

Newsletter No 8, August 2016, Six Streets History

Final Reflections on Project, Battle of the Somme



© IWM (Q 734) Battle of Albert.

Roll call of the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, on the afternoon of 1 July 1916, following their assault on Beaumont Hamel during the opening day of the Battle of the Somme.

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205194577>

Six Streets History Newsletter No 8 Battle of the Somme 1 July - 18 November 1916

Welcome to the last of our newsletters for our World War One Project. As we come to the end of our two year funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund we thought it would be a good idea to give you an idea of the highlights of the project from our perspective. Our small band of volunteers has spent many hours researching local history, writing up information and researching pictures to present information through our "pop-up" exhibitions that have been a feature of local neighbourhood events. We have been involved in arranging talks to other groups, trips and events -

as well as coping with the day to day administration that such a project brings.

The final stage has been the research and production of our A2 pullout leaflet "Six Streets & World War One" which was distributed to all houses in the Six Streets area in June. Thanks are due to Gill Williamson who worked with us on the design and layout of the leaflet and also on our exhibition panels. If you have not received this leaflet you can either download a copy from our website or email us with your name and address and we will send you a copy.

As Chair of the group I would like to thank all members of the team who have brought their knowledge and enthusiasm to the project along with their willingness to learn new skills. Many hours of voluntary time have been devoted to our project - at our latest count we have contributed over 3000 hours of voluntary time as a group!

Diane Moss

In this Issue:-

[The Battle of the Somme](#)

[Commonwealth War Graves - Arnold Statham](#)

[Too Late for the Leaflet - The Taylor Family, 55 Statham Street](#)

[Recent Events - Tabletop Sale and World War 1 History Guide](#)

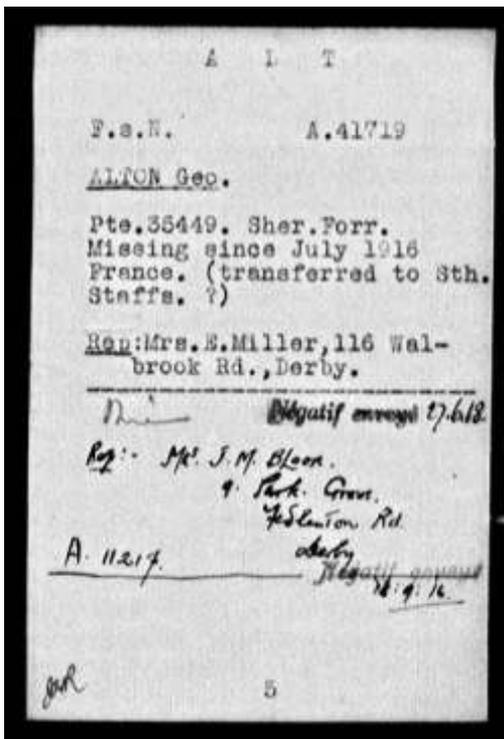
[Future Events - Coach Trip to National Railway Museum, York, 3 September 2016 with chance to visit Exhibition of World War 1 Art at York Art Gallery](#)

[Highlights of the Project](#)

[Profiles of Local People Involved in WW1](#)

[Timeline - 100 Years Ago](#)

[Trace Local Servicemen on IWM Website](#)



© International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) First World War Archives Record Card

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As we mark 100 years of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme, which involved many of the men from Six Streets who served in the army, particularly the Sherwood Foresters, we remember the one casualty associated with this area – **George Alton**. His mother and step-father lived at 9 Park Grove. George was reported missing on 15 July 1916 and a Red Cross missing person's card survives for him. His body was never found and he is remembered on the war memorial at Loos in Northern

France. Locally he is remembered on the memorial at St Alkmund's Church, Kedleston Road.

Special events are being staged at the National Memorial Arboretum this summer to mark 100 years since the Battle of the Somme. Go to the [National Memorial Arboretum website](#) to find out more.

One other man from our area: **Laurence Mills** (33 Statham Street) serving with the Kings' Own Liverpool Regiment was badly injured with a gun shot wound through his jaw and was invalided out as a result. Laurence had gone to France just before the war started, to work in the hotel trade, and his language skills meant that he was tasked with taking messages between French and British Officers. In the course of this duty he was injured. The French Government awarded him the Croix de Guerre for his services.



Croix de Guerre Medal, Wikimedia Creative Commons Image



Photo of Laurence Mills, Derby Daily Express 11 September 1916

Thankfully all of our other local soldiers survived the battle

The following Six Streets men were serving in Northern France during the Battle of the Somme:-

Ernest Jackson (Sherwood Foresters)
Robert Draper Army Service Corps (Motorised Transport)
Dennis Maxey (Cyclist Corps)
Clifford Grundy (Sherwood Foresters)
John Hodgson (Royal Engineers)
William Mills (Sherwood Foresters)
Ernest Hallam (Royal Garrison Artillery)
Thomas Clarke (Sherwood Foresters)
Archibald Adamson (Royal Field Artillery)
Wilfred Ernest Hamp (Lincolnshire Regiment)
Richard Collumbell (Highland Light Infantry)
Percy Darwin Lucas (Royal Engineers)
Ernest Gordon Darnell (Seaforth Highlander)

Profiles of all these men can be found on our website page [Lest we Forget](#).

Inspired by our leaflet "Six Streets and World War One", Janet McCartney carried out further research and tells the story of how local men were involved in and survived the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Further Research

Battle of the Somme First Day, 1 July 1916 Sherwood Foresters Six Streets Survivors

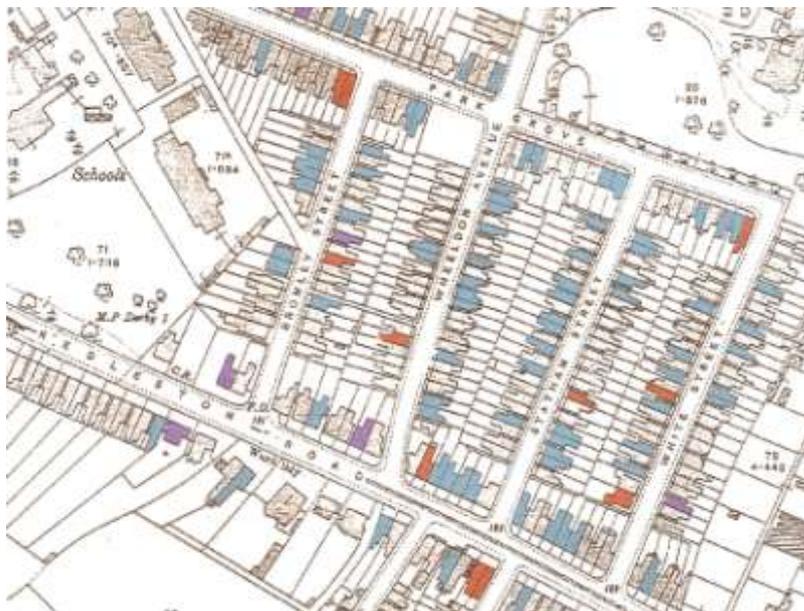
by Janet McCartney

It was a great pleasure to receive a copy of the Six Streets First World War History Guide. Such an attractive and compelling presentation ensured that it was read completely before it was put down. The overall impression was just how many aspects of the Great War are covered in a single leaflet by looking at the Six Streets only.

Reading it at the time of the commemoration of first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916 provided the inspiration to look at what light it could shed on any connections with the Soldiers of the Six Streets. Since the Sherwood Foresters were present on 1 July 1916, it is possible to check the men's involvement.

The 5th Derby Battalion were serving in the 46th North Midland Division, along with other Sherwood Forester Battalions, the 5th Lincolns and Staffords. They were part of a diversionary attack on the extreme north of the battle zone. They set out to surround the village of Gommecourt to meet the 56th London Division who were moving around the other side. In the circumstances it was not possible for the 46th

Division to reach Gommecourt. Almost certainly **Thomas Clarke** (41 Statham Street) and **Wilfred Hamp**(22 Statham Street) would have been in action here. There are occasionally reasons why not everyone went with the battalion but in these circumstances it is unlikely they are applicable.



Map of Six Streets area where these soldiers lived

The 11th Battalion Sherwood Foresters were further down the northern section of the battlefield, again in very difficult

territory, moving out from Authuille towards Mouquet Farm. **Clifford Grundy**(44 White Street) and **William Mills** (33 Statham Street), who were also serving in France with the Sherwood Foresters, could have either been with the 11th Battalion or 46th Division at Gommecourt.

Investigation in this case shows that none of the Six Streets soldiers of the Sherwood Foresters, who have been researched in this project, were killed on this occasion. This is an interesting perspective in terms of the notoriety of that particular day. A search on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website for those members of the Sherwood Foresters who died on 1 July 1916 shows a total of about 550 men. The Sherwood Foresters came from all over Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, five Battalions fought on that occasion so the effect was never going to be that of everyone in a street being killed as in the case of Pals Battalions. With four men involved, a casualty might have been expected, but this was not the case and shows how the facts can differ from the popular imagination of an event. It provides an example of how powerful the painstaking research has been in this case.

Thank you to all those involved for sharing this approach to the history of the First World War and the perspectives it can offer.

Further Research - Commonwealth War Graves, Arnold Statham

by Janet McCartney

The closer that the detail of the leaflet is examined the more it offers up.

A Commonwealth War Graves Commission search indicates that **Arnold Statham** (of 90 Kedleston Road) was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Cambrai, on 20 November 2017, and that he is buried at Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquières.



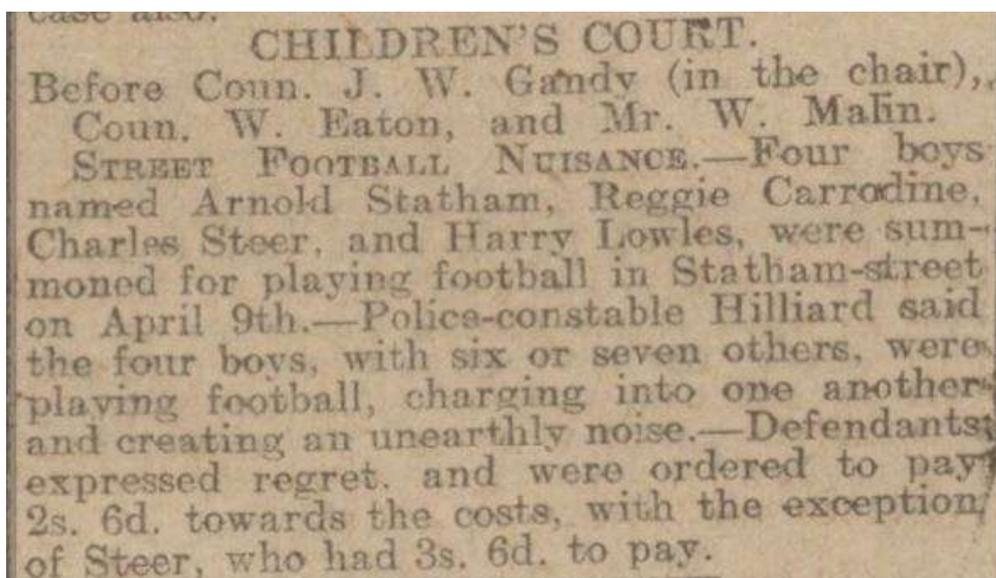
Photos by Janet McCartney:

Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquières, France, and poppy blooming in a field nearby

Here was a personal connection, having made several visits to the area, and there are photographs to share. Above is Orival cemetery, beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, peaceful in the fields below Flesquières. The poppy was photographed standing nearby.

The people of Flesquières are delighted to welcome and help their British visitors. Soon a specific visitor centre for the battle of Cambrai is to be built on the hill overlooking Orival and Flesquières Hill Cemeteries and to house Deborah the tank, but that is another story.

Previous Research - Young Arnold Statham's Football Brush with the Law in 1912!



Extract from Derby Telegraph April 1912

This extract shows a report on a Children's Court, to which boys including Arnold Statham were summoned for playing football in Statham Street, "charging into one another and creating an unearthly noise".

Too Late for the Leaflet! – The Taylor Family, 55 Statham Street

by Diane Moss

Just after our leaflet was distributed to houses in our area I was interested to receive feedback from the owners of 55 Statham Street – they had read about our discovery that 3 brothers from their house, from the Taylor family, were listed as away fighting in the Register of Electors for 1918 and 1919.

Spurred on by the interest of the current householders, I decided to have a stab at researching the three brothers. I struck lucky in the “family trees” section and found these two wonderful pictures showing that not just three brothers enlisted, but four. The youngest brother, Edward, born in 1904, must be wearing the uniform of an army cadet. There was also a photograph of the 5 boys with their sisters, taken in the back garden of 55 Statham Street – a real gem!



Clockwise from left to right: Eric Taylor (born 1897) Royal Army Medical Corps; Alfred Taylor (born 1900) Royal Engineers; Arthur Taylor (born 1893) Royal Artillery; Thomas Taylor (born 1886) British Army General Service; Edward Taylor (born 1904) Sherwood Foresters (cadet?). Photograph permission of

John Barker

The date of the photograph is uncertain: as Alfred was born in 1900 he was not eligible for military service until 1918 – unless he signed up early and falsified his age. However as Edward (born in 1904) looks only about 10 - 12 a date earlier than 1918 (when he was 14) is likely.



*Back row: L to R: Edward, Arthur, Thomas, Alfred and Eric
Front row: L to R: Elsie (born 1883), Ann (born 1888), Frances (born 1889), Hilda (born 1902), Doris (born 1895). Photograph by permission of John Barker.
Taken in the back garden of 55 Statham Street. The ramshackle porch is interesting!*

As I write, research into the family continues but what is also interesting is unpicking the links the family had with the area. In the 1901 census the family lived at 6 Cedar Street, later moving to North Parade. The oldest son, Thomas, moved with his wife

Mary Jane back to 11 Cedar Street, while his older sister Elsie married Alfred Towle In 1909 and they came to live at 57 Statham Street in 1914. A short while later the rest of the Taylor family moved from North Parade to live next door to Elsie at 55 Statham Street.



RECENT EVENTS

Six Streets Tabletop Sale June 2016 and our End-of-Project World War One History Guide

The history group took part in the table top sale in June 2016. From our base at 75 Wheeldon Avenue we talked to over 100 people who came to visit our information point and exhibition.



The 6 Streets History display at the tabletop sale in June 2016

Panels of information were displayed around the streets, as we had done previously, and at our stand in Wheeldon Avenue. This attracted a lot of interest.

World War One History Guide

In the same week we delivered our World War One history guide to all the houses in the Six Streets area.

Photograph: Interest shown in an information panel in Park Grove, and also our History Guide folded leaflet.



Here is some of the feedback we received on the History Guide:

It has been a delightful experience reading all about the local history though somewhat harrowing thinking about the individual families' experiences. I would like to say what a wonderful job of producing the documentation and design and graphics of the finished project. Well done to all concerned.

The local history guide is absolutely fantastic. My children thoroughly enjoyed reading it and re-reading it and we love learning more about our neighbourhood and its history and residents. Thank you for enriching our lives and knowledge.

The concept of investigating the First World War from the facts which could be discovered using the occupants of Six Streets is really intriguing. With this approach, a complete side of the leaflet is assigned to the Home Front. This gives an interesting perspective with children included as well as women and the inestimable contribution of those at home getting the space it merits. On the reverse, service on the other fronts continues to show the breadth, depth and perspective provided by the Six Streets examples. This approach is very powerful in both its depth and breadth. Significantly it avoids analysis of the War, to keep the facts established clear from future opinions.

I would like to thank the history group for the World War 1 history leaflet I have just found on my doormat. I knew the group has been working hard to produce it but did not know it was arriving today – or that it was so amazing. For such a small group of people to produce the detailed research that this beautifully produced leaflet is packed with is absolutely incredible. I am sure all over the area other people are saying “wow” as well.

FUTURE EVENTS

Coach Trip to The National Railway Museum, York

**Ambulance Trains
Exhibition, 3 September 2016**
(Entrance to the National Railway Museum is free)

Also a chance to see
**Exhibition of World War 1 Art at York Art
Gallery**

(Art Gallery entrance fee payable - see below)

Reminder of our coach trip on Saturday 3 September (depart 9.30 am prompt from road next to Jonty Farmer on Kedleston Road, Derby, and arrive back by 7 pm) to see the WW1 Ambulance Train exhibition at the National Railway Museum in York, with time to explore York and visit the Exhibition of World War 1 Art if you wish. Invite your friends and family to enjoy an inexpensive day out (or treat yourselves to Betty's Tea rooms!).

Nine Ambulance Trains were built in Derby - this reconstruction and associated exhibition will bring the reality home - any young fans of "Horrible Histories" should find aspects of appeal.

The whole museum is free so railway buffs can spend all day there if they wish.

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. A special exhibition trail will be available for families.

York Art Gallery Exhibition of World War 1 Art

Truth and Memory: British Art of the First World War

The largest exhibition of First World War art for nearly 100 years
York Art Gallery in Exhibition Square is the only venue outside London to display this
collection

Exhibition included in price of admission to the Art Gallery: Adults £7.50, under 16s
free with a paying adult

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

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

Some seats still available

Booking may be made by email to 6streetshistory@gmail.com or by contacting
50 White Street.

Highlights of the Project

by Diane Moss

There have been many enjoyable parts of this project for me, the research has been interesting and I have learnt a great deal about this area in World War One. One unexpected discovery was that Derby supported over 300 Belgian refugees in the war. I first discovered this when I was looking at local parish magazines. In the course of a "diversion" in my research I discovered that a newspaper, the "Courier Belge" for Belgian refugees (published in French and Flemish), was produced in Derby and distributed nationwide.

Extract from St Anne's Church Magazine April 1915 (with the permission of St Anne's Church)

We have started on Thursday afternoons, in the Hall, a weekly social gathering for the wives and mothers of our soldiers. Miss Vaudrey has shown commendable energy and spirit in the work, and, with other kind helpers, the meetings so far have been a great success. The meetings are open to all wives or mothers of soldiers, and we hope we may be able in times of joy to share their joys, and in times of sorrow to share their sorrows. We offer them all our fellowship and aid. We want to do all we can for those who have given of their best to defend our homes and country.

I had a great couple of days in the Archives at Matlock reading church magazines about the teas organised for women who had men away at the front, the Sunday School prizes that were given up by children to fund Prisoner of War appeals and

the unnerving effect that the Zeppelin raids had on local church-goers. It made me realise that churches played an important part in community life during the war.

I have enjoyed making contact with the descendants of Six Streets residents all over the world. Through "Ancestry" I have contacted people who have posted information online about their relatives and have created their family trees - most are happy to share what they have found with us.

Photograph of Private Reginald James Severn from The Derby Co-operative Record, November 1917



When we started the project we had no photographs of local people in World War One and a big question was, would we find anything? During the first weeks of the project we were lucky to track down photographs of Reginald Severn (Statham Street) and a particular highlight for me was receiving photographs of Reg on the same day that one of the team found references to him in the Derby Co-operative Archives.

For me it has been a surprise that out of over 100 servicemen in this area there were only 9 fatalities – no doubt many others knew of nephews, uncles, work comrades and friends who did not return. But part of the research I have enjoyed is finding out the lives these men made for themselves when they returned from the battlefields.

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.

100 Years Ago

27 January 1916 - Britain introduces military conscription

31 May 1916 - The Battle of Jutland, the major naval battle of the war, begins.

1 July 1916 - The Battle of the Somme begins. In just 4 months the British suffered around 420,000 casualties and the French had 200,000, but the Germans suffered the most coming away with 500,000 casualties. During the Battle of the Somme, tanks are first introduced into battle.

7 December 1916 - David Lloyd George becomes the new Prime Minister of Britain.

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

Trace Local Servicemen from WW1 on Imperial War Museum Website

[Lives of the First World War](#)

Follow this link to find out who went away to fight from our area, listed under the Community named Six Streets Derby.

More men have been added as our research progressed.

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 - the focus of our latest project has been on researching personal histories of people involved in or affected by World War One.

If you would like to know more please go to the [Six Streets and World War One](#) Section of the Six Streets website. The group can be contacted by email at 6streetshistory@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest.

You are receiving this e-mail because you have previously expressed an interest in Six Streets History, Derby. If you do not wish to receive these e-mails, please [unsubscribe from this list](#).

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