

# Cheltenham Gordon Boys Brigade 1890-1925

By Audrey Dingle, tel: 01242 573381.



The Gordon Boys' Brigade was formed in 1890. They are seen here on parade in the grounds of their Headquarters. This was in Liverpool Place, just off the High Street next to the Royal Hotel. The photograph was taken in the late 1890s.

The organisation was founded by the Colonel Thoyts, the Mayor, Colonel Griffith and General Pringle, with others, in memory of

General Gordon the hero of Khartoum. The aim of the Brigade was to bridge the gap between boys leaving school aged about 14, until they were strong enough and old enough to be a wage earner, and placed as pupils in various trades, become apprentices or work for the railway or the Post Office.

They aimed to do this by teaching them to be disciplined, respectful and thrifty, giving the boys a uniform and a daily dinner. Usually they joined for two years from age 14 to 16 and they were given opportunities for drill instruction, gymnastics and swimming. The Brigade band provided boys who were musical a chance to play an instrument.

The boys were employed by the public to do a variety of work for which they were paid by a fixed tariff. One penny in the shilling earned was saved for each boy in the Post Office Savings Bank to help their start in life. The committee and friends provided money for the annual dinner in January and the bi-annual outing.

Superintendent and Mrs. Morse (matron), were in charge of the day to day running of the brigade and when Superintendent Morse died in 1906 Superintendent Slade took over his position. Mrs Morse was matron for 35 years until the Brigade closed.

The Brigade had many excellent honorary officers over the years such as Mr Carrington, Colonel Blaxland, Major Dudgeon and Major General J.F. Willoughby who was chairman for about 25 years until his death. In 1897 a Gordon League was formed for Old Gordon Boys' and they played cricket, rugby and whist matches against local teams for many years. They also held an annual dinner in the town until 1914. Many of the old boys emigrated and had successful careers but sadly in World War I fifty boys died.

*All brigade records are lost but I believe about 1,200 boys were members over the 35 year period. I have not been able to find all the Gordon Boys who died in WWI and I would be very grateful for any information so that all the boys can be remembered.*

# Gordon Boys Brigade: Surnames A-C

## **Albert Charles AMES (1887-1917)**

Private (22916) 10 South Wales Borderers.

Albert was born on 5 June 1887 in Cheltenham, the son of Edward a bricklayer, and Mary nee Packwood who married in 1886. He started school at St Peter's on 20 October 1893. The family lived at 4 Green's Place, Tewkesbury Road in 1891 and 10 Weston Cottages, St Peters in 1901. He was a member of Mr Mortlock's Bible Class. In 1906 Albert married Georgina Maud Pryer in Cheltenham. They had two children, Albert born 1907 and Gladys born 1914. Albert died on 30 July 1917 and he was awarded the Croix de Guerre (Belg). His widow, known as Maud, later married William Denchfield in 1920. Albert's brother James was a Gordon Boy in the mid-1890's and played rugby for the Gordon League. He was awarded the Military Medal during his service in WW1 with the Cheshire Regiment. It is likely Albert joined the Brigade early in the 1900's.



## **Albert Edward BATES (1896-1917)**

Private (23817) 10 Gloucestershire Regiment

Albert was born on 25 February 1896 in Charlton Kings, the son of William and Eliza, nee Ingles. They married at St Mary's Parish Church, Cheltenham in 1883. The family lived at 5 Somerset Cottages, Charlton Kings in 1901. William died in 1907 aged 47. In 1911 they were living at Woodbine Cottage, Church Street, Charlton Kings and Eliza, also known as Jane, was working as a laundress. Albert first school was Charlton Kings Infants and then he went to Lyefield School on 1 May 1902. On 16 March 1910 he joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade. Was Albert's brother William Joshua Bates (1891-1917) also a Gordon Boy?

## **William Thomas BATES (1891-1914)**

Private (10020) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment.

William was born in Cheltenham in 1891, the son of James and Agnes nee Wiggall. James died in 1896 in Cheltenham. In 1901 lived in a cottage behind 102 High Street. Agnes remarried in 1902 to Edward Ernest Walkling and they had three sons and four daughters. William joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade in about 1905 and the family were living at 33 Duke Street in 1911. At this time William was working as a florist's assistant and his brother, Herbert James (1893-1917) who may have been a Gordon Boy, was a gardener.



## **Herbert Edward BERRY (1896-1918)**

Private (20391) 2 Gloucestershire Regiment.

Herbert was born in Tuffley in 1896, the eldest son of William cabman driver and Kate Maria, nee Taylor, who married in 1895 at Gloucester. They lived at 3 Park View, St Stephens in 1901 and 3 Gratton Street, Cheltenham in 1911. He attended Naunton Park

School prior to becoming a Gordon Boy in about 1911. In 1913 Herbert and a lad named Kenneth Gould walked to London in 3 ½ days. They were arrested there with burglars tools in their possession. Herbert was handed over to the Cheltenham police and was sent for trial on a charge of theft. He was charged with stealing £1.12.2d and money belonging to Messrs George's Ltd., bakers. Herbert was employed at George's shop in Montpellier Walk as an errand boy. At Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions, in April 1913, Herbert pleaded guilty to the charge. Supt Hopkins said the boy's associates had been bad. He had been in trouble before but not convicted. The Bench sent Herbert to borstal for three years. However, in 1915 he enlisted in the 2 Gloucestershire Regiment and served in France before being sent to Salonica where he died in 1918. Herbert's brother Norman (b 1897) was seriously wounded twice, once in 1916 and dangerously wounded on the Cambrai Front in 1918 – was he a Gordon Boy?

**Frederick J W BLOXSOME (1886-) GB**

Frederick, who was born in Charlton Kings on 9 July 1886, was the eldest son of Walter, a general labourer, and Alice (nee Hopton). In 1891 the family lived at 4 Somerset Place and in 1901 at 3 Crab End Cottages. Frederick was a member of the Gordon Boys' Brigade and in 1898 took part in the Brigade Sports Day to commemorate the recent retaking of Khartoum in the Sudan. There were nine children born in the family, 5 boys and 4 girls, but two sons died in infancy, one aged 3 days in 1896 and the other aged 2 weeks in 1899.



**William John BLOXSOME (1889-1918)**

Sapper (149284) Royal Engineers

William (his birth was registered as John William), was the second son of Walter, a general labourer, and Alice (nee Hopton). Besides brother Frederick, William may also have been a Gordon Boy as he worked for the GWR Engineering Department at Charlton Kings; the GWR were keen to employ boys who had been in the Gordon Boys' Brigade.

**Arthur Ernest BLOXSOME (1894-1917)**

Private (202719) 2/4 (Territorial) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Arthur, who was born in Charlton Kings on 9 January 1894, was the eldest son of Walter, a general labourer, and Alice (nee Hopton). He started school at Charlton Kings Infants when the family lived in Church Street. He was admitted to Lyefield School on 1 May 1900. Arthur was a member of St Mary's Bible Class. Was he also a Gordon Boy?

**William Joseph BOWLES (1896-1918) GB**

L/Cpl (11747) 9 (Queen Alexandra's Own Royal) Hussars

William was born 18 October 1896 in Cheltenham, the son of Joseph Edward (a coachman) and Sarah A (nee Harris) who married in 1893 at St Mary's, Cheltenham. The family lived at 14 ½ Jersey Place, Hewlett Road in 1901, 5 Hewlett Place in 1902 and 5 Rosehill Street in 1911. William's first school was St John's Infants and on 3 November 1902 he moved up to the Juniors which he left on 11 November 1907 for St Luke's. William had an older brother, Ernest, who was an apprentice printer and a younger brother John who was at school in

1911. His sister, Doris Leah, died in 1907 aged 1 month. His father also served in WW1. Were his brothers Ernest and John also Gordon Boys?

**Albert Victor BRACHER (1887-1916)**

Sgt (38) 25 Battalion (AIF)

Albert was born on 8 July 1887 at Norton Juxta Kempsey, Worcester, the son of Alfred, a coachman/groom, and Ann (nee Richardson). They married in 1884 at SS Philips & James, Leckhampton. They had a son, Alfred, born 1884 at Cheltenham and a third son Richard Percival born 1888 at Norton Juxta. The couple also had two daughters, Florence Annie born 1892 and Gertrude May born 1893 in Cheltenham. The family were living in Horsefair Street, Charlton Kings in 1895 and in 1911 were resident in Copt Elm Road. Albert started at the Lyefield Board School, Charlton Kings and moved to Holy Apostles School on 4 May 1896. He returned to Lyefield on 4 February 1898 leaving for work on 15 September 1899. Albert's younger brother, Richard Percival (known as Percy), started school at Charlton Kings on 13 May 1895 and moved to Holy Apostles School on 4 May 1896. He and his brother returned to Lyefield on 4 February 1898. Percy went to work (Gordon Boy) on 30 April 1902. He died on epilepsy on 4 December 1904. It is very likely that Albert was also a Gordon Boy.



**George William James BROOKER (1895-1917) GB**

Private (10310) 7 Gloucestershire Regiment

George was born on 6 August 1895 in St Paul's, Cheltenham, the son of Frederick George, a plasterer and Christiana (nee Gardner). They married in Cheltenham in 1888 and had 13 children, 5 boys and 8 girls. Two died in infancy, William E born 1901, died 1903 and Emily Elizabeth born 1902, died 1904. The family lived at 29 Rutland Street in 1901 and at 11 York Street in 1911. George left All Saints School on 18 September 1906

for the Practising School which he left on 1 September 1909. By 1911 he had joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade when he was 14 years old. He had two brothers, William born 1904 and Joseph born 1907 – were they in the Brigade?

**Harry Frank BROOKES (1894-1916) GB**

Bugler (9825) 17 Kings Royal Rifle Corps

Harry was born on 11 October 1894 at Charlton Kings, the son of Jesse and Harriett (nee White). The family lived at Spring Cottage, Charlton Kings in 1901 and Harry started at Charlton Kings School before moving to Lyefield Board School on 1 May 1901. He left to go to work on 5 October 1908 and joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade for two years. His brother Jesse was also a member of the Brigade. At the 1911 Annual Gordon Boys' New Years Dinner, Major General Willoughby, the Committee Chairman, announced that one of the boys (Harry) had joined the 17 Kings Royal Rifles Corps in 1910 and four boys had left to work on the railways. In 1913 Harry had written a letter to the Brigade which was not unusual as the men had fond memories of the Gordon Boys and the Gordon League which was formed in 1897. In mid-1915 Harry had been injured and spent some time at Cheltenham Racecourse which was being used as a hospital. He died while engaged on a working party.



**William Ernest Frank CARTER (1888-1916) GB**

Private (241169/3431) 1/5 Gloucestershire Regiment

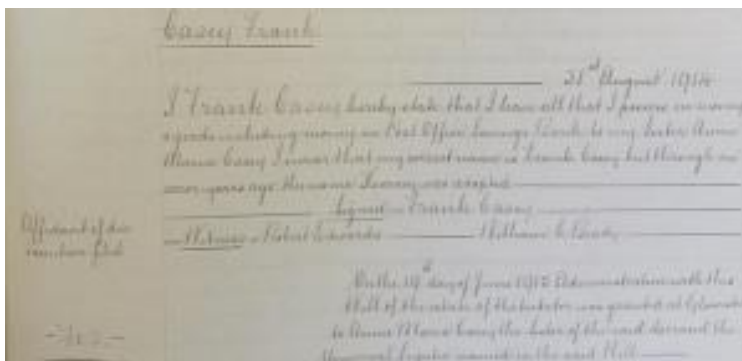
William was born in 1888 in Stonehouse, the son of Harry and Rosa (nee Harvey), who married in 1887 in Cheltenham. His father Harry, born in Littledean, worked as a porter on the railway. William attended the Parish Church School, Cheltenham and then joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade. At the time of the 1891 Census William was 2 and the family lived at Woodcock Lane, Stonehouse. He had 4 sisters, Nellie Rosina born 1887, Daisy Mary born 1890, Dorothy Maud born

1894 and Rosa M born 1903. By the 1911 Census the family had moved to Bloomsbury Street, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham. William was a waiter at the Gloucester House Hotel at Edge near Stroud and by 1911 he was a resident waiter at the Grand Hotel, Leicester.

**Frank CASEY (1878-1915) GB**

Private (2543) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment

Frank, born on 5 May 1878 in St Peters, Cheltenham, was the son of George, a plasterer, and Sarah Ann (nee Hatherall) who married in 1868 at St Mary's Parish Church, Cheltenham. In 1881 the family lived at 22 Townsend Place, in 1887 in Brunswick Street and in 1891 at Myrtle Cottage, Brunswick Street. By 1901 they had moved again to 31 Victoria Street and in 1911 they were at 4 Grosvenor Place. His father, George, died in 1909 aged 65 and his mother, Sarah Ann, died in 1902 aged 60. Frank went to Holy Trinity School then to St Peters School on 5 September 1887, leaving on 7 May 1888. He had three sisters and four brothers: Annie Maria born 1868, Mary J born 1870 and died in 1872 aged 1, twins Kate and Willie born 1873, Kate died aged 6 months, Charles J born 1875, Arthur W born 1881, George Leander born 1884 and died in 1887 aged 2. Frank was a Gordon Boy and as an Old Gordon Boy played at least four games of rugby in the Cheltenham Gordon League team between 1899 and 1904 against Cheltenham A, Hucclecote, Gloucester Gordon League and Painswick. Frank and his sister Annie regularly attended St John's Church. Prior to the war he had worked for the Cheltenham Gas Company for 18 years. Frank left a soldier's will which states he was killed in action. Administration with will Gloucester 19 June 1915 to Annie Maria Casey sum of £173.3s.6d. Annie was living at 4 Grosvenor Place on the 1918 Cheltenham Voters List. Frank died in the same battle which a brother survived. Another brother was in the Welsh Horse.



Frank Casey's will





**Sidney Albert CAUSON (1895-1916) GB**

Private (2473) 1/5 Gloucestershire Regiment

Born in Charlton Kings on 14 April 1895, the son of Joseph Edwin and Fanny (nee Martin). His parents married in 1882 at Charlton Kings Parish Church.

In 1911 Sidney was living with his aunt and uncle, Fred (gas fitter & whitesmith) and Annie Martin. His parents were living in Gloucester where

his father worked as a grinder in the wagon works. He had five siblings, Edwin born 1883, Gertrude born 1884, Eleanor born 1887, George born 1889 and Hubert born 1892 all in Charlton Kings. Sidney was a member of the Gordon Boys' Brigade in 1911.

**George Ashley CHAPMAN (1890-1914) GB**

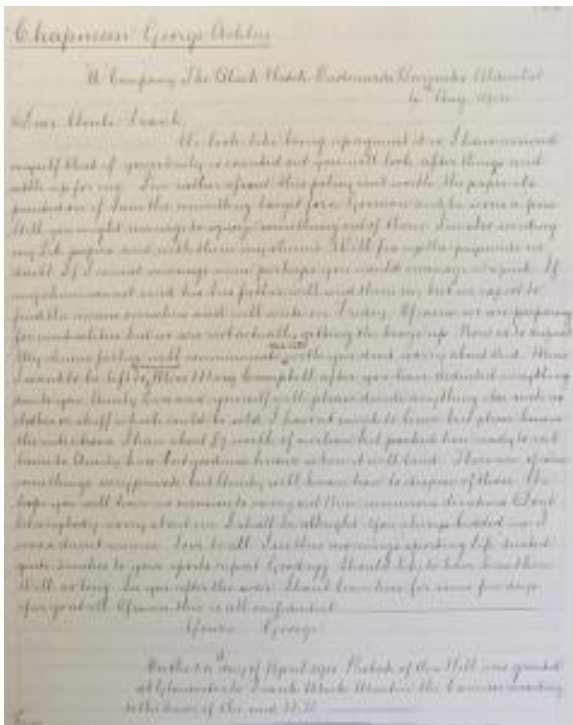
Sgt (540) 1 Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

George was born on 13 December 1890 at Charlton Kings the son of Thomas William, a confectioner's porter, and Eleanor (nee Martin) who married at St John's Church, Cheltenham in 1889. His father died in 1899. His mother married Walter William Greening at

Luke's Church, Gloucester in 1905. In 1891 the family lived at 2 Ashley Manor Lodge with two boarders and in 1898 at Spring Bottom, Charlton Kings. He went to Charlton Kings

Infants School and on 2 May 1898 to Lyefield School and left to go to work (Gordon Boys Brigade) in October 1903. He was a regular soldier in the Black Watch and he had a bright

future in front of him as he had become a sergeant at the young age of 23 in this foremost Scottish Regiment which suggests he was a formidable character.



George Ashley Chapman's letter



**Thomas CRISP (1879-1917) GB**

Pte (57276) Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)  
(formerly (29861) Gloucestershire Regiment)

Tommy was born in Cheltenham in 1879, son of Walter (a cab driver) and Elizabeth (nee Jones born at Mold, Flintshire). They married in Cockermouth District, Cumberland in 1874. Walter and Elizabeth had five children, Alice born 1874 at Great Clifton, Cumberland, Walter G born 1875, William W born 1878, Thomas born 1879 and Alfred (also known as Fred) born 1881, all in Cheltenham. In 1881 the family lived at 8 Little Bayshill Terrace, Cheltenham and Walter was a billiard marker. By 1891 the family had moved to 24 York Street and then to Chalford

Villa, Selkirk Street by 1901, when Walter had become a cab driver/groom. In 1911 Walter and his wife were living with his married daughter and two grand children at 21 Gloucester Place, Cheltenham (a house with 9 rooms).

In 1903 Tommy married Mabel Florence Watts at All Saints, Pittville and they had four children born in Cheltenham: Ivy Sybil born 1904, Dennis G born 1905, Olive M born 1909 and Cyril T born 1912. Tommy's brother William emigrated to Brisbane, Australia in about 1910 and Fred also survived.

William, Thomas and Fred were all members of the Gordon Boys' Brigade after leaving school. At the Annual Old Gordon Boys' Dinner in January 1912 he sang a song. Tommy worked as a compositor for Messrs Norman Brothers of Bennington Street. The Cheltenham Gordon League (OGBs) was formed for the 1897/98 rugby season and the team played in blue and white hooped jerseys. They played on a pitch at Naunton Park. William, Tommy and Fred were keen sportsmen playing rugby, cricket and whist for the Gordon League. William probably began playing cricket for the League in 1898. In May 1899 he was in the winning team (75 to 27 runs) when they played H H Martyn & Co. The League entered the Cheltenham Cricket Challenge Cup Competition in 1899 and won their first match played at Sandy Lane (53 to 34 runs) against Christ Church. Unfortunately they lost to Cavendish, All Saints and Town A. William played with Tommy against the latter two teams. In 1900 the League's first Cup match was against All Saints who were runners up in the Competition in 1899. Several officers of the Cricket Association were present and light refreshments were served by a bevy of fair ladies. The League lost again to All Saints scoring 21 to 80 runs. Charlton Kings were the next opposition in the Cup. Charlton Kings scored 98 and the League had fielded smartly after the first 10 minutes. William made a fine running catch to remove Bee. Unfortunately two of the League batsmen were foolishly run out and Slade was out when he picked up the ball and given out for handling. Charlton Kings won by 54 runs. The next match in the Competition was against Cavendish who won. However, the League beat St Pauls' Old Boys 53 to 36 runs. Friendly matches in 1900 were also played against Leckhampton and Charlton Kings when both Tommy and William were in the team. The next season brought another game against All Saints in the Cup Competition but the result was the same, unsurprisingly as All Saints were the Cup holders, which they retained. A hearty welcome awaited the teams and enthusiastic supporters of either team were ready to applaud any good play. A sumptuous tea for the teams and spectators was provided by the Rev P R Preston. The Gordon Boy's Drum and Fife Band added to the enjoyment of the

match. William played in friendly matches against Roseleigh A, which they lost, but won against St Pauls' Old Boys. The League lost their last match in 1901 to Charlton Kings 89 to 43.

All three boys played rugby for the Gordon League, William playing against Gordon Wanderers and Naunton Park in 1899. The brothers were in the team which played Cheltenham A in November 1899 and St Pauls' Old Boys in December 1899. William played many games as captain in 1900 including Cheltenham 2nds versus Cheltenham Gordon League, Barnwood, Charlton Rovers, Naunton Park, Barnwood A and Ryecroft when both Tommy and Fred also played.

In 1901 the brothers played four games together, the Gordon League beating Cheltenham A (when the admission charge was 6d and 3d plus 3d in the grandstand) 8 points to nil, St Paul's Old Boys 1 try to nil, Cheltenham A 6 pts to 3 and losing to Berkeley and Sharpness 9 pts to nil. William (as captain) and Fred also played against St Pauls Training College, Gordon Wanderers and Charlton Rovers when Tommy also played. William also played against Barnwood. Fred played against Gordon Wanderers and Gloucester Gordon League in September and December 1903.

Whist was also played by the three boys in 1901. Tommy and William were in the winning team against All Saints 104 – 98, the three boys were in the team that lost to All Saints 142 – 118. William and Tommy were in the team that lost to the St Stephens Institute. In 1898 and 1899 William sang a song at the Old Gordon Boys' Dinner in January and he emigrated to Brisbane, Australia in about 1910 when he wrote a letter to the Old Gordon Boys' Dinner.

## Gordon Boys Brigade: Surnames D-L

**Charles DUTTON** (1884-1918) GB

Pte (36798) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment

Charles was the youngest son of Charles, a bricklayer's labourer, and Mary Ann (nee McCarthy) who married in 1878 in Cheltenham. Charles was born in 1884 and went to the Practising School. After leaving school he joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade and took part in the under-14s team in the Brigade Sports Day in October 1898 to commemorate the recent taking of Khartoum in the Sudan. Charles worked as bus conductor in 1901, later he worked for Mr Carter before enlisting for six years in 4 Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment on 19 August 1906. He had attended the Old Gordon Boys' Dinner in January 1906. In 1891 the family lived at 37 Rutland Street and 10 years later they were at 30 Rutland Street where they still lived in 1918. His brother Joseph E was also a Gordon Boy and a keen sportsman.



**George Frederick EDWARDS** (1896-1915) GB

Pte (9931) 7 Gloucestershire Regiment

George was born in 1896 in Cheltenham the son of John, a self-employed shoemaker, and Catherine Louisa (nee Jenkins) who married in 1884 in Cheltenham. The family lived at 14 Brunswick Terrace in 1891 and by 1901 had moved to 60 Rutland Street where they probably lived for the next 10 years. George had four brothers:



John, Thomas, Bertie and Albert. Were any of them in the Gordon Boys Brigade? He had a sister Catherine who died at birth in 1888. Two other sisters survived: Kate born in 1886 and Rosa in 1902. He enlisted as a regular soldier in the 1st Battalion, Gloucester Regiment at Bristol in February 1914. In 1915 his address was 14 Cleveland Street.

George Frederick Edwards

**Frederick Thomas FAULKNER (1888-1916) GB**

Pte (6395) 2 Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Frederick was born on 3 June 1888 in Cheltenham the son of Frederick and Mary Jane (nee Ivin) who married in 1885 at St Luke's, Cheltenham. They had nine sons and six daughters (see table below) of whom 5 sons and 2 daughters survived. Frederick (senior) was a railway porter in 1891 and later he became a coal merchant's labourer. The family lived at 1 Bubbs Cottages in 1891. Frederick (junior) went to St Peter's Infants School and to St Peters (probably the junior section). After leaving school he joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade when the family lived at 6 Sun Street.

Brothers Sisters

John Charles born 1886 (butchers porter) Annie E J born 1889

Albert Douglas born 1890 died aged 2 mths Doris G born 1892 died aged 2 mths

George T born 1894 (twin) died aged 5 mths Maria G born 1894 (twin) died aged 5 mths

Arthur H b 1895 Florence A born 1897 died in 1898 aged 7 mths

Cyril H A born 1899 (twin) died aged 1 month May E E born 1900

Albert E R born 1899 (twin) died aged 1 month Gertrude M born 1905 died aged 4 mths

Albert E born 1902

Frank E born 1903

Frederick left Cheltenham, as did brothers John and Arthur, to look for work in the South Wales coal mines. The family lived at Stanleytown, Tylorstown in South Wales. His brother Frank died in WW2 aboard HMS Lightning. Were any of Frederick's brothers Gordon Boys?



**James Harold Gilbert FENNELL (1896-1918) GB**

Pte (24662) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment

James (also known as Gilbert) whose father George was a hairdresser, and Jane (nee Hawling), married in 1888 at St Peter's, Cheltenham. In 1891 the family lived at 210 High Street and on 2 October 1896 Gilbert was born. In 1901 the family were living at 218 High Street and were still there in 1911. Gilbert went to the Parish Church Infant's School and moved to the Junior School on 3 October 1904. He had joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade by 1911 and then

became a page at the Cheltenham Training College. His commanding officer sent a letter of condolence to the family when Gilbert died. They had a large family of six daughters, three of whom died, Beatrice M born 1901 aged 6 months, Rosa E born 1903 who died aged 4 months and Jane E born 1904 who died in 1905 aged 11 months. Amy F born 1889, Emily F born 1890 and Ada M born 1893 survived. George, their eldest son, born in 1892 died in 1893 aged 9 months. Albert E J born 1895, George R born 1898 and William A born 1900 all survived. Were these three also Gordon Boys? In 1918 they lived at 20 Hereford Villa, Swindon Road, Cheltenham.



Annie L born 1894.

**James Christopher Lipscomb GAPPER (1898-1915) GB**

Lance corporal (13363) 10 Gloucestershire Regiment

James was born in Cheltenham in 1898 the son of James, a labourer, and Jane (nee Wadley) who married in the town in 1891. By 1901 the family lived at 4 Whitehart Street when his father was a bricklayer's labourer and his mother a laundress. By 1911 the family had moved to 60 Burton Street and James senior worked for the Borough Council. They had two daughters Matilda E born 1892 and



**Albert Henry GARDNER (1896-1918) GB**

Lance corporal (10067) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment

Albert was born in Cheltenham in 1896 the son of Henry and Alice Mary (nee Bird) who married at All Saints in 1894. In 1901 Henry worked at the Water Works and the family lived at Beechurst Cottage, Hales Road. In 1911 they lived at 7 Hillview Terrace, Cheltenham. They had three daughters: Kate A E born 1895, Alice M born 1900 and Florence born 1901. By 1911 Albert had joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade and later he worked for Lord Kinsale at The Grange, Marle Hill, Cheltenham. In 1918 the family lived at 3 Ferndale Terrace, St Lukes, Cheltenham.

**Frederick Robert GEGG (1897-1917) GB**

Pte (20331) 7 Gloucestershire Regiment

Frederick was born at Prestbury the only son of Robert William and Kate (nee Halliday) who married in 1897 at St Luke, Frampton Mansell. They lived in a cottage at Prestbury in 1901 and Robert was a stone mason. Frederick was born on 9 August 1897 and he went to Holy Trinity School on 13 May 1901. Later he went to the Practising School and left in August 1911 when he and his mother lived at 26 Victoria Street with Frederick's uncle Albert Lance. Frederick worked as an errand boy after leaving school and then became a member of the Gordon Boys' Brigade. In 1917 his parents lived at 41 Albert Street, St Pauls, Cheltenham.



**George Stanley GRENOW (1898-1918) GB**

Pte (28185) 1 Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry)

George, also known as Stanley, was born in Watermore, Cirencester on 17 July 1898, the son of Leonard, a railway signalman and Clara (nee Axton) who married in 1895 at The Parish Church, Cirencester. The family moved to Cheltenham and in 1911 lived at 1 Albert Street, St Pauls. Stanley's last school was the Practising School which he left on 26 February 1912 when the family still lived at 1 Albert Street. Before the war Stanley was employed at the Oriental Café at the 395 High Street, Cheltenham. Stanley's siblings were Ethel born 1896 Cirencester, Ella born 1901 Ross-on-Wye, Clara Alice born 1902 Ross-on-Wye but died in 1905 at Ross-on-Wye, Lucy born 1905 Ross-on-Wye and Leonard born 1913 in Cheltenham. In 1918 the family lived at Hungerford Villa, Larput Place, Cheltenham until the 1950's.

### **Frederick GRINNELL (1883-1915) GB**

Pte (18947) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment

Frederick was the youngest son of Edwin and Jane (nee Gardner) born 1883 in Chedworth. His parents married in 1866 at St Mary, Chedworth but by 1890 Jane was a widow as Edwin had died aged 51. By 1901 Jane had moved to Cheltenham and she lived at 2 Cleveland Buildings with her two youngest sons. Frederick was a Gordon Boy and there is a record of him playing rugby for the Gordon League in October 1899. On 30 August 1913 he married Elizabeth Anne Poyner of Newnham-on-Severn at St Peter, Cheltenham, and they had a daughter, Freda, in 1914. Before the war he was employed at Dobell & Son, Wine Merchants in the Colonnade and High Street, Cheltenham. In 1915 the family lived at Calcutta Cottages, Cheltenham. Frederick's siblings were: William George born 1867, Thomas born 1869, Albert Edward born 1870, Mary Ann born 1872, Arthur Charles born 1873, John born 1875, Frank born 1877 but died in 1880 aged 3, Harry born 1878, Elsie born 1880 died aged 1 week, Elsie born 1881, Ellen born 1886. Was Harry also a Gordon Boy.



#### **A DOUBLE WEDDING IN CHELTENHAM.**

On August 31st, at St. Peter's Church, a double wedding took place, Mr. Fred Grinnell and Miss Ellen Grinnell, son and daughter of the late Mr. Edwin Grinnell, of Cheltenham, marrying respectively Miss Elizabeth Anne Poyner, daughter of Mr. John Poyner, Newnham-on-Severn, and Mr. Arthur Gibbins, late of M.R. Staff, Cheltenham, now of Metropolitan Police Force, London, and son of Mr. Chas. Gibbins, 28 years resident in St. Peter's Parish. The wedding party and friends.

### **Henry Francis HALLING (1879-1918) GB**

Pte (83630/6297/33812) Labour Corps

Henry was born on 17 March 1879 the son of William and Annie (nee Clark) in Cheltenham. They married in 1871 at St Peter's, Cheltenham. William was a carter and the family lived at 143 Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham. His wife had had 15 children of whom 7 survived in 1895, the remainder died in infancy. William had been injured and had only done five weeks work in the last 19 months. A child was born at the end of 1894 and was very weak and died aged 7 weeks so the coroner had directed that a post mortem be held. The cause of death was cerebral anaemia. William was asked at the post mortem about his finances and he said he "lingered" on parish pay and the earnings of a son who was in the Gordon Boys' Brigade. This was his son Henry Francis. The jury recorded a verdict in accordance with the doctor's evidence and gave their fees to William.

Henry went to the Parish Church Infants School and left to go to St Peter's School on 5 December 1887. The family lived at 143 Tewkesbury Road in 1895, 7 Malvern Street in 1897 and 16 Hereford Place in 1901. Henry married Emily Bleby in 1899 who died in 1908 aged 25 and they had a daughter, Annie, in 1900. In 1901 Henry lived with Annie Lawrence (Emily's

mother) and he worked as a draper's porter. In 1909 he married Elsie Gould and they had Frederick C born 1910, Donald L born 1912, Ivy V born 1914 and Arthur H born 1916. Another child, William D D, was born in 1919. In 1911 Henry and Elsie lived at 15 Swindon Place with Beatrice Rose born 1902 and Frederick Charles aged 9 months. Henry worked as an ironmonger's porter in 1911. In 1918 the family lived at 131 Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.



**Henry John JAMES (1897-1917) GB**

Rifleman (24731) 16 Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)

Henry, known as Harry, was born on 22 Feb 1897 at Charlton Kings, the son of Ernest, a farm labourer, and Catherine (nee Weston), who married at St Mary's, Charlton Kings in 1897. He was baptised at St Mary's on 12 March 1897. He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery (87113) but transferred to the Rifle Brigade. In 1901 the family lived at Providence Place, 2 Chestnut Terrace, Charlton Kings. When he started at Lyefield School, Charlton

Kings on 1 May 1903 the family lived at 5 Wheelley Cottages, Bafford Road and he left school on 24 February 1911. He joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade in 1911. Harry, who was the eldest in the family, had eight siblings: Francis E born 1898, Gladys E K born 1899, William E born 1901, Sidney born 1903 and who died in 1905, Alfred H born 1905, Florence born 1907, Nellie born 1909 but she died in 1910 aged 2 months and Arthur J born 1912. Harry's brother William served in the regular army for 22 years in the Gloucestershire Regiment, Royal Artillery and the Royal Berkshire Regiment in India, Cyprus and Palestine. For 16 years he had no home leave and rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. In 1943 he transferred to the Royal Navy and married Annie Kathleen Clerkson. He was a Petty Officer and was killed in action at sea in 1944. His home address was Union Inn, Fairview, Cheltenham. Were any of the brothers also Gordon Boys?

**Jesse JONES (1887-1915) GB**

Pte (7802) 1 Gloucestershire Regiment

Jesse, the son of Jesse, a corporation labourer, and Ann Maria (nee Wildsmith) who married in 1873 in Cheltenham, was born on 3 October 1887. His mother died in 1900. Jesse and Ann Maria lived at 12 Queens Street in 1891 and had moved to 46 Queens Street in 1893 when, on 27 October, Jesse went to St Peter's School from the Infants. He left St Peter's school on 23 August 1895. In 1901 the family lived at 19 Queens Street and Jesse was a member of the Gordon Boys' Brigade. He will have taken part in the Annual Christmas Dinner, cooked by the matron, Mrs Morse, and the biennial outing. In 1906 he attended the Old Gordon Boys' Dinner and sang a song. Jesse had 9 siblings: Maria born 1873, Alick born 1875, Fanny born 1877, Harry born 1879, Edith born 1882, Allan born 1885, Olave born 1890 and who died in 1891 aged 4 months, Emily born 1892 and Frank born 1895. Were any of the brothers also in the GBB?

Jesse enlisted as a regular soldier in the Gloucestershire Regiment on 3 November 1904. His initial training was at Horfield Barracks, Bristol. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment on 21 February 1905 and was based at Warley, Essex before transferring to Aldershot in November 1906. Before 1908 Jesse had left the 2nd Gloucesters

and had been posted to India to join the 1st Battalion. They moved from Amballa to Lahore in 1907, then to Dalhousie in 1908 and back to Lahore, then on to Bombay before sailing home to England in October 1910. Jesse served in Malta probably for 3 years and he returned to England on about 23 July 1913 as he was ineligible to go with the Battalion to Tientsin, North China. Jesse's name appears several times in 1st Battalion orders and there is a complete set for him from 1908 to 1911:

18 April 1908 – Awarded 3rd Class Certificate of Education – Lahore 8 April 1908;

29 June 1908 – Granted 1st Good Conduct Badge – Lahore 23 August 1907;

8 October 1909 – Fined 2/6d for drunkenness – Bombay 5 October 1909;

15 October 1909 – Forfeits 1 Good Conduct Badge – Bombay – 5 October 1909;

12 November 1909 – Qualified in Swimming – Bombay 28 September 1909;

31 October 1909 – Service Pay raised to 5d – Bombay 2 November 1909.

He became a reservist in 1913, living in Queen's Street, Cheltenham and worked on a station book stall. He was called up in August 1914 and was wounded from shots through his right shoulder and leg in September 1914 and was in hospital in Birmingham.



**Thomas Charles JORDAN (1896-1918) GB**

L/Cpl (23259) 8 Gloucestershire Regiment

Thomas was born in Bath on 2 December 1896, the son of

Terah James, a coachman domestic born in Albury,

Hertfordshire, and Annie Maria (nee Spreag) who was born in Cheltenham. They married at All Saints, Gloucester in 1891.

The family lived in Millbrook Street in 1906 and Thomas went to Lyefield School, Charlton Kings on 16 July 1906 after leaving the Infants and left Lyefield School on 2 December 1910.

Thomas joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade, as did his younger brother Frank, who was born at Ditteridge, Wiltshire on 26 June 1899. The family lived at Hambrook Street in 1911. Frank went to Lyefield School on 1 May 1906 and left on 20 June 1913. Thomas went to work as a gardener for Mr Player of Thirlestaine Hall, Cheltenham after leaving the Gordon Boys Brigade. In 1918 the family lived at Northwick Villa, Bath Road and Thomas last resided at Ryeworth Road, Charlton Kings. His siblings were: Dorothy born Scotland 1894, Kathleen born 1901, Marion born 1904, Arthur born 1906 and Amy and Maud born 1908.

**Frederick John "Jack" LOVESY (1891-1917) GB**

Sgt (17185) 9 Gloucestershire Regiment

Jack was born on 1 May 1891, the son of Henry George, a builders labourer, and Louisa (nee Lock) who married at Charlton Kings in 1889. The family were living at Hamletts Yard in Horsefair Street in 1898 when Jack left his Infant School on 2 May to go to Lyefield School, Charlton Kings which he left on 10 June 1904. The family moved to Canterbury Villa, Copt Elm Road in 1911. He joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade and at the Old Gordon Boys' Dinner in January 1913 he took part in a musical programme. Prior to the war he was employed for 8 years at the "Oriental Café and Cosy Corner", Promenade, Cheltenham by Mr Marfell. Jack was a faithful and trusted employee and he was held in high esteem. His siblings were Henry



G born 1890, Ernest C born 1892, Albert E born 1894, Ethel W L born 1895, Beatrice M born 1901 and Vera N born 1904. Was his brother Henry also a Gordon Boy?

## Gordon Boys Brigade: Surnames M-Z

### **Sidney Albert MAHON** (1895-1916) GB

Pte (24715) 10 Gloucestershire Regiment

Sidney, born at Charlton Kings in 1895, was the second son of William, a builder's labourer, and Mary (nee Williams) who married in 1891 at SS Philip & James Church, Leckhampton. In 1901 they lived at 37 Rutland Street and William was a labourer at the Gas Works. By 1911 the family had moved to 84 Stanhope Street when William was a builder's labourer and Sidney was a member of the Gordon Boys' Brigade. Mary, his mother, died in 1910 aged 40. Sidney's siblings were: William H J born in 1892, Winifred A born 1900 and Alice E born 1904, all in Cheltenham. In 1918 Sidney's father was living at 20 St George's Street, Cheltenham.

### **Graham Wilfred MATTHEWS** (1891-1915) GB

L/Cpl (281) Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (CEF)

Graham, born on 8 January 1891, was the son of Frederick W and Clara Edith (nee Boulton). His parents married in Chorlton District, Lancashire in 1884 where Frederick worked as a hot water engineer. Graham went to the Infants School at Charlton Kings and on 26 June 1899 moved to Lyefield School. He had previously been at Holy Trinity School and on 16 July 1900 he and his brother Frederick returned to Holy Trinity. On 3 December 1900 Mrs Matthews, who was deaf, wrote to Lyefield School saying her son, aged 9, was no longer at Lyefield as she had sent him to Holy Trinity in order that he might work in the Gordon Boys' Brigade during his spare time. Graham did become the drum major of the Gordon Boys' Brigade. In 1891 the family lived at 2 Fairview Terrace and in the 1901 Census they had moved to the Brickyard in Ryeworth. In 1911 Graham's family were living at 3 Ewlyn Terrace, Fairfield Road and were still there in 1918.

Graham had four sisters: Clara Edith born 1884 in Cheltenham, Evelyn Mary born 1885 in Manchester, Fanny Bevis born 1887 in Manchester and Emily born 1898 in Cheltenham. He had five brothers: Frederick C born 1888, Alfred Rowland born 1893, William George 1894, Ernest F born 1897 and Birt born in Charlton Kings who died aged 6 months in 1900. With their mother Clara keen to get the boys working as Gordon Boys, it is highly likely some of Graham's siblings were also in the Brigade. William and Ernest were "errand boys" in the 1911 census which often meant that they were messengers in the Brigade.

Graham's brother Frederick married Clara Cooper at St Marys, Charlton Kings in 1910. Gwendoline E was born in 1910 and the family were living at 2 Grange Terrace, Charlton Kings in 1911.

By Christmas 1912 Frederick, William and Alfred were in Canada for a Christmas reunion on Alfred's farm. Graham was employed by Messrs H H Martyn, Architectural Sculptors at Sunningend Works, Cheltenham prior to emigrating to Canada in 1913 to join his brother at Palmerston, Ontario to work as a blacksmith. On 28 August 1914 he volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. On his enlistment form Graham stated that he had

previously served for 2 years in the Gloucestershire Regiment. In 1922 William sailed to Quebec from England arriving on 17 November to join his brother Frederick at 62 Clarence Street, London, Ontario. He intended to work as a motor mechanic.



**THREE CHELTONIAN BROTHERS IN CANADA.**  
MESSRS. F. MATTHEWS, W. MATTHEWS, AND A. MATTHEWS.

This photograph was taken on the farm of the last-named, on the borders of Alberta and Saskatchewan, during a Christmas re-union. Mr. W. Matthews, who sends us this photo from Winnipeg, says it is difficult to photograph during the winter, owing to the extreme cold; it was 25deg. below Zero when this was taken, and many attempts were made to focus the group before the exposure was made.

**Alfred Rowland MATTHEWS (1893-1915)**  
Pte (13330) 10 Gloucestershire Regiment  
Alfred was born 16 August 1893 in Cheltenham. He went to school in Charlton Kings on 1 May 1900. His last school had been the Infants and he left Charlton Kings on 21 January 1902 to go to Holy Trinity. He married Edith Isabel Turner in 1914 in Cheltenham. In 1915 she gave birth to a son Alfred E F Matthews.



**Raymond MILES (1897-1918) GB**  
Spr (358887) Royal Engineers

Raymond was born in Eastington, Northleach in 1897 the youngest son of Alfred and Elizabeth (nee Watts) who married at SS Peter & Paul, Northleach in 1881. In 1871 Raymond's father, born in 1841 at Eastleach Turville, was the schoolmaster at the Northleach Union Workhouse. By 1881 he had been appointed Northleach Relieving Officer and in 1891 he was also a Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages living in High Street, Northleach with his wife and five children. In 1901 he was the Workhouse Master, his wife was the Matron and his eldest daughter, Edith Rebecca the Assistant Matron at the Union Workhouse, Eastington. Their children were: Edith born in 1881, Frederick George born 1883 both in Hampnett, Elizabeth Annie born 1884, Louisa born 1886, Maggie Ellen born 1888, Alfred William born 1889, Frank born 1892 all in Northleach, Ethel Harriet born 1894 and died 1895 and Arthur

Charles was born 1896 and died the same year.

In December 1910 Raymond was working at the Midland Railway in Cheltenham as a Gordon Boy. He enlisted (number 27713) in the Liverpool Regiment in Cheltenham in 1915

when under age. He was promoted acting corporal in December 1915 but reverted to private in November 1916 and transferred to the Royal Engineers on 1 February 1918. He was a clerk, 5'7" and 118 lbs with a "deficient" chest measurement but had good physique. When Raymond died in Belgium his brother William, who was in the same unit, informed his parents. Raymond was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal on 26 February 1922. His father retired to Chargrove, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham in 1915 with his wife and Raymond's brothers Frank and Alfred. Their father died on 24 November 1919.

**Montague "Ernest" MORTEN (1885-1918) GB**

Pte (202700) 2/5 Gloucestershire Regiment

Ernest was born in Rodborough on 3 September 1885 the son of William, a commission agent born Watford, and Sarah (nee Walker) born at Apperley Bridge, Yorkshire. Ernest had a sister Maud Ethel, born in the Stroud District, who died in 1886 aged 2 months. In 1896 the family lived in Folly Lane, Cheltenham. Ernest was admitted to the Practising School at the Training College in St Pauls, Cheltenham on 5 March 1894 and left on 3 June 1894 having achieved Standard VII. His name appears again in the admission register showing he was admitted on 27 January 1896 and left on 16 February the same year. By 1901 the family lived at 1 Durban Cottages, Folly Lane and in 1904 Ernest married Lily Rose Fox in Cheltenham. In 1911 the couple were living at 12 Victoria Place, Bath Road with two children, Wilfred E born 1906 and Winifred P born 1910 both in Cheltenham. By 1918 Lily and the children were living at 18 Cleveland Street, Cheltenham.

Ernest was one of the best cricketers in the Cheltenham Gordon League between 1904 and 1908. Every year the Gordon League entered the competition for the Cheltenham Cricket Challenge Cup Competition (CCC) as well as playing friendly matches. In 1905 he was on the losing side when they played Martyn's Athletic; beat Prestbury in Division I of the CCC and Bishops Cleeve. They lost to Gas Works in a Cup match, 115 to 71 runs, Morten took 1 for 17. 1906 was an excellent year for the Gordon League and in a Division II CCC match at Marle Hill on 7 July 1906, the Gordon League beat All Saints Old Boys by 34 runs. Grinham took 6 for 8 and Morten 3 for 4 for the winners. Their next match was against Martyn's Athletic which the League won 92 to 25 runs. Morton scored 24 not out and took 3 wickets for 9 runs. They lost their match against St Paul's Old Boys by 13 runs. Morten who took 5 for 10 bowled well. The Cheltenham Gordon League won the Second Division Challenge Cup Competition. At a special dinner in November the Cup was presented to the League and medals, given by the local Association, were presented to team members. A bat was presented to Morten who had the best bowling figures in the Division, 36 wickets for an average of 2.26 runs. In 1907 the League again took part in the Challenge Cup Competition in Division II. They won their first match on 25 May against Christ Church by 6 runs when Morten bowled and batted splendidly. They lost to Imperial by 54 runs and to Charlton Kings by 72 to 61 runs. Morten scored 18 runs. In 1908 Morten played for the League in the Challenge Cup Competition, Division I. Roseleigh won their match against the Gordon League by 32 runs. The match against Cavendish in Division I ended in a win for Cavendish by 164 to 106 runs. Cheltenham Gordon League batted at 6pm and in less than an hour were 9 for 53 but C Booy and H Gregory, much to the amusement of spectators and frequent changes in bowling, added 50 runs for the last wicket – the match ended at 7.45pm.



**William Edward MULHEARN** (1883-1917) GB Spr (504105) Royal Canadian Engineers (CEF) William was son of George Edward, a blacksmith, and Fanny Elizabeth (nee Griffiths) who married in 1869 at Gloucester. William was born on 12 March 1883 and the family lived at 36 Whitehart Street in 1894. He went to the Parish Church School on 19 November 1894 and left on 19 February 1896 to join the Gordon Boys' Brigade. William had four brothers and two sisters: George James born 1869 in Gloucester, John M born 1874 in Cheltenham, Beatrice Fanny born 1880 in Gloucester, Thomas H born 30 November 1884 in Charlton Kings who went to the Parish Church School on 19 November 1894 having previously been to Highbury School and he left on 10 January 1899, Stephen Albert (aka Albert Stephen) born 13 July 1886 in Charlton Kings started school with Thomas having also been at Highbury School. Albert left the Parish

Church School on 21 December 1899 "qualified for work" and Ellen S (aka Nelly) born 1887 in Charlton Kings.

William married Elsie Violet Morgan in 1904 in Cheltenham and they had five children, three born in Cheltenham, William, Eric (Jack) and Reginald and two in Canada, Violet and Isabel. The family emigrated to Winnipeg in 1911. They sailed from Liverpool to St John New Brunswick on the SS Empress of Britain arriving on 18 February.

William's brother, Albert Stephen, joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry, Plymouth Division on 6 February 1902. By 1916 Albert was in Canada living with William and his family. On 6 March 1916 Albert joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and gave his sister-in-law, Elsie, as next-of-kin.

Albert, accompanied by Elsie Violet, sailed from New Brunswick to Liverpool on the Empress of France arriving 12 April 1952 enroute to 44 Hamilton Road, Derby. Albert died 20 October 1966 and was buried in Winnipeg.

As part of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 1897 the Brigade took part in a sports day at Pittville Park when William won the under-15 50 yards swimming race. The Cheltenham Gordon League played whist in the winter months against local teams and William was a member in 1900 and 1901. His usual partner was John Hopkins. In 1901 the League played All Saints and won by six points – William and his partner scoring 19. The League played All Saints in March at the Gordon League Headquarters for the fourth time that season and it proved to be an easy win for the visitors, the League having previously won twice. William and John scored 16 points. In the first match of the new year in 1901 John and William played in a match against Crosby and the League won by 1 point – William and John scoring 12. John Hopkins, who joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade in 1891, emigrated to Australia in 1901 where he spent 2 or 3 years. He then moved to New Zealand and died on 6 December 1912 from a fall while disinfecting a ship.

William played more than forty games of rugby for Cheltenham Gordon League between

October 1900 and November 1903. One of their best games, in 1900, was against Charlton Rovers on 3 November and they were congratulated on a magnificent fight. The blue and white brigade played a grand game and a draw of a try each was a fitting result. The game was fast and well contested from start to finish and the League forwards showed great improvement and were a match for their heavier rivals. The halves were evenly matched and the defence of the back division was very sound, the tackling of the Crisp brothers being especially so. On the Charlton side, Wheeler was by far the best of the home backs. C Booy at full-back for the League, was greatly superior to his opposite number, his line kicking often saving his forwards a lot of work and his fielding was all that could be desired. The Cheltenham Gordon League team was C Booy – back; W Lewis, C Norman, T Crisp, F Crisp – three-quarters; T Taylor, F Franklin – halves; J Hopkins, C Lewis, F Brown, W Crisp (Capt), W Mulhearn, E J Slade, P Norman, C Arnold – forwards. Most weeks William was in the rugby team against teams such as Cheltenham II, Barnwood and Naunton Park. In 1901 there was a large attendance when the League played St Paul's Old Boys. Other teams included Cheltenham A, Berkeley and Sharpness, Gloucester Gordon Wanderers, Painswick, Ryecroft and Hucclecote. 1902 saw William and Cheltenham Gordon League playing the usual teams plus a newcomer in November, Gloucester West End. Cheltenham A were played at the start of the new year in 1903, then Barnwood, St Catherine's Rovers, Gloucester Gordon Wanderers, Stow-on-the-Wold, Barnwood and Naunton Park, William being an ever present member of the team, usually in the front row.

#### **John PAGE (1878-1917) GB**

Pte (102314) Labour Corps

John was born in 1878 the son of the late Jeremiah, a coachman, and Catherine (nee Boucher) who married in Cheltenham in 1868. His father died in 1887 aged 48. His mother was a cook and they lived at 20 Portland Street in 1881 and 1891 and at 55 Duke Street in 1901. John was one of the early members of the Gordon Boys' Brigade. He had two brothers and three sisters: Caroline born 1869 in Hallow, Worcestershire, Frederick J born 1872, Annie L born 1874, Mary E born 1876 and William born in 1885 all in Cheltenham. In 1901 Mary was a dressmaker's assistant, John was a paperhanger and William a house painter. William was a regular soldier who enlisted in the 1 Battalion South Wales Borderers in Newport prior to the war. It is very likely that William was also a Gordon Boy.

John married Annie (nee Clarke) of Upton-on-Severn when John was a builder. They had seven children all born in Cheltenham: Catherine Annie born 1910, Ellen A born 1910 and died the same year, Ellen E born 1912, William J born 1913, Lilian E born 1914 and died 1918 aged 4, Edith R born 1914 and Hilda M born 1916. They lived at 18 York Street and were still there in 1917 when John died. John played a game of cricket in 1896 between Telegraph Messengers and Gordon Boys' Brigade which the Messengers won by 8 wickets. The Gordon Boys' Brigade team was Quiney, J Hitchman, Booy, Nash, Minett, E Hitchman, Tanner, Norman, Trigg, Page and Hemmings.

#### **George Edward RANSOM (1891-1914) GB**

Pte (8961) Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

George was born at Rosehill Cottage, Charlton Kings on 9 September 1891, the son of James Edward and Emily Louise (nee Leach) who married in Cheltenham in 1888. He went to All Saints School on 1 November 1898 leaving on 30 January 1903. In 1901 the family lived at 7 Beaufort Buildings. George had seven siblings: James Victor (aka Victor) born 1889 in



Cheltenham, Louisa G born 1890, Frederick W born 1892, Eva M born 1894, a girl who died at birth in 1895, Hilda G born 1897 all in Charlton Kings and Reginald born 1899 in Cheltenham. Victor was a keen worker for the Conservative Party and was one of the ward secretaries of the Junior Imperial League.

After leaving the Gordon Boys' Brigade, George enlisted, in Cheltenham, as a drummer in the 2 Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment on 30 March 1906 at the age of 14½ when he was 4'10¼". During his army career he was posted to Gibraltar, Bermuda and South Africa. Letters from George, in Bermuda, were read out at the Old Gordon Boys' Dinners in 1913 and 1914. He joined the British Expeditionary Force on 4 October 1914. It was announced at the OGB Dinner in January 1915 that he was one of the boys serving their country and was now missing. He was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal (1914-19) and Victory Medal on 28 February 1921 when the family lived at 31 Marle Hill Road, Cheltenham.

### **Ernest William George RIVERS (1889-1916) GB**

Pte (9387) 1 Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Born in Prestbury in 1889 the second son of Charles and Selina (nee Harper) who married in 1883 at St Peters, Cheltenham. In 1891 the family lived at 3 Griffiths Gardens, Cheltenham and by 1901 they had moved to 15 Rutland Street and Selina was the head of the family working as a needlewoman. Her sister-in-law, Amelia, lived with them and worked as a laundress. Ernest was a Gordon Boy in about 1903. By 1911 he had enlisted in the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry and was stationed at Cowley Barracks, Oxford. His family were living at back of 82 High Street, Cheltenham.

Ernest had three brothers and four sisters: Frederick Charles born 1885 who died 1888, Frances Beatrice born 1887, Edgar Percival born 1893, Sybil P born 1894, Reginald A born 1897 who died 1898 aged 7 months, Alice A born 1900, Selina S born 1902 and Jennie L born 1903.

### **William James SMITH (1878-1915) GB**

Band Cpl (1882) 1/5 Gloucestershire Regiment

William was born at Coberley in 1878, the son of Alfred, a carter born at Elkstone, and Emily "Jane" (nee Williams) who married in 1877 at St Mary, Charlton Kings. Jane, born in Charlton Kings, died in 1883 aged 34. Alfred then married Elizabeth Miles in 1885 in Cheltenham who was born in Ashchurch. They had two sons, Charles R born 1886 Charlton Kings and Henry G born 1889 Charlton Kings. William was a Gordon Boy and then became an apprentice plumber employed by Mr Yates of Bennington Street, Cheltenham probably because of his Gordon Boys' Brigade connections. William played a cricket match for the Cheltenham Gordon League against Imperial in July 1907 in the Cheltenham Cricket Challenge Cup Competition, Division II which resulted in a win for Imperial by 73 to 19 runs. He was a member of the Territorial Army and had been in the Rifle Band for 15 years playing the euphonium. In 1900 he married Alice Cooper at St Marys, Charlton Kings and they had two daughters, Dorothy P born 1901 and Frieda E born 1905 in Cheltenham. William volunteered for overseas service when war broke out and went to a training camp at Chelmsford. He was invalided out of the army in October 1914 and went to the Cotswold Sanatorium at Cranham suffering from consumption. He was discharged as incurable and died at home on 18 February 1915. He left a widow and two children at 12

Churchill Road, Naunton Park. She remarried and changed her name to Collett and moved to 22 Garden Lane, Chester.



**Arthur Edward SMITH (1894-1917) GB**

L Cpl (43667) Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Arthur was born in Charlton Kings, 7 November 1894 the son of William (born Leckhampton and served as a Pioneer in WW1) and Mary Ann Smith (nee Hewer formerly Carter born Ablington). They married in 1888 at St Giles, Coberley and William was a jobbing gardener. By 1901 they were living at Hillview Cottage, Charlton Kings and in 1911 they were at 1 Croft Parade, Charlton Kings having moved from 13 Little Herberts Road.

Arthur's siblings were: Charles H born 1891 Coberley, Gertrude E born 1893, Arthur E born 1895, Raymond Frederick born 1897 (q.v.), Dorothy M born 1899, Margery P born 1902 and Victor H born 1903 all in Charlton Kings. Arthur went to Lyefield School 1 May 1901 from the Infants and left on 10 February 1909 to go to the Gordon Boys' Brigade when the family were living at East End. When Arthur died his officer wrote, "he was very popular with his men and I had a great regard for him both as a soldier and as a man".



**Raymond Frederick SMITH (1897-1917) GB**

Pte (34219) 8 Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

Raymond was born 17 August 1897 at Charlton Kings. He went to Lyefield School on 1 May 1903 from the Infants and went to work on 16 May 1911 in the Gordon Boys' Brigade. On 17 February 1915 Raymond enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery as number 86413. He was 5'10" tall and weighed 116 lbs and had been working as a grocer's assistant. Six days later, however, he was considered not likely to become an efficient soldier and was released. On 15 May 1915 Raymond again enlisted, this time at Bristol as number 21450 in the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was later transferred to 8 Loyal North Lancashire Regiment as

number 34219. Both he and his brother are commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.



**George Edward TURNER (1894-1916) GB**

Pte (240177/1723) 1/5 Gloucestershire Regiment

George was born at Brimpsfield, the son of Thomas a gardener and Emma (nee Hunt) who married in 1891 at St Michael, Brimpsfield. There were three brothers and three sisters: Alfred James born 1893 at Brimpsfield, John Wilfred born 1907, Dorothy May born 1898, Katherine/Kathleen born 1901, Magery E born 1904 and John Wilfred born 1907 all at Prestbury. In 1901 the family lived in Pope's Elm, Prestbury. and by 1911 they had moved to 2 Elmfield Cottages, Pittville and George was a Gordon

Boy. He enlisted in the 1/5 (Territorial) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment in Cheltenham in late 1912 after he left the Gordon Boys' Brigade.



*Henry and Fanny Turner*

**Henry “Harry” TURNER (1881-1914) GB**  
(AB Seaman) Stoker 1st Class Royal Navy (HMS Good Hope) 293608

Henry (aka Harry) was the twin son of Charles, a chimney sweep, and Mary “Ann” (nee Donaldson born in Birmingham in 1854) who married in Birmingham in 1874. Harry was born on 20 February 1881 and in 1888 the family lived at 40 Rutland Street. Harry was at the Practising School from 23 April 1888 to 20 December 1893. In 1894 he was fined 1 shilling for throwing stones at birds in the Promenade. He was a member of the Gordon Boys’ Brigade. Sgt Morse, Superintendent of the Brigade, offered to provide a suitable punishment but the rules of the court

did not allow this. In 1895 John Cleary, a Gordon Boy, witnessed an assault by a publican. Harry and another Gordon Boy gave evidence in support of the complainant. Harry had a twin brother Edward but there is no evidence that he was also in the Brigade. The Chairman of the Brigade only named Harry when he announced his death in 1915 in the Naval fight off Chile at the annual dinner. Henry married Fanny Edith Brookes in 1906 at St Pauls, Cheltenham and they had two children: Nellie Elsie Elizabeth born 1907 Ryde, Isle of Wight and Charles A H born 1911 in Cheltenham. In 1911 Fanny was living at 24 Columbia Street, Cheltenham and Henry was a Stoker 1st Class on Torpedo Boat No. 14 stationed at Portsmouth.

Harry’s siblings were: William Thomas born 1875 and Elizabeth born 1876 both in Birmingham; Charles Richard born 1879 and died aged 1 in 1881 in Cheltenham; Mary Ann born 1882 and Charles R born 1885 both in Cheltenham; Samuel Robert died aged 8 months in 1887 in Cheltenham.

Harry’s mother died and his father then married Frances Elizabeth Flowers in 1890 at St Mary’s, Cheltenham. They had seven children: Sarah L born 1891, Agg G D born 1892, Sidney F S born 1893, Ernest J born 1894, Reginald born 1897, Alfred E born 1900 and Percival born 1903 all in Cheltenham.

The twins died together on HMS Good Hope 1 November 1914.

**Charles Henry WARD (1885-1916) GB**

L Cpl (3227) 2/5 Gloucestershire Regiment

Charles was the second son of William Reeves (general Labourer) and Ellen (nee Brown formerly Castledine) who married in 1881. Charles was born in 1885 in Cheltenham. His siblings were: Thomas born 1882 who died aged 2 days, William born 1883, Mabel E born 1888, Frederick A born 1889 and Arthur E born 1895 all in Cheltenham. Charles, Frederick and Arthur all went to the Parish Church School. The family lived at 31 Albert Street in 1891 where they still lived in 1901 when Charles was a Gordon Boy. He played four games of rugby, as a forward, for the Cheltenham Gordon League IIs between October 1901 and February 1902. His first match was against Naunton Park IIs on 26 October 1901 which they

lost by 14 pts to Nil. A return match was played on 2 November. On 13 December 1901 the Gordon League played Charlton Rovers. His last match was against Naunton Park IIs. In 1909 Charles went to the Old Gordon Boys' Annual Dinner.

Every year from 1910 to 1913 Charles sent a letter from Canada to his Cheltenham comrades in the Old Gordon Boys'. Each letter was read out at their Annual Dinner held in the following January. However, he continued to rent a property in Albion Parade, Market Street which was also occupied at times by his cousin Thomas C Ward.

Charles' brothers were keen sportsmen. In 1896 William was awarded first prize in an under 14s swimming competition and played water polo for the Brigade two years later. William was also a keen cricketer and rugby player having been involved in 10 games of cricket and 19 games of rugby between 1898 and 1905. Arthur was awarded a life saving certificate in about 1909 by the Parish Church School.

Charles married Ada Shaw in 1908 in Cheltenham and they had three children: Vera M born 1909, Charles A born 1913 and Annie A born 1914 all in Cheltenham. In 1911 they lived at 16 Albion Parade, Market Street, Cheltenham when he was a labourer at the Gas Works. By 1914 they had moved to 2 College Terrace, Swindon Road when he enlisted in the 2/5th (Territorials) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment on 21 September.

William, Charles and Arthur were all in the Gordon Boys' Brigade – was Frederick, who also died in WW1, a member of the Brigade?

#### **Frederick A WARD (1889-1916)**

Pte (25401) 12th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Frederick was the brother of Charles Ward, (q.v.). In the 1901 Census his employment was given as an errand boy porter. His unit filled the role of a Labour Battalion to the 4th Army in the Somme Sector.

#### **Harry St Clair Clifford WEBB (1877-1918) GB**

Band Sgt (34991) 3/6th Gloucestershire Regiment

Harry was the second son of James and Sarah (nee Harris) who married in 1872 at St Michael, Dowdeswell. He was born in 1877 and was one of the first members of the Cheltenham Gordon Boys' Brigade. In the 1891 Census Harry lived with his uncle William C Webb and aunt Martha Webb at Grove Cottage, London Road. His siblings were: Oliver L J born 1873, James A C born 1880, Florence E born 1896 and Robert J born 1897 all in Charlton Kings. William was a porter and Martha a laundress in 1891.

In January 1891, on the anniversary of the death of General Gordon, the Brigade were given their annual supper and entertainment by Mr Friskney (conjuring tricks, etc) and Mr Burton (magic lantern exhibition). The Brigade assembled in the newly constructed workshop at the back of Liverpool Place and the room was decorated with flags for the anniversary. The Brigade were all "off-duty" for the afternoon and evening and about seventy sat down to a substantial meal. The Mayor, Alderman Col Thoyts, addressed the lads and then he presented prizes to four of the boys who had been adjudged most worthy to receive them and L/Cpl Webb received a knife. Oranges and bon-bons were distributed and the entertainment followed.

In 1897 the Annual Gordon Boys' Christmas Dinner was held as usual in January and tables were laid for 136 of which 63 were old boys. Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, vegetables and plum pudding plus nuts, oranges and apples were served. Dinner was proved by the committee and subscribers, the meat baked by Mr Sims and the remainder of the meal

cooked by Mrs Morse the Matron. By late November 1897 the Cheltenham Gordon League had been formed by Col Blaxland for old Gordon Boys so the Committee could keep in touch. Harry Webb was an officer on the Committee in 1898/99 and helped to organise cricket, rugby and whist matches and gymnastic competitions. When John Scott, an old Gordon Boy died suddenly in January 1900 from typhoid, Harry acted as one of the bearers at the funeral.

In 1897 Harry played 11 rugby matches including one against St Pauls Old Boys', Arlington, Charlton Rovers and Painswick who they beat by 5pts to 3 pts. In 1899 he played three rugby matches and he was captain when Cheltenham A played the Gordon League at Montpellier and won by 1 goal and 1 try to nil. He also played 6 cricket matches between 1896 and 1898. The Gordon League beat Roseleigh A and Roseleigh II's. In July 1898 the League beat Painswick 62 runs to 20.

In 1900 Harry married Winifred Helen Furley at St Mary's, Cheltenham and they had Lizzie W C born 1901, Charles H C born 1916 and Harry S C born 1918 all in Cheltenham. In 1911 the family lived at 2 St George's Retreat and in 1918 at Whitecross Square, Naunton Lane, Cheltenham.

Harry was a painter employed by Mr C E Rainger. In May 1913 he signed on for 4 years in the Territorial Force (5th Gloucestershire Regt) when the family lived at 2 St Georges' Retreat. He was aged 34, 5'9" tall and had good physical development. He played solo horn with the Territorial Band. After joining the regular army he was constantly engaged in the training of bands of different kinds. On the outbreak of war he was asked to volunteer for overseas service. However, he was not one of the band that went to the front when the 1/5th Glosters went out, his health not being good enough. He was stationed in Northumberland when, in January 1918, he died of heart disease. It was thought that his death was through over work.

#### **Frederick J WHITTINGHAM (1890-1914) GB**

Drummer (L/8356) 2 The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regt)

Frederick was the second son of William, a machine maker, and Elizabeth Whittingham (nee Jackson and later Follett) of Cromwell House, Cromwell Street, Gloucester and previously of All Saints Dairy, Cheltenham and the Unicorn Hotel, Winchcombe. He was born 5 September 1890 in Plymouth. He had two brothers and three sisters: Bessie born 1875, William born 1883, both in London, Kate Marion born 1885, Jessie Helen born 1887 and Albert born 1892 all in Plymouth. In 1891 the family lived at 18 King Street, Plymouth. Between 1894 and 1898 the family lived in Union Street, Cheltenham and by 1901 they had moved to 52 Fairview Road, Cheltenham. Frederick went to All Saints Infants School 24 September 1894, he was admitted to Holy Trinity on 19 August 1895, joined All Saints School 12 February 1900 and left 5 September 1904 and joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade. Frederick enlisted as a Drummer in the 2nd Battalion, Royal West Surrey Regiment in Cheltenham prior to the war and served in South Africa and Bermuda. He sent letters from Bermuda in 1912 and 1913 and these were read out at the Old Gordon Boys' Annual Dinner in January 1913 and in January 1914.

#### **Albert John YEATES (1888-1918) GB**

L/Cpl (240270/1879) 8 Gloucestershire Regiment

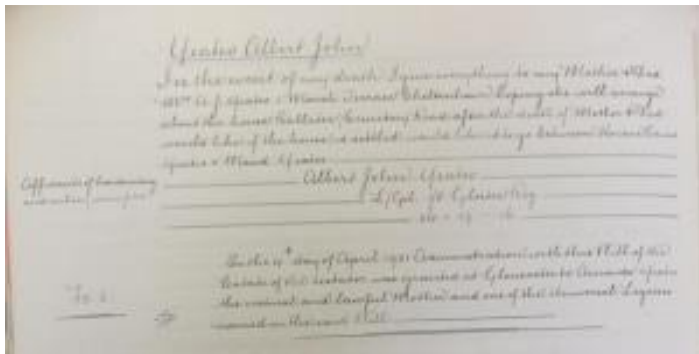
Albert was born in Cheltenham in 1888 the second son of Joseph and Amanda (nee Leach) who married in 1885 in Cheltenham. He had 6 siblings: Joseph H born 1886, Amanda



Victoria born 1887 and died aged 2 weeks, Florence born 1890, Horace Edward born 1894, Maud M born 1897 and Frank Herbert born 1902 but died aged 5 months, all in Cheltenham. The family lived at 1 Marsh Terrace, Marsh Lane, Cheltenham. Albert attended the Practising School, and left on 28 November 1902 and joined the Gordon Boys' Brigade. Later he became a house painter.

Albert's brother Joseph married Frances Florence Yeend at Wesley Chapel, Cheltenham in 1906. They had seven daughters and one son: Amanda E born 1908, Elsie F born 1909, Albert V H born 1912, Amy F born 1914, Edith M born 1915, Muriel J born 1920 and Betty D M born 1923 all in Cheltenham. In 1911 they lived at 29 Queen Street, Cheltenham.

Albert's brother Horace Edward married Mildred Florence Wise in 1924 in Cheltenham and they had a son Colin Edward born 1924 and a daughter Jean Audrey born 1933. Horace became a Gordon Boy and then began an apprenticeship in French polishing with Dale Forty. He was a private in the 1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment in WW1. He was wounded in the war and spent some time in Southsea Hospital and he suffered from pleurisy. His son Colin went to Cheltenham Grammar School and became a pharmacist. Colin married Enid Dorothy Gear at St Mary's, Cheltenham in 1948. Enid had a stroke when only 25 and they had no children. Horace's daughter Jean married Cyril Philip Morgan at St Peter, Cheltenham in 1954. Jean had a daughter Amanda J born 1960 and 20 months later, in 1961, gave birth to twin boys Christopher J and Robert J.



Albert Yeats Will

*All brigade records are lost but I believe about 1,200 boys were members over the 35 year period. I have not been able to find all the Gordon Boys who died in WW1 and I would be very grateful for any information so that all the boys can be remembered.*

*By Audrey Dingle, 01242 573381.*

# Gordon Boys Brigade: Known to be injured'

Gordon Boys who served in WW1 and were known to be injured

## **George BURFORD**

Born in Cheltenham on 16 April 1887 George was eldest child of George, a coalman, and Alice (nee Averiss) who married in Cheltenham in 1886. He had a brother and two sisters. In 1891 and 1901 the family were living at 49 Worcester Street. He attended Swindon Road School which he joined on 20 January 1891. He had worked as a drayman at Stroud. It was reported in the C&G of 28 November 1914 that Private G Burford of 1 Gloucestershire Regiment had been wounded in the battle of Aisne on 2 September 1914 and had returned to duty.

## **John "H" GAZE**

Born 1887 in Cheltenham son of Henry (market gardener) and Lydia (Mathews) who married in 1885 at St Peters, Cheltenham. Lived at 9 Gas Lane in 1891 and 13 King Street Gardens 1901. Gordon Boy in 1901 census.

Attended OGB annual dinners between 1905 and 1910 when he invariably sang a song or performed a comic sketch. He attended the funeral of Walter Morse, first Superintendent of GBB, in 1906.

The C&G of 26 June 1915 reported that a letter had been received from Cpl H Gaze of 1/19 Bn London Regt formerly Sgt in GBB and known in Cheltenham as a good comic singer and a member of the Rifle Band under Bandmaster James. Writing from the base hospital at Harvre he stated he had received injuries to his eyes through the blowing up of a trench by the Germans whilst his Company was in it waiting to make an attack. He wrote, "I have seen several of your papers in the trenches and have noticed the Roll of Honour in the Graphic. I have met several of the 5 Glos who have given me copies and I took them to different wards for the wounded to see and were most welcome."

## **William Andrew GODWIN**

Born 1886 in Cheltenham son of Thomas & Katherine. Lived in 1 Swindon Road on 1891, 51 Worcester Street in 1901, 3 Malvern Street in 1914 and 22 Elm Street in 1918. The Census for 1911 reveals that William was with the 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment in India.

In a letter sent home and published in the Echo of 26 October 1914 Pte Godwin of the Leinsters, whose home was in Worcester Street, wrote that official notification has been received of the death in action of Pte F Ward of the SWB who was born and brought up in Queen Street, Cheltenham and whose people now live in Malvern Street.

The picture of William appeared in the Graphic of 7 November 1914, the caption reads: "Of the 2nd Leinster Regiment, husband of Mrs Godwin of 3 Malvern Street, Cheltenham, who was wounded in the battle of Lille on Sunday 18 October and is now in Glasgow Hospital"

At the GBB Annual Dinner of 1915 the Chairman revealed that Pte W Godwin of the Leinsters had been injured.

## **James HILLMAN**

Born 1893 in Cheltenham son of Edward Henry and Matilda (Taylor) who married in 1888 in the Stroud District. Lived at 9 Lypiatt Street in 1901 and 12 Gratton Street in 1911 and 1915. This letter and poem appeared in C&G of 15 May 1915 from Dvr James Hillman, 23 Div Royal

Field Arty, Canterbury

Poetic Appeal to Old Comrades

Sir, I wish to express my sympathy and gratitude to the dear Cheltonian mothers who have so willingly sent their sons with their brave hearts, so eager to help in this present conflict against that most uncouth and uncivilised nation, which has caused all this trouble to our dear Homeland.

I am an old Parish Church School Scholar and also an old Gordon Boy when Col Thoyts was secretary and I am a native of Cheltenham from the Leckhampton neighbourhood. The following lines may touch the hearts of some of the single men who I am told are patrolling the Promenade, when their dear comrades are doing their share – and someone else's besides.

POEM On the Road to Tipperary

There's a place that's vacant still,  
There's a rifle lying silent  
There's a uniform to fill,  
Though at home they'll hate to lose you  
Yet the march will soon begin,  
On the road from Tipperary  
With the Army to Berlin.

In the Morris chairs of clubland  
Are you there content to stay,  
While the others guard your honours  
While the Germans boast "The Day",  
For your King and country need you  
And we want to count you "in",  
On the road from Tipperary  
With the Army to Berlin.

When at Mons they fought each footstep,  
When their lips with pain were dumb,  
Twas the hope which held their trenches  
Never doubting who would come,  
Midst the shrapnel's racking den  
They have waited never fearing  
You will join them at Berlin!

On the road from Tipperary  
Sleep the boys whose day is done,  
Don't you hear the voices calling  
To complete their begun?  
There are ghostly figures beckoning  
There are victories yet to win,  
On the road from Tipperary  
With the Army to Berlin.

On the road from Tipperary  
When the boys come home at last,  
Won't you wish that you had listened  
When old England's call has passed?  
But the vacancy's still open  
And your part can still begin,  
On the road from Tipperary  
With the Army to Berlin.

This letter from Trumpeter J Hillman, RFA, in hospital in Wellingborough, was published in  
Glos Echo 4 November 1915

"Sir, I think it my duty to express my sympathy to the brave Cheltenham mothers whose husbands and sons are taking their part in the great crisis for the freedom of the dear Homeland. I am an old Parish Church scholar, also an old Gordon Boy and I returned from the front and landed at Dover after a fortnight in hospital in France. I am now lying in the VAD Hospital, Wellingborough, Northants. I am pleased to say the Gloucesters are doing their duty well out there. I am sorry I hadn't time to speak to any of them as our battery was only in action there two days and two nights, and then we had orders to pack up and get to — as soon as possible to take up a position as the enemy were shelling a village called ——. We sent word back to our wagon line, and in the course of three hours our horses and guns were

hooked-in and on the line of march to ——. We put up late that night to give the horses a rest and have a snack ourselves and a little sleep, and we set off about 7.30 the following morning and arrived at our destination that evening, got our guns in action, and then we let them have it, and while our gunners were at work the drivers were taking the horses and spare limbers back to shelter. Our guns stayed in that position for a while. Th nearest and most exciting experience I had was when I was taking a message. I had just got mounted and set off when a shell came over about six or eight yards to the left of me, causing my horse to shy and throwing me. I fell on my trumpet, which was tied across my back. Luckily I fell on the soft ground, causing but little injury to my back and the next thing was I found myself in a field dressing station. But in the course of a day or two I was all right.

I am in hospital now undergoing treatment for sciatica, caused through getting wet and sleeping on the damp ground, but I am getting on nicely now, and getting the best of everything. The sisters here feel they can't do enough for us. There are 26 of us here, and we all came from France the same time. We are all thankful to the sisters and glad to be back in dear old England once more. I felt it my duty to express my deep sympathy to all those whose husbands and sons are taking part in the defence of their loved ones and their country. I don't think there can be many true Cheltonians who have read of the Lusitania and the death of Miss Cavell who have not donned the khaki.

TRUMPETER J. HILLMAN RFA."

### **Howard B HOBSON**

Born in 1895 in Cheltenham son of Arthur (coachman) and Mary (nee Hawkes). Lived at 2 Moreton Place in 1901 and was boarding with William and Florence Gapper at 45 Waterloo Street in 1911. Appeared in group photo and census of 1911 as a Gordon Boy.

With 1 Gloucestershire Regt in Jan 1915 when he was listed as injured.

### **William Hunter KARN**

Born 1881 in Cheltenham son of Henry (plumber) and Margaret Beata (Ballinger) who married in 1873 at St Peters, Leckhampton. Lived at 8 St Annes Terrace in 1881 and 7 Swindon Place in 1911. Private (5600) W Karn joined 2 Gloucestershire Regt for 12 years and served in the South African War (Cape Colony and Orange Free State in 1902). Married Clara Ann Fluck at St Bartholomews, Notgrove on 1 Jan 1912. Clara remarried  
Joined 12 Battalion, 3 Inf Bde, 1 Australian Div at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 10 Sep 1914. Wife remained in England living at 11 Corpus Street, Cheltenham. Declared he had served 12 years with the Gloucestershire Regt. Promoted Sgt on joining. Wounded at Gallipoli 29 Apr 1915 evacuated back to Australia 29 Jul 1915. Admitted to Devonport Hospital 12 Jun 1916. Discharged from Lord Derby's War Hospital 15 Oct 1916 to Hospital Ship "Karoola" bound for Australia. Discharged as medically unfit on 22 May 1917 probably with shell shock.

### **Percy Edgar MONGER**

Born 29 Aug 1889 in Charlton Kings son of Frederick and Louisa. Lived at 4 Woods Cottages, Charlton Kings in 1891, 4 Fairview Cottages, Charlton Kings in 1901 and East Court Villa, Charlton Kings in 1924. Attended junior school 3 May 1897 to 31 Jul 1903. Married Winifred Lilian Farley at St Marys, Charlton Kings on 23 Nov 1912. Winifred Farley often played the piano at OGB annual dinners.

By 5 Aug 1914 Percy had joined 3 Kings Own Hussars (3894) and on 19 Feb 1917 transferred to Machine Gun Corps (51921). Medals: Victory, British, 14 Star. At the GBB annual dinner in January 1915 the Chairman, Maj Gen Willoughby, gave out that Tpr Monger had been injured.

Sadly Percy was killed in a road accident on Prestbury Road shortly before Christmas 1924. The Echo reported that he had been caught between a motor car and a motor cycle with side-car when he sustained such injuries that he died almost immediately at Cheltenham General Hospital. He was 35 married with two children. Employed by Mr Purnell, poultry farmer. On Saturday [20 Dec 1924] he was with Mr Purnell erecting sheds at Sandfields, the last house before Hopwood's Nurseries in Prestbury Road. They finished about 4pm and between 4.35 and 4.40 were engaged in placing some tools etc in a side-car attached to a motor cycle at the side of the main road outside Sandfields. Mr Purnell left the deceased by the motor cycle on footpath and went back and got some odd pieces of wood and whilst he was gone the accident happened. It is believed Monger was examining part of the motor cycle. He was approached by a blue motor omnibus driven by Frank Leslie Sparrow coming from the Winchcombe direction and immediately behind the bus by a motor car driven by Mr A Danks of Hucclecote. The bus hid the man from Mr Danks' view until he was in the act of passing the vehicle when he suddenly came upon Monger who had his back to him and was in a crouching position behind the motor cycle. Mr Danks at once applied the brakes but owing to the muddy condition of the road the car skidded bodily glancing towards the path. Percy was caught between the car and motor cycle and badly crushed – [he died later at CGH].

Echo 22 Dec 1924

Pte (4496) **Albert Lewis NATION** – 3/5 Glos Regt (Territorials)

Birth registered as 'Louis Albert' in 1878 in Cheltenham son of Joseph and Frances Jane (nee Grinnell) who married in 1865 at St Marys, Cheltenham. Joseph died four years later aged

32. Lived at Victoria Cottage, St Lukes Place in 1881 and 1901 and 15 Naunton Crescent in 1906. Gordon Boy from 1890 to 1893. Served as a member of the GL Committee in 1898. In 1900 was a bearer at the funeral of John Scott, a popular OGB who died young. Played cricket and rugby for OGB between 1897 and 1899. He was Captain of the rugby team at least twice in the 1899/90 season. Married Lydia Ann Leach at St Lukes, Cheltenham in 1902 (5 children born in Cheltenham). Became a carpenter living in Naunton Crescent. By 1909 he had been a member of the Cheltenham Rifle Band for 15 years. Attended OGB dinners from 1898 to 1913.

Joined 3/5 Gloucestershire Regt (Territorials) on 3 Aug 1915 – he had previously been in 1/5 Gloucestershire Regt but was discharged because of an accident. Finally discharged on 26 May 1916 as medically unfit due to aggravation of old knee injury suffered falling from ladder in former civilian employ.

### **Dmr P[ercy H] PORTLOCK**

Born 1890 in Charlton Kings son of William (gen dealer) and Marie (nee Herbert) who married in 1881 at St Peters, Leckhampton. Attended OGB dinner in 1909 and sent letters to the Brigade in 1913 and 1914 when stationed in Bermuda with the 2 Queen's Regiment. At the GBB annual dinner in January 1915 the Chairman, Maj Gen Willoughby, gave out that Dmr Portlock had been injured.

### **Albert Francis James TOMBS**

Born 1878 in Leckhampton son of John (coach builder) and Sarah Ann (Smith) who married 1868 in Cheltenham. Lived at 3 Hermitage Terrace, Bath Rd in 1891, 3 Victoria Parade and 39 Upper Norwood Street in 1901, 56 Fairview Road in 1911 and 11 Bath Paarde in 1951. Listed as a Gordon Boy in 1891 Census. Albert Francis James Tombs married Beatrice Annie Major at St Pauls, Cheltenham on 24 February 1901 (1 child born in Cheltenham). Albert died 7 March 1951 in Cheltenham.

In June 1915 Pte (8789) A Tombs of 2 Battalion, Gloucestershire Regt was wounded.

### **F UZZELL**

Played rugby played rugby for Gordon in 1900/01 season.

F Uzzell in long list of Cheltenham recruits in September 1914 and in Midland Railway roll of honour in December 1914.

### **Horace Edward YEATES**

Born 1894 in Cheltenham son of Joseph (wine merchnt labourer) and Amanda (Leach) who married 1885 in Cheltenham. Lived at 1 Marsh Terrace 1901 – 1915. In 2013 his daughter confirmed he had been a GB and that his elder brother Joseph was also believed to a Gordon Boy.

Married Mildred Florence Wise in Cheltenham in 1924 (two children born in Gloucestershire). Private with 1/5 Gloucestershire Regiment (TF) and was wounded in action in France in 1915. Evacuated to Southend Hospital in June 1915.