

Culworth Stories

Arthur John Butcher was a Lance Sergeant in A Company 31st Battalion Australian Infantry. Arthur was born in Burstow, Surrey on 19th August 1894. He was the son of Arthur and Emily Sarah Butcher. Both his parents were born in Coddendam, Suffolk.

In 1911 Arthur was living with his parents, brothers Adolphus, Reginald and Charles and sisters Ella and Marie in Culworth, Northamptonshire. His father was a head gardener, and Arthur was an under gardener.

Arthur enlisted in Broadmeadows, Victoria, Australia on 29th June 1915 in the 31st Battalion Australian Infantry. He stated that he was a nurseryman at the time. On 9th November 1915 he sailed from Australia aboard HMT Wandilla. After arriving in France, he was wounded on 10th November 1916 and also suffered from shell shock. In January 1917 he suffered a bout of trench foot but recovered and was appointed Lance Corporal in March of that year. In February he returned to the UK on leave and in September 1918 he was promoted to the rank of Lance Sergeant. On 29th September 1918, the 31st Battalion (A Company) played a vital role in the Allied breach of the Hindenburg Line and the Battle of the St. Quentin Canal. Arthur was killed in action on 29th September 1918 and is buried at the Bellicourt British Cemetery in France.



Benjamin Street was a Lance Sergeant in the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards. Benjamin was born in Bilston, Staffordshire in 1886. He was the son of Alfred Cleatus and Emma Street. His father was born in Bilston, and his mother was born in Wolverhampton.

In 1901 Benjamin was living with his parents, his brothers Alfred, William, Albert and Henry and sisters Flora, Violet and May at 12 Vicar Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire. His father was a wood sawyer.

He married Annie Jordan on 23rd July 1910 in Daventry, Northants. They had a son Benjamin Cleatus on 8th August 1911.

1910. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Daventry in the County of Northampton								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession.
339	July 23 rd 1910	Benjamin Street	24	Bachelor	Police Constable	Culworth	Alfred Cleaver Street	Sawyer
		Annie Jordan	24	Spinster	-	1 East Place	Thomas Jordan (Deceased)	Lawyer
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>Charles Greenwood Prompney</u> or after <u>Banns</u> by me.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Benjamin Street</u> <u>Annie Jordan</u>	in the Presence of us,		<u>George Jordan</u> <u>Ada Siddington</u>	<u>Charles Greenwood Prompney</u> Rector		

In 1911 Benjamin was living with his wife Annie in Culworth, Northamptonshire. He was a police constable. Annie was born in Daventry, Northants.

Initially Benjamin enlisted in Wednesday, Staffordshire in the 3rd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment before transferring to the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards. On 28th September 1915, the 4th Battalion (part of the 3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division) was engaged in the chaotic aftermath of the opening phase of the Battle of Loos. Benjamin died of wounds received on 28th September 1915.

Charles Frederick Needham was a Lance Corporal in the 2nd Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. Charles was born in Edith Weston, Rutland in 1891. He was the son of Frederick and Emma Needham. His father was born in Rutland, and his mother was born in Leicestershire.

In 1911 Charles was living with his parents and sister Lucy at Barnett Hill, Womersley, Guildford. His father was a domestic coachman.

He married Beatrice Mary Stephenson at St Mary's Church, Banbury on 5th February 1916. He was an insurance agent, and his father was a licenced victualler.

1916 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Banbury in the County of Oxford								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
129	5 February 1916	Charles Frederick Needham	25	Bachelor	Insurance agent.	Culworth, Northants.	Frederick Needham	Licensed Victualler
		Beatrice Mary Stephenson	27	Spinster	Shop assistant.	37 Warwick Road Banbury	Alfred Stephenson	Marine Store Dealer.
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by <u>Thomas Drake</u> or after <u>Banns</u> by me.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Charles Frederick Needham</u> <u>Beatrice Mary Stephenson</u>	in the Presence of us,		<u>George & Charles Stanley</u> <u>Constance Mabel Drake</u>	<u>Thomas Drake</u> <u>Lucy of Edham</u> <u>Nathaniel Jones, Vicar of Banbury</u>		

During the First World War Charles enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. On 2nd December 1917, the 2nd Battalion, was in the Ypres sector following the Third Battle of Ypres. The Battalion had moved north from the Cambrai area to rest and recover from severe casualties before transferring to Italy later in the month. Charles died on 2nd December 1917.

Charles Wade was a private in the 7th Battalion Duke of Edinburgh (Wiltshire) Regiment. Charles was born in July 1893 in Culworth, Northamptonshire and was baptised on 20th August 1893. He was the son of John and Mary Wade (Coleman). His father was a labourer born in Culworth, and his mother was born in Turweston, Northamptonshire.

In 1901 Charles was living with his parents, brothers Coleman, Vernon and Arthur and daughter Heave in Culworth. His father was a farm labourer.

In 1911 Charles was living at the home of Frederick and Annie Baker and their daughter Lillian at 41 Wathe Road, Leamington Spa. He was working as a groom.

Charles initially enlisted in Banbury, Oxfordshire in the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry before transferring the 7th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

On 24th April 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion of the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment launched a harrowing night attack on the Grand Couronne fortress in the Balkans (Salonika Campaign). Facing devastating machine-gun fire and un-breached wire, the battalion suffered catastrophic casualties, losing 14 out of 15 officers and around 300 other ranks. Charles was killed in action on 24th April 1917.

Frank Gulliver was Acting Bombardier in the Royal Horse Artillery and 394th Battery Royal Field Artillery. Frank was born in Culworth in April 1891 and was baptised on 21st May 1891. He was the son of Arthur Charles and Emma Gulliver (Hatton). His father was a groom born in Greatworth, Northamptonshire and his mother was born in Trafford House, Northamptonshire.

In 1901 Frank was living with his parents, brothers John, Arthur, Ralph and Albert and sisters Clara and Ruby at New Lane, Sulgrave, Northamptonshire. His father was a grazier and cattle dealer.

In 1911 Frank was living with his parents, brothers John, Arthur, Ralph and Albert and sister Ruby in Culworth Thorpe. Frank, his father and brothers were farm labourers.

He enlisted in Warwick in the Royal Horse Artillery, later being attached to the 394th Battery Royal Field Artillery. Frank died on 2nd April 1917 in an Isolation Hospital in Ipswich and is buried in the Old Ipswich Cemetery.

George Edward Baldwin was a private in the 1st Battalion Notts & Derby Regiment. George was born in Morton Hampstead, Devon in 1889. He was the son of Edward and Sarah Baldwin (Eales). His father was born in Wallingford, Berkshire and his mother was born in Tetsworth, Oxfordshire. His father died in 1897, and his wife Sarah would later marry Job Bull.

In 1891 George was living with his parents and sisters Violet, Mary, Lily and Edith at Henleigh Lodge, Tiverton, Devon. His father was a coachman/groom.

In 1901 George was living with his mother and stepfather, sisters Edith, May and Gertrude and stepsister Mildred in Adwell, Oxfordshire. His stepfather was a portable engine driver.

In 1911 George was living at Manor House Stables, Thorpe Mandeville near Banbury. He was working as a groom.

He married Kate Elizabeth Wade in Brackley in July 1913. Kate was born in Culworth, Northamptonshire and would marry John Thomas Mullins in 1920.

During World War One George enlisted in Derby in the 1st Battalion Notts & Derby Regiment (Sherwood Foresters). On 31st July 1917, the 1st Battalion took part in the opening assault of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele), specifically the Battle of Pilckem Ridge. George was killed in action on 31st July 1917.

Octavius Thomas (Osbert) Bull DCM was a private in the Northamptonshire Regiment. Osbert was born in Hanslope, Buckinghamshire in 1891. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Ann Bull (Stone)

In 1911 Osbert was at South Raglan Barracks, Devonport with the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment.

He married Kate E Diver in July 1917 at St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Initially Osbert enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment and later transferred to the Labour Corps (240009).

He received the Distinguished Conduct Medal on 9th May 1915 for bravery and service on the Western Front

He died on 23rd October 1918 in Horton War Hospital, Epsom and is buried in Wheathampstead (St Helen) Churchyard.

William Thomas Gascoigne was a private in the King's (Liverpool Regiment – Oswestry Depot). William was born in Culworth, Northamptonshire in 1895. He was the son of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Gascoigne (Webb). His father was born in Culworth and his mother was born in Woburn, Bedfordshire.

In 1911 William was living with his parents in Culworth Thorpe and Mandeville. His father was a blacksmith, and William was working with him in his shop.

Initially William enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps (96400) before transferring to the King's Liverpool Regiment.

He died on 11th June 1917 most probably in a military hospital and is buried in Culworth Baptist Chapelyard, Northamptonshire.

Willie Frank Pratt was a private in the Mechanical Transport, Royal Army Service Corps. Willie was born in 1886 in Culworth, Northamptonshire and was baptised on 20th July 1886 in Culworth. He was the son of Joseph and Harriet Pratt (Davey). His father was a farmer born in Culworth and his mother was born in Brentwood, Essex.

In 1901 William was living with his parents, brother George and sisters Ethel and Edith in Culworth. His father was a farmer and Willie was a groom.

He married Lilian May Wellard on 4th January 1913 at St Simon's Church, Westminster, London when William was working as a chauffeur. They had a son William John (1914) and a daughter Dorothy May (1916). Unfortunately, William John died in 1919 aged five.