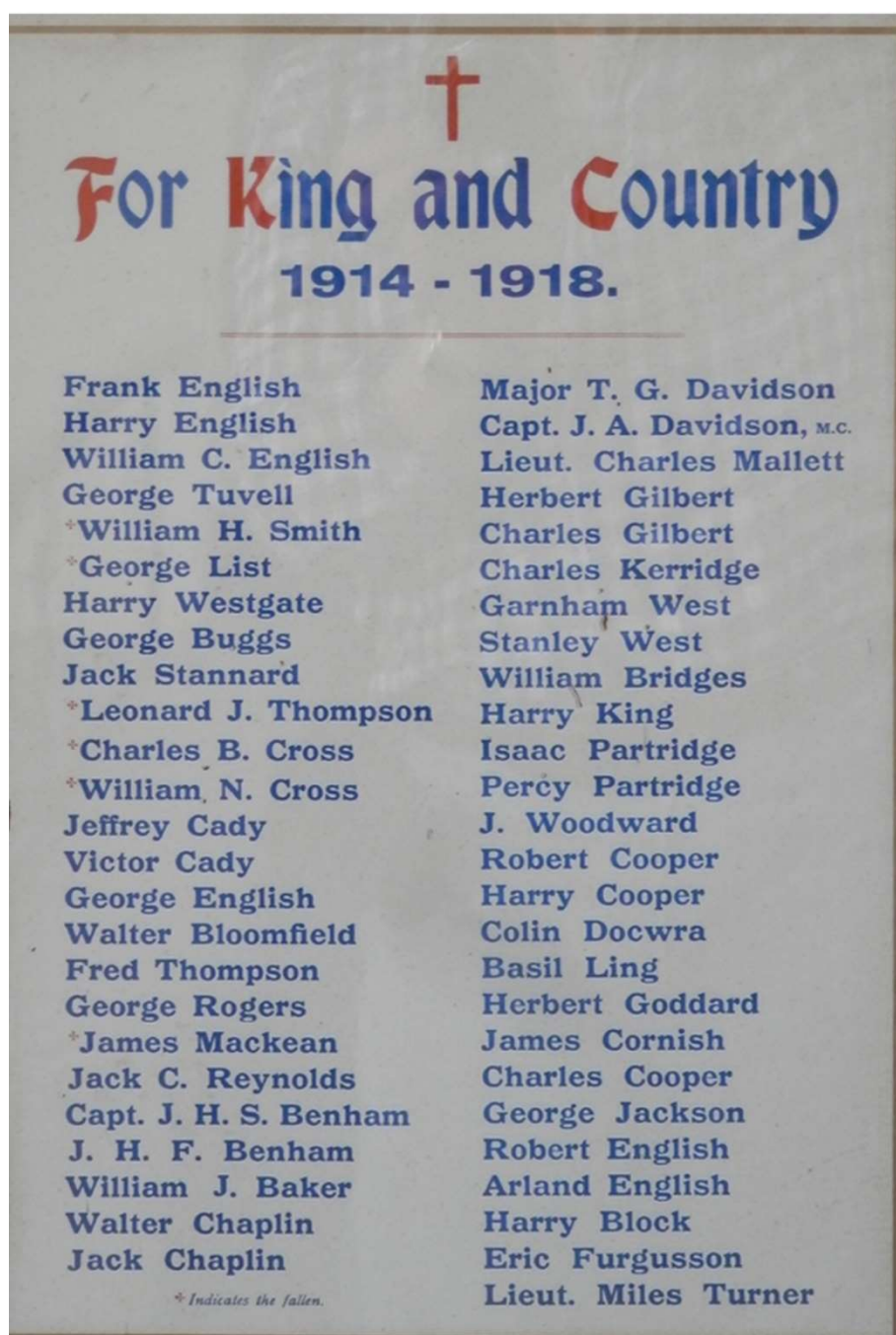
For King and Country

World War I in Walberswick

Revised November 2018

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With help and research by Kim Kitson



Preface

In 2014, a century after the start of WWI, I wrote an article inspired by the list of names in St. Andrew's Church, Walberswick, headed "For King and Country 1914-1918". This article looked at each of the names on the list and some that were not. I always intended to update the article in 2018 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the end of the war. I made an appeal to readers to send me new information, anecdotes or photographs. I am very thankful to those who did. I have now extensively revised and expanded the original text. Originally I reviewed the names on the list in the same order as they appear on the list. One hundred years on and the reason for the order of the names still makes no sense so I now list them alphabetically as families. Men with the same surname are grouped together. However, this should not be seen always as meaning they were close relations. Most obviously are related but not always.

It was a war that changed the country and people's lives. Where possible I have included details of what the participants were doing before the war, family connections and what happened to them afterwards. For some there was no afterwards.

Opinion - The following section can be skipped as it is not factual

In the 2014 edition I kept mostly to the facts. As we have now marked the end of the war and look towards the anniversary of the 1919 treaty of Versailles I am adding some personal thoughts. It is difficult not to have an opinion about such a cataclysmic event but opinion should be based on fact. I am not an expert and my opinion is largely emotional. Therefore, please feel free to skip this section.

Over the years, and particularly during the last four, there has been a plethora of books, articles, films and television programmes concerning WWI and the centenary of the peace. In my life-time WWI has increasingly gripped the public imagination. When I was a child it was taught as history whereas WWII was too recent for history. We were living in the shadow of WWII, a modern war, with parents who had lived it. In reality WWI was the first modern war, being fought with ferociously-destructive weapons. Today's school children see both wars as history. Often they have a chance to visit the WWI battle grounds and cemeteries and view both wars with a better perspective.

The facts leading to the outbreak of war are there for all of us all to see but the conclusions people reach can be different. A while back there was a leader in The Times newspaper headed "pity of war" which included three words that I found particularly disagreeable. These words were, "unavoidable", "necessary" and "sacrifice". I wrote a letter to The Times in response but it was not published. I imagine that they had too many letters. Who wrote the leader I do not know. Max Hastings has written a lot for The Times on WWI and is an eminent historian. It may have been him. He still writes about the necessity of WWI. I could not match his knowledge or intellect. But, as I say, other people armed with the same facts reach different conclusions. My opinion remains that the war could surely have been avoidable. If the powers had realised the consequences surely they would have found another way. A few individuals did express their fears but not enough to stop it. This dispute was blundered into with little idea of how it would develop. Much discussion has taken place about who was to blame and many blame Germany and the Kaiser. This is used to support "unavoidable". The descendants of Queen Victoria certainly had a part to play. The generals and the politicians on all sides played a dangerous game. Maybe it was inevitable, but I still think it should have been avoidable.

How could it have been necessary? Necessary for who and for what? It certainly did not have a good outcome. Spanish flu spread by the returning soldiers killed more than the war. The Russian

revolution resulted in the death of millions in the Soviet Union. The “victory” paved the way for a continuation of fighting and killing 20 years later. This second war included a terrible act of genocide and two cities levelled by atomic bombs. The cold war after WWII thankfully remained cold when it could easily have resulted in a nuclear exchange.

Finally, there is that word “sacrifice”. Without doubt there were many acts of individual heroism but I do not think that is what it was about. Initially it was an adventure for the first volunteers. Then came conscription. Men were shot by their own side for not advancing or executed as cowards as an example to others. I never heard my grandparents or parents talk about people sacrificing themselves. My father, a POW in WWII was so sad for his friends who did not make it and for the German people he saw suffering as he tried to get home. That second war may have been necessary but necessary to clear up the terrible consequences of the first. Adolf Hitler would surely never have forced his way to power without Versailles.

The older I get the more I feel for the lives ended and blighted by the “Great War”. I was lucky and did not have to repeat the history of grandfather and father and fight in a world war. Maybe that history stopped our leaders turning the cold war into a very hot war. Since 1945 the world has contemplated WWIII. Luckily 70 years have passed without it. Unless we learn the lessons of history we risk repeating the mistakes. As an infant school boy I was touched by the imagined “romance” of war. I wanted to be being a Spitfire pilot (one that survived of course) shooting down the enemy. In the sixties I studied the famous war poets. Unlike my English masters I could see the romance of Rupert Brooke’s famous poem. I can now easily appreciate what a terrible tragedy it was. Wars once started are difficult to stop. Once stopped then the consequences of victory are not as simple as imagined. Our modern leaders should be able to see this, but do they? Regime change can sometimes make things worse.

I know people who refuse to wear a poppy. I think that they are wrong but I understand why they feel that way. I know why I wear mine and that is all that matters for me. On Remembrance Day I think particularly of my Father as a 21 year old man pitched into a war he probably did not really understand. After the war he could not settle in Walberswick but tried to visit on remembrance Sunday, not to glorify war but to remember the dead, to remember his friends. All the men that went to war were heroes but mostly reluctant heroes caught up in something they had to do.

Does any good come from war? Defeating Hitler is an easy argument to win but it carried a high price. The two wars may have advanced women’s rights and the erosion of class barriers. It’s difficult to believe that all women did not get the right to vote until 1928. Following 1918 attitudes to class started to change for various reasons. A generation had been decimated. The ruling class had fewer men to work for them. Autocratic monarchy in Europe disappeared. The British constitutional monarchy survived. They changed their German name and condemned their Russian relatives to a vicious end to help their survival. Finally, it is doubtful whether this relentless level of death over days, weeks, months and years would be acceptable to the British public in this day and age. On the first day of the Somme over 19,000 British soldiers were killed in a battle that would eventually kill 400,000. That’s without counting the other side’s losses. This was a “fair” war with the super powers on the Western front facing each other over a few miles of land. The use of nuclear weapons in Japan to end WWII possibly contributed to them not being used again. A war between the current super powers would indeed probably “be over by Christmas”.

After the war parents, wives, friends and neighbours needed to salvage something from the carnage of war and war memorials were one way of doing that.

The opinions above are mine alone and should not be attributed to the people who helped me write this piece.

Introduction

On the 4th August 1914 the United Kingdom entered “The Great War” (World War One / WWI as it later became), a decision that would change the British way of life forever. Just over four years later with millions either dead or physically and mentally scarred the country struggled to deal with the massive loss of sons and husbands. In the UK just under a million people died as a result of the war (more counting post-war deaths). This was around 2% of the population! Every city, town, village and probably street in the country was touched. This was an unprecedented experience. One way that the country and communities dealt with this was through the erection of war memorials. Possibly another driving force was the decision in 1915 not to repatriate the war dead. The sheer numbers, the mutilation of bodies and the health risks from decomposing corpses made this impractical. The decision was not well received by grieving relatives. A hundred years on we can visit the graves and memorials erected on foreign soil but this was denied the immediate families. Now the fields of pristine, uniform, white headstones form a poignant reminder of the scale of the losses. Probably these foreign fields now convey a message better than scattered graves across the UK but that is now and not then. I have been to Flanders myself and it is awe-inspiring. It is difficult to comprehend.

This article expands, revises and updates an article posted on the Walberswick Local History Group web site in 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war – see: <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/assets/WLHG/For-King-and-CountryV051014.pdf>. That article provided some details of the men from Walberswick who served in WWI using the names recorded on the Walberswick memorials. It was always the intention to work on an expanded and more detailed publication to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the war. Four years on this has been assisted by the ever-increasing availability of records posted on the internet. It has been very gratifying and useful that a number of people responded to 2014 article with memories and photographs. However, many names still need more information. Updating some entries is difficult as not only has the generation that experienced the Great War died but in Walberswick very few direct descendants are still living in the village.

The appeal for new information after the 1914 version did produce some new information and memorabilia. A number of people living outside Walberswick but with family connections picked up the article and contacted WLHG. From inside the village there has been little. After one hundred years the demography of Walberswick has changed greatly. Many of the old families that were around in 1914 are no longer represented. Most, if not all, of the second-homers have long sold-up. Surnames in an area are known to evolve in time and ultimately can disappear. This can be seen in Walberswick with the name English. Starting in 1763 with Edmund English records show large numbers of people born in Walberswick with this name in the 1800's. In the early 1900's this continued but by the end of the century the surname had all but died out. There are probably quite a few reasons for this (including in my case having 3 daughters and no sons) but one can imagine that two world wars increased the mobility of people. In the case of my great grandfather he and his wife produced four sons and three daughters. After WWI three of the sons emigrated to either the USA or Canada. One son (my grandfather) remained in Walberswick. He produced four sons and one daughter. After WWII one son went to New Zealand, one went to South Africa and one moved to another part of England. The one son who remained in Walberswick never married, and as far as we know, never had any children. With the death of this remaining son in 1997 this branch of the English family in Walberswick disappeared. The other two main branches of this family name present in the 1950's have also disappeared.

Walberswick in 1914 was like today, a mixture of primary and secondary homes. The balance was different and class barriers certainly were different but essentially there was this mix. Fishing and farming were the main areas for villagers to earn a living. The well-off flitted in and out or retired

here (as now). Census records often show large houses barely occupied probably because the census was carried out in winter. Presumably the owners and their families were resident in other places at the time. A number of these relatively “well-off” families are included in the record of men going to war. It is interesting to think how it was decided who was and was not from the village. It looks like parental influence could have been a factor. Who would deny a grieving parent their chance to mourn in the place of their retirement? The retired and business families presumably died out or sold up after the war. The depression came between the world wars causing more misery and upheaval. However, the rich and famous are easier to research than the disappeared old families as there are internet records of their activities after the war. Also, a number of the artist community that settled in Walberswick have also left behind visual records of people and places.

One artefact that still remains in the village is an embossed brass box and an enclosed Christmas card and photograph of Princess Mary (seventeen year-old daughter of the King and Queen). The other contents (tobacco or sweets) have, understandably, not survived. These boxes were the result of a “Sailors and Soldiers Christmas Fund” instigated by the young Princess and were intended to be given to all serving overseas on Christmas day 1914. The box in the photograph was found in a display cabinet where it sat with other memorabilia. Well over two million of these boxes were distributed but this one is remarkable in that it remains in the family of the recipient and is still in Walberswick. The enthusiastic response to the appeal for money to provide these boxes perhaps is an indication of public optimism about the war in 1914. The full horror of the dead and maimed family and friends had yet to be seen. By the end of the war public subscriptions were being elicited for a much more sombre purpose – the erection of memorials to the war dead.



Walberswick in the years leading up to the war

Visually, the Walberswick of today may appear little changed from 1914. The two pubs were there (though The Anchor has moved), the Terrace had been built, Mill Field Road was there, and many of the houses we see today were in existence. Walberswick had a railway then but travel by car would be unusual. Villages then were very self-contained but after the first and second world wars much changed socially. It is interesting to think of this small, isolated community as it was in the early 20th century. A community and way of life that WWI was set to alter.

After the first addition of this article appeared I was contacted by Gerald Fergusson. Gerald's father, Eric Fergusson, is one of the men listed on the plaque in the church. With Gerald's help I have been able to expand the section on Eric later in the document. Gerald also sent me the pictures reproduced below. They show a community of boys and girls enjoying the simple pleasures of life, almost certainly unconcerned about a developing international situation. One that would come to touch them all with the loss of lives, friends, fathers, brothers, husbands and potential husbands.

Below I reproduce Gerald's words as it is marvellous to be able, almost, to connect with someone who was there.

Gerald says:

Bun Day. This is a photograph of the school children sitting on the mound in front of the Bell when the school was closed for a day. The tradition was that each child would be given a bun or a small bag of sweets. The figure in a peaked cap is a postman and the man on horseback just happened to be riding by. Eric is top left although I cannot pick him out.

According to Gerald the picture to the right shows the Walberswick scouts in 1910. It is not possible to identify the boys but it is easy to imagine that come



1914/18 they could be wearing different uniforms. It would be lovely to find out who these boys are.

Similarly it would be good to know the names of the boys and girls gathered on The Green in the next picture from Gerald (right). Eric is one of the boys seated. I include the following from Gerald as although not directly related to the war it relates to a time leading



up to the war. This verbal history is worth capturing. Gerald says:

A couple of stories, hope I am not repeating myself.

Dad could remember playing a game called Englishmen and Dutchmen when he was small. A boy would take a handkerchief and fold it diagonally to give a triangular shape. A corner of the longer side would be tied to the point of a straight stick. The other end of the diagonal would be held between the teeth. The remaining corner would be held in the hand so that when extended the result looked like the foresail on a ship. The boys would chase each other around some being English and others being the ships of the evil Dutch Admiral Van Tromp. How many years since the Battle of Sole Bay?

The other story is as told to Eric before he became a beater. When preparing a shoot, the head Game Keeper, perhaps Andrew List, would call the boys together to give them final instructions. They took along sandwiches for a snack. The keeper always took a light coat which he would get one of the boys to carry. As the boys walked along an accomplice of the keeper would be whispering in their ears. "Old fool, he's past it, can't hit a barn door "etc". The someone would add "let's show him up' One of you lads challenge him to hit something, say a cap". Of course the keeper had to be persuaded but he finally gave in. A boy threw his cap and it was duly riddled with lead shot. On the day in question none of the boys was prepared to risk a hat. Finally one called out 'Could you hit this bag Mr List? The usual routine was followed and the bag came down full of holes. "Sorry I've spoiled your sandwiches" the keeper said. "S'all right Mr List" the boy replied. "I've just et em. Your coat's in the bag". That story must be at least 107 years old. G

While we remember all the young men (we might even call them boys) who would find themselves leaving home for war there were, of course, some of the older ones who got caught up as well. In the picture on the following page, supplied by Gillian Smith a descendant of the Cross family, so many Walberswick families are represented and some of the men pictured actually served. The picture was taken around 1900. Some of the same men are also in the picture in the Cross family section and you can see the difference in age. It was a hard life and working in the fields and at sea particularly so. What the occasion was that brought these men together is not known. It must have been special. Photography in 1900 was not what it is now. This picture was posed and must have been for a reason. The quality of the photograph is very good. Large format cameras would be used and everyone would sit still. This is a scan of a copy and the quality of the original is obvious.

The families in the picture are:

- William Cross (brother of Benjamin), Bob Cross (son of William) and Weston Cross (nephew of William) – William and Ben’s stories are told later on – both were sadly killed
- Chas Cooper - Chas (Tow) Cooper’s story is told later on. He was the father of Dinks
- George English and C English – George’s story is told later on. Could the C English be Charles English? Charles would be about 73 at the time and the man pictured could be that age. Charles and his wife had 10 children before his wife died in 1867.
- H Jackson – the man in the picture is probably Horace Jackson, the father of George Jackson whose story is related later
- D Kerridge, D Kerridge and Ben Kerridge – the first two could be David and Duncan. Ben was a popular name for a Kerridge. Charles Henry Kerridge, born 1883, was the grandson of Ben Kerridge born 1833 and maybe son of Thomas and Martha – Charles’ story is told later on
- Jack Stannard – but which one? Clearly too old to be the Jack whose story is told later on



Chas Cooper John Millican H Todd

C Buckingham J Stannard G Buckingham Wm Cross D Kerridge H Jackson

D Kerridge George English Weston Cross C English Bob Cross Ben Kerridge

(Picture from Gillian Smith a descendant of the Cross family)

The Walberswick WWI War Memorial

Memorials to the dead of WWI and WW2 are now part of the landscape. The memorials that were erected all over the country, naming the dead, took on various forms. However, many are familiar as stone crosses on a base on which the names are written. Walberswick does not have a stone cross. Here the names of the dead are on a brass plaque inside St. Andrew's church (see right). The decision not to erect a stone cross may have been because only six men of Walberswick were killed, far fewer than in many other towns and villages. The memorial is inside the church and this is not always the case with memorials elsewhere. Local memorials were financed locally without government assistance and this may also have been a factor. A search of the Parish Council records may produce an answer. After WW2 another brass plaque was placed under the WWI plaque plus a memorial carved into the church gates.

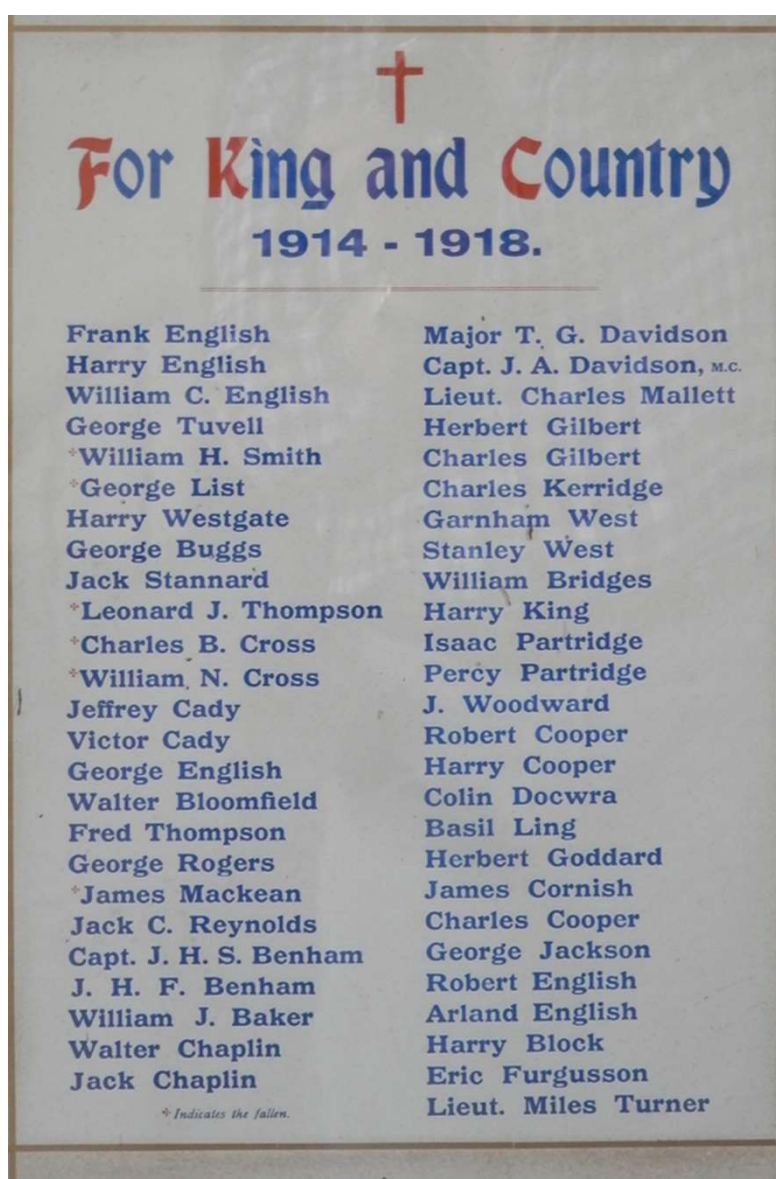


Details of many of the local memorials can be searched on-line at <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Suffolk>. Often the site will detail how the memorial was paid for and erected e.g. for Westleton the site records "The memorial was unveiled on 25th January 1920, the builder was Mr Fred Barber. Details of the unveiling can be found in the East Anglian Daily Times 27th January 1920 and the Suffolk chronicle 30th January 1920". Walberswick, for some reason, does not have an entry on this web site. However, the memorial mounted on the wall inside St. Andrew's church, does have a name in small letters at the bottom right – P. F. Alexander. In 1911 Philip Frederick Alexander is recorded as living with his wife, two daughters and a servant (Emma Cooper) at "The Mill Field", Walberswick. Born in Hampstead his occupation is given as "Artist Metalwork". Further details of P F Alexander and examples of his work can be found in Southwold museum where it is suggested that he was commissioned to make a number of memorials. The address in Mill Field (now Millfield Road) is identified as a house called "Far End" which was designed by Frank Jennings. Alexander had a workshop in the garden and this can be seen in a photograph displayed in Southwold Museum and in the Frank Jennings video produced in Walberswick by Bill Ungless. His wife, Frances Bryan was a talented artist as were their two children. A visit to Southwold Museum is well worthwhile and gives some idea of the quality of this man's work which is still traded today. Julia Reisz remembers him very well: he was a great friend of her father, A E Coppard. His daughter, Catherine Alexander, was a well-known calligraphist who was often employed to write important documents, such as the Queen's Marriage Certificate.

Men of Walberswick – “For king and Country”

In addition to the memorial to the dead, further down the church on the right, there is a framed document headed “For King and Country 1914 - 1918” listing all the men of Walberswick who served 1914 to 1918. This list of men is in two columns and it looks as if these are meant to be read from top to bottom. However, while many family names are grouped together this is not always the case. The order of names is not alphabetical or by rank. It is difficult to see any reason for the order – perhaps they are simply in the same order as collected. After a hundred years some men’s associations with Walberswick appear tenuous but at the time, with emotions running very high, it would have been much clearer! Certainly by 1919 there was a Walberswick Peace Committee and every child was given a bible in commemoration of peace. The chair of the committee was N R Etheridge (Noah?) and the secretary Jack C Reynolds (see sticker on bible presented to Ronald English dated October 1919 on the final page). It is likely that this committee would have been a party to the erection of these memorials.

There are 51 men’s names on the list. Of the 51, six were killed. This is almost 12% of those who served in Walberswick. It is estimated that about 2% of the total population of the UK died as a result of the war but in the population that actually fought this was much higher. The national average was possibly about 2 in 10 men killed, around 20%, so Walberswick appears to have had fewer “fallen” on average than other towns and villages. Searching the roll of honour site referenced earlier it appears that Walberswick did have fewer men killed than any of the surrounding villages. In Westleton 18 dead are listed, Darsham 16, Wrentham 26, Yoxford 29, and Southwold 52. On the Blythburgh roll of honour 17 war dead are recorded though this 17 includes five of the six on the Walberswick list. Even if the 17 are reduced to 12 this is still higher than Walberswick. Perhaps Walberswick had a higher



proportion of men in the navy or more men in other occupations supporting the war effort but presumably not overseas? As mentioned later some of the Walberswick men that served were relatively old and may not have gone to the most dangerous places (though the North Sea was fairly dangerous).

In what follows men with the same surname are grouped together but this should not be seen always as meaning they were close relations. Most obviously are but not always.

Six of 51 on the list have the name of English. There were several large Walberswick families with the name English in 1914. All can be traced back to an Edmund English who was born 1763 and died in Walberswick in 1834. All six men returned home. Similarly, three of the 51 have the name Cooper and all three returned. Cooper was also quite a large Walberswick family at the time. The Cross family (another large and well-known Walberswick family) was not so lucky with two men going and both being killed. The Thompson family had two men go to war and one killed. Also killed were William H Smith, George List and James Mackean.

The summaries in the next section are in alphabetical order, by family name, and provide some details of the 51 men listed. Various sources of information have been used to try to add interesting detail concerning individuals and families. Sources of information include

- Census records
- 1939 National Registration
- Birth, Marriage and Deaths records
- War Graves Commission
- Local knowledge / oral history
- Kelly's Directories for the time
- Roll of Honour for surrounding villages
- Church memorials
- Relatively large artist community – on line information
- Internet databases
- Walberswick Families from 1600 - 1900 compiled by Hanns Lange in March 1993.

More information on Hanns can be found in a short article in WLHG newsletter #51 – see <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/assets/WLHG/WLHG-news-letters/HISTORY-GROUP-NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY-2017.pdf>. Hanns fascinating list is now available to peruse on the Walberswick web site (<http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/walberswick-local-history-group/families-hanns-lange/>). Hanns, to respect the privacy of families listed, did not include any information dated after 1900. Some of the people who went to war may have been born after 1900. Hanns compiled his list using an old-fashioned type-writer after consulting the original records. His listings bring together various sources (see the introduction to the document) and make it much easier to trace the inter-relationships between various families. With so many people with the same family name and the same given name this is invaluable.

Names that are on the list in the church

The Baker family

There is a large number of Bakers on Hanns Lange's listing dating back to a John Baker born 1787 but not the WJ Baker below.

- **William J Baker:** There are two William Baker's listed in the 1911 census. One was an inmate at the invalid house on The Common. He was born in London and would have been about 12 at the outbreak of war. Given his invalid status it is unlikely to be him. The other, aged 18, lived in The Street with his parents and was "a cowman on farm" and is more likely to have been the person listed. William was born in Frostenden, his father in Benacre and his mother in Cove. William and his father worked on local farms and that may explain their move to Walberswick. Lange does not list this family, presumably because they arrived in Walberswick after 1900. What they did after the war is not yet known.

Curiously, Hanns Lange records two members of the Baker family, a **Herbert Henry Baker** and a **Frederick William Baker**, brothers, as being killed in the 1914/18 war. The sources quoted are "war memorial" and "parish records". There is no mention of these two men on the war memorial in the church as having been killed and only one Baker (above) on the list of those serving. The parents of these two men are William Baker and Anna Maria and this is a different family to William J Baker. The parents of William J Baker on the 1911 census are Daniel and Mary Ann Baker. It is a mystery waiting to be solved. Lange was assiduous in his research and this may just be a typing error. Easily done.

The Benham family

There are no Benhams in Hanns Lange's listing of Walberswick families but there is a John Benham shown in Kelly's Directory for 1891-1912, living on The Green. There is also a Thomas Charles listed for 1912-29 and listed as an artist. The Benhams clearly had a firm connection with the village but probably as a place of holiday and retirement.

- **JHS Benham (Capt.):** Born in Islington in 1853, by 1911 he is living in Walberswick on The Green and a retired solicitor. Pre-retirement he appears to have been based in London. John Henry Sirrell Benham, to give his full name, would have been 61 in 1914. He seems far too old to have served but the initials JHS are very specific. War records show a Captain JHS Benham in the Royal Defence Corp, Territorial Force. It must be him serving in some capacity, but unlikely to be abroad. Presumably he had some useful experience at a time when the country was desperate.

There was another Benham living in Walberswick in 1911, a Thomas Charles, aged 56, at "Rockcliffe", The Street (now 1, The Terrace). He was also born in Islington. His occupation is



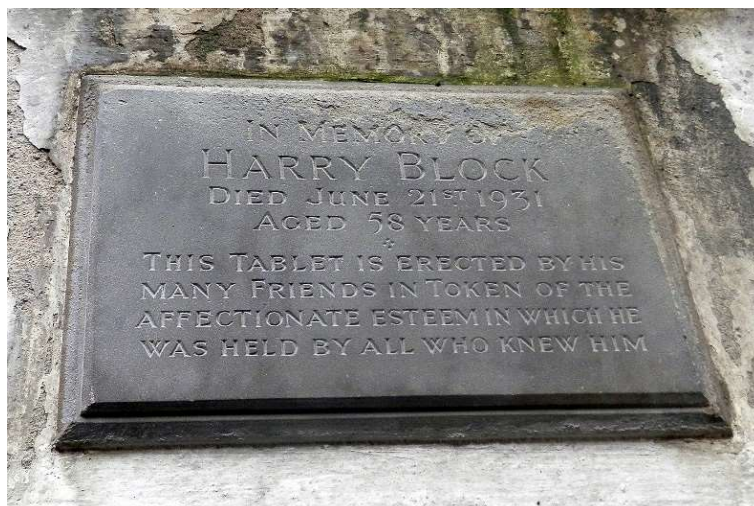
given as artist/painter. An example of his art can be seen in Richard Scott's book "Artists in Walberswick". The man in the picture above is Tom Benham (pictured with George English – see later) taken between the wars. Thomas was a brother to JHS and in 1901 they were living together in Islington with JHS's wife. Tom is shown as head of the household, though the younger brother, and may have been single. JHS was living at Tom's house, Rockcliffe, when he died in 1923. JHS established the Walberswick Reading Room in 1889 and had a long association with the village.

- **JHF Benham:** Born in Twickenham in 1884, JHF Benham was the only son of JHS Benham (see above). In the 1891 census he is living in Walberswick with his mother. Maybe they were on holiday. Presumably his father was elsewhere (Islington), working. By 1901 JHF was a boarder at school in Beccles. John Henry Findlay Benham was 26 in 1911 and back living with his parents in Walberswick. His occupation is unclear. He did not remain in Suffolk for long and died in Kenya in 1935 at a relatively young age.

The Block family

I recall the Block family featuring prominently in 20th century Walberswick life but they are not listed prior to 1900 in the Lange listing. This is because they were relatively recent arrivals. They do feature in the books on Walberswick in WWII (Sharman et al).

- **Harry Block:** Harry was born Eastbridge in 1874. In 1911 he was living at The Quay, Walberswick with wife and 3 children (2 others had died by this time). He is commemorated below a window in St Andrews, date of death 1931, aged 58, "by his many friends". He was father to Henry Block, 13 in 1914. The Blocks were well-known builders in the village.



Since the above information was posted I received more information about the Block family from Harry's sisters line i.e. *"You might be interested to know Harry Block was my mother's uncle and brother to my grandmother, Alice Odine Barnes, née Block. You rightly say the family came from Theberton where Harry's father, Henry, was a shoemaker"*. The family member reminded me that the Blocks were also undertakers and caused me to dig out an old photograph proving that. This building, now demolished (current business is Sardine Tin)



apparently started life at the Harbour and was moved to the Green after 1947. The sign lists the work carried out (see reference to ad. In the parish magazine <http://walberswick.onesuffolk.net/assets/WLHG/WLHG-news-letters/HISTORY-GROUP-NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY-2017.pdf>)

The Bloomfield family

The Lange document shows a large community of Bloomfields prior to 1900. I recall the family that lived in one of Anchor Cottages for many years. The remaining family member with that name who lived there died recently.

- **Walter Bloomfield:** Walter Charles Bloomfield was born in Langley, Norfolk in 1898. In 1901 he lived in Covehithe, Suffolk with his parents George and Hannah Bloomfield. George was a horse worker on a farm and was born in Walberswick. In 1911 Walter was a schoolboy living in Church Road, Walberswick with his grandparents Charles and Hannah Bloomfield. He would have only been 16 in 1914 and it would be interesting to know his war record.

The Bridges family

Hanns Lange lists just four members of this family, Harry and his wife Fanny plus their children William John and Annie May. Philip Kett believes William's uncle, John Goddard, was the last tenant farmer at Valley Farm, by the 1920s it was rented out. The house called Valley farm had at that time good views across the harbour and was the subject of a number of paintings. The flood defences subsequent to the 1953 flood changed the view.

- **William Bridges:** Born in Walberswick in 1896. Lange lists the family and William was the son of Harry Bridges, born 1870 (a carpenter), and Fanny Bridges (born Goddard, 1873). In 1901 and 1911 William Bridges was living at The Farm (Valley Farm) with his widowed grandmother, Fanny Goddard, her daughter in law, Rachel Goddard and his younger sister May and his uncle John Goddard. Grandparents John and Fanny Goddard (born Rimmington) were farmers. John died in 1892 and Fanny was a farmer in her own right in 1896. The money could well have come from the Rimmington side of the family – see later.

The Buggs family

There were a number of people with the name Buggs in and around Walberswick in the early 20th century. There was a famous Major Buggs with a stable and riding school in the 1950's. I do not know if they are related but the name is distinctive enough for this to be so.

- **George Buggs:** This man was born 1891, Gislegham, Suffolk. In 1901 he was aboard ship at the time of the census and in 1911 living in Walberswick with his widowed mother Caroline Buggs, his younger brother Edward John Woodrow Buggs and his uncle Charles Benjamin King. It would have been quite a move from Gislegham to Walberswick but Walberswick was where his mother was born. Perhaps it was related to losing his father. Charles King was Caroline's brother and his family were living in Walberswick in 1901. Caroline is recorded as a Walberswick shopkeeper in Kelly's guide for 1904. George was a bricklayer in 1911. By 1916 he was an attendant at Hill End Asylum, St Albans, and Hertfordshire before enlisting. George Frederick Buggs signed up aged 24 years and 5 months on 4 December 1916 at Bedford into the Training Reserve Battalion and later transferred to Machine Gun Corps and served overseas. Wounded in action 1917 (gun-shot wound to the right leg) he survived and died in Hertfordshire 1970.

The Cady family

There was a large Walberswick family named Cady in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Jeffrey and Victor below can be traced back to a Noah Cady born in 1760. Life was not always easy for all members of the family. Naomi, an aunt of the men below is described in the 1851 census as a "pauper washerwomen" at the age of 12! Austerity was certainly alive in the 19th century.

- **Jeffrey Cady:** Jeffrey was born in Walberswick in 1900 and in 1901 was living in Gladstone Cottage, The Street, Walberswick with parents and siblings. In 1911 he was living with his parents James and Jane Elizabeth Cady (born Cross), sister Elsie Dora, brothers Joseph, Francis and Victor Lewis. The father was a James Cady "retired from the navy" aged 77 but the mother Jane was only 43. His father died in 1914, aged 80, before the start of the war but his mother survived until 1950, aged 83. After the war Jeffrey served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary, as did his brother Victor. It would be interesting to know what took the family to Northern Ireland at such a time in the history of the Island of Ireland. The answer is possibly provided from a remark made in the Fergusson family section. Apparently Jeffrey went out with Eric Fergusson's sister Muriel. Eric's son told me "*Geoffrey was in the 'Black and Tans'*". This may explain the association with the RUC.
- **Victor Cady:** See Jeffrey Cady, above

The Chaplin family

The Chaplin family were "transients". William and his wife Annie (born Tuthill) arrived in the early 20th century. William worked with horses but why they moved from west to east Suffolk is not known - possibly as William found work in one of the big houses looking after their horses and carriages (see picture). This could have been Tower House or Walber House. William died in Henstead in 1927 and his wife survived until 1948, dying during a taxi journey from her home to Walberswick. They had 10 children including four sons. Two of the sons are included in the list in the church as shown below.

- **Walter Chaplin:** Walter was born in Hemingstone. Walter had three brothers but only brother Jack (see below) is listed as serving from Walberswick. None of the boys appear on the 1911 census - just the parents and one daughter (Ada) - address "The Green". By 1927 the parents had also moved on, William dying in Henstead. While the parents and brothers left Walberswick their sister Ada married a Walberswick man, Robert English (see later) in 1917 and remained in the village until her death in 1994 at the age of 97. Another sister "Nellie" married a Frank Fenn and retired to Walberswick from West Suffolk, living at Fern Cottage (two doors from her sister in Beach View) for many years. The photograph to the right possibly shows Walter and his brother Jack (but see the Mallett section). After the war Walter's future lay away from Walberswick though two of his sisters would end their days there.



- **Jack Chaplin:** This is John Chaplin - see comments for Walter Chaplin. One of the Chaplin men was seriously injured during the war and returned home with a metal plate in his head. Like many men after the war he did not always receive the empathy his injuries deserved. This could have been Jack but my memory fails me and the original sources are no longer available. Like his brother, his future lay away from Walberswick.

The Cooper family

The Coopers can be traced back as a Walberswick family to at least 1825 and there are descendants in the village today. Dinks (Robert) Cooper was a Walberswick “character” remembered by many today and his photographs and leaning post can be seen in The Bell. Dinks Father was Tow (Charles) Cooper. The family once lived variously at “The Savoy” (near the ferry) in summer and Tows Cabin in winter. While The Savoy is little changed Tows Cabin looks very different today and is actually a new building on the site of the original. It is not at all certain that the following are all related as Cooper is a common surname.

- **Charles Cooper:** If this was Tow Cooper then he was born 1866 the son of George and Rachel Chapman Cooper. His full name was Charles English Cooper, his mother being Rachel Chapman English before marriage and showing her descent from the English and Chapman families. Tow Cooper was almost 50 years old at the outbreak of war. However, as we have already seen and will see again, this was not that unusual in the circumstances for men with useful experience. Experienced fishermen bordering the North Sea would have been particularly useful. Tow Cooper was a cousin of George English another older mariner. See page 67 of the ferry book by Dani Church for a photograph of them both. Tow Cooper remained in Walberswick to become one of the “old boys”.
- **Robert Cooper:** This looks likely to be the Robert Cooper who was the stepson of Frederick Elmy and Emma Cooper. Born in 1871 he would have been in his forties at the start of the war. The Elmy family are well represented in Hanns Lange’s listing. Frederick and Emma Elmy had two sons born 1883 and 1884. Emma was born in Thorington and Frederick in Hinton while their children seem to have been born in Walberswick. Four of the step-children were born in Hinton and the last one in Blythburgh in 1875. They clearly pre-date the marriage of Frederick and Emma but whether they are from a former marriage or illegitimate is not clear.
- **Harry Cooper:** This Cooper was born in 1884 in Elmswell, Suffolk the son of Robert and Elisabeth Cooper. In 1901 he was a railway porter living in Chingford. By 1911 he had moved to Walberswick and was living at The Mill Field, Walberswick with his widowed mother Elisabeth. He was a private soldier in the army.

The Cornish family

There are no families of this name in Hanns Lange’s listing or census documents for Walberswick possibly indicating they were second homers or arrived after 1911.

- **James Cornish:** There is a James Cornish listed in Kelly’s directory for 1912-1922 and living at Diglis. There is a Mrs Cornish listed in Kelly’s directory for 1925-1937 and living at Wayside. What their trade was is not shown. Philip Kett recalls three ladies with the name Cornish living at Wayland Cottage, almost opposite Leverret’s Lane, so it looks like the family arrived after 1911. When they left and what happened to them is yet to be determined.

The Cross family

The Cross family was a large and well-known Walberswick family during the 19th and 20th centuries and provided a number ferry men before the job passed to related members of the Church family. For further information see Dani Church's book on the ferry. The Cross's were unlucky in WWI as two members of the family were killed. This was so very sad for their parents as the men were brothers. Their parents were not strangers to loss as three of their other children died at birth or soon afterwards.

- **Charles Benjamin Cross:** Charles was born in Walberswick in 1886, the son of William and Anna Cross (born Cullingford) and brother of William Cross (see next). He was living with his parents at Marsh Knoll in 1911 and working as a "mud man" repairing river walls – an occupation we could perhaps revive for our times. In 1913 he married Helen Richie (known as Nellie). Nellie was the relative notified of his death and was living at Beach View, Walberswick at the time. They must have rented this property as it has always been owned by the English family. As I now own this house I was surprised to discover this fact and can only imagine the heartbreak it caused. The delivery of telegrams would have been a common and feared event.

Charles was killed 6th April 1917, aged about 30 on H.M. Trawler "Strathrannock" whilst sweeping off St. Abb's Head. The record states "struck a mine and was blown completely to pieces. Not a survivor was found, not even a spar nothing except a lifebelt". His rank is



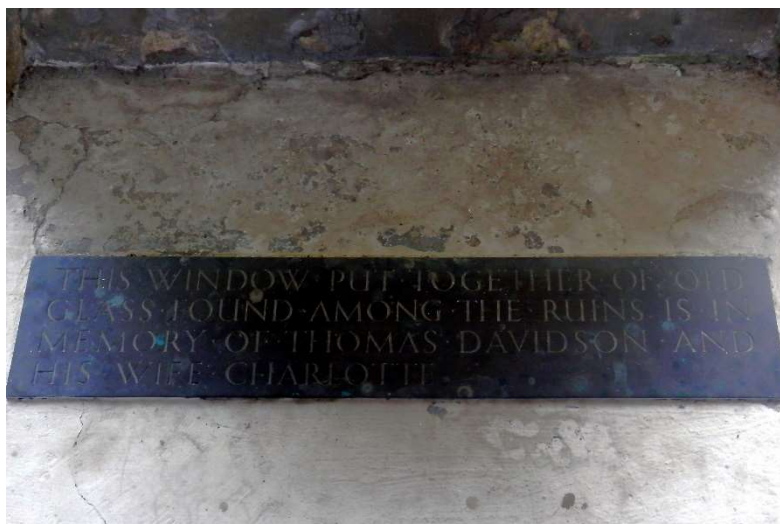
shown as "Deck Hand" and he is remembered with Honour at Chatham Naval Memorial 5360DA. Charles Cross is far right in the picture on the right. His father, William, is second from the right. Weston Cross is standing. This picture was taken around 1912. The coming war was probably not on the agenda.

- **William Nelson Cross:** William was born 1891 and also the son of William and Anna Cross and brother of Charles (see above). He married Evelyn Elsie Thompson in 1916, and lived at "Concord", Walberswick. Evelyn may have been the sister of Fred Thompson (see later). He died 21st March 1918 aged 27 and is remembered with Honour at the Arras Memorial. Other details are T/202690, 1st Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

The Davidson family

The Davidson family do not appear in Hanns Lange's listing but the family are represented in the Walberswick census for 1911. A Thomas Davidson is listed in the Kelly's guide for 1904 to 1916 with an address of Seahome (see below). Similarly a Mrs Davidson of the same address appears for 1922 to 1929. These are likely to be the parents of TG Davidson as Thomas senior died in 1919 and his wife in 1930. As can be worked out below, the family were of the "well-off" variety that divided their time between Walberswick and other places where, presumably they made their money.

- **TG Davidson (Maj):** Thomas Gerard Davidson, born in London in 1878, was an architect. In fact, according to Richard Scott in “Artists at Walberswick” it was he who designed the family house in what is now Millfield Road (called Seahome then and later Mulberry House). His father, Thomas (aged 69) and mother, Charlotte, are recorded in the 1911 census as living in Mill Field with a married daughter (Winifred van Oss) and her children but there is no mention of TG or his brother, JA Davidson – as both were living and working in London. The parents have window plaque in the church (see above).



Thomas senior was a respected artist and more details of him and other members of the Davidson family can be found in Richard Scott’s book on artists in Walberswick.

Thomas and Charlotte’s Davidson's grandson Thomas Willem van Oss (son of Winifred) was also an artist. Tom missed WWI but sadly was killed in WW2 and although born in Walberswick is not included in the Walberswick WW2 memorial. He lived a lot with his grandparents in Walberswick and worked as an artist in the area having a studio on the Blyth for a time. Whatever, he has a memorial all of his own (see right) on the church wall opposite to the brass plaques showing he was born in Walberswick in 1901 and “killed at sea 1941 on active service”. It then states “He followed grandfather and uncle, all painters in this village”. The uncle was probably



Allan Davidson, another son of Thomas senior – again see Richard Scott’ book.

- **JA Davidson (Capt.):** James Alexander, born in Hampstead in 1884, he was living with his wife in Hendon in 1911. He was mentioned in dispatches in WW1. He died in Hampshire in 1945. There appears to be little to connect him to Walberswick other than his parents and other family - see TG Davidson above. The family clearly had influence within the church as witnessed by the plaque to van Oss.

The Docwra family

Docwra is an unusual name and there is nothing on this family in in Hanns Lange’s work or any Walberswick census up to 1911. Philip Kett recalls there were four Docwra brothers living in Dunwich with a Tim Docwra living at Potton Hall on the Westleton Road around 1970. A younger

relation was milkman in Dunwich in 1980. What the exact connection with Walberswick in 1914-18 is not clear.

- **Colin Docwra:** From use of on-line databases the following details have been obtained. These back-up the Dunwich connection remembered by Philip Kett but go no further in explaining the Walberswick connection. It is strange but there will be a connection, possibly through a parent. Colin Cecil Docwra was born 28 November 1898 in Bures, Suffolk. He looks to be the son of Launcelot and Catherine Docwra. If so, he had a number of brothers and sisters variously born in Essex, Bucks and Suffolk. His father is described as "living on own means". He appears to have worked at Jointure Farm at Dunwich before enlisting. Apparently he wanted to enrol in the Royal Flying Corp but was sent to the West Yorks regiment. He was wounded in action and possibly had a leg amputated and was a POW. He survived, marrying in 1923 an Alice L Driver of Hartismere district, Suffolk. In 1939 he was working as an Agricultural Tractor Drive Heavy Worker in Thingoe, Suffolk with his wife Alice. He died 29 December 1976 in Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (thanks to Kim Kitson for uncovering these details).

The English Family

As previously mentioned, this was a large family which in the 21st century has all but disappeared in Walberswick. The problem in earlier centuries is that many family members were given the same first name or were known by another name. My own father's first name was Theodore but he was always call Ron. Nick-names were also commonly used, perhaps as a way of dealing with people of the same name.

- **George English:** This could be George Ellis English, born 1893, son of Ellis Chapman English and Sally Jane. He had a brother who appears on a census as "Troublesome Jack". An unusual name to go on official records? However, compelling photographic evidence and service records in the national archive suggests this was a much older man, George English, the father of Robert English (see later) both then of Fern Cottage. One photograph shows George sporting three medals. These are probably the 1914/15 Star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. Apparently these three medals were sometimes referred to as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred, with Pip representing the 1914 Star, Squeak represented the British War Medal and Wilfred represented the Victory Medal. The other picture shows him wearing the uniform of the Royal Navy Reserve (the Wavy Navy). His service records (available on line from the National Archives) show his war record starting March 1915, though he has a certificate of competency (for what?) dated in 1910. Ships refer to Halcyon II and "Proceed". This may make sense as in August 1914 Halcyon II became the ship of the Senior Naval Officer North Sea Fisheries, serving under the orders of the Admiral Commanding Coast Guard and Reserves, located at Yarmouth. He may have been mine sweeping as a number of trawlers were used in the North Sea during WWI. Further research in Lowestoft is needed. George was born 13 Aug 1858 in Walberswick. He would have been almost 55 at the start of the war. His wife, Mary Ann, shown in one of the photographs was the sister of Sam May of Southwold lifeboat fame. George and Mary lived their entire married life in Fern Cottage, The Street. Mary died in 1939. George lived to see the



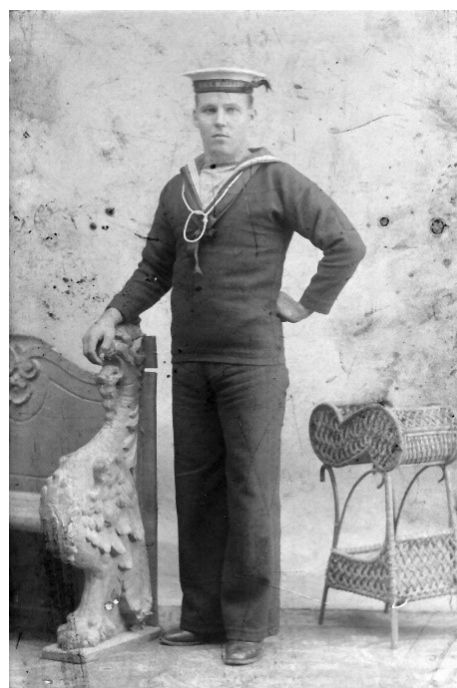
resumption of war with Germany and died 14 May 1945 in Walberswick just before the second war ended.

- **Robert English:** Walberswick has had many men called Robert English over the centuries. My own name of John Robert English continues the tradition. Almost certainly this is Robert (Bob) James English, son of "Captain" George English of Fern Cottage (see earlier). Bob enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1906, aged 18, and therefore was already serving at the outbreak of war in 1914. His service record shows dates in 1905 prior to enlistment. The picture to the right shows Bob standing at the far left. This is on HMS Dove and would probably be pre-war. This ship is not listed on his service record. The other



photograph shows him serving on HMS Mallard. This ship is also not shown on his service record. It is possible that these pre-date enlistment.

Bob married Ada Chaplin (sister of the Chaplins mentioned earlier) in Walberswick in 1917. His first child, my father, was born in July 1918 while the war was still raging. Bob was a stoker and remained in the naval reserve after the war ended. His service record is on-line but it is difficult to work out exactly where he was during the Battle of Jutland but I believe that he was there. The record suggests that he was on HMS Diligence, a service ship, attached to flotilla leader Faulknor. Following the navy he worked variously in Walberswick fishing and in the building industry. At some time he rowed the ferry and there is a photograph of him in Dani Church's book. He was known as a man who could be difficult. His daughter mentioned that he could have suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome. So many veterans of WWI suffered terribly after the war from a condition that was poorly understood and not well tolerated. Bob and Ada had



four sons and a daughter. His first son Ron, was born in July 1918 during the final months of the war but in July 1918 nobody knew that it would end soon. All four sons served in WW2 and all survived including Owen who lived at Beach View after the war until his death in 1997. The other brothers and a sister all left Walberswick after WWII. Bob died in 1968 on his 80th birthday.

- **William C English:** It is not possible identify this William with absolute certainty. There were a number of Williams but only one is a William C (Cleveland) but he died before the war started. There was a Charles William English, son of Ellis Chapman English and Sarah English (nee Howlett) and it was not unknown for names to be switched. However, Ellis was born in Walberswick and Sally in Southwold and according to census documents they set up home in Southwold, where Charles William was born. It is doubly unlikely to be him as this man was sadly killed in 1916 while serving with the Royal Navy and is buried in Gillingham. He is rightly

listed on the Southwold roll of honour and not in Walberswick, though he was a descendant of this large Walberswick family. This branch of the family was very unlucky as his brother, George Ellis English, is also listed on the Southwold roll of honour. It appears he was killed in 1917, a member of the Queen Victoria's Rifles, and commemorated in France. All this being so, I would think that this William C English is actually Herbert William C English, otherwise known as Scarborough. This man and the two Southwold men were cousins as their fathers were brothers, sons of Charles and Elizabeth (nee Adams) English. Scarborough was fortunate enough to survive. Born in 1879 and would have been about 35 at the start of the war. Though not a particularly young man he could well have served, as did so many other older men. Scarborough and his wife "Queenie" had five children. For more information see Arthur Sharman's books on Walberswick families in WWII.

- **Frank English:** This is probably Francis George English, son of Robert Charles and Emma (nee Cullingford) English and brother of Herbert William C English (see above) and Arland Augustus English (see below). These men were uncles to brothers "Boko" (another Arland) and Harold "Dubba" English, both well-known members of the Walberswick community post WW2. Frank was born 2 February 1883 and married Florence M King in 1913. He served 1914-1920 in the Royal Artillery (Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery). In 1939 he was working as a general labourer in Lothingland, Suffolk. He died 29 September 1966 at the District Hospital Southwold.
- **Arland English:** Born 20 August 1885 in Southwold he married before the war in 1913 a Lily A King. Arland Augustus English joined the Royal Navy aged 12 on 20 August 1904 and last served 30 July 1919. He served in the RN as a stoker. See notes on Frank and William C English. In 1939 he was a fisherman living in Lothingland, Suffolk. He died in 1970.
- **Harry English:** It is not possible to identify this "Harry". There are two Henry English's that the dates look right for. It could be the son of William English of Rose Cottage. Henry was a mariner and about 25 in 1914. He was the uncle of Jimmy (a 20th century local character known to many) and Harry Meakins. The other Henry was Henry Charles English brother of William C, Frank and Arland (see above).

The Fergusson family

I am indebted to Eric Fergusson's son Gerald for providing so much text and the photographs. This really brings the era to life with so much verbal history. I have included Gerald's text almost unedited to retain the feel that it was all almost yesterday.

However, to help with the chronology and using Lange's listing, this is how I see the overall picture. The story covers three generations of the Fergusson family and their relationship with the Evans and Thompson families. Firstly, there is the mysterious appearance of Mary Fergusson from Canada with two young children, Henry (Eric's father) and Thomas, but no mention of the father. Mary is shown as a shopkeeper. The son Henry married a Jessie Evans who was the daughter of Edward (Commander Evans) and Elizabeth Evans (granny Evans). This union produced three Fergussons, Edward, Eric and Muriel. Eric was the father of Gerald who provides the detail below. Finally "granny Evans" remarried after the death of Edward one Alfred Thompson and this was apparently not received well by the family.

At the time just before the war the 1911 census shows a family of Ferguson's living at "The post Office". This is the old post office near the harbour now called Post-Office Cottage. The Father was a fisherman, born in Canada (Henry F), the mother running the post office (Jessie F nee Evans) and a son, Eric Fergusson, 11 in 1911 plus sister Muriel. The other brother died around 1900 aged 14 months.

- **Eric Fergusson:** *It is probable that the PO started when Jessie Evans had a little business in the late 1890s selling stamps. She continued after marrying Henry Fergusson and moving to the cottage.*

There were two postman although dad was not sure when they were working. The first was probably Mr Lane, a short, elderly gentleman with a beard. He walked over from Southwold at about 8.00am and made deliveries around Walberswick returning with parcels that Jessie had ready about midday. He was particularly busy in summer when holiday visitors arrived. Jessie put mail in a sack and sealed it with red wax. When the flow of mail was exceptional my father Eric helped by taking a bundle over the Ferry. The fare was halfpenny either way but he was excused payment. He remembered his mother gave him 1/6d for the job which he put into his bank account. He thought it a fortune at the time and I guess mum was being very generous. The second postman was Mr Ceach (?), big man who was said to have been in the Guards. He came over at 8,30am and performed the same function.

The PO prospered during the war when so many soldiers were billeted in the area. By then Jessie's mother had come to live next door and an internal door was knocked through. The combined cottages had five bedrooms including an attic room where a maid lived and was paid 1/6d per week. The first girl was Rose Elmy and she had only one eye. My impression is that the family were not sad to see her go. The next maid was Ellen Dorsay, a big girl from Covehythe who also did not find favour with family. Eric's sister Muriel helped her mother after she left school and her speciality was selling postcards.

Zeppelin raids: My father saw the first one which he described as coming over at about 500ft and blotting out the sky. I think that was his own joke because history suggested they were much higher when they crossed the coast. This one would probably be the one that bombed Woodbridge.

My father died in 1988 and I believe he always looked back on his Walberswick days as being 'the Golden Age'.

Eric's grandmother was known I think as 'Granny Evans' and she lived next door to the Post Office. A communicating door was knocked through between the cottages. I think that after Granny Evans died Jessie and daughter Muriel slept there and Eric had the front bedroom in the Post Office. Granny Evans married for a second time and her new husband was a local man Gentleman Jim Thompson [Alfred I think]. He was known to be a 'ner do well' who spent his time propping up the bar in the Bell and scrounging free drinks from holiday makers. He had a stock of smuggling stories. I have his walking stick. I knew the Stannards for a while and it was a gift from Tubby.

Fishermen: The identities of the three seated men are not known but the standing figure is 'Gentleman Jim' Thompson. He married my great-grandmother Evans after the death of her first husband Commander Evans who had a long career in the Navy. He served in the Battle of the Baltic during the Crimea war. Gentleman Jim was no



sailor. He spent his time in the bar of the Bell telling smuggling stories to holidaymakers, He could not get by without a drink and it was said that, broke and desperate, he pushed his wheelbarrow to the pub and bartered it for a pint. As mentioned I have Jim's walking stick.

When Commander Evans was still alive Granny Evans lived on the Green in a house referred to as 'The White House'. I think this would be the large house on the same side as the Stannard's cottage. It is of course no longer white.

Eric: Studio photograph taken just after he completed basic training at Catterick (see right). He was very proud of the badge on his sleeve as this shows he passed out as a 'Marksman'.

The Post Office seems to have originated with Jessie Evans Fergusson although I can't sort out the dates, My father thought that it had started with his mother Jessie being asked to keep a few stamps but it must have developed quickly as later he described his dad Ernest [Henry] making space for or one of the first telephones in the Post Office. I cannot imagine how this could be fitted into the living room but dad did say it had a slightly sunken floor. A postman with a sack of mail came over from Southwold on the ferry every day.

Jessie, my grandmother ran the office by herself until assisted by her daughter Muriel when she left school. Muriel died very young. It has been said that she decided to swim from the kissing bridge down the creek, into the river and finally to the sea. I imagine the creek had a lot more water than

it does now but it was a surprising thing to do in view of what went into the creek at that time. I believe Muriel was engaged to Geoffrey Cady and her ring is now with my granddaughter.

Geoffrey was in the 'Black and Tans' and I have a photograph of him in uniform although he was wearing a greatcoat. Significantly he wore a peaked cap and there were no badges of rank to be seen. He wore a leather belt and there may be a revolver but this particular snap is somewhere in my roof space and I have not seen it for years. I met Geoffrey just once and only for a few minutes. He was living in the family house not far from the Anchor on the North side of the road. The house is timbered and I think one bay protrudes slightly. He had spent the war in a Japanese internment camp and was clearly no more than a shadow of his former self. I wish I could say that we had a profound conversation about life and families but in fact we talked about my new motorbike which, I boasted, would do seventy-four mph on the flat.

Interesting to learn about Canada. Have we a deep dark secret in the family? There is a mystery regarding the Canadian connection. Eric told me that his father Henry Ernest was brought over from Monkton in Canada by his grandmother and there is the obscure reference to her saying 'The names of both boys are on their father's grave'.



So the obvious conclusion is that she was a widow and bringing two very small children back to the England must have been so difficult. However I discovered a website for Monkton and there was a Captain Thomas Fergusson and he had two children, the daughter's name was Muriel. In fact these children seem to have spent their lives where they were born and there is no suggestion that they went anywhere else! So, was it a divorce? Something very serious must have happened to force a woman with two children to even attempt the long journey home

Eventually our stories all end up the same way and the picture on the right shows the final resting place of Henry and Jessie Fergusson and their short-lived daughter Muriel.

The Gilbert family

There is a small family of Gilbert's recorded by Hann's Lange. They appear to have originated in Wrentham though there are some Gilberts recorded in the 1700's. There are now descendants of the Gilbert family living in Walberswick but not with the name Gilbert.

- **Herbert Gilbert:** This was another "old man" of the war. Presumably, like George English his fishing skills were transferable. Herbert Lewis Gilbert was born in Wrentham, Suffolk son of Charles and Charlotte Rose Gilbert in 1865. In 1891 there was a Herbert Lewis Gilbert living at Blyth House with his wife, Alice, daughters Rosa Annie, Mabel Ellen and Norah Hanna plus son Charles Gilbert (see below). Blyth House was destroyed by a bomb during WWII. The hit was on a house across the road but the blast destroyed Blyth House. The front door of this building can be seen in the picture on the next page. Herbert died in 1925 so never witnessed the destruction of his house. Herbert and son Charlie, is one of at least two father and son entries in the list. Herbert can be seen in the picture on the right wearing a naval hat. Some interesting facts can be gleaned from his service record. Herbert Lewis Gilbert was confirmed as a rating on 29 May 1915 and was mobilised before any training. Maybe this was



because he was already a seasoned mariner before he signed up aged 51. He was invalided out with a disability for which he was awarded £60 on 17 August 1917. He was suffering from 'tobacco amblyopia' - this affects the eye sight and is supposed to originate from excessive cigar and pipe smoking (or tobacco chewing or snuffing) rather than from cigarette smoking.

- **Charles Gilbert:** Charles James Gilbert was born in 1895. In 1910 the census shows his father Herbert listed as a fish-monger and Charlie, aged 15, as "assisting in the business". The picture to the right shows him standing outside the family home "Blyth House". He is in uniform and maybe the red-cross badge indicates his role in WWI. This was presumably taken during the war. Post-war, Charlie married Frances Strange in 1920. Philip Kett believes that he moved up the street before Blyth House was destroyed by a bomb blast that also destroyed The Old Vicarage to his wife's parent's house, Ryecroft. Further investigation shows this to be incorrect. Charlie and Francis lived in Ryefield (not Ryecroft) very happily into old age. Charlie's sister, Mabel, married John (known as Jack) Catchpole. Jack used to sell garden produce from his bike. The Catchpoles lived in Ryecroft. Maybe the confusion arose as building of the houses could

have been a joint project or possibly as in the 1980's there was a family of Strange's living in Ryecroft (but they were unrelated). The deeds say Charlie bought the property as a plot in 1924 (it was then on the very edge of the village) and built the semi-detached houses. Family folklore has it that the houses were a wedding present to Charlie and Francis and Mabel and John. While this looks a generous gift by today's values, land was cheaper then as was labour. Charlie and Francis's house remained in the family after the death of Charlie and Frances. Charlie Gilbert was still fishing in the 1950's and I remember him well (he used to deliver jam jars of fish guts to me outside The Anchor to use as bait). As will many, I also remember his daughter, Peggy, and have a photograph of our families taken during a holiday on the caravan site. There are pictures of him in later life on the wall of The Bell. Charlie died in 1971.



It looks like Charlie could have been tending the injured during WWI but there is evidence that he himself was injured. Charlie is third from the left in the hospital picture below. Perhaps he is a patient or maybe working? His service record suggests that he was granted some sort of certificate on 28 April 1918 for sustained shock from immersion. His ship was sunk by explosion of a mine whilst on patrol duties. It is not possible to work out which ship this was. He was also awarded 'prize money' after the war. He was demobilised 20



May 1919 but appears to then have been part of the Royal Naval Reserves.

A nice little cross reference to another part of the WLHG archive is that Charlie can be seen on his fishing boat in "East Anglia Ramblings" and Herbert's fish-mongers is on the famous Walberswick scroll (painted 1931, so after his death).

Just to complete the record, John Burns Catchpole, born 1890, married Mabel Ellen Gilbert, born 1892, in 1918. Mabel died in 1965 and Jack in 1969. Jack served in WWI but was not a Walberswick man before marriage. In 1911 he was living with his parents in Westleton/Dunwich having been born in Uggeshall. He was a farm labourer in 1911. He is pictured to the right. The couple lived at Ryecroft after the



war (see earlier) until their deaths.

The Goddard family

Hanns Lange records a large number of Goddards living in Walberswick before 1900.

- **Herbert Goddard:** This was Herbert James Goddard, born 12 August 1896 in Walberswick, the son of Herbert John and Ellen Louise Goddard. His grandparents were John and Fanny (born Rimmington) Goddard who, both farmers, were owning 30 acres. In 1911 he was living at Albion Cottages, The Street with parents, sister and cousin and working as a farm help. See the Thompson family section for a picture of Albion Cottages. His father was working as a farm labourer. During the war he was a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. After the war he moved away to Croydon. He was working as an electrician in Croydon at the time of his marriage to Ethel May Baker (nee Parking) on 22 December 1923 in Croydon. In 1939 he was working as an electric meter reader and lived in Croydon with his wife. He died 27 November 1981 in South Norwood, London. There is another reference to Croydon in the Rogers family section as this is where George Rogers was born and there is an association through the Rimmington family.

The Jackson family

This was a small local family.

- **George Jackson:** George David Jackson was born in 1872 in Walberswick the son of Horace and Hannah Jackson. Horace was born in Chediston in 1849 and moved to Walberswick. His wife, Hannah, had the maiden name, Todd. It looks like she was a local which maybe is what introduced the Jacksons to Walberswick. The Todds were a well-known Walberswick family at the time. In 1911 George is living with parents and brother and sister at The Street Walberswick. The brothers are working as fishermen. George died locally in 1977 and is still remembered.

The Kerridge family

The Kerridges were a large Walberswick family and descendants live in the area still.

- **Charles Kerridge:** Charles Henry Kerridge was born in Walberswick in 1883, the grandson of Ben Kerridge, born 1833 and probably son of Thomas and Martha. Ben was also the grandfather of Ivy Cross, wife of Harold Cross. The picture to the right is of Ben, taken around 1900. The picture in the section on Walberswick before the war includes three Kerridges, D Kerridge, D Kerridge (David and Duncan?) and a slightly younger looking Ben Kerridge. In 1901 Charles is living with Ben and Sarah Kerridge (his grandparents). He is a miller's carter. The reason he is living with his grandparents may be explained by a tragic event during the year of his birth which would mean he never knew his father, Thomas. There is a stone memorial in a window space in the church in memory of seven Walberswick men who were drowned in September 1883



after their boat, "The Clipper", was lost at sea. The drowned include Thomas Kerridge, son of Ben and father of Charles. Drowning was an occupational hazard in the fishing industry. The stone can be seen to the right. It also includes Charles and John English, brothers of George English (see earlier). Louis Goddard was the uncle of Herbert Goddard listed earlier. Charles Kerridge married Florence Pearce, born in Halesworth, in 1910. The 1911 census shows Charles Kerridge, and Florence living in Gladstone Cottage, The Street, Walberswick with his grandmother, Sarah. Charles died in Blythburgh in 1963. A view of The Street taken from almost outside Gladstone Cottage can be seen elsewhere in this article.



The King family

Lange records a small number of Kings in Walberswick.

- **Harry King:** Harry was born in 1894 in Cratfield, his older brother in Fressingfield and his younger brother in Walberswick. There is a Harry King in the 1911 census, aged 17, living in Church Road with his parents with occupation, ostler at a public house. His parents, Robert and Mary, were born in Leiston and Westleton respectively. He married Mary A Twine in 1920 having survived the war. This family of Kings appear to have originated outside Walberswick and moved around the area.

The Ling family

Hanns Lange lists a Bartholomew and Elizabeth Ling who died in 1753 and 1747 respectively. There are no other records for Ling in Walberswick.

- **Basil Ling:** Born 1880, in Benacre, Suffolk son of Frederick and Julia Ling farmer of 800 acres. In 1903 he married Gertrude Ellen Mallett, possibly in Walberswick. Gertrude Mallett was a sister to Charles F Mallett mentioned in the following section. Basil does not appear in the 1911 census for Walberswick as he and his family appear to have moved to Warminster in Wiltshire, working as a miller. The family connection to Walberswick was apparently enough to get him listed on the Walberswick WW1 memorial, maybe due to the connection with the Malletts who were clearly well-off and therefore influential.

The List family

The Lists were a local family associated with the game-keepers profession.

- **George List:** George Herbert List was born in 1898 in Blythburgh, the son of Andrew and Anna List. His father Andrew was a gamekeeper in the employment of the Blois family. The 1911 census shows George living with his parents in Blythburgh. In 1917, at the time of his death, his parents were living in Walberswick at Wood Cottage. One of the fallen, he died of wounds in

Flanders, 22nd December 1917, aged 19. He is remembered with Honour at Grevillers British Cemetery, 86252, 13th Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment). His younger brothers were Ernest and Jack List and descendants still live in the area but no longer in Walberswick.

The Mallett family

Hanns Lange's researches show a family of Mallett's living in Walberswick in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The father, a Charles Mallett, a wholesale draper died in 1924 at the age of 75. Philip Kett recalls that the family had a haberdashery shop, possibly in Sloane Square, London (they referred to The Old Corner House as "Sloane Square"). The census record places the family at The Corner House in 1891 but there is no mention of them in 1901 or 1911. Presumably they were in London at those times. The family must have moved at some time between 1891 and 1904 as Kelly's directory for 1904-1922 shows a Charles Francis Mallett living at Tower House. This would cover the war years and it is just possible that the earlier picture in the Chaplin section could have been taken there. Also, see the picture to below right – could these be Malletts? Kelly's shows a Mrs Mallett living at Tower House 1925-1937. This would be Ellen Sarah, the wife of Charles (she died in 1937).

- **Charles Mallett (Lieut):** Fortunately Hanns Lange recorded middle names when transcribing his researches. The man recorded on the document in the church is almost certainly Charles Francis Mallett, the son of Charles Mallett. In 1891 there is a Charles F Mallett, living with his widowed mother (?) in The Old Corner House along with his sister Gertrude Mallett (later wife of Basil Ling). Internet records him as Assistant Commissarie of Ordnance and Acting Deputy Commissarie of Ordnance & Captain 25th January 1918.



The Mackean family

This family provides a small mystery. The Mackeans were in Walberswick for just a short time and have left few traces but James Mackean's name is recorded as a WWI participant and one of those killed.

- **James Mackean:** Born in 1886 in London, by 1901 he is living with his parents at The Bell, Middleton along with 3 sisters, the eldest of which is shown as "an imbecile" - no political correctness in 1901. The 1911 Census records James Elder Mackean (his father), aged 58, running The Bell Inn, but this time in Walberswick. His son, James is not listed. There is no mention of him elsewhere in Walberswick so presumably he was living or working away from the village in 1911. Although one of the fallen on the Walberswick memorial his death is not listed on the War Graves site (or is not findable). It is possible he was a civilian casualty, was not in the forces or died after 1918. However, someone, presumably his parents ensured that he was added to the Walberswick memorial. There is an indication in the records that the family was involved in a dispute with the Blois family and WCLC over land near the old cattle arch by the

railway. However, that does not explain the apparent disappearance of James Mackean junior from the casualty lists. A search of non-forces records does identify a James Mackean in the Mercantile Marine (later called the Merchant Navy), serving as a wireless operator, who was killed on the 29th January 1918. His death is recorded on the Tower Hill Memorial, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. A visit to the memorial may identify the ship he was on at the time of his death. It is not certain that this James Mckean and the Walberswick James Mckean are one and the same but it would seem a good explanation. Unlike many names, Mckean does not come up often in searches.

The Partridge family

Hanns Lange's listing does not include this family. The reason for this is that the family only moved to Walberswick after 1900. They do not seem to have stayed in the village for long making details hard to find.

- **Isaac Partridge:** Isaac was born in 1893 in Norfolk. He was a son of Isaac and Charlotte Partridge who appear to have moved around Norfolk before being recorded at Tinkers barn, Walberswick in 1911. He may have married an Annie Parker in Walberswick in 1911. Annie appears to have been born in Wenhaston. He enlisted in 1914 and went to France with the Royal Artillery in 1915. However, other records show him in the navy and noted for war services in action at the straits of Otranto 15 May 1917. Like his father, Isaac senior, he was a shepherd. He survived the war but died at a young age in 1924 at Forehoe, Norfolk.
- **Percy Partridge:** Born North Creake, Norfolk he was a younger brother of the Isaac listed above. His date of birth appears to be 18 July 1897 – did he lie about his age when he signed up on 26 July 1915 for the Royal Navy when he was actually only 17? He was demobilised 12 May 1919 at Kings Lynn. In 1939 he is a stockman living with his wife and children at Marshland, Norfolk. He died in Kings Lynn, Norfolk in 1973.

The Reynolds family

They are not found before 1900 in Lange's listing. The Reynolds were a local "business" family in the first half of the 20th century with properties on the sea side of the Green. Jack had a grocery shop which subsequently became "Hacketts" and then the home of actress Anne Todd (now Sea Green Cottage). Ethel, his wife, had a drapery and stationary shop, also on the Green (now Hedgeley) and the family lived above the shop. The Old Tea Room (Julia Reisz' current house) was opened in the 1930s by Jack's sister, Miss Reynolds, who altered the house to provide suitable premises. At the same time Greenways (Maureen Thompson's house) was built to provide a home for their mother. So Greenways is actually a comparatively modern building, though with its thatch and leaded windows everybody assumes it must be old. Jack survived the war and in July 1920 he and Ethel produced a son, Peter. This was their first and last child. As can be seen below, this line of the family came to a sad end in the 1939/45 war.

- **Jack C Reynolds:** Where the family came from is not certain. There is a John C Reynolds, born 1887 in Swaffham. In 1891 the family are living in Easton Bavents with two servants and two "assistants". There are two younger siblings, Mildred and Bertha. In 1901 Jack is a boarder at a school in Ipswich. Jack was secretary of the Walberswick Peace Committee after WW1. Their only son Peter, was killed in WWII so both father and son are commemorated in St. Andrews. The shops were still there in the early 1950's. I remember Mrs Reynolds for her kindness to me as a young child.

The Rogers family

The Rodgers family came to Walberswick from Croyden, so are not in Lange's listing. Presumably, there must have been some connection with Walberswick, as not long after George Roger's birth the family moved in with George's relatives (see below) in Walberswick. Also, intriguingly, George's middle name was Rimmington which may be a clue to his ancestry and how he arrived in Walberswick. There was a family of Rimmingtons living in Walberswick in 1871. Lange's directory includes a John Rimmington, farmer of 12 acres. He died in 1889 and left £234 in his will. He had a daughter, Fanny, who married a John Goddard. The earlier entry for the Bridges family includes more detail on the Goddards and their association with Valley Farm. However, at the time of the Rimmington connection the farm was on the land now partly built on at Millfield Road. Whatever, it does not provide a connection with George Rimmington Rogers, born in Croyden, and John Rimmington, born Yoxford 1815 and later farmer of Walberswick. It must, surely, be there somewhere?

- **George Rogers:** George was born 1886 in Croyden. By 1891 he is living at the home of Henry and Jane Lowe along with his widowed father and siblings. In 1901 he is at The Street (Beach View) with his aunt Jane Lowe. He is an apprentice blacksmith. By 1911 he has moved next door to Fair View, The Street, with his cousin Annie Elisabeth Palmer and her husband Lewis William Palmer and is a wheelwright. In 1914 he married Rosamond A Youngs. He was the father of George Rogers junior and Rogers Garage, situated on The Green, was passed from father to only son. Both were called George Rimmington Rogers and their grave stones can easily be seen in the church cemetery, though Rimmington only has one "m" for George senior (see right). George and Rosamond also had two daughters (see Arthur Sharman et al for the military service of one of them). One of the daughters also attracted the eye of Southwold resident Eric Blair. He was later to become more famous as George Orwell. George Rogers senior lived to be 80 years old. Walberswick at one time had two garages dispensing fuel! Rogers Garage was on the Green. The other outlet was Fisher's Garage in The Street. More information on George Rogers junior and his wife, Dulcie, can be found in "Further Suffolk Memories" by Arthur Sharman and Pat Wythe.



The Smith family

Smith is a common name anywhere and there have been quite few in Walberswick. This particular family of Smiths look to have come from Darsham. There appears to be a link to George Tuvell (see later).

- **William Harry Smith:** One of the fallen, he was killed in action in Flanders, 9th April 1918 aged 24. Like so many killed "in action" there are no details of his death. From the time and date of his death it is possible he was involved in the German Spring offensive. With the imminent involvement of American troops the Germans mounted a major offensive. This ultimately failed and was the start of the end of WWI. Born at Darsham, he lived in Sibton before moving to Eastwood Lodge, Walberswick with his parents and worked as a farm labourer. Parents James William and Annie Smith, were living at Minnow Cottage, Walberswick at the time of his death. He is "remembered with Honour Ploegsteert Memorial. 25194, 11th Bn., Suffolk Regiment". See also Tuvell later in this document as they may have been half-brothers.

The Stannard family

Stannard is a common local name. Lange traced them back in Walberswick to 1728 and that was a burial. That makes them one of the oldest and most enduring names in the village. However, this Stannard appears to have started life in Blythburgh.

- **Jack Stannard:** There is a John Stannard shown as living at Watermill Cottages in 1911, occupation "Horseman on farm". However, due to an entry in Shirreff and Sharman's book of "Suffolk Memories" we know this is not the Jack referred to. This Jack's story is provided in their book alongside WW2 veterans. Briefly, Jack was brought up in Blythburgh and was 15 when WW1 started and working on a fishing boat in Lowestoft. He then lied about his age in order to join the navy. After the war he ran a number of businesses including a riding stable (see the book). Jack died on 11th September 1998 aged 99 years and was buried in Blythburgh on his 100th birthday. As recently as 2009 Tubby (Bertie) Stannard lived on The Green and died at the age of 104.

The Thompson family

Lange lists Thompsons going back to the late 1700's. For some reason L J E Thompson is not included in the listing, nor his parents.

- **Leonard James Thompson:** Son of James and Henrietta Thompson he was born Walberswick in 1898. The 1911 census shows Leonard living with his grandparents, Edward and Maria Sewell, at Eastwood Lodge Farm, Walberswick. By the time of his death his parents lived at 1, Albion Cottages, Walberswick. He died of wounds in Flanders, 11th May 1916, age 17. He is remembered with Honour at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord. 42550, "D" Bty. 107th Bde., Royal Field Artillery. There is not any other detail, like for so many killed in Flanders. I include this lovely hand-coloured postcard above as it shows Albion Cottages. Number 1 Albion Cottages is down The Street on the right just before the old Blue Anchor pub. This makes the postcard at least pre 1927. It could be much older if the terrace is not there. To the



left are Fern Cottage, Fair View and Beach View, all properties mentioned in this article. These cards were popular around the time of the war.

- **Fred Thompson:** Fred was born 1878 in Walberswick the son of William and (H)Anna (nee Baxter). He was one of 11 children and his mother was born in 1846, married 1865 and died in 1881. In 1900 Fred married Euphemia Thomson Fowler. In 1911 there is a Fred Thompson living with his wife Euphemia and daughter Margaret (aged 1) on The Green. His occupation is given as "builder general". There is a story connecting this family with the famous Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Apparently the Mackintoshs stayed with the Thompsons one summer and the latter named their daughter after Margaret Mackintosh. Of course, Mackintosh is most famous in the area for getting himself arrested in 1915 as a German spy. This story has been told many times elsewhere in greater detail. After both wars Margaret became somewhat of a local character collecting fees from campers on the back of the beach.

The Turner family

There are no records for this family as being "local". Philip Kett recalls that the family had a house in the Terrace and later in Mill Field Road (Kuruman). Kelly's guide shows Edgar Turner living at Gazebo (Millfield Road) in 1912 and then at Kuruman (also Millfield Road) in 1933-37. Curiously, "Mrs Turner" alone is shown at Kuruman for the years 1916-29. The brief period at Gazebo, if correct, is interesting. Kelly's also records a Mrs Fleming at this address in 1922. Gazebo was built and occupied by the famous architect Frank Jennings. Edgar Turner is believed to have been a retired tea planter and Kuruman was the name of his plantation. The name of the house has since been changed to Millstones. Gazebo has also had a name change. So many houses in Walberswick have met this fate. The Walberswick scroll has a very useful map at the beginning showing all the house names in 1931 and before many of the name changes occurred.

- **Miles Turner:** Born in Ceylon in 1900 he was the only son of Edgar and Jane Ransome Turner. Although he survived WW1 (he would only have been 14 at the outbreak) he died soon afterwards. He is commemorated in Walberswick Church by a brass tablet on the wall opposite the war memorial. This records his death in Baluchistan in January 1920 at the early age of 20 after serving in the Afghan Campaign of 1919. This is also called the third Anglo-Afghan war. So, this man is mentioned twice – once as serving in the 1914-18 war and then in a much more lavish memorial after his death at Loralai. All deaths of a child must be devastating but those of an only child must seem particularly so. It would be interesting to know what procedures were required to get individual monuments erected in the church. Clearly an ability to pay for the monument would be one (see Algernon Winter Rose in the next section). For the monuments to the many the cost was met by the many in most cases.



The Turner family is connected through employment to Harold Augustus Backhouse, 2nd Regiment, and Suffolk. Harold was not a Walberswick man in 1914-18 and so is not on the memorial but worked in Walberswick after the war as a driver for the Turner family. Harold married Mildred Muttit. The Muttits are a large Walberswick family going back to at least the 1700's and are still present today.



The picture on the right is of Harold in uniform with the car and maybe outside of Kuruman or Gazebo. As this is post-war it may be Kuruman.

Middle names often give an indication of pedigree. Kelly's lists a Gilbert H Ransome at Grey Roofs during 1922-25. This may just be a coincidence. It would probably be easy to investigate but it's not relevant here. Similarly it would be interesting to find out if there is a connection to the famous author of children's books, Arthur Ransome. The Ransome family certainly had East Anglian ancestors and an interest in an Ipswich engineering company, Ransome & Rapier.

The Tuvell family

This family name does not appear in Lange's listings. The explanation for this is provided below.

- **George Tuvell:** This George Tovell was born in Paddington, London in 1890. The difference in spelling is not unusual for the times. A year later the census shows him living with his uncles, George and Harry Tovell and their sister, Annie Tovell in Darsham, Suffolk. No parents are mentioned in the household. This 1891 census supports the idea that George may be the illegitimate son of Annie. It is sad to think that Annie may have been sent to London to give birth. The 1901 census does not show this family in either Darsham or Walberswick. There is a George Tovell aged 21 in the 1911 census shown as a farm labourer born in London and living at Eastwood Lodge Farm. At the time of the census he was living with a James William Smith and wife Annie. His relationship to James and Annie is shown as son. His birth pre-dates their marriage. This would make him a brother to William Harry Smith (see earlier). Annie was born in Darsham. George died in 1952 in Deben, Suffolk.

The West family

This family has some entries in Lange's listings. Jasper West, born Westleton 1820, married Charlotte Knights in 1850 and had a son, Samuel, in 1855 who was variously shown as a cordwainer and a shoemaker (same thing). Samuel West is listed in Kelly's as a shoemaker 1885-1925. Samuel married Alice Bloomfield in 1877 and had at least two sons, Garnham and Stanley, both of whom are listed as serving

- **Garnham West:** Garnham was born 1886 in Walberswick the son of Samuel and Alice West. The 1901 census shows both Garnham and Stanley (see below) living with their parents in Mill Street

(Alexandra Cottages). His father was a boot and shoemaker, Garnham was working as a cattleman on farm. Garnham had an interesting career change - after attending theological college in 1911 he became the reverend Garnham West and served in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

- **Stanley West:** See Garnham West. Stanley was Garnham's older brother being born 1879. He moved to London before the war started. In 1911 he was living in Streatham with wife and 3 children working as in a Drapery box warehouse repairing boxes.

The Westgate family

Lange lists two Westgates, neither of which are easily linked to Harry below. The first is Arthur Westgate, born 1859. He married a widow a few years older than himself called Rachel Barrel. The other is a Robert James Westgate born 1866 who married a Catherine Chandler. As Harry was born in Westleton there may be some family link.

- **Harry Westgate:** Henry LR Westgate, was born in Westleton, son of Robert James and Catherine Sarah Westgate. In 1911 he was living at The Fen, Blythburgh with parents and siblings, working at odd jobs on a farm. In 1921 he married an Amy F Hart and in 1923 was living at Water Mill Cottage Walberswick (near the old mill). His family looked after the mill. Water Mill cottages were demolished during WW2. He died in Colchester 1983.

The Woodward family

Lange's listing does not include a family of this name nor do the census returns up to 1911.

- **J Woodward:** This man is recorded on the list of those who served by his initial only. Kelly's guide for 1922-25 lists a John Woodward as a "carter". This may be "J Woodward" and in the absence of other contenders probably is. No address is provided. For an association of over 10 years he has left a very small footprint.

Those who might have been on the list but were not

How the list was actually compiled is not known. There are names on the list that after a century would appear to have had only a transient association with Walberswick. One suspects that parents may have been an influence. There are others who may have been missed altogether who we know nothing of. Then there are some who might have had a similar right to be as the “transients”. I list some of these and others with a story to tell.

The Kyrke-Smith family

Captain Arthur Kyrke-Smith: This man was killed 23rd September 1914, not long after the war started. He is not included but a search of war dead and Walberswick throws up his name. This is because his widow, Catherine Mabel Kyrke-Smith, is shown as living in Fishers' Way (now simply “The Street”), Walberswick at the time of his death. He is commemorated elsewhere in the country and presumably was not considered local. How did Catherine Mabel come to be in Walberswick in 1914? After the first edition of this article was published on-line a relative of Arthur got in touch. I was immediately able to clear up an error concerning an association with the Jennings family (reference now removed). His information also suggests a family connection that endured long after his death. This is what the family member had to say in his own words:

“No known connection with the Jennings family that we know of but I'll talk to my Mum and see what else we can find. My grandmother's married name was Pell and she is buried alongside my grandfather. I'm not sure there is a headstone, long story and one we mean to rectify.

My grandparents ran a tea-shop on the green before I was born and my mother and father were married in Walberswick. My great uncle, Captain Kyrke-Smith's son, flies freely over the beach and marshes rather than being buried at the church.

They were all living in Walberswick in the East coast floods and I'll try to put a decent timeline of events together for you but the Stannards and Bloomfields are all known to my family and I suspect when I read the article through with my Mum that she will recognise others. The Prices, who ran The Anchor, were godparents to my brother I believe. I haven't been back for many years now, I'm only in Reading, but maybe time for a trip!

Thanks for getting back to me. I'll pull some things together to try and plug the gaps for you. Capt. Kyrke-Smith is commemorated at Aughton War memorial and I have some pictures of that and his grave too. His daughter, my grandmother is buried at St Andrews. Interestingly my mother thought that Catherine moved to Fishers Way some time after her husband was killed and move to Henley for a period in between. We used to summer at Ardmay throughout my childhood and I know or recognise many of the surnames in your article”.

More recently the above relative contacted WLHG to inform us that sadly his mother had passed away. Members of the group were able to investigate on his behalf and locate the grave without a stone. Having identified the plot the family's plan was to inter this lady with her parents. It was good to be able to provide practical help. It also was a poignant connection with sad events of over a hundred years ago.

The Rose family

Algernon Winter Rose: There is a memorial inside St. Andrews Church to the Rose family. This includes **Algernon Winter Rose** (1885-1918), Captain Essex Yeomanry, son of Thomas Edward Rose and Katherine Elizabeth Rose. This man survived the fighting but not the 1918 influenza epidemic (another story of the loss related to the war). He died 29th Oct 1918, days before the war ended. He

was an architect and garden designer and laid out the gardens at Eastlands, for the artist Arthur Dacres Rendall. His mother is buried in Walberswick (died 1923) but not Algernon or his father. His association with the village is through his work as a gardener and his memorial due to his mother's influence which persisted until at least 1923.

Richard Scott wrote after the first edition:

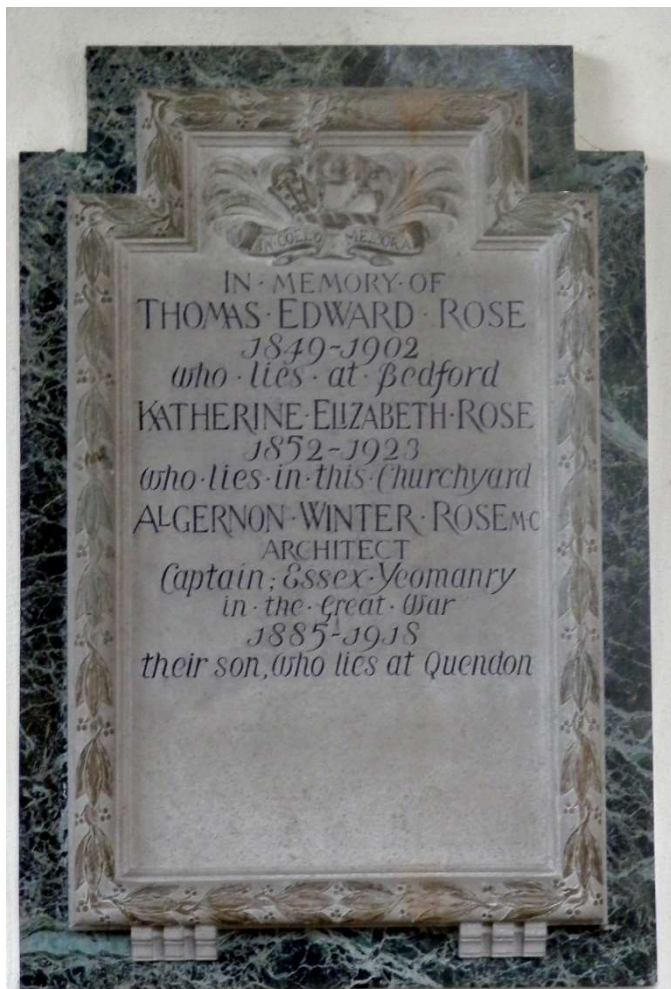
"A. Winter Rose designed, I believe, the gardens of Eastwood and Westwood Cottages for Arthur Dacres Rendall. Rendall bought Eastwood (then Coral Cottage) in 1891 and had at least the end part of Westwood (now re-separated and called Tradescant Cottage) as his studio. The gardens were much bigger and included the site of the present Simpson house. The gardens were quite special and were featured in a book on English country gardens by Gertrude Jeckyll".

Similarly, Philip Kett added: *"Eastlands is now Eastwood, it used to be called Coral Cottage before that in the census, the whole corner back as far as the Pigtle belonged to Eastwood and the Gardeners cottage was Westwood. After the war 1945 the land changed ownership to Westwood when Mea Allan bought Westwood after her family died. The house of Westwood had been sold away from the whole property at some time prior to the war, when I do not know, the studio was based in part of the house of Westwood, The Rose family may have lived in Westwood, and Gertrude Jeykle came to view the garden".*

The subject of the gardens will be updated and covered in much more expert detail in a forthcoming articles by the current owner.

The Sharman Family

Edward Arthur Sharman: I have added this last family mention out of respect to my ex-neighbour Arthur Sharman. Many older residents will recall Arthur and the post-office he ran with his wife Molly from the family home, Fair View, The Street. This is the third mention of the Walberswick post-office which in a hundred years has moved up and down the village. Arthur was too young to have been in WWI but with collaborators he was a keen recorder of village people and their exploits and life in WWII. He co-authored two books on the subject and these have been a source of information on Walberswick



families. Arthur's father, Edward Arthur Sharman, was a military man and lived in Walberswick when Arthur was a boy and young man. There is a plaque to Edward Arthur Sharman hanging in Walberswick church. He died in 1968 aged 85 years. This would place him in his 30's when WWI started and of that generation. His son Arthur followed him into the army during the second war. Arthur and Molly lie in the churchyard along with other Sharman family members. Their daughter lived in Walberswick from birth but recently moved to Reydon. This brings to an end the line of Sharmans living in Walberswick.

“Known only to God”

Finally, there is a corner of a country graveyard (apologies to Rupert Brooke) that is the final resting place of “four sailors of the Great War”. These men lie close to the entrance to St. Andrews in Church Lane next to a similar grave related to WW2. These will not be Walberswick men but the bodies of unidentifiable sailors washed up at Walberswick. Though not stated, these will have been British sailors. The headstone reflects the simple design used in France and Belgium. This was something denied to the German dead.

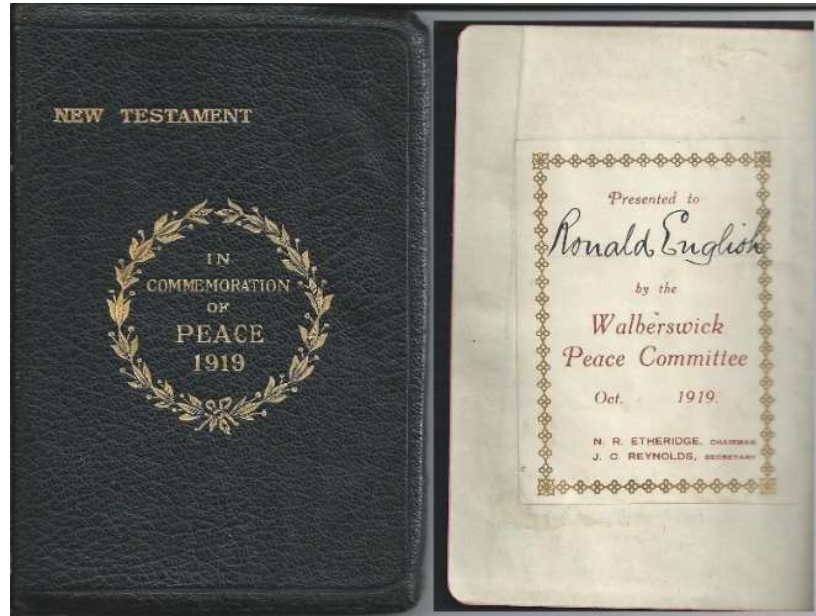
Somewhere else in the country these men will be commemorated on a war memorial in the place they came from. “Known only to God” was the fate of so many.



The End

Peace came at last in November 1918. Marshal **Ferdinand Foch**, a French soldier who accepted the German request for an armistice, later declared after the Treaty of Versailles, "*This is not a peace. It is an armistice for twenty years*". Sadly he was correct.

After "the war to end all wars" in October 1919 the Walberswick Peace Committee, under it's chairman N R Etheridge, distributed bibles to the children of the village. How could they imagine that 20 years later some of those very children would be fighting, and some dying, due to the nature of the peace negotiated in 1919? The secretary of the Walberswick Peace Committee, Jack Reynolds, would see his only son die in that new war. A further member of the Cross family would perish along with two members of the Fairs family and a Leon. It would not be until 1945 that the conflict started in 1914 would finally be over.



Acknowledgments

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Philip Kett for his brilliant memory on all things Walberswick and helpful advice

Southwold Museum

Frank Jennings: Architect and Magpie. DVD Produced by Bill Ungless and Piers Ford-Crush ©2008

Suffolk Memories – Stories of Walberswick and Blythburgh people during World War II: David Shirreff and Arthur Sharman

Further Suffolk Memories: Arthur Sharman and Pat Wythe

Julia Reisz for memories and discussions

Rebecca Whiting – photographs and memories

War Graves Commission web site

Gillian Smith (nee Cross) - photographs

Gerald Fergusson – photographs and memories

David Mitchem – memories

Hilton Hurst – memories

Walberswick Families from 1600 - 1900 compiled by Hanns Lange in March 1993

Census records

Kelly's directory transcription

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