



ROXTON – Roll of Honour

World War I & II with information on each soldier

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Roxton War Memorial stands in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene in School Lane, Roxton, Beds.

The memorial lists the names of the men of the parish, or with family living in the parish, who died and served in WWI and those who died in WWII.

There are three CWGC graves in the churchyard of men not listed on the memorial, but who died in England.

Two other soldiers who died are mentioned on family headstones.

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ROXTON WAR MEMORIAL

N. SIDE - Top Plinth

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

AND IN THE GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF

A . J . COVINGTON

A . DARRINGTON

W . COVINGTON

P . DARRINGTON

2nd Plinth

C . DICKENS

G . F . NEWALL

A . W . EKINS

B . RUTLAND

F . GADSDEN

J . SIMCOE

J . W . GILBERT

A . STAY

F . JONES

G . H . WOOD

3rd Plinth

WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE DURING THE GREAT WAR

1914 - 1919

**“GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN
LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS”**

With special thanks to;

Roger Bygraves - for extra information, letters & photographs on the Darrington brothers

Bob Body – 161 Squadron & Michael Russell

Julian Panton – for help & information on Colin Panton and photo of the headstone.

Douglas Gray – further information and photo of Arthur Payne.

***Further information on the soldiers, records, photographs and headstone pictures, can be found in
‘Roxton Soldiers Files’ held in Roxton & District Local History Group archives.***

MEN WHO SERVED and DIED in WW1.

ALFRED JOHN COVINGTON 25 JAN 1892 - ROXTON to 30 JULY 1916 - SOMME, FRANCE

Enlisted November 1914 in Bedford, Private 17831, 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. On 26.03.1915 was promoted to Lance Corporal. He was killed in action on 30 July 1916 on the attack and capture of Maltz Horn Farm, Somme. Born and resident of Roxton, he was entitled to the 1915 Star and the General Service & Victory Medals. He is commemorated on the THIEVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, Picardie, France. Pier and face 2 C. Find a Grave Memorial – 56169196

From St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News 12.10.1917; – IN MEMORIAM

In ever loving memory of our dear Sons PTE WILFRED COVINGTON of the Beds Regt, killed in action in France October 12th 1916 aged 26 years, second son of the late Caleb Covington and Rosina Covington of Roxton. Also their third son, ALFRED JOHN COVINGTON of the Beds Regt, who was killed in action July 30th 1916 aged 24 years.

*'Though in a foreign field they fell,
God wanted them with Him to dwell,
And though twelve months have passed away,
We're looking for a fairer day,
When we shall meet around His Throne,
And be with them that went alone'.*

WILFRED COVINGTON 14 FEB 1890 – ROXTON to 12 OCT 1916 – SOMME, FRANCE

Private 27546, 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 12 October 1916 in the Battle of The Transloy Heights (fight for Grid and Bite Trenches). Born and resided in Roxton, brother of Alfred, and son of Rosina & the late Caleb Covington. , he was entitled to the 1915 Star and the General Service & Victory Medals. He is commemorated on the THIEVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, Picardie, France. Pier and Face 2 C. Find a Grave Memorial - 56169199

ALFRED DARRINGTON 8 MARCH 1897 – ROXTON to 22 NOV 1917 – FRANCE

L/Cpl., 5th Bedfordshire Regt. Volunteering in September 1914, he was sent to France in 1915. Whilst overseas he was transferred to the 5th Gloucestershire Regiment, and took part in the Battle of Loos, the Somme, Ypres and Passchendaele, prior to being killed in action in November 1917. He was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the General Service & Victory

Medals. "Courage, bright hopes, and a myriad dreams, splendidly given" Roxton, Beds.
From the National Roll of the Great War, Section XII, page 66.

From St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 30.11.1917. PTE ALFRED DARRINGTON OF ROXTON KILLED

The village of Roxton was overshadowed on Wednesday morning when it became known that Pte Alfred Darrington had been killed in action. His mother received a letter from the Captain stating that her son (with several others) lost his life during heavy shelling by the enemy. Soon after war broke out he joined the Beds Territorials, went to France and was transferred to the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was home on furlough during the early summer and told of many hair breadth escapes. Great sympathy is felt for the family in this bereavement in as much the eldest son Peter was killed 16 months ago. Fortunately the second son is on farm work near Hatfield.

He was Lance Corporal 4113 of the Beds Regiment and Private 242109 of the Gloucestershire Regiment. . He is commemorated on the ARRAS MEMORIAL, Calais, France. Panel reference: Bay 6. Find a Grave Memorial – 124953170

PETER DARRINGTON 3 SEPT 1887 - ROXTON to 1 July 1916 - Somme, France

Private 20317, 7th Bedfordshire Regiment, enlisted 24 April 1915. He was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916, the 7th Bedfords & 11th Royal Fusiliers were the Assaulting Battalions at zero hour 7.30am along Carnoy Trenches. Born and resided in Roxton a member of The Small Holding Society. Mentioned in the National Roll of the Great War, page 66.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 21.07.1916. ANOTHER ROXTON SOLDIER KILLED

Roxton was deeply distressed on Sunday by an unhappy coincidence – this very day which had been chosen for the special service to be held in the Parish church in memory of Lance-Cpl B. Rutland of this village, whose death was recently reported was this day Mrs C Ekins received the sad tidings that her eldest son Peter Darrington had met his death while charging the German trenches, during the big push made on the Western Front on July 1st. Pte Peter Darrington of the Beds Regiment, was trained at the Duke of Bedford's camp at Ampthill, and had been on active service for about six months. The village unites in offering heartfelt sympathy to his mother, brothers and sisters in their sad loss.

28 July 1916 – The Late Pte P. Darrington of Roxton

Mr C. Ekins of Roxton step-father of the late Pte Peter Darrington has received the following letter;

Bedfords B.E.F. 19/07/16

Dear Sir – I am in receipt of your postcard on the 15th Inst.

It is with deepest regret that I have to inform you that Pte. Darrington, 20317, of this Company, met his death in action on July 1st. The part which the Bedfords, and D Company in particular, played in the Battle of the Somme was a crowning success, and met his death like a true Englishman. He was buried by the Padre where he fell and his grave has been marked by a wooden cross. At that date I was an A Company officer, and so I have no personal knowledge of Darrington, but I hear though he had only recently joined us, he had won favour with all, and made himself popular.

Will you convey to his mother, not only the deepest sympathy of myself, but of his platoon and his company. I feel very deeply for her in her great trouble. Will you break the news to her, if she has not already heard from the W.O., and show her this letter.

May it be of comfort to her to know he died, as she would have wished, doing his duty, and in the height of a glorious success for the new armies.

Yours very sincerely,

H. J. CARTWRIGHT

He is entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the General Service & Victory Medals. He is commemorated on the THIEVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, Picardie, France. Pier and Face 2 C. Find a Grave Memorial – 12393949

CHRISTOPHER WESTLEY DICKINS JAN 1886 to 3 MAY 1915

Corporal 5566, 4th (Queens Own) Hussars. He enlisted in Bedford 1914, he was born in Chelsea, London and resided in Chawston. He died on 3 May 1915 at No.8 Casualty Clearing Station, France, from gas poisoning. He was the younger brother of William Joseph Dickens.

The Bedfordshire Times & Independent, page 3. 28.05.1915.

Mrs Dickens of Chawston has received an intimation from the War Office that her son who was a Reservist, and was called up on outbreak of hostilities, has succumbed to injuries and the effect of gas. He died 24 hours after having reached the hospital. Mrs Dickens who is a widow, has another son serving who has been in the Regulars many years.

He is entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the General Service & Victory Medals. He is commemorated on the BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXT., Bailleul, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, Grave reference: I. D. 11. . Find a Grave Memorial – 56328492

ALBERT WALTER EKINS 27 AUGUST 1897 to 6 MAY 1917

Private 29931, Bedfordshire Regiment, enlisted 5 June 1916, he transferred to Royal Flying Corps on 28 July 1916, Airman 2nd Class, 46133, 100th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. He failed to return from night bombing sortie.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts and Beds News, 18 May 1917 PTE A. W. EKINS OF ROXTON MISSING

Mr A.A. Ekins of Roxton has received the following letter in reference to his son Pte A.W. Ekins.

17th May 1917

Dear Mr Ekins – I write to you to tell you that I am deeply sorry about your boy. I am his Flight Commander, and I assure you that while he may be quite safe, I feel for you in the anxious weeks which must elapse before any news of him is likely to come through. He was one of the best observers in the squadron and I was recommending him to be trained as a pilot. Last night I detailed him to go off on a raid with one of our best pilots, and we are all very anxious at their not returning. I can say with every confidence that there is plenty of reason to hope that both pilot and observer are safe and that the engine of the machine was damaged or broke down and that they were obliged to land in Hunland. Your boy was doing very well out here, and both on that of his previous record I was intending to get him trained as a pilot.

Should I hear any news of any kind I'll at once communicate with you.

Yours truly

W.E. Collinson Capt.

R.F. C. B. E. F. France

Many of our readers will join in our earliest hope that Mr Ekins anxiety will shortly be relieved by satisfactory news of his son.

21 September 1917 Mr Albert Ekins of Roxton, has at last received news of his son, who has been missing some months. It is now stated that whilst acting as pilot on an aeroplane the machine caught fire whilst over German lines, and was destroyed both the pilot and observer being killed. Deep regret is felt at the sad news and utmost sympathy is felt for the family. The gallant young airman had done splendidly. He was a very clever promising lad and was apprenticed at Messers Allen's Engineering Works, Bedford. When he joined the R.F.C. he made rapid progress, he was only 19.

Entitled to the General Service & Victory Medals. Buried, DOUAI BRITISH CEMETERY, Cuincy, France. Grave F. 7. Find a Grave Memorial – 55962573

FREDERICK JAMES GADSDEN JULY 1886 to 30 OCT 1918.

Private 18073 "D" Coy, 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment, born in Wilden resident in Colesden.

National Roll of the Great War – He volunteered in November 1914, after completing his training, rendered valuable service whilst employed as Lewis Gun Instructor at Felixstowe until 1916, when he was drafted to France. There he took part in strenuous fighting on the Somme front and at Vimy Ridge and Arras. Invalided home later, on account of ill-health, he was discharged in April 1918, and unhappily died on October 30th 1918, from an illness contracted on military service. He was entitled to the General Service and Victory Medals. "His memory is cherished with pride" East End, Wilden.

Date of disability Nov 1917 - Messines. Huddersfield War Hospital- 15.11.1917 - 28.11.1917. Royal Bath Hospital 28.11.1917- 11.03.1918. 2nd Northern General Hospital, Leeds. 11.03.1918 - 24.04.1918. He died in Watford and is buried in Wilden churchyard – Plot: North-west of church. Find a Grave Memorial – 68924956.



Photo taken May 2017

JOHN WILLIAM GILBERT MARCH 1895 to 9 MAY 1917

Private 10746, 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment. Enlisted in Bedford, born and resident of Roxton. He was badly wounded in the head and died in hospital on 9th May.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts and Beds News. 25/05/1917 PTE. J.W. GILBERT OF ROXTON KILLED

Much regret is felt in Roxton at the news of the death of Pte J.W. Gilbert. His mother received the following letter;-

Dear Mrs Gilbert, you will have heard of your sad loss before you receive this letter. Your son Pte Gilbert, was bought here very badly wounded in the head and though everything possible was done for him he passed away on May 9th. He did not leave any message, he was hardly conscious. You will be glad to know he did not suffer pain and that he was in a

comfortable bed and had all he needed for his comfort. He is buried in the cemetery here and his grave will be marked by a Cross and nicely kept, I may not give you the name of the place but the War Office will if you wish for it. His belongings will be sent to you by the authorities later. With sympathy in your grief, believe me.

A.M. Raine. Sister-In-Charge.

Entitled to the General Service & Victory Medals. Buried in BARLIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Grave III. B. 3. Find a Grave Memorial – 56514101.

FREDERICK JONES 11 JAN 1882 to 14 JUNE 1918

Private 23706, 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, he was dangerously wounded in the chest, after heavy shelling on 14.06.1918, and later died. Born in Roxton, enlisted in Bedford and resident of Goldington.

National Roll of the Great War – He volunteered in 1915 and on completing his training in the following year, was drafted to the Western Front, where he took part in the Battles of Somme, Arras, Ypres, and Cambrai. He fell fighting on June 14th 1918. He was entitled to the General Service & Victory Medals. “He died the noblest death a man may die, Fighting for God and right and liberty” Roxton, Beds.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 28 June 1918 – News of our Soldiers & Sailors

PTE. FRED JONES, OF ROXTON, KILLED: Mr. Mrs. Jones, Park Gate, have received Official intimation that their son Fred Jones (Bedfords) died soon after admittance to a Stationary Hospital in France. He was dangerously wounded in the chest. Pte Jones was 32 years of age, and has left a widow with four children.

Buried in AIRE COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Pas De Calais, France, Grave III. C. 20. Find a Grave Memorial –56490174.

GEORGE FREDERICK NEWELL 6 AUG 1892 to 1 NOV 1914

Private 2777, 1/14th (County of London) Battalion, London Scottish, transferred to Cavalry Corps on 31.10.1914, killed in action at Messines. Born and resident of Kingston upon Thames, his father, Frederick Shirley Newell lived at Chawston House, and he is mentioned on his father’s headstone in Roxton churchyard, Plot 38. A. He is entitled to the 1914 Star, the General Service & Victory Medals. He is commemorated on the YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Panel 54, Leper, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Find a Grave Memorial –177808896.

BERTIE JOHN GEORGE RUTLAND**28 OCT 1887 to 27 JUNE 1916**

Lance Corporal 17735, 6th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, wounded on 25.06.1916 whilst engaged in fighting at Bienvillers, France. Enlisted in November 1914, previously 3rd Battalion of Bedfordshire Regiment in 1906 -1908. Mrs Martha Rutland his wife received a letter from 2nd Lieutenant C.J. Cornell, dated 25.06.1916, informing her of him being seriously wounded.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 14 July 1916- THE LATE LCE-CORPL B. RUTLAND

At the parish church on Sunday, a special service will be held in memory of Lce-Corpl. B. Rutland who died in France on 27th June from wounds received while on active service, his wife has received the following letter;

*20th Casualty Clearing Station
B.E.F. France*

July 2nd 1916

My dear Madam, - A letter is a very poor means (though the only means I have) of conveying to you the very real sympathy I feel for you and yours at the loss of your husband, Lce-Corpl. B. Rutland. I officiated at his funeral in our little cemetery here in the afternoon, and it will be a small consolation to you to know that your dear one received orderly and Christian burial. The grave will be well cared for, and already a neat wooden Cross has been erected. If at a later date you desire a photograph of the grave, you may be able to obtain one by applying to the Chaplain 20th C.C.T., France. Again assuring you of my deep sympathy.

Yours sincerely

*O.N. Swift. C. F.
Chaplain, C of E.*

He is entitled to the 1914 Star, the General Service & Victory Medals. Buried at WARLINCOURT HALTE BRITISH CEMETERY, Saulty, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Plot; I. D. 3. Find a Grave Memorial – 22495664

JOSEPH SIMCOE**31 JAN 1891 to 17 APRIL 1917**

Lance Corporal 33511, 8th Bedfordshire Regiment, killed by a German sniper, during the Battle of Hill 70 on 17.04.1917 in France. Born and resident of Roxton, he enlisted in Bedford. May 1916.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 11 May 1917 LCE-Corpl J. SIMCOE OF ROXTON KILLED

We deeply regret to record the death of Lce-Corpl Joseph Simcoe (Beds Regt.) of Roxton. The deceased soldier leaves a widow and a seven month old baby. Mrs Simcoe has previously lost two brothers in this war. Her husband whose age was 26, has been in the army for about a year and went to France about four months ago. Mrs Simcoe received the sad intelligence in the following letter; -

20th April 1917

To Mrs J. Simcoe Jnr.

Dear Madam, it is with sincere regret that I inform you of the death of your husband Lce-Corpl J. Simcoe (Bedfords) who was killed April 17th by a German sniper. Death was instantaneous the bullet passing through his neck. I was not with the battalion at that time but inquired after him as soon as I returned as day or two after and was sorely grieved when I was told about it, we being very great chums. Some time ago we had given each other our addresses, so as to let those know at home (if anything did happen), and I thought it my duty as his comrade to write to you. I found him a good and true Christian many times he told me of the good times he had spent at his Chapel, and we often passed an hour away reading a portion of Scripture or singing hymns. Everyone in our company gave him a good name, I assure you, madam, and that you have my greatest sympathy. 'But let us take everything to Him who has promised to be our Staff and Stay through all the changing years. He alone can help us'.

Believe me to be yours sincerely,

Lance-Cpl R. T. Barrett. Bedfords.

He is entitled to the General Service & Victory Medals. Commemorated on LOOS MEMORIAL, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 41. Find a Grave Memorial – 15759682. (N.B. letter and National Roll have date of death as 17th April, the Army Register and Grave registration documents as 18th April)

ARTHUR GEORGE STAY

OCT 1883 to 21 SEPT 1917

Lance Corporal 65340, 122nd Coy, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), he enlisted in Lambeth and was formerly 6341 of the London Regiment. Killed in action on 21.09.1917, the 122nd Machine Gun Company was part of 122nd Brigade, 41st Division, during September 1917 the 41st Division took part in The Battle of the Menin Road. He was born in Rugby and married Emily at Tempsford in 1906, resident of Roxton in July 1917. He is mentioned on his father's headstone in Clifton Road Cemetery, Rugby. He is entitled to the General Service & Victory Medals. Commemorated on TYNE COT MEMORIAL, ZONNEBEKE, WEST VLAANDEREN, BELGUIM Panel 154 to 159 and 163A. Find a Grave Memorial – 11961215

GILBERT HENRY WOOD**9 AUG 1884 to 15 MARCH 1917**

Private 29804, 'A' Coy, 7th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, wounded at Bihucourt line, 15 March, and killed by a shell. Born in Greasley, Nottingham, he was School Master at Roxton School from 1910, enlisted Bedford Jan 1916. There is a headstone on the church wall next to Roxton School in his memory.

Biggleswade Chronicle, 4.05.1917. - Roxton.

We regret to hear that Mr G.H. Wood assistant master at the Roxton Church School, has been killed on the Western Front. A private in the Beds Regt, he was reported wounded early in April. His wife made persistent inquiries and we understood that she has now received the unhappy intelligence that he was wounded and taken prisoner and killed by artillery fire on being taken to the German lines. Great sympathy is felt for his wife and child in their bereavement. He is entitled to the General Service & Victory Medals.

Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, Picardie, France. PART XLIX, Pier and Face 2 C. Find a Grave Memorial – 12379021 & 177807475.

NOT ON WAR MEMORIAL BUT IN ROXTON CHURCHYARD**WILLIAM UPSALL AYRES****JAN 1900 to 8 MAY 1919**

Private G/73487, Royal Fusiliers 6th (City of London) Battalion (Rifles). He was born in Colesden and died in Hospital in Surrey of pneumonia contracted in France. Son of Alice Ayres of Brewery Cottage, Eaton Socon and the late William Ayres. Buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 6 A. Find a Grave Memorial - 177874945



Photo taken 3.09.2016.

DIED - NOT ON WAR MEMORIAL

FRANCIS THOMAS PRESSLAND DAY *JAN 1891 to 25 MARCH 1918*

Second Lieutenant, 15th Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Born in Roxton, enlisted 1915, promoted to Captain.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 5.04.1918. News of our Soldiers & Sailors;

With deepest regret we announce the death, from wounds, of Capt. F.T.P. Day, West Yorks. Regt., third son of Mr James Day, The Mansion, Harrold, and formerly of Roxton Park, aged 28 years. Buried at BAC-DU-SUD BRITISH CEMETERY, Bailleulval, Pas-de-Calais Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Plot: I. D. 8. Find a Grave Memorial - 56456795

WILLIAM CHARLES JONES *15 APRIL 1897 to 19 OCT 1916*

Private G/14841 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. With the British Expeditionary Force and died of wounds on 19.10.1916. Born in Roxton residing Dunton, he enlisted in Biggleswade. Burial Varennes Military Cemetery, France. Grave space. I. C. 8. Find a Grave Memorial 15989434

ALFRED PAINE *OCT 1867 to 4 SEPT 1916*

Captain South African Infantry.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News. 10.11.1916. ROXTON - CAPT. A. PAINE KILLED

We regret to record the death in action in East Africa of Captain Alfred Paine of the South African Infantry, who had been through severe fighting with his regiment against the enemy in that part of the world. Captain Paine was born in Roxton, Bedfordshire and was the son of the Late Jabez Paine of Brewers Hill, Great Barford and Mrs Paine, Adelaide Square, Bedford, grandson of the late Mr Jabez Paine of Pavenham.

He was educated at Christ Hospital, London and was a crack shot with rifle and revolver. After a years' training with the 21st Rifles he left England at the early age of 18. For New Zealand, where he served for five years in the Alexandra Cavalry Volunteers. After ten years residence in N. Z., Captain Paine went to South Africa, arriving there just in time to take part in the Matabele War in 1896, for which he gained a medal. He served in the Natal Carbineers from 1897 to 1903 and during the Boer War fought with that regiment and with Loxton's Horse and Guides. During the siege of Ladysmith he was wounded twice in one day. Queens and King's medals and five clasps were awarded him for the Boer War

During the Natal Zulu rebellion in 1906 Captain Paine was a leader of the Reserves in the Newcastle Division, and when hostilities commenced in German South-West Africa he served as Captain in Botha's Natal Horse. His duty took him to the campaign in March this year.

1916, buried at Kikumi Cemetery, 9.Sept 1919 body exhumed from Kikumi re-buried in - DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY, Grave Reference: 7. B. 3. Source; Concentration Cemetery Docs. Find a Grave Memorial – 22732637

MENTIONED ON HEADSTONES IN ROXTON CHURCHYARD

FRANK WILLIAM BRACE *JAN 1900 TO 8 AUG 1918*

Private G/23789 no 11 Platoon, C Coy, 7th Royal Sussex Regiment. Killed in action. Born Little Barford, enlisted 4 March 1918 in Bedford, 53rd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Regiment no. G/23789. British Expeditionary Force. Posted to 52nd, 27.04.1918. Posted to 40th 15.7.1918. Transferred to 7th, 17.07.1918. Burial BECON BRITISH CEMETERY, Saily-Laurette Departement de la Somme Picardie, France Plot 4, Row I. grave 17. Mentioned on his parents headstone in Roxton churchyard Plot 52 C. Find a Grave Memorial - 177815530

GEORGE CHARLES FELLOWES. *JAN 1893 to 22 NOV 1916*

Gunner 597925 Royal Field Artillery, 1st/5th Hants Howitzer Battery. Born in Diddington, Hunts, enlisted 23.10.1909 Army records state he is 18 years & 2 months. 1911 census states he is 19 years old at the 101st Battery Royal Field Artillery, Woolwich, London. He was captured 29.04.1916 and died in Ofion Hara Hissar, Prisoner of War Camp, Turkey, 22.11.1916, cause of death; Intermittent fever. Buried at BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) WAR CEMETERY PART I, Iraq. Plot: XXI. K. 35.

Headstone in Roxton Churchyard, (Plot 30 A.) mentions him as nephew of Jane Jarvis, he died at Ofion Hara Hissar 22.01.1916 aged 24 whilst a prisoner of war in Turkey. Find a Grave Memorial - 12965504

ROXTON WAR MEMORIAL

S.side

Top Plinth

**THIS CROSS
WAS ERECTED BY THE PARISHIONERS**

2nd Plinth

**THE GROUND
IS THE GIFT OF THE VICAR
WM .FK . PYM . M .A. A D 1919**

3rd Plinth

1939 ----- 1945

ALSO IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF

CYRIL LOVELL

COLIN PANTON

“THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE”

CYRIL CHARLES LOVELL 14.08.1920 to 11 SEPT 1942

Driver T/5960387, Royal Army Service Corps. Born and resident of Colesden, he was taken prisoner in June 1942 and died as a Prisoner of War 11.09.1942.

St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News. 02.10.1942 - News of Soldiers.

Mr Cyril Lovell, of Roxton, is reported a prisoner of war. **11 .12.1942.** – News was received on Wednesday week of the death of driver Cyril Charles Lovell while a prisoner of war. He died in a Military Hospital in Tripoli on 11th Sept. He was the only son of Mr. C. H. Lovell & the late Mrs. Lovell of Colesden. He was taken prisoner in June in the M.E.F. His age was 22. He is buried at TRIPOLI WAR CEMETERY, Tarabulus, Libya. Plot: 6. D. 13.

Find a Grave Memorial – 22740550.

COLIN LANGLEY PANTON 29.09.1909 to 6 June 1940

Rank: Corporal. Service No: 2982682. Date of Death: 06/06/1940 Age: 27 (this was incorrect as he falsely signed up as John Avery Lockhart and took 3 years off his age)

Regiment/Service: Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 8th Bn. Died of wounds on 6 Jun 40 at a military hospital in Rouen having been wounded earlier at St Valery-Sur-Somme. In 1933 he went to China as an accountant, but was sacked, he joined the Army Service Corps as a Private, but was jailed in Aldershot, on release he went AWOL and went to fight in the Spanish Civil War, arriving back in England at the start of the war. He falsely enlisted in

Burnley, Lancashire, as John Avery Lochart no. 2982682. The name on the headstone is John Avery Lochart. He is buried in ST SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, Block "S". Plot 4. Row S. Grave 11. (Update 01.05.2020 the alias is now confirmed and his own name now appears on the CWG site))



Photo by kind permission of Julian Panton

He is mentioned several times in his brother's book, "Six Weeks of Blenheim Summer: An RAF Officer's Memoir of the Battle of France 1940". Written by Alastair Panton with Victoria Panton Bacon.

WW2 - NOT ON WAR MEMORIAL BUT IN ROXTON CHURCHYARD

JOHN WILLIAM HUNT *APRIL 1915 to 6 FEB 1940*

Sapper 1921012, 121 Road Construction Company, Royal Engineers. Born and resident of Chawston, he married in 1938.

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 16.02.1940 - SOLDIERS DEATH FROM PNEUMONIA

It is with regret that we record the death on 6th February of Mr John William Hunt of Milton Ernest, eldest son of Mr. Mrs. C. Hunt of Clapham. He married Miss Lilian Jones, daughter of Mr. Mrs Jones of White Cottages, Roxton, only two years ago, and for some time had been a caretaker at the Shire Hall, where he was held in high esteem. About four weeks ago he joined up and was training to be a batman to an officer. He caught a chill and this developed into pneumonia from which he died, at the age of 24 years. Mr Hunt leaves a young widow and a baby daughter. The Military Funeral was at Roxton Church, The vicar (Rev. A.J.W. Pym) officiating. There were about twenty of his comrades present and six of them acted as bearers. The coffin was covered with a Union Jack.

Buried in Roxton churchyard, CWG, Plot 51 G. Find a Grave Memorial – 68922104



ARTHUR JOHN PAYNE

2 JULY 1921 to 13 AUGUST 1945

Leading Aircraftman 1144434, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Bedfordshire Times & Independent. 31.08.1945. DEATH OF L/A/C. A.J. PAYNE.

The death of L/A/C. A. J. (Jack) Payne, of Wyboston, occurred at Westminster Hospital London, recently. He had served four years and six months in the Royal Air Force. Always of a cheerful disposition, he was well known, liked and much respected. Much sympathy is felt in the village for his young wife and parents. The funeral service was held at Wyboston Chapel and the interment took place at Roxton churchyard.

Roxton Churchyard, CWG, Plot 52 H. . . Find a Grave Memorial – 6892211

"Jack" Payne (affectionately known by his Fuller in-laws) was undergoing active service as ground crew on Bolton Paul Defiant and Bristol Beaufighter in the UK before being posted to India in late 1944 for the offensive against the Japs to drive them out of north east India and Burma. He unfortunately developed aggressive cancer diagnosed in March 1945 and subsequently died on 13 August 1945 at Westminster Hospital, London. This additional information and photo of Jack by kind permission of Douglas Gray.



OTHERS DIED - WW2 - NOT ON MEMORIAL

HORACE JONES

10 March 1901 TO 22 Jan 1941

CH/22362 Royal Marine Light Infantry, Chatham Division enlisted 23.09.1918, Born in Roxton residing in Bedford and Kent he served in the Royal Marines and was promoted to Corporal. He was on board HMS Southampton when it sank. Commemorated on CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL panel 49, 2. Chatham Kent, England. Find a Grave Memorial – 14374337

DAVID AUSTIN PROTHERO

OCT 1911 to 1 July 1941

Surgeon Lieutenant Royal Navy.

Bedfordshire Times & Independent, 11.01.1941.

News has been received of the death while on active service of Surgeon Lieutenant David Austin Prothero, O.B.M., RN. Aged 29 only son of Rev & Mrs Prothero of 28 Russell Ave. Bedford. Surgeon -Lieutenant Prothero was serving in H.M. Aircraft Carrier "Furious" and

was fatally injured when an explosion occurred on board ship. Surgeon -Lieut. Prothero, who was not married, joined the Royal Navy just before the outbreak of war. He was educated at the Bedford Modern School from 1922-1930. While there he was awarded his 1st XV Colours and was C.Q.M.S. of the Officers' Training Corps. He went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital & obtained his M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P. degrees and his D.A. diploma. In Bedford he was closely connected with the Bunyan Meeting Church, at which his father was formerly assistant Minister. Mr Prothero is now Minister of the Roxton Congregational Church. To him and to Mrs Prothero the sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended.

The Biggleswade Chronicle, 4.10.1946,

A stained glass window, depicting the Good Samaritan was unveiled at Roxton Congregational church recently by Mrs F. Bath senr, to the memory of Surg.-Lieut. David Austin Prothero, F.R.C.S., H.M.S. Furious, who lost his life during the war & was buried at Gibraltar. He was the son of the Rev. David Prothero, of Bedford, Minister of the Roxton Church. He is buried in GIBRALTAR (NORTH FRONT) CEMETERY, Plot 2, Row H. Grave 8. Find a Grave Memorial – 18484698

MEN WHO ALSO SERVED WW1 - NAMES ARE ON THE WAR MEMORIAL

FREDERICK BALL.

17 November 1889 -

5TH Canadians. Born in Staploe, Huntingdonshire and in 1911 residing at Lodge Farm, Colesden, Bedfordshire. On 16.07.1912 he left Southampton for Canada, occupation – farmer. 25.11.1915 enlisted at Fort, Purbrook, Ontario, Canada, in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Regiment no. 724581. Next of kin listed as his father, Arthur Ball,

Lodge Farm, Colesden, Beds. **St. Neots Advertiser 13.04.1917** – Private Fred Ball of Colesden, slightly wounded in breast, in hospital in France. **23.08.1918.** - Private Fred Ball, Canadians, wounded. Injured for a second time.

WILLIAM THOMAS BAMBRIDGE. *21 June 1892 to 29 Dec 1969*

Volunteered in May 1915, Private 57807. 16th Cheshire Regiment & Sapper Royal Engineers. Born in Great Barford and resident of Roxton. He was drafted to France after training & took part in the Battle of the Somme & Arras before being badly wounded in action at Ypres in Sept 1917. 14.11.1917 - Gunshot wounds to arm, compound fracture clavicle and acromion legs (right and left.) Admitted 14.11.17, discharged 14.11.17. Source; Medical Records of 31st Ambulance Train. France. May 1918 - He was invalided home & after hospital treatment at Newcastle, was discharged May 1918 as medically unfit for further service. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 57 E. Find a Grave Memorial - 177875481

WILLIAM THOMAS BAMBRIDGE. *21 Dec 1893 to 28 Oct 1974*

Joined in March 1916, Corporal in the Duke of Cambridge's Own (1/8th Middlesex Regiment) & three months later was sent to France, where he served with distinction at the Battles of the Somme, Arras, Messines, Bullecourt & Ypres. Was badly gassed in action near Cambrai, he was invalided to hospital in England and after a period of treatment was demobilised in August 1919. Holding the General Service & Victory medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 56. O. Find a Grave Memorial – 177875632

ALFRED THOMAS BANNISTER. *18 March 1872 to 23 September 1952*

29.06.1918 - R.A.F. service no. 262737, on 23.02.1919 – RAF Reserve; Discharged 30.04.1920. Born in Hackney, he enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers 27.04.1892, in St. Georges, London. Then living in various parts of the country before residing in Roxton. He is buried in Roxton Churchyard. Find a Grave Memorial – 178020201

REGINALD GEORGE BARTRAM. *29 May 1899 to Sept 1997*

Enlisted in 1917 in the 6th Bedfordshire Regiment, service no. 50119. After ten weeks training found himself in France. A newspaper article in the Bedfordshire Times on 17.02.1995, tells of his experiences in France and Belgium. He was born in Roxton and died in Renhold, he holds the General Service & Victory medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178020358.

ALEC ARTHUR BONE. 24 Feb 1898 to March 1964

Born and resident of Roxton, he enlisted in 1917. Private 32095 in the 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, then the Army Service Corps Private R/436931. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178020619.

FRED BRACE. 26 March 1899 to 5 Oct 1963

F. Brace, Private 42011, Bedfordshire Regiment joined in April 1917 and after a period of training proceeded to France, where he saw severe fighting in various sectors of the front. He took part in the Battles of Marne & Cambrai & many other important engagements. Until invalided home suffering from septic poisoning & admitted to hospital in England. He was finally demobilised in 1919, and holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 56 L. Find a Grave Memorial – 177806983.

JOSEPH BRIMLEY. 2 June 1879 to 28 March 1965.

Born and resided in Roxton, a carpenter by trade. Enlisted 24.06.1916, called up for Army Reserves 18.11.1916. Royal Engineers, Sapper 505880, he joined unit in France 28.03.1917 and was promoted to 'Superior' on 8.06.1918. Transferred to class 'Z' Army reserves 4.01.1919 and discharged from Inland Waterway Transport on 6th Jan. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 57 K. Find a Grave Memorial – 178022483.

KENNETH ARTHUR BRIMLEY. 11 Oct 1898 to 30 May 1923.

Private 96831. Royal Tank Corps. (Previous units; 14th Tank Corps 96831 Pte). He was trained at Wareham in Dorset. **St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News; 9.11.1917** Sapper Brimley of Roxton who met with an accident whilst moving heavy goods behind enemy lines, has now recovered. **23.08.1918;** Private Ken Brimley (Tank Corps), of Roxton has been wounded in the head and left arm. He was in action for quite a long time and saw terrific fighting. Notwithstanding great heat, he stuck to his post and earned the high praises of his officers. . He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178022969

ROBERT GEORGE BRITTEN. 11 Nov 1876 to July 1955

Private, 2nd Northants Regiment. Volunteered in July 1915, after a period of training was retained at various stations, where he was engaged on duties of great importance. Unable, on account of ill-health to obtain his transfer to theatre of war, he nevertheless rendered valuable services with his unit demobilised in Dec 1918. Brook Cottage, Chawston Beds. Find a Grave Memorial – 178050811

SAMUEL CAVE. *15 July 1888 to 30 October 1965*

Private 125996, Machine Gun Corps was born and resident of Colesden, he enlisted in Reserve 'B' 10.12.1915. He is on Roxton (Colesden) absent voters list for 1918 and 1919. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard Plot 56 F. Find a Grave Memorial – 177807929.

JOHN MASON CLARKE. *16 April 1883 to 18 October 1943.*

Private 4652, 16th Middlesex Regiment. Captured 30.11.1917 and was a prisoner of war in Germany. Born in Wyboston and resident of Roxton. **St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News; 18.01.1918** - Pte. John Clarke, Middlesex Regt from which nothing has been heard for some weeks has now sent a postcard to his wife stating that he is a prisoner of war in Germany. Before joining the army he worked under the Highways Committee of Bedfordshire County Council. **27.12.1918** - Private John Clarke 16th Middlesex Regiment P.O.W. has arrived home from being in German hands, captured 30 November 1917, and has been working on Railways. . He holds the General Service & Victory Medals.

HERBERT COVINGTON. *17 March 1885 to June 1972*

Private 26534 Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, he enlisted 18.12.1915. Born and resident of Roxton, occupation a blacksmith. His two younger brothers, Alfred and Wilfred died in France within 10 weeks of each other in 1916. He was discharged 7.11.1918 Cause of discharge, S. 392 (xvi) King's Regulation B (I). Silver War Badge no. B46515. Badge date of issue 9.12.1918. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178051288

GEORGE DARRINGTON. *29 September 1890 to May 1967*

Private 17832, Bedfordshire Regiment later transferring to the Labour Corps, Private 430946. Born and resident of Roxton, in March 1912 he and his two brothers went to Canada, 18 months later they returned on hearing land had been obtained for Small Holdings. He enlisted on 9.06.1915 and left for France later that month. He was invalided out in 1918 with trench foot and gas poisoning. His older brother Peter died in France in 1916 and his younger brother Alfred in 1917. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Find a Grave Memorial – 178052033

WILLIAM JOSEPH DICKENS. *13 August 1883 to April 1925*

Enlisted 29.11.1913, Private 45225 in Reserve 4th Hussars, then promoted to Corporal. In 1901 he enlisted for 12 years in the 8th Hussars Private 4684 and also served in The Kings Royal Irish, Private 5429, serving in South Africa and India. Born in Middlesex and resident of

Chawston, he was wounded on 26.03.1918 and home April to Oct 1918, then discharged as no longer fit for service. His brother Christopher of the Hussars died from gas poisoning in France in 1915. **St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 21.06.1918**; Corpl W. Dickens (Hussars) of Roxton is in hospital in Preston having been wounded in both wrists. He is one of the men entitled to wear the Mons Star and ribbon. His length of army service extends over several years some of which were spent in South Africa and India. Also holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Find a Grave Memorial – 178058403

JOSEPH WILLIAM EKINS. 15 July 1892 to 12 April 1964

He enlisted in September 1914, Army Cyclist Corps, West Yorkshire Regiment, Private 10766. **St Neots Advertiser Hunt & Beds News, 21.12.1917**. Mr C. Ekins postmaster is to be congratulated upon his son Joseph attaining commissioned rank. Second-Lieutenant Ekins enlisted during September 1914 in the City of Sheffield Battalion of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regt. After completing his training he was transferred in 1915 to Egypt and served with the Army Corps Telegraph and Signalling Battalion. At a later date he was sent to France and after taking part in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, received a course of instruction and obtained a Proficiency Certificate as skilled Telegraph Operator and Signaller. He then took duties in Ypres Salient and in early part of the year returned to England and spent some weeks at an Officer's training school and has been gazetted to the West Yorkshire Regiment. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial - 180560815

HUBERT (BERTIE) FOLBIGG. 14 December 1899 to 6 September 1966

Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Served at Home. Born in Wyboston and resident of Chawston & Roxton. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 53Q. Find a Grave Memorial 183894627

ARTHUR FREDERICK FULLER. 6 April 1893 to 20 October 1952

St Neots Advertiser Hunt & Beds News, 2.10.1914 - Private A. Fuller, of the second Beds Regt., arrived at Southampton last week from South Africa, having been stationed at Pretoria for 11 months. On landing at Southampton he was granted short leave to visit his friends, and was round Roxton Friday chatting with old friends. His visit was very short and he returned to Southampton Friday evening, stating that he was bound for France on Monday. **20.11.1914** - Mrs Fuller has received intimation to the effect that her son, F. Fuller, of the Bedfordshire Regt., has been wounded. **23.07.1915** - Private Fuller, 2nd Beds, arrived home on Friday. He has been at the front since last September, but is looking extremely well. He was one of the soldiers who fraternised with the Germans last Christmas & his accounts of the meeting are full of interest. He is due to return in the course of a few days. **8.03.1918 – The 1914**

Star and Riband - Corpl A. Fuller (Beds Regt) of Roxton joined 16th March 1912 and at the outbreak of war was in South Africa. He proceeded to France in September 1914 and in the glorious 7th Division took part in the battles of Ypres, Neuve Chapelle, Festubert and Loos. Having been wounded in action, he wears the Gold Stripe. He was home on leave during February and served his country at the threshing machine. **29.03.1918** - Lance Corporal Arthur Fuller is a patient in the Royal Hospital, Reading, Berkshire. He was born in Honeydon, resident of Roxton and Great Barford, and in 1925 immigrated To Canada. He holds the 1914 Star, General Service & Victory Medals. He is buried in Ontario, Canada, Find a Grave Memorial – 178061269

CECIL SAMUEL GADSDEN. 19 August 1892 to 31 May 1968

24.06.1916 - Enlisted at Biggleswade, a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, 20th Siege Battery. Regiment no. 120089. Posted to France 30.09.1916, transferred to class 'Z' Army Reserve on Demobilization on 16.03.1919. Born in Great Barford and resided in Roxton, he is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 58 M. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 177790170

GEORGE JARVIS. 14 July 1877 to 23 December 1961

Deemed to have been enlisted 1 March 1916. Called up for Service 18.05.1917, 3rd Suffolks, service no. 45643, posted to 12th Suffolks, 25.09.1917. Transferred to 20th Durham Light Infantry 28.09.17. Service no. 44811. Served in England 7 months, France 7 months and Italy 5 months as an Infantryman. 4.09.1918, Gun Shot wound to right wrist, injured in action. Hospitals treated at; Canadian General Hospital, France & Lakenham Hospital, Norwich. 4.04.1919, Transferred to 4th Durham Light Infantry, service no. 44811. Transferred to Reserves 4 April 1919. His sister Grace is listed as his next-of-kin. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Born and resident of Roxton, he is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 56 I. Find a Grave Memorial – 177805923.

LEONARD JOHN JARVIS. 29 September 1895 to 15 February 1966

Enlisted in Bedford on 11 September 1914 he joined the 1/5th Bedfordshire regiment, Private 3968, then 2/4th Dorset Regiment no. 202272. 1/4th Dorset Regiment no. 202272 and 2nd Essex Regiment no. 204239. **St Neots Advertiser, Hunts & Beds News, 26.03.1915** - Leonard Jarvis, who was in Hospital at Shoreham some weeks ago, came over for a few days' leave last week-end. **12.11.1915** - Leonard Jarvis is not suffering from any dangerous disease or injury. His parents received a letter on Sunday which stated that he was now allowed to take a little exercise in the open air. Happily it fell to his lot to be the recipient of the weekly parcel, and a pair of socks muffler; and a few useful articles were forwarded to Malta Hospital. **19.11.1915** - A letter has been received from Pte. L. Jarvis stating that at last he has enjoyed some of the contents of the first parcel. In his letter he states that the great drawback in Gallipoli is the dearth of water, for often he has been a fortnight without a wash. This letter was written in Sept. but since this his mother has been informed that he has fallen ill, and is now in B 8 Ward, St. Patrick's Hospital, Malta. **28.01.1916** - Pte. L. Jarvis

is now on the road to recovery from his illness for many weeks he has been in hospital in Malta suffering from inflammation of the stomach. He holds the 1915 Star and General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178079579

RICHARD GEORGE JARVIS. *January 1893 to 18 February 1943*

He enlisted 2.03.1916. Private. M2/168026, 699 Army Service Coy (Mechanical Transport) Ford Ambulance Driver. Roll A526, Home 22.03.1916 to 23. 8. 1916. / Expeditionary Force East Africa / Home 3.09.1917 to 13.03.1918. Born in Roxton he is older brother to Leonard and resident of Oxford. Discharged 13 March 1918, no longer fit for War Services. Para. 392 (XVI) K R. / Silver War Badge, 18-Mar-1918. Badge number; 353102. . He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178079676

JOHN WILLIAM JEFFERIES. *27 September 1887 to 22 December 1951*

29 June 1916, enlisted in 9th Northampton Regiment. **St Neots Advertiser Hunts & Beds News, 26.07.1916** - Mrs John Jefferies, of Roxton, has now received from her husband (Northants), a postcard stating that he is a prisoner of war in Germany. **10.01.1919** - Pte John Jefferies 2nd Northants Regt has now returned to England after being a prisoner of war in Germany. (**Note; Medical report on 5 July 1919 at Aldershot, states that he has Chronic Bronchitis and some emphysema and scars of an operation for left hernia. Subsequent medical reports 1920- 1923 state Chronic Bronchitis.**) 28.08.1919, Discharged 5 July 1919. Service number; 146332. Rank; Private, Silver Badge number B273795. Cause of discharge Sickness Eligible under Army Order 29 of 1919. Discharged under Para. 392 (xvi) King's Regulation. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Born and resident of Roxton, he is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 58 Q. Find a Grave Memorial – 178011630

HERBERT STEVEN JOHNSON. *October 1899 to March 1957*

Private 37030 8th East Surrey Regiment. Born in Wilden and resident of Chawston, he is on the Absent Voters list, Polling district K, for Roxton (Chawston), for 1919. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. . Find a Grave Memorial – 178079792.

WILLIAM CECIL JONES. *16 November 1897 to September 1966*

Trooper, Royal Scots Greys. - Entitled to British War & Victory Medals. Brother to Arthur Reginald Jones. .Born in Roxton and resided in Roxton and Biggleswade.

ARTHUR REGINALD JONES. *12 February 1899 to 21 July 1988*

Private 3213, Hertfordshire Yeomanry, enlisted at Biggleswade on 13.03.1917. Promoted to

Lance Corporal on 25.01.1918. Reverts to Private on transfer to Dorset Regiment 12.04.1918, no. 57602. Transferred to Worcestershire Regiment, Lance Corporal 57668. . **St Neots Advertiser, Hunts & Beds News, 11.10.1918** - Wounded in action, transferred to England 1.10.1918. On 11.10.1918. L/C Reg Jones Worcesters, wounded in leg, in 3rd Northern Hospital, Sheffield. 25.01.1919, Lance Corporal 7th Reserve Worcestershire Regiment, Discharged on demobilization 31.05.1920. . He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Born and resident of Roxton, he is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 59 M. Find a Grave Memorial – 177808234

JOHN JONES 8 September 1891 to 23 January 1968

Private 3113, 4th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, enlisted at Northampton. On 8.09.1915, at Wearde Camp, Saltash, Cornwall, he is listed as a deserter, on 8.10.1915 there is a Court of Inquiry. On the 21.06.1918 in the St. Neots Advertiser Mr. Mrs. Jones of Park Gates, Roxton have received news that two of their sons are in a French Hospitals. Fred (Bedfords) has been dangerously wounded in the chest and Jack (Cavalry) is suffering from pleurisy. (Mr. Mrs. Jones do not have a son named Jack, therefore there is a possibility that this is John.)

MONTAGUE EVELYN S. KIDMAN. 25 March 1891 to December 1975.

East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry, 18750, Machine Gun Corps, Calvary. Other Records for Montague E Kidman - East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry Machine Gun Corps Calvary, 111011. He is on the Absent Voters List for parish of Roxton (Chawston), in 1919. Born in Tempsford and resident of Chawston he holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial – 178079947

RIFFEN BEAL KIDMAN. April 1885 to 9 November 1937

Private 24903. 8th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was seriously wounded by shrapnel in the right shoulder, arm, and on the chest and right jaw, on 9th July 1916. He spent a lot of time in various hospitals, until he had a bullet removed in November 1916 at Cambridge Hospital. Died in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London. Older brother to Montague E. S. Kidman. Born in Tempsford and resident of Chawston, he holds the 1914/15 Star, General Service & Victory Medals

WILLIAM JAMES KING. 26 June 1898 to 6 November 1940

He enlisted in the Royal Navy, on 10.03.1917 and was at HMS Victory II - Crystal Palace - Training depot RN Division. He served aboard various ships and on the 1919 Absent Voters list - K41880, 89 Mess, H.M.S. 'Albion' Polling District K. Parish of Roxton. (Colesden). From 1.12.1918 to 24.02.1919 he was on H.M.S. Vivid II, Shore & De-mob. Vivid II was the RN

Barracks at Devonport. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. He was born in Wilden, resident of Colesden and died in Newport, Wales. He is buried in Saint Woolos, Cemetery, Newport, Wales. Find a Grave Memorial - 153070318

JOSEPH MINNEY. *27 August 1882 to 18 December 1971*

Private 20462, 8th Bedfordshire Regiment. Enlisted 3 May 1915, served overseas and wounded, discharged 16 July 1917. Silver badge awarded 27 July 1917, number 216310. Born in Cople, resident of Roxton and buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 53N. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals. Find a Grave Memorial 183894039.

JOSEPH PELL. *3 October 1891 to 5 December 1962*

Private 31423, Royal Fusiliers, then Private 62100, of the Labour Corps. Silver badge awarded, so must have been wounded and discharged. Older brother of William Pell. Born in Wilden, resident of Chawston. He holds the General Service & Victory Medals.

ERNEST HARRY G. PARTRIDGE. *25 March 1893 to 25 October 1963*

Born in Staploe, Beds, later resided in Chawston. He enlisted 17 December 1915 in Reserve 'B' Company. He attested under the Group System, and notice of his group being called up had been received, but his employer, Mr Dalton appealed to the Tribunal for his release on the grounds that he was a horse keeper, which was accepted by the Court. **St. Neots Advertiser 11.02.1916** states 'Ernest Partridge, of Chawston, can undoubtedly lay claim to being the first to obtain exemption from military duties in the district. '

WILLIAM PELL. 27 July 1895 – December 1977

Private 255643. Born in Wilden, later resided in Colesden. He enlisted in the Engineers, 31 May 1915 in Bedford. He is listed on the Absent Voters list for the Parish of Roxton, (Colesden) for 1918 & 1919 – 255643 Pte... 432 Ag. Co. Entitled to General Service & Victory medals. Find a grave memorial - 178083257

ADOLPHUS HARRY RUTLAND. *2 August 1895 to 12 October 1965*

Born & resident of Roxton. On the 4 March 1914, he immigrated to Canada, working as a farm hand. In February 1916 he sent £1 back home to Roxton for the Soldiers' Fund. He enlisted at Regina, Saskatchewan, in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Regiment No. 907633 on 3 April 1916. He died in Chawston and is buried in Roxton churchyard. Plot 51.L. Find a grave memorial – 177811528

JOHN WALTER SUGARS *April 1895 – 31 August 1959*

Private M/319868. Born in Wilstead and brother of William Sugars. He enlisted 24 February 1916, Army Service Corps (Mechanical Division) Battalion; 365th Company. Army Reserves - Agriculture Cat B1. Mobilized 21 May 1917 and 30 June 1917 Passed learners test, Lorry Driver. Expeditionary Force Overseas 9 October 1918 to 12 November 1919. Transferred to Class 2 Army Reserves, Woolwich Dockyards on 11 December 1919. Entitled to General Service & Victory medals.

WILLIAM FREDERICK SUGARS. *19 February 1893 – 28 May 1985*

Private 19654. Enlisted 5th Bedfordshire Regiment at Kempston on 19 February 1916. Transferred to 3rd Beds Regiment, no. 37548. Transferred to 1st Dorset Regiment 17.02.1917, no 19654. L/Cpl. Posted to France 1 Feb 1917 and was in General Hospital, Edmonton, 30.12.1917 to 25.03.1918 with Trench Foot. From 19 - 23 April 1919 in Londonderry Hospital, Northern Ireland with Erythema. 29 September 1919 the 1st Dorsets proceeded to Dublin for Dispersal at Londonderry. Transferred to class "Z" Army Reserves on demobilization. Entitled to British War & Victory medals. He is buried in Roxton churchyard, Plot 62.I. Find a grave memorial – 177812356.

WILLIAM THOMAS SWEPSTONE. *15 November 1890 – March 1973*

Private 34090, enlisted in 3rd Royal Sussex Regiment. He is listed on the Absent Voters list for the Parish of Roxton, (Colesden) for 1918 & 1919. In a letter from a friend writing home from the Dardanelles in September 1915, states; '*William Swebstone got wounded in the foot and leg, but I think he is getting on alright now*'. Entitled to General Service & Victory medals. Find a grave memorial - 178083552

WILLIAM HAROLD THEED. *January 1894 to December 1954*

Private 33790, 4th Bedfordshire Regiment. Born in Hendon, Middlesex. After joining in February 1916 he underwent a period of training and in the same year was drafted overseas. During his service on the Western Front he took part in many important engagements, including the Battles of Loos, the Somme, Ypres, Cambrai and Lens. He was seriously wounded, and as a result his left arm was amputated, and he was finally discharged in 1919, holding the General Service and Victory Medals. "Willowdeane" Clapham, Bedford.

St Neots Advertiser, 5.04.1918 – Pte W.H. Theed of Brook House, Chawston, is in hospital in France wounded and gassed (mustard) severely. **7.06.1918.** - Mrs Rutland, of Willow Deane, Clapham, Bedford, has heard from the Sister and Chaplain of a Casualty Clearing Station in France, that Pte. W. H. Theed was wounded on the 25th May and is in a very serious condition. Pte Theed, who belonged to the Beds Regiment and whose home is at Chawston, has only just recovered from gas poisoning and joined his unit. **21.06.1918.** -

Mrs Terrell of Brook House, Chawston has been informed that Pte W.H. Theed (Beds Regt) is seriously ill at a hospital in France, suffering from gunshot wound arm and thigh, arm amputated.

HERBERT WILLIAM WATTS. 25 September 1885 – March 1969

Private 7985, enlisted in the Hertfordshire Regiment 24.07.1916. Transferred to Beds Regiment, Agric Coy no. 39998, on 26.02.1917. Transferred to class "W" Army Reserves, 18.05.1917. Joining in July 1916, he was retained on special duties at various stations in England owing to his being unfit for services overseas. He nevertheless, rendered valuable services until cessation of hostilities and was demobilised in Jan 1919. Laws Row, Eaton Socon, Beds.

OTHERS WHO SERVED WW1 – NOT ON WAR MEMORIAL

HAROLD BENTLEY EKINS. 20 October 1884 to March 1965

Enlisted about 1914/1915 - 2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons), Machine Gun Corps Regimental Number: 1123, and Soldier Number: 151355, Rank: Company Sergeant Major, Corps: Machine Gun Corps. Mentioned in The London Gazette, 11.07.1916, - Staff Sergeant Major H.B. Ekins. 1123. - Fourth Supplement to London Gazette, 11.07.1916, number 29664, page 6945. In the **St. Neots Advertiser 21.07.1916**, the list of soldiers mentioned by General Sir Charles Monro in his dispatch for Distinguished and Gallant Services in Gallipoli includes the name of Staff Sergeant-Major H.B. Ekins, 2nd County of London Yeomanry, second son of Mr W.H. Ekins, steward of the Three Counties Asylum, and formerly of Roxton. He holds the 1915 Star and General Service & Victory Medals.

JOSEPH HUGH EKINS. 17 March 1889 to 8 June 1931

British Royal Air Force, Officers' Service Records 1912-1920. March 1914 - April 1917, Royal Aircraft Factory, Aeroplane designer & Tech Supervisor of contracts. Oct 1917, Aeronautical Inspection Department - Inspector of Aircraft. 4 September 1918 • The London Gazette, pages 10399/10400, Granted temp. Honorary Commissions as Lt. whilst employed as Assistant Inspectors, A.I.D. Younger brother of Harold B. Ekins, born in Roxton resided in London. Immigrated to Australia and died 8.06.1931 in a plane crash, in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, when flying his 'Moth' from Melbourne to Albury air pageant in bad weather. Crashed in the bush on 8th June and ten days passed before his broken plane was found with his body in the cockpit.

ARTHUR HENRY SHIRLEY NEWELL. *20 November 1893 to September 1965*

Bedfordshire Times & Independent 12.03.1915, page 3.

Mr. Arthur Newell of Chawston, who was called up at the outbreak of war, & drafted over to France with the London Scottish, while in a charge was wounded in the thigh & calf, & afterwards invalided Home. His brother George is reported missing. The brothers fought on the same field, Arthur actually saw George surrounded by a band of Prussians and from that moment lost sight of him. Only two of those surrounded escaped. Previously Mr Newell was taking wounded to Hospital when suddenly he saw a party of Uhlans, luckily for him there was a bridge nearby and unsighted he crept under as Huns passed over. He is due to return to France on March 19th. He was born in Surrey and resided at Chawston House, Chawston, Beds. Holds the 1914 Star and General Service & Victory Medals. Find a grave memorial – 178081402.

ROXTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ROLL OF HONOUR

1914 – 1918

ALFRED JOHN COVINGTON

WILFRED COVINGTON

ALFRED DARRINGTON

PETER DARRINGTON

ALBERT WALTER EKINS

JOHN WILLIAM GILBERT

JOSEPH SIMCOE

1939 – 1945

DAVID AUSTIN PROTHERO