

Reading Street War Memorial

Local Names

H AUSTEN
W BAKER
F A BROWN
A H FAGG
W GARDNER
J GOODEY
G W GOSNEY
F HARDING
F J HORN
R W LEWIS
A MASTERS
A J MILLER
J T MILLER
L A MILLER
T J MILLER
J MURPHY
F S PRETT
B WATLER
S J WATLER
F WOOD

H Austen (1867 - 2nd April 1916)

Austen seemed to be a common surname in St Peter's and Reading Street and there is some uncertainty as to exactly who H Austen was.

The most likely person is Harry Austen, born 1867. In 1911, he was living in Afghan Road with his wife Elizabeth and their five children. His service is listed as in the Royal Engineers which would tie in with his civilian occupation in 1911 as "Traction Engine Driver". He died of wounds on 2nd April 1916 in "France and Flanders".

W Baker (1884 - 24th June 1917)

It is reasonably certain that this was William James Baker born in St Peter's in 1884 and listed in the 1901 census as living at 2 Chapel Cottages, Reading Street, with his parents Edward and Frances, his older brother Albert and his younger brother and sister, Frank and Alice.

William Baker, aged 26, is still living at 2 Chapel Cottages in 1911, occupation "farm labourer". His father is now shown as a widower and his brother Frank is still at home.

William Baker from St Peter's is recorded as having died in France/Flanders on 24th June, 1917.

F A Brown (1891 - 12th September 1916)

This is most likely Frederick Arthur Brown, born in Westminster 1891, who died of wounds on 12th September 1916. His parents are listed as Mr M(oses?) and Mrs E(mma?) Brown of 2 Gordon Villas, Beacon Road, Broadstairs and he is buried in St Peter's churchyard. Moses and Emma Brown were at one time the steward and stewardess of North Foreland Golf Club.

A 19 year old Frederick Arthur Brown is listed as living in the County Club, Sussex Gardens, Westgate in 1911, occupation "billiard marker". His record shows his place of enlistment as Margate, where he joined The Buffs.

A H Fagg (1877 - 24th April 1917)

An Arthur Henry Fagg was living in Browning Cottage, Reading Street in 1911 with his wife Rose. His occupation is listed as "cartage contractor's son working for father". His wife was born in Minster in about 1880 as Rose Harlow and is shown as a dressmaker working at home in the 1901 census. In 1901, Arthur was living with his parents, Arthur and Emma, in Reading Street. He was born in St Peter's.

Private Arthur Henry Fagg, born in Broadstairs, was killed in action on 24th April, 1917 serving with the Essex Regiment and is recorded on the Arras Memorial at Fauborg-D'Amiens Cemetery.

W Gardner (ca 1892 – 20th August 1915)

Walter Gardner is recorded in the 1911 census as living at 3 Thistle Villas, St Peter's with his parents Stephen and Maria, together with his brothers Cyril and Earnest. Walter's occupation was "carter".

Private Walter enlisted in The Buffs in Ramsgate and was killed in action on 20th August 1915. His name is recorded on the Tiepval Memorial.

J Goodey (1895 – 2nd January 1915)

Jesse John Goodey, born in West Ham, was living at 9 Balliol Road in 1911 with his parents Jesse and Margaret, his younger brother Charles and a schoolmaster, Wilfred Harrison. His occupation is listed as "gardener's boy" possibly assisting his father who was a gardener.

Jesse joined the Rifle Brigade at Stratford, Essex and was killed in action on 2nd January, 1915. By this time his parents were living in Cricklewood.

G W Gosney

Mr Gosney remains somewhat of a mystery. There is a GW Gosney on the St Peter's War memorial listed as dying in 1919. A George Gosney is recorded in the Burial Register for Reigate, Surrey who died in Ramsgate Hospital on 27th August 1919. A George William Gosney is recorded in the 1911 living near Lewes, Sussex working as a "carter's boy on farm". Did this George Gosney move to Reading Street, perhaps to work on a farm here? In 1901, almost certainly the same George Gosney (born in Brighton) was living in Southport, Lancashire where his father was a "domestic coachman", so obviously the family moved about.

F Harding (1892 – 22nd August 1916)

Unlike most of the other names on the Reading Street Memorial, F Harding is not recorded on the St Peter's War Memorial. However, E E Harding is. Whether these are one and the same is unknown but it is a possibility. There is also a Lance Corporal E Harding on the Broadstairs War Memorial.

Edward Ernest Harding was born at Witley, Surrey in 1892 and Edward Ernest Harding is listed in the 1911 census as working as an assistant gardener in Milford, Surrey and living with his parents Edward Ernest and Isabella Elizabeth.

Ernest Edward Harding enlisted in The Buffs at Ramsgate on 19th January 1915 and is recorded as a gardener, living at 1 Convent Cottages or Road, Reading Street. His later service record shows him marrying his wife Grace Louisa Wilkinson on 31st May, 1915 at Milford, Surrey.

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Harding was killed in action on 22nd August 1916, serving in France/Flanders.

F J Horn (2nd March 1879 – 22nd September 1914)

James Frederick Horn was a career naval seaman. Born in Margate in 1879 he had been at sea for a number of years when he died at sea on 22nd September, 1914 when HMS Cressy was torpedoed in an action in the North Sea. His rank was Petty Officer, 1st Class. Although born in Margate, he was living in Reading Street in 1881. His death is recorded on the Chatham Naval War Memorial.

He was the son of Charlie and Mary Horn of Rose Cottage, Reading Street and husband to Fanny Elizabeth (née Fasham) who may have emigrated to the USA after James Frederick's death. His wife, who he married in October 1910, lived at 2 Laurel Cottages, Camden Road at the time of his death. Fanny was born in Margate and in 1901 was living 1 Brickfield Cottages with her sister Kate, wife of Albert Masters.

R W Lewis (ca.1887 – 1st July 1915)

Robert William Lewis was born in Mundesley, Norfolk in 1887 or 1888 but his parents, George and Jane, were living at 1, Waterloo Villas, Beacon Road by 1911 together with his older sister Lily. The census lists Robert's occupation as "postman".

Robert enlisted in the Rifle Brigade at Margate and was a Lance Corporal by the time he died of wounds on 1st July 1915. He is buried in the Boisguillaume Cemetery.

A Masters (1885 – 20th October 1914)

Albert Adin Masters was working as a gardener in 1911 living with his wife Kate Alice (née Fasham) at Elhamcote, Woodside, Reading Street and his two children Olive (3) and Arthur (16 months).

Albert was born at Tenterden in 1885 but was living with his parents Adin and Annie in West Northdown by 1891. In 1901, Kate was living with her family at 1 Brickfield Cottages, Reading Street. She married Albert in 1908.

Private Albert Masters enlisted in Canterbury and was killed in action on 20th October 1914 in France/Flanders (Mons?).

The record of Albert's death (incorrectly showing him as born in Ramsgate) gives his wife as Kate Masters, living at 2 Laurel Cottages, Camden Road, the same address as Fanny Elizabeth Horn. It also shows his father as living in Southfleet, Kent.

A J Miller (1881 – 22nd July 1915)

Arthur John Miller was born in St Peter's in 1880 or 1881. In the 1911 census he was living at 3 Albion Cottages, Albion Road with his wife Alice (née Harris) and his daughter Kathleen Alice (1). His occupation was listed as "gardener". In 1891 he was living with his widowed mother in Reading Street and in 1901 appears to be the head of the household, his mother not appearing on the 1901 census in St Peter's.

When he joined up in 1914, Arthur was living at 6 Woodside Cottages and says he is a widower. The Thanet records for the last quarter of 1911 record the death of Alice Miller, age 27. When Private Arthur John Miller died of wounds on 22nd July, 1915 he is shown as the husband of Ina Miller of 121, Cranbury Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

J T Miller (1895 – 3rd May 1917)

John Thomas Miller was born in 1895 in Reading Street and was living in Beacon Cottages in 1901. In the 1911 census he is listed as "fourth hand" in the fishing vessel Eleanord, whose master was Charles Jarvis of Ramsgate. The census registration was made in Eastbourne.

Lance Corporal John Thomas Miller enlisted in The Buffs at Ramsgate and was killed in action on 3rd May 1917. He is listed on the Arras Memorial at Fauborg-D'Amiens Cemetery.

L A Miller (ca. 1885 – 29th September 1917)

Leonard Alfred Miller was born about 1885 and an Alfred Miller of the right age was living at 5 Woodside Cottages in 1901. In 1911 he is living at 5/6 Woodside Cottages with his mother, now Ellen Cooper, his step-father James Cooper and other siblings. His occupation is shown as "gardener". Leonard A Miller is shown as having married Mabel N Martin in the second quarter of 1912.

Leonard Alfred Miller of St Peter's, Broadstairs died in Salonika on 29th September, 1917. His death record shows "Parent: Mrs Cooper of St Peter's, husband of M N Miller, 7 Northdown Road, St Peter's, Broadstairs". He enlisted in The Buffs at Canterbury.

T J Miller (31st January 1890 – 22nd September 1914)

Thomas James Miller was born on 31st January 1890. He was the brother of John Thomas Miller above and in 1901 was living with his parents, Charles and Jessie, at Beacon Cottages.

Stoker 1st Class Miller died on HMS Cressy on 27th September, 1914 (see F J Horn above). His service record gives him as the son of J and C B Miller of "Queenville", Reading, Street, although another record gives his mother as Jessie Miller of Swan Cottage, Reading Street. His death is recorded on the Chatham Naval War Memorial.

J Murphy (12th July 1880 – 6th November 1918)

John Murphy was another career naval seaman. Born 13th July 1880 in Selsey, Sussex, he was living in St Peter's by 1891 with his parents Dennis and Ellen and five younger siblings, William, Harry, Lizzy, Thomas and Nelly. His father would appear to have been a coastguard in the 1891 census and originally hailed from Cork. In 1901 the family were living at 26, Victoria Road, Margate but John had already joined the navy and was, in 1901, in Valetta serving as an Ordinary Seaman in HMS Ramilles, while in 1911 he was a Petty Officer in "the Mediterranean".

John Murphy died on 6th November 1918 with his unit shown as HMS Pembroke, i.e. Chatham Dockyard. He is buried in St Peter's churchyard. His wife is listed as Daisy Murphy of "Rosemary", Beacon Road, Reading Street. Daisy shows up in the 1911 census at the same address with her one year old son, Donald. Daisy May Mills was born in Bawdsey, Suffolk but was living in Reading Street in 1891 and married John Murphy in the second quarter of 1908. In the 1901 census she is a servant in Valetta House, The Vale, Broadstairs, which appears to be a school.

John Murphy is reported as having died in St Augustine's Hospital, Chartham.

F S Prett (1880– 22nd May 1918)

In 1911, Frederick Stephen Prett was single and living with his parents, Fredrick and Martha, at 4, North Foreland Cottages, Reading Street. His occupation was "farm labourer". His two brothers, William and Alfred were also living there, although the three daughters, Harriet, Charlotte and Edith living there in 1901 are no longer there. He was born in Newlands, Ramsgate probably in early 1880 and was baptised at St Peter's on 4th April 1880.

Private Prett "died at home" on 22nd May 1918. He had joined the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He is buried in St Peter's churchyard and his grave registration records him as having drowned. It is noteworthy that his gravestone is not a Commonwealth War Graves marker but an ordinary headstone.

The "register of Soldiers' Effects" shows Private Frederick Stephen Prett, Labour Corps (father Frederick) as having drowned at Coldwaltham, Sussex on 22nd May 1918.

B Watler (July? 1894 – 5th April 1917)

Bertram Henry Watler was born in Margate in 1894. In 1911, he was living at 5 Afghan Road, Reading Street with his widowed mother Henrietta, and five siblings and a grandson of his mother, although it is not clear who the parent of the grandson is.

Bertram's profession on his enlistment papers of 7th September 1914 is shown as "golf caddy", although the census of 1911 shows him as "newsboy" working at Smith & Sons. He joined The Buffs at Ramsgate and served for almost three years as a private before he died on 5th April 1917.

Bertram "died of phthisis [tuberculosis] following wounds received at the Battle of the Somme" and is buried in Margate cemetery.

S J Watler (1896 - 25th December 1916)

Sidney James Watler, Bertram's brother, was born in 1896 in St John's Parish, Margate. In 1901, Sidney, with his brother Bertram and a sister Elizabeth were living in the Isle of Thanet Cottage union Homes at Manston as "inmates". However, in 1911, he is listed as a "gardener's boy" living with his mother at 5 Afghan Road.

Sidney James Watler enlisted at Canterbury in the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment and was "killed in action" on Christmas Day, 1916 in France/Flanders. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial.

F Wood (1886 - ?)

This may be Frederick Wood who was living in Reading Street aged 5 1891 with his parents George and Elizabeth and six siblings. In 1901 he appears as Frederick Woods, a "carpenter apprentice" living with his grandmother Frances Wood(s) and brother at 3 Woodside Cottages while his parents are living at 2 Woodside Cottages with the rest of the family. In 1911 there is a Frederick Wood, born St Peter, Kent living at the Royal Sailor's Rest, Portsmouth, listed as "Carpenter Crew" so, given the trade, this is probably the same person. However, no definitive record of his death has been found.

Unlike most others on the Reading Street war memorial, F Wood is not shown on the St Peter's War Memorial, although a J E Wood is.