

HMS Collingwood

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Six Streets History Newsletter No 6

Think of World War One and images of mud and trenches automatically come to mind. As we continue our research on men from the Six Streets who went away to fight, a handful of men who were posted to the Royal Navy have come to light.

Six Streets and the Royal Navy in World War 1

Report by Diane Moss

Reginald Seth Wood (50 and 55 Statham Street)



Former Coastguard Lookout at Worm's Head, Rhossili Bay

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Reginald Seth Wood served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He spent the war as a Coastguard at Worm's Head, Rhossili Bay on the Gower peninsula. He was a Signaller at a time when

Wireless signal stations were becoming an essential part of modern warfare. Coastguard stations were equipped at an early date with the newly developed telephone and wireless telegraphy.

Edward Pierce Llewelyn Hughes (100 Kedleston Road)

Edward Pierce Llewelyn Hughes trained as a surgeon before the war and by late 1915 was serving with the Royal Navy as a ship's surgeon. We know that he served on two ships – SS Reindeer and SS Whitby Abbey. Both were merchant ships that were commandeered for the duration of the war and saw most of their active service in the Mediterranean.

Stanley Holt (42 Wheeldon Avenue)

Photo: HMS Roxburgh, courtesy of www.naval-history.net

Stanley Holt served as an Artificer aboard HMS Roxburgh. An Engine Room Artificer was a fitter, turner or boilermaker who was responsible for the maintenance of the ship's engines and boilers. HMS Roxburgh acted as an escort for the Atlantic convoys bringing troops from America to Europe. Before the USA entered the war in 1917 the ship was in the Arctic, escorting convoys taking troops to the eastern front.



Frank Wright (44 Wheeldon Avenue)

Like his neighbour, Stanley, we know that Frank (44 Wheeldon Avenue) was an Engine Room Artificer with the Royal Navy. We don't have many details about which ships he served on but do know that he served with "HMS Collingwood", a dreadnought battleship built in 1908. In May 1916 she saw action in the Battle of Jutland, but while Frank was aboard her service consisted of routine patrols and training in the North Sea.



HMS Collingwood

Frank Wright served aboard this battleship from December 1917 to August 1918. © IWM (Q 38493)

Albert Wright (44 Wheeldon Avenue)

Albert Wright served with the Royal Naval Air Service – the air arm of the Royal Navy. Before the war he was an Analytical Chemist and this may have been why he was assigned to serve at

the Navy's Stratford Experimental Station in East London. This team was involved in researching chemicals for use in warfare including chloro-sulphuric acid used for artificial smoke screening. It may have been that Albert was moved around the country to work – he certainly spent a short time in Orkney, Scotland.

Robert William Clayborn (14 Bromley Street)



SS Waimate, in Port Chalmers, New Zealand, date unknown. With the permission of the State Library of Queensland

Robert William Clayborn served with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. His granddaughter contacted us to tell us about his history. He enlisted in 1914 and served aboard the SS Waimate. This passenger and cargo ship, owned by the

New Zealand Shipping Co, was requisitioned by the Royal Navy in August 1917.

John Branson Power (108 Kedleston Road)

Although we can't track down any records for John we have contacted relatives who believe he served in the Navy – as always we are very happy to hear from people with more information about John and anybody else from the Six Streets who may have served with the Navy.

Frederick Ride (123 Kedleston Road)

Kedleston Road shops in about 1914 showing George Ride, Greengrocer, Howard and Co. Grocers, and Robert Irish, Butcher. Statham Street is on the left and Redshaw Street on the right. Reproduced by kind permission of Picture the Past: www.picturethepast.org.uk



Frederick Ride's family ran a greengrocer's shop on the parade of shops where the Post Office is now located. George Ride, his father, also grew some of the produce he sold on land behind White Street (now Arthur Hind Close).

Frederick was drafted to serve with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR). His naval history was only discovered from reading old parish magazines from St Anne's Church. In the monthly magazine, all the men from the parish who were away fighting are listed.

Further Details

More details about these men can be found on our website sixstreetsderby.org.uk.

From here you can find out more detailed information about these men and others whose lives the group have researched. This is work in progress and more profiles are added as research by the group continues.

Home and Away

From Six Streets to Australia

Thomas George Clarke (54 Statham Street)

In the summer we were contacted by Peter Clarke from New South Wales, Australia, who was born in 1944 on Statham Street. As the youngest of nine children, Peter has been tasked with researching his family tree, and searching on the internet he came across the Six Streets website. He was enquiring if we knew any more about his father **Thomas George Clarke** who was listed as a voter at 54 Statham Street in 1918.



Photograph of Thomas Clarke taken about 1915 (with thanks to Peter Clarke)

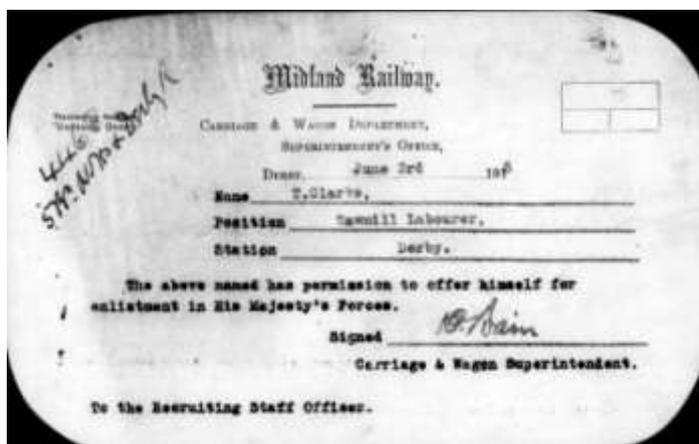
Between us we were able to piece together Thomas's service history. He volunteered in June 1915, aged 23, and initially served with the Sherwood Foresters having been released from his job as a Labourer at the Midland Railway Sawmills. His discharge letter survives in the National Archives.

It has to be said his active service in France in March 1916 did not get off to a heroic start! Thomas recorded in his own words the medical form he had to fill in:

"I sprained my ankle coming off the boat on Saturday evening March 4th 1916 by putting my foot in a hole...I remain yours truly...Pte T G Clarke".

Unfortunately Thomas went on to develop a heart problem whilst serving, and his family believe he may also have inhaled gas which affected his breathing. He was transferred in February 1917 to the Royal Engineers, Railway Operating Division and served with them until he was discharged in August 1918 as no longer fit for military duty. He returned to work for the Railway as a Foreman. In

April 1917 he married Hannah Sherwin who was a resident of the Railway Servant Orphanage on Ashbourne Road. Thomas and Hannah went on to have nine children – Peter tells us that he was born in the cellar of 54 Statham Street in 1944 during an air raid warning. In 1959 Thomas (now widowed) and Peter moved from Statham Street to a smaller house, and in 1961 Peter left for Australia emigrating under the Big Brother Movement – a scheme that sponsored young men from Britain to work on farms or in the Australian outback.



*Thomas's release letter from the Midland Railway
(reproduced with the permission of The National Archives)*

Ongoing Research

The Red Cross

Clara Eleanor Lowe (22 Bromley Street)

Recent discoveries among the Red Cross records include: Clara Eleanor Lowe of 22 Bromley Street who worked as a **VAD nurse** at Haye Leigh hospital on Duffield Road. She became the Quartermaster - responsible for the receipt, custody and issue of articles in the provision store.

Parish Magazines

We are starting to look in church and parish magazines for information about how the community supported the men and boys away at war. Searches are at an early stage but we came across this wonderful piece in St Andrew's Parish Magazine for July 1917:

SCOUT NOTES

Several new recruits have joined the Troop, and things are going as well as can be expected with two assistant scoutmasters and a troop leader in France. Patrol-Leader Robinson and some others rendered useful assistance to two members of the R.F.C. [Royal Flying Club] who descended close to the Athletic Ground; in fact, they tied the aeroplane to the ground so effectually that there was some difficulty in releasing it the next morning.



EVENTS

Ceramic Poppy Display at Yorkshire Sculpture Park



Photo: Ceramic Poppies at the Tower of London in October 2014

Some of the now world-famous ceramic poppies by Derby artist Paul Cummins, which were installed last year at the Tower of London, are on tour and are currently on display at the [Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#):

Yorkshire Sculpture Park
West Bretton
Wakefield WF4 4LG
SatNav WF4 4JX
United Kingdom
+44(0)1924 832631
info@ysp.co.uk

Family History Course, Chesterfield

by Kevin Brown of Relative Strangers

Kevin Brown, of [Relative Strangers](#), who gave Family History Research advice at our History/Arts Trail event in June, is running a Family History Course for the WEA in Chesterfield, starting in November. Details as follows:-

WEA Chesterfield
Stand Road
Chesterfield
S41 8SW

Family History, 6 sessions, 1.30-3.45 pm, starts Friday 6 November 2015. For beginners and more experienced. Enrol [online](#) or telephone 01246 622249

Please confirm the course fees at enrolment. Free places for those in receipt of qualifying, means-tested benefits or credits.

Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2015

Six Streets History are taking part in the Remembrance Day events at Broadway Baptist Church. For service times see the [Broadway Baptist Church website](#).

Writing for Peace Competition 2015 Peace Pledge Union for secondary schools/ pupils

During the centenary commemorations of World War One, the Peace Pledge Union (PPU) is providing a different way of looking at the conflict by introducing a Writing for Peace competition for schools in the UK.

More information and support resources are available on the [PPU website](#).

Pupils are being asked, in up to 500 words of prose or poetry, to express how different people may have felt during the First World War about their desire for peace over war. Their chosen character could be a wife, a mother, or sister of someone serving in the war, a suffragette, an anti-war activist, a disillusioned munitions worker, a socialist, an anarchist, a soldier, a conscientious objector, a father, a brother, a priest or a trade unionist.

Entries may be by individual pupils only and the winning school will receive a prize of £500; a prize of £250 will go the runners up and £150 to the third place. Winning submissions will be published on the PPU website.

The deadline for entries is Friday 29 January 2016 with entries being headed "Writing for Peace" and sent to: Peace Education Officer The Peace Pledge Union, 1 Peace Passage, London, N7 0BT.

Derby Local Studies and Family History Library Re-Opened

The Derby [Local Studies and Family History Library](#) has now re-located to premises opposite the Council House, round the corner from Full Street at Riverside Chambers, and is open to the public again.

100 Years Ago

1915

5 September: Tsar Nicholas II takes personal control over Russia's armies.

19 December: The Allies begin their evacuation of Gallipoli. The campaign is a disaster and more than 44,000 Allied soldiers are killed.

1916

27 January: Britain introduces military conscription.

21 February: The Battle of Verdun begins. The Battle of Verdun was the longest battle of World War I and was one of the bloodiest.

Sources of information:- [about.com WW1 Timeline](#) ; [ww1facts.net World War 1 Timeline](#)

Would you like to get involved?

Are you interested in helping to find out more about the impact of World War One on our area?

Our World War One project, supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, is a two-year project now in its second year, compiling evidence of local people's experiences during the war.

If you have occasional times when you can help, we would be very pleased to discuss options with you. Please contact Chris at 50 White Street, on 01332 725568, or email 6streetshistory@gmail.com

The range of tasks available includes:

- using resources at the [Local Studies Library](#).
- using online research resources, especially family history related, from your own home and at times convenient to you.
- Looking through local Newspapers of 1914-1918 online.

[In this Issue](#)



Postcard of Kedleston Road, about 1911 published by F W Scarratt. Derby Museums and Art Gallery and Picture the Past www.picturethepast.org.uk

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

Forthcoming Event - Railway Exhibition in York 2016

A major new Exhibition is scheduled at the [National Railway Museum, York](#), from July 2016, reconstructing an ambulance train and exploring the experiences of nurses and injured soldiers travelling on them.

If you might want to go to this within a local group please let us know - we will check back with you nearer the time.

Trace Local Servicemen from WW1 on Imperial War Museum Website

Lives of the First World War

Find out who went away to fight from our area, listed under the Community named **Six Streets Derby**.

More men will be added as our research progresses.

What is Six Streets History?

We are a small neighbourhood group formed in 2010 and 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 always happy to welcome new members to our group - our current focus is on researching personal histories of people involved in or affected by World War One, and we are happy to include in our project aspects that interest people. 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 would like to know more please go to the [Six Streets and World War One](#) Section of the Six Streets website and to get involved please email 6streetshistory@gmail.com

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