

Remembered

Some of the Men and Women

Of

North Somercotes

Who died during

The World Wars

V.N.SODERBERG

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Lest we forget.

The names of some of the men from North Somercotes who served in the Great War are recorded on the War Memorial in Keeling Street. On it are also recorded the names of 22 men with village connections who died. There are also included on the Memorial the names of 3 men who died in the Second World War.

All of the names of the men who died in both World Wars are also to be found on a Reredos in Saint Mary's Church.

A young man was a soldier killed in North Ireland. The Parish Council was eventually able to obtain permission to add his name to the War Memorial.

Women from the village also served and died during the wars. There are Commonwealth War Graves in the village for two women from the Great War and one from the Second World War.

Merchant seamen played an important role keeping supplies of food and other essentials coming into the country during the wars. There are Commonwealth War Graves for seven sailors, but unfortunately, the name of only one man is known. The other graves are for sailors whose bodies, most probably washed ashore at Donna Nook, were brought to the village to be buried. It is not known if there is any other connection to the village.

Not all of the men connected to the village who fought and were killed in the Great War are remembered on the village memorials. It has been possible to find out about several of them.

Although there is only one man named on the War Memorials who is remembered by a Commonwealth War Grave in the village, it has been possible to find out where many of the men were buried.

Memorials

There was no national organisation to provide war memorials. It was up to each town and village to act on its own. Each decided upon the form of their memorial. It was also left to each town or village to include the names that they wanted.

North Somercotes chose to honour their war dead and also to record the names of some of those villagers who had served in the Great War.

At first there was a Memorial Scroll produced by the Parish Council which was placed in the Village Institute for safe keeping.

The main War Memorial was erected on Keeling Street and then a Reredos was installed in Saint Marys, the Parish Church.

The Village Institute installed their Memorial after the 2nd World War honouring village men who had been killed.

North Somercotes War Memorial.

On the afternoon of Sunday 31st October 1920 the War Memorial in Keeling Street was unveiled by Major Ingoldby from Louth, who had been the adjutant of the local Volunteers during the 1st World War.

Mr Walter Wilford Green, the chairman of the Memorial committee, made a short speech welcoming people to the event. The hymn *O God our help in ages past* was sung after which Major Ingoldby unveiled the Memorial and gave a short speech. Mr George Edward Lowis offered a prayer of dedication and two buglers from the Lincolnshire Regiment sounded the *Last Post*. At the end of the dedication the hymn, *Fight the good fight*, was sung.

The inscription reads:

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED
IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING MEN OF
THIS PARISH WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN
THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1919.

H. ACKRILL
J. CHAPMAN
J. W. CLAYTON
F. COOK
J. W. COOK
B. HALLETT
H. HOBSON
W. JANNEY
S. JOHNSON
H. LAKING
W. LAMBERT

C.L. LOUGHEED
C. NICHOLLS
J. NICHOLLS
W. PARKER
C. P. SHORT
A. B. SMITH
V. SMITH
P. STUBBS
S. A. SUTTON
C. E. TACEY
S.A. WILLEY

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

It had cost £218.11s.4d to build the memorial and £208 had been collected before the unveiling. The balance was collected on that Sunday afternoon from the people who had gathered for the occasion.

The Memorial records the names not only of those men with connections to the village who lost their lives but also of another 79 men who fought in the various armed services during the Great War.

ALSO SERVED.

T E Ackrill	J R Hallett	W F Merrikin
C E Arundel	C R Harness	F Michael
W L Ashley	C F Hobson	W Michael
A Bradley	W Hobson	J Murgatroyd
G Bradley	L Hodgson	J Nicholls
T W Brittain	A Housham	A D Paddison
H Brooks	F Humberstone	C Portus
W Burkitt	GW Humberstone	S Portus
A Campion	L S Humberstone	S Proudfoot
J F Carey	W Humberstone	C Roberts
T Carey	C W Hutton	T Roberts
C Cartwright	J Hutton	W Roberts
F W Cartwright	G Jacklin	J Robinson
G Cartwright	H Jacklin	J Standaloft
J E A Cartwright	J Jesney	W Stephenson
P Cartwright	W Johnson	T D Stephenson
A J Clayton	H W Kirk	J L Stubbs
		T Stubbs
A S Cook	A Lambert	A Vickers
G Cook	C W Loughton	A C Wardale
J T Cook	Hd Loughton	C West
A Davey	Ht Loughton	J West
H Dickinson	R H Leak	P West
G Dobson	W Leak	W Wilson
W Dobson	J W Libell	F Windley
G Dunham	F Lowis	P Windley
J Dunham	E Merrikin	H E Witty

In 1949 the Parish Council had the names of 3 village men who had been killed during the 2nd World War added to the Memorial.

The simple inscription reads:-

	J.H.COOK	
1939	R. E. LOWIS	1945
	C.H.MURFITT	

In 2000 another name was added.

KILLED IN NORTHERN IRELAND 1972
P_R MARTIN ROBINSON

Reredos

On the afternoon of Sunday 30th April 1922 in the Parish Church of Saint Mary North Somercotes in Lincolnshire the memorial Reredos, erected to the memory of North Somercotes men who died in the Great War, was unveiled.

The Reredos, erected in the Southeast corner of the Church, is of carved oak. It was designed and constructed by Mr. Fernaly of Manchester. The cost, about £80, had been raised by free will offerings, reportedly “without any special effort whatsoever”.

The table is an old altar stone of the church, which had been discovered buried in the churchyard. It is believed to be several centuries old.

The inscription is:-

BECAUSE I LIVE YE SHALL LIVE ALSO

HEDLEY ACKRILL	CYRIL L LOUGHEED
JOHN CHAPMAN	CHARLES NICHOLLS
JOHN W CLAYTON	JAMES NICHOLLS
FREDERICK COOK	WILLIAM PARKER
JOHN W COOK	CHARLES P SHORT
BERT HALLETT	ARTHUR B SMITH
HARRY HOBSON	VALENTINE SMITH
WILLIAM JANNEY	PERCY STUBBS
SIDNEY JOHNSON	SAMUEL A SUTTON
HERBERT LAKING	CHARLES E TACEY
WILLIAM LAMBERT	STEPHEN A WILLEY

IN MEMORY OF THE NORTH SOMERCOTES MEN WHO FELL IN THE
GREAT WAR 1914-19.

Mrs. Florence Lougheed had come from London to unveil the memorial. She was the wife of Dr. Walter Henry Lougheed. They had recently left North

Somercotes after residing in the parish for over 20 years. Their son Cyril was one of the servicemen who had been killed.

After the unveiling of the Reredos it was dedicated by the vicar the Rev. Henry Leonard Fosbrooke.

After the end of the 2nd World War the names of 3 servicemen who had been killed were added to the Memorial.

1939-1945

JOSEPH H COOK

GEORGE H MURFITT

REGINAL LOWIS

Village Institute

Friends of the 3 men killed during the 2nd World War felt that they wanted to erect a small memorial to them and a plaque was placed on a wall in the Village Institute, a place that the men had used.

It reads:

IN GLORIOUS MEMORY OF
OUR COMRADES

GEORGE HAROLD MURFITT
REGINALD EDWARD LOWIS
JOSEPH HENRY COOK

WHO DIED IN ACTION
1939-1945

THEY KEPT THE FAITH

We will remember them.

These words are taken from a poem called *For the Fallen* written by Laurence Binyon, which was published on September 19th 1914 in *The Times* newspaper.

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.”

Lawrence Binyon was too old to volunteer for service in the War, but following the retreat from Mons at the end of August 1914 decided to go to Flanders as a medical orderly.

Poppies.

A Canadian medical officer was sitting at the side of a canal in Belgium awaiting the arrival of casualties from the Second Battle of Ypres. He wrote a poem, which was published in *Punch* in 1915.

The poem was *In Flanders Fields*;

The poet John McCrae.

It includes the lines

*“In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row.”*

The Americans were the first to adopt wearing the poppy in memory of the fallen. Moina Michael had read the poem and encouraged people to wear artificial poppies as a sign of remembrance.

Artificial poppies were given in exchange for a small donation; this money was used to help disabled veterans.

In August 1921, Anne Guerin, whose charity made most of the poppies, approached the newly formed British Legion to see if they would be interested in selling them for their funds. It was decided to sell them in Britain for Armistice Day anniversary.

The first Poppy Day was a success and the tradition of wearing the Remembrance Poppy continues today.

The Lincolnshire Regiment.

Many men from North Somercotes and the surrounding area joined the Lincolnshire regiment during the Great War.

At the declaration of War the Lincolnshire Regiment had its Headquarters and Depot in Lincoln. It consisted of 5 battalions. These were: -

2 regular	1 st battalion (at Portsmouth)
	2 nd battalion (in Bermuda)
Special Reserve	3 rd battalion which was at Lincoln and was formerly a militia unit. For most of the war it was used as a training and replacement battalion.
2 Territorial Army formations	4 th battalion (based at Lincoln)
	5 th battalion (based at Grimsby)

Both of the T.A. battalions had been on their annual camp at Bridlington at the beginning of August 1914.

During the War further battalions were raised including: -

Territorial Battalions	2/4 th , 2/5 th , 3/4 th and 3/5 th .
Service Battalions	6 th , 7 th , 8 th and 10 th
2 Reserve battalions	
1 Labour Battalion	
1 Garrison battalion.	

The 10th Lincolnshire Battalion was known as *The Grimsby Chums*. Lieutenant Colonel Cordeaux was in command. Although raised in Grimsby the ‘Chums’ also contained a contingent made up of Louth Grammar School ‘Old Boys’.

The Lincolnshire’s were part of 51st Brigade.

The Service battalions were part of what was known as *Kitchener's New Army*. They started to arrive in France during 1915.

FLU

A killer every bit as deadly as a shell, or a bullet, was rampaging throughout Europe.

SPANISH FLU.

It was so called because it was first recorded at San Sabastian. This virus had a mortality rate of 20 times normal influenza. It was also unusual in that it struck down the more fit and health in communities; this was usually the 20 to 50 year olds. Death often occurred within a few hours of the onset of the illness.

There were several cases in North Somercotes. It effected both the Civilian and Military population in the village.

The influenza virus, with up to 40 million victims, killed more people than the Great War itself.

Commonwealth War Graves.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for marking and maintaining the graves of members of the forces of Commonwealth countries who died in the two world wars, for building and maintaining memorials to the dead whose graves are unknown.

Fabian Arthur Goulstone Ware arrived in France in September 1914 in command of a mobile ambulance unit of the British Red Cross Society. He quickly found out that there was no official organisation responsible for marking and recording the graves of those killed. Ware undertook the task. The War Office recognised Ware's work in recording and maintaining graves and in 1915 the Graves Registration Commission was set up under his command. Ware left the Red Cross and was promoted to a Major in the Army.

The multinational aspect of the work was recognised by the Imperial War Conference. In May 1917 The Imperial War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter with the Prince of Wales as its President and Fabian Ware as Vice- Chairman. In 1960 the name changed to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The fundamental aims of the Commission are that every Service man or women who has lost their lives should be remembered by name on a headstone or memorial; the headstones to be uniform with no distinction to be made on account of rank, race or creed.

Rudyard Kipling provided the words

KNOWN UNTO GOD

for the unidentified graves.

Sometimes it was possible to bury men near to where they fell. At times it could be in a crater or in a row places together in a large trench.

Wounded men were taken to the advance dressing station close to the front. Groups of men were often interred near the stations. Near to the French coast were larger hospitals and these became surrounded by larger cemeteries. It was possible for some of the wounded to be brought back to Britain. If they died in England they could be taken home to be buried.

Bodies were never taken home from the battlefields (with the exception of the *Unknown Warrior* in Westminster Abbey) for burial.

The men without known graves have their names recorded on large memorials. The land for the Commonwealth War Graves and Memorials was given in perpetuity by the nations in which they lie.

After the Great War families could pay for a short inscription on grave markers at the rate of 1½d. per letter.

Names on the War Memorial & Reredos.

It is not yet known how the names were chosen to be included on the various memorials in North Somercotes.

The War Memorial in Keeling Street and the Memorial Scroll only give initials and surnames.

Records and documents relating to the selection of names to be included have not yet been made available. It is therefore not known why these names were chosen.

The Memorials were erected several years after the end of the 1st World War. Several families had left the village; some individuals had only been in the village for a short time and perhaps were not well known. Some young men had emigrated and had no family left in the area.

The Vicar who had signed so many of the “Declarations” for the families had left the Parish.

Time passing would have dulled memories of Christian names. Perhaps it would be known that a son of a family who had moved from the village had been killed, but possibly not which son.

Using documents available at Regimental and various other archives, as well as newspapers and a few family papers, it has been possible to find out about those named (and many others linked to the village). There has been research into the other men and women from the village who died and are not mentioned on North Somercotes Memorials and it is available in another publication.

Several of the Christian names are different to those that are listed as having lost their lives in the Great War.

HEDLEY ACKRILL

Hedley was the son of Francis and Eliza (née Freshney) Ackrill who lived in North Somercotes. He had been born on the 4th March 1894 in North Somercotes and baptised on the 11th August 1902 (the same day as his niece Phyllis). From the 10th April 1899 until the 18th October 1907 Hedley attended the village school. The family were noted as living at Church End.

For some time after leaving school Hedley worked as a Farm Labourer, which he was doing at the time of the 1911 census, before emigrating to Canada.

By 1916 he was a Canadian National and was living at Grey Nuns hospital in Regina Saskatchewan where he was working as a hospital orderly.

On the 22nd June 1916 at Regina Saskatchewan Hedley signed up to join the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force for one year or “during the war existing now between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year”.

Hedley became a private in the Saskatchewan Regiment, 15th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry 3rd Brigade 1st Canadian Infantry Division, service no. 276467.

On the 29th of September 1918 whilst with his Company (1st Canadian Mounted Rifles Saskatchewan Regiment) during the capture of St. Olle Hedley was hit by an enemy machine gun bullet and died almost instantly.

He is now buried at Raillencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France. (ref. I.G.6).

Hedley is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

JOHN HENRY CHAPMAN

John was the son of Thomas and Christina (née Spivey) Chapman. He had been born on the 27th July 1880 in North Somercotes. He was baptised on the 10th September 1881.

The family were living at Poor End in 1891.

For some time after leaving school John worked as a Waggoner, which he was doing at the time of the 1901 census, before emigrating to Canada.

On the 14th August 1915 John, by now a rancher living in British Columbia, signed up to join the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

John was transferred into the Reserve Brigade with the service number 300033.

Bombardier JH Chapman died on the 7th January 1916.

He is now buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France. (ref. II.C.34).

John is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

JOHN W CLAYTON

As yet no links have been found to connect the death of a civilian or serviceman who died during the 1st World War to John W Clayton of North Somercotes.

John W Clayton the son of John and Margaret was born in about 1867 in North Somercotes. He attended the village school. By 1881 he was working as a farm labourer but as yet there are no further details.

JOHN THOMAS CLAYTON

John was the son of George and Mary Ann Clayton who lived in North Somercotes. He had been born on the 13th April 1890 in North Somercotes.

He went to the village school from May 1895 until 1903.

John was a Stoker, 1st class, onboard HMS Invincible, service no SS/108767.

John was killed on 31st May 1916 aged 26 whilst serving aboard his ship at the Battle of Jutland.

He is remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial (ref. 17). His name is also recorded on his mother Mary Ann's gravestone in the village cemetery.

John was killed on the same day as Valentine Smith, although they were on different ships.

FREDERICK COOK

As yet no links have been found to connect the death of a civilian or serviceman who died during the 1st World War to Frederick Cook of North Somercotes.

Frederick Cook a 45 year old farm labourer from Tathwell was living in the village in 1911 with his wife and daughter.

There was also a 27 year old Frederick Cook who was buried in the village in 1911.

There are as yet no other details.

FRANK COOK

Frank was one of the sons of Charles and Alice Cook. He had been born in North Somercotes and baptised on the 13th April 1892.

Frank was living and working in Grimsby when he enlisted on the 19th of February 1916.

By the end of March 1916 he had been given the service no. 22347. He was mobilized into the 3rd Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment and posted overseas on the 4th July 1916.

He joined the 7th Battalion of the Lincolnshire's on the 15th July 1916.

Frank was killed in action on the 9th August 1916 on the Somme. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial (pier and face 1 C), the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on Louth War Memorial.

JOHN WILLIAM MOTLEY COOK

John was the son of John William and Hannah Cook. He had been born in North Somercotes and was baptised on the 31st May 1881.

He lived with his grandparents in the village for several years, and worked as a labourer and a fisherman.

In 1916 John married Florence Mary Portus.

John enlisted at Louth and became a private in D Company of the 10th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, 101st Brigade, 34th Division, service no 28231.

He was taken prisoner of war and died of wounds he had previously received on the 20th May 1917.

John is buried in Niederzwehren Cemetery, Germany. (ref. IX.E.8). He is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and also on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

BERTIE HALLETT

Bertie was the son of William S and Louisa (née Baldock) Hallett. He was born on the 28th September 1898 at North Thoresby

The family moved to North Somercotes living in Church Lane at one time.

Bertie attended the village school from 18th May 1908 until 28th April 1911.

At first Bertie was a private in the Lincolnshire Regiment service no 202753.

He was then transferred to the Labour Corps of the Lincolnshire Secondary Regiment, 447th Agricultural Company, service no 504958.

Bertie died at the Red Cross Hospital in Louth on 12th November 1918 aged 20. He had pneumonia after influenza.

He was buried in the village cemetery on 14th November 1918 (grave no 2.9) by the vicar the Rev. Samuel Proudfoot.

Written on his gravestone is

202753 Private B HALLETT,

Lincolnshire Regiment.

12th November 1918 aged 20.

At rest.

There is also the Lincolnshire's badge inscribed inside a cross.

He is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

HARRY HOBSON

Harry was born at South Somercotes although he lived in North Somercotes.

He enlisted at Grimsby.

He was a private in 1st/5th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, 138th Brigade 46th (North Midland) Division Territorial Force, service no. 4429

Harry died of wounds on 22nd August 1916 at Berles Dressing Station.

He is buried at Beries-du-Bois churchyard extension in France (ref. J.5) and is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and also on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

WILLIAM JANNEY

William was the son of Charles Janney. He had been born in Grainthorpe on 31st December 1889. At one time the family lived at Eau Bank.

He emigrated to Canada in 1910 and enlisted at Portage la Prairie Manitoba 19th April 1915.

William was a private in the 29th Battalion of the British Columbia Regiment of the Canadian Infantry, 6th Brigade 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, service no. 423040.

William was killed in action on 6th April 1916.

He is remembered at Ypres on the Menin Gate (Panel 18 to 28, 30) also on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in the Parish Church.

SIDNEY JOHNSON

Sidney had been born at North Somercotes on 27th May 1895. He was the 2nd son of George and Mary Ann (née Laking) Johnson.

The family were living in Skidbrooke in 1901 where George was a Boot maker. By 1911 Sidney was back in North Somercotes working as an Apprentice to Maurice Armstrong at the General Stores.

Sidney moved to Scotter to work before the war started.

He was a private in the 1st battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment service no. 15294.

Sidney was killed in action on the 1st July 1916. Aged 21

Sidney is remembered on Thiepval Memorial (pier and face 1 C) also on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church. He is also remembered on Scotter War Memorial.

On 21st July 1916 the *Gainsborough News* reported: -

“News is to hand that Pte. Sidney Johnson, of North Somercotes, has been killed in action. For some five to six years previous to his joining the colours Pte. Johnson was in business in Scotter. His quiet, courteous manner had the respect of all.”

Sidney was a nephew of RSM Herbert Laking

HERBERT LAKING

Herbert, the son of Thomas and Olive (née Bradley) Laking, had been born in North Somercotes on the 1st October 1883. He attended the village school before leaving to work in 1896.

He lived in the village before enlisted into the army at York, where he joined the Prince of Wales Own Regiment with the service no 7284.

Herbert served in the army for several years gaining promotions until he became a Regimental Sergeant Major in the 1st Battalion of the West Yorkshire regiment (Prince of Wales Own), 18th Brigade, and 6th Division.

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and the Military Cross (MC).

The London Gazette for 9th December 1914 notes the Award of Distinguished Conduct Medal to Company Sergeant Major H Laking. No citation. A later newspaper report states that he had taken control when the Lieutenant in charge of the company was wounded.

Herbert had married Mary Edith Loughton on New Years Day 1917 at Saint Mary's Church; a military band had played at the wedding.

A prisoner of war, Herbert died of wounds on 7th August 1918, aged 35.

He is buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany. (ref. VIII.D.17).

He is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in the Parish Church.

WILLIAM LAMBERT

William was born in Welton le Wold on the 19th August 1904. He was the son of William Lambert.

The family lived for a time at Pye's Hall from where young William attended the village school.

He enlisted at Lincoln and was a private in the 8th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, 63rd Brigade 37th Division service no 14607.

William was killed in action on the 12th April 1917.

He is remembered on the Arras Memorial (bays 3 and 4) also on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in the Parish Church.

CYRIL LOFTUS LOUGHEED

Cyril was one of the sons of Walter Henry Lougheed BA, MB, BCh. Surgeon and Physician, and his wife Florence. He was born in the village and was baptised at Saint Mary's on 26th June 1891.

He had enlisted at Grimsby and became a private in the 23rd Battalion (Tyneside Scottish) Northumberland Fusiliers, service no 26106.

Cyril died of wounds received on the 26th January 1918 and is buried at Bucquoy Road cemetery, Ficheux in France (plot II, row F, grave 17).

Cyril is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

CHARLES NICHOLLS

As yet no links have been found to connect the death of a civilian or serviceman who died during the 1st World War to Charles Nicholls of North Somercotes.

There was a Nicholls family living at Donna Nook where their father was a coastguard. Several of the children attended the village school, but so far no record of a Charles Nicholls has been found.

SIDNEY ALFRED THOMAS NICHOLLS

Sidney was born at Herne Bay in Kent on the 6th June 1897 one of the sons of James Henry and Martha Ann Nicholls (and the brother of John who was killed in 1914).

He came to the village when his father was serving as a Coast Guard at Donna Nook.

Sidney was a Stoker 1st class onboard HMS Intrepid, service no K33101 (Ch).

He was killed in action at Zeebrugge in Belgium on 24th April 1918.

He is buried in Herne Bay.

Sidney is remembered on the Chatham Memorial and at Herne Bay.

JAMES NICHOLLS

As yet no links have been found to connect the death of a civilian or serviceman who died during the 1st World War to James Nicholls of North Somercotes.

James Henry Nicholls served as a Coast Guard at Donna Nook for several Years. His family lived with him and several of his children attended the village school during the time there were in the village. James died in 1953.

JOHN WILLIAM ERNEST NICHOLLS

John was born on the 19th June 1898 at Faversham in Kent, the son of James Henry and Martha Ann Nicholls and came to the village with his parents and siblings when his father was serving as a Coast Guard at Donna Nook.

He attended the village school for a time before joining the Royal Navy. John was a “Boy 1st Class” in the Royal Navy; service no K 26619(Ch).

He was killed on the 15th of October 1914 whilst onboard HMS Hawke and unfortunately his body has not been recovered.

The family were still in the village when John was killed but moved back to Kent shortly afterwards.

He is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, the Herne Bay Memorial and on his brother Sidney’s grave in Herne Bay.

WILLIAM PARKER

William was the son of William Sam and Elizabeth Parker of Skidbrooke and had been born in Skidbrooke on the 12th May 1898.

He had attended the village school from 1909 until 1911 whilst living in Warren Lane.

He moved to Leeds and was working there when he enlisted.

He was a private in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) posted to 2/2nd Battalion 173rd Brigade 58th Division (formerly 304101 Royal Army Service Corps) service no 67645 (97645).

William was killed in action on the 26th October 1917, aged 19.

He is remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial (panels 28 to 30 and 162 to 163A) also on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

26th October 1917 was the opening day of the second battle of Passchendaele.

CHARLES PHILIP SHORT

Charles was the son of Phillip and Frances Short. He was born at Bilsby. He enlisted at Louth on the 16th February 1916 for the duration of the war. At that time he was living with his parents and siblings at Pye's Farm working as a horseman. From his papers one finds that he was 5foot 7inches tall.

At first Charles was a private in the North Staffordshire Regiment service no 25614. He passed his medical at Lincoln on the 23rd May 1916. He was posted to France in September 1916.

He was then in the 1st Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 1st Brigade 1st Division, service no 27580.

Charles was killed in action on the 7th April 1918.

He is remembered at Tyne Cot memorial (panels 102 to 104) also on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street Reredos and on Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

ARTHUR BURKITT SMITH

Arthur was the son of Tom and Rebecca Smith of Grainthorpe.

He had been born at Grainthorpe on 13th November 1877, although was resident in North Somercotes.

He enlisted at Lincoln and was a private in the 13th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge Own), 73rd Brigade 24th Division service no. G/55345 (G/ 552345?).

He married Ivy Alice Wright at Lincolns Clasketgate Methodist Chapel in 1916.

Arthur was killed in action 3rd August 1917.

He is remembered at Ypres on the Menin Gate (panels 49 and 51) also on his parents' gravestone in St Botolphs at Skidbrooke.

He is also remembered on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street, the Reredos in Saint Marys Church and on the War Memorial at St Peters South Somercotes.

VALENTINE SMITH

Valentine was the son of Matthew Henry and Frances Smith.

He was born on the 14th January 1895 in North Somercotes and was baptised at the Parish Church on 21st February 1895, when his father was noted as a tailor residing in Keeling Street.

He attended the village school from 25th April 1898 until 13th January 1909; the family had lived at Bank End.

Valentine enrolled into the Marines on the 14th June 1912 and was a private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry onboard HMS Black Prince, service no PO/16340.

He was killed at the Battle of Jutland on the 31st May 1916, aged 21.

He is remembered on Portsmouth Naval Memorial (ref. 22), also on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

Valentine was killed at the same Battle as John Thomas Clayton, they were on different ships.

PERCY STUBBS

Percy had been born in North Somercotes on the 21st April 1895. He was the son of Thomas Lill and Eliza Stubbs. The family at one time lived in South House. He attended the village school from May 1899 until May 1908.

Percy enlisted at Louth in December 1915 and listed his occupation as horseman.

He passed his medical at Lincoln in 1916 and then joined the 7th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, 35th Brigade 12th (Eastern) Division as a private with the service no 40485.

Percy died of wounds on the 10th August 1917 in one of the hospitals established at Rouen.

He is buried at St Sever communal cemetery, Rouen (ref. II F 2A).

He remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

SAMUEL ATTERBY SUTTON

Samuel was the son of George and Mary Sutton of North Somercotes. He had been born at Great Carlton.

He enlisted in Louth and eventually became a driver in C Battery of the 230th Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery & Royal Field Artillery (Territorial Force) attached to the 46th (North Midland) Division service no 800601.

Samuel was killed in action on the 29th July 1917 aged 24. (20th according to S W D I T G W)

He is buried at Bully Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, France (ref. IV.C.15).

He is remembered on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in the Parish Church, also on Louth War Memorial.

CHARLES EDWARD TACEY

Charles had been born on the 8th April 1880 and was the son of Mary Tacey of Poor End North Somercotes.

In 1901 he was working as an Agricultural labourer.

He emigrated to Canada and became a Canadian National.

Charles was living at 222 Keefer Street Vancouver B C when he enlisted on the 24th March 1916. He was a private in the 29th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry, (British Columbia Regiment) 6th Battalion 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, service no 761180.

Charles died from his wounds on the 29th September 1918.

He is buried at Queant Communal cemetery British Extension (ref B.59).

He is remembered on North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

Charles Edward Tacey and Hedley Ackrill died on the same day.

STEPHEN AMBROSE WILLEY

Stephen was the eldest son of David and Mary Ann Willey. He had been born in North Somercotes on the 4th April 1884.

He attended the village school from the 28th May 1888 until June 1897 when the family were noted as living on The Warren.

After his mother's death he continued to live with his father and was noted as a labourer on the 1911 census.

Stephen enlisted at Louth and was a private in the 8th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, 63rd Brigade 21st Division, service no 25863.

Stephen was killed in action on the 10th April 1917, aged 33. (Died 12th according to S W D I T G W)

He is buried at Orange Trench Cemetery, Monchy le Preux, France, (ref. special mem. 1).

Stephen is remembered on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church.

JOSEPH HENRY COOK

Joseph was the son of Richard and Mabel Cook. He had been born in North Somercotes on the 18th June 1922.

He attended the village school from 20th June 1927 until 4th August 1936. He had been a member of the 1st North Somercotes Scouts.

Joe was a Sapper in the 4th Parachute Squadron of the Regiment of the Royal Engineers, service no 1991709.

Joseph died on the 17th September 1943, aged 21,

He was buried at Bari War Cemetery, Italy. (ref. II.A.8).

He is remembered on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street, on the Reredos in Saint Marys Church and on a plaque in the Village Institute. Joe is also remembered on the Scout War Memorial.

On the 3rd September 1943 the Allied invasion of the Italian mainland started near Reggio. A few days later there were landings in the Gulf of Salerno. Although there was no serious fighting in the town of Bari it was chosen as the site of the cemetery as it was the Army Group headquarters during the early stages of the Italian campaign.

REGINALD EDWARD LOWIS

Reginald was the son of George and Dorothy May Lowis. He had been born in North Somercotes on the 19th March 1921. The family lived at Warren Farm.

Reg attended the village school from 31st May 1926 until 10th April 1935. He was for a time a member of the 1st North Somercotes Scout Troop.

A Petty Officer on the Submarine Regent, Reg had the service no C/JX 151999.

He died on the 1st May 1943, aged 22,

Reg is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial (ref. 68.1) also on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street, the Reredos in the Parish Church and on the Plaque in the Village Institute. Reg is also remembered on the Boy Scouts War Memorial.

HMS Regent sailed from Malta on the 12th April 1943 to patrol in the Southern Atlantic. On the evening of the 18th April 1943 there was a large explosion in an area north of Monopoli, believed to have been HMS Regent striking a mine. HMS Regent was reported overdue at Beirut on the 1st May 1943.

The submarine has been discovered and divers are working on the site. She is lying on sand at a depth of 28 metres. The dramatic effects of the explosion can be clearly seen on the wreck.

GEORGE HAROLD MURFITT

George was the son of Lewis James and Kate Murfitt. He had been born in Stickford on the 16th August 1905.

He attended school in Stickford before the family moved to North Somercotes in 1915. George was at the village school from the 19th October 1915 until the 15th August 1919.

George was a private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, service no 10556128.

George died on the 10th October 1943, aged 38.

He is buried at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. (ref. 2.L.19).

He is remembered on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street, the Reredos in Saint Marys Church, and on the Plaque in the Village Institute.

The Burma-Siam railway (424 kilometres long) was constructed mainly by Allied prisoners of war.

Approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died in the course of its construction and were buried along the side of the railway.

The cemetery is close to the former site of Kanburi, the prisoner of war base camp, through which most of the men would have passed on their way to other camps. The Army Graves Service transferred most of the bodies that had been buried along the southern section of the railway to this cemetery.

MARTIN

ROBINSON

Martin was born on Christmas Day 1950 the son of Lilian May Robinson.
He was the stepson of John Harrison.

Martin became a Private in the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment with the service no. 24163752.

On the 16th June 1972 Martin was on duty at an observation post in an old filling station on Foyle Road in the Brandywell district of Londonderry in Northern Ireland. The observation post was attacked by gunfire by the Official IRA who fired from walls of the City Cemetery. Martin was killed. He was 21years old.

Martin was attached to the regiment's 1st Battalion which had been stationed at a Drumahoe factory. A memorial service was held there for him. His coffin was draped with a Union Jack and his beret, belt and bayonet placed on top. It was driven through the factory grounds on an open Land Rover.

Martin ashes were buried at Saint Clements in Sutton on Sea.

He is remembered at Sutton in St. Clements and on Suttons War Memorial also by a Memorial Cup awarded by the Meridale Youth Centre. Martins name is also to be found on the North Somercotes War Memorial in Keeling Street and on the Tower Memorial to the Sherwood Foresters at Crick.

Women from our village who are remembered via Commonwealth War Graves.

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps

The shortage of manpower in the First World War led to the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1917. Women working in France and in the United Kingdom were able to replace military men serving behind the lines and enable them to fight. Given Royal patronage in April 1918 and renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, it had completely demobilized by 1921.

Auxiliary Territorial Service

The Auxiliary Territorial Service was established in September 1938 and continued until the Women's Royal Army Corps was founded in 1949.

HILDA CARY

Hilda was born on the 10th March 1900. She was a daughter of Richard Edwin and Eliza (née Tyson) Cary and lived on Marsh Lane. Hilda had attended the village school from 1905.

She was a 'worker' in the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Service no 27668. She is buried in the village cemetery. (CWG ref. 27.43)

Hilda died on the 22nd November 1918 after having influenza for 8 days and then double pneumonia for 2 days.

Her Gravestone is inscribed:

In Loving memory of
HILDA CARY
who died Nov 22nd 1918,
age 19 years.
"Peace, perfect peace".

BETSY CARY

Betsy was born on the 16th July 1891. She was the daughter of Richard Edwin and Eliza (née Tyson) Cary of Marsh Lane.

Betsy left home to work and in 1911 was a kitchen maid to Lord Estcourt in London.

She was a Waac in the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps Service no 27667.

Betsy died on the 25th November 1918 after having had influenza for 7 days, which turned to pneumonia for 5 days and led to heart failure.

She is buried in the village cemetery. (CWG ref 27.45)

Her Gravestone is inscribed:

In loving memory of
BETSY CARY
who died Nov 25th 1918,
age 28 years.
"Rest in peace".

Hilda and Betsy were sisters and they are buried next to each other in North Somercotes Cemetery.

WINIFRED HOWES

Winifred was born in Hull on the 4th July 1907. She was the daughter of George and Emma Baker. The family were living at 8 Kimberley Street in Hull in 1911.

In 1928 whilst still living in Hull she married Arthur Howes. They had a daughter Marjorie 1929. In 1939 Arthur came to the village with Marjorie and she attended the village school until she was 14 years old.

Winifred was a corporal in the Auxiliary Territorial Service Women's Services, Service no W/17301.

She died 21st February 1944 in Surrey.

Winifred is buried in St Mary's churchyard.

Her headstone is carved with the ATS symbol and states:

W/17301 CORPORAL
WINIFRED HOWES
AUX. TERRITORIAL SERVICE
21st FEBRUARY 1944.
“ *MAY HER REWARD
BE AS GREAT AS HER SACRIFICE*”.

Merchant seamen who are remembered via Commonwealth War Graves in the village cemetery.

There are 7 Second World War Commonwealth War Graves for Merchant Seaman in North Somercotes Village Cemetery. Unfortunately as yet the name of only one is known. The bodies of the men were found on the coast and brought to North Somercotes to be buried.

Each of the graves has the Merchant Service Emblem on top the stone.
There are then the words

A SAILOR
OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
MERHANT NAVY
BURIED 6TH NOVEMBER 1939
(There is then an engraved cross.)

“KNOWN UNTO GOD”

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 79)

A SAILOR
OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
MERHANT NAVY
BURIED 6TH NOVEMBER 1939
(There is then an engraved cross.)

“KNOWN UNTO GOD”

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 78)

A SAILOR
OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
MERHANT NAVY
BURIED 9TH FEBRUARY 1940
(There is then an engraved cross)
“KNOWN UNTO GOD”

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 77)

A SAILOR
OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
MERHANT NAVY
BURIED 29TH OCTOBER 1940
(There is then an engraved cross.)
“KNOWN UNTO GOD”

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 160)

A SAILOR
OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
MERHANT NAVY
BURIED 25TH NOVEMBER 1940
(There is then an engraved cross.)
“KNOWN UNTO GOD”

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 159)

A SAILOR
OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
MERHANT NAVY
BURIED 27TH DECEMBER 1940

(There is then an engraved cross.)

“KNOWN UNTO GOD”

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 158)

JOHN ELIAS EVANS

John was one of the children of Elias and Margaret Jane (née Vaughan) Evans. He had been born on the 21st January 1895 in Aberdovey. He was a sailor from an early age and also a Royal Naval Reservist (A6173).

He married Alice Radcliffe on the 14th April 1916 in Ardrossen Ayrshire. They had 3 children.

John was an Able Seaman and a designated lamp trimmer on S. S. Orsa.

S. S. Orsa was taking a cargo of coal from the Tyne to Bordeaux when she struck a mine on 21st October 1939. The boat sank about 25 miles off Flamborough Head with the loss of 16 of the crew.

John's body was found near to North Somercotes and he was buried on the 6th November 1939 by the Rev. Hall.

His gravestone was inscribed:

JE Evans, lamp trimmer

SS Orsa,

21st October 1939, age 42.

"Immortal invisible God only wise."

(CWG ref. comp 1 grave 80)

The name of one of his sons, Jim, was later added to the headstone.

The details given about the men and women named have been taken from three other pieces of my research.

LEST WE FORGET – a pamphlet published about the men from North Somercotes who died during the 2 World Wars.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES,
1914 – 1919 – NORTH SOMERCOTES WAR MEMORIAL – this is a book about all of those named on the memorial who served and died or served and survived.

WE HAVE REMEMBERED – NORTH SOMERCOTES – this is about the men and women of North Somercotes who served during the 2 World Wars, many of whom are not mentioned on the various memorials.
It is also about men and women who were buried in the village during the World Wars and about those service personnel who died in the village during the World Wars.

Acknowledgements, photographs and references to sources are to be found in the above publications.

When Commonwealth War Graves are refurbished or renewed wording can sometimes be changed.

Valerie N Soderberg.