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<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/25923>



Six Streets History Newsletter No 7

In this issue we present some of our findings on a Six Streets connection to the emergence of the Royal Air Force, conscription which was introduced 100 years ago this month, conscientious objectors and the support given to the troops by local people, as well as past and future events.

Booking is now available for our trip to the National Railway Museum in York on 3 September, to view their new exhibition on Ambulance Trains (see below).

We are looking forward to presenting a summary of our research in the form of a history leaflet, as explained below, that will mark the end of our current project.

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Six Streets and the Air Force in World War 1

Report by Diane Moss

Focus on – the Hagley family (12 White Street)



A Siddeley-Deasy-built R.E.8 Biplane of the type used by 9th Squadron RAF, with whom Richard Hagley served in France (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Aircraft_Factory_R.E.8)

John and Leah Hagley were some of the earliest residents on White Street, appearing on the Register of Electors for White Street in 1902-3. John was a Provender Inspector for a railway company and came originally from Worcestershire. Leah and John had two sons; Richard born in 1899, followed six years later by John.

Richard was training as an Engineer with the Midland Railway when he was called up in January 1918. He trained with the Royal Flying Corps, which in April 1918 became the Royal Air Force. In June 1918 he became an Observer Officer and shortly afterwards was posted to France. He served with the 9th Squadron RAF and would have been involved in bombing and reconnaissance missions. Only three weeks after his first posting he was wounded and sent back to hospital in

England. After he recovered he was only fit for ground duty and was posted to Salisbury Plain until he was demobilised in April 1919.

Women's War Effort in the Hagley Family

Between January 1916 and December 1919, Richard Hagley's mother and grandmother (Mrs de Soiza) were volunteer homeworkers for the Joint War Committee (the British Red Cross and St John Ambulance combined for the duration of the war) – tasks were knitting, sewing and preparing war hospital supplies, such as cutting and rolling bandages, and sewing nightshirts and hospital gowns for wounded soldiers.

The Introduction of Conscription and the Right to Conscientious Objection

Notice published by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee

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<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/28449>

At this time of year one hundred years ago, from March 2016, call-up papers would have begun to drop through the letterboxes of local houses where unmarried men aged 18-41 years were living.

Households would be expecting this since the Military Service Act had been passed in January 1916, introducing compulsory conscription to serve for the first time in Britain, and encouraging men to attest before compulsion.

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916,
APPLIES TO UNMARRIED MEN WHO, ON AUGUST 15th, 1915, WERE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND WHO WILL NOT BE 41 YEARS OF AGE ON MARCH 2nd, 1916.

ALL MEN (NOT EXCEPTED OR EXEMPTED),
between the above ages who, on November 2nd, 1915, were Unmarried or Widowers without any Child dependent on them will, on
Thursday, March 2nd, 1916
BE DEEMED TO BE ENLISTED FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR.
They will be placed in the Reserve until Called Up in their Class.

MEN EXCEPTED:
SOLDIERS, including Territorials who have volunteered for Foreign Service;
MEN serving in the NAVY or ROYAL MARINES;
MEN DISCHARGED from ARMY or NAVY, disabled or ill, or TIME-EXPIRED MEN;
MEN REJECTED for the ARMY since AUGUST 14th, 1915;
CLERGYMEN, PRIESTS, and MINISTERS OF RELIGION;
VISITORS from the DOMINIONS.

MEN WHO MAY BE EXEMPTED BY LOCAL TRIBUNALS:
Men more useful to the Nation in their present employments;
Men in whose case Military Service would cause serious hardship owing to exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position;
Men who are ill or infirm;
Men who conscientiously object to combatant service. If the Tribunal thinks fit, men may, on this ground, be (a) exempted from combatant service only (not non-combatant service), or (b) exempted on condition that they are engaged in work of National importance.

Up to March 2nd, a man can apply to his Local Tribunal for a certificate of exemption. There is a Right of Appeal. He will not be called up until his case has been dealt with finally.
Certificates of exemption may be absolute, conditional or temporary. Such certificates can be renewed, varied or withdrawn.
Men retain their Civil Rights until called up and are amenable to Civil Courts only.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MARCH 2nd.
ENLIST VOLUNTARILY NOW**

For fuller particulars of the Act, please apply for Leaflet No. 11 to the nearest Post Office, Police Station, or Recruiting Office.

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This legislation followed massive casualties in 1914 and 1915, and an urgent need to recruit more men to the armed forces. With opposition to the war from many (socialists and trade unionists as well as those with moral or religious objections, and people who were simply appalled at the ruin of so many young lives) the government faced diminishing numbers of new, fit volunteers. They also needed more workers on the Home Front to keep essential services going (transport, munitions and food production especially). Conscription was extended in May 1916 to married men of the same ages, and the upper age was raised to 50 in the spring of 1918.

There was provision in the Act for men to claim exemption for a variety of reasons (eg work/business, financial, ill health) through locally established Military Service Tribunals, but the local example below was on grounds of Conscience, permitted but not defined in the Act.

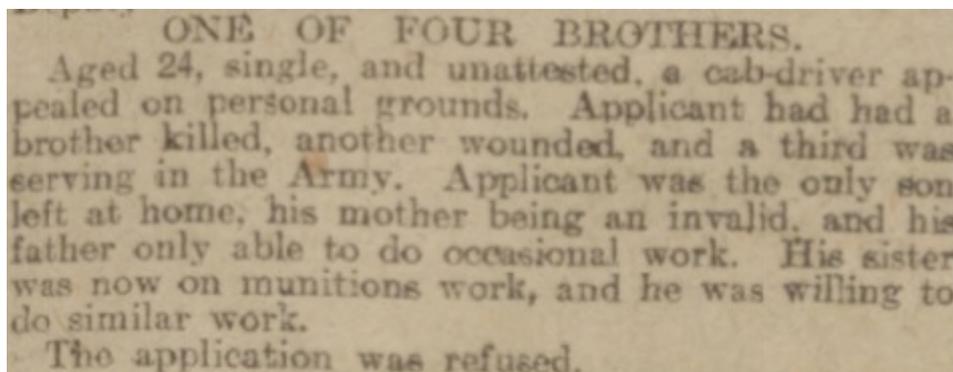
Frederick John Redfern - A Six-Streets Non-Combatant

Future research may uncover other cases of local residents who did apply for exemption, but we are certainly aware of a local religious Conscientious Objector, who agreed to serve but not to bear arms – Frederick John Redfern of Kedleston Road (who moved after the war to Statham Street and continued to live there into the 1970s). His story can be seen in more detail in our updated History trail panel on the website.

Derby Daily Telegraph Reports of Local Tribunal Sessions including Conscientious Objector Hearings

The Derby Daily Telegraph reported weekly from March 1916 onwards on cases of applications and appeals which came before the Derby Tribunal, and on their outcomes. Sometimes the Tribunal would be dealing with 40-50 individual applications in one afternoon session.

Few claims by Conscientious Objectors were accepted. Applicants on other grounds were usually given short term temporary exemptions only, since their circumstances were often subject to changes or remedies (including encouraging farmers and businesses to hire women so that these men could serve soon). False statements or misrepresentation at time of application for exemption could lead to imprisonment with hard labour for up to six months.



Report from Derby Daily Telegraph on Derby Tribunal 21 July 2016

Family History Research Tips for Conscientious Objector Searches

If you have a relative who you know or think may have been a conscientious objector, these links may be helpful for your own research:

[The Conscientious Objectors Register 1914-1918](#)

This collection provides the details of around 18,000 individuals who refused conscription to the British armed services during the First World War on grounds of conscience - known as conscientious objectors or COs.

[The Tribunal - Official Paper of the No-Conscription Fellowship](#)

This website provides links to copies of *The Tribunal* which it describes as follows:

“The Tribunal was the official paper of the No-Conscription Fellowship and was written to inform the public about the Military Service Act and the Conscientious Objectors who fell foul of it.

"The Tribunal reported on the lives of COs - from their motivations and reasons for Objecting to War to their experiences at Tribunal, in prison and beyond. It was written clearly, and often movingly, with the intention of keeping COs and their thousands of supporters and sympathisers updated with the latest information in the struggle against conscription and militarism.”

Treats for the Troops

During the First World War nearly 18,000 charities nationally were established. The most popular causes were "comforts" for troops (including clothing, books and food), medical services, support for disabled servicemen and assistance to prisoners of war.

NEW YEAR'S PARCELS have been sent to about 50 of our lads at the front. The parcels were supplied by Mr. Hodgkinson at a cost of 5/- each, and contained all sorts of things which would be acceptable to those in the trenches and on the sea. The Vicar has received over £12 from 100 subscribers, so that the cost of sending the parcels will be covered, we only hope that they will all reach their destination.

Extract from St Michael's Church Magazine, January 1916

Looking through old church magazines from this area we have found instances of this fundraising to support the men away fighting. This feature appeared in St Michael's magazine in January 1916. The items were supplied by Hodgkinson's Grocers, which stood in the Marketplace. Mr Hodgkinson lived at 120 Kedleston Road.

Extract from St Michael's Church Magazine

Parishioners helped keep morale high by sending books and magazines to the troops, and the children of local churches gave up their annual Sunday School prizes to send parcels to Prisoners of War held in Germany – given that often the

prizes were fairly dry and moralistic books the children might have been quite happy to give up their prizes!

Khaki Prisoners of War Fund.
16th June, 1916.
Canon H. R. Rolfe,
St. Michael's Vicarage,
Derby.
Dear Sir,
I enclose formal receipt for the amount of
£3 14s. od., being a collection from the
children of St. Michael's Sunday School, who
have so generously given up their prizes for our
poor men who are imprisoned in Germany.
I am very grateful indeed to you, and the
children for their kind help.
Yours truly,
G. E. RAINE,
Hon. Secretary.



Past Events - Remembrance Sunday 2015

On Remembrance Sunday last November the history group took part in the Remembrance service at Broadway Baptist Church. There was an exhibition for people to look at before and after the service. During the two minutes' silence there was a slide show that featured the names and pictures of people from our area from 1914-1918. We had some very positive feedback about the event – some people commented that it concentrated your attention about the act of remembrance when you had something to look at and relate to. Overall about 120 people of all ages attended the service.

In the evening we had a remembrances session with the youth group. We started by using the stories of some of the people from our area and talked about the effects of the war and how life changed, particularly for younger people – for example the emotions of a teenage sister watching her brothers go away to fight.

The group then went on to create their own memorial. Using the inspiration of a project "[The Fallen 9000](#)" on the Normandy beaches where "dead" bodies were drawn in the sand, the group drew round each other and then decorated the body shapes and recorded their feelings about war.



Youth group at Broadway Baptist Church Remembrance Sunday Event

Profiles of Local People involved in WW1

More details about people we have researched can be found on our website sixstreetsderby.org.uk. From here you can find out more detailed information about men who served and others whose lives the group have researched. This is work in progress and more profiles are added as research by the group continues.

FUTURE EVENTS

Family History Festival

Wednesday 8 June 10 am – 4 pm, Derby Central Library

To mark their 40th anniversary, the Derbyshire Family History Society are joining forces with Derby Local Studies and Family History Library to hold a Family History Festival, at the Central Library on Wednesday 8 June 2016.

It will be an all-day event 10am - 4pm and will feature a programme of speakers, including Nick Barratt from the BBC series "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Groups representing family and local history will be supporting the event: The National Trust (Sudbury), Royal Crown Derby, Derbyshire Record Office and the Media Archive for Central England, along with a number of other local organisations and societies.

Six Streets History will be there with an exhibition, so come and say "hello" to the team!

Street Table Top Sale - Saturday 18 June 2016

Six Streets History will be taking part in the table top sale on Saturday 18 June.

There will be another chance to see the "pop-up" exhibition that was on show last year during the Arts Trail. Scattered around our streets, tied to lamp-posts, trees and gates you can read the stories of those men in our area who went away to fight and read about the women who volunteered for the war effort.

Information Leaflet and Map

At about the same time in June all those living in Six Streets will receive a copy of the map and information leaflet we have been preparing that tells the stories of Six Streets people in World War One. If you live out of area and would like to receive a copy of the guide please drop us an [email](#) with your address and we will send that to you.



During the Street Table Top Sale event the History Team will be on hand to talk to people about the project.

Look out for our distinctive display panels around the Six Streets during the weekend 18 and 19 June.

Coach Trip to The National Railway Museum, York

Ambulance Trains Exhibition, 3 September 2016

[Booking Now Available](#)

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

Ambulance Trains Step into a forgotten First World War story

This new exhibition tells the forgotten story of the ambulance trains used to evacuate sick and injured troops on an unprecedented scale during the First World War. Step on board a railway carriage to discover the experiences of the passengers, and the medical staff who cared for them under extraordinary circumstances. Explore a rich treasure trove of photographs, technical drawings and diaries to uncover the moving stories of some of the millions who travelled on board, as well as the railway staff who built the trains at incredible speed. A series of free talks by curators, experts and descendants of ambulance train staff will delve even deeper into this fascinating subject, and a special exhibition trail will be available for families.

Trip kindly supported by a grant from [The Centre for Hidden Histories](#) (WW1) Community Development Fund

Entry to the railway museum is free

There is a café on-site at the museum or you could bring a picnic, or use other nearby facilities in central York.

Depart Derby 9.30 am on Saturday 3 September 2016, depart York 5pm for return

Suggested donation to secure a firm booking: £5 per adult; £2 per child.

Booking may be made by email using the link below,
or by contacting 50 White Street.

100 Years Ago

1916

21 February - 18 December - German attack on Verdun in the longest battle of the war, ultimately defended by the French at great cost to both sides

11 March - 14 November - 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battles of Isonzo between Italy and Austria-Hungary

March - May - Conscription for unmarried men 18-41, then married men

24 April - Easter rebellion starts in Ireland

31 May - 1 June - Battle of Jutland, the biggest naval battle in history, ultimately without a clear victor

4 June - 20 September - Russian Brusilov offensive in Carpathia nearly knocks Austria-Hungary out of the war

1 July - Start of the Battle of the Somme, with the greatest number of casualties in British military history, 60,000

Source of information:-

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/timeline/1916.htm>

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?

The range of tasks available includes:

- using resources at the [Local Studies Library](#)
- using online research resources from your own home
- Looking through local Newspapers of 1914-1918 on-line.

Please email:

6streetshistory@gmail.com



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

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.

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

Thank you for your interest.

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