

Trottiscliffe



Mention should be made of the fact that the little parish of TROTTISCLIFFE, which is situated just north of the M20 motorway near Wrotham, Kent, is pronounced TROSLEY. It is also often incorrectly spelled TROSLEY, probably after the name of the Country Park at the top of the North Downs, which was once part of the Trosley Towers Estate. Unfortunately when researching those casualties of the Great War who are commemorated on a memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, it was noticed that both forms of spelling is shown on various data accessed, and as such the same verbatim spelling has been posted at each of the relevant brief commemorations below.

The Great War

1914 - 1919

PARKER, JOHN. Private, S/10453.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 3 August 1915. Aged 19.

Born Ash, West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Trotterscliffe, West Malling, Kent.

Son of Stephen Parker of Trotterscliffe, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. A. 26.

At the time of the 1901 census the Parker family resided at Rose Bank Cottage, Ash, West Malling, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old Stephen Parker, who was a native of Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent, and employed as a Nursery Gardener. John's mother Emily was a native of Malling, Kent, and was two years older than her husband. John was recorded by the census enumerator as being the youngest of four siblings at home on the night of the census, the other three shown as being natives of Trosley. The maiden name of John's mother was probably Datson.

JOHNSON, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, G/4204.

"A" Company, 8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 26 September 1915. Aged 18.

Born Trottiscliffe, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Jesse Walter and Emma Johnson (nee Shrubsole) of Trottiscliffe, West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Panels 95 to 97.

William was a brother of Walter Johnson who is also commemorated on the Trottiscliffe parish tribute. At the time of the 1901 census the Johnson family resided at 10, High Street, Trottiscliffe. Head of the house was 38 year old Jesse Johnson, who like his wife and six children at home on census night were all Trottiscliffe natives. It was noted whilst carrying out research for these brief Trottiscliffe transcriptions, that at the time of the same census, residing at 10, High Street, Trottiscliffe was 68 year old Ann E. Johnson, and her 9 year old granddaughter who might have been another child of Jesse and Emma.

BRAUNSTON, WILLIAM. Private, G/3942.

1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 15 July 1916. Aged 32.

Born Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Malling, Kent.

Son of James and Elizabeth Braunston of Moulton, Northamptonshire.

Husband of Dora Braunston of Addington Road, Trotterscliffe, West Malling, Kent.

Buried Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: VI. H. 34.

SHRUBSOLE, FRED. Private, G/10667.
11th (Service) Battalion (Lewisham), Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 7 October 1917.
Born and resided Lewisham, Kent. Enlisted Chislehurst, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 11 C.

PATTERSON, WILLIAM ERNEST. Private, 5732.
9th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.
Died 24 September 1917. Aged 31.
Born Brighton, Sussex. Enlisted Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia 24 January 1916. Resided Muttaborra, Longreach, Queensland, Australia.
Son of W.G.E. and F. Patterson of The Post Office, Trottscliffe, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: XXIV. A. 4A.
Also commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial, Panel 57.
William's birth was registered in the Brighton, Sussex District during the second quarter of 1886.

GILBERT, ALBERT EDWARD. Rifleman, 48544.
Rifle Brigade. Posted to the 1st/17th (County of London) Battalion, (Poplar and Stepney Rifles) London Regiment.
Died 4 November 1918. Aged 19.
Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.
Son of James George Gilbert of 3, North Down Terrace, Trottscliffe, Kent.
Buried Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref: IV. N. 36.

WILLIAMS, ROBERT. No clear trace.

SMITH, ALFRED GEORGE. Stoker 2nd Class, K/29837.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Eden.
Died 17 June 1916. Aged 20.
Born West Malling, Kent 23 May 1895.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith of 11, North Downs Terrace, Trotterscliffe, West Malling, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 17.

OLIVER, WALTER VICTOR. Private, 5699.
9th/20th Battalion, London Regiment.
Died 11 August 1916. Aged 22.
Born Trosley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Wrotham, Kent.
Son of Jeremiah Oliver of the George Inn Cottage, Trosley, Malling, Kent.
Buried Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont St Eloi, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. D. 13.
Formerly Private, 80951, Royal Army Medical Corps.
Walter's mother was Eliza Oliver (nee Jeffery).

ROOTS, ALFRED FREDERICK. Lance Corporal, L/9106.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 17 December 1916. Aged 27
Born Trosley, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided West Malling, Kent.
Son of Alfred and the late Nelly Roots.
Buried Struma Military Cemetery, Kalokastron, Greece. Grave Ref: VII. A. 6.

GOODAYLE, JOSEPH HENRY. Private, G/6480.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 21 March 1918.
Born and resided Trottiscliffe, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.
Son of Edward and Fanny Ellen Goodayle (nee Parris).
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.
SDGW entry for Joseph erroneously records him as being a native of Maidstone, Kent, but his birth was registered in the Malling, Kent District during the third quarter of 1880. At the time of the 1901 census the Goodayle family resided at the Street, Trottiscliffe. Head of the house was 38 year old year old Edward Goodayle, a native of Ryarsh, Malling, Kent, and recorded by the census enumerator as being a Dealer. Ellen Goodayle and the four Goodayle children at home on census night, were all natives of Trottiscliffe.

JOHNSON, WALTER JESSE. Private, S/9367
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 November 1918. Aged 33.
Born Trottiscliffe, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Malling, Kent.
Son of Jesse Walter and Emma Johnson of Trosley, West Malling, Kent.
Buried Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany. Grave Ref: VII. A. 13.
Walter was a brother of William Johnson who is also commemorated on the Trottiscliffe parish tribute. For additional family details please also see William's brief tribute.

JEAL, RONALD STANLEY. Private, S/46484.
3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 22 November 1918. Aged 19.
Born and resided Trosley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Arthur and Ethel G. Jeal of R.P. Cottages, Trotterscliffe, West Malling, Kent.
Buried Solesmes British Cemetery, Cambrai, Nord, France. Grave Ref: I. D. 3.

The Great War

1914 -1919
Lost Men

GILBERT, HENRY. Private, 8165.
2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.
Died 27 May 1918. Aged 30.
Born Trosley, Kent. Enlisted Peterborough, Northamptonshire.
Son of Mrs. Emily Gilbert of 20, Hamerton Road, Northfleet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France.

WALLIS, SAMUEL AUGUSTUS. Pioneer, 227872.
305th Road Construction Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 30 November 1917. Aged 47.
Born Trosley, Kent. Enlisted Brighton, Sussex.
Husband of Louisa Wallis of 28, Robertson Road, Preston Park, Brighton, Sussex.
Buried Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: IX. B. 11.

The Second World War

1939 - 1945

CHAMBERS, SIDNEY GEORGE. Fusilier, 5340448.
2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 21 May 1944. Aged 25.
Born and resided South East London.
Son of Sidney Herbert and Helen Chambers.
Husband of Ivy Emma Mary Ann Chambers of Borough, London.
Buried Cassino War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XII. C. 7.
Originally enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

ROXBY, THOMAS FRANCIS MAUD. Sergeant (Navigator), 1396030.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 550 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 2 January 1944. Aged 20.
Son of Henry Maude Roxby and of Dorothy Maude Roxby (née Pratt).
Nephew of Herbert E. M. Roxby of Wrotham, Kent.
Buried Hanover War Cemetery, Germany. 5. E. 17.