

John Henry GARNER and William GARNER

Born <i>John Henry</i>	11th January 1900
Died	14th March 1920, age 20
Buried	Grave F 1171, Ely Cemetery
Unit	5th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment)
Rank	Private, Service Number GS/79036
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

Born <i>William</i>	30th July 1896
Died	28th February 1920, age 24
Buried	Grave F 1111, Ely Cemetery
Unit	Suffolk Regiment.
Rank	Private, Service Number 16313
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

The military graves of the Garner brothers can be found in Ely Cemetery; they survived the War, but died within days of each other in 1920. **William** and **John Henry** were the sons of Mr George Garner (1867) and his wife Mary Ann (nee Tall, 1865) of Back Lane, Ely, and had died at home. The Garners were an Ely family and George was a gardener's labourer—at points his sons followed the same career path.

John and William's siblings were George (1895), Elizabeth (1889-1902), Mary Ann (1898), Thomas (1902), Florence (1903), Charles (1905-1908), and Walter (1905-1907).

In 1901, the first census in which William and John appeared, the family were living in Ely's Newnham Street and father George was a farm worker. In 1911 the family were in Cambridge Road, with George senior, George junior and William all working as gardeners while John Henry was still at school.

William gave his employment as general labourer when he attested at the outbreak of the War on 10th November 1914. His papers describe him as 5 feet 5 inches tall with a fair complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. William served for 3 years and 182 days with the Suffolk Regiment before being discharged on 10th May 1918 as "no longer physically fit for war service". During this period he had fought in France from 7th January 1916 to 10th May 1917 and in Egypt from 19th August 1917 to 20th December. The periods between postings abroad were spent in England recovering from wounds which included a severe gunshot wound to the right leg in 1916, a slight wound to the left arm on 4th May 1917 and a wound on 6th November 1917. This final wound was a shattered right scapula in the Third Battle of Gaza, which resulted in "70% disablement" and brought about his return to England a couple of months later and his eventual discharge. Four months of post-operative treatment were recommended by the military surgeon. William was awarded a military pension of 20/- and granted a Silver War Badge (Number 360480) to show that he had been honourably discharged due to his wounds. Unfit for work, his official employment was registered as "army pensioner". He lived in Harlocks Lane.



On 6th March 1918 William's younger brother John (then a farm labourer) was attested into the Suffolk Regiment (180709). His papers describe him as 5 feet 4 1/2 inches tall with a fresh complexion and brown hair and eyes (and flat feet). He went to France with the Suffolks on 14th July and was then transferred immediately into the Royal Fusiliers. On 6th September he was sent back to England and hospitalised at Shrewsbury until 17th December. He was discharged on 15th June 1919, when he was formally transferred to the Reserve, went home to live with his parents, and became a general labourer.

The young men's father George Garner also served during the War, but on Home Service.

As the War was drawing to a close a global pandemic of influenza hit; it was an airborne virus which affected every continent. It is thought that, in the UK, the virus was spread by soldiers returning home from the trenches in northern France. The troops travelled home by train and so the flu can be tracked spreading from the railway stations to the centre of the cities, then to the suburbs and out into the countryside. Young adults between 20 and 30 years old were particularly affected and the disease struck and progressed incredibly quickly in these cases and those who were healthy at breakfast could be dead by the end of the day. Within hours of feeling the first symptoms of fatigue, fever and headache, some victims would rapidly develop pneumonia and start turning blue, signalling a shortage of oxygen. They would then struggle for air until they suffocated to death. The medical service was overwhelmed; there were no treatments for the flu and no antibiotics to treat the pneumonia.

During the pandemic over 50 million people died worldwide and a quarter of the British population were affected. The death toll was 228,000 in Britain alone. Two of those who succumbed to pneumonia were the Garner brothers William and John, who died within a fortnight of each other—with John being diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis the day after William died. They were buried in Ely Cemetery and, as recently returned soldiers, they were honoured with official military gravestones by the CWGC. Tragically for the family, just one year later, the young men's sister Mary Ann (the sibling between William and John in age) also died.

Horace Wiles GILBERT

Born	1881
Killed in Action or Died	
Buried	
Unit	11th Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
Rank	Lance Corporal, Service Number 42138
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

A dreadful mistake

In July 1916 the Ely Standard contacted Bert Gilbert, a tailor on Ely's Market Street who had just joined the Forces, for a comment on his brother Horace's death. This was the first that Bert had heard of the matter.

Herbert (1879) and **Horace Gilbert** (1880) were born in Ely to Harry Gilbert (1844, Stamford) and his wife Mary (1848, Spilsby, nee Cartwright) who had moved into the City and opened an outfitters in the High Street. Bert Gilbert had continued to run the family business after his father's death in 1910 and had married Sarah Cole in 1914. His brother Horace, however, had moved away from Ely in about 1908. In the 1911 Census he can be found boarding with the Knight family at 16 New Road, Southampton, and working as a shop assistant in the motor and cycle trade.

The newspaper states that Horace had married, and had died serving with the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment— this does not match with any surviving military records. Moreover, Horace is recorded in the British Jewry Book of Honour (1922) as a soldier in this regiment, but not listed as a casualty.

Family records show that Horace married Mary Maxwell in Lancashire in 1915 and they lived in Birmingham, had five children together, and that in fact Horace not only survived the War, but did not die until 1934.

Given the date of the newspaper article, it seems probable that the reporter who gave Bert Gilbert such a dreadful shock had thought that Horace had perished on the Somme.

Frederick Maxwell HAWES

Born	3rd April 1899
Killed in Action or Died	14th September 1917, age 18
Buried	Stapleford (St Andrews) Churchyard, Cambridgeshire
Unit	Royal Flying Corps formerly Royal Garrison Artillery
Rank	Second Lieutenant
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

Frederick Maxwell Hawes was the son of one of Ely Cathedral's resident clergy and was born in the College at Ely. His father was Frederick William Hawes (1851 Upper Clapton, London) and his mother Theophila Anne Frances Lefroy, aka Anne, (1861) had been born in Fremantle, Western Australia. Frederick's eldest brother, Edward, had been born while the family was in Camberwell, but his sisters Frances (1895) and Bessie (1897) had, like Frederick, been born in the cathedral precincts.

Reverend Frederick Hawes moved from the cathedral to become rector of Stapleford near Cambridge. Frederick Junior was meanwhile sent to be educated as a boarder at Lydgate House, Hunstanton, Norfolk, and then Marlborough College, in Wiltshire, from 1912 to 1916. From Marlborough he went straight to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich from where he was gazetted to the Royal Garrison Artillery in February 1917.

Frederick soon transferred to the new Royal Flying Corps and was training as a pilot with the 56th Squadron at London Colney when he died as a result of a flying accident in his Spad S. 7. His body was returned to his parents and he was buried in the churchyard of his father's church. He is also commemorated on the Stapleford War Memorial, which is a plaque in St Andrews Church.

The newspaper record of the fatal accident shows that Frederick was "looping the loop" when one of the wings broke and the plane plummeted into a pond. Frederick fractured his skull in the accident and this brought about his death. Frederick was described as an excellent pilot who should soon have been going to France on active service. The inquest recorded the incident as a "misadventure".



With thanks to Marlborough College for the photograph

Henry Eric HAYLOCK

Born	1874
Killed in Action or Died	11th May 1915, age 41
Buried	Grave E.12, Packhorse Farm Shrine Cemetery, West Vlaanderen
Unit	1st/4th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment
Rank	Captain
Awards	1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

J.W Haylock was a well known shoe shop in Ely and stood at the top of Fore Hill adjacent to the Market Place. It took its name from John William Haylock who was born in Ely in 1843 and married Elizabeth Langford in 1866 in the city before moving to Great Grimsby in Lincolnshire where he and his wife raised their family of eleven children; **Henry** was the sixth child of the family. The family later moved to Leicester and based their shoe and boot manufacturing business there. John Haylock's parents and siblings remained in Ely, which probably explains why Haylock's shoe shop remained established here, so far from Leicester.

Henry was educated at Bedford School and St John's College Grimsby. He served in the Leicestershire Yeomanry from 1898 to 1908 then transferred to the 4th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment where he was made captain in 1913.

He married Florence Crane and had two children—(Eric) Lionel (1901) and Beatrice (1908).

Henry aka Harry joined in the family business of shoe and boot manufacturing and helped manage his father's company before the War, including, for a period running the business in Ely. He was also well known and respected in commercial circles in Leicester.

Henry was remembered as a good all-round sportsman and, in particular, a passionate footballer. He served with the Leicestershire Yeomanry (receiving a long service medal) and for six years held a commission in the Leicestershire Regiment. As a member of the Territorial Army, Henry was called up at the outbreak of the War. He was killed just before midnight on 11th May 1915 in a German bombing raid on the trenches near Ypres, surviving for just a few minutes after a shell took off his leg. He was buried at nearby One Tree Farm.



On Saturday May 22nd 1915 The Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury published an article under the heading. "LEICESTERSHIRE AND THE WAR." - GAME TO THE LAST. – *Sergeant E. Carr, of C Company, first 4th Leicesters, writing to his father, Mr. J. Carr, 51, Danvers Road, Leicester, refers to the death of Captain Haylock, and pays a high tribute to his bravery. He says; "Last night (Monday, May 10th) it was very quiet in the firing line until about 11.30pm, when some of the Germans crept up to one of the trenches and dropped some bombs there. Soon after it was hell upon earth, for we thought we were going to be attacked. I am very sorry to say their bomb killed one of our officers and a sergeant, and wounded several other non-commissioned officers and men. No doubt you will soon know who this officer was. He was very popular with the men, and we are all grieved to know that he is dead. He was badly hurt, but he was game to the last, telling the men not to let the Germans take the trenches."*

On hearing of the death of one of their senior managers the staff at the Ely shop sent condolences to his father and copied these to the local Ely press.

Henry left £73,385 in his will.

John Thomas Gordon HIGGINSON and William Clifton Vernon HIGGINSON

Tragically these brothers died less than three weeks apart.

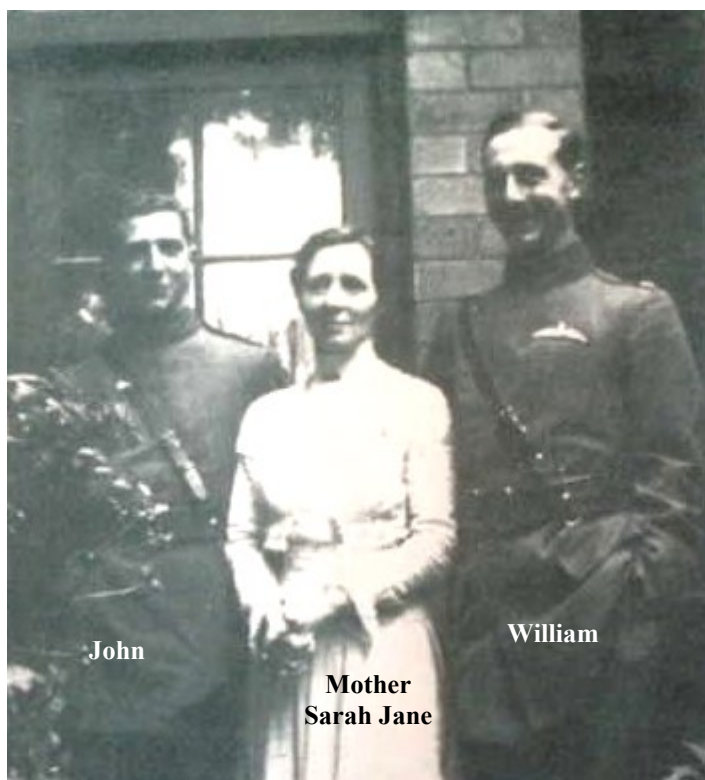
Born <i>John</i>	27th January 1898
Killed in Action or Died	1st November 1917, age 19
Buried	Grave B. 1931, Crewe Cemetery, Cheshire
Unit	General List and 37th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps
Rank	Second Lieutenant 81159
Awards	<i>Had not served abroad</i>

Born <i>William</i>	1896
Killed in Action or Died	20th November 1917, age 21
Commemorated	Arras Flying Services Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France
Unit	General List and 3rd Squadron Royal Flying Corps
Rank	Second Lieutenant
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

In 1896-1897 William Higginson (1872, Weston, Crewe, Cheshire) and his wife Sarah Jane Preston (1871 Sydney, Crewe, Cheshire) with their baby son **William Clifton Vernon Higginson** (1896 Loughborough Leicestershire) arrived in Ely. Here their second son **John Thomas Gordon Higginson** was born in January 1898. The family lived in Lynfield Terrace and William was an assistant supervisor working in insurance ("assurance") - this was probably with the Prudential Company, as by 1911 he was a district superintendent with this firm. On 28th July 1899 John was baptised at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Ely.

By the 1911 census the Higginsons were living at 7 Winchester Avenue in Leicester, but they had not gone there directly from Ely, as the two youngest Higginson children had been born in Colchester, Essex—these were Henry Cyril Henshall (1908) and Constance Mary (1910).

In Leicester William became a city councillor—an office which was proudly carved on his son's grave ("the family is one of the most respected in Leicester" the Methodist newspaper recorded). He was also a well known Methodist lay preacher on the Crewe and Leicester circuits.



John and his brother were educated at the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, and at the Alderman Newton School, Leicester. After school John became a premium apprentice in the Crewe works of the London and North West Railway Company. A premium apprentice was one who had paid the company a higher than usual apprenticeship fee in order to receive a wider education, which would in turn lead to a higher level job. After eighteen months, John left the works in May 1917 for the RFC's Farnborough Cadet School and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant that August.

John had done over 41 hours supervised training flying when he crashed at Spittlegate, Grantham, Lincolnshire on 1st November 1917 while still a trainee.. His death was caused when parts of the plane's engine broke away, for a reason that could not later be determined, —John had complete control of the machine until this happened, but he could not prevent the plane nose diving into the ground from 1,000 feet, where it burst into flames. It was agreed by the authorities that the pilot was not to blame for the accident.

John's body was taken to Crewe for burial and his funeral was attended by both injured soldiers from Crewe Hospital and colleagues from the railway's No. 9 shop. The newspaper commented: "A touch of increasing sadness was experienced in the fact that his brother Flying Officer, Lieutenant W.C.V. Higginson, R.F.C., France, could not be present." However, worse news was to follow.

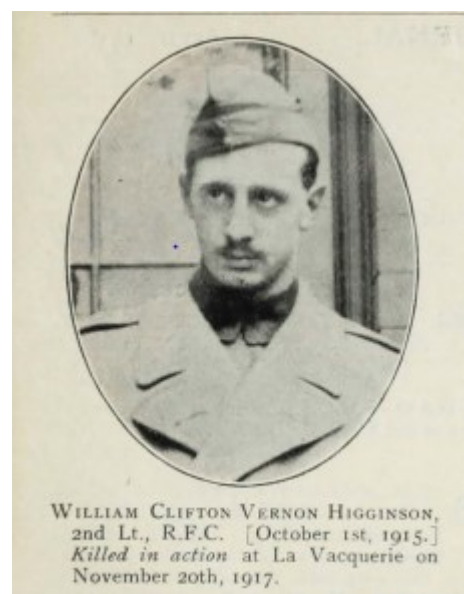
William had matriculated at the University of London in 1915 where he had taken his M.B. (first examination) in July, 1916. He had joined the London University O.T.C. (Medical Unit) and afterwards the Inns of Court O.T.C. He was a medical student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. On 6th June 1917 he was gazetted to be a Second Lieutenant and trained as Flying Officer, graduating on 16th July. William served abroad from September to November 1917, flying a Sopwith Camel as part of bombing battery MZ8. On 20th November William was reported as missing, believed killed. He had been on an operation in the La Vacquerie Valley during the attack on Cambrai.

John left his effects (£75 2s 2d in total) to his father, as did William (£71 10s 6d in total, and a further £251 18s 9d in his will).

John's grave in Crewe Cemetery is not an official CWGC one, but it does carry the RFC badge and its motto "Per Ardua Astra". William is also memorialised on the same gravestone and the family added the appropriate words "I bare (sic.) you on eagles wings and brought you to myself Exodus 19.4" .

John and William are both remembered on the memorial at Alderman Newton Grammar School in Leicester and in the Martyrs Church, Leicester. William is also commemorated on the memorial in St Bart's and in the "University of London Officers Training Corps, roll of war service, 1914-1919". The photograph below is from the St Bartholomew's Hospital Journal.

The Higginsons later moved to 55 Marlborough Avenue, Hull.



John Allan HOWARD

Born	31st January 1898
Killed in Action or Died	9th May 1918 age 20
Buried	Grave XII. B. 5. Bienvillers Military Cemetery,
Unit	3rd Battalion Essex Regiment, attached to 1st Battalion
Rank	Lieutenant
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

John Allan Howard was a pupil at Abingdon School and the school magazine, "The Abingdonian", of July 1918 recorded his story as follows:
"HOWARD – Died of Wounds in France on May 9th, Lieut. J. A. Howard, of the 1st Essex Regt. Jack Howard came to the School in January 1910. His good humour won him many friends. He was well suited for a soldier. His friends had difficulty in preventing him from enlisting when he was only 16 at the start of the war and he took a commission in the Special Reserve before his 17th birthday. After training in England he went out to France. He served with an entrenching battalion then with his own unit of which he became assistant adjutant. He was wounded while leading his men in an advance. Two days before he died he had carried through a piece of patrol work which earned the special commendation of the General commanding his brigade. He will be much missed at the school, where we always looked forward to his visits, when he came home on leave."

Jack had been born in Ely to Arthur Howard (1871 Cambridge) and Sybil Woodward (1876 Peterborough). Arthur was a pharmaceutical chemist and ran his own business in Ely, and the family lived in the Gallery. Jack (1898) was the eldest child of the family; his brother Patrick was also born in Ely (1900), while a second brother, Humphry, was born in 1908 after the family's move to Great Yarmouth.

Arthur moved the family business to Abingdon in Berkshire and the family home was at first in St Johns Road, then later at Norfolk House, Caldecott Road, Abingdon. Jack was enrolled as a boarder at the school in 1910, leaving in 1915 (after a season playing cricket for the school) and going straight into the forces, as the Abingdonian described. Jack left effects of £262 8s.

Jack is remembered on the Abingdon War Memorial and Abingdon School's Roll of Service.

Joseph Claude Hoxley and William Arthur Hoxley

Born <i>Joseph</i>	1892
Killed in Action or Died	5th October 1916, age 24
Buried	Grave III. H. 7, Struma Military Cemetery, Salonika, Greece
Unit	1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment
Rank	Sergeant, Service Number 8091
Awards	1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Born <i>William</i>	1899
Killed in Action or Died	19th September 1919, age 19
Buried	Grave 33. 38A, Bury St Edmunds Cemetery
Unit	5th Battalion Suffolk Regiment Transferred to 30th Company Labour Corps (No. 614356)
Rank	Lance Corporal, Service Number 26598
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

William Arthur Hoxley (1855) was originally from Barnstaple in Devon and his wife was Mary Jane Green (1864) was from Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. William was a Royal Quarter Master Sergeant with the Militia—the Suffolk Regiment—which was based in barracks in Ely, and as a result all the Hoxley children, including Joseph and William, were natives of Ely. The family consisted of: Walter (1883); John (1885); Elizabeth (1886); **William Henry** (1890); **Joseph Claude** (1892); Mary Jane (1894); Albert (1896); Charles (1897); and William Arthur (1899).

The Militia were part time volunteer soldiers who met annually for weeks of training at Ely, however, the Militia officers, including William Hoxley, were full time soldiers and would have been engaged in duties such as recruitment when the troops were not in training. The Militia were an important part of Ely's social life, and William Hoxley appears in the local newspaper several times as an excellent singer and local fisherman. The Ely Standard includes regular accounts of lavish Christmas parties for the militia officers' families and annual treats and outings which must have been special occasions for the Hoxley children.

When William was in the Suffolks the family lived in military accommodation in Walpole Lane (1891 Census), afterwards they moved to Broad Street (1901 Census) and William became one of Ely's publicans, although he continued to help with the Volunteer Training Corps. In 1900 the Militia had spent time on garrison duty at Dover in Kent, but thereafter training took place chiefly at Colchester or Bury St Edmunds and the Ely based battalion was officially disbanded in 1908. At some point between 1901 and 1911, perhaps when the Militia disbanded, the family moved to Mary Jane's home of Bury St Edmunds and lived off of William's army pension and his work as a toll collector for the Borough Council (this was probably at the city market as the family lived in a cottage on the market). William continued to work with the local Volunteer Training Corps at Bury St Edmunds.

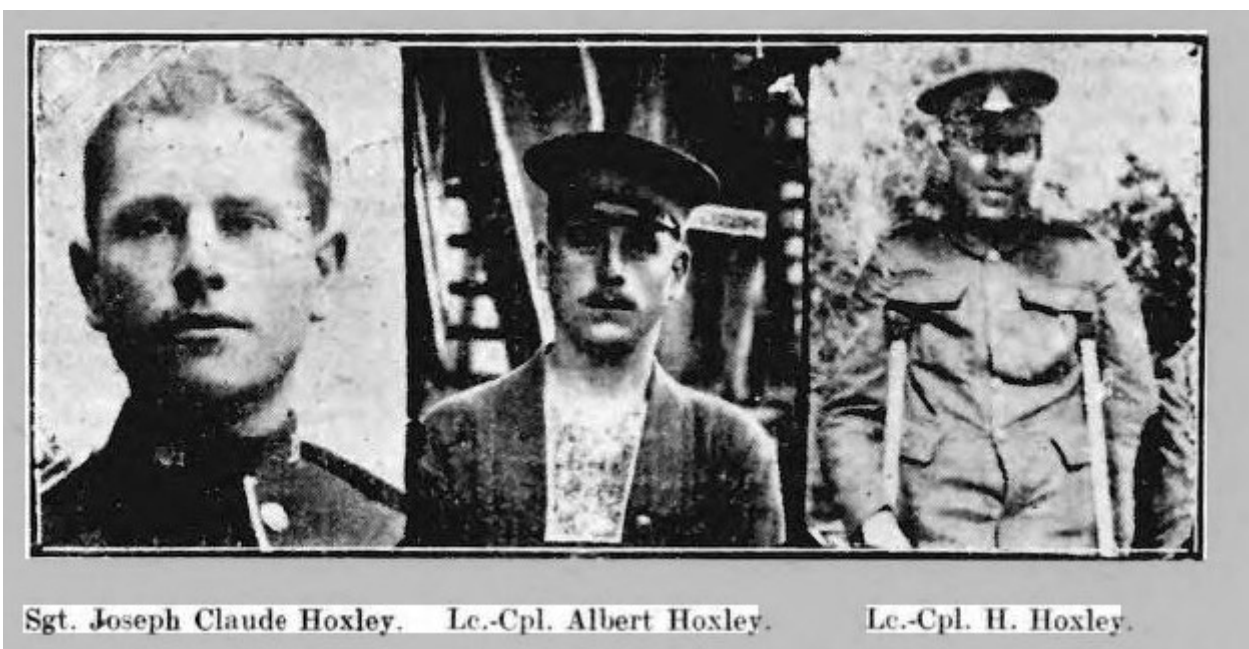
It is perhaps not surprising that William's sons also decided on careers in the army: Walter, William Henry, Joseph and John aka Jack all joined the Suffolk Regiment before the outbreak of the War as career soldiers, although they did not all serve in the same battalion.

When the War began Joseph and his battalion were at Khartoum in Egypt and were recalled to reach the Western Front in January 1915. The Battalion suffered over 400 casualties at the Battle of Ypres and fought at Loos, before being sent to Salonika in October 1915 to fight the Bulgarians. Here they were part of the occupation of Mazirko and the capture of Barakli Jum'a. Joseph died of

wounds after a year in Salonika; he had previously been wounded in France in May 1915 and invalided home for six weeks.

Joseph's older brother William Henry lost his leg and ended up a prisoner of war in a Swiss hospital in 1915. He survived and was eventually repatriated. Albert and Jack were taken prisoner very early in the War, at the Battle of Le Cateau in August 1914, and spent the War in Dyrotz Camp. Walter joined the Royal Engineers and Charles was also a Royal Engineer, in the Signals Corps. In 1919 Walter was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for his work supervising telegraphs.

As the youngest of the Hoxley boys, William Arthur was probably anxious that he too would be able to join his brothers at the Front before the War was ended, and he joined the Suffolks in 1916 at the age of seventeen. As the War came to an end William was still serving in France, but with the Labour Corps (probably having been reallocated there as a result of wounds). He died of the effects of his wounds after the end of the War and is buried at Bury St Edmunds.



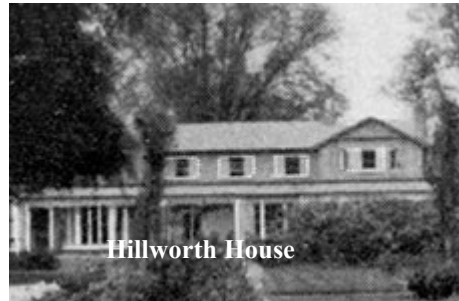
These three photographs were included in the Ely Standard, giving the news of Joseph's death and photographs of two of his brothers as prisoners of war.

Leonard HUNT

Born	1895
Killed in Action or Died	1st July 1916, aged 21
Commemorated	Pier and Face 1C and 2A, Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Unit	B Company, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Rank	Lance Corporal (Signaller), Service Number 15212
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

Leonard Hunt was born in Ely in the Spring of 1895; his parents were Herbert Hunt (1864, Westhorpe, Suffolk) and Emma Read (1868 Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire). Leonard had an older sister, Edith Isabel, who had also been born in Ely in 1891. When the children were born the family was living in Bull Lane (now Lisle Lane) and Herbert was working as a gardener.

In the 1901 Census the family of four can be found living in a Hillworth Cottage near Devizes in Wiltshire. Herbert was in the rather more prestigious job of a butler, working for the owners of Hillworth House, Alexander Grant Meek and his family. Alexander Meek was a wealthy banker and the Devizes Town Clerk.



Hillworth House

In the 1911 Census Leonard and his parents can be found living at 9A Bridewell Street, Devizes, Herbert had reverted to his previous form of employment and was working as a jobbing gardener. Sixteen year old Leonard was in a similar line of work as a nurseryman.

Before the War the family moved back to Cambridgeshire, settling in the village of Newton to the south-west of Cambridge. (It is possible that the Hunts were working as gardeners at Newton Manor, as after the War Edith married William Bagstaff, son of the head gardener at the manor, and later himself head gardener.)

Leonard enlisted at Cambridge and was placed in the 11th Suffolk Regiment. The Battalion remained in Cambridge until May 1915, then moved on to Yorkshire and finally Salisbury Plain. Here it was thought they would be sent to Egypt, but a sudden change of orders saw Leonard and his fellow troops crossing the Channel for the Western Front in January of 1916. Leonard would have been in the trenches for a short time in February, then in training behind the lines for the "Big Push" on the Somme.

On 1st July 1916 the 11th Suffolks were in the middle of a fourteen mile Front, near La Boiselle; they went "over the top" believing that their German opponents had been wiped out by the prolonged artillery bombardment of their trenches. In actuality the Suffolks were met by withering machine gun fire, followed by the shelling of no man's land which killed many of their wounded. 850 men attacked that morning and by the end of the day 527 of them were killed, wounded or missing. Of the 188 dead almost 150 were "missing"; this included Leonard Hunt.

Herbert was sent his son's effects of £8 17s 2d with a later payment of £8

Leonard is commemorated on the Newton Village Memorial.

Sydney Robert JACKSON

Born	1889
Killed in Action or Died	18th May 1916, age 27
Buried	Grave VII. A. 2A. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery,
Unit	9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Rank	Sergeant, Service Number 13853
Awards	1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

On 26th May 1916 the local newspaper carried the news of the death, near Ypres, of a head shunter at Ely railway station, **Sydney Robert Jackson**. Sydney had been working for three and a half years for Great Eastern Railways and had joined up at the outbreak of the War.

Sydney was born at Watlington in West Norfolk early in 1889 to James Robert Jackson (1856 Watlington) and Rachel Mobbs (1861 Watlington). Sydney had an older half-brother Walter Willis Mobbs (1878 Watlington) and Jackson siblings Arthur (1883 Watlington), Florence (1884 Watlington), Ethel (1886 Watlington), Rachel (1890 Watlington), Emma (1892 Downham Market) and Hilda (1898 Watlington). The Jacksons lived in Station Road, Watlington in 1891 and 1901 and James was a farm worker.

In the 1911 Census the Jacksons were living at Barnards Lane, Watlington. The family left in the household were James and Rachel. Sydney and his sister Hilda, and three year old John Jackson, were living with their grandparents. By this time Sydney had commenced his career with GER and was a porter at the local station. He was soon to move to Ely where he became a shunter, and, by 1914, had risen to head shunter. Before he went away to the Front he married Laura Lydia Germany (1879 Cambridge) in Cambridge. Lydia's family ran one of the university lodging houses in Jesus Lane,



Sydney was wounded early in the War fighting with the Suffolks. He was later severely wounded in his shoulder when fighting on Sunday 14th May 1916, and died four days later at Number 3 Canadian Casualty clearing station near Ypres. It was his half brother Walter Mobbs, (then living in Victoria Street, Cambridge) who informed the local paper.

Sydney's older brother Arthur was killed in action in September 1915, fighting with the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Sydney is commemorated, with Arthur, on the memorial at Watlington as well as on the GER memorial now at Liverpool Street Station. Laura had his name inscribed on the memorial at the Cambridge Guildhall.

Thomas Spencer JAMES

Born	30th October 1891
Killed in Action or Died	8th May 1915, age 23
Buried	Grave II. D.30 Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery,
Unit	12th Battalion London Regiment (The Rangers)
Rank	Rifleman, Service Number 2177
Awards	1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Thomas Spencer James (1892 Ely), like the Hoxley brothers, was the son of a soldier in the Suffolk Regiment and was born when his father was stationed in Ely. Thomas' father was Captain and Quartermaster Arthur James (1849 Havering, Essex) and his mother was Hannah Caroline Ling (1858 Bury St Edmunds). The four eldest James children were born in Bury St Edmunds, these were Arthur (1884), Agnes (1886), Olive (1888) and Ethel (1890). The regiment then moved to Ely where Thomas himself and Eleanor (1883) were born. Arthur James eventually became a Captain.

In 1901 the family lived at Mettingham House in Cambridge Road in Ely. Once Arthur James had retired the family moved to Quadrant Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey (Croydon District). James was educated at Whitgift School in Croydon. Thomas' older siblings found employment in the India Office, London County Council and the General Post Office, while Thomas himself became an Insurance Clerk with Provident.

Thomas enlisted on the outbreak of war, on 14th August 1914 and landed in France with his battalion of the London Regiment on Christmas Day. His War lasted just over four months as he was wounded at Fortuin near Ypres on 6th May 1915 and died two days later at the 1st N.M. Field Ambulance. His Platoon Officer wrote *"(he) was so generally liked by all his comrades, whose spirits he greatly helped to keep alive, that his loss will be much felt.."*. Another member of his platoon wrote to Arthur and Hannah: *" 24th April we attacked in open order in support of 1st Suffolks, to back up the Canadians, who were gassed out. After this we were under continuous shell-fire both night and day, and our Platoon was reduced to four men, when in the early morning of May 6 a shell burst in our trench and we were all put out of action. Your son was much liked in the Company; always ready to do a good turn to anybody; he was full of pluck and always was first to volunteer for any desperate task, in fact he was a soldier, and a man worthy to be the son of a soldier."*

Thomas is commemorated on the Croydon War Memorial.



George KING and William KING

Born <i>George</i>	1885
Killed in Action or Died	28th March 1918, age 31
Commemorated	Bay 4, Arras Memorial, Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France
Unit	2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Rank	Private, Service Number 6915
Awards	1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Born <i>William</i>	1882
Killed in Action or Died	
Commemorated	
Unit	
Rank	Private, Service Number
Awards	, British War Medal and Victory Medal

The Kings appear under the list of City of Ely dead to be found on the county memorial in St George's Chapel, Ely Cathedral.. They are not to be found on the city's Market Place Memorial. They are probably included on this memorial because their parents John and Jane King lived at 62 Silver Street at the time the memorial was created.

The Kings were a large family of Cambridgeshire farm labourers. John was born in Hardwick in 1851 and his wife Jane Harper in Eversden in 1853. Their sons were: Arthur (1870); Charles (1876); John (Haslingfield 1878); James (1880 Haslingfield); **William** (1882 Haslingfield); **George** (1885 Witcham); Benjamin (1887 Witcham); Sidney (1890 Witcham); Fred (1893 Witcham); Elias (1895 Witcham). They also had three daughters: Elizabeth (1869 Eversden); Emma (1875 Eversden); Jane (1892 Witcham).

The family had moved to Witcham in the mid-80s, but by the 1891 Census were living at the Farm House at Woolvey Hills, Coveney, just outside of Ely. By 1901, still at the same address, George and William had both started working on the farm. In the 1911 Census the only children still with their parents at Woolvey Hill were Benjamin, Sidney, Jane and Elias.

George was serving with the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment in Egypt in 1911. As the War began the battalion was at Khartoum in the Sudan and hastened back to Europe. George entered the war zone on 19th October 1914. George appears to have been a Lance Corporal but at some point in the conflict to have lost his corporal's stripe. He fought throughout the War, at some point transferring to the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment. With hundreds of others, he was lost in the Battle of Arras when the Germans succeeded in breaking the Allies' line.

John received a total of £49 6s 4d as George's effects.

George is commemorated on both the Witcham and Coveney War Memorials as A G King—as there is no corresponding commemoration for William this raises a doubt about his identification on the Ely list.

Benjamin LANGFORD

Born	4th June 1891
Killed in Action or Died	31st October 1914, age 23
Commemorated	Panel 31 and 33, Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West Vlaanderen, Belgium
Unit	2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment
Rank	Lance Corporal, Service Number 9921
Awards	1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Benjamin Langford was born in Stretham, near Ely, where he is commemorated on the village memorial; he is also commemorated at the Countess of Huntingdon's Free Church in Ely which is the church he and his family attended.

Benjamin was the youngest son of Isaac Langford (1851 Chatteris) and his wife Emma Quince (1854 Stretham). His older siblings were: John (1876 Calver, Derbyshire); Ellen (1878 Stretham, Cambridgeshire); William (1879 Chatteris); Lilian (1883 Stretham); Benjamin (1887 Chatteris—twin - this first Benjamin lived only fourteen months); Freeman (1887 Chatteris—twin); and Kate (1889 Stretham). At the time of Benjamin's birth the family were living in East Street, Stretham, and Isaac was a labourer.

Sadly for Benjamin and his family his mother Emma died in December of 1895, when Benjamin was just four years old. Isaac was not able to cope with this catastrophe, as the Cambridge Independent Press of 28th October 1898 records: *"Isaac Langford, labourer, Stretham, was charged on remand before the Ely bench yesterday with running away and leaving his three children to become chargeable to the Ely Union. Prisoner pleaded that he left them in the care of his sister. Mr H B Hamlyn, relieving officer, said the children were taken into the Union on September 23rd and had been there since. Rose Ann Warren (sic. actually Vaughan), sister of the prisoner, said she lived at Ely. Defendant, when he went away two years ago, brought the children to her and said he would give her 5s a week during the harvest time and less in the winter. He had only sent her 7s 6d the whole time and she found she was not able to keep the children. If he had sent her a little each week she would have kept them. Supt. Bythorne said prisoner had been convicted in 1896 for ill-treating his children. He was sent to prison for two months hard labour.."* The three young children who ended up in the workhouse were Freeman, Kate and Benjamin.

In the 1901 Census Isaac was living at the Old Hoops Inn in Chatteris; Benjamin and his brother and sister had been rescued from the workhouse by their aunt and uncle Rose Ann and James Vaughan and were again living with them (and their cousin Abraham) in Nutholt Lane, Ely. This was the period at which Benjamin attended the Countess of Huntingdon Church, and in 1904 it is recorded in the local newspaper that both he and Abraham received prizes in the church's Bible Class.

In July of 1901 Isaac married the widow Amelia Croxford (nee Sharp 1840 Sutton). Amelia was almost ten years his senior and Isaac was her third husband. The next census (1911) found Amelia and Isaac in the Union Workhouse in Doddington, Cambridgeshire, where Amelia died in the December. Benjamin was at this point still with his aunt Rose Ann in Nutholt Lane; his uncle James had died in 1908. Rose was working as a sewing machinist. and Benjamin himself was a bricklayer's labourer. Also in the household was Benjamin's widowed cousin Amos Constable and his nine year old son James.

Benjamin did not remain a bricklayer's labourer, but instead went to Bedford to enlist in the Bedfordshire Regiment and follow an army career. At the outbreak of the conflict he was with the 2nd Battalion in Pretoria, South Africa. The Bedfords were recalled to England and landed at Southampton on 19th September 1914. They mobilised on 7th October and landed at Zeebrugge as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The Battalion fought in the First Battle of Ypres where Benjamin was killed in action in the retreat from the Geluveld-Zanvoorde Road to the Menin Road;

this was a battle in which the Division suffered such horrific losses they were effectively out of action for the rest of the year while they rebuilt. On Saturday 31st October itself the 2nd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment lost two officers and thirty two other ranks killed (including Benjamin) as well as having scores of men injured in a fruitless but valiant attempt to stop a German advance from Zandvoorde. C Company occupied a small wood which was a target for German artillery and very heavily shelled. The survivors of the shelling were captured and imprisoned by the Germans on the following day. Meanwhile, the burial place of Benjamin and his fallen colleagues remained unmarked, and they are commemorated together on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing.

Although Benjamin's father Isaac was still living (he died in 1922), unsurprisingly Benjamin made his 1914 will in favour of his aunt Rose Ann, who was sent his effects of £4 14s 8d. Following her death, Abraham was sent his cousin's final effects of £5 in 1920.