

CODDINGTON

Remembering the Fallen of the First World War

Private G A Woodfield

Kings Shropshire light infantry

Died 24 November 1918

George Woodfield was born in 1889 at Worthenbury, the youngest of five children. He had four sisters and with his father John and mother Elizabeth he lived at 4 Higher Wern, a small holding, close to a loop in the River Dee, just north of Worthenbury village. According to the 1891 census, John was an agricultural labourer and Elizabeth taking care of the home.



John Woodfield
Father



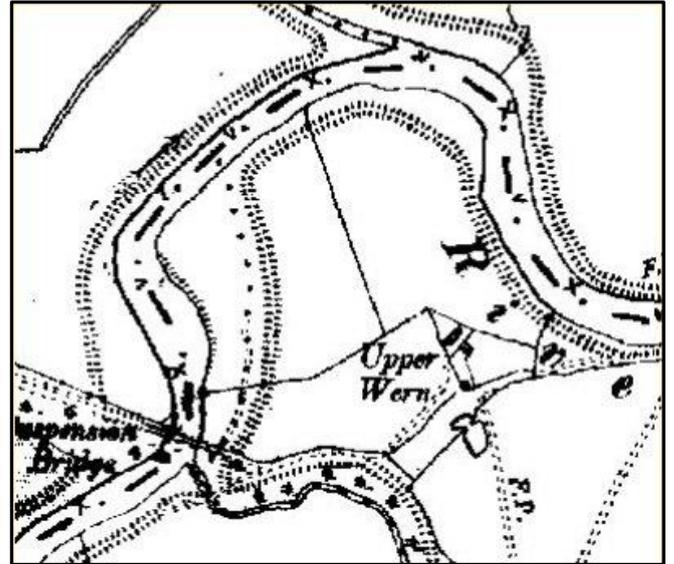
Elizabeth Woodfield
Mother



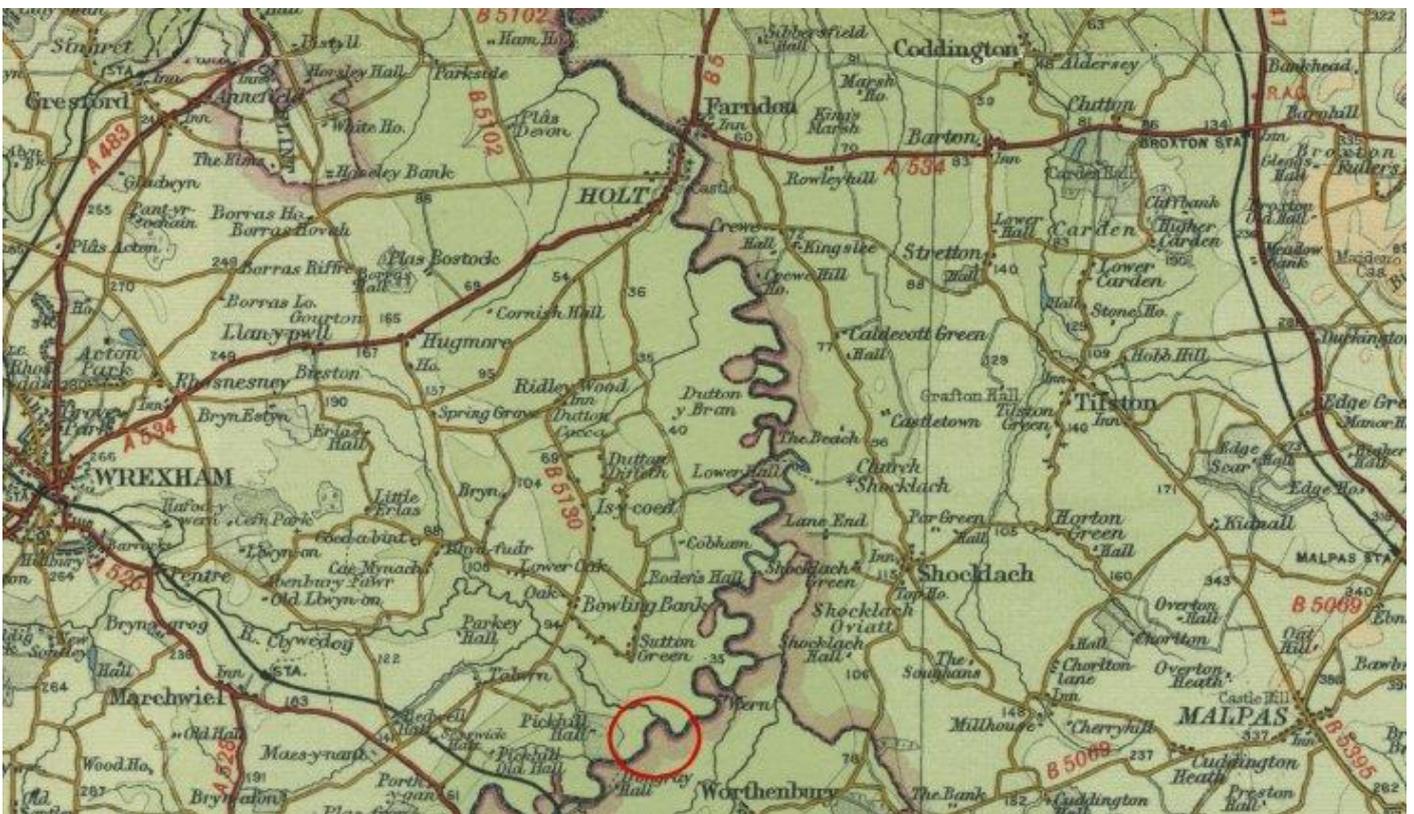
Lizzie Woodfield
Sister

By 1904, Elizabeth had passed away and John three years later, leading to George moving to live with his brother and his family at Barton on the hill, mid-way between Coddington and Stretton. Like his brother, he was employed as a mill wagoner, probably at nearby Stretton Water Mill (which still exists in working condition as a museum). When the war came, George signed on for the local militia, the Cheshire Yeomanry, although the exact date cannot be verified as his war record has not survived. His medal card does not record the 1915 Star, so he may have been conscripted in 1916, although the Star is awarded for entry into the war, not when soldiers signed up.





Higher Wern today (left) and in 1910 (right)



Higher Wern (circled) on the banks of the Dee.

To the north is Stretton Mill, Barton, Farndon and Coddington



Typical wagoner of the period, and Stretton Mill today (right)

The Cheshire Yeomanry

The Cheshire Yeomanry could trace its formation back to Napoleonic times, but by 1914 the newly-named 'Cheshire Yeomanry (Earl of Chester's) (Hussars)' was composed of part-time soldiers and headquartered in the Old Bank Buildings in Chester (*right*). When the war came, the units were split in August and September 1914 into the 1st Line (liable for overseas service) and 2nd Line (home service for those unable or unwilling to serve overseas) units.

Later, a 3rd Line was formed to act as a reserve, providing trained replacements for the 1st and 2nd Line regiments. The Front Line 1/1st Cheshire Yeomanry was mobilised with the Welsh Border Mounted Brigade on 4 August 1914 and moved to East Anglia where it joined the 1st Mounted Division in September 1914. In November 1915, the brigade was dismantled.

It was in billets in Lowestoft in March 1916, when orders were finally received to embark for overseas service, and they shipped out from Devonport on the *Haverford* on 3 March 1916. The company consisted of twenty-five officers and 451 other ranks, disembarking at Alexandria on 15 March, from where they proceeded to Beni Salama Camp.

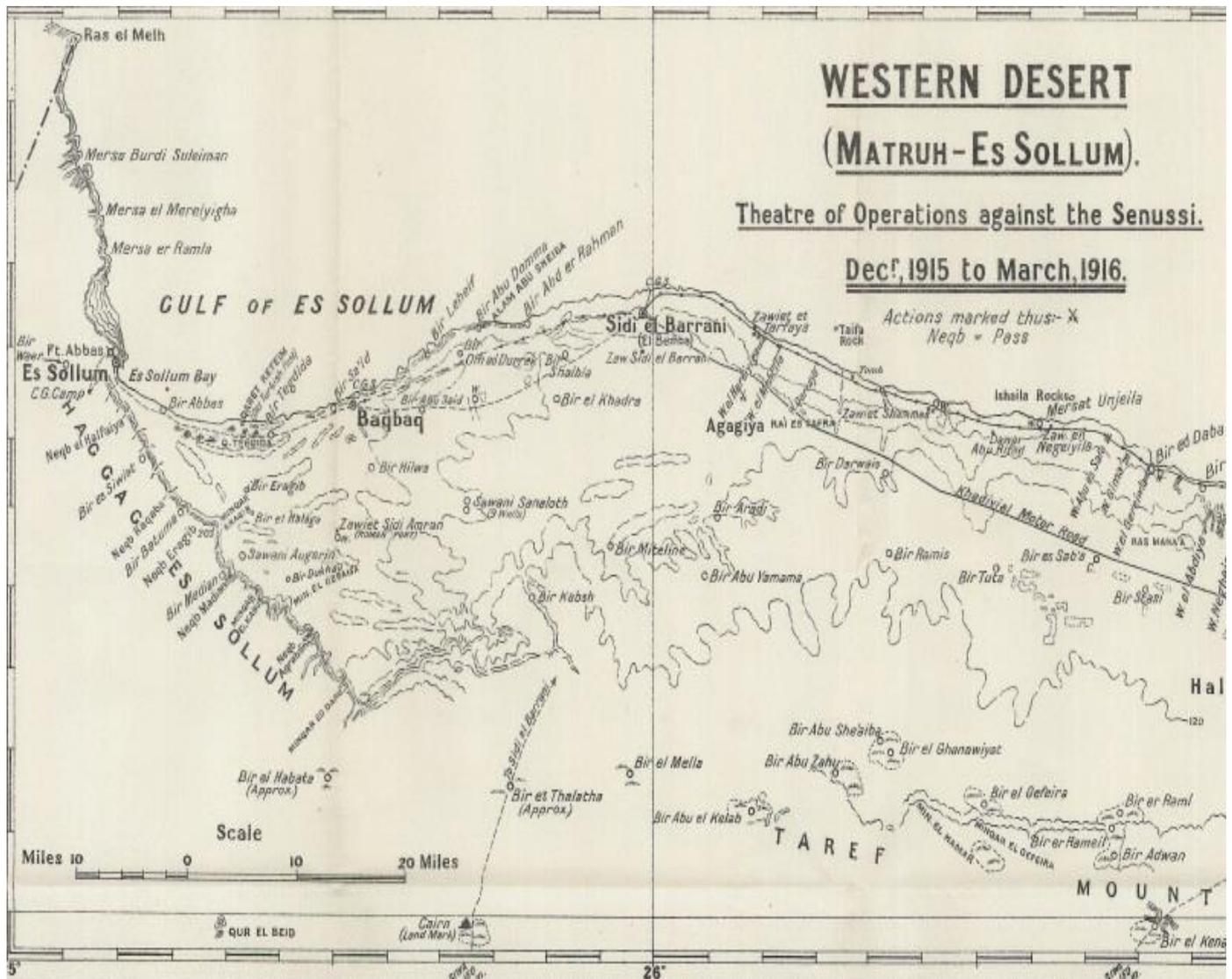
There they met up with the Duke of Westminster, (a veteran of South Africa, who had been posted away from the regiment) with his Rolls-Royce Armored Car, the prototype of which he had produced at his own expense in 1914.

After the battle of Mersa Matruh, the



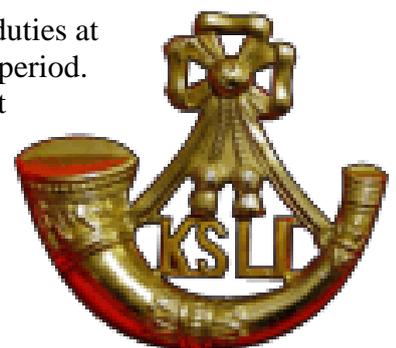
Duke mounted a raid against the Senussi using the cars. He was instructed to pursue the guerrillas with 'reasonable boldness'. Driving across the desert at high speed, the Duke and his 12 cars caught the fleeing enemy, killing many of the Senussi and all of their Turkish companions, returning with three captured artillery pieces, nine machine guns and 30 prisoners.

The Duke and the Rolls Royce-mounted Cheshire Yeomanry rescued the survivors of two British merchant ships, HMT *Moorina* and HMS *Tara*, which had been torpedoed off the coast of what, is now Libya, earning the Duke worldwide praise and the DSO.



The Yeomanry then moved to Egypt and formed 4th Dismounted Brigade with the South Wales Mounted Brigade on 20 March. On 18 April 1916, the regiment entrained at Wardar and moved to Minia Lower Camp. Here, towards the end of May, two officers and 35 other ranks were posted to join the 6th Imperial Camel Corps.

A few weeks later, on 1 June 1916, one troop was posted to canal transport guard duties at Samalita and the other troops took over this position in rotation for a considerable period. The first significant move from here was on 14 November 1916 when the regiment moved to El Alamein. After service with the Suez Canal Defences in early 1917, the small Yeomanry regiments were amalgamated and numbered as battalions of infantry regiments, recruiting from the same districts. As a result, the 1/1st Cheshire Yeomanry was amalgamated with the 1/1st Shropshire Yeomanry at Cairo on 2 March 1917, to form the 10th (Shropshire and Cheshire Yeomanry) Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry (10th KSLI).



The new regiment moved to Palestine in 1917, and saw fierce fighting including the Second (17–19 April 1917) and Third Battles of Gaza (27 October–7 November), including the capture of Beersheba on 31 October, and the Sheria Position on 6 November. At the end of 1917, it took part in the capture and defence of Jerusalem, and in March 1918 in the Battle of Tell ‘Asur.

The Western Front

On 30 April 1918, the battalion had completed embarkation at Alexandria for France and landed at Marseilles, and moving north to Rue near Abbeyville by 18 May, where they underwent training for service on the Western Front, particularly trench warfare and gas defence. They went into the trenches for the first time on 14 July 1918, taking over a sector of the Front Line near Merville on the 14 July 1918. They were in action in The Second Battles of the Somme, Bapaume (*right*) and Epehy, suffering heavy casualties, followed by The Battles of the Hindenburg Line and The Final Advance in Artois and Flanders.



Men of the 10th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry at Grammont in Belgium early in 1919. In 1917, the Shropshire Yeomanry and the Cheshire Yeomanry were amalgamated into the 10th Battalion KSLI and served together until the end of the World War I.

The battalion was disbanded in June 1919, the Cheshire Yeomanry was reconstituted as a cavalry regiment in March 1920.

At the Armistice they were at Ath and then moved to Frasnes-les-Buissenal where they were engaged in repairing the Tournai-Leuze railway. By this time George Woodfield had been posted to the 4th Reserve Battalion Kings Shropshire Light Infantry and was on his way home. It is likely that he was wounded or suffering from illness, as on his arrival in Pembroke Dock in South Wales he died on 24 November 1918 aged thirty. [His death certificate has yet to be requested and will clarify this]. His body was brought home and he was buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Malpas Churchyard. George is commemorated on the memorial at St Oswald's Church, Malpas, and the Coddington Church Memorial Plaque.

**Researched and written by
Allen Croft**

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
WOODFIELD.	6 th Res. Yeo. K. G. L. A.	Pte.	1148. 230489
George A.			
Medal	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	5/1/102 B.17	5592	
BRITISH	-6-	-1-	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 138

George Woodfield's Medal Card and his service medals below



(To be rendered in duplicate.)
(T.P.) KING'S SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT OR CORPS. 5592 (b).

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 266 & 301 of 1919. of 19

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regt. No. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reversed for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations			REMARKS
						(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
230789	Pte.	WOODFIELD George Albert.	1 Ches. Yeo. Pte.) 1178.) 1 Ches. Yeo. 10 Shrops. L.I. 10 Shrops. L.I. 10 Shrops. L.I.) 230789.)						
230790	Pte. (L/Cpl.)	BRAUMONT Fred.	1 Ches. Yeo. Pte.) 1182.) 1 Ches. Yeo. 10 Shrops. L.I. 10 Shrops. L.I.) 230790.) 10 Shrops. L.I. 10 Shrops. L.I.						

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place: _____ Date: 9 APR 1921 Per Officer I/C Infantry Records, Shrewsbury. Ltut. _____ Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

His listing on KSLI records, his battalion postings and medals awarded

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
ASHLEY, ALFRED	Private	202832	06/03/1919	27	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	United Kingdom	West. C. of E. 335.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
BRERETON, GEOFFREY	Sergeant	518589	09/03/1942		Royal Air Force	United Kingdom	Grave 823 A.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
FLEET, W	2nd Corporal	251785	10/05/1920		Royal Engineers	United Kingdom	West. C. of E. 106.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
HOPLEY, WILFRED SIMON	Private	21655	19/10/1918	24	Reserve Cavalry Regiment	United Kingdom	Cent. C. of E. 837.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
HUXLEY, JACK	Private	T/1629022	20/04/1944	34	Royal Army Service Corps	United Kingdom	Grave 721 Y.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
JONES, T I	Able Seaman	237257 (CH)	13/04/1919		Royal Navy	United Kingdom	West. C. of E. 469.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
STEWART, R B	Private	8069	18/05/1915		Seaforth Highlanders	United Kingdom	West. C. of E. 323.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
TAYLOR, JOHN RICHARD	Private	90622	20/11/1918	20	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	United Kingdom	West. C. of E. 507.	MALPAS CEMETERY	
WOODFIELD, G A	Private	230789	24/11/1918		King's Shropshire Light Infantry	United Kingdom	West. C. of E. 696.	MALPAS CEMETERY	

George died on the 23 November 1918 and is buried in Malpas Cemetery Commonwealth War Graves Commission listing for the Cemetery

No. of Contract UK/3081 dated _____ Imperial War Graves Commission. Schedule "A" Page 1.
 Name and Address of Firm. H. A. Clegg & Sons **COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS** Name of Cemetery. MALPAS CEM. CHESHIRE.
Kirkby Rd **COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS** To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level abbreviated thus:—
Chester (those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined) 10338
TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design). (STANCLIFFE) 8075 12805A/2624 10,000 10/28 146 P A

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st Line. Number and Rank.	2nd Line. Initials, NAME and Honours.	3rd Line. Regiment.	4th Line. Date of Death.	Age.	Centre of Stone. Relig. Emb.	To be stencilled on foot of Headstones below ground level. Plot P. Row R. Grave G.		No. of Stone.	
(1).	(2).	(8).	(4).	(5).	(6).	(7).	P.	R.	(9).	
1190/1A	251785 2ND CORPORAL	W. FLEET	ROYAL ENGINEERS	10TH MAY 1920	1920	NONE	PM/A	WEST CE	106	1
1054/1A	8069 PRIVATE	R.B. STEWART	SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS	18TH MAY 1915	1915	NONE	CROSS	WEST CE	323	2
1065/1A	202832 PRIVATE	A. ASHLEY	ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS	6TH MARCH 1919	AGE 27		CROSS	WEST CE	335	3
1212/1A	T.I. JONES	ABLE SEAMAN, RN, 237257	H.M.T.B. "36"	13TH APRIL 1919	1919	NONE	PM/B	WEST CE	469	4
1065/1A	90622 PRIVATE	J.R. TAYLOR	ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS	20TH NOVEMBER 1918	AGE 20		CROSS	WEST CE	507	5
1225/1A	21655 PRIVATE	W.S. HOPLEY	4TH RESERVE REGT. OF CAVALRY	19TH OCTOBER 1918	AGE 24		PM/B	CENT. CE	837	6
1055/1A	230789 PRIVATE	G.A. WOODFIELD	KING'S SHROPSHIRE L.I.	24TH NOVEMBER 1918	NONE		CROSS	WEST CE	696	7

Headstone for this grave is not included in the Contract.
OFFICE COPY
41
49
7
52
8
11
35
188

Order to Clegg and Sons Chester, for headstones to be erected at Malpas Cemetery



Malpas Cemetery.
George is also commemorated on the memorial at St Oswald's Church Malpas.
George's grave is in the foreground (right)





230789 PRIVATE
G. A. WOODFIELD
KING'S SHROPSHIRE L. I.
24 TH NOVEMBER 1918





Coddington Church and Memorial Plaque



In Memory of

Private

G A Woodfield

230789, 4th Reserve Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 24 November 1918

Remembered with Honour

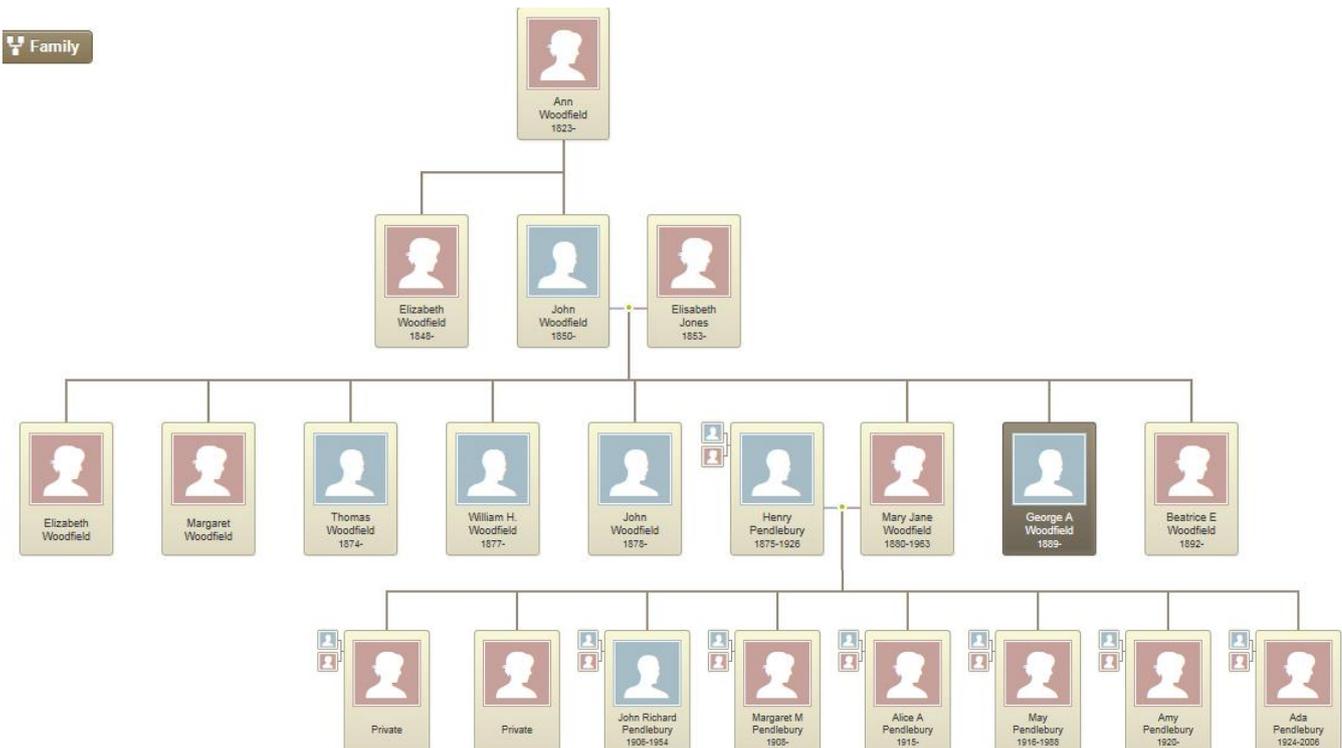
Malpas Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Administrative County of <u>Wilt</u>					The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the						Page 1					
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
of <u>Northbury</u>		of		of		of		of <u>Northbury</u>		of <u>Wootton Bassett</u>		of <u>Wilt</u>		of <u>Northbury</u>		
Coln. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	HOUSES (3 or 4)	Number of rooms occupied (5) (6)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of (Males Females)	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Number of Birthdays	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot	Language Spoken	
1	Lower Wren	1	1	4	Joseph Stockton	Head	Married	42	Agricultural Labourer		X		Wiltshire, Marlborough		English	
					Martha Stockton	Wife	Married	38					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					Elizabeth Stockton	Daughter		6					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					Joseph Stockton	Son		5					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					John Stockton	Son		4					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					Oliver Stockton	Daughter		3					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
2	Do	1	1	2	John Steen	Head	Married	50	Agricultural Labourer		X		Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
					Elizabeth Steen	Wife	Married	48					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					Samuel Steen	Son	Single	20	Agricultural Labourer		X		Do Do		English	
					William Steen	Son		16					Do Do		English	
					Elizabeth Steen	Daughter		10	Scholar				Do Do		English	
3	Wood House	1	1	1	William Peers	Head	Widow	45	Agricultural Labourer				Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
					Alice Peers	Daughter	Single	25	Housekeeper				Do Northbury		English	
					William Peers	Son	Single	25	Agricultural Labourer		X		Do Do		English	
					Anniah Peers	Handmaid		14	Servant				Do Do		English	
4	Upper Wren	1	1	1	John Woodfield	Head	Married	41	Agricultural Labourer		X		Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
					Elizabeth Woodfield	Wife	Married	38					Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
					Mary Jane Woodfield			11	Scholar				Do Northbury		English	
					Ann Woodfield			1	Scholar				Do Do		English	
					Maggie Woodfield			10	Scholar				Do Do		English	
					Lizzie Woodfield			8					Do Do		English	
					George Woodfield			7					Do Do		English	
5	Mulford Road	1	1	1	Charles Jones	Head	Widow	42	Widow				Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
					Elizabeth Jones	Daughter		18	Scholar				Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
					Arthur, John Clarke	Boarder		6	Scholar				Wiltshire, Wootton Bassett		English	
6	Do	1	1	1	Mary Clarke	Head	Widow	48	Widow				Wiltshire, Marlborough		English	
					Maria Clarke	Daughter	Single	14					Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					Emma Clarke	Daughter		10	Scholar				Wiltshire, Northbury		English	
					Joseph Clarke	Son		10	Scholar				Do Do		English	
					Milly Clarke	Handmaid		9	Scholar				Do Do		English	
6	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	6	1	2	Total of Males and Females...			12	18							

Census 1891



**Researched and written by
Allen Croft**

**Additional research and editing by
Mike Royden**