

Leicestershire & Rutland War Memorials Project

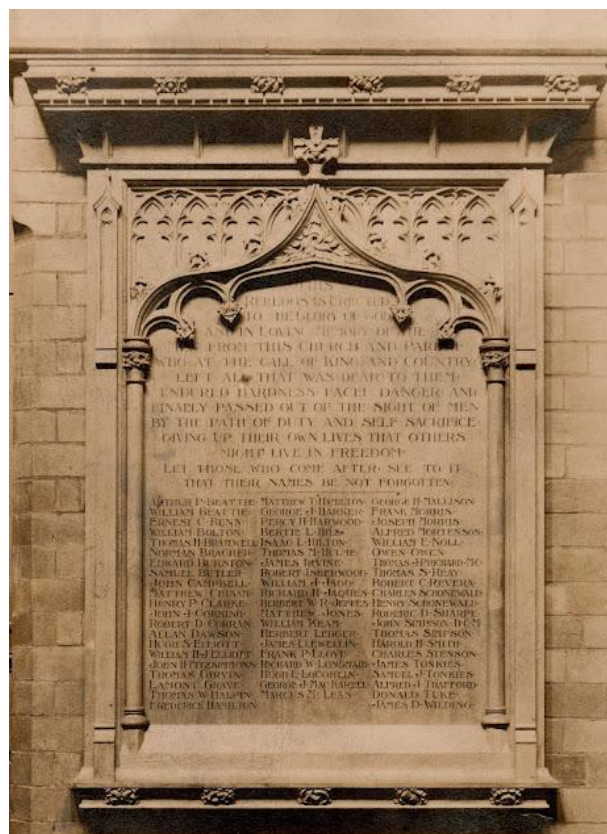
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 16
March 2013

Update

Now is as busy a time as ever for the War Memorials Project. I receive new information all the time, more memorials are being recorded, and many people are consulting us about conservation work, especially to WW1 memorials, in time for the fast-approaching beginning of Centenary commemorations.

I'm glad to be able to report that the unidentified fragment of a war memorial from **Barrow upon Soar** was identified as having originated in **Toxteth, Liverpool**. Thanks to an in-depth research project being undertaken by Amanda Taylor into the memorial, which was lost in 1992, (see her website at <http://thewarmemorial.blogspot.co.uk/p/memorial.html>), fragments of inscription were matched. Barrow Heritage Warden, Kathryn Timmons, was able to return the fragment to Toxteth, where it will be redisplayed in its original location once again. Plans are afoot to recreate the whole of the original memorial.

Photograph courtesies: K Timmons/A Taylor. The images show the fragment, found in Barrow upon Soar, and an early photograph of the memorial it is a part of when it was still in situ at St James's, Toxteth. The image below shows the hand-over of the memorial fragment when it was returned home.



News

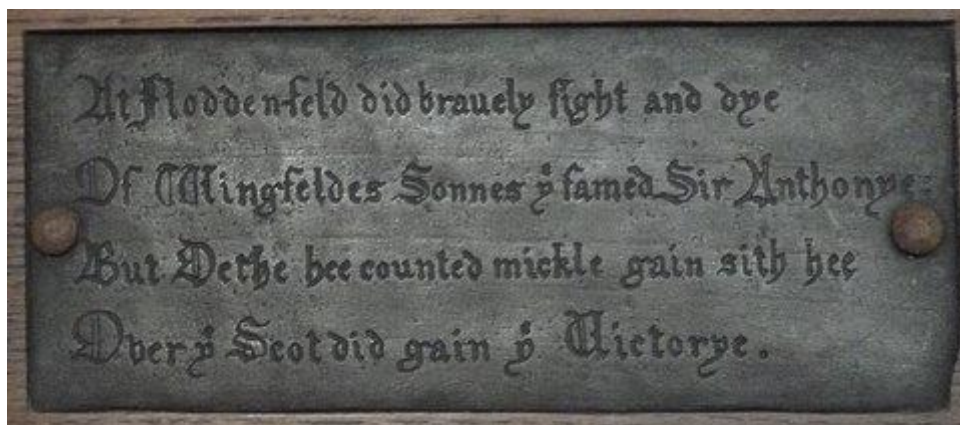
500th Anniversary of the Battle of Flodden: The Tickencote Connection

I was delighted to be contacted by Mike Clatworthy about a connection between Tickencote in Rutland, and the Battle of Flodden 1513. Until then I had no record of a connection between either County and this significant historical event.

The 9th September this year marks the 500th Anniversary, and as well as a significant, HLF-funded project going on at the site, the village of Tickencote will also be marking the anniversary.

There will be a village memorial service to remember the contribution made by villagers, which is currently being researched by local historians. The memorial shown here is on the South wall of the nave. Mike informs me that it was found in a shop in Lowestoft in 1862, and adds; 'metal theft has a long history!' Too true!

Photograph Courtesy: J Foster/M Clatworthy



Northwest Leicestershire WW1 Project

The North West Leicestershire Heritage Network Group, under the aegis of Northwest Leicestershire District Council, is currently undertaking research into the WW1 casualties on memorials in their area. The aim is to publish a series of small booklets relating to each area that the district has been divided into, including:

Ashby, Coalville, Appleby, Measham, Packington, Smisby, Blackfordby, Staunton Harold, Breedon-on-the-Hill, Coleorton, Willesley, Snarestone, Ravenstone, Sweapton, Blackfordby, Hemington, LockingtonCastle Donington, Isley Walton, Charley, Kegworth, Diseworth, Long Whatton, Worthington, Osgathorpe, Belton, Moira, Oakthorpe, Acresford, Albert Village, Hugglescote, Swannington, Snibston, Bardon, Whitwick, Ellistown. Ibstock, Thringston, Ravenstone, Heather.

It is intended to have the booklets produced in time for the beginning of the centenary period. If you have any photographs or information on casualties in these areas that you would like to contribute, they would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information or to get involved, contact Ken Hillier at Ashby Museum on 01530 560090 or at ashbydelazouchmuseum@live.co.uk



Carillon War Memorial Museum calls for a proper memorial to the victims of the 1916 Zeppelin Raid

With the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 looming, Mr Mel Gould, speaking on behalf of the museum says that now is the time to start planning to erect a fitting memorial to the ten victims of the bombing raid.

The Carillon Tower War Memorial is a noble and beautiful building that is unique in Britain as a tribute to the 478 men of the town who fell in the war, paid for by the people of Loughborough in grateful memory of the men's sacrifice.

The ten victims of the 1916 zeppelin raid have no such memorial. Within the town two granite markers identify the spot where two of the four bombs landed and inside the carillon is the brass plaque that once was affixed to the wall in the Rushes telling the story. A proper memorial requires some thought and planning, permissions sought, a site chosen, the money raised and the choice of a fitting memorial made.

Anyone interested in supporting the project should email: carillonmuseum@gmail.com



War Memorials Trust - new guidance on landscaping around war memorials

The War Memorials Trust launched some new guidance on the subject of landscaping and gardens around war memorials. This guidance, completed in association with English Heritage, is freely available under the Helpsheets section on the War Memorials Trust website at www.warmemorials.org.uk. As many communities may be thinking of this on the run up to the centenary of WW1, this guidance will be a great source of advice.

National Memorial Arboretum receives £2.85million grant from Heritage Lottery Fund

The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire has been awarded £2.85million by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards its ambitious development plans to create a world-class Centre for Remembrance, a £12million appeal.

A key component of the appeal is the creation of a Remembrance Learning Centre, which will have a strong focus on helping to explain to visitors the importance and meaning of remembrance and the significance of the arboretum, which is part of the Royal British Legion's family of charities. It also hopes to attract people from even more diverse groups to visit the arboretum and plans to recruit and train 70 more volunteers.

Commenting on the HLF award, Major General Patrick Cordingley, Chairman of the Appeal, said: "We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has recognised the importance of the Arboretum. Our Country will at last have a Centre for Remembrance which is worthy of the sacrifice made by so many. The additional space will help us educate many more children and provide extensive facilities for family and group visits."

Conservation Update

The following has been provided as an update on (mainly) City memorials from the *Leicester City, County and Rutland 'At Risk' War Memorials Project* (aka 'Orphan' war memorials). To get in touch, contact Denis Kenyon at denis.kenyon@virgin.net.

St Saviour's Church has been further vandalised recently. One of the three memorial windows is smashed. The memorial chapel wrecked and the Honour Board of 216 names damaged. Memorial plaques, crucifix and candlesticks have vanished. Permission not yet granted to remove anything permanently for safekeeping, but we have permission to take the Honour Board for repair and reinstatement of the names.

St Michael's, Scott St This church was demolished in 1997 and we found plaques to WW1 and WW2 casualties in a locked storeroom at another church. Following several meetings and completing our Risk Assessment and Accession documents, we received permission to take them into care.

St Peter's, Loughborough There is a very fine triptych from WW1. We have been in touch with the pastor and he has asked us to go over when renovation work is finished to advise on re-positioning and effecting some minor repairs.

St Barnabas Another closed church we are liaising with the diocese and selling agent about. Thankfully no vandalism seen.

Friar Mill - Donisthorpes Ltd. Luckily WW1 and WW2 memorials are boxed in and so were unaffected by the recent fire. Sir Peter Soulsby is keen on this building, Leicester's oldest factory and we hope for better things.

Checkett's Rd WMC - now The Jungle Club There are memorials there which we are in touch with the current owner about displaying appropriately.

New recordings:

Castle Donington WW1 Methodist memorial plaque

Thanks go to Michael Hurt for this recording and the photograph. Michael sent this to me last year, and as it appears to be unique so far in the dedication it refers to, of a memorial cot at the National Children's Home and Orphanage, it deserves attention here.



The National Children's Home and Orphanage mentioned is a charity, now called Action for Children. It was founded in 1868 by Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a Methodist minister out of concern for children he saw living on the streets of London. It was originally called The Children's Home. The two boys in the photograph (right) were the first to be admitted, on 9 July 1869. Girls were included as of 1872. The charity became an adoption agency by 1926.



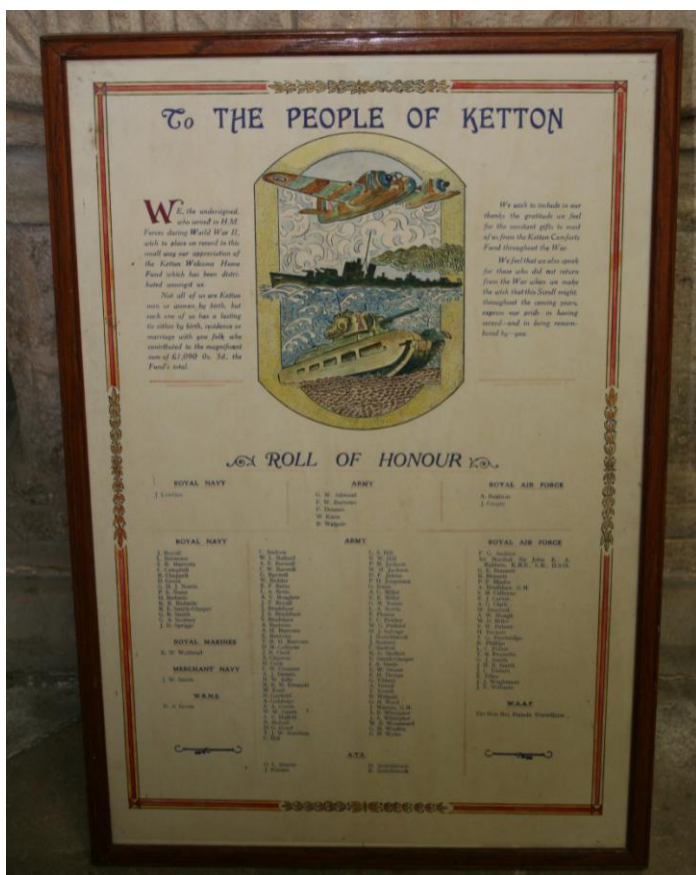
A branch was not opened in Leicester until 1979, so it is presumed that the donated cot was sent either to the nearest branch existing at the time (possibly Whitby?), or to the central office to send wherever it was most urgently needed. At any rate, the mourners of Castle Donington had the future of the next generation in mind when deciding on their poignant tribute.

Ketton WW2 thanksgiving roll of honour

Thanks go to Keith Shelvey for this Rutland recording. Alongside the churchyard cross and two handwritten rolls of honour inside the church for WW1 and WW2 is this third, imaginative roll of honour which is inscribed with thanks from those who served in appreciation of the *Ketton Comforts Fund* and *Ketton Welcome Home Fund* raised in the village during and after WW2.

It is particularly interesting because of the artwork, representing the battles on land, at sea and in the air.

It is also notable for including the names of women who contributed; in this case, D A Green of the WRNS, and the Hon. Mrs Pamela Fitzwilliam of the WAAF, as well as four members of the ATS. Upon further research, it becomes clear that the Honourable Mrs Pamela Fitzwilliam was the daughter of the then owner of Ketton Hall, Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin KBE, CB, DSO, DL, who probably had much to do with the creation of the WW2 memorials! Mrs Fitzwilliam apparently emigrated to the USA in the 1960s, and lived until she was 91, passing away in only 2011.



Seaton Civil War Society plaque



Thanks to Sally Harnet for this recording. This relatively recent plaque was installed in 1996 as part of a programme of commemoration by the English Civil War Society, and is one of the relatively few Leicestershire/Rutland memorials ostensibly relating to this period.

We do know of some kind of tablet in Stonton Wyville church relating to a conflict of the 17th century, but we do not have any further information or images to say for certain if this is a Civil War memorial (if you can help us, this would be appreciated).

We do have a record of a Civil War memorial in Husbands Bosworth church, however, where the sword of the

Royalist, Captain John Shenton (1612-1699, buried at Barwell) is said to rest (again we have no images).

In Seaton, however, is this plaque to the Parliamentarian, Major General Robert Overton. He was involved in the defence of Hull, and the Battle of Marston Moor. He was imprisoned several times, including at the Tower of London, where he was visited by Samuel Pepys. He spent his last years at Seaton with his daughters, including Anne Broughton, and possibly also his two sons.

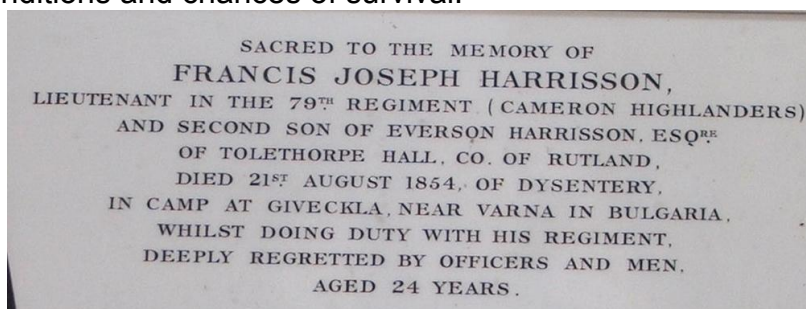
Photograph copyright: S Harnett 2012

Little Casterton Crimean War tablet to Francis Joseph Harrisson

Thanks to Colin Hyde for this recording. This lovely memorial with sculptural features in in Little Casterton church. It is a white marble tablet with incised black lettering, set on a black mount. It features an officer's helmet and crossed swords surmounting the head. The main tablet is supported on carved lions' paws, with the sphinx badge of the regiment at the tablet's head. The sphynx's face is partially covered by the drooping plumes of feathers from the helmet, in what seems to be a poignant mourning gesture. The maker's inscription reads 'S Manning Sc / London'.

Lieutenant Harrisson of the 79th Regiment of Foot (Cameron Highlanders) was 24 when he died of dysentery at Giveckla, near Varna, Bulgaria on 21st August 1854. According to Wikipedia, when war was declared against Russia in March 1854, the regiment sailed to Scutari from Southampton, and fought at the Battles of Alma, Balaclava and Sevastopol; none of which Lieutenant Harrisson lived to take part in.

Dysentery, along with Typhoid, Cholera and Typhus killed more soldiers than battle wounds. It was this fact that eventually led Florence Nightingale and others to campaign to improve the situation. Eventually the *Royal Commission on the Health of the Army* was established, to improve soldiers' living conditions and chances of survival.



Publications

BELTON AT WAR - Journal 4

Belton History Society was formed in 2001 with the aim of creating a comprehensive history of the parish of Belton-in-Rutland and publishing journals on various aspects of village life.

Journal No. 4, entitled "Belton at War", runs to 96 pages and includes many previously unpublished photographs. It follows the history of the village's participation in wars over four centuries, starting with the English Civil War and culminating in an account of service life during the Korean War.

One of the unique features of this journal is that the society has been able to track down and record details of every one of the named servicemen on the Village War Memorial including accounts of their action and details of medals they were awarded. As a result, names on a plaque have been brought back to life. The society hopes that this will encourage other communities to investigate the lives behind the names on their own War Memorials.

A large proportion of the book focuses on verbal accounts of soldiers from both the two World Wars and provides realistic and sometimes graphic details of those ordinary individuals who were caught up in hostilities far away as well as those left at home.



The diary of Sergeant Webb, 5th Battalion, Suffolk Regt, recounts the day to day life in the trenches in France in October 1915. *"The enemy kept us alive all last night - trench mortars and whizz bangs were going all night but it is quieter this morning - - 6pm here we are in 'Hello' only 7 yards away from the Germans."*

George Wadd, 110th Brigade 8th Leicester, recounts of his time in 1916/17 near Bethune. *"Vermelles was a heap of ruins and a few miles north of Loos and Hill 60. I soon got familiar with the rattle of machine guns, the roar of the cannon and the numerous aircraft flying on high"*

During WW2, Charlie Wadd kept a diary which recalls daily life in Belton. *"25th May 1942 Whit Monday night – bombs dropped in the village - some damage to property - no lives lost. Most of the slates have been put back on the houses. Mrs Crabbe has come out of her house and gone to live at Bradshaws."* These 4 bombs were dropped by a German Dornier 217 involved in an air fight reputedly with J.E. 'Johnnie' Johnson, a Flight Commander with RAF 616 Squadron based at Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire.

This excellent and inspirational book is full of personal remembrances and accounts from conflict over the centuries, illustrating how a small rural community continued to be affected by wars.

"BELTON AT WAR" - Belton History Society Journal Volume 4

Available @ £9.50 – incl. P&P, cheques payable to "Belton History Society"

Contact: Jane Cronin, Brookfield, Littleworth Lane, Belton in Rutland, LE15 9JZ

Thank you for your continued interest in the War Memorials Project,

Elizabeth Blood

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www.leics.gov.uk/warmemorials



Selection of war memorials offered grants by the Project so far!