



Issue: 65 January 2020

Bicester Historian

The monthly newsletter for Bicester Local History Society

Counting the Days

This year we have once again teamed up with Coles Bookstore to produce a BLHS calendar.

Taking local villages as our theme, we've included a selection of old photographs, each from a different village within the BLHS area.



It has been on sale since November, so if you don't already have a copy then go along to Coles to pick one up today. As in previous years, all members get a discount on the regular purchase price when they show their membership card.

- Matthew Hathaway

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Dates For Your Diary

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| Bicester Advertiser Local History Article | 30th January |
| February Newsletter Submissions Deadline | 7th February |
| Picture Oxon Talk | 17th February - 7:30pm see page 7 |
| Bicester Advertiser Local History Article | 27th February |
| RAF Upper Heyford Talk | 16th March - 7:30pm see page 7 |

AVAILABLE NOW!

Our 2020 calendar. On sale now in Coles Bookstore.



14th January 1860

THE LATE WILLIAM PAXTON, ESQ.

On Sunday the 11th ult., died William Paxton Esq., of Langford, near Bicester, at the age of 76.

Himself a man of some mark, he was the representative of the family of which Sir Joseph Paxton, MP, whose name, as the architect of the Crystal Palace of '51, has become familiar in the four quarters of the globe, is a member.

Some four years since, he was seriously affected by paralysis, which, while physically prostrating him, reduced his mind to child-like simplicity and serenity. A fine example of the British yeoman, he exerted considerable influence - and ever for good and elevating objects - in his neighbourhood, in which he lived, in the affection or respect of all, for many years.

As the local representative of Sir Edward, as he had been formerly of Sir Gregory Page Turner, Mr Paxton had the superintendence of an estate extending over the several parishes of Bicester, Blackthorn, Launton, etc. This office brought him into immediate contact with the poor, by whom he was, as their ever active benefactor, deservedly beloved.

He was an early promoter of the allotment system, adopted on the property in question with so much success, that, a quarter of a century since, the peasantry presented him with a testimonial, at once an evidence of their improved material prosperity and gratitude, and flattering to his sagacity and humanity.

"Live and let live" was indeed with him an active principle, and not the symbol merely of territorial power on the emblazoned paraphernalia of a politico-agricultural feast. It would be here simply supererogatory to dilate on his private worth. Who knew him best esteemed him most; and the writer of this imperfect notice mourns as a son his loss.

Langford has no repute as a hall of revelry, but half a century of genuine hospitality, though the Giver of All Good beckons the possessor to his "Harvest Home!" will secure it be regarded as the seat of a virtuous family gifted with ever extending sympathies.

5th January 1900

DINNER TO THE BICESTER VOLUNTEERS GOING TO THE WAR

The local men who have volunteered for active service in South Africa with the Imperial Yeomanry proceeded to Oxford on Wednesday last, and on the evening before were entertained to a farewell dinner at the "White Hart" by the members of the Bicester troop of the Q.O.O.H. Quarter-Master Sergt. T. Grimsley occupied the chair, and to his right and left sat Corp. F. Goble and Messrs. C. Boyles and F. Clifton, who were the guests of the evening. Unfortunately Trooper J. King, of Waterloo Farm, who makes the little band up to four, was unable to be present, having recently met with an accident.

Besides these there were present Sergt.-Major Matthison, Sergt. J.I. Castleman, Sergt.-Trumpeter King, Corp. W. Finch, Corp. J. Stevens, and several troopers, together with a number of the public. The latter included Messrs. J. Butler and J. Ward, ex-members of the troop, who both volunteered but failed to pass the doctor. Mr George Plant also failed in this respect. Trooper Castleman, one of the best shots in the regiment, was debarred from going on account of his youth, and Trooper Martin, another who volunteered, received from Col. Viscount Valentia a note to the effect that he thought him too old for the Imperial Yeomanry, but requesting him to go to Oxford and see Col. Norris, who might pass him if he thought him a good man for his years. Sergt.-Major Matthison also offered his services, but it is doubtful whether he will accompany the force. The entire Oxfordshire company will be quartered in the barracks at Oxford until they proceed to the port of embarkation. Each man will enlist for one year, and receive pay and allowances at cavalry rates from the date of enlistment.

To return to the dinner, an excellent spread was provided by Sergt. T. Coles and Mrs Coles, who both did their utmost for the success of the gathering. The meal was greatly enjoyed, and at its conclusion the following toast list was gone through.

The Chairman first submitted the toast of the "Queen and Royal Family". He said it must be a great trouble to Her Majesty to lose so many of her soldiers in the South African war, but her sympathy with the wives and children of the soldiers who fell, excited great admiration. They knew the Prince of Wales was formally attached to the Q.O.O.H., but now he was the honorary Colonel of the Imperial Yeomanry. He hoped the Queen would live several years yet and have more peace than at present. - This toast was loyally honoured.

Mr Jesse King sang "One of the Old Brigade", and then informed the company that Mr David Pitts, of the 16th or 17th Lancers, called upon him and said he was sorry he could not attend the dinner. He hoped they would have a pleasant evening, but could not be present as his regiment sailed in a few days. His heart was in the war, and he hoped to meet some Bicester men out there.

The Chairman then proposed "The Colonel, Majors and Officers of the Q.O.O.H.". The Colonel was well known to them all as a good officer, and the speaker was proud in one way and sorry in another that he had had to call on his men to volunteer. He was one of the oldest officers in the regiment, which had always been noted for the efficiency of its officers. They were also aware of the excellent capabilities of their Major, and he felt bound to mention in connection with the toast the name of Mr Churchill. He hoped they would have good luck and return in safety. - Musical honours were accorded.

The next toast was "The Volunteers for South Africa", given by the Chairman. The country, he said, was engaged in a war with a very treacherous enemy, and

when well entrenched it required a large army to hold its own against them. In consequence of this the country had been obliged to send out as many soldiers as could possibly be spared, and not only that but volunteers had been called for. He was proud that the Q.O.O.H. had been asked to supply some men, and that near him sat four or five of their own townsmen who were going to the front. Several others in the room wished to go, but unfortunately they were either a little too old or a little too young, or had failed to pass the doctor. If all had been able to go to the war there would have been a fair number from Bicester. Some ex-yeomen had volunteered, but were debarred from going on account of age. In the Russo-Turkish war he remembered a similar call was made for men when they were in training at Woodstock. They were to be commanded by Lord Parker, and he knew a large number of men of the Q.O.O.H. sent in their names, but it so happened the volunteers were not required. They were going to South Africa now, however, and he hoped they would do their duty and returned safely and all the better for their outing. They would be most pleased to welcome and congratulate them when they came home. He coupled the name of Corp. Goble, an old trooper who had seen some life abroad, but on his return home rejoined their troop. They hoped he would do so again. - Loud cheers were given and musical honours, and there were those who drank also to the "sweethearts".

Corp. Goble said it gave him great pleasure to respond to the toast. He was sorry other old members of the troop were unable to go with him, and he hoped those who did go would prove a credit to the troop.

The toast of "The troops in South Africa", from the chair, was received with great applause. In submitting it Mr Grimsley said they were aware of the many perils and hardships to which the soldiers had been exposed, and they knew, too, what bravery they had displayed in fighting for the country. Every one of them ought to be proud that they possessed soldiers daring enough to face what had been termed a "hail of fire". It was stated that nothing living could withstand the storm of bullets poured into them. At present they had the odds against them, as they were the attacking force, but they had the work to do, and in performing it were bearing many hardships for the country. In defensive work nothing in the world could touch them, and he hoped they would soon gain the honours they sought, and that they would hear of better results with less loss of life. News was shortly expected of a very great battle, and he thought they would hear a good account of their men. If they did it would be the turning point with the Boers, whom they all knew did not like the British cold steel. If once 10,000 men got to work among them there would be tremendous slaughter. Personally he should be very pleased to hear that the English had beaten them, because it would be a great blow to the country if they failed. They would lose other countries besides the Cape, and not only that but it was easy to see from the past treatment of Englishmen that none would be allowed to live in South Africa. He hopes their armies would defeat the Boers and return

with honours at no distant date. He would couple with the toast the name of Sergt.-Major Matthison, who wanted to go to the war, and whose old regiment was at the front. - This toast was enthusiastically honoured.

Sergt.-Major Matthison said he considered it a great honour to have his name coupled with the toast, and he thanked them on behalf of the troops in South Africa for the manner in which it had been received. The men were having a rough time of it, and had before them a very difficult undertaking. They had met with a few reverses, which must be accepted as the fortunes of war, but there was not the slightest doubt things would change in the next month or two, for the Boers, as the chairman had said, had a great objection to close quarters. It was to be hoped that someday they would be got out into the open and then all he could say was "God help the Boers", for he was sure they would not get much pity from the British soldier. He did not doubt the volunteers would be an honour to the country, and hoped he should go with them. The War office, however, had a great objection to any of the permanent staff going, although they had volunteered to a man. It was thought they should stay at home for recruiting purposes. One was to be allowed to go from their regiment, and he trusted he should be that one. He was ordered to Cowley Barracks on the following day, but at present he was a "doubtful starter". If he did go he hoped he should return and see them all again and renew his connection with the Q.O.O.H.

Corp. Goble returned thanks to the troop for entertaining him that evening, and said he was sorry their worthy Major could not be present. He hoped he should meet them all again on his return.

Mr Boyles also expressed his gratitude, and said if he was spared to get back to Bicester he hoped they would take him into the troop as a farrier. He should be only too pleased to join it.

Mr Clifton, in thanking the troop, said in volunteering to go to the war he was actuated by a desire to do his duty to his country, which he should endeavour to do as far as he was capable.

A number of good songs were given between the toasts, several of them being of a martial description. The company dispersed shortly before 11pm, after a very convivial evening.

12th January 1940

DEATH OF MR J.T. MOUNTAIN

We regret to record this week the passing of the well-known Bicester tradesman and personality in Mr John Thomas Mountain, chemist, of Sheep Street, who died at his residence on Tuesday evening, after an illness of about a month, although his health had steadily declined during the past few years. He was 72 years of age.

A native of Saleby, Lincolnshire, Mr Mountain took over the chemistry business in Sheep Street more than 35 years ago. Possessed of keen business qualities, of which the chief characteristics were his courteous bearing and kind attention to the minor ills and ailments about which it was his lot to encounter, he soon earned the

respect and enjoyed the patronage of a large clientele. During his many years in business he instructed each of his five daughters in turn in the conduction of the establishment, and eventually took his second daughter, Miss D.A. Mountain, into partnership. When her father's health began to fail, Miss Mountain assumed control of the business. Quite recently, the firm was converted into a limited company.

Mr Mountain professed no religion, but had Christian principles, to which many in the town and district will be ready to testify. His gifts were always most unobtrusively made.

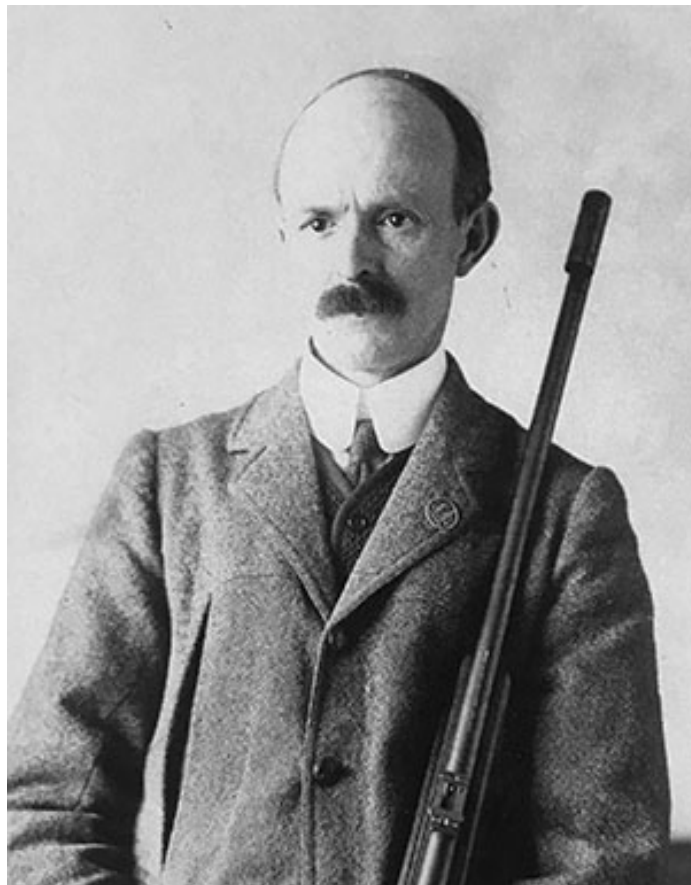
In his young days Mr Mountain was an all-round sportsman, and later became one of the best known "shots" in the rifle shooting world. As an athlete he won many trophies in his native district, and also played football, cricket and hockey for Bicester and Caversham. Many cricketers will remember his peculiar round-arm delivery when bowling. When he ceased active participation in these sports he continued his interest in both the Cricket and Football Clubs, to which he subscribed for years. In conversation on sporting topics he would often compare the attitude of present day youth to sport with the sacrifices made in his day, and the comparison was not always favourable to the present generation. Ever ready to assist in anything which would promote the interests of youth in Bicester Mr Mountain was one of a number of gentlemen who advocated the need of a sports ground for the town, and when the scheme was eventually launched he was appointed a trustee of Bicester Sports Association.

Deceased was also a founder of the Bicester Social Club and held the position of chairman for several years, during which time he was a most active member and enjoyed to the full his happy association with the Club. Affectionately known as "J.T.", he was ever ready to enter into the activities of the club, and it was only his failing health which compelled him to relinquish the office of chairman a few years ago.

A keen horticulturalist, Mr Mountain pursued the hobby in his garden at the rear of his premises. He was a former member of the Horticultural Committee of the Bicester Show. During the last war he was dispenser at the V.A.D. hospital at Bicester Hall, now the County School.

Mr Mountain became a member of the Bicester Urban District Council in 1911 and was a conscientious worker for the good of the town. After a year's absence, in 1914, he again took his seat on the council and was appointed chairman in 1918, finally retiring at the expiration of his period of office. He was a member of both the Bicester Feoffees and the Chamber of Commerce, and formerly belonged to the defunct Bicester Choral Society. During the existence of this Society he often placed his house at the disposal of octette and quartette parties.

Apart from his business, it was as a rifleman that the late Mr Mountain was best known – certainly his name will long be remembered in Oxfordshire rifle shooting circles. It was mainly due to his inspiration and ability that Bicester and the county were "put on the map" as



John Thomas Mountain - 1920s

regards this particular sport. In 1905 rifle shooting was introduced to the district by Mr Hugh Graham, of Bucknell Manor, and Mr Mountain was one of the first to join the club which was formed. His disability - the loss of an eye as a result of an accident - made it extremely difficult for him to progress in the art, as he had to fire left-handed. He made such little progress that he was discouraged, and after two months he took over the secretaryship of the club with the idea of taking an interest in the sport without indulging in it. However, he quickly returned as an active member only to eventually become one of the best shots in the country. Twice, at Bisley, Mr Mountain reached the second stage of the King's Prize and he was a regular competitor at this famous shooting venue. His headgear, a "flop" hat, became the butt of the riflemen at national meetings. In miniature rifle shooting he went from success to success, and won the S.M.R.C. grand aggregate gold medal in 1927. He represented Great Britain in the Dewar Trophy competition against the United States in 1912, when Britain won, again representing his country in the following year. After the war he was chosen on five further occasions, but only in 1926 did Great Britain enjoy their next success.

Mr Mountain was the only person to hold two winning medals in this international competition. Amongst other notable achievements in 1926 he won the championship gold medal at Lowestoft, the veteran's gold medal, and the Bell trophy. In 1924, when representing Oxfordshire in the National Cup competition, he was the first man in the world to make a "possible" shooting through the ranges at 25, 50 and 100 yards, and he was awarded a world record certificate. The world record of 797 out of a

possible 800 (20 shots each at 15 yards) in the Burroughes and Watts Cup competition is still held by a Bicester team, composed of J.T. Mountain, G.H. Sibbring, H. Smith and H.J. Wadley. Mr Mountain gained no fewer than six Lord Lieutenants' gold medals at the County meeting and was one of three representatives from the Bicester club – the others being Mr Sibbring and Major J.N. Clift – who were at one time in the international team. Major Clift became captain of the British team and it is remarkable to record that he knew nothing of rifle shooting until he joined the Bicester Club.

For 32 years Mr Mountain was the Hon. Secretary of the local Rifle Club, and one of his greatest prides was the recognition of his long service by the S.M.R.C. in the presentation to him of their service gold medal. As in other sporting pastimes, the late Mr Mountain was painstaking in his encouragement of the younger members, many of whom will remember his help and interest, and Bicester Rifle Club will ever keep "J.T.'s" name in revered memory.

In rifle shooting no one had a more intimate association with the late Mr Mountain than Mr G.H. Sibbring, and a story the former was always pleased to tell concerned one of his visits to Saleby, when, looking through some old church records, he came across a remarkable coincidence. The names of the churchwardens of the parish for the year 1600 were Mountain and Sibbring!

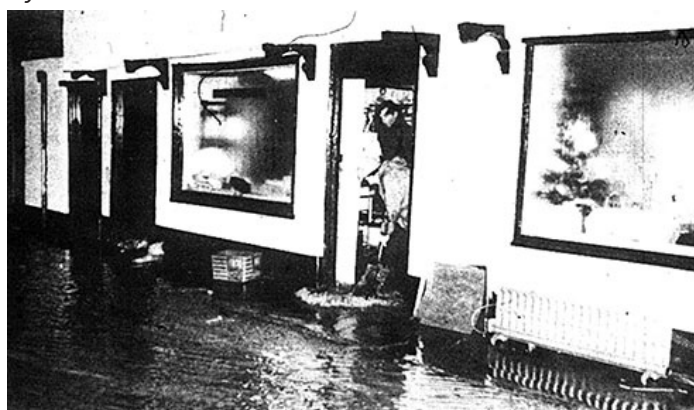
At Mr Mountain's own request there was no mourning, and his body was privately cremated at Oxford this (Friday) morning.

2nd January 1980

TRADERS CALLED OUT AS BROOK OVERFLOWS

Several shops in the Causeway, Bicester, were flooded when the town brook overflowed following torrential rain. Police had to close the road to traffic for a few hours.

One of the worst hit shops was The Workbox, owned by Mrs Janet Bromhead.



Mrs Bromhead tries to get some of the water out of her shop.

"We were called out at about 5:30am. When we arrived the shop looked disastrous with balls of wool floating around," said Mrs Bromhead, who lives at Fencott. A lot of her stock of wool and other materials was damaged as the water rose to more than a foot.

Next door, Mr George Capel-Smith, 75, a retired baker woke to find his ground floor under water.

"I heard a commotion outside and looked out and saw

water running down the road." His cellar was flooded with about two to three feet of water.

"The last time the Causeway flooded was in October 1939, again after torrential rain, and it was much worse than now," he said.



Mr Capel-Smith in his front room.

Another shopkeeper, Mr George King was more fortunate as the stock in his television repair shop is kept high up on racks.

To relieve the flood Bicester firemen pumped water out of the brook and pumped it back in lower down. Council workmen put sandbags at the doors of several properties to prevent the flooding.



Firemen still pumping water from the wool shop many hours later.

Bicester, From a Brook History in Stone

This is the seventh part in a series of articles that were originally published in the Bicester Advertiser in 1932.

If you go into the Cemetery from the churchyard end, a large stone building stands on the left hand side, from the gate to the Cemetery Keeper's hut. This building now consists of stables, but if tradition is to be believed the tale comes down from an earlier generation that this was once the Tithe Barn of the town. From its size this seems probable. A curious legend persists, that it was used as a theatre. Whose theatre, and what manner of plays were staged there? The old morality plays were often performed in barns, for no other building then existed to house them and it may be that "once upon a time" Bicester folk flocked here to watch the actors present in a simple way dramas in which the characters of Hope, Faith, Charity, Evil, Good played important parts.

Religious plays, a tithe barn and the Parish Church are closely associated. But there are further points of interest about this vicinity, besides the barn. Our fathers have told us, say the old men, that a large pond was near at hand, and that it existed in the middle of a Close or Croft - that is, a walled or fenced meadow. You can trace the pond today. That large central part of the Cemetery, where the "Catacombs" are - and where snakes, it is said, often make their appearance - shelves down to the middle, forming a shallow basin. Bicester people skated there, where now lie the dead. A road ran straight from the barn, through the Close, and direct by way of the present Cemetery back gate.

There must have been an impressive picture when Bicester's two churches, so near together reared their towers to the sky: the church of the Priory was considerably larger than the parish Church. Priory Walk now passes over part of the ground occupied by the monastery church. Remains of its fine cast window

of painted glass, thrown down by order of Henry 8th, were found in Bicester Brook a hundred years ago. This window was like that still extant at Chetwode Church.

Stones have history, but there is at least one old building which is unable to tell us anything, for the simple reason that it has entirely disappeared. Apparently so, but a romantic thought occurs to me - as will be seen later in this article - that perhaps a tiny part of it remains as an existing link with 700 years ago. We refer to the first note-worthy house that Bicester ever had, the original Manor House, erected by the first known Lord of the Manor, Gilbert Basset whose son gave it to the monks.

Where did it stand? History assumes that it was located in the Horse Close, the field extending between the L.M.S. coal depot and the modern Priory, and that traces of its moat exist.

Do any of its stones remain? That question might be answered, though quite conjecturally, if we carefully examine the south wall of the Parish Church - the side nearest the Cemetery - where among the grey stones are to be seen eight curious brown freestones, forming part of the wall, which, cut and shaped as they are, evidently once were pieces of the ornamental coping of a wall. The records state that the monks - who built this part of the Church - were given permission "by warrant sealed" to extract free stones out of the ruined walls of the Manor of the Lord". For the sake of economy they may have embodied these stones in the Parish Church. There are other old stones in the town, but they are silent upon their history. We mean those forming the very ancient arched window in the outhouse just inside the gate of the Old Priory and across the brook by-pass.

But even older than the stones are some of the names of the Bicester fields - and among these foremost place should be given to The Slade, for so it was known from

the very beginning of things. Field names have an interest all their own, and it may not be out of place to mention a few.

The Triangular Field (where the first-built Bucknell Road house stands).

Mortar Pit Field (beyond the old brickyard).

Town End Field (at the rear of Field Street).

Troughtpool Lane Ground, Deval's Corner, Cross Lane Ground, Millditch Ground (all near the Waterworks).

Thonger's Field, Coldgrove's Ground, Foster's Field, Great Stone Pit Field, Kiln Ground (all near Slade Farm).

Rope Walk (near the





Banbury-Buckingham road junction).

Now, our sequence of records brings us to the 15th century, and if it were possible to glance inside one of the largest houses then standing - Bicester House ("The Nun's Place") we should possibly find that the walls of the rooms were painted with subjects from the Bible, from legends or romances. Painted glass windows were sometimes used in domestic dwellings (the house of Mr C.S. Curtis has one). Couver-lits (coverlets) were on the beds, and our sketch shows an amazing salt-cellar as a massive piece of table plate. It is not two cellars but one; (2) is the cellar, and (1) the cover of it, nearly as large as itself.

Hunting is the oldest form of local sport, many years before the establishment of the Bicester Hounds and of a time when the great Bernwood (Burn-wood) Forest re-echoed to the sound of the huntsman's horn. One of the sketches depicts in quaint if somewhat broken lines, from Queen Mary's Psalter a huntsman sounding his horn, and another figure is pointing the way the deer has gone.

Talks Update

Over the next few months we have a varied itinerary of talks that we hope will prove very interesting.

Monday 17th February

Mark Lawrence tells us all about the **Picture Oxon** project.

Monday 16th March

We learn all about **RAF Upper Heyford**, from the Great War to the Cold War, with Ian Lough-Scott.

Monday 20th April

Tom Doig guides us through **Dating Old Photographs**, and people are welcome to bring their own for consultation.

Bicester's Great War Talk

Back in November I stepped up from my usual place at the back of the room and gave a talk about some of the local men who had lost their lives on the Western Front during the First World War. Using contemporary reports and letters, all published in local newspapers, I attempted to shed some light on the often overlooked perspective of the everyday Tommy.

Starting with our first local casualty, Lieutenant Charles Hoare, of the King's Hussars. He was killed on the 24th August 1914 whilst protecting the British infantry during their retreat from Mons, the first major action of the British Expeditionary Force in the war.

A few months later the First Battle of Ypres cost us many local men, including Joseph Morris, Jesse Jones, Maurice Hirons, Basil Martin

and Edgar Golder. Edgar went missing on the 31st October 1914, but wasn't officially confirmed as dead until February 1916. Basil Martin's mother, however, was informed fairly quickly of the loss of her son, as his Sergeant wrote to her almost immediately. Although, with his use of phrases like "slaughter-house", "he had a good death" and "cheer up!", you can imagine that she would rather he hadn't.

One man wrote home to a relative in January 1915 telling them about the Christmas truce in 1914, where he had been talking to some of the German soldiers about how they all just wanted to get home to their families. He also talked about all the devastation he had seen, including "a woman wringing her hands and burst into tears



Lieutenant Charles Hoare

as she passes the remains of her farm - and then goes back to a tiny



Private Arthur Coppock

hovel to tend six children, while her husband fights for his country”.

We then learnt about the dangers of technology in warfare through the story of Guardsman Albert Hawkins, who was killed while grenade training when one accidentally went off in his hand. That was on the 11th April 1915, just a few days short of his 21st birthday.

Private Arthur Coppock probably sheds more light than most on life on the front line, as many of his frequent letters home were published. He tells us about the friends he has made amongst his comrades, about meeting up with fellow Bicester residents Harry Clifton and George Hines, about gifts and supplies, and about the promise of leave which gets cancelled almost as soon as it is granted. He even tells us that he was really looking forward to the leave because he hasn't even seen a bed in over a year, let alone slept in one,

and was looking forward to a bit of comfort.

There are also a few mentions of some near misses he has had, often delivered in a jovial manner, though I doubt his wife would have seen the funny side. Sadly his luck didn't hold out forever and the last letter he sent home wasn't even written by him, but had been dictated to a hospital nurse where he was being treated for his injuries. He tries to put a brave face on it even then, but when it arrived, on 23rd May 1915, it was accompanied by the official notice of his death.

Just over a year later, on 1st July 1916, the Battle of the Somme began. It would end up lasting almost 5 months and costing over 650,000 British and French troops, as well as between 400,000 and 600,000 Germans. On the first day alone the British army recorded over 57,000 casualties, including four men from the local area, namely Privates Frank Clifford, Harry Kightley, George Morris and Lieutenant Philip Norbury. By the end of the battle we had lost 74 local men, 20 from Bicester alone, such as Private Howard Clifton and Private Henry Ashmore.

But men weren't only dying from war injuries or sickness, some, like Private Cecil Hedges, were the victims of tragic accidents that just happened to take place while on active service. Private Hedges, while serving with the Worcestershire Regiment in May 1918, was swimming one day with a group of comrades

when he dived in from the bank and struck one of the other men who was under the water. The accident injured his spine so severely that his parents were informed immediately and he was returned to England as quickly as possible. He was brought to a hospital in London but his condition worsened and he was transferred to a hospital in St Albans, where he died on the 15th July 1918. Being back in this country when he died meant that his family were actually able to have a proper funeral for him, and bury him in the town cemetery.

Finally we learnt a bit about two of the three Fane brothers who were killed in the war. Captain Horatio Fane died on the 11th August 1918, from shrapnel wounds received during the Battle of Amiens. He was very popular in the town and had been a member of the Urban District Council up until his death. A month later, on the 18th September 1918, Horatio's younger brother, Major Octavius Fane, died from wounds he had received in action. Both brothers had previously been decorated with the Military Cross.

But these are only some of the stories that need to be told. The second part of the talk, covering other battlefronts of the war, will be in July this year. But, for those of you who want to learn even more, we have just launched an updated version of the Roll of Honour on our website. There is always more being added, but you can view all the stories on there as well as any other information we have found.

www.blhs.org.uk/roh

- Matthew Hathaway

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