



Six Streets History Derby



Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red

This evolving installation of 888,246 hand-made ceramic poppies has been developing at the Tower of London since August 2014. Each poppy represents a British or Colonial military death during the First World War.

The poppies have been made by a team of ceramic artists, led by Paul Cummins, who is based in Derby. The setting around the Tower's moat has been designed by stage designer Tom Piper. The poppies have been on sale and all proceeds after costs will go to selected service charities.

The installation is in place until 11 November and is well worth a visit. For more details visit <http://poppies.hrp.org.uk>



Six Streets History Newsletter No 2

As the commemorations get under way in this issue we feature how you can get involved both nationally and locally in adding to the archive of information that is being drawn together to mark the centenary. Have you ever thought about finding out more about a relative who fought in the war? We give you a few hints to get you started.



Poppies on Chevin, Belper, Derbyshire. [Read more](#) about this project.

In Memory

Our research so far suggests that about 87 men from this area went away to fight between 1914 and 1918. Of these, six men never returned and as Remembrance Day approaches we remember them and their families.

George Alton, 23, died 15 July 1916, Sherwood Foresters, of 9 Park Grove

Benjamin Dawes, 20, died 9 April 1917, Seaforth Highlanders, of 35 Bromley Street

Robert Draper, 36, died 28 May 1917, Army Service Corps, of 26 Bromley Street

Wilfred Hamp, 32, died 26 July 1917, Lincolnshire Regiment, of 22 Statham Street

Reginald Severn, 21, died 26 September 1917, Sherwood Foresters, of 23 Statham Street

John Hodgson, 25, died 16 November 1918, Royal Engineers, of 45 White Street

Tracing someone who served in the First World War

If you want to find out more about the war service of a relative or a previous occupant of your house, your starting point should be finding out as much as you can in terms of names, birth dates, death dates, etc. For relatives this will mean unearthing family documents and photographs - ask older relatives too what they can remember of family stories - they may be right, they may be wrong!

The 1901 and 1911 census returns are a good starting point for researching neighbours along with the Electoral Registers (Derby City lists are available in [Derby Local Studies Library](#) which reopens in November).

From the 1918 Electoral Register you may be able to tell if they were absent on naval or military service. In Derby, residents who were absent were allowed to vote (they are listed as "aNM").

In other areas of the country the voting lists were not annotated and men had to be in residence to vote.

1914-1915 Star, British
War Medal and Allied
Victory Medal



A person's service number is very useful in helping to narrow down your research - medals have these numbers stamped on the rim or reverse along with the regiment details. Letters and postcards sometimes have a service number written on them. This is particularly useful if your relative has a common name such as Ben Smith. Remember that the person you are searching for may not have been enlisted by his birth name - so if you have a Herbert or Albert remember to search for "Bert" as well!

Comprehensive lists of family and military records are available at: www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk. They both have useful guidance on how to start your research. Both these sites are subscription services or pay as you go, but Derby Local Studies Library has a subscription to Ancestry which is currently accessible in Derby Central Library.

Another site which is useful for all sorts of information is ["The Long Long Trail"](#). This gives detailed advice on research and gives background information on regiments - what they did and where they served. It also links on to many other sites.

A final word of warning - unfortunately about 60% of World War 1 army records were destroyed by fire in World War 2 so if you don't find anything this may be why. The [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) website which is free to access, gives detailed information about casualties and where their grave or memorial might be found.

If you do succeed in tracking down your person or relative don't forget you can remember them by going to the new site set up by the Imperial War Museum ["Lives of the First World War"](#).

If you have any information about people who lived in Six Streets during World War 1 please contact us at 6streetshistory@gmail.com

Little Chester Remembers

On Sunday 9 November residents of Little Chester will remember those from their area who died during World War One.

Geoff Parton has been researching the lives of the 75 men who appear on the Little Chester War memorial.

The tribute will be at St Paul's Church starting at 7pm and will combine music, poetry, drama and songs.

[For more details](#)



Kedleston Road in about 1914 (reproduced by kind permission of "Picture the Past" and Derby City Council)

Are you interested in helping with our research? We are looking for people who are willing to search through local newspapers for 1914 - 1918 at the Local Studies Library for events that affected our area. This could be:

- Looking for information about local men fighting away
- Looking for local events such as fundraising activities for the War Effort, eg garden parties, sales of work.

Coming soon in the New Year

We are planning a coach trip to see the exhibition "From Street to Trench" which is currently on show at Imperial War Museum North in Manchester. We are also planning a talk on Derby at War which will take place in March 2015. We will keep you posted!

We are part of Six Streets Derby, a community group active in Wheeldon Avenue, Parkfields Drive, Park Grove, White Street, Statham Street, Bromley Street and immediate surroundings. We are happy to welcome new members to our group. Subjects we want to explore further include women's roles and whether tribunals for exemption from military conscription affected any families in this area.

If you want to know more please go to www.sixstreetsderby.org.uk and to get involved please email 6streetshistory@gmail.com – Thank you for your interest.