

# **Stapleford and District Local History Society**



**Newsletter No 37 – Autumn 2014**

**£1.00**

**Free to Members**



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## MEETING REPORTS

14 May 2014

### GONE FOR A SOLDIER: YPRES SALIENT IN WORLD WAR 1 by Jason King

Jason introduced his talk by saying that we were quite a bit older than his usual audience. He takes lots of groups of school children to visit the World War 1 battlefields and cemeteries. He further explained that the word *Salient* just meant 'sticking out bit'. He had given each of us a map to show how the Ypres Salient front line moved during the various battles throughout the four years of war.

Jason stated that during the war the importance of Ypres was mainly psychological. The Germans had first take Ypres (Belgium's most westerly proper town). For some reason they had then retreated from it and Britain moved in. By October 1914 the Germans had taken 95% of 'Brave Little Belgium' and Britain had promised to protect Belgium. The Germans then dug what was virtually one long line of trenches from the North Sea to Switzerland.

After that introduction we were shown an excellent series of slides which covered many subjects. There were pictures of Ypres town, trenches, tunnels, pillboxes, memorials and cemeteries, each with an interesting, and sometimes surprising, story attached.

Some examples of these were:

Slides of not only English and German soldiers' graves, but also graves and memorials for Chinese, Muslim, Jewish and American soldiers. Jason explained how and why they were there.

Pictures of very big and some very small cemeteries. There are a lot of them in that area, some very charming in their way.

Pictures of trenches – some preserved, some reconstructed – reminding us of the atrocious conditions in them. In some places the mud was 20 feet deep. Also a slide showing how most of the trenches were constructed in the shape of an inverted A frame.

Some individual graves. The most special among these was the grave of Valentine Strudwick, who was killed in 1916, when he was only 15 years old.



11 June 2014

**SPINSTER OF NO OCCUPATION?**  
**MARY ELLEN SHAW (1859-19260)**  
**by Rowena Edlin-White**

Rowena told us that when Mary Ellen Shaw died in 1926 her death certificate stated that she was a 'Spinster of No Occupation'. She then began to show that this was a very, very misleading description.

The story of the talk began with a chance meeting in St Peter's Church, when a lady had approached Rowena and said 'I think you are the person to write about my aunty'. She was then introduced to a vast resource of diaries and notebooks left by Mary Ellen Shaw.

Mary was born in 1859 in Smithy Row, Nottingham. Her father, John Shaw, was a jeweller and then became a Registrar, and part of Mary's childhood was to help him copy out the Registry 'Returns'. Her mother came from a family farm in Wilford, which remained in family hands and Mary spent a lot of time there. Her mother died when Mary was only 15.

She started her diaries on her sixteenth birthday. Rowena read us the very first entry. She was, by then, a governess and she also taught many Bible classes and undertook a lot of visiting for the church.

In time men came to admire her and their names began to appear in her diary. Two of these were Hubert Clarke and Sambourne Cook. One fascinating entry in the diary reads 'Mas dessik em', which puzzled Rowena for a time until she realised that it was written backwards – 'Sam kissed me'. These two men stayed in Mary's family by marrying her sisters.

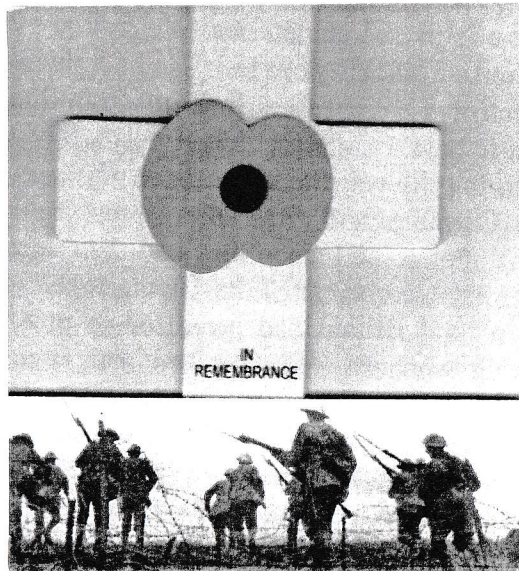
In her next diary Mary is employed as governess by various families and is continuing her Bible classes and church visits. She founded some *Evening Classes for Women*. These were societies formed to try to prevent women from spending their time in pubs.

A crisis occurred in 1896 when Mary's sister Lucy died. She had been an alcoholic for many years. Mary moved in with Hubert to help look after the children.

In 1900 Mary had a change of view and realised that, although she had spent many years helping women and girls, there was work to be done with men. She set up *Miss Shaw's Men's Bible Classes*. She

The area known as Tyne Cott, now on the edge of a cemetery, which was so called because the pillboxes reminded the soldiers of the types of single-storey cottages found in Newcastle.

A slide reminding us that in Ypres the Last Post is sounded every evening at the Menin Gate. Surprisingly, the audience for this is not shrinking with the passing of the years, but is growing.



This was a fascinating talk and was made all the more interesting because many of the slides included pictures of school children, and some of the stories included telling of the reactions of these children when they were shown the mementoes of the dreadful battles.

Jason had brought a lot of artefacts from the War. These were investigated enthusiastically by the audience during the tea break. It was really good to have items that we could see and touch and think about.

This excellent talk, by an obviously knowledgeable speaker, gave a graphic and detailed reminder of the horrendous War that started one hundred years ago.

John Shaw



decided that educating the men would be an effective way of helping the women. She was even known to patrol the pubs on paydays and send the men home. The Bible classes grew very quickly and Mary even had a hymn book printed especially for them.

In order to pay for this charity work, Mary had to 'network' with the gentry around Nottingham. She became a firm favourite with the Duchess of Portland, who attended a lot of Mary's larger events.



In WW1 a lot of the men from the Bible classes went away to fight and Mary kept a very detailed record of what happened to them all. (She helped persuade the Duchess of Portland to send rabbits from the Estate to the troops.)

In 1926, when Mary died, her funeral was a huge event with three clergymen, the Duke of Portland and several hundred followers. The Reverend John Freeman spoke at a special memorial service, saying: 'She will always be remembered as a great and successful worker of whom the city may be justly proud.'

Rowena pointed out the irony of the difference between this statement and the details on the death certificate. Far from being a 'Spinster of No Occupation', Mary had often been in paid employment as a governess and teacher but, more importantly, had been an unpaid, industrious and effective social worker.

Rowena's talk was very easy to listen to as she created a friendly, warm and yet very informative atmosphere. The extracts she chose from the diaries and notebooks were brilliant. They were often humorous and very effective in producing a picture of Mary Ellen Shaw. This was a well prepared and very successful talk. Both the story itself and the way it was presented were fascinating – much enjoyed and highly recommended.

Rowena had brought along a selection of artefacts for us to look at, which included Mary's actual diaries and notebooks.

John Shaw

Spinster of No Occupation was published in 2007 and is available for sale (£6.00) or it can be borrowed from the Society's library.

9 July 2014

**'STAPLEFORD IN WORLD WAR TWO'**  
**by Barbara Brooke, Nigel Brooks and John Shaw**

Following on from a very successful power point presentation of our WW2 book to the Bramcote History Group last year, Barbara, Nigel and John now repeated the exercise for our Society.

Of course in an hour it is only possible to give a taster of some accounts of experiences of the more than seventy people interviewed and to show a small selection of the photographs.

As at Bramcote, the presentation was much appreciated by all present.

Barbara Brooke



13 August 2014

### **'MURDER MOST FOUL'**

**by Tony Horton**

The murder of the Drummond family, Sir Jack, his wife Lady Anne and their daughter Elizabeth, took place in 1952 and Tony stressed that 'the world was much different then'.

Jack Drummond was born in 1891 and was brought up by his Aunt Mabel. In 1940 he and Anne wrote a book called 'The Englishman's Food – a History of Five Centuries of English Diet'. This book came to the attention of Lord Wootton and Jack was asked to give advice on rationing in World War Two. He organised the distribution of the 'Government Loaf', dried eggs, concentrated orange juice etc. In 1944 he was knighted for "Services to War Food". In 1945 he moved to Nottingham to work for the Boots Company and moved into Spencer House at Nuthall.

In July 1952 he and his wife and daughter and another family (Professor Marrian and wife and two daughters) went on holiday to Nice in Southern France. They visited Saint Remy and Digne (where there was a bull run) and, while returning to their holiday home on 4 August, they camped by the roadside for the night. The following morning a local farmer found them dead.

Tony carefully described the crime scene and the investigation led by Commissaire Edmond Sebeille. He explained how the murder became a mystery. The crime was investigated very poorly. The public were allowed to contaminate the crime scene. The detectives engaged in very public, very strong disagreements. There were no witnesses apart from the local farming family, the Domenicis. They were closely questioned at length and could not come up with any consistent story.

The investigation dragged on and on. Eventually in 1954 Gaston Domenici, the father of the family, was charged with the murders. He was a simple French peasant and is reported to have said 'I will be the martyr'. The trial lasted nine days. There were seven jurors and three judges. Much of the evidence given by Gaston and his sons Clovis and Gustave was contradictory and unlikely.

Gaston was sentenced to death by guillotine. He stayed on death row for three years and eventually his sentence was commuted to a life sentence. He was released on health/compassionate grounds in 1960.

The question remains as to why Jack Drummond and his family were murdered. It was not robbery – all their clothes and money and their passports were found at the scene.

Even to this day there is a lot of interest in this story. It is a *cause celebre* in France and is the source of several conspiracy theories. Some think it was linked to Sir Jack's work with the French Resistance during the War, some that Sir Jack's role at Boots made him the subject of industrial espionage. Hardly anyone thinks that Gaston Domenici was actually the perpetrator. His grandson campaigned for a long time about his innocence.

The story was the subject of a film by Claude Bernard-Aubert and a documentary for British television by Orson Wells.

Although not the advertised programme, this was a fascinating story with a strong local connection and was very well illustrated with many slides of people and places.

The murder is still regarded as a mystery and there are many websites devoted to it.

John Shaw

10 September 2014

### **YESTERDAY ON FILM** **LONG EATON IN THE 1930s**

**by Wyvern Amateur Video Enthusiasts (WAVE)**

In the introduction we were told that the main feature films of the evening were found in a skip! The Long Eaton Co-op was having a clear out. Many film reels were found, about 24,000 feet of film!

These had been shot by a Mr Poyser, who worked at the Long Eaton Co-op. They were all silent and have had to be 'cleaned up', then sound added.



We were shown eight different films:

1) Herrburger Brooks

This film showed the manufacturing process of the keyboards of this once famous piano maker. It was very detailed and from the soundtrack we learned the names of the workers shown, all of whom smiled at the camera. An interesting and charming film, this included the making of piano keys using real ivory.

2) Trentosaurus

This was a modern film made by the WAVE group and, although pleasant and humorous, was a bit too amateurish for me. (Trentosaurus – an imaginary dinosaur found in the river Trent)

3) Ill Shod to Well Shod

This fascinating film traced the story of a boy damaging his shoes and how they were repaired by the Co-op shoe repairers. There was a lot of 30s period detail and it was shown in an old-fashioned way. The soundtrack consisted of a simple piano track with the story told by captions in between various sequences.

4) DIY Man

Another 'modern' film. It was short and humorous and featured the problems posed by flat-pack furniture.

5) 36/37

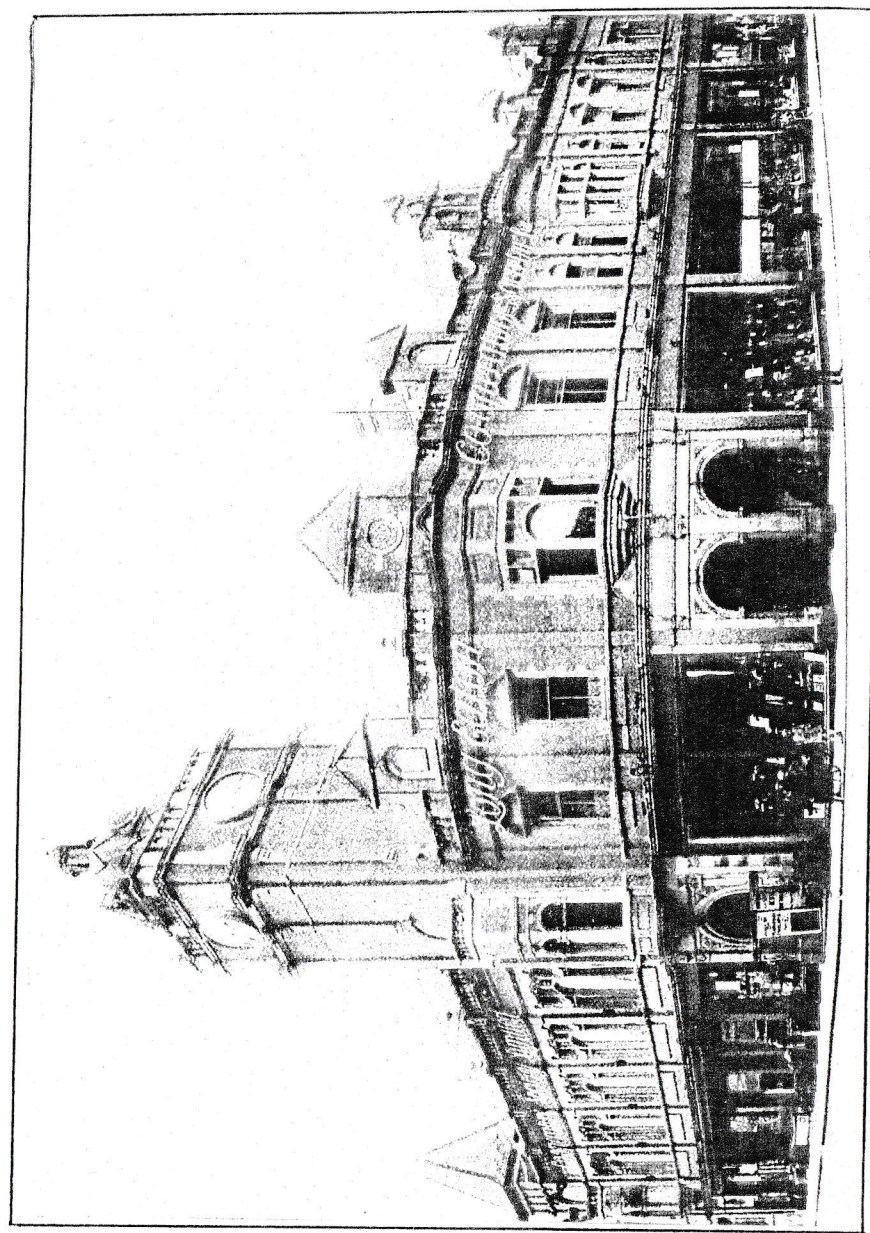
This was a newsreel type film and featured the opening of the new bandstand in West Park. This was followed by a fashion parade on the roof of the Co-op building. The next sequence was about lace making and it finished with the Coronation Parade through the town to West Park.

6) In Search of Lemurs

Another modern film made about a trip to Madagascar.

7) 1939 Carnival

In 1939 the Carnival was a big event. There were four separate huge street parades in eight days! There were twelve bands. Once on West Park there were various activities, including sports competitions. All the money raised went to the Hospital (No NHS for another nine years).





There were some hints of the onset of war. There was a whole group of the Women's Voluntary Service marching in the parades and one of the floats was an Army Tank. We were reminded that some of the young people marching and smiling would soon be called up to take part in WW2.

8) Easy Money

Another modern film. Short and a good joke.

This was an enjoyable evening's entertainment. Some of the period detail was captivating and it was a pleasant change from slides and talk.

John Shaw

08 October 2014

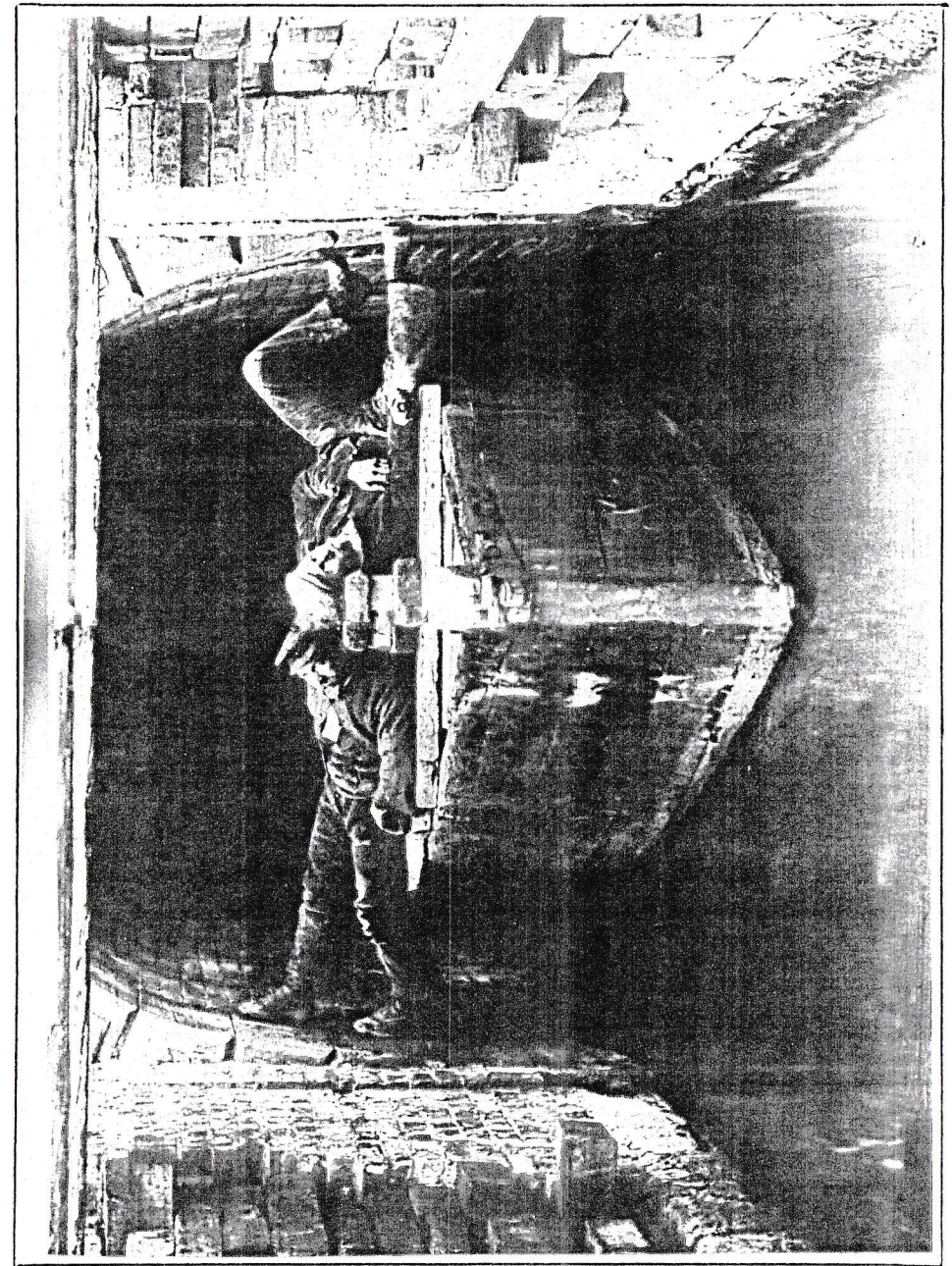
### THE HISTORY OF CROMFORD CANAL

by Barrie Lings

Barrie began the talk by explaining that he had spent many years as a Peak Park Warden and so was very well acquainted with the Cromford Canal.

Cromford Canal is fourteen miles long and has fourteen locks. It stretches from Cromford to Ambergate and then to the top of the Erewash Canal at Langley Mill Basin. The canal is slightly wider and slightly deeper than most English canals. It has four tunnels, including the very long Butterley Tunnel, three branches and is served by three reservoirs.

The Erewash Canal (opened 1777) was a very profitable venture and this inspired the digging of the Cromford Canal. The plan for the canal was conceived in 1789 and it was opened in 1793. It cost £83,000. The main shareholders were the Hurt, Arkwright, Beresford, Nightingale and Gell families. It was designed by William Jessop and the chief engineer was Benjamin Outram.



Boat emerging from a tunnel on the Cromford Canal



The plan was to take the coal from the Erewash coalfields to Manchester. It proved too difficult to continue the canal through the Edale area and so it stopped at Cromford.

However, it did become a valuable transport link for lead, limestone and other rock and stone from local quarries. The canal's importance was enhanced by the very poor roads in the Peak District. The coal was taken down to Trent Lock and then up the Trent and Mersey Canal. Later, a wharf was built at the Cromford end and a railway link was made (Cromford and High Peak Railway) to Whaley Bridge.

We were shown various pictures of locks, bridges, tunnels, towpaths and reservoirs, each with an interesting story or fact attached. The canal is now overseen by the Friends of the Cromford Canal and restoration and upkeep work is done by volunteers.

Barrie pointed out that, because of the richness of the fauna and flora, a good part of the canal is regarded as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Nature Reserve.

Obviously, one of Barrie Lings' favourite projects in this organisation is the restoration of the Leawood Pump House and engine. This was built in 1849 to pump water from the River Derwent up into the Cromford Canal.

The second half of the talk was mainly about this pump house with many 'before and after' slides, quite a few statistics and pictures of volunteers working the engine.

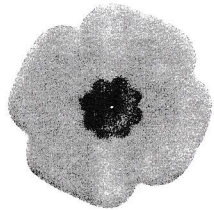
This was a fascinating talk. As a frequent visitor to Cromford I had often been puzzled as to what the canal was doing there. This talk answered my questions in a very thought-provoking and enjoyable way.

John Shaw

## **Remembering the fallen of Stapleford in World War One**

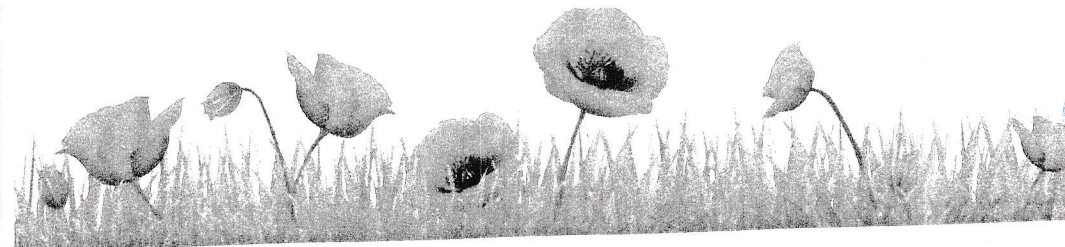
**St Helen's Church, Stapleford  
Every Saturday until 15 November 2014  
10.00am until 12 noon**

### **DISPLAY**



**Near the World War One Memorial a display  
will show the results of recent research  
about the local men who died, their places of  
birth, military numbers, ranks and  
regiments, when they died and where they  
are remembered.**

**A member of the Local History Society will  
be available to answer your questions and  
help anyone interested in doing research of  
their own.**





## WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATION

### STAPLEFORD'S FALLEN REMEMBERED

I think we have all been impressed by the large number and high quality of the many publications, TV and radio programmes and exhibitions that have been mounted to commemorate the centenary of World War One.

Committee members of our Society assembled at St Helen's Church on 26 July, near to Stapleford's World War One Memorial, to launch our display, which is based on extensive research by Malcolm Jarvis. He explained his work, described in the nearby flier, and told us of the additional names he had found and how copies of documents about Albert Keeling, the first local man to die, were also displayed.

Detailed lists have been compiled of other sources of information for visitors to take away if they wish to carry out further research.

A rota of committee members ensures that at least two people are on duty each Saturday morning to help with any queries.

I am pleased to report that a steady trickle of visitors has been attracted to the display, some local people because of family connections, older members explaining to younger ones the wartime contributions of relatives, students wanting information for school and college projects, and others simply from curiosity. All have signed the Visitors' Book and have commented on the value of the exhibition in keeping alive the memories of the contributions and sacrifices made by ordinary people.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find reports from local newspapers of the time, recounting some individual Stapleford men's experiences, researched by Nigel Brooks.

*Barbara Brooke, Chairman*

## DEACON HOUSE WAREHOUSES LTD 54 DERBY ROAD, STAPLEFORD

Many of you will know Deacon House Warehouses Ltd, the carpet shop on the corner of Derby Road and William Road.

The business was established in 1894 when Herbert Hutchison used to walk around the neighbourhood, selling items from a pedlar's tray suspended from his neck.

The shop was constructed at some time early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and we can see from the photograph that it was the premises of F W Hutchison & Son. A large sign states that it was a garage and that they undertook cycle and motor cycle repairs. Bundles of tyres are leaning against the shop windows and clothes are displayed in other windows, as well as other household items, and they are described in a directory as 'drapers'.

Where was the garage? It was the other side of Derby Road in an area now part of the Co-op supermarket car park, and was to the rear of houses built fronting to Derby Road, accessed up a slight slope from the main road.

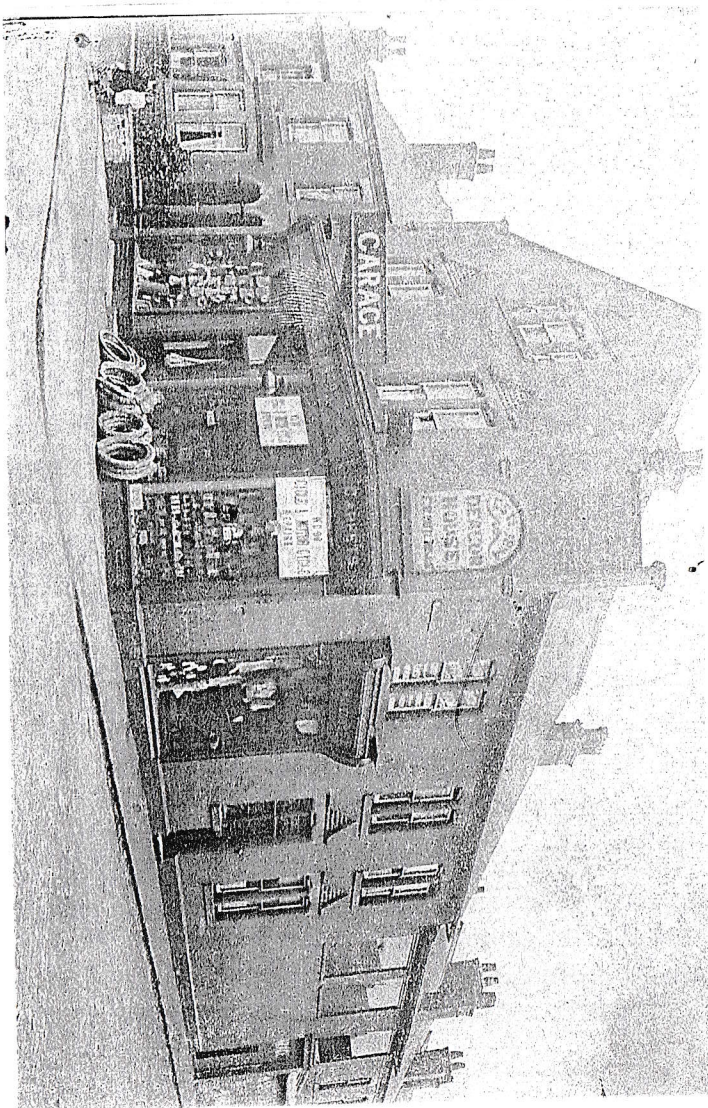
Two weeks ago Mr R Hull presented the Society with a receipted invoice from F W Hutchison & Son, Deacon Garage, for work done on his car on 9 August 1963.

Very interesting prices!

Barbara Brooke



F W Hutchison & Son, Deacon House, established 1894



Telegrams: "HUTCHISON, STAPLEFORD."

Telephone: SANDIACRE 2343

Official Repairers  
to A.A. & M.U.

CUSTOMERS' MOTORS ARE ONLY STORED OR DRIVEN BY  
OUR STAFF AT OWNER'S RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY.

DEACON GARAGE,  
STAPLEFORD, NOTTS.

..... 9/8/1963  
Mrs R Hall

~~Bought~~ of F. W. HUTCHISON & SON  
Garage for 30 Cars

A 55 NFV 802

Service change oil, gear box,  
and Rear axle, points & Plugs set  
and started, New Fan Belt

Service	10 6
Plugs & Points	4 6
Gear Box & Points XL	8 3
Rear axle 2 Points Hypo	4 10
New Fan Belt	9 6
	<u>£1-17-7</u>



## **REMEMBERING NORMAN CHAMBERS**

**1931 – 2014.**

Norman Chambers died on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 after suffering Alzheimer's disease for a number of years. This must have been a terrible blow to a man who had always been active both physically and mentally and always keen to help others.

He was the last member of the Chambers family to own the familiar Pencil Factory (known as the Garden Pencil Works) on Derby Road, Stapleford. The firm was started by his grandfather, Frederick who acquired the site in 1915. Norman took over the firm from his father, John Finlay Chambers after an apprenticeship which required him to spend time in all the various departments. This gave him an insight into the whole pencil manufacturing process. Chambers had a reputation for looking after its workers- amongst the perks were free milk, outings and parties, and music while you work.

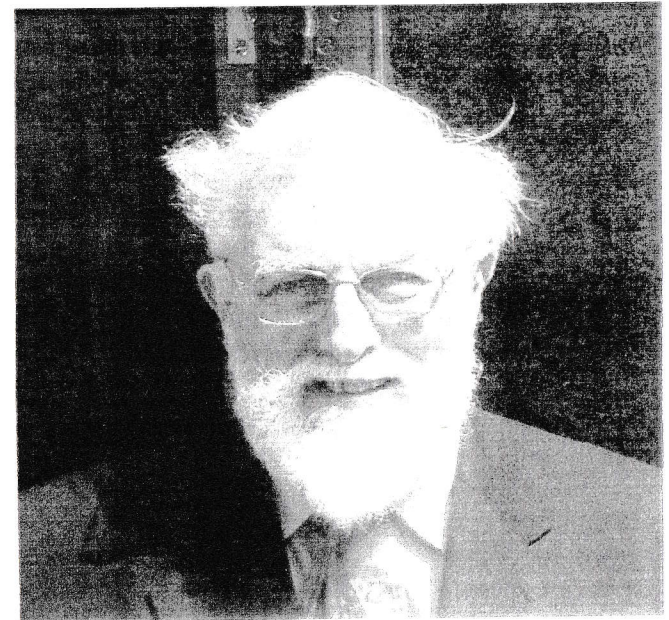
During the 1970s the firm was affected by the credit-crunch which resulted in a move to smaller premises in Sandiacre. Then in 1990 the firm went into receivership but Norman continued to do some work at home in his garage, eventually moving to a small unit in Long Eaton.

Norman was highly regarded in the pencil making world and at his funeral there was a touching tribute read out from a colleague who works at a large, well-known pencil manufacturing firm.

Recently the firm has moved back to Stapleford and they are hoping to return to pencil production in the hands of one of Norman's sons, Tim.

Norman will be greatly missed by his family and friends and the community. He was particularly generous to the History Society giving us photographs

and documents, particularly a letter from the BBC giving permission to transmit broadcasts throughout the factory.



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Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



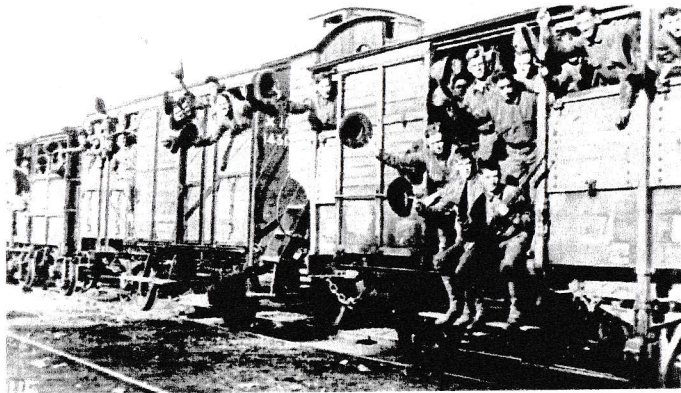
### Troops trains.

From the Ilkeston Pioneer 21/8/1914.

Stapleford and Sandiacre on Sunday were full of excitement by the passing through these towns of vast quantities of war material and a large number of troop trains. The realities of war were brought home very forcibly, for from early morning till late at night hundreds of onlookers crowded the various bridges watching with intense interest this great transport of our country's defenders on their way to take up their appointed positions in the scheme of home defence. The rumble of baggage and gun wagons, horse trucks and coaches was continued throughout the night, the North British, L. and N.W Railway, and the N.E. Railway Companies' rolling stock all are being represented on these southward bound trains.

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Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



Picture from the internet. Editor.

### PROSPECTS AT STAPLEFORD

From the Ilkeston Pioneer dated 28/8/1914.

Recruiting in Stapleford and Sandiacre for the New Army of 100,000 men authorised under Lord Kitchener's scheme proceeds rather slowly. Although it is gratifying to be able to record that a fair number of men have responded to the call to arms, yet the result so far is not nearly what it ought to be, considering the country's need. The Boy Scout movement is receiving quite an influx of new members. The Scouts, who have rendered valuable services in many directions, are now to be seen attending the schools at Sandiacre in full uniform. On enquiry we find that at present there are no large number of cases of immediate distress existing either in Stapleford or Sandiacre. Several of the largest employers in the district are most generously assisting to obviate acute distress by paying part wages to the dependents of their employees who have responded to their country's call, either in the naval or military services. Amongst these are the Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., and the Cossall Colliery Co. Organisations have, however, been called into existence to deal with the distress which sooner or later is bound to make itself felt.

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Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



### **STAPLEFORD PICTURE HOUSE BURNT.**

**From the Ilkeston Pioneer 18.12.1914.**

The Stapleford Picturedrome, commonly known as the "Cosy Corner", was burnt to the ground about midnight on Wednesday.

The "Picturedrome" was a large wooden structure on the Derby Road, and it blazed so furiously that it presented a scene of charred ruins in less than an hour. The Fire Brigade were quite unable to save any of the building.

The damage is estimated at about £400, and is covered by insurance.



Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.

### **Private Bertie Stanley Fletcher.**

**From the Ilkeston Pioneer Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 1915.**

It is with regret we have to record the death of yet another of Stapleford's heroic sons, Private Bertie Stanley Fletcher, of the Royal Marines Light Infantry, Deal Battalion, aged 19 years. He was the son of Mr and Mrs Samuel Fletcher, of King Edward Street, Stapleford. The deceased was drafted out some time ago to the Dardanelles, and after seeing considerable fighting was seized with enteric fever and conveyed home. He reached Plymouth in a very weak condition, dying in the Royal Naval Hospital of that town on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. The funeral took place on Monday, at Plymouth, with full military honours. Amongst other active service seen by Pte. Fletcher was a share in Antwerp's heroic defence when with other Stapleford comrades he shared the hardships of that brilliant defence and arduous retreat. A memorial service was conducted on Monday morning at the Stapleford Parish Church, the Vicar (Rev. Crawford Hillis) officiating. Mr Arthur Stevenson presided at the organ. The choir boys entered the Church bearing aloft the Union Jack with black ribbons.

Bertie is buried in the Plymouth (Ford Park) Cemetery.

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Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



**Private Arthur Mosley**  
**From the Ilkeston Pioneer**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1915.**

It is with regret that we have to record the loss of another of Stapleford's brave five hundred, viz., Private Arthur Mosley, aged 23 years, of Albert Street, Stapleford, who at the outbreak of the war was a member of the South Notts. Hussars (T.F.). He was drafted out some months ago with his regiment to Egypt, and later was engaged in the Suvla Bay landing, where unfortunately he met with a terrible accident being a victim in a shrapnel shell explosion, which severely injured him about the head. He was removed to the Hospital Ship, but passed away five days later, and was buried at sea.



Trooper A. MOSLEY (of Stapleford).

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 Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.

**Rifleman David Walker.**  
**From the Ilkeston Pioneer, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**1915.**

David Walker, Rifleman 14386 of the Scottish Rifles, is reported missing. This young Stapleford soldier was formerly in the employ of the Premier Gas Engine, Co, Ltd., Sandiacre, as a fitter enlisting soon after the outbreak of war, he was drafted out to France last July, and bore a gallant part in the struggle out there. During the great offensive last September, he was with his regiment, which was heavily engaged, principally at Loos. Since then he is reported as stated above. He was 21 years of age and was youngest son of Mr. Joseph Walker, of Cyril Avenue, Stapleford, who is also engaged by the Premier Gas Engine, Co, Ltd.

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 Confirmed killed in action 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915, he is commemorated on the Loos memorial.



REF. DAVID WALKER.

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 Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.

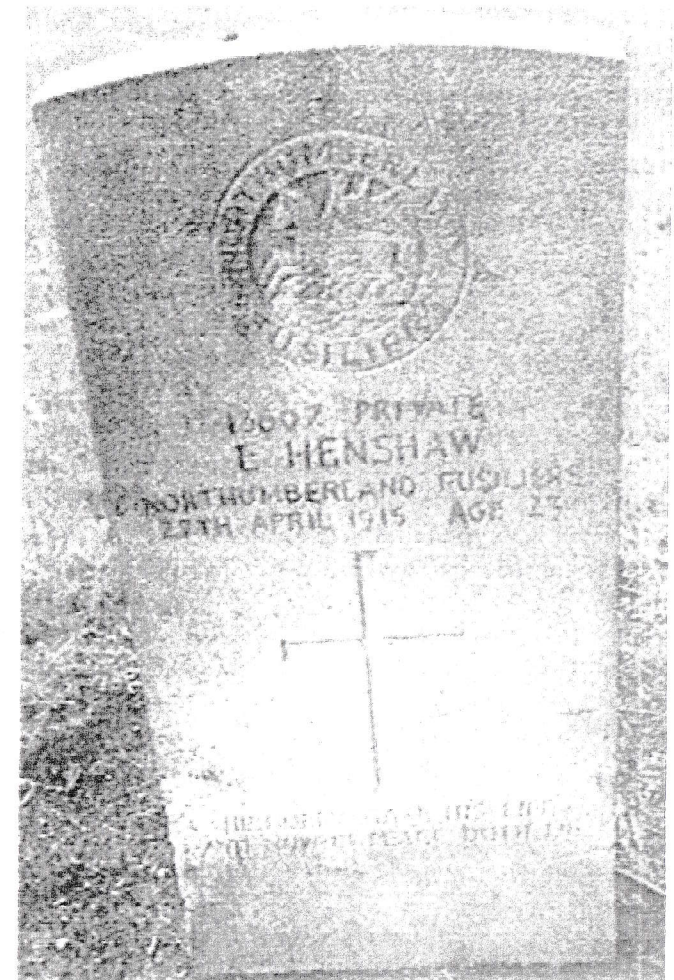


### Private Elijah Henshaw

**From the Ilkeston Pioneer Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> 1915.**

Private 13607 Elijah Henshaw of the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment who was laid to rest in the Stapleford Cemetery. Private Henshaw was one of the first to enlist when war broke out. During the course of his training he contracted a chill and was sent to the Military Hospital at Tring, where he received every kindness and attention from the hospital staff, but unfortunately the chill rapidly developed into consumption, with the sad result that he died on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the early age of 23 years. It was a great consolation to his aged parents to have permission from the military authorities to be at his bedside during his last few days of his illness, and afterwards by the kindness of the Colonel and Officers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers for it to be made possible to bring the deceased home and bury him in his native village. Private Henshaw was a favourite with all who knew him, and on Saturday hundreds lined the way to the cemetery to pay a last tribute of respect and esteem to one, who, as the Vicar, in a few kindly remarks at the graveside said, had died for the honour of his country just as much as if he had fallen in the trenches.

The funeral procession left Lot Street headed by the Stapleford and Sandiacre Prize Band playing the 'Dead March'. A short burial service was conducted in the Cemetery Church by the Rev. Crawford Hillis. The Vicar's touching and sympathetic address at the graveside will long be remembered. This Stapleford family has sent four of its sons into the Army, and three remaining brothers followed in the funeral procession, besides several other soldiers who are at Stapleford on leave.



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Article and photograph courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



### Harold Chamberlin

From the Ilkeston Pioneer 19<sup>th</sup> November 1915.

Mr J.W. Chamberlin, of No. 8 Upper Orchard Street, Stapleford has received news of the death of his son Harold, in action, on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The deceased soldier was only 22 years of age, and belonged to the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He enlisted with a number of others, from Cory's Wagon Works, Toton, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, and went to France on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The following is a copy of a letter received by his father from Mr. R.J. Spencer, Secretary to Messrs. Cory and Sons, Ltd., dated 26<sup>th</sup> October, from Mark Lane, London:- "Dear Sir, - The directors have heard with the greatest regret of the death of your son, whilst on active service, and I am specially instructed by them to write and express their deep sympathy with you in your loss and their sorrow at the loss of such a good employee. His death must, of course, be a very great blow and a terrible grief to you, but the directors hope and feel that the knowledge you have that he met his end whilst doing his duty and serving his country in her hour of need will in some measure help you to bear your sorrow."

Harold is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, France.



Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.

### Private Edward T. Bunce.

From the Ilkeston Advertiser dated 24<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

The sad news has reached his poor wife that Private Edward T. Bunce, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> King's Royal Rifles, has lost his life in action on the West Front. He was reported as wounded and missing after the battle of Loos on September 25<sup>th</sup>, and since then the only news of him that came along was that he had been picked up wounded by the hospital personnel. Now all doubts have been set at rest, by the sad news that he was killed or died from his wounds in the battle and was buried by the Lancaster's a few yards from the German lines. The late Pte. Bunce, whose loss will be deeply regretted by many of his former comrades, as well as by his bereaved relatives, formerly lived at Crompton Street, Hallam Fields, leaving three years ago when he got married. He was 33 years of age, and leaves a widow and a child of two years, who resides at 13 Frederick Road, Stapleford.



Late PTE. E. T. BUNCE.

Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



**Private Geo. Thos. Phipps.**

**From the Ilkeston Advertiser**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 1916.**

A former Stanton Iron Works employee has laid down his life for his country in the person of Pte. Geo. Thos. Phipps, whose home was at 29, Church Street, Stapleford. Enlisting on 4<sup>th</sup> August, the moment the war broke out, he went with the Royal Naval Brigade to Antwerp, and was afterwards transferred to the Dardanelles, landing there on 25<sup>th</sup> April, and being killed on November 13<sup>th</sup>, not having a day off the whole of the time. The following letter was written to his father by Sub-Lieut. F.L. Jackson, the Ilkeston solicitor who is serving with the Royal Naval Division at the Dardanelles: -

Dear Sir, - I expect you will by now have received the sad news about your son, George Phipps, who, I regret to say was killed in action on the night of Sunday last, the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Your son had been in the platoon until within about three weeks of his death, when he joined the bombing section which was then being formed. Last Saturday night he was one of a party of bombers who went out with the intention of bombing a Turkish barricade. He was the first man to look over the enemy's parapet, and was unfortunately shot by a Turk who happened to see him. I may say that this Turk was shot by one of our officers almost immediately afterwards. I was exceedingly sorry to learn of George's death, as he had always been one of my most reliable men. About a month ago when a volunteer was required for a particular dangerous bit of work your son came forward and offered to do it. I was particularly interested in him, as I live at Ilkeston, and we often had little talks about Ilkeston, Stapleford and district. He was acting as a leading seaman when

he left my platoon, and the bombing officer has told me what great reliance he placed upon him, and that he had intended having him rated as a leading seaman very shortly. I have frequently heard the men saying how much they felt his loss and what a good companion he had been to them. I wish to express to you and the members of your family the deep sympathy which all of us feel for you in your great loss. I trust that your great sorrow may be somewhat alleviated by the knowledge that he was doing his duty and doing it well. I would have written before, but I expected that the bombing officer would be writing to you. Unfortunately he has been taken ill, and has gone to hospital, so I do not know whether he has written to you or not. When I get back to Ilkeston I shall be very pleased to see you at any time either at my house in Park Avenue or at my office in the Market Place. - with deepest sympathy, I remain your sincerely,

F.L.H. Jackson  
(Sub-Lieutenant  
R.N.V.R.)



Pte Geo. Thos. Phipps.

Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



### **STAPLEFORD SOLDIER'S DEATH AND FUNERAL.**

**From the Ilkeston Pioneer dated 14.1.1916.**

Yet another of Stapleford's gallant heroes has passed away, at his home in Stapleford and was buried with full military honours on Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Viz., Private Edward Henry Arnold. (Number 22836), of Cambridge House, Nottingham Road, who enlisted on January 30<sup>th</sup> Last, in the Notts and Derbys (Sherwood Foresters) at Nottingham. He had previously seen service from April 4<sup>th</sup> 1902, being three years with the colours, and eight years in the Army Reserve. He was, early after enlistment, drafted out to France, where he was in action on several occasions during the engagements of last spring. Unfortunately at Hill 60, during the terrible fighting which raged there for several days, he was gassed and severely wounded in the thigh. He was conveyed from the battlefield and brought to the military hospital at Endell Street, London, where after long medical attention; he was brought home to recuperate. However, he was unable to shake off the after effects of the injuries he had sustained, and was ultimately discharged on July 30<sup>th</sup>, after having served in all 182 days, with an excellent record of character from his military authority.

The funeral took place on Thursday, at the Stapleford Cemetery, in the presence of a large assemblage, amongst who were a number of soldiers. The coffin was borne from his residence, shoulder high, covered with the Union Jack, by a party of the Sherwood's stationed at Nottingham. It was preceded by the Stapleford and Sandiacre Town Prize Band (under the conductorship of Mr. Chas. Atkin), which as the cortege slowing passed through the thickly lined streets played the Dead March in "Saul." On arrival at

the Cemetery, an appropriate service was conducted by the Rev. C. Hillis (vicar), the band also playing "Marseillaise," and the "Last Post" was sounded. There were a large number of wreaths. Prior to his enlistment last January, Private Arnold was manager of the Stapleford Holborn Club, where he was greatly respected, and laid down his duties there to undertake military service for his country.



LATE PTE. E. H. ARNOLD.

Courtesy of Nigel Brooks.



**PRICE LIST of items for sale at Society Meetings**  
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Society Newsletters – some back copies available at reduced  
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TREASURER – Pat Hodgkiss – 0115-9469152

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Spring  
2015 issue of the Newsletter is 31 March 2015.  
Material can be given to any of the above named.  
This is YOUR newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!**

Front cover:  
Soldiers marching to War, Stapleford, 1914