

# Plumtree War Memorial

## WW1 Casualties Remembered

HALLOWED BE THE MEMORY OF  
THE MEN OF THIS PARISH  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN  
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919

ASTILL, ERNEST	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
BARKER, GERALD	LINCOLNSHIRE REGT
BRIDGES, FRANK W	H. D. SCOT. BOMBERS
COOPER, JOHN W	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
COOPER, JOSEPH	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
COSTALL, FRANK	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
CUTLER, BRYANT	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
DABBY, JOHN	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
DAVIS, ROBERT	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
HALLAM, JOHN L	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
HAYWARD, JOHN T	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
HUYTON, WALTER	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
LEON, ANOS	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
LONGCH, A HENRY	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
MARTIN, JOHN W	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
MITCHELL, THOMAS	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
PENDLETON, HERBERT	SHERWOOD FORESTERS
SMITH, S. BEN JAMIN	SHERWOOD FORESTERS

THE VICTOR HEROES REST IN MANY LANDS  
BUT HERE THE SYMBOL OF THEIR GLORY STANDS.

1939-1945  
CAREY BERNARD BARTING  
CHAPLAIN NO 2 COY. H.M.C.  
FREDERICK HENRY HOLMES  
FLIGHT LIEUT. R.F.F.  
RICHARD ALFRED TERRY  
PARACHUTE & LINES REGT  
MELVILLE FRANCIS FORTUNE  
CPL. R.A.F.  
ALSO 1914-1919  
TAYLOR, GEORGE SHERWOOD FORESTERS

# Ernest ASTILL

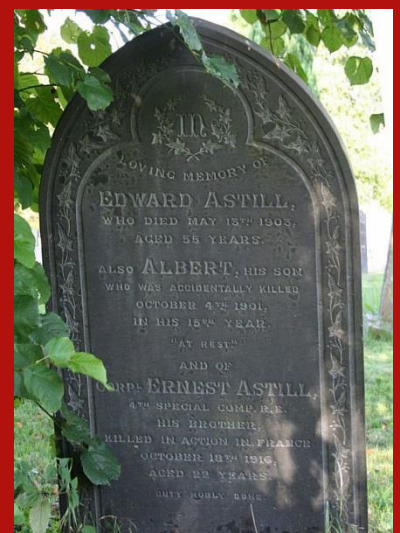
Ernest Astill was the son of Edward and Elizabeth Astill (née Wilford) who were married in Plumtree church on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1881. He was baptised in Plumtree church on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1894.

He lived in Plumtree and later moved to Stanton-on-the-Wolds. In 1915, one of his sisters, Emma, married Walter HUYTON.

He enlisted in Nottingham as a Private in the 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment), but later became a Pioneer in the 5th Battalion, Royal Engineers.

He was killed in action on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1916, aged 21, in the fighting on the Somme.

Ernest's burial location is unknown, but he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France. There is also a memorial to him on his father's headstone in Plumtree churchyard (plot 292).





# Gerald Walker

## BARLOW

Gerald Barlow was born in 1888 in Lowdham, the son of Edwin and Sarah Barlow (née Jaques). He lived in Lowdham and, later moved to Lewisham where he worked as a silk salesman.

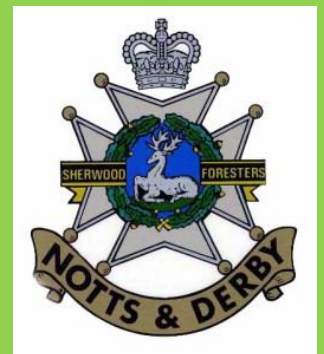
He married Hilda Edith Simpson (of Rose Grove, Plumtree) at Lowdham church on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1915.

He enlisted in Nottingham on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1915 as a Private in the 17th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) and was promoted to Sergeant in October 1915.

He was killed in action on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916, aged 28, in the fighting on the Ancre.

Gerald's burial location is unknown, but he is listed on the Thiepval Memorial in France.

*Gerald's name is also listed on the Lowdham village war memorial and on the commemorative brass plaque in St Mary's church, Lowdham.*



# Frank Machin

## BRAISBY

Frank M. Braisby was the son of Benjamin and Sarah Ellen Braisby (née Machin) who were married in Plumtree church on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1887.

He was baptised in Plumtree church on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1898, and lived in Plumtree. He worked for the General Electric Company.

He enlisted in Ilkeston as a Private in the 10th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

He died of his wounds on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1918, aged 19.

Frank is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery in France. There is also a memorial to him on his parents' headstone in Plumtree churchyard (plot 234).

*The 10th (Service) Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, often known as the "Grimsby Chums", landed in France for service on the Western Front in January 1916.*

*They saw action at the first day on the Somme in July 1916 and at the Battle of Passchendaele in Autumn 1917.*





# John William COOPER

John W. Cooper was the son of Jerry and Frances Cooper (née Thorpe); brother of Joseph COOPER.

He was born in Colsterworth, Lincolnshire in 1881, but, in 1911, was living with his parents in Flawford, Plumtree; employed as a carter in a brickyard.

He enlisted in West Bridgford as a Private in the South Staffordshire Regiment but later moved to 2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers.

He was killed in action on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1917 in the second Battle of Passchendaele.

John is buried at Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium.



# Joseph COOPER

Joseph Cooper was the son of Jerry and Frances Cooper (née Thorpe); brother of John William COOPER.

He was born in Colsterworth, Lincolnshire in 1879 and married Edith Spooner Harris at St Saviour's church, Nottingham on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1901.

He enlisted in Nottingham on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1915 in the Durham Regiment of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was a gunner with the 253rd and 265th Siege Battery.

He died of his wounds on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1917, aged 38.

Joseph is Buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

*Siege Batteries were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large-calibre high-explosive shells in high trajectories, causing plunging fire. The usual armaments were 6", 8" and 9.2" howitzers.*





# Frank COSTALL

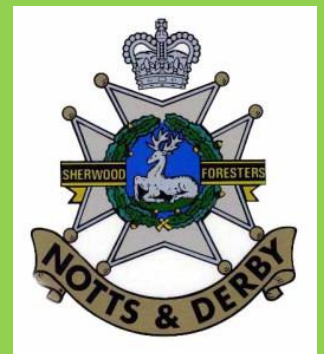
Frank Costall was born in Radcliffe-on-Trent in 1893. He was the son of William and Ellen Costall (née Whittaker) and lived in Normanton-on-the-Wolds, working as a farm labourer.

He enlisted in Nottingham on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1914 as a Private in the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) Special Reserve and was sent to France in March 1915.

He died from a gunshot wound to the head, which he received in action on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1915, aged 22.

He was the first soldier from the Plumtree area to die in battle.

Frank is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France.



# Bryant Alfred CUTLER

Bryant A. Cutler was the son of Alfred and Annie Cutler (née Eagle); he was born on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1886 in Seale, Surrey.

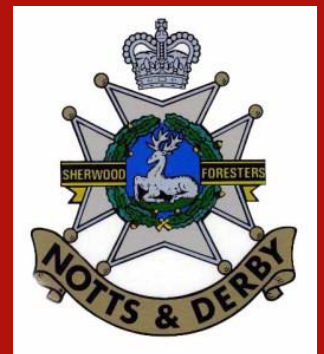
He married Charlotte Frances Leeson of Normanton-on-the-Wolds on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1911 in Bourne, Lincolnshire.

He enlisted in Nottingham as a Private in the 1st/8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

He died of his wounds on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918, aged 32.

Bryant is buried in Tourgeville Military Cemetery, France.

*The 1st/5th, 1st/6th, 1st/7th and 1st/8th battalions landed in France in February 1915 for service on the Western Front. They became part of the Sherwood Foresters Brigade in the North Midland Division (later 139th (Sherwood Foresters) Brigade and 46th (North Midland) Division respectively).*





# John DARBY

John Darby was the son of John William and Elizabeth Darby, of Plumtree; he was born in 1898 in Nether Broughton, Leicestershire.

He enlisted in Mansfield as a Private in the 2nd/5th Battalion, King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry).

He died of his wounds on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1917 after fighting on the Hindenburg Line.

John is buried in the Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

*In January 1917, the 2nd/5th battalion took its place in the line in the Somme sector opposite Serre. Shortly afterwards, the German army began a planned retreat to the Hindenburg Line.*

*From 15 February to 19 March the division's units were engaged in patrol work and stiff actions against rearguards while advancing across the devastated (and booby-trapped) ground until that line was reached.*



# Robert DAVIS

Robert Davis was the son of Thomas and Mary Jane Davis (née Tolladay), of Normanton-on-the-Wolds who were married in Plumtree church on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1867. He was baptised in Plumtree church on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1885. At the age of 15 he was working for Mr T. A. Hill of Normanton House. In 1913 he married Anne Blagg of Long Acre, Bingham.

He enlisted as a Private in the Army Service Corps, attached to XVII Corps, Heavy Artillery.

He died of pneumonia on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1918, aged 33. According to the Bingham Deanery Magazine: "He had just returned from home leave to his post in the ammunition column when he was attacked by the fell disease."

Robert is buried in Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery, France.

He is commemorated on his parents' headstone in Plumtree churchyard (Plot 288).





# John Longley

## HALLAM

John L. Hallam was born in Clipston-on-the-Wolds in 1893, the son of Herbert Longley and Alice Hallam, who were later married in Plumtree church on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1896. His mother died in October 1896.

He lived in Clipston with his maternal grandfather, Thomas Hallam, where he worked as a horse man on farm.

He enlisted in Nottingham as a Private in the 8th Battalion, The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment).

He was killed in action on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917, aged 27, in the Battle of Messines.

John's burial location is unknown; he is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

*The regiment was in existence between 1881 and 1959. In 1921 its regimental title was altered to the North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's).*



# John Thorpe

## HAYWARD

John T. Hayward was the son of John Needham and Rachel Hayward (née Carr) of Flawford House, Plumtree; he was born in 1883 in Wormhill, Derbyshire. His father was a farmer and John worked on the family farm.

He enlisted in West Bridgford as a Private in 1st/4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

He died of his wounds on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1916, aged 33.

John is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, France, and is commemorated on his parents' headstone in Wormhill (St Margaret's) churchyard.

*When war broke out in August 1914, the Northumberland Fusiliers consisted of 7 battalions, expanding to 52 battalions, of which 29 served overseas.*

*It was the second largest infantry regiment of the British Army during the war (surpassed only by the 88 battalions of the London Regiment).*





# Walter HUYTON

Walter Huyton was born in 1889 in Ormskirk, Lancashire, the son of Edward and Emma Huyton (née Dean).

He married Emma Astill (sister of Ernest **ASTILL**) on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1915 in Plumtree church.

Their son, Douglas Haig Huyton, was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1916 and baptised at Plumtree church on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

Walter enlisted as a Private in the Army Cyclists Corps and moved to the 2nd/7th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment), 171 brigade, 57th division.

He was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918, aged about 28, at the Battle of the Canal du Nord.

Walter is buried at Anneux British Cemetery, France.



# Amos Lawrence

## LEON

Amos Leon was born in Benhall, Suffolk in 1885. He was the son of William and Eliza Leon, of Saxmundham, Suffolk.

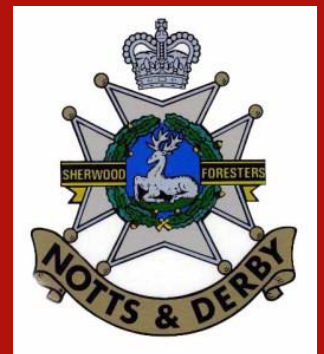
He married Mary Gregg of Harby, Leics in 1915. Their son, Lawrence Ernest, was baptised at Plumtree church on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1916.

Amos enlisted in Nottingham as a Private in the 1st/6th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

He was killed in action on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1918, aged 33, at the Battle of the Beaurevoir Line, which raged from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Amos is buried at Bellicourt British Cemetery, France.

*The Battle of the Beaurevoir Line was part of the Battle of the Hindenberg Line, a series of very large-scale operations to break the Hindenberg Line, a defensive barrier set up by the German Army.*





# Alfred Henry LONGDEN

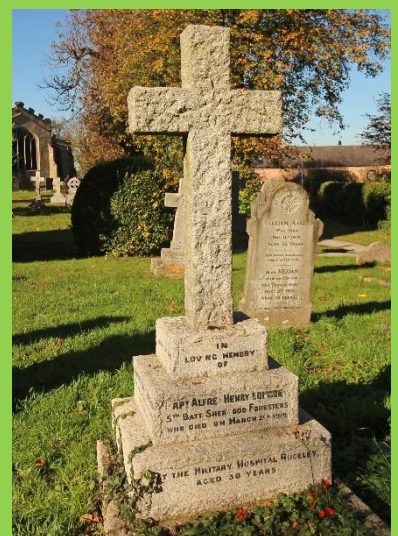
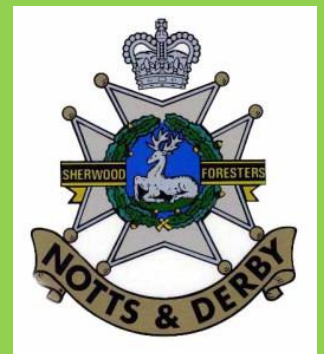
A. Henry Longden was the son of John Alfred and Jane Baxter Longden. He was born in Blackwell, Derbyshire, and subsequently married Amy Matthews on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1912 in Staveley, Derbyshire. They lived at Ash Mount, Plumtree

He served as a Captain in the 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

He died at the Military Hospital, Rugeley, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1919, aged 38.

Henry is buried in Plumtree churchyard (Plot 259).

*There is a commemorative stained glass window in the War Memorial Chapel of St Michael and All Angels Church, Bournemouth dedicated to Alfred Henry Longden. Alfred's father, John Alfred Longden, was Managing Director of Stanton Ironworks and President of the Institution of Mining Engineers. He moved to Bournemouth on his retirement.*



# John William MARTIN

John W. Martin was born in Willoughby-on-the-Wolds in 1885. He was the son of William and Mary Elizabeth Martin who lived in Flawford Cottage, Plumtree in 1911.

He married Eliza Dodson on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916 at Keyworth Primitive Methodist Church

He enlisted in Nottingham on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1914 as a Private in the 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and was discharged on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1919.

He died of influenza and pneumonia on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1919, aged 37, at his home in Pilsley, Derbyshire.

John was buried in Pilsley (St Mary's) churchyard on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1919.

*Before the War John had been a coal miner and had also served for four years with the South Nottinghamshire Hussars.*





# Thomas MITCHELL

Thomas Mitchell was born in 1882, the son of Robert and Sarah Ann Mitchell (née Dabell). He was baptised in Plumtree church on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1883 and lived in Normanton-on-the-Wolds where he was a farm labourer.

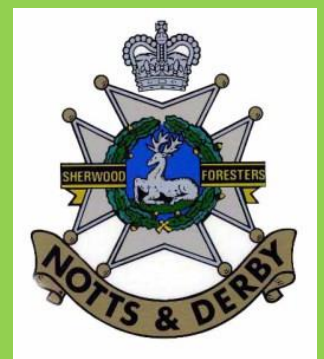
He enlisted in West Bridgford as a Private in the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) and transferred to the Labour Corps.

He died at Leeswood Hall Auxiliary Hospital, Mold, Flintshire, on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918.

Thomas is buried in Plumtree churchyard (Plot 278) in a War Graves Commission grave.

*The **Labour Corps** was raised in 1915 and disbanded in 1921. It was manned by officers and other ranks medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service, many of whom had returned wounded from active service.*

*Men who died in the Labour Corps were commemorated under their original Regiment, with the Labour Corps as a supplementary designation.*



# Herbert PENDLETON

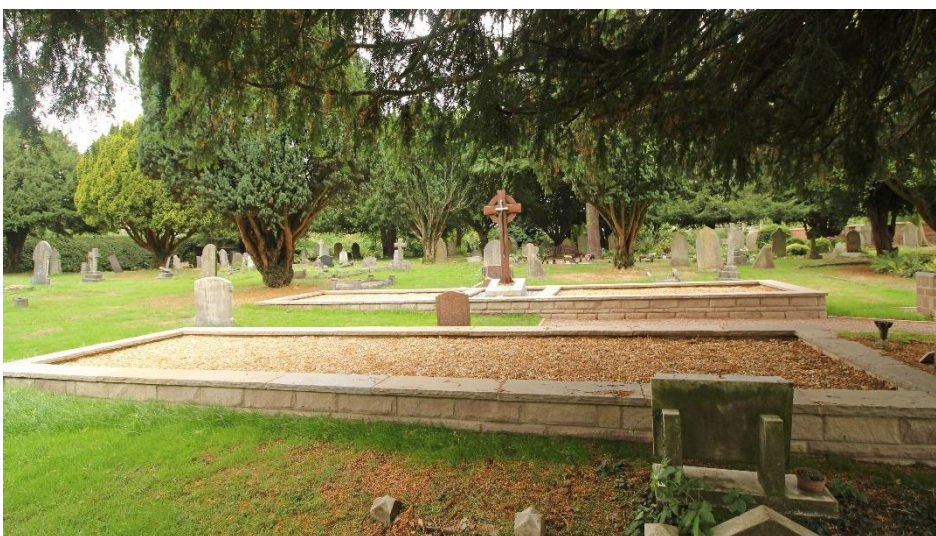
Herbert Pendleton was born in Old Basford in 1878. He lived with his wife Blanche Lester (née Elliott) in Normanton-on-the-Wolds with their four sons: John, George, Thomas and Samuel.

The only civilian listed on Plumtree War Memorial, Herbert worked in the Shell Filling Factory in Chilwell. He was killed in a disaster there on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1918 aged 39. His remains are buried in a mass grave in Attenborough churchyard.

*The ammonium nitrate plant blew up causing the worst accidental munitions explosion of the Great War. In all, over 130 people were killed, of whom only 32 could be positively identified. Hundreds more were injured.*

*The Attenborough churchyard memorial was renovated and rededicated on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.*

*The names of all who died in the explosion are also commemorated on a memorial on the site of the shell filling factory, now part of Chetwynd Barracks.*





# Samuel Benjamin SMITH

S. Benjamin Smith was the son of Samuel Henry and Eliza Smith (née Spittal), who married in Plumtree church on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1884. He was baptised in Plumtree church on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1896. He lived in Normanton-on-the-Wolds and, later moved to Plumtree.

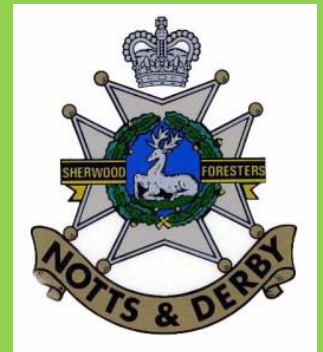
He enlisted in Newark on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1914 as a Private in the 1st/8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

He was killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1915, aged 19, in the Battle of Loos.

Benjamin is buried at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France.

*After his death, a memorial plaque (sometimes called a "Widow's Penny") was presented to his mother.*

*Many years later it was found discarded in a field in Keyworth.*



# George TAYLOR

George Taylor was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1895, the son of William and Mary Taylor (née Astill). He was baptised in Plumtree church on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1895 and lived in Plumtree, one of 12 siblings.

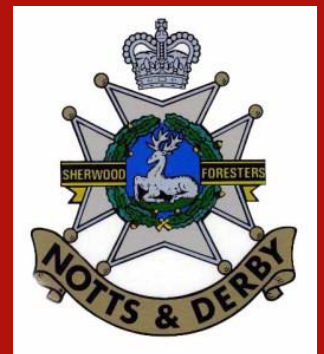
He enlisted as a Private in the 8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) and was discharged on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1919.

He died on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1921, aged 25, at Plumtree, from tuberculous enteritis.

George is buried in Plumtree churchyard (Plot 268).

*George Taylor's name was originally omitted from Plumtree War Memorial as he died **after** it was unveiled and dedicated on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 1921.*

*His name was added in 2014 in time for a re-dedication service conducted by Revd Trevor Kirkman.*





# Montague Bernard **BROWNE**

Montague Bernard Browne was born in Suffolk in 1876, the elder son of Revd Samuel Benjamin Browne (Rector of Plumtree 1883 to 1906) and Mary Browne (née Armitage). His brother was Percival Leathley **BROWNE**.

Montague lived in Plumtree before studying at Cambridge and working for Messrs Hole and Co of Newark, and the Nottingham Brewery Co.

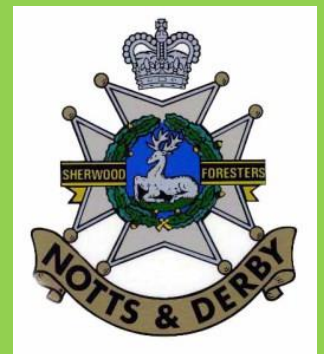
He enlisted as a private in the Sherwood Rangers and became a 2nd Lieutenant with the Sherwood Foresters on 15th July 1915. He served in the 2nd/8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

He died in hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1916, aged 39, from wounds received in action in Dublin on 26<sup>th</sup> April, during the Easter Rising.

Montague is buried at Dean's Grange Cemetery in County Dublin.

*During the Easter Rising (a rebellion by the Irish to overthrow British rule and set up an Irish Republic), the 2nd/7th and 2nd/8th battalions lost over two hundred men killed or wounded on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April.*

*Montague is commemorated by a brass plaque in Plumtree church and his name is included on the Roll of Honour and Parishioners' Memorial in St John the Baptist church, South Collingham.*



# Percival Leathley BROWNE

Percival Leathley Browne was born in Suffolk in 1883, the younger son of Revd Samuel Benjamin Browne (Rector of Plumtree 1883 to 1906) and Mary Browne (née Armitage). His brother was Montague Bernard **BROWNE**.

Percival married Joan Burton at St Andrew's church, Marylebone, London on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1914.

He lived in Plumtree before joining the army and became a Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> (and later the 6<sup>th</sup>) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment.

He died during fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915, aged 32.

Percival is buried at Green Hill Cemetery near Anzac in Turkey.

*From the 6th (Service) Battalion War Diary:*

*1st July 1915 – Mobilised for war and embarked for Gallipoli from Liverpool via Alexandria and Mudros.*

*20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 1915 – At Cape Helles.*

*7<sup>th</sup> August 1915 – Landed at Suvla Bay and the Division engaged in various actions including: The Battle of Scimitar Hill and attack on Hill 60.*

*21<sup>st</sup> December 1915 – Evacuated from Gallipoli; heavy losses from combat, disease and severe weather.*

*Percival is commemorated by a brass plaque in Plumtree church and his name is included on the Roll of Honour and Parishioners' Memorial in St John the Baptist church, South Collingham.*





This document is produced with thanks to the following:

Ancestry ([ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk))

Nottinghamshire Archives, for records from St Mary's, Plumtree and copies of The Deanery Magazine

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website ([cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org))

Imperial War Museums' War Memorials Archive website ([www.ukniwm.org.uk](http://www.ukniwm.org.uk))

We acknowledge the help of Michael Allbrook in the preparation of this document. Michael is building a memorial website, They Gave Their Today, as a 'tribute to those who fell in the World Wars of the 20th Century' ([www.theygavetheirtoday.com/index.html](http://www.theygavetheirtoday.com/index.html))

Our grateful thanks go to Steve and his colleagues at The War Graves Photographic Project for the photographs of many of the headstones used in this document ([twgpp.org](http://twgpp.org)).

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