

Living History

NEWSLETTER December 2015

Living History Chairman's Report 2015

This year has been interesting as we have worked with a new structure for the group. The individual groups have in some cases taken on a life of their own while other proposed groups are yet to form.

Ron Shaw & Pete Weston, with some input from Ian Mortimer & me, have continued with their researches into all things military. Pete gave a talk on Suvla Bay where the Herefordshire Regiment were involved in the Gallipoli campaign. We also mounted a very successful display at the Fete featuring both WW1 casualties & survivors and WW2 home guard groups.

The self-help group on family history, after an introductory meeting and then a talk by John Turrell, has evolved into a fortnightly help session for those researching. They also want to visit the Archives as do several people for house history, so this may evolve into a separate group. A date will be fixed shortly.

Parish records have been in abeyance while the Archives were closed but we now need to photograph and transcribe some more records. As with all the sub groups anyone is welcome to join and we could do with more transcribers & checkers (training provided).

Both these groups are very dependent on the availability of access to records at the Archives which at present are very much under threat. There is a consultant working on a report at present the Council Cabinet which is looking at the possibility of a zero budget for Archive & Museum services. Please look out for the opportunity to express your opinions on this report.

Work is progressing by Audrey Bott on the commemoration of all our war casualties and Pete Weston's talk boosted this fund considerably. The parish Flora & Fauna group has yet to establish, although Hazel Whitwell expressed an interest at the Fete in co-ordinating this.

The talks we have given this year, although well attended by regular supporters, did not reach many others. We have several ideas for this year including Leominster Canal and possibly a photograph quiz with refreshments to draw more people in.

Julian Stokes has very kindly been putting the newsletters onto the parish website.

My thanks, as always, to all the people who have been involved in many ways this year.

The Funeral Bier, beautifully decorated as usual by Rita Shaw ready for Armistice Day.



Articles

The following article accompanies this edition of the *Newsletter*:

- *Charles Griffiths* by Ron Shaw
- *The Richard Savage Wedding Clock* by Rhianon Turrell

We always welcome proposals for articles. Please contact the *Newsletter* editor - John Turrell on 01568 780677 if you would like to discuss possible articles or if you have contributions for the Newsletter.

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2015 are now **overdue**. They can be paid to Audrey Bott either by leaving them at the village shop addressed to her or sending them to Audrey at Horizons, Green Lane, Yarpole (tel:01568780489) Cheques should be made out to "Living History" for £7.50. If you have not paid your subscription you will be asked if you wish to continue receiving copies of the Newsletter and accompanying articles as the production of these is the main cost born by the group.

Charles Griffiths

Living History

Charles Griffiths was born in Kingsland in 1881, he was the first child of Aaron and Sarah, nee Beaumont, his father was an Agricultural Labourer. Both sides of his family had their origins in Radnorshire.

In the 1891 Census, Charles, aged 10, and the rest of the family are recorded as residing at Yatton, Aymestry in "*The House in the Wood*", father was aged 33 and was a Farm Labourer.

By 1901 the family are living on Bircher Common, near Brick House but Charles, who is now 20 is no longer living with the family.

Research to date has yet to find his whereabouts but his Profile printed in the Publication "*Leominster & District in the Great War*" states that "*he served in the local army Reserves for 2 years and with the regular army in India & Africa, he is well known as an Army Boxer.*"

We can surmise, therefore, that he was abroad at this time of the 1901 Census.

Unfortunately his formal military records have yet to be found but research of the regimental records allows us to put together his probable army service. As a member of F Company of the Herefordshire Rifle Volunteers based in Leominster for 2 years he would have been able to transfer to the 2nd Battalion of the KSLI for a years' service in the Boer War in South Africa.



HVR Cap Badge



Site of the Orderly Room in Broad Street, Leominster

The photo on the next page shows a proud Charles wearing his General Service Medal with 5 Campaign Bars awarded for service with the KSLI in The Boer War between 1901-2.

However he is in the uniform of the 6th Dragoon Guards, The Carabineers, they had been sent to South Africa in Dec 1899, after which they were posted to India from 1903 to 1906.

We must presume Charles enlisted to this new regiment while he was in South Africa.



During this tour they took part in the Great Durbar of 1903 which had been organised by Lord Curzon to celebrate the Coronation of King Edward VII & Queen Alexandra.



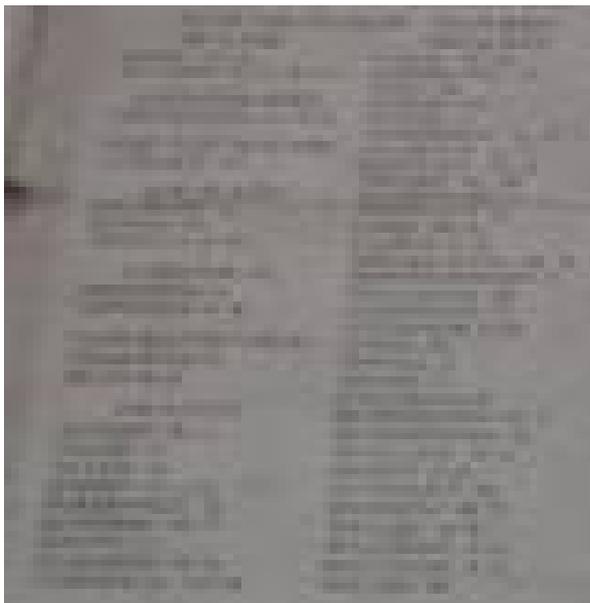
The 6th Dragoon Guards returned to Canterbury in 1912 before becoming part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and moving to France/Belgium in August 1914, the 6th Dragoon Guards fought in most of the early actions of WW1. On the 8th of August Charles shows his courage and is awarded a Mention In Despatches by Field Marshall Sir John French.





During his army service his Regimental Number was 5338, he was promoted to Lance Corporal and then Acting Corporal.

The 6th Dragoon Guards were involved in the 1st Battle of Ypres, 19th October-22nd November 1914. It is in this battle that Charles was most likely killed on the 31st of October



His name is to be found on The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.



For his Military Service in World War One Charles was awarded the following medals.



British War Medal



*Victory Medal
with Oak Leaf*



1914 Star



Medaille Militaire

He was awarded a "Mention In Despatches" which enabled him to wear an Oak Leaf Emblem diagonally on the Victory Medal Ribbon

At the time of his death it is reported that his mother lived at Steps House, Green Lane, Yarpole. Sometime after the war ended she would have received a Scroll, a Letter and the War Plaque from The King.



In July 2014 Charles Griffith's war memorabilia was put up for sale and were purchased by local author & war historian Pete Weston.



My grateful thanks to Pete for his research & photos which have allowed us to record a much fuller story of the life of Charles Griffiths. [Ron Shaw]

The Richard Savage Wedding Clock

In March 2014 Lee Borrett contacted The Living History Group about this beautiful clock. It is a Shropshire lantern clock with the names of the first owners “Edw. Mill Pardo” engraved on the top fret.

It also has “Richard Savage Fecit 1692” engraved on the front.

Its connection to Yarpole comes from the names of the original owners.



The clock was given as a wedding gift to Edward Pardoe & Milborough Brown of Yarpole. They were married on April 30th 1692 by license in Yarpole Church. He is described as of Bitterley in the marriage licence. Milborough was baptised in Yarpole in September 1667 daughter of John & Ann Browne. She seems to have had a sister, Ann, baptised in 1658.

It is exceptionally unusual for this type of inscription to appear on a lantern clock.

From the evidence collected by Lee Borrett & Brian Loomes it appears that the clock may have been paid for by John Browne who was Milborough's father. His name appears on the marriage licence and in the christening register of Yarpole. There are only a few Brown(e)s in the Yarpole registers

but John Brown is referred to in a memorandum of 1672 that Thomas & John Bedford gave up all their rights to the pews lately enclosed by John Brown gent. If this is the same John Brown (the 'e' seems to come & go) this would imply he is a man of some substance to enclose the pews and style himself gent. This would match with the magnificent wedding present.

Milborough & Edward had two children, Anna, born March 1695 and John born September 14th 1696 in Bitterley. Unfortunately Milborough died in childbirth and John was buried on September 27th. Edward Pardoe married again but was buried with his first wife in Bitterley where his children were christened.

The maker Richard Savage was listed as a clockmaker in 1700 in records of the Smiths' company of Shrewsbury taking his son as an apprentice. He is Shropshire's earliest known clockmaker, being born in Much Wenlock, although he moved to Shrewsbury sometime between 1690 & 1700, so the clock was probably made in Shrewsbury.

This information is an adapted version of the information given by Lee Borrett in his article on his webpage www.earlyclocks.com and by Brian Loomes in his very detailed article for Clocks Magazine Volume 20 no.12 November 1997, of which Lee Borrett kindly gave us a copy.



Rhianon Turrell November 2015