

**SANCTON REMEMBERS:
AN EAST YORKSHIRE VILLAGE IN THE**



**GREAT WAR
1914-1919**





Valley Farm



Houghton Lane Farm



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SANCTON BEFORE THE WAR

Sancton is a small rural parish including the village and settlements of Houghton and Hessleskew, two miles from the small town of Market Weighton on the Yorkshire Wolds.

In 1913 it was a farming community of arable and livestock farming where farmers were allowed to graze cattle by the roadside, and the village pond was used as drinking water for farm animals. The local lord of the manor was Colonel P Langdale JP of Houghton Hall, one of four major landowners. There were 93 dwellings, mostly small and sometimes overcrowded houses without mains sanitation, gas or electricity. Water was collected from the village pump or household well where one existed.

Sancton was a self-sufficient community of 322 people. Col Langdale was the major employer in the village and he employed Mr Thomas Foster as his sub-agent to manage his farming estate.

Most adults worked employed in farming or domestic work. Women played a large part in village commerce with The Star public house run by Mrs Hannah Tindale, the post office and shop managed by Mrs Annie Moore and a second general shop run by Mrs Hannah Ward, as well as four lady dressmakers. Mr William Jibson had a pork butchers and abattoir, Richard Oxtoby was the village blacksmith based at The White House, Low St and Thomas Turner was a wheelwright and joiner working from the Joiner's Shop, King St. For people seeking goods from further afield there were three carriers who went to Hull, Beverley and Market Weighton.



H Ward General Shop



Oxtoby family at the White House, Low Street

Rev Henry Hutchinson was the vicar of All Saints between 1891 and 1924. A week before the outbreak of war he won first prize for his honey at Market Weighton Show. The Methodist Chapel, Low St, held weekly services and was well supported by the farming community. Father Finn lived in The Presbytery on Houghton Hall estate and served as the Roman Catholic chaplain to Col Langdale.

Sancton's school was built in 1870 and in 1911 it provided basic education to fifty-six children from primary to school leaving age. Pupils left school when aged twelve or thirteen, usually to work as unskilled labour – no child educated at the school went on to undertake further education. Miss Ellen Pears, headmistress, was assisted by Miss Mainwaring and Miss Marples. A small number of children of wealthier families were educated outside the village.

The 1911 census showed that many villagers were born and lived their entire lives within the parish, or moved to Sancton from neighbouring villages of Newbald, Hotham and Londesborough and the town of Market Weighton. Some villagers came from further afield with families emigrating from Ireland and a ladies maid from France, but generally the people of the parish would be familiar with each other and close knit, living their day to day lives within Sancton.

SANCTON'S FIRST ROLL OF HONOUR

Sancton's first Roll of Honour appears in an article in the *Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly News* of Saturday November 21st 1915.

It stated:

“Sancton, near Market Weighton, has done its duty in supplying the Empire with its quota of men in the present crisis.”

The following have the privilege of being placed on the first ***Roll of Honour*** from the village:

Col Philip Langdale (East Riding Yeomanry)
Charles Shaw (Trooper, East Riding Yeomanry)
Tom Millar (Royal Garrison Artillery)
Sydney Carr (Royal Field Artillery)
Steeton Mollett
Ernest Knapton

The following ***“sons of soil”*** are serving in Sir Mark Sykes Waggoners' Reserve, Army Service Corps:

Richard Leppington
Robert Gatenby
Fred Gatenby
Ralph Foster
Charles Bielby
Arthur Bielby
Herbert Mackley
James Laver
Arthur Dales

Not all of the names appear on the official Rolls of Honour placed in All Saints Church and Sancton Village Hall.

Steeton Mollett was the son of the Houghton Estate farm manager William Mollett and came originally from Cridlington Stubbs. He rose to the rank of sergeant in the Yorkshire Hussars attached for duty with Mann's Steam Cart and Wagon Company in Hunslet, Leeds.



Members of the
Wolds Wagoners
in ASC Uniform,
Grange Farm

SANCTON'S WOLDS WAGONERS

On the newspaper's roll of honour, nine "sons of the soil" were identified as having volunteered for service as a Wolds Wagoner. The Wolds Wagoners Special Reserve was formed in 1913 by Sir Mark Sykes of Sledmere.

East Riding farm waggons were driven in a similar way to those used by the Army and he recognised the need of having a volunteer force of skilled men ready to mobilise in time of war. On enrolment men agreed to serve abroad if called up and were paid £1 for each year's service. By August 1914 there were 1127 on roll. Reservists had no military uniform or drill, instead wearing a distinctive badge and attending driving competitions with tests that mirrored those taken by the Army Service Corps.

On the outbreak of war the force was called from harvest and as early as 20th August many were serving in France.

Charles William Bielby was born in 1891, the eldest son of Richard and Clara Bielby, White Row, Sancton. In 1911 he was employed as a wagoner, alongside Ralph Foster, by William Rennison, and was living-in at Skiff Farm, Skiff Lane, Holme on Spalding Moor. He joined the Wagoners' Reserve on 8 March 1913 at Fridaythorpe, the same day as Sydney Carr. He was 66in tall, weighed 149lb with brown eyes and dark hair.



George Arthur Bielby was the younger brother of Charles and also born at 3 Low Street. In 1911, aged 19, he was working as a horseman at Walk Farm, Kiplingcotes. He joined the Wagoners' Reserve on 5th January 1914 at Hutton Cranswick when he was recorded as being 67" tall weighing 147lbs with hazel eyes and dark brown hair.



John Sydney (Sid) Carr was one of four sons born to Leonard and Lizzie Carr, who served in the armed forces in World War I. He was born in 1895 in Witherwick and came to Sancton when his father started farming at Fir Tree Farm, High St.

Sid Carr was working as a carter when he signed up for the Wolds Wagoners at Fridaythorpe in 1913, the same day as Charles Bielby. He later served in the Royal Field Artillery.

He married Grace Towse in early 1918 and returned to live in Sancton working on the land at Sancton Hill Farm.

Robert Gatenby was born in Warter in 1889, the second son of Robert and Clara Gatenby. He was working on a farm when he joined the Wagoners' Reserve with his brothers on 10 January 1914 at Market Weighton. He was described as being 5'6" tall, 147lb, with dark hair and hazel eyes and a scar on the crown of his head. His elder brother William Gatenby is not listed on the Sancton Roll of Honour, possibly because he was no longer a resident.

Robert Gatenby was mobilised on 6 August 1914 at Bradford, only two days after war was declared by Great Britain on 4 August. He was in France on 20 August 1914, serving with the British Expeditionary Force until 28 December 1915 when he had leave at home until 9 January 1916. He died on 1 October 1970 and is buried in Sancton graveyard.

Fred Gatenby was born in 1891 in Warter, the third son of Robert and Maria Gatenby. In 1911 he was employed as a horseman on Harry Lundy's farm in North Newbald. He joined the Wagoners' Reserve on 10 January 1914 at Market Weighton, the same day as Robert and William Gatenby. He was 69½" tall, weighed 147lb and had hazel eyes and brown hair. Fred Gatenby arrived in France on 23 August 1914, serving as a driver in the Army Service Corps in the Reserve Parks. After the war he married Hilda Foster, sister to Frederick Ralph Foster and William Foster.

Richard Tomlinson Leppington was born in 1877 in Elmswell. Between 1899 and 1903 he was PC 311 in Hull Police Force where his police records show he was asked to resign for not patrolling his beat. The Hull Police Force Record Book recorded:

- 25 December 1900 - *Being drunk and unfit - severely reprimanded and fined 20 days' pay*
- 14 January 1901 - *Neglecting to work his beat and when found was sat in a wagonette - severely reprimanded and fined 5s by Chief Constable. Report in 2 months*
- 23 February 1902 - *Not finding the front door at no 19 Hume St insecure on 23 Feb 1902 - severely reprimanded and fined 5s by Chief Constable and report in 2 months*
- 18 April 1902 - *Not interfering with a fight which took place between PC's Woodhouse and Kostwizki - severely reprimanded and fined 2/6 by Chief Constable*
- 11 Feb 1903 - *Not patrolling a portion of his beat from 2.15am to 3.25am on 11 Feb 1903 - called upon to resign by Chief Constable*

He married Annie Eliza in 1899 and had two sons, Cyril and Albert. By 1911 Richard Leppington was a farm foreman at Eske, Beverley and sometime before May 1919 was living in in Sancton.

Richard Tomlinson Leppington enlisted in the Wagoners' Reserve on 22 July 1913 at Driffield. He was 5'10½" tall, weighed 163lb and had black hair and brown eyes. He served in France from 20 August 1914 in the Army Service Corps. He was promoted to Sergeant in the ASC. Richard Tomlinson Leppington died on 4 January 1953 in St John's Hospital, Goole. He left an estate of £508 1s 5d to his son Cyril.

Herbert Mackley was born on 28 August 1892 in Sancton, the oldest child of Gibson and Annie Maria Mackley, Langdale Cottage, King St. In 1911 he was the fourth lad at Keasey Farm, Warter and worked for the farmer John Robinson.

He joined the Wagoners' Reserve on 6 July 1914 at Warter, just before recruitment ended on 7 July. Herbert Mackley was described as being 62½" tall, weighed 120lb and had fair hair and blue eyes. He was therefore just below the minimum height to serve as a regular soldier and at that stage in the war would have been rejected by a recruiting officer.

He was serving in France from 20 August 1914, barely six weeks after first joining the service and was awarded the 1914 Star (Mons Medal).

After the war he returned to Sancton and on 7 August 1920 married Ada Boyd in All Saints' Church Sancton.

James Lewis Laver joined the Wagoners in Market Weighton on 14th February, 1914. He was aged 20 and was born in Hull.

In 1911 he worked as a beast man on New Farm, Watton, Cranswick. He served with 4th Reserve Park, Army Service Corps and landed in France on 19th August 1914. He does not appear on the Sancton Rolls of Honour and there is no record linking him to Sancton other than the newspaper account.

Arthur Sidney Dales was the son of Arthur Edward and Eliza Ann Dales who were fruiterers and grocers in Sculcoates, Hull. In 1911 he lived at Sober Hill Farm, Newbald as the fifth lad on the farm. He joined the Wagoners' Reserve on the 14th of February 1914 in Market Weighton. He was 5'5¾" tall, weighed 129lb and had grey eyes and fair hair.

At the outbreak of war Arthur Dales was sent to join the 3rd Reserve Park of the Army Service Corps. By the 20th of August he was serving in France and, along with all other Reserve Park soldiers, was caught up in the retreat of the British Expeditionary Force from Mons and then the success at the Battle of Marne.



William Boyes was the son of Ellen and William Boyes, born in Sancton in 1895. In 1911 sixteen year old William was working as the fourth lad at Park Farm, Londesborough.

He joined the Wagoners Reserve on 7 July 1913 at Driffield and after his one-year service was discharged on 7 July 1914. He was called up to the Army Service Corps as a driver on 15 November 1916. William Boyes then joined the Training Service Battalion before being transferred to the Machine Gun Corps as a Gunner Driver on 13 January 1917. He returned to Garton on the Wolds to marry Gladys Maud Robinson on 25 July 1917. He was discharged to the reserves on 2 February 1919 having seen service in France. William Boyes' Army Pension Record recorded he was a man of good character.

COMMEMORATIONS



The men on Sancton's Roll of Honour served in all three of the armed forces and there were four killed in action. In addition, and in common with war memorials throughout the land, research shows that not all those who served were recorded.

Some were born in the village but living elsewhere and their service not known, and it was common for women's service not to be listed on memorials.

The following names are some of those that appear on the Roll of Honour in All Saints.

Charles Allison was born on 31 March 1900 in Sancton, the second son of Harry and Mary Allison. He was working as a motor mechanic when he joined up to serve in the Royal Navy. on 19 January 1918, aged 17 yrs. His Royal Navy Service Record described him as being 5ft 4½" tall with a chest of 31.5in, fair hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion and of very good character. He was listed as serving on HMS President II which was a stone frigate based in London.

On 1 April 1918 he transferred to the Royal Air Force which was created that day from the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Navy Air Service. After the war he ran a garage in Barmby Moor. Charles Allison died in 1969.

Harry Bielby was born on 16 August 1899, the youngest son of Richard and Clara Bielby. He was baptised at All Saints' Church. His two older brothers joined the Wolds Wagoners' Special Reserve and served in the army but Harry took a different path. He joined the Royal Navy on 30 August 1917 and served as a stoker until discharge on 3 July 1919. He was described as being 5'8" tall, chest 28" hair black, complexion dark, eyes brown, and with tattoos L forearm (woman with flags) and R forearm (clasped hands and true love).

Harry Bielby had six naval postings with active war service on HMS Zaria, a depot supply ship of 3500 tons based at Longhope, Orkney.

The Carr Brothers. Leonard and Lizzie Carr came to Sancton from Withernwick to farm at Fir Tree Farm. They had five sons and one daughter – the four oldest sons all served in the war and all returned home. There are no war records for **Robert Leonard** (b 1894) or **Edmond** (b1900) but a little is known about **John Sydney** (b1895), a Wolds Wagoner and Joseph William (b 1897).

Joseph William was born in Sancton and at the age of fourteen was working on his father's farm. He served in the Notts and Derby Regiment (the Sherwood Foresters) in France and was taken prisoner of war. On the 28 May 1918 the Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly News reported:

“Mr and Mrs Leonard Carr, Sancton, have received official news that their son Private Joe Carr of the Notts and Derby Regiment has been taken prisoner and is now in Germany”. This suggests that he was captured during the great spring offensive of the German Army. He told his family that whilst in captivity he was so hungry he would eat potato peelings out of the bins to survive.

He eventually returned home and married Bessy Fisk with whom he had two children.

Augustus Crombie was born in Hotham in 1877, and was the son of George and Sarah Ann Crombie. In 1911 he lived with his parents at Jingleton House, Houghton Lane and was employed as a butler. He married Sarah Jane Watson on 7 June 1913. Augustus Crombie joined the 5th Durham Light Infantry on 12 December 1915 when employed as a waiter in Harrogate. He was mobilised on 26 June 1916 and transferred to the 25th Provisional Battalion on 28 August 1916. He was transferred to the Royal Defence Corps on 15 September 1916 and spent the war on home service. He ended his service in 306 Protection Company, being discharged on 9 November 1919.

George William Crombie, the younger brother of Augustus Crombie, was born in 1880 in Hotham. He was the church organist at All Saints' Church, South Cave and was an Associate of the Royal College of Organists (ARCO). In February 1912 he was presented with a gold watch prior to taking up position as organist to the Parish Church in Pickering.

His war record is missing but there is just one George William Crombie recorded in the Medal Rolls. He was a private with the RAMC serving in Egypt from 19 December 1915 – there is a tradition that army musicians were used as first aid personnel.

Wilfred Foster was the second son of the farmer Matthew Foster and his wife Elizabeth. He was born in Sancton on 22 April, 1897 and lived in Sandhill Cottage (now Sandhill House). The family was of note in Sancton with Wilfred's grandfather, Thomas Foster, being employed as the estate steward (manager) to Houghton Estate. In 1911 Wilfred was 13 years old and had left school to work on the farm with his father. He was still farming when he joined up on 15 May 1916 at the age of nineteen, following his older brother into the army. Wilfred Foster joined the Royal Field Artillery and served as a Gunner.



Albert Edward Hardwick was born in 1888 in North Newbald and at the age of thirteen was working as a ploughboy. In 1911 he was employed as a farm wagoner by John Gospel of The Grange, Sancton.

He joined the Army Service Corps on 12 February 1915. Albert Hardwick was transferred to the East Lancashire Regiment. This regiment was involved in the defence of the Suez Canal. He sailed for Egypt on New Year's Day 1916, arriving on 19 March 1916. On 2 May 1919 he was charged with drunkenness, confined to barracks for 7 days, and fined 21 days' pay. He was demobilised on 31 July 1919. Albert Hardwick received a weekly pension of 40 shillings due to 100% disability caused by pulmonary TB. He died on 1 October 1922 aged forty, and is buried in Sancton graveyard.



John Jeffrey was working as a farm hand in Sancton in 1914. He enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force on 11 December 1914, and left for service from Market Weighton Station with West Marson. John Jeffrey served with the Royal Field Artillery. He was in the Army for the duration of the war and returned to live in Low St after the war ended.

Ernest Kirby was born on 17 September 1896 in Fridaythorpe, the son of John and Elizabeth Kirby. In 1911 he was working with his father on the family farm, Common Farm, Market Weighton. Ernest Kirby was working as a farm labourer at Valley Farm, Sancton when he enlisted on 29 June 1918, aged 22 in Hull. He served as a private in the 4th Battalion and 7th Battalion Lincoln Regiment. He qualified as LG (Lewis Gun) and as RB (Rifle Brigade) whilst in the service. Ernest Kirby returned to Sancton after discharge on 25 April 1919 and married Clara Gatenby in the summer of 1920. He died on 15 May 1933 and is buried in Sancton Churchyard.



Ernest Robert Knapton was born on 18 April 1895, the eldest of five children of Robert and Louisa Knapton of Sancton Hill Farm. He joined the Lincolnshire Yeomanry on 5 November 1914 and by 7 June 1915 was a despatch rider, then motor cycle artificer on 29 September 1915. In 1917 Ernest Knapton applied to join the Royal Flying Corps but was rejected as unfit due to colour blindness. He was recommended to apply for officer training in the Machine Gun Corps on 10 November 1917. After completing training, he was given a commission as 2nd Lt 52nd Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment on 25 June 1918. This battalion was based at Curragh, Ireland. He was discharged on 19 September 1919.



Philip Joseph Langdale was born in 1863 in Cellridge, Ireland. He was educated at Stoneyhurst College before attending the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. In 1888 he was commissioned into the 8th (the King's Royal Irish) Hussars and rose to the rank of Captain by 1891. He married Gertrude Derriman in 1896.

In 1903 Major Langdale commanded one of the four squadrons of the East Riding of Yorkshire Imperial Yeomanry and in May 1912 he was given overall command with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. At the outbreak of war the ER Yeomanry was given the task of defending the coastline. Col Langdale received the OBE in the Military Division after the war. Col Langdale died in 1959 and is buried in the RC Cemetery, Sancton.

Percy Robert Marjoram was born in October 1888 in Middleton, Suffolk. He married Minnie King in 1913 was working as a farm labourer at Newbald Lodge, his wife and baby son Arthur living at Houghton Farm.

Percy Robert Marjoram joined up on 21 December 1914, serving in the ASC as a driver. His service number was T4/036662, the prefix "T" indicating he served with horse transport. By 7 September 1915 he was serving with the 68th Field Ambulance in France. On 23 November 1915 he sailed on the *Ascania* for Salonika, disembarking on 12 December.

The 68th Field Ambulance was one of three supporting the 22nd Division in Salonika. A field ambulance was a mobile front line medical unit set up to manage about 150 casualties. The 22nd Division had 7728 men killed, wounded or missing in the war, and many more suffering malaria, dysentery and other disease.

He qualified as a cold shoer on 13 September 1916 which meant he was able to work shoeing horses and achieved the rank of Farrier/Driver.

Percy Marjoram was admitted to hospital with malaria on 2 November 1916. He was discharged on 13 June 1919 from the RASC Forage Company and returned to working in farming. He died in 1977.



Albert Marson

The Marson brothers, Frank Marson (b 1893), **Albert** (b 1896), **William West** (b 1894) and **Walter** (b 1898) were all born in Beverley to Robert and Esther Marson. The family moved to Atlas House, Low St, Sancton to farm. Nothing is recorded about Frank Marson's wartime service

Albert Marson was working as a farm servant when he joined up on 12 May 1915. He served with the Royal Field Artillery as a driver, L15763, first with the Hull Divisional Ammunition Column, then with 32nd RFA. He was 62" tall and weighed 135lb.

Albert Marson sailed from Southampton on 29 December 1915 for Le Havre and saw service in France from 30 December onwards. He had one period of 10 days leave and was admitted to hospital on 16 February 1916 with flu, being discharged to duty two days later. He returned to home service on 1 April 1919 and was discharged on 4 April 1920.

William West Marson left school to work on his father's farm and was described as a farm hand in 1914. He joined the Royal Field Artillery on 11 December 1914, leaving Market Weighton Station with John Jeffrey. He served in France from 26 September 1915. West Marson became a sergeant, number 45364, in the RFA.

On 8 August 1918 Sgt Marson married Catherine Vause, daughter of Thomas Vause, a Sancton farmer, in Wetherby Parish Church.

Walter Marson was working on his father's farm at the age of thirteen. Walter Marson joined up on 25 March 1915. He was 63" tall and aged 17 years. He joined the Royal Field Artillery as a driver, number 14009, with the Hull Divisional Ammunition Column, then the 32nd RFA. He was posted to France on 30 December 1915 and remained overseas for over three years until returning home to the UK on 31 March 1919. He was discharged on 31 May 1919. He returned home and lived in Hull.

The Miller brothers, John Henry (b 1878), **Joseph** (b 1882) and **Thomas** (b 1894) were three brothers from a family of six boys and five girls born to Hannah and James Miller. None of their war records survive although local press reported that Tom Miller was serving in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Herbert (Bertie) Pratt was born in Sancton on 17 June 1899 and baptised in All Saints' Church. He was the son of Lily Pratt and in 1911 lived with his grandmother Elizabeth (Elspeth) Pratt and attended school in Sancton. He lived in one of Turner's Cottages in King St, a small terraced house now demolished. His war record is missing but he was known by villagers to have served overseas and was thought to have been gassed on active service.

William Thomas Roe was born in Sancton in 1889, the son of William and Rose Hannah Roe. In 1911 he was employed as a servant/oddman at Houghton Hall.

He was employed as a horseman by Mr Gospel, Manor Farm, Sancton, when he joined up on 11 December 1915. He was a private, number 21869, in the 3rd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment being 62" tall and weighing 112lb. William Roe disembarked on 9 August 1916 and arrived in Salonika on 22 August, serving there until 23 March 1919. He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment on 13 September 1916. On 14 September 1918 he was in 42 General Hospital with malaria and had four episodes of dysentery that year. He transferred to the Machine Gun Corps on 30 October 1918 and was discharged on 1 October 1919. He received an army pension until 1920.

Frederick Shaw was born in Houghton in 1881, son of John and Martha Shaw of Home Farm, and in 1901 was employed as a servant and lived at Houghton Hall. In 1910 he married his wife Elizabeth and they had a son, Kenneth. By 1911 he was living in Market Weighton and was working as a woodman. He joined the East Riding Yeomanry, and in the edition of the Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly News dated 25 December 1915, he was welcomed home on leave.

Frederick Shaw is buried in the RC Cemetery, Sancton.

William Alfred Thorne was born on 6 February 1900 in the village of Preston Candover, Hampshire. He was the son of William and Edith Thorne, and came to live in Sancton when his father was employed as a gamekeeper.

William Alfred Thorne joined the 2nd/3rd Battalion East Yorkshire Volunteers Regiment in 1917 when he was seventeen years old, not yet old enough to serve overseas. The 3rd Battalion was responsible for guarding the Humber Garrison. On 16 October 1917 he was attending a week-end camp in Dalton Holme as part of the Market Weighton Platoon, the winners of the silver cup offered by the commanding officer.



William Kneeshaw Turner was born in Sancton on 6 August 1897, son of Mary Elizabeth and Thomas Turner. In 1911 he was beast lad to George Harper, potato merchant in Ellerker.

William Turner joined the East Yorkshire Regiment on 1 May 1916 where his occupation is given as "wheelwright's apprentice".

He served as a private (number 23215) in the 2nd and the 14th Battalions East Yorkshire Regiment. William Kneeshaw Turner served overseas in Macedonia from September 1916 to November 1918, fighting against the Bulgarians. He suffered six episodes of malaria and was hospitalised in the 80th General Hospital. He served in the Dardanelles from November 1918 to March 1919 and was discharged on 24 June 1919.

William Turner returned to Turners' Cottages and worked as joiner and undertaker. He married Jessie Amelia Ruffles, sister of Albert Ruffles in 1928.



Thomas Vause was born in Sancton on 11th July, 1899, eldest son of Thomas and Jane Ann Vause.

He worked on the family farm in Low Street before joining the Royal Navy aged sixteen as a Boy 2 on HMS Ganges, a training ship, in January 1915. His naval record, number J 38501, stated that he had brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion, and was 5'5" tall, of good character and satisfactory ability.

After serving on several shore establishments he joined HMS Achilles on 27 June 1916 as Boy 1 and was promoted to Able-bodied Seaman on HMS Achilles on 5 November 1917. He was discharged on 24 February 1919.

JOSEPH STANLEY LING



Joseph Stanley Ling was born in Welton on 2 June, 1896 and went to live with his aunt and uncle, Henry and Ann Young, when he was a small boy. They lived in Hesse and before returning to Sancton, Mr Young's birthplace. Stanley attended the village school and by the age of fourteen he was employed as a farm servant by Robert Williamson of Valley Farm, King St, and lodged at the farmhouse.

Aged nineteen, Stanley joined the East Yorkshire Regiment on 21 February 1916 as a private, regimental number 23891, and served in France. In an interview in The Yorkshire and North Humberside Times, published 25 September 1981, Stanley Ling gave his recollections of the incident in which he was wounded.

"He was sent with ten other soldiers to bomb a German outpost but there was heavy fire and only one survived. 'I crawled into a hole full of water and stayed put until the following day,' said Mr Ling. 'I developed frostbite and trench feet through being covered in mud and water for so long, and finished up getting tetanus.'

His wife recalled: *'Stanley was told he would die unless he let doctors amputate his leg, but he was stubborn and didn't want that.'*

His stubbornness paid off, for he became one of the first to try a new anti-tetanus serum. *'Mercifully it worked,' he said, 'and my right leg was saved, but I still spent 11 months in hospital after the raid.'*

His family still have a portrait of him wearing his Hospital Blues uniform that was worn by sick and wounded servicemen no longer confined to bed.

After discharge from hospital Stanley Ling was transferred to the Labour Corps, regimental number 623017 and served with them to the end of the war.

He was discharged on 16 July 1919 with the cause of discharge recorded as Sickness para 392 xvi Army Regulations:

"Invalided out after an ordeal on the French battlefields".

Stanley Ling received the War Badge, a silver badge worn on civilian clothes that showed that the wearer had served in the forces but was honourably discharged being no longer fit for active service through wounds, sickness or age.

Stanley Ling was instrumental in preserving the original Roll of Honour, an oak board inscribed with the names of men who served in the war. It is now on display as a permanent memorial in the village hall.

OTHERS WHO SERVED

The Roll of Honour in All Saints does not record all the men who were born in Sancton and served.

Articles from the local press and voters' lists give additional evidence to identify more names, along with information from census and military records. The following men were all born in Sancton and some record of their war service exists.

William Matthew Clark was born on 2 October 1883 but by the time of the 1891 census he and his family were living in Melbourne, East Yorkshire.

In 1906 he emigrated to the USA where he became a naturalised citizen. Recently married, he volunteered to serve in the US armed service in 1917 and served overseas.

Alfred Cook was the son of Thomas and Anne Cook, born on 27 May 1881. By the time he joined the Army Service Corps on 29 November 1915 he was a married man with two children living in Hull and working as an overhead linesman.

Alfred Cook served as a driver with the 913 Motor Transport Company (M/302118) and was mobilised in 1917. On 28 June 1917 he was in Salonika where he remained until discharged in 1919.

John Thomas Cox was the son of Robert and Henrietta Cox and was born in 1893 and the family moved to Hull. He was working as a painter when he joined up on 22 September 1914 to serve in the 16th King's Royal Rifles.

He was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force on 16 November 1915 and on 17 February 1916 received a gunshot wound to his right thigh resulting in a compound fracture. No longer fit for active service,

John Cox was discharged from Fusehill War Hospital, Carlisle, on 6 May 1918, home to Terry Street, Hull. He received a war pension of 27 shillings and 6 pence.

Allison Rispin Saville was born in Sancton to Maria and William Saville, and took his middle name from his mother's maiden name. In 1911 he was living in Hull with his wife and two young children and working as a carriage washer for the Hull Tramways Corporation.

He served with the 1st Battalion, Kings Royal Rifles, regimental number R/7646, in France. He was killed on active service at Givenchy on 10 March 1915 and is commemorated in the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery on the Le Touret Memorial for soldiers with no known grave.

Robert William Smith was born in 1882 and was employed as a wagoner before volunteering on 5 September 1914 and being assigned to the Army Service Corps as a driver, number T2/10466.

He was initially passed as fit for service but on 19 October 1914 was discharged as medically unfit due to ?tumour of femur.

Thomas Stirman was a married man aged twenty-nine with two children, living in Beverley and working on the railway when he enlisted on 16 June 1916.

He joined the East Yorkshire Regiment and was transferred to the 27th Durham Light Infantry on 30 June 1916. His medical in April 1917 diagnosed valvular disease of the heart and he was recommended for medical discharge as unlikely to become an efficient soldier.

He was transferred Class W which meant he could work in civilian life but be recalled for active service at any time. Thomas Stirman was finally discharged from the army in 1919.

Ernest Tindale was the oldest child of William and Matilda Tindale. The family moved from Sancton, and when Ernest enlisted on 24 February, 1917, he was following his father's profession as a woodsman in Worsbrough near Barnsley.

He was allocated to the York and Lincolnshire Regiment transferred to the 1st Lincs Labour Corps, regimental number 23813, as medically unfit for active service overseas. He was discharged from the 40th Labour Corps in 1919.



FATHER WILLIAM JOSEPH FINN



William Finn was born on 27th December 1875, one of nine children of of Austin and Catherine Finn, general dealers in Drypool, Hull. When he was fourteen, William Finn left Hull to attend Ushaw College in County Durham as a junior seminarian training for the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church. All his life he was of a studious nature speaking French and Italian fluently and having good knowledge of Latin and Gaelic.

He was also fond of games and sport and was captain of his school. William Finn was ordained at Middlesborough Cathedral on 5 August 1900 by Rt Rev Dr Lacy, Bishop of Middlesborough. Dr Lacy regarded Father Finn as very genial with a keen sense of humour and able to make friends easily. Father Finn became a curate at the cathedral and was there for eight happy years before moving to St Hilda's RC Church at Whitby for a year in 1908. He left Whitby for All Saints RC Church, Thirsk, where he spent the next four years.

In 1913 Father Finn became the priest at Houghton RC Chapel. He was active in local social circles, with local press noting his solo performance of the Mountains of Mourne at a concert at St Mary's School, Market Weighton in February 1914.

After war was declared, Father Finn sought to join the Royal Army Chaplaincy but was initially refused permission by Bishop Lacy. In a letter dated 11 October 1914 he wrote to Father Finn giving his permission on the condition that he return to the Diocese of Middlesborough when the war was over. Father Finn appeared to have some doubts if he had done the right thing but enlisted early in 1915.

He was appointed Chaplain to the 1st Battalion Dublin Fusiliers and on the 15 March 1915 the Battalion set sail on SS Ausonia for Alexandria, before leaving Alexandria for Lemnos Harbour, on 8 April. A fellow chaplain wrote that Father Finn always had a sympathetic ear for the trials, temptations, difficulties and troubles of his men and that his blameless character and the geniality of his disposition endeared him to all.

Although the Australian and New Zealand forces are well known for their heroics and sacrifice at Anzac Cove, the landings at Cape Helles to the south were equally disastrous for the Irish and Hampshire regiments.

On the 23 April the Dublin Fusiliers set sail for V beach, Cape Helles on the SS River Clyde a converted collier. The V-beach landings were intended to capture the fort of Sedd-ul-Bahr, but this was aggressively defended by the Turkish Army. Father Finn celebrated mass on board on the morning of 24 April, and the men received a cup of cocoa that night to calm their nerves. At 5.00am on the morning of 25 April, the Royal Navy began their bombardment of the fort, which continued until 6.25am.

The captain of River Clyde then ordered the ship to be run aground so soldiers could disembark, but unfortunately the water was shallower than expected and the ship beached 80 yards from the shore. As men attempted to leave the ship and cross to the shore by pontoons they were met with massive machine-gun fire resulting in huge casualties. In his diary, Lt Col Tizzard noted that the Dublins lost 21 officers and 560 men in fifteen minutes.

Father Finn decided to disembark with his men, and refused to be dissuaded by his commanding officer Lt Col R A Rooth. Lt Patterson DSO recorded Father Finn's actions and demise:

“On the way his wrist was shattered by a bullet, but he went on, and although lead was splattering around him like hailstones, he administered consolation to the wounded and dying, who, alas were so thickly strewn around. For a time he seemed to have some miraculous form of Divine Protection, for he went from one to another through shot and shell without receiving any further injury. At last a bullet struck him near the hip, and on seeing this, some of the Dublins rushed out to him from the protection of the sandbank, and brought him into its shelter. When, however, he had somewhat recovered from his wound, nothing would induce him to remain in safety while his poor boys were being done to death in the open. So out he crawled again to administer comfort to a poor fellow who was moaning piteously a little way off and he was in the act of giving consolation to the stricken man, the heroic Chaplain was struck dead by a merciless bullet”.

A simple wooden cross was erected over his body, his remains now lying next to Lt Col Rooth in the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery at V Beach. Father Finn was mentioned in despatches.

On 8 May 1916 the (Hull) Daily Mail reported on a ceremony at St Mary's Church Market Weighton where a memorial reredos was installed dedicated to Father Finn. In 1927, his brother Frank Finn, Lord Mayor of Hull gave the gift of Sacred Heart Church in memory of the Rev W J Finn.

KILLED IN ACTION

Frederick Ralph Foster was born in Sancton in 1896, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Foster of Sandhill House, King St. In 1911 he was a horseman at Skiff Farm, Holme on Spalding Moor, working for William Rennison.

Frederick Ralph Foster enlisted in the Wagoners' Reserve on 19 July 1913 at Driffield. He was 65" tall, weighed 126lb and had fair hair and blue eyes.

He re-engaged on 18 July 1914 for one year and was mobilised to Bradford on 6 August. He arrived in France on 20 August with the ASC. On 10 September 1917 he was compulsorily transferred to 20th Battalion Middlesex Regiment and was killed in action on 8 February 1918. He is buried at Mory Abbey Military Cemetery, France.

Alfred Reginald Sanderson was born in Sancton in 1893, the son of Robert and Sarah Sanderson of Glebe Cottage, Low St. In 1911 he was living at Newbald and working on William Leaper's farm as third lad.

He joined the 12th/13th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and rose to the rank of Lance Serjeant. Alfred Reginald Sanderson was killed in action on 21 March 1918 at the age of 24 years. His name is commemorated at the Pozieres Memorial, France, having no known grave.

Albert Edward Ruffles was born in Riccall in 1894, the eldest son of George and Rhoda Ruffles. In 1911 he lived and worked as a horseman on John Tate's farm in Heslington, York.

Albert Edward Ruffles enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Alexandra Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire) Regiment as a private and was promoted to Corporal in the same battalion. He was on active service in France from 17 May 1915 and was killed in action on 21 March 1918. Albert Edward Ruffles is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, having no known grave.

His family are recorded as living in High Street on the 1918 Electoral Roll. Rhoda Ruffles, his mother, was deeply distressed by his death and died on December 26th 1918. His sister married William Kneeshaw Turner after the war.



DIED IN SERVICE

Charles Joseph Shaw died at home on 20 November 1918 of influenza and pneumonia. As a serving soldier he is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave located in Sancton RC Cemetery.

Charles Joseph Shaw was born in Houghton in 1888, the youngest son of John and Martha Shaw of Home Farm. In 1911 he was employed as a groom and living with his parents.

Charles Joseph Shaw joined the East Riding Yeomanry and according to his Death Certificate, later served in the 507th Agricultural Company Labour Corps as a farm labourer with the rank of Lance Corporal. This was vital work to prevent the country from starvation.

He married Catherine Conmy in 1916 and lived in Market Place, High St, Market Weighton and his death was reported in the Pocklington Weekly News of 23 November 1918:

“The death has occurred of Mr John C Shaw, Market Place. The deceased was for many years in the employment of Col P Langdale of Houghton Hall, Sancton, as groom and it was whilst so employed that he joined the East Riding Yeomanry of which Col Langdale was the Officer Commanding. He had served for over six years with the Corps but for some time had been working for Mr Thomas Todd at the New Farm. He was taken ill some ten days ago with influenza but was able to get out a week ago, and it was then that he contacted a chill and had to take to his bed again. Pneumonia developed and death ensued as stated.”

A VAD FROM SANCTON

No women were commemorated on the Roll of Honour but one young woman did contribute to the war effort. Eveline Louisa Knapton was born in Sancton on 21 July 1898, daughter of Robert and Louisa Knapton who farmed at Sancton Hill. When she was eighteen she volunteered to join the British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment.



Evie Knapton trained at the Training College, VAD Hospital, York, before volunteering at the Brook-lands Officers Hospital, Cottingham Rd, Hull.

She worked there full time and unpaid as a ward maid between 19 September 1917 and 30 May 1918. Evie's service record has a personal note from her:

"I am very sorry that I cannot give the correct dates, but as I worked a month or less at a time it is rather difficult to state them all. I should put in from three to four months altogether.

Yours sincerely. Eveline Knapton."

JRR Tolkien, the author of "Lord of the Rings" was a patient there at that time suffering with recurrences of trench fever. Brooklands was a small hospital of seventeen beds for officers only and under its commandant, Mrs Margaret Strickland-Constable it was well regarded by the men who were patients there. Brooklands Hospital is now the Dennison Centre, University of Hull. Her VAD nursing uniform was donated to York Castle Museum after her death.

THE DOMESTIC FRONT

The Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly News was the popular local newspaper and the day after the sinking of the Lusitania on 7 May 1915, Sancton was in the news.

School Prize Winners

The prizes given by Mrs Langdale of Houghton Hall to the children attending the Sancton Day School for knotting and needlework have been won by Willie Hawes, Basil Pickering, Harold Marson, Lily Marshall, Alice Holborn, Alice Pears, and Annie Walgate. The prizes given by the managers have been awarded to Arthur Thorpe, Albert Leppington, John Cox, Thomas Oxtoby for drawing and plasticine."

At least two of the children had close family members on active service overseas.



Sancton School 1920s

In the edition of 26 June 1915, the big news from Sancton was that

"Mr and Mrs Hardwick of Sancton Market Weighton have just celebrated their Golden Wedding".

Thomas Hardwick was a retired agricultural labourer and lived with his wife, Mary, in a small house on Low Street.

The Defence of the Realm Act 1914 governed the lives of the people of Great Britain, and a report in the Hull Daily Mail Saturday September 13th 1916 from the Market Weighton Police Court showed local employers falling foul of the Act.

"Tom Turner, joiner and wheelwright, of Sancton, was summonsed under the Defence of the Realm, for failing to post on his premises a list of persons employed by him. -Defendant, who pleaded ignorance of the law, was fined 5s. (25p) - P.C. Loft (Newbald) proved the case."

The following farmers of Sancton were also charged with like offence: Robert Knapton, Hill Farm, Sancton; Joseph Purdon Turner, Castle Farm, Sancton; John Kirby, Dale Farm, Sancton; and Robt Marson, Law [sic] Street Farm, Sancton. Fined 5s in each case"... "P.C. Hobson (Everingham) and P.C. Hodgson (Holme-on-Spalding-Moor) proved the cases."

In the edition of 31 March 1917, war-time matters were given prominence in the Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly News.

"A Sancton farmer complained that a substitute he secured from the Army was receiving less money by 7s than he did when serving with the colours. The man's wife's separation allowance had been stopped and he (the farmer) contended that a man was not going to work so hard for less money. When in the Army, with his wife's separation allowance, his pay was 21s per week and his food and uniform. He (the farmer) was paying the man 14s and his food. Case adjourned to next sitting of the tribunal."

The outcome of this case is not recorded in subsequent editions of the newspaper.

A conscientious objector working Vause's farm appeared in the Hull Daily Mail on 24 September 1917 under the headline "Hull conscientious objector fighting the military for 19 months"

"The remarkable case of a young conscientious objector, John R Boast, 20 New George Street was related to the magistrate (Alderman G. L. Scott (chairman) and Mr J P Elwin) at Hull Police Court today. He was charged with failing to join the Army."

John Boast had a certificate of exemption provided he did work of national importance, and he was found work at Mr Voase's farm, Sancton. He left the farm after an altercation with the farmer.

Boast, reading from a lengthy document said he left Mr Vause's owing to a quarrel with the granddaughter, who was very impertinent to him, and he did call her an ignorant kid. Two or three days afterwards her mother sent the child to say he was not a conscientious coward. He told Mr Vause if that was the opinion of the family he had better leave. He offered to remain a month while a substitute was found, but Mr Vause refused, and told him he could GO AND HANG HIMSELF and leave at once, which added Boast, "I did."

Boast declared he was not guilty, and that it was absolutely illogical to attempt to take an oath of allegiance to the King, and he had no intention of doing so. The only thing I shall do when in the Army is to refuse every order, he declared.

A fine of five guineas, [£5.50] or 36 days, was imposed, and Boast was ordered to be handed over to the escort."

A domestic view of military life was reported on in the Hull Daily Mail, Saturday, October 6th 1917, where several Sancton men won prizes at a local military camp.

"A week-end camp was held last week at Dalton Holme by the 2/3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteer Regiment by the consent of Commanding Officer, Major Bickersteth"...
"The following members took part in the competition: Sergeant-Instructor Squires, Corporals J. Haddon, Davison, Kneeshaw (Goodmanham), and J.W. Kneeshaw Lance-Corporals J Cole and A Parker, Corporal P. Frankland. Privates H. Hall, H. Hargreaves, R. Hargreaves, H. Young (Sancton), W. Thorne (Sancton), D. Consitt, J.E. Routledge, G.T. Ripley, T. Parkinson, A. Brown, E. Kirby (Sancton), F. Turner (Sancton), and W.E. Pears (Sancton)."

On 8 December 1917, two Sancton men appeared in the Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly news on separate charges.

"William Jibson, butcher, Sancton, was charged with allowing his dog to run about without having a collar on. Defendant, who admitted the offence was fined 5s."

James Morton, farm servant of Houghton was charged with discharging a firework at Sancton on 7th November. PC Kirk proved the case and the defendant who said he had no knowledge he was doing wrong. He was fined 2/6 including costs." It was an offence under the Defence of the Realm Act 1914 to discharge fireworks in the open air.

On 6 April 1918 the responsibilities of dog ownership appeared in the press once again.

"Frank Moor, of Sancton, was charged with keeping a dog without a licence on the 14th March. PC RH Kirk, stationed at North Newbald, said that on Thursday 14th March he was on duty at Sancton when he saw a dog against defendant's property. The following day he visited the defendant's premises and saw Mrs Moor and asked if she had a dog. She said "Yes". He then asked her if they had a licence and she said "No". Defendant said he had given the dog away and the man did not want it, he therefore took out a licence the same day. A fine of 3s was imposed."

The fine was substantial as many workers at this time didn't earn much more than 20 shillings a week.

On 3 August 1918 as the Allies were pushing forward in France to victory, a more domestic concern for injuries appeared in the local paper.

"Whilst Mr Rushby, the son of Mr M Rushby, contractor, was driving a pony and trap to the railway station, the wheels of the trap came into contact with those of a rully drawn by Mr Oxtoby, Sancton. Mr Rushby's trap was upset and all the occupants thrown out. Mrs M Rushby and Mr W Rushby received bruises and cuts about the head, face and body."

Finally, there was reference to Red Cross fundraising in the edition dated 19 October 1918

"Appeal for the Red Cross"

Mr Edward Connell, Sancton Grange, a member of the Market Weighton and District Farmers' Union, in the absence of the President, Mr H Beachill, Wallis Grange, Kiplingcoates, made an urgent appeal from the steps of the Londesborough Arms Hotel during the course of the market on behalf of the efforts to organise a jumble sale in aid of the Red Cross Society. He referred to the great work performed by the Commandant Mrs R.J. Hickers. She had now been visited by serious trouble as her only son, attached to the Flying Corps, was missing and he urged his hearers to assist her with the efforts she was now arranging"

POST WAR CELEBRATIONS

The signing of the Armistice on the 11th November 1918 would no doubt have been greeted with celebrations in Sancton as the local newspaper indicated on 19 November:

“When the information that the armistice had been signed was received in Market Weighon, flag and bunting were profusely displayed and there were many fireworks displays. At Shiptonthorpe, Goodmanham and Sancton services were held in the churches. At the latter church Mr Ed Connell, Sancton Grange, delivered an imposing address.”

The ringing of church bells had been forbidden under the Defence of the Realm Act, as had the use of fireworks, so the impact would have been significant. The Order of Service is still in the possession of All Saints.

The main response to the Armistice seems to be relief and sorrow for losses. The Register of Electors for Sancton and Houghton for 1918 shows that there were 27 men listed as absent naval or military voters. There was still a shortage of food and the Spanish Flu epidemic was taking its toll.

Sancton Parish Council minutes make no reference to the end of hostilities until, under the heading Peace Celebrations July 19th 1919, it records that a meeting held in the Schoolroom on Friday 4th July was so poorly attended that not much business was transacted. In the following days committees were established and

“the Ladies took charge of the Catering for the Tea, and the Gentlemen formed two Sports Committees. One for the Children and one for the Adults.”

The whole of the Peace Celebrations were carried out by Voluntary Subscriptions Col and Mrs Langdale provided a Splendid Tea for each Soldier, Sailor and members of the East Yorks Volunteers of the Parish.

At the close of the tea Col Langdale delivered such a speech as will remain in the minds of those present for many years. Mr E, Connell and Miss Pears (Headmistress) responded in a heartfelt manner, of the brave lads of this village who had fought for their King and Country of which three had paid the supreme sacrifice.

A public tea was held in the Schoolroom for every inhabitant of the Parish on Saturday afternoon July 19th and sports were held afternoon and evening and continued during the following week.

It was decided at the last General Meeting that the Balance of £4.1.9 be handed over to the Vicar to reduce the debt of the Bronze Memorial Tablet erected in the Church to the memory of Sergeant Reginald Sanderson, Corporal Albert Ruffles and Private Ralph Foster. These are the three who were killed in action during the Great War 1914 to 1918. W.A.Pears, Clerk.”



Sancton Church and School



Thomas and Mary Hardwick, Low Street



Turner's Cottages and pond



Pump and pond



Sydney and Grace Carr



Grange Farm - haystacks and horsemen



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