

Shildon Railway Institute members that served and/or fell, in the Great War 1914-18 - as recognised on the North Eastern Railway War Memorial

Researched by Members and Volunteers to Commemorate 100
Years Since the Installation of our War Memorial in 1921



About the Shildon Railway Institute War Memorial

The Great War, as it was referred to afterward, also known as the First World War, commenced in 1914 and carried on until November of 1918. Much has been written and documented about it and it is not our purpose here to tell its story. However it was a catastrophic worldwide conflict that touched the lives of families globally. The families of Shildon and its surrounding towns and villages were no different in this respect.

At the outset of the war, it was hoped that it would be a brief affair, but even then it was clear that it would be important to expand the military forces of Britain, its Empire and its allies.

Over the four years during which it raged, men were drawn into the armed forces from all walks of life. Initially on a voluntary basis, and then increasingly through coercion, social pressure and eventually conscription. Women too were required to support the military forces in a variety of roles.

Initially the men working in the railway industries were part of a protected occupation. Britain needed its engineering and logistics workers to keep the country functional, as well as to fuel the war. Railway engineers built special train carriages, to transport troops and battle casualties, and wagons to carry vehicles, heavy guns and ammunition. Not all of the railwaymen listed on the memorial were from Shildon Works, there were others that were from the operating department at Shildon - engine cleaners, drivers and firemen. They also were involved in creating weaponry and equipment to help the frontline soldiers. It's important to know, however, that the membership of the Institute also included men from other occupational backgrounds. Many of the men listed on the memorial were coal miners that had joined the Institute to benefit from its services and facilities. A small number of named men were local teachers.

As the war carried on, however, and consumed more of the nation's young men, schemes evolved to release young railwaymen from their employment, allowing them to volunteer for army and navy duties. Railway engineers, like miners, with their strength and engineering expertise, were particularly useful to the armed forces. Many, though not all, were drafted into Pioneer Battalions, the workhorses of the army, and employed in a variety of engineering capacities from building tactical railway routes to the front, repairing, building roads and building and digging defences.

Throughout the war a number of Shildon's younger men enlisted, many of them doing so at the recruiting office in nearby Bishop Auckland though other travelled further to Newcastle or Sunderland. Some of them did not have to leave Shildon to enlist and may have signed up at special recruiting events. These included a significant number that were members of Shildon Railway Institute. Though we have read much about the northern Pals Battalions where many groups of young men joined and served together, our research has found that the young men and women of the Institute served in a variety of units and locations.

The memorial, an arrangement of three plaques dedicated to those that served, and that lost their lives and did not return to their families, was created through family and member subscriptions and was ordered from a company called Jones and Willis who specialised in

producing such memorials. It was installed in 1921 and was unveiled and dedicated on the 8th November 1921, with J H Smeddle and Archdeacon Derry in attendance.

The construction consists of three brass plaque on a wooden mount. The centre plaque has a dome at centre top, which is echoed by the mount. There is a border of intertwined leaves sunk in casting with the background enamelled black. At centre top in the dome is the badge of the North Eastern Railway enamelled in full colour. The main panel is divided into three parts, the dedication being in the centre with the names of those who fell in two columns below. The two outer columns are headed in a red scroll "The following also" and "served with the colours". The names are listed in four columns, all lettering is in Roman capitals.

The main inscription on the memorial reads SHILDON/NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY/INSTITUTE ROLL OF HONOUR/EUROPEAN WAR 1914-1918. TO OUR GLORIOUS DEAD. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR/KING AND COUNTRY.

There are 250 names in total on the memorial - though of these only 30 represent men who did not return from the conflict.

In 2021 a number of Institute members and volunteers from the Shildon Heritage Alliance CIC took it upon themselves to investigate the stories and backgrounds of the people featured upon the war memorial - with a particular focus on those that did not return, to uncover their tragic stories.

The group decided, though, to find out something about all the other names listed too, as the effects of this violent and bloody conflict did not end at the end of the war and left many scars on the men and women who were fortunate enough to return. So this is our attempt to tell the stories of as many as we can in time for the centenary of the memorial's installation.

Information used to produce this account.

Much of the information in this document was drawn from information available at the following websites

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.fold3.com

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

www.discovery.nationalarchives.co.uk

www.vad.redcross.org.uk

Additional sources include:

A list of Shildon Works NER employees and enlistment details available from the Head of Steam Museum at Darlington

North Eastern Railway Magazine - available from the North Eastern Railway Association or at Search Engine (part of the National Railway Museum at York)

Censuses of particular interest:

The 1901 Census - which was taken on 31st March 1901

The 1911 Census - which was taken on 2nd April 1911

The 1939 Register - which was taken early in the 1939-45 war on 29th September 1939

Table of the Men That Did Not Return

Name	Unit Served	Rank	Reg No	Died	Known Shildon Addresses	Pre war Occupation	Res
Thomas Alderson	20th DLI	Pte.	20/908	31 Jul 1917	1 Graham Terrace	Labourer, chief mechanical engineer's office	CH/DR
Joseph Huntson Atkinson	8th DLI	Pte.	2905	25 April 1915	14 Magdala Terrace, New Shildon	Teacher, Cockton Hill Primary School	CH/DR
William Bamlett	20th DLI	Pte.	2578 (later 200266)	21st Sep 1917	Houghton-le-Skerne	Clerk loco (carriage and wagon) dept	CH
Harry Bundy	Royal Garrison Artillery	Sergeant	47384	31 Dec 1916	52 Baff Street, Spennymo or	Chargeman in loco (carriage and wagon) dept	BA
George Crawford	King's Liverpool Regt.	Pte.	57779	31 Jul 1917	9 Kimberley Terrace, New Shildon	Teacher	BA
Sydney Doran	6th Kings Own Scottish Borderers	Pte.	22386	26 Apr 1918	24 Adelaide Street, New Shildon	Riveter	BA
Thomas Edward Emmerson	4th Kings Liverpool Regt.	Pte.	50126	19 Sep 1918	14 Beresford Street	Hammer Driver	JR/DR
William Ewbank	18th DLI	Pte.	1490	22 Jun 1916	12 St John's Road, New Shildon	Greaser/Oiler	JR/DR
Thomas Smurthwaite Fletcher	6th DLI	Sgt.	3975	1 Oct 1916	13 Mechanic Street, New Shildon	Painter at Shildon Works	JR/DR
Alfred Graham	8th Kings Royal Rifle Corps	Rifleman	R23279	15 Sep 1916	2 Adamson Street, New Shildon	Shearer	DR

Name	Unit Served	Rank	Reg No	Died	Known Shildon Addresses	Pre war Occupation	Res
Arthur Hardy	10th Lincolnshire Regt.	Pte.	40978	28 Apr 1917	27 Tomlin Street, New Shildon	Clerk in the passenger department	MA
Henry R Greener	Yorks Regiment (Green Howards)	Cpl.	18062	7 Oct 1917	19 North Terrace, Shildon	Colliery Surveyor	MA
Harold Harwood*	Hampshire Regiment	Pte.	16852	23 Jan 1916	25 Bouch Street, New Shildon	Blacksmith's Striker	TH
Fred Hall	2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance	Pte.	1513	26 Apr 1915	53 Soho Street, Shildon	Mineral Guard	TH
Herbert Trusler	12th King's Liverpool Regt.	Pte.	99693	4 Oct 1918	24 Raby Gardens, Shildon	Hammer Driver	TH
George Henry Sykes	Royal Naval Reserve "Anson" Battalion	Able Seaman		Jun 1915	30 South Street, New Shildon	Warehouse Apprentice at Bishop Auckland	LK
Thomas Ingledew	Coldstream Guards	L Cpl.	19971	9 Oct 1917	30 Alma Street, New Shildon	Confectioner	LK
George Henry Liddle*	22nd DLI	Pte.	22/346	4 Mar 1917	9 Pears Terrace, New Shildon	Wagon Repairer	LK
William Ramage	7th King's Liverpool Regt.	Pte.	99738	27 Sep 1918	2 Ruby Street, Shildon	Shearer	DM
Samuel Longstaff Reeve	Royal Field Artillery	Gunner	185865	27 Sep 1918	7 Maughan Street, Shildon	Clerk for Paper Merchant	DR
Albert Ernest Robson	19th King's Liverpool Regt.	Pte.	186865	22 March 1918	3 All Saints Road, New Shildon	Wagon Painter	DM
Thomas Edwin Sayers	15th Durham Light Infantry	Pte.	250396	5 Oct 1917	48 Hildyard Terrace, New Shildon	Coal Miner	DR

Name	Unit Served	Rank	Reg No	Died	Known Shildon Addresses	Pre war Occupation	Res
Thomas Edward Shafto	11th Pioneer Battalion DLI	Pte.	13997	25 Apr 1918	8 Railway Terrace, New Shildon	Engine Cleaner	DR
Henry 'Harry' Spensley	17th Northumberland Fusiliers (NER Pioneers)	Pte	32/239	5 Oct 1916	18 Short Soho Street, New Shildon	Blacksmith's Striker	DR
Harry Norman Stanwix	Notts & Derby Regt	L Cpl.	267296	21 Mar 1918 (presumed)	12 Victoria Street, Shildon		KA
Harry Stephenson	8th Yorkshire & Lancashire	Pte.	34328	29 Oct 1918	4 All Saints Road	Wagon Maker	KA
John William Young	15th DLI	Pte.		31 Mar 1918 (presumed)			KA
John Peacock	Machine Gun Corps	Pte.	82060	17 May 1917			KA
George Dewell Howe	6th DLI	L Cpl.	3800	5 Nov 1916	20 St John's Road	Hammer Driver	KA
Arthur Bowser	21st DLI	Pte.	20318	5 Aug 1916	40 Garbutt Street	Labourer	KA

Individual accounts of the men that did not return

Private Thomas Alderson.

Thomas, born on the 12th July 1885 in Shildon, was the son of John and Ann Alderson. His father was a coal miner. He had two brothers William Giles Alderson and James Alderson, the latter of whom was a railway clerk that also served in the First World War. There were also two sisters, Minnie and Gladys.

Prior to the war Thomas resided at his parents house at 1 Graham Street New Shildon and was a practicing Wesleyan Methodist. He was a comparatively short man, being only 5 feet and 4 inches in height.

Thomas had married Ada Swinglehurst at the Wesleyan Chapel in New Shildon on the 11th April 1911 and the couple subsequently had a son, John Morris Alderson on 20th April 1912. The couple set up a home at 8 Short Street, New Shildon with Ada's mother Ann.



He received a medical on the 11th November 1915 at Bishop Auckland and then he enlisted properly aged 30 years and 4 months on the 13th of November at the Bishop Auckland recruiting office, and was quickly accepted into the 20th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. His medical revealed him to have good physical development and perfect vision. On his enlistment papers he gave his occupation as 'Labourer' though we know from a later obituary in the North Eastern Railway Magazine that he was attached to the NER's Chief Mechanical Engineer's office. He left his wife, Ada, and young son John, at home, and went off to fight in the war almost straight away. His first stop was the DLI's camp at Barnard Castle where he arrived on the 14th November. He remained there for basic training before moving to Aldershot on the 4th January 1916 where he stayed until the 4th May 1916 whereupon he was sent off with his battalion mates to fight as part of the British Expeditionary Force in France.

Thomas survived 88 days in France and was killed in action on 31st July 1917, though it took over three weeks for the news to reach headquarters back in Britain.

Thomas's personal effects were returned to his wife Ada. She also received his posthumous British War medal and Victory Medal. Thomas is remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial and is buried at Ypres in Belgium

Private Joseph Hewitson Atkinson

Joseph was born on the 6th May 1892 at the tiny village of Fylands Bridge near Tindale Crescent. He was the son of Thomas Atkinson, a North Eastern Railway engine driver, and his wife Isabella. He had two brothers, James, an engine fireman and Thomas, a railway guard. This truly was a railway family.

Joseph was the youngest of the family and was clearly quite bright. By the time of the 1911 census, Joseph was living away from home as a student of Bede College, Durham, then a

specialist Church of England teacher training college. Joseph was, in this sense, rather like George Crawford (also featured on the memorial)

The family at that time were living at 14 Magdala Terrace, New Shildon. On completion of his education Joseph found work as a teacher at Cockton Hill Primary School in nearby Bishop Auckland. We don't know the date on which Joseph enlisted as his war records are among the sixty percent that were destroyed during an air raid in the second world war, however he probably went to the recruiting office at Bishop Auckland during late 1914 or early 1915 and was quickly accepted as a Private in the 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry.



According to Bede College's own history, Joseph was part of the 8th Battalion's A Company, which was also referred to as the Bede College Contingent. This, consisting of 102 officers, NCOs and men, joined the British Expeditionary Force in France in April, 1915, and was thrown into the front line trenches during the second Battle of Ypres. Again, according to the college historians, the Bede spirit was not quenched by the Company's first experience of coming under shellfire. The official history records how they recalled the fireworks at Durham Regatta:

'Through the darkness came the voice of some irrepressible Bede College member of A Company as a shell passed over - "Aye, it reminds yer o'Durham Regatta. Now lads, up goes another! All together! Bang! Mind the stick!" Then someone called, "Who's won the Grand?" and there were rival cries of "City" and "Bede".'

That was on the 25 April, when A and D Companies found themselves on Gravenstafel Ridge, with the Canadians on their right and the French Zouaves to their left, the latter having suffered the first gas attack of the war. They helped to save Ypres, but the Bede Contingent suffered grievous losses. 17 were killed, Joseph among them. 10 others were wounded, and 31 taken prisoner. The circumstances of Joseph's death were recorded. A fellow Bede comrade, Corporal Joseph Watson, also of Shildon and the son of a Railway Shunter, had fallen, severely injured, into a shell hole and was crying out for water. His colleagues attempted to throw bottled water to him but failed, so his friend, Joseph, crawled out to him. While doing so he was killed outright and his body was never recovered. Cpl Watson was later recovered but also died from his wounds on May 10th. The Company had gone in to the battle quite inexperienced, and Joseph's experience of combat was sadly yet mercifully, a short one.

There is a photograph of the survivors, grouped like the 'sports teams' photographs of the day, with the poignant caption 'Bede, all that was left'. We remember them, and those who served at other times and in other places, with thankfulness and pride.

After Joseph died his soldier's pension was paid to his father, Thomas. At probate in November 1915 his estate of £108 was left to his brother Thomas. The Bede Contingent had all been instructed to write a will before the battle. He is not only remembered on the Institute's War Memorial. As he was employed as a teacher, and thus employed by the County, he is remembered on the Durham County Hall war memorial, and as a former Bede College student he is also remembered on the Bede College 1914-1918 Cross, Plaque and Roll of Honour.

Private William Bamlet

William was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bamlet of Houghton-le-Skerne near Darlington, just a short distance along the railway line from Shildon. He had been born in the spring of 1895 at Scruton in North Yorkshire. His father was a farmer, as was his older brother Thomas. He also had a younger brother and two sisters. William was not for following his father into farming, though, and by 1911 he was employed as a clerk by the North Eastern Railway.



Having worked as clerk at Shildon Works and having served four years in the company's employment, joined the 20th Durham Light Infantry. He was deemed one of the youngest of the Shildon staff to have answered the call and joined up, looking little more than a boy in his photograph of him in uniform.

We don't know a great deal about when he enlisted, or where he served as his soldier's record is one of the many that was lost or destroyed, but we do know that William was at the front for about 18 months and according to an article in the North Eastern Railway magazine that appeared after his death, he had seen severe action with the 'Durhams.' He went missing during the action on 21st September 1917 and was presumed to have died although his body was not recovered.

He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and the 1914/15 Star. His war pension was paid to his mother Elizabeth.

Sergeant Harry Bundy

Harry Bundy was born on the 19th March 1884 at West Grinstead in Wiltshire, quite a long way from Shildon. He was the son of general labourer Mark Bundy and his wife Louise Jane.

Prior to enlisting was employed as a charge-man cleaner at Shildon Works. He had been in the service of the NER for nearly three years.

He married Florence Clarissa Randall in 1911, at West Auckland and the couple subsequently had had two children both of whom carried his parents name, Harry Mark Bundy in 1915 and Louisa Mary Bundy in 1913.



Unlike many of the Railway Institute's soldiers Harry had served before the Great War. As a very young man he had enlisted into the Royal Marines Artillery and at the time of the 1901 census, when he was almost eighteen years old, he was stationed at the Eastney Barracks near Portsmouth. This might account for how he came to join the Artillery when war broke out rather than the DLI or other infantry battalion with his workmates.

After his first period of military service he appears to have become a policeman, but when war broke out he enlisted at the recruiting office in Darlington

He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and was assigned to the 117th Heavy Battery, whose job it would have been to heavily pound the German front lines with shells, aiming to do as much damage as possible, and often to 'soften up' the enemy and disorientate them ahead of infantry assaults. This job brought no guarantees of not receiving the similar treatment in return.

The war diary of the 117th Company Heavy Artillery tells what happened to Sergeant Bundy. The unit had been told to take position at a forest near Maurepas in the Somme as part of that battle in 1916. From the 8th of December 1916 the battery had been under constant heavy shell fire. On 31st a shell struck a dug-out containing 6 men. Four were killed outright, one mortally wounded while one almost miraculously escaped with 'comparatively small injuries'.

Sergeant Bundy, was one of the four killed in action on 31st December 1916 making his wife a widow and children fatherless. He was 32 years of age. This would have been a second blow to Florence as her brother William had been killed earlier that year in France. Harry's soldier's pension was later paid to Florence.

Private George Crawford

George, the eldest son of Charles Crawford and Mary Elizabeth, was born in the spring of 1892 at New Shildon. The family are listed as living in 1911 at 9 Kimberley Terrace, New Shildon. His father and grandfather Charles were locomotive engineers and fitters. His brother Charles was a railway clerk in 1911, and Arthur a machinist, but George aged 19 is listed in that census as a pupil teacher.

Later that year he became a student at Bede College for trainee teachers, Durham. He joined the junior rugby team and rejoiced in the nickname Jack Johnson. He earned a first class pass in the Archbishop's Certificate in March 1913, and upon qualification in the summer was listed in the third class in the Certificate pass list. He went on to teach at West Herrington Council School for Boys.



Crawford was living at Philadelphia, Fence Houses, and teaching at New Penshaw County School when he enlisted in the 325 Northern Company of the Cyclists Division at Houghton-le-Spring, as is mentioned in The Bede magazine of December 1915. His death was reported to his Bede College comrades in the December 1917 issue of the college's magazine.

"George Crawford joined the Northern Cyclist Battalion from which Corps he was transferred to the King's Liverpool Regiment. With him were serving W Elliott and E Smith ('14-'16). The former writing on August 12 reported that Crawford had been killed, but he was never able to secure any further information. In his last letter to Bede, Elliott referred to the death of his comrade Crawford which apparently took place near Ypres. 'It does seem strange,' he wrote, 'that he should have found his last resting place where so many other Bede lads have fallen.' Within twelve days Billy had joined his comrade, and his last resting place is in the same stricken field of war."

The war diary of the 18th King's Liverpool Regiment describes the events and confusion following zero hour at 03:50 on 31 July. This marked the start of the battle of Pilckem Ridge, itself the opening engagement of the Third Battle of Ypres, now known more widely as Passchendaele. It

was not until a week later that the commanding officer of the battalion was able to make his report of 31 July in the war diary: on that day seven officers from the battalion were killed in action and seven wounded; and among the other ranks three were killed in action, forty six were wounded and one hundred and ninety-four were missing. Private George Crawford was among them.

As his body was never found, George Crawford's name is inscribed on the Menin Gate at Ypres. His sacrifice is also remembered in the National Union of Teachers War Record 1914-1919, the Durham County Council War Memorial, our Institute memorial and the war memorial statue at St John's churchyard in Shildon as well as on Bede College's 1914-1918 Cross, Plaque and Roll of Honour.

Private Sydney Doran

Sydney was born in 1897 as the son of James Doran and his wife Isabella, both of Aycliffe - though Sydney was born in Shildon. In 1901 the family lived at 31 Adelaide Street, New Shildon. Before he enlisted Sydney was living with the family now at 24 Adelaide Street, New Shildon, Co Durham. He had an older brother George, three younger brothers and two younger sisters, Annie and Dorothy.

His father, James, was a Forgemans Assistant, and after finishing his years at school Sydney also took a job as a Riveters Assistant for the North Eastern Railway Company based at Shildon Works. He spent four years with the company before going to war. His brother George joined the Army Service Corps with the regimental number 162773. Sydney enlisted as a Private into the 6th Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers with the regimental number 22386.



We understand he was part of D Company. This was a 'New Army' Battalion raised in 1914 to complement the regiment's existing 'Regular' and 'Territorial' battalions. We don't know quite when Sydney joined but we do know that his regiment had fought and taken heavy casualties in the Battle of Loos in September 1915, and later fought on the now notorious battlefield of the Somme. On 3rd April of 1918 the battalion were engaged on the front line at Hill 60 near La Clyette in Belgium and they remained there until the 15th when they were relieved by the 2nd Yorkshire Battalion. After this they moved to the Brigade Reserve at the Vierstraat Line. On the 24th there was an attack by the enemy on the battalion's headquarters and this resulted in B and D companies being surrounded and cut off from the main body of the battalion.

Though it is not known for sure it is probable that Sydney died as a result of this encounter. He died on the 26th April 1918. He was 21 years old when he died. His body was interred at the Haringhe Military Cemetery, not far from the Belgian town of Poperinge. Sydney's sacrifice was announced to his North Eastern Railway colleagues through the North Eastern Railway company magazine which featured this accompanying photograph. His widowed mother received his personal effects. Older brother George Doran returned from the war and in 1924 married Mary

Horan, later, by 1939, living at 25 Beresford Street, New Shildon and working for the LNER at Shildon Works as a Hydraulic Pressman.

Private Thomas Edward Emmerson

Thomas Edward Emmerson was born in New Shildon to a family connected with the railway works there. His father Thomas was a blacksmith in the wagon department and older sons Ralph and James were a works labourer and engine cleaner respectively. Three years before the outbreak of the war, when Thomas was still at school, the family were living at 14 Beresford Street. The small house was very busy, with ten children probably resulting in mother Hannah (nee Rowlands) having a very busy life keeping the place tidy and everyone fed. they had previously lived at number 24 on the now demolished Strand Street, one of New Shildon's earliest streets.

On leaving school, Thomas followed his father and elder brothers into the employment of the North Eastern Railway at the Shildon Works becoming a hammer driver which meant that he operated one of the larger mechanical hammers that were used to shape metal fabrications in the works forge.



Thomas went to the recruiting office at Bishop Auckland to enlist into the Army and was accepted into the 4th Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment as a Private with the regimental number 50126. He was deployed in the Western Europe theatre of war.

He was killed on the 20th September 1918, tragically only a couple of months before the hostilities ceased, but during a period of the war when it had become its most deadly with both sides having spend almost four years devising new ways to kill each other's troops.

We know little in terms of the dates and places of Thomas's service as his service records appear to have been lost and have not been made available. Similarly we know little of the circumstances of his death other than that he was killed somewhere in France & Flanders.

Thomas had left instructions that in the event of his death his pension should be payable Hilda Margaret Bibby of 8 King Edward Street, Shildon who he claimed was the mother of his illegitimate child. Hilda was of similar age to Thomas. However Thomas's war pension records show that this was changed so that his mother, Hannah, by then resident at 7 Beresford Street, became the beneficiary.

Hilda later, in 1920, married a James Biggins and the couple later moved to Staffordshire. It's not clear what became of Thomas's child, though it's probable that if it survived infancy its surname name may have changed to Bibby.

Private William Ewbank

William was the eldest of four children living at 12 St Johns Road at the time of the 1911 census. With his mother Jane and at this time 15 years employed as a lad oiler at Shildon Wagon Works.

John's father, John James Ewbank, a foreman shunter for the railway company, was at this time a patient at the Royal Victoria Infirmary at Newcastle, though he later returned to New Shildon. The home was also shared with brother James 13 sister Hilda 11 and further brother Edward born 1905.

His Grandfather William Ewbank born Shap Cumberland in 1846 came to New Shildon and became an engine driver, marrying Margaret Littlefair of Brusselton and going on to have six children. William Snr. died aged 50 in 1895. Buried along with Margaret All Saint's Church yard.



William, five feet seven and three quarter inches tall, enlisted at the Darlington recruitment office on 1st May 1915 at the age of 19 years and 4 months (according to his enlistment papers). He was accepted into the 18th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, popularly known as the Durham Pals. The home base of this battalion was Cocken Hall, Durham, which had been loaned to the battalion by Lord Durham.

William left England for France on the 8th April 1916 where he and his fellow soldiers of the Battalion were attached to the 31st Division in the field.

William was transferred between the 18th and the 21st Battalion twice - but returned to the 18th Battalion in April 1916. It was while serving with the 18th Battalion DLI that he received gun shot wounds on 15th June 1916 that became the cause of his death on 22nd June 1916 at the No. 2 Stationary Hospital at Abbeville, just before the battalion was involved upon attacks on the German trenches at Serre.

After his death his possessions were returned to his father John James, who would also later receive his British War Medal and Victory Medal. John James passed away in 1925. His brothers lived full lives in New Shildon. James working at the wagon works firstly as a boilermaker, then as a welder. Edward, eventually chief cashier in the works repair shop. Hilda married and moved out of the area. Her descendants emigrated to United States of America, in the course of time. James descendants continued to live in Shildon. Edward never married.

Sergeant Thomas Smurthwaite Fletcher

Thomas was born at Low Keekle near Whitehaven in Cumbria in around the autumn of 1880 to Henry and Hannah Fletcher. His father Henry was an accountant by trade as a young man, but by 1891 had moved the family to New Shildon and taken a job at the Shildon Works as a wagon repairer. The family lived at 13 Mill Street.

When he was old enough to work, Thomas followed his father into the railway wagon works and became a wagon painter by 1901. Three years later, in around spring of 1904 he married his sweetheart Elizabeth Sayer, and moved in with her and his father-in-law, John Sayer at 48 Hildyard Terrace (now part of what is better known as Redworth Road). the couple had a son, Thomas

Sayer Fletcher on the 30th December 1907. Later the couple moved into a house of their own at 13 Mechanic Street.

Thomas enlisted at the Bishop Auckland recruitment office into the Durham Light Infantry, was accepted into the 1st 6th Battalion with the regimental number 3975, and eventually was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. At the time of enlisting, Mr. Fletcher, who was 36 years of age, had been in the N.E.R. service for 17 years.



On the first of October, Thomas was serving in the trenches of the Somme. The war diaries of the Durham Light Infantry note how at 1am that morning the clocks were moved back an hour to mark the end of British Summer Time. Then preparations were made for an assault on the German trenches ahead. The commanders met at 3:00am to discuss the battle plan, and then the men were in 'battle order' by 6:00am. Lt Colonel Bradford of the 9th battalion, one of the four famous 'Fighting Bradford' brothers from Witton Park took over command for the assault. British artillery commenced bombarding the German trenches from 7:00am through to 3:15pm when Thomas and his comrades commenced their infantry assault on the German trenches. The 6th Battalion achieved their objective that day - but part of the price paid was that Sergeant Thomas Smurthwaite Fletcher lost his life on the battlefield.

He was buried in the Warlencourt British War Cemetery near Calais in France. After his death his war pension was paid to his wife Elizabeth whom we understand remarried later. Their son moved away from Shildon to work as a plumber, married and passed away in 1957 in Abertillery, Monmouthshire, Wales.

Rifleman Alfred Graham

Alfred Graham was born in 1897 at Brusselton. He was the son of John Graham and his wife Annie and was one of six children. His father was an Engine Repairer and Fitter who had himself been born in New Shildon. In 1901 the family lived at 18 Victoria Street, a house built for New Shildon's railway workers in the 1860s.

His father died while Alfred was a boy, leaving his mother to raise the family and the children in turn to support their mother. By 1911 the family had moved to 2 Adamson Street, New Shildon, so of all the young men commemorated on the Railway Institute War Memorial, Alfred probably lived closest to the Institute itself.



He worked as a Shearer at the North Eastern Railway's Shildon Works and had done so for five years before he enlisted. After the outbreak of the war, Alfred enlisted into the 9th Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps as a Rifleman with the regimental number 23279. He gave his mother's name as his dependent, with an address of 10 Adamson Street. Alfred served with his unit in France.

In September of 1916 his battalion were in the vicinity of Dernancourt to the east of Amiens, camping to the south of Becordel. On the 14th September the battalion received their orders for a big attack that was to be launched on the 15th with the co-operation of French troops, so on the 14th at 6:20pm they moved up to the Pommiers Redoubt, closer to the firing line.

The commanding officer recorded in his war diary that the men selected for the attack were veterans of the Somme and considered the "picked troops of the British Army" and that it was a great honour to have been selected for this attack. He noted that "A new form of armoured motor car was employed for the first time driving this attack. They were known as 'tanks' and were able to move over any kind of rough ground, being able to cross shell holes or trenches, climb banks and get over sunken roads." In Arthur's final hours of his life he would be among the first to witness the advent of tank warfare.

The battalion arrived at Montauban Alley at 5am on the 16th September where they supported the 43rd Brigade in an unsuccessful attack on Gueudecourt before taking stock of their casualties. They had lost 11 officers and 231 NCOs and other men. Among them was Rifleman Alfred Graham. He was only 20 years old when he was killed that day.

Alfred was buried in the London Cemetery and Extension at Longueval, Department de la Somme, Picardie on France. His death was reported to his colleagues in the North Eastern Railway magazine.

Private Arthur. Hardy

Arthur was born in the first quarter of 1898 at New Shildon, the son of a Sawyer for the North Eastern Railway named Thomas Hardy and his wife Ellen (nee Moralee). His father was born in Newfield, near Willington, and his mother came from Pegswood near Morpeth in Northumberland.

Arthur's family were Wesleyan Methodists, and had their son baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel on Redworth Road. The 1901 and 1911 censuses both show him living with his parents at 27 Tomlin Street. He was still at school at the time of the latter survey, being only thirteen years of age. He had a sister called Eva who was four years younger.

Records show that, after leaving school, in 1912 Arthur became a young Clerk for the North Eastern Railway, working in the Locomotive Passenger Department at Shildon. An obituary noted that he had "taken duty at a number of stations in the Northern District."



Arthur enlisted to become a Private in the Prince of Wales's North Staffordshire Regiment with the regimental number 32162. During his service he was transferred to the 10th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment with a new regimental number, 40978. We don't know specifically which Battalion of the North Staffs Arthur served with but we do know something of the 10th Lincolnshire's whereabouts when Arthur fell. War diaries tell us that when his battalion left the trenches just before dawn that day, they faced the Prussian 111th Division who were on higher

ground. The fighting must have been ferocious and losses considerable. Arthur was killed in action on the 28th April 1917, and thus became one of the 2236 employees of the North Eastern Railway that lost their lives in the Great War.

His death was reported in the North Eastern Railway's company magazine. He was laid to rest with 80 members of his regiment in Roeux British Cemetery in France. Arthur is remembered on St John's cenotaph in Old Shildon, on the Shildon Railway Institute memorial, on the New Shildon War memorial and on the Redworth Road Wesleyan Chapel's Roll of Honour.

After Arthur's death, his parents claimed his war pension of six shillings per week which became payable from 25th December 1917. Pension claims records show that Arthur's parents seem to have moved to 224 Brinkburn Road, Cockerton, Darlington at some point between 1911 and the date Arthur fell.

"All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
To save Mankind - yourselves you scorned to save." (Memorial hymn)

Corporal Henry Raymond Greener

Henry Raymond Greener was born in late 1891. He was the second son of parents William and Matilda Close Hutchings (nee Vallis, baptised Sabina Matilda Close Vallisborn in Dorset). His father was a Colliery cashier. In 1901 when Henry was 9 years old, the family lived at 19 North Terrace, Shildon. The 1911 census tells us that the family were still there by that time. Henry had become a Colliery Surveyor, whilst his older brother Frank, 3 years senior, worked as a Colliery Clerk. Both brothers were still single at this time.

After the outbreak of war, brothers Henry and Frank both joined the 8th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment, the Green Howards. Henry was given the regimental number 18062 and rose to become a Corporal. Frank became a Corporal Sergeant with the adjacent regimental number 18063. Having enlisted early, Henry became eligible to receive the 1914-15 Star medal.

Henry died on 7th October 1917 at Flanders, Belgium, aged only 25. The battalion War Diaries show that his battalion were not in action on that day and no casualties are reported, so it is possible that he died from wounds sustained from heavy shelling that the battalion received at the end of September - we can't say for sure.

On the 27th the battalion reached Acquin, where all of the surviving men bathed, and then on the 28th a special service was held for the 102 men lost during the recent fighting. Henry is named as among the men remembered by his comrades in arms that day.

Records show his effects were returned to his mother in 1919 who by that time was living at 79 Albert Street.

His brother Frank returned home just in time for the birth of his son in 1919 whom he named after his dear brother. Frank and Henry (posthumously) were awarded the Victory medal and the British War medal in 1919.

As well as being remembered on the Railway Institute and St John's war memorials, Henry is also remembered at the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium, where he is one of 492 of his regiment named there. His brother, Frank, died in 1949. Mother, Matilda, widowed in June 1924, died 2 years later in 1951. Records show both lived in the Ferryhill area at the time of death.

Private Harold Harwood

Harold was born in New Shildon between July and September 1893, to parents Augustus and Mary Jane Harwood.

By the time of the the 1901 census, when he was eight years old, the family were living in Witton-le-Wear. George was then the oldest of three children, the others being a sister, Olive and brother, George Frank. His father was at that time a Railway Engine Fireman, probably working out of the depot at nearby Wear Valley Junction. Augustus later progressed to the pinnacle of his career becoming an Engine Driver, and later, by 1916, moved away to Musgrave Street, Penrith after a spell at Wearhead.



By the time of the 1911 census, however, an eighteen year old Harold was lodging with James and Amy Winter at 25 Bouch Street in Shildon and is shown as being employed as a Colliery Blacksmith Striker. James was a timber yard labourer at the Shildon Works, and may have been influential in Harold also transferring to employment for the North Eastern Railway at the works.

According to an obituary in their company magazine, Harold had been working for the North Eastern Railway for almost three years by the time he enlisted for service in the army on the 7th September 1914 which was quite early in the war. He was initially sent to the Hussar Depot at Scarborough, and later was placed with the 18th Hussars. He received training at Scarborough, Wigston and Tidworth. Hussars were a type of light cavalry, popular in armed forces across the world up until the late nineteenth century. The early experiences of such soldiers in the First World War showed them to be an outmoded type of soldier as gallant cavalry charges met oncoming machine gun fire and increasingly powerful artillery with devastating results.

It was possibly as a result of a consequent shift in war tactics that Harold was transferred to the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment as Private 16852 and he was sent abroad to fight in July of 1915. This 1st Battalion Hampshire had been mobilised in August 1914 and first landed at Le Havre late that month, so Harold was reinforcing a battle hardened force. His first theatre of war was in the Balkans but by 1916 he was in France

He is recorded as having been killed on 23rd January 1916. The men of the 1st Battalion had been resting at Hedauville not far from the small town of Albert. On the whole the days were quiet and uneventful, which makes what took place quite a shock. Both his pension card and the Battalion's war diaries described what happened. Harold had been stationed at a post referred to as Stonebridge near a mill, possibly near the Le Revin river, when he was shot from distance by an enemy sniper. He was one of only two men from the Battalion killed in that entire month. He was subsequently is buried in the Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel. This is close to Albert where a battle took place later in 1916. He posthumously received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal His soldier's pension was paid to his mother Mary.

Private Fred Hall

Fred was born in Shildon on the 14th May 1896 to parents John and Annie Hall (nee Elsdon) at the family home of 8 Mechanic Street, New Shildon. His father John worked as a Shunter for the North Eastern Railway.

His father John, born on Soho Street in New Shildon, had also served in the army himself as a young man. Initially a member of the Durham Volunteer Rifles he had joined the Yorkshire Regiment in 1886 and served overseas in Cyprus and Egypt before returning to Shildon in 1889 and was a volunteer reservist until 1898, two years after Fred was born. By 1901 John had become a Mineral Guard for the company, still at the same address and then by the 1911 census the family were living at 43 Soho Street. By then Fred had a younger brother Charles. John was still a Guard and Fred was now a young Apprentice Butcher.



On 15th December 1911, Fred, a tall lad standing at over 6 foot in height, took up employment with the North Eastern Railway working as a Lad Oiler in the Marshalling Yards at Shildon, specifically helping to sort empty wagons awaiting use. He became involved in the military before the war started, having at some point he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps Territorial Force with whom he was at camp undertaking exercises when the war broke out. Almost immediately the territorials were absorbed into the regular force and Fred was allocated to 86, 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance as Private 1513.

It is believed that force departed Newcastle by train on 17th April 1915 and went via Southampton to Le Havre and then to Ypres on 22nd April.

At the battle front, severe bombardments had been continuing for several days and Fred was assigned to carrying out stretcher bearer duties, collecting the wounded from the firing lines back to a rearward base for treatment. Disaster struck on the 26th April when a shell burst near where he was working and he was killed along with two others. Several others in the vicinity were injured. Poor Fred had only survived four days in France.

His commanding Lieutenant wrote back to family at home, describing Fred as a 'splendid type of man.'

He was buried in the Dunhallow ADS Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium alongside his fellow stretcher bearer Private J J Tomlinson who was from Gurney Valley.

Private Herbert Trusler

Herbert was born at Shildon in the early part of 1899 to parents William and Mary Ann Trusler. Herbert's father was a publican and in 1901 the family were living in Strand Street, at the Bay Horse Inn which his father owned.

It was a large family as was often the tradition then, Herbert had five brothers and two sisters, all of whom were older than him. The older brothers were all workers at the Shildon Works, excepting Robert who was a hotel waiter. Two of these brothers, Sidney and Leonard, would also go to war, the former dying and the other surviving.



By 1911 Herbert's father had retired from being a pub landlord and the family had moved to 24 Raby Gardens in Old Shildon. Herbert was, at this time, still at school and four brothers and a sister were still at home.

Herbert went to work at the North Eastern Railway workshops in June of 1915 and was given the job of being a Hammer Driver, operating the huge mechanical hammers in the forge. He enlisted into the 12th Training Reserve Battalion on 30th May 1916. At some point following training he was assigned to the 2/6th Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment as a Private under the regimental number 97981. Herbert was re-assigned in July 1918 to the 12th Kings Liverpool Regiment as a Private with a new regimental number of 99693.

The date on which he was killed in action is recorded as being 4th October 1918, but there is no existing record of specifically where he died other than that it was in France. The war diary of the 12th King's Liverpool Regiment shows that between the 1st of October and the 4th the men were in trenches in the area around Achéville near Lens. The men were fighting in patrols by day and night, pushing eastwards, northwards and southwards through trenches code-named Tempest, Totnes, Hudson, Alberta Road, Tobacco and Crump. Then the men engaged the enemy at a trench named Tortoise. Throughout all of this 5 men from the ordinary ranks were killed, and seventeen wounded. Herbert was highly probably among those casualties.

Perhaps ironically, and definitely tragically, he only needed to have survived just over a month longer and he'd have seen the end of the war.

It appears he was buried and later exhumed when war graves were consolidated into larger cemeteries, eventually being laid to rest in the La Chaudière Military Cemetery, Vimy, France on the 22nd July 1919; Plot 1.B.6. His pension became payable to his father William, who by this time had moved to 2 Tomlin Street in New Shildon. He was posthumously awarded the Victory and British Medals on the 29th October 1920.

Able Seaman George Henry Sykes

George was born on 17th January 1895 in New Shildon, County Durham, to parents James and Mary Ann. George's father James (1854–1903) was a Blacksmith from Stanhope and his mother Mary Ann Glendenning (born 1857) was a servant from Byers Green. Before her marriage, Mary Anne is recorded as living at 26 Bridge Street, Bishop Auckland, with her father, a Railway Labourer.

The 1911 census records George as being an apprentice working in a warehouse and living at 30 South Street, New Shildon. His mother, Mary Ann, was now the head of the family and the house described as having "4 good rooms".

George had a sister, Alice Jane, who was a dressmaker; a brother, John, who worked in the North Eastern Railway Shildon Works Machine Shop; and another brother, William, who also worked for the railway as a Points Scheduler. George also had a sister, Beatrice Lawson, who lived at 23 South Street.

George became Able Seaman Sykes, Service Number KP/705 of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves. Anson Battalion

The Royal Naval Division was essentially an infantry battalion created from Royal Navy and Royal Marine reservists and volunteers who were not needed for service at sea. This division fought at Antwerp in 1914 and by 1915 had been refocused upon Gallipoli.

Eleven troop ships and ships the Canopus, Dartmouth and Doris came together off Bulair before dawn after which the warships began a bombardment of the shore. After this, and just before daybreak, a destroyer made a close pass of the beach, and then boats containing the men of the battalion were swung out from the troop ships and towed to shore by trawlers.

There the men had a real fight for survival on their hands. The conditions on the Gallipoli Peninsular were terrible and the Turks had the upper hand in the fighting, raining fire down on the Empire's troops from strong defensive positions.

It is recorded in the Battalion's war diaries that on Wednesday 16th June 1915, the day George died, Pay Parade was performed. It is also recorded that it was a rough sea and therefore only walking casualties could be transferred.

George was wounded in battle and died of the effects of those wounds. Notification was sent to his mother. The Gallipoli Campaign, which was fought from April 1915 until January 1916, but ended in failure for Britain and her allies who withdrew their troops and refocused them on other objectives..

George was buried at plot B 118 at the Lancashire Landing Cemetery, at Cape Helles, Gallipoli.

Lance Corporal Thomas Ingledew

Not everyone who went to war having become a member of this Institute was a long-term native of Shildon. Thomas Ingledew was born in 1891 at Middlesbrough. He was the son of Robert Morley Ingledew and his wife Kate (Catherine Jane Davies) and was born in the year they were married. Thomas's father, Robert was an engine driver and prior to Thomas coming to Shildon the family lived at number 26 Oswald Terrace, Linthorpe.

At some point between 1901 and 1910 the Ingledews had moved to New Shildon, taking a house at 30 Alma Road. As an engine driver it is most likely that Robert had taken a new job with the North Eastern Railway that saw him based in Shildon. Unfortunately though Robert died in February 1910 leaving his wife Kate a widow. Kate briefly moved to 6 Beaumont Street, Bishop Auckland, but returned to Alma Road in Shildon by the time the war broke out.

Thomas himself did not go straight to work for the North Eastern Railway. By 1911, when he was aged 19, the census shows him as a visitor to the Jackson Family of 33 Oswald Terrace, a few doors away from where he had grown up, and working as a confectioner. The Jacksons, were a railway company family.

We know that after the war broke out, in 1915, Thomas married Edith Griffiths at Stockton-on-Tees. During the war, Tom, then living away from his mother at Stockton-on-Tees, travelled to Sunderland to enlist, and was accepted into the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards with the regimental number 19971. Little detail has been preserved of his war experience, though we know that he attained the rank of Lance Corporal, and that he was killed in action somewhere in Belgium on the 9th October 1917.

After the war, Thomas's mother Kate, and widow Edith received his war pension between them. She later moved to 8 Adelaide Street, and never remarried. Consequently she looks to have struggled financially and died quite poor on 17th December 1935.

Private George Henry Liddle

George was born in Eggleston in January 1885 to William and Mary Liddle (nee Willis). His father was a general farm labourer by trade and born in Eggleston, while his mother was born in Gainford.

George's early career in Eggleston was that of apprentice joiner, alongside his older brother John Joseph Liddle. It was to prove a useful skill and a perfect foundation for becoming a wagon repairer at the Shildon Works of the North Eastern Railway company. So we know he moved to Shildon for work - but there is another reason he came.



At first George didn't have a place of his own, and when the 1911 census was taken he was boarding with the Maughan family at 14 Lambton Street, Shildon. The head of the household there, and George's landlord, Henry Maughan, was a labourer also at the wagon repairing shop at the works. Henry Maughan had also married George's older sister, Margaret (1871-1961), so it's possible that Henry may have been responsible for helping George find work in Shildon.

In April 1911, in Bishop Auckland, George married Ida Lonsborough, who had been born in Thornton Le Moor in Yorkshire. Ida already had a son, who was born on the 16th June 1908; 3 years before she married George. His name was Charles Albert Lonsborough and he died in York in 1989, aged 81. Sadly, Ida did not live long after the wedding to George and died, aged only 24, in Middlesbrough during April 1912.

By the time war came around papers show George listed at two separate address - 8 Peases Terrace, but also 9 Pears Terrace - so it is probable that the first address has been mis transcribed at some point. His Pears Terrace address would have placed him only a few doors away from Shildon's famed brass music composer George Allan who lived with his family at number 2.

George also had three older brothers - William Willis Liddle, born in 1877 (recorded as living at 14 Ruby Street, Shildon), John Joseph Liddle (1880–1964), and Thomas Atkinson Liddle (1882-1957). On the 16th November 1915, George enlisted at the Bishop Auckland recruiting office at age 30. He was assigned to the 22nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry (Pioneers) under the regimental number 22/346 and was assigned to B Company. He gave his sister Margaret's name as his next of kin. He was recorded as being 5 feet four inches in height and weighing 118 pounds.

He was posted overseas with his comrades to join the British Expeditionary Forces on the 16th June 1916, embarking his transport ship at Southampton. On the 30th June 1916, along with many of his comrades, George made out a will in the supposition that one day he might not come back from the battlefield. It read:

"I, G H Liddle of 9 Pears Terrace, New Shildon, Co Durham, England wishes to bequeath £10 to my sister-in-law, Mrs F Walker 12 Codd St, South Bank, and my Joiners tools to R W Maughan, 14 Lambton Street, New Shildon and the rest of my belongings and monies to my brother Mr J Liddle c/o/ Mr J Liddle, Hall Gates, Egglestone, via Darlington, England. My opera glasses to remain in possession of Miss A Maughan and instruction be given to my sister-in-law at South bank to attend to my late wife's grave. I remain and expected that this will will be followed out to my instruction."
George was killed in action in France on the 4th March 1917.

George was buried in a temporary grave; one of many across the French and Belgian battlefields. After the war ended agreement was made with the French and Belgian governments to move the bodies to proper graves. George was exhumed from his original burial site on the 10th August 1920 and transferred to FINS New British Cemetery, which is 10 miles south east of Bapaume in the Somme region. The Army wrote to his family to inform them.

His meagre personal effects were sent to Thomas Liddle at Egglestone, and consisted of some letters, a spoon, part of a pipe, 2 keys, a wallet, a card case, 2 stamps, some photographs and some playing cards.

He was awarded the Victory Medal but this was held in trust by his sister in law Annie Liddle, of Hall Gates, Eggleston, for her husband Thomas William Liddle, who was recorded as suffering "mental deficiency". He was also posthumously awarded the British War Medal.

Private William Ramage

William Wiseman Ramage was born at Byers Green in March 1894. Baptised on 8th July, he was the youngest of six children.

His father was George Philips Wiseman, a barman and a musician. His mother was Jane Ann Ramage who had grown up in a large family in Spennymoor.

While his father pursued work as a musician in Lancashire, William's mother remained in Tynemouth and raised the children. Her family supported her as much as they could. William was adopted by his childless Uncle John and Aunt Mary. Jane moved her family back to Villiers Street,

Spennymoor but tragically on 8th July 1896 she died. In 1907, George Wiseman died.

John and Mary Ramage lived with their adopted son, William and John's mother, Ann at 2 Ruby Street, Shildon. John worked as a shearer at Shildon Works. William followed in his uncle/ adopted father's footsteps. He got a job as a shearer for the North Eastern Railway.

In January 1914, William married Jeanie Readman. Before she married, Jeannie was a postal clerk. They set up home in Craddock Street, Spennymoor. There they had two children. First Elsie who was born on 20th July 1914. Then on 3rd April 1918 they had a second child, William. After her husband's death, Jeanie moved back to Shildon where she moved into Phoenix House.



William's pension and service records have not survived. We can surmise that he signed up early in the war because the notes the record "Railwaymen died in the Great War", tell us that he had worked for the North Eastern Railway for 5 years before he enlisted.

Equally, we have no documented evidence as to how or why he joined the Sherwood Forresters (Notts & Derbys) when he first enlisted. At some point he was moved from the Sherwood Forresters to 3/7 Battalion, The Kings (Liverpool) Regiment.

In September 1918 the allied armies were involved in a series of very large scale offensive operations to advance to and break the Hindenburg Line. The German army was fighting on but their troops were hindered by poor equipment and inadequate food provisions. For the first time the allies were moving forward and managing to hold the land that they had won.

Tragically, William was killed just as the allies were really making a last big push. It is unclear how he was killed. He is reported as killed in action on 27th September 1918. However, according to the records concerning return of William's effects, Jeanie was not informed until 10th October. His personal effects together with a grant of £7 were returned to his wife on 18th October 1918. Together with 24 of his comrades from The Kings (Liverpool Regiment) from the battle for the Hindenburg line, William was buried at Queant Road Cemetery, which is located between the villages of Buissy and Queant in the Nord Pas de Calais region.

"Christ had need of him" - Jeannie Ramage

Gunner Samuel Longstaff Reeve

Samuel was born in 1893 and was the son of John Reeve and his wife Mary Ann Reeve (nee Longstaff). His father, originally from Norfolk, was a Horse Keeper and Groom for the Urban District Council who had moved to the area before July of 1874 and married Mary, originally from St

Helen's Auckland, at Shildon. In 1901, when Sam was only 7 years old, the family lived at 13 Burke Street, Old Shildon. By 1911, they family had moved to 7 Maughan Street.

By this time something had happened to Sam's father John, rendering him an invalid. Two of Sam's surviving siblings had left the family to set up their own lives, leaving only Sam and his sister Ethel to help their parents. Ethel worked as a shop assistant, whilst Sam took employment as a Clerk in the office of a paper merchant.

After the outbreak of the war Samuel signed up to join the Royal Field Artillery as a gunner and was given the regimental number of 185865. By the time of the war the family address was 8 Main Street, Shildon.

In July 1917 the 235th Brigade Royal Field Artillery were active in the area south of Ypres in Belgium under commanding officer Lieut-Col Gordon. From the 20th to the 22nd they were shelled heavily at night by the Germans using gas shells in an attempt to eliminate the influence of their own guns from the battle. they suffered 'considerable casualties'.

More heavy shelling followed on the nights of the 25th to the 29th. between the 18th and the 30th the 235th returned their own heavy bombardment though the officer completing the war diary noted that this was hampered by the weather.

In the misty early light of the 31st April at 3:50am the 5th Army, aided by the French in the area, launched an assault on the Germans, who launched their own counter attack on the Klein-Zillebeke road. Gunner Samuel Longstaff Reeve was killed in action while serving with his unit, B/ 235 brigade, on the 31st July 1917.

He was one of eleven men of his company that were killed that month, though there were many more casualties across the battalion. His mother received his war pension and his meagre personal effects.

Private Albert Ernest Robson

Albert Robson was born on 12th September 1897 at Waskerley. He was baptised on 23rd September 1897 at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Shotley Bridge. His parents were George Robson, fireman and Caroline Antoinette Bainbridge. Albert was the second of their five children.

Albert's father was a railway engine driver. He worked for the North Eastern Railway. His parents had moved around the north east whenever Albert's father got new jobs on the railway. By the time of the 1911 census, the family had settled at 3 All Saints Road, New Shildon.

When Albert was 14, he started work at the Shildon works as a painter.



Like many young men he enthusiastically signed up to fight for his King and country as soon as he could. We know how long he worked for the \North Eastern Railway company even though his service records have not survived. The record of Railwaymen who died in the Great War shows that he worked for the \North Eastern Railway for 4 years before he enlisted. He enlisted at 18 in 1915.

By 1918, many regiments were under pressure due to losses. The Kings (Liverpool) Regiment had suffered terrible losses in battles like the Somme and Passchendaele. They combined their diminished regiments as part of a regrouping plan.

Germany began a spring offensive in 1918 in a final big push to try to force an end to the war. The Germans felt that the tide could turn for the allies with the entrance of the Americans into the war. Germany prepared for a final attempt to achieve a decisive victory before the US contingent arrived on the Western Front. On 21 March, a five-hour artillery and gas shell barrage across a 50-mile front, signified the beginning of the Battle of St Quentin and the German Spring Offensive.

The King's occupied frontline trenches near Urvillers when the attack began. Two of its companies engaged troops at Lambay Wood and Benay and the battalion's casualties exceeded 160 on a single day of this battle. The Kings (Liverpool) in reserve on the 21st, hurried to the front on the 22nd to undertake localised counter-attacks, with the first and largest conducted by the 19th against the village of Roupy.

The battalion advanced in darkness after 01:15am, uncertain of German positions, but retook the original frontline trenches unopposed. They later came under sustained attack, holding out without support until Lieutenant-Colonel Peck ordered a withdrawal at about 1600. The Germans overwhelmed the survivors, capturing the wounded Peck and many others. The situation became dire, forcing troops to withdraw towards Ham, which itself had to be evacuated.

Albert was listed as missing on 22nd March 1918. He was presumed to have died on or since that date.

He was buried at Savy Cemetery, Roupy Road, Roupy Road. Savy Cemetery was made in 1919, and the graves from the battlefields surrounding it were incorporated into it.

"Albert Ernest Robson b 12 September 1897 d 22 March 1918

Age 20 years

Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Robson, of 12, All Saints Rd., New Shildon, Co Durham.

PEACE PERFECT PEACE"

Private Thomas Edwin Sayers

Thomas Edwin Sayers was born in 1890 in New Shildon and was the son of coal miner John Sayers and his wife Jane (nee Britton). He had an older brother, William, and an older sister, Elizabeth. He was probably born at 12 Strand Street, but the family later moved to 48 Hildyard Terrace (located on what is now Redworth Road) and as such would have lived literally over the road from the current Railway Institute building when it opened in 1913, and would have been able to watch the progress as it was built.

In 1904 his older sister married Thomas Smurthwaite Fletcher (mentioned elsewhere in this research), who moved in with the Sayers family for a few years until the couple could set up their

own home; hence Fletcher was Thomas Sayers's brother-in-law. By 1911 young Thomas had followed his father into coal mining. His joining the Railway Institute was probably on account of his living so close to it.

In the spring of 1916, Thomas married Lena Hewitson, daughter of an Escomb born coal miner. As with his brother-in-law, after the outbreak of the war Thomas followed the call from his country and enlisted, being accepted initially into the 1/6th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry with a regimental number 3440. He was transferred a few times, first to the 5th Yorkshire Light Infantry Battalion, then to a Base Depot and then to the 5th Entrenching Battalion.

Entrenching Battalions were temporary units from which drafts of replacements could be drawn by the conventional infantry battalions. They were generally put to work improving trenches and defences in anticipation of German attacks and could be used as reserve forces if required. Thomas's past as a coal miner would have made him ideal for the physical task of digging trenches and strengthening earthen ramparts.

Eventually Thomas was drawn from the 5th Entrenching Battalion to reinforce the 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was given the regimental number 250396.

Thomas was wounded in battle and later, on 5th October 1917 died from the effect of his wounds. Like most of his comrades he was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. These, and Thomas's soldier's pension were given to his widow Lena. Lena remarried in 1926 to James H Ramsden, himself a war veteran. However James too died in 1933 making her a widow for a second time. She married again to John Hutchinson in 1943.

Private Thomas Edward Shafto

Thomas Edward Shafto was born on the 28th August 1894 at West Auckland. He was Christened on the 9th September 1894 at St Helen's Auckland.

Prior to the war he lived at 8 Railway Terrace, New Shildon with his father, Edward Granville Shafto, a General Dealer, and mother Elizabeth (née Sutton). He had two brothers, George, a furniture dealer and Granville, and a younger sister, Annie. His father had moved to the area from Durham City, marrying Elizabeth in 1891 and setting up a shop at West Auckland before moving his business to New Shildon.

Tom's occupation was given on the 1911 census as that of labourer, but we know that prior to enlisting he worked as a cleaner for the North Eastern Railway and he joined the national Union of Railway Servants on the 2nd September 1911, which was after that year's census was captured. He was later excluded from his Union in June 1912 for not keeping up his membership payments. After the war broke out, Tom was quick to enlist, signing up for 3 years or the duration of the war at Bishop Auckland on the 31st August 1914, aged 20. he wasn't particularly tall at 5' 6 and half inches, but he was deemed to have perfect vision. He was received as Private into the 11th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry with the service number 13997. He was to have a long experience of the war.

The 11th Battalion was what was termed a 'pioneer battalion. These were formed to provide skilled labour support to another battalion, in this case the 20th Battalion, and occasionally to relieve the infantry from non combatant duties. The Pioneers were the work horses of the British Expeditionary Force that would dig and build, then occasionally taking up their arms to help their

main battalion fend off enemy assaults. Presumably it had been felt that Tom's strength as a labourer in civilian life made him well suited to this work.

Prior to posting overseas, during April of 1915 there was one minor disciplinary incident where Tom was caught absent from his post while on active duty and disciplined by being confined to barracks for 7 days. Otherwise he had a clean service record throughout.

He seems to have seen out the first part of his military service in England, before his first posting to France as part of the British Expeditionary Forces. The 11th Battalion saw action in the battle of the Somme, fighting in, and most likely constructing and repairing, the trenches near Ginchy. The fighting and general environment likely affected his health and he was returned to England after 85 days due to a sickness in October 1916, before being reposted overseas in Jun of 1917. He embarked his transport ship at Folkestone on the 1st June 1917, disembarking hours later at Boulogne. He joined up with his unit, the 20th Battalion Durham Light Infantry on the 12th June, but was soon after reposted to A company of the 11th Battalion DLI which he joined in July. After this the 11th again supported the 20th Battalion in the third battle of Ypres.

In October the 11th's paired partners the 20th Battalion were removed to Italy to fight with the 12th and 13th Battalions at the Battle of Caporetto, but had returned to France where they were engaged heavily by the Germans in their Spring Offensive which began on the 21st March 1918.

The 11th Battalion, Tom among them, had been building a supply railway behind the 20th Battalion in the Saint-Quentin area around Ham. Labour experience in a rail engineering environment may thus have been another reason for Tom's having been posted to this pioneer battalion. It was completely scattered during the week-long battle with only a few men regrouping later near Amiens. Tom was not to be one of those lucky few, though he did survive the battle. On 23rd March 1918, Tom was reported by the DLI as missing after the German offensive, but was later reported by the Germans on an official list of casualties as having died of Pneumonia at the village of Damery, a short distance north-west of Roye in France on 25th April 1918. It would appear that he had been among the many scattered British soldiers captured during the chaos of the assault, and taken to Damery. His personal effects were returned, and presented back to his parents after the war in August 1920.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914/15 Star medal on 24th April 1920, the Victory Medal on 11th Jun 1921 and the British War Medal on the 13th January 1922. All of these were separately received and signed for by his mother Elizabeth.

In 1921 his body was exhumed from its original resting place and reburied with proper ceremony alongside his comrades at plot I B 2 of the New British Cemetery at Roye, with a new cross being placed upon the grave detailing his particulars. The family were notified in April of 1921 and assured that the reinterment was undertaken with every measure of care and reverence.

His parents moved to 210 Byerley Road, Shildon, with his father passing away in 1929. Tom's mother lived for another ten years, passing away in April 1939

Private Henry 'Harry' Spensley

Henry 'Harry' Spensley was born in New Shildon on the 26th March 1895. He was christened on the 28th April that year.

He was the son of Robson Spensley and his wife Ada. Robson, born in Barnard Castle, had worked his way up from being a locomotive boiler washer to become the foreman of the Engine Cleaners at Shildon. The Engine Cleaners were responsible for the day to day cleaning up of the locomotives that were stabled at the Shildon engine sheds. This work was important to their running.

Harry had three sisters, Olive, Dora and Margery and a younger brother, William.

Henry followed his father into employment with the North Eastern Railway, but his role was that of Blacksmith's Striker, working alongside a blacksmith but wielding a heavier hammer which he would use under the instruction of the Blacksmith. He worked for the railway company for almost 6 years before going to war. His last day of work for the North Eastern Railway was the 6th December 1915.



The family lived, before the war, at 18 Short Street in New Shildon, which was originally Short Soho St, close to Timothy Hackworth's house.

Initially Harry joined the 32nd N E R Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, but following his enlistment Harry joined the Northumberland Fusiliers as a Private under the regimental number 32/239. Throughout his army career he served initially with the 16th Battalion (according to his medal card), for a time attached to the 9th Yorkshire Light Infantry, and later with the 14th Battalion (according to his grave).

The 16th was a Pals battalion, raised in Newcastle in September 1914 by the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce. It was taken over by the War Office in April 1915 and in June 1915, the 16th (Newcastle) Battalion was assigned to the 96th Brigade, 32nd Division at Catterick. On 22 November 1915, it landed at Boulogne and remained on the Western Front thereafter till the late stages of the war.

The 14th, also founded in Newcastle in 1914, was a Pioneer Battalion of engineering and construction labourers. They arrived in France in 1915, engaging on the Western Front for the remaining duration of the war.

In August 1916 the four companies of the 14th Battalion were employed at Arras working on defences around two huge craters caused by massive explosions from underground mines detonated by the Germans beneath the British front line - for ease of geographic location the British forces nicknamed these Claude and Clarence. On the 14th of August at 10:15pm the Germans exploded a mine at the Clarence crater causing much damage to the work the 14th had been doing. D Company were present at the time of the explosion which killed two men and wounded six.

We think Harry was one of the six wounded men, as a report appeared in the Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough on Saturday 26th August 1916 listing him as having been wounded. It's possible

that he may otherwise have been one of two men injured in another incident on the 3rd, which were the only other casualties reported in the Battalion that month.

Harry was evacuated from the front line to one of several military General Hospital at the British Expeditionary Force's base at the coastal town of Étaples, by the mouth of the river Canche. Harry died from his wounds there on 5th October 1916 at the age of 21 years. He was buried in the Military Cemetery at Étaples His personal effects were received and signed for by his father. Henry was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

An obituary appeared in the North Eastern Railway Magazine after his death.

Lance Corporal Harry Norman Stanwix

Harry Norman Stanwix was born in the district of Redworth in 1898 to William, a cart-man, and Annie. He was one of four children and his siblings were Emilie Maud Stanwix, William Percival Stanwix and Nora Hustwick Stanwix. In 1901 the family were living at 36, Southfield in School Aycliffe and by 1911, when Harry was 12, they were living at 12, Victoria Street, New Shildon.

It is probable that Harry enlisted circa May 1916 at Bishop Auckland. It's not clear exactly when he joined the 2/7th Battalion in the field. In his Soldiers' Effects record it has Harry as serving with the 2nd line 7th Battalion Notts and Derby (Sherwood Foresters) Regiment, before they merged with the 1st line 7th Battalion in early 1918 to become the 7th Battalion.

Records show that Harry was most probably killed in an attack just outside of Bullecourt village in the Hauts-de-France region of Northern France in a German offensive attack. The War Diary for the 21st March 1918 records very heavy enemy barrage on the front line from early that morning. His battalion suffered heavy losses and his death could only be assumed as his body wasn't found. He was 19 years old. He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The uncertainty over his actual death is shown by an ICRC index card recording that his family contacted the Red Cross in the hope that he had been taken as a Prisoner of War. His family were at the time living at 2, Victoria Street, New Shildon. His resting place is at Arras, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France Though there are no records of his employment prior to enlisting, Harry was a member of the Railway Institute in New Shildon.



Private Harry Stephenson

Harry was born in 1897 in Tebay, Westmorland, at the far end of what was once the South Durham & Lancashire Union Railway branch line which was serviced by locomotives from Shildon, to John and Harriet Stephenson. The family were living in 1901 at 32, Charles Street, New Shildon. His father was a wagon builder at Shildon Shops. He was the youngest of 3 children, his older brother was John and his sister was Cicely.

In 1911, the family are recorded as living at 4, All Saints Road, New Shildon and Harry is listed as being a Pawnbroker's assistant.



On the 29th February 1916, Harry signed up at Bishop Auckland and was originally assigned to the 32nd Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, but was later reassigned to the 8th Battalion of the Yorks and Lancaster Regiment. At this time, he was 19 years and 9 months old, was living at Shawville Terrace in New Shildon.

He was an apprentice wagon builder at Shildon Railway Works. His last day working at the shops is listed as the 24th February 1916. He had worked there for 3 years and 3 months. He was a member of the Railway Institute. He is listed as being 5 feet four inches and 112 pounds.

He joined the fusiliers on the 1st March 1916 at Harrogate and was transferred to the Yorks and Lancs Regiment on the 10th September 1916.

He was injured in Italy on the 29th October 1918 and died from his wounds. He was 22. He had previously been wounded in Le Trecourt, France in September 1916 and had spent some time in hospital, but re-joined his troops ten days later. He had an injury to his right knee. His listed resting place is:

GIAVERA BRITISH CEMETERY, ARCADE, Plot 6. Row D. Grave 6., Northern Italy (Treviso Region)

Private John William Young

Born in 1892, John was the only surviving child to George William Young (b. Howden-Le-Wear) and Sarah Ann Mary Williams (b. Hull). The family lived at Smeddle Street, New Shildon and this area of town was predominantly occupied by people who were employed by the Wagon Works. George at this time was working as a railway mineral guard for the North Eastern Railway.

In 1911, records show that John is also employed at the Railway Works and was a machinist (drilling) but later became a shaft oiler at the works.

On the 15th June 1916 he spent his last day working for



the railway company and he enlisted into the army on the 20th June, just 5 days later. Originally, John was assigned to the 4th Battalion of the DLI but was then transferred to the 15th Battalion with the regimental number 72845.

This battalion suffered some of the biggest losses out of all of the DLI units during WW1, particularly on the Somme.

The 15th DLI were in the 64th Brigade of the 21st Division. On the 21st March 1918, when the German Army attacked on the Somme, the 21st Division was in reserve. Rushed forwards to the front, the 15th DLI counter-attacked, only to be driven back.

In four days of fighting, the 15th DLI lost almost 500 men killed, wounded or missing, including the commanding officer killed in action. John William Young was one of the Battalion members that went missing and was eventually presumed to be among the dead. Records show that he may have died somewhere between the 21st and 31st March.

As with all serving soldiers, Pte. John William Young was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Private John Peacock

John Peacock was born in Shildon in 1899, the son of Nathan, a Railway Wagon Labourer, and Caroline Peacock. In 1901 the family are listed as living at 19 Alma Rd, Shildon.

By 1911, the family had moved to 6, Iley St, Shildon. By this time, John had another two family members - brothers Nathan Jnr and William. His father was also still working at Shildon Shops.

Records from the NER state that John was a Hammer Driver at the shops. His last recorded day at work was 17th November 1917. He had only been working for the North Eastern Railway for one year by the time he went to join the war effort.. He enlisted for the army on the 26th November 1917.



He was accepted into the Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regt) 1st/8th Battalion with the regimental number 61037.

At the beginning of September 1918, John and his comrades from the 8th Battalion West Yorkshires were ordered to clear enemy troops from the Vaulx-Vracourt area to the North east of Bapaume. The battalion arrived at its assembly point at 4am. They were to clear the village and the Vaulx trench. The Germans in the village offered little resistance, and 18 prisoners were taken, but the trenches proved a sterner challenge and the 8th came under heavy machine gun fire. Three tanks that were assisting were put out of action. The battle raged on the next day when machine gun positions on higher ground were expected to be taken, though an initial bombardment by the British on that position failed to have the desired impact. Eventually the Battalion was ordered to

occupy the Vaulx trench. 2 officers were killed and 5 wounded, plus 18 other ranks killed and 87 wounded with a further 11 missing.

The next day the battle continued with another 5 soldiers killed and eleven wounded before a retreat west was made to the village of Sapignies as other battalions took over. The 1st/8th Battalion had been reduced to two companies from four.

We think John was probably wounded in this action and eventually died from the effects of those wounds on 4th September 1918, aged only eighteen.

At time of his death, his family were living at 21, Tomlin St New Shildon. His mother Caroline received John's soldier's pension. His final resting place is the Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery at Bailleulval.

Lance Corporal George Dewell Howe

George Dewell Howe was born in New Shildon in 1894. In 1901, at the age of 7, he was living at 29, St John's Rd, Shildon with Mother Dorothy and father Robert (Railway Engine Driver), brothers Fred (Loco engine stoker) and Thomas, and sisters Frances, Ann and Jennie.

Ten years later, aged 17, the family were living at 5, Station St. George is listed as being an apprentice printer.

It is probable that from 1913, George then went to work at the Railway works and is listed as working as a Hammer Driver. According to these records, he was residing in Victoria Street in Shildon. His last day at work is recorded as being 14th May 1915.

Records suggest that George joined the DLI 1st/6th Battalion in July 1915..



The 6th Battalion DLI formed in 1908 from the old 2nd Volunteer Battalion DLI, and was a Territorial Force battalion with headquarters in Bishop Auckland and eight companies in drill halls in Barnard Castle, Consett, Crook, Spennymoor and Stanhope. On 3 August 1914, 6th DLI was on annual camp in North Wales with the rest of the Northumbrian Division, when the order came to return home and prepare for war.

As part of the 151st Brigade of 50th (Northumbrian) Division, the 1st/6th Battalion served until August 1916 in the trenches of the Ypres Salient, Armentieres (where the four companies were re-named as 'W', 'X', 'Y', and 'Z'), and Kemmel. The last two places were supposedly 'quiet', but the battalion rarely enjoyed days free from casualties.

They moved south to join the Battle of the Somme in September 1916, and the battalion again suffered heavily at High Wood and Eaucort L'Abbaye, where Roland Boys Bradford, formerly of Witton Park, took temporary command of the 1st/6th Battalion. Then, on 5 November, 151 Brigade

attacked the Butte de Warlencourt. In the mud and rain, the attack failed and 1/6 DLI lost over 150 men killed or wounded. Sadly, George was of the casualties.

George Dewell Howe, like his comrades in arms, was awarded the Victory medal and the British War Medal.

Records show that he left his money to sisters Ann, Frances and Jennie. He is buried in the Warlencourt British Cemetery, Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

Private Arthur Bowser

Arthur was born in 1894 in West Auckland. He was the son of Mr James and Mrs Elizabeth Bowser. He had a sister named Elsie Bowser and a brother named James Bertie Bowser.

In 1901 the Bowser family were living at 19 May Street in Bishop Auckland, with Arthur's father working in the town as a Butcher's Slaughterman. Later that year, on the 19th April, Arthur's brother James died, aged only four years old. He was buried at Bishop Auckland Town Cemetery.

By 1911, the family had moved to 40 Garbutt Street, Shildon. Arthur had followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a butcher's apprentice. His father was then working as a Butcher at the Co-op stores in Shildon. He did not stay a butcher however. By the time he joined the army he gave his occupation as being that of Labourer.

Arthur enlisted on the 22nd November 1915 at Darlington and was assigned to the DLI (21st Battalion – a reserve battalion). He was almost 22 years old and described as being 5' 5" in height. He received the regimental number 20318. In time he was transferred from the 21st Reserve battalion to A Company of the 20th Service Battalion.

He was posted on the 1st February 1916 and had a conduct warning on the 24th March at Catterick.

He was sent to France in 1916 as part of the British Expeditionary Forces. He embarked at Southampton on the 4th May and set foot on French soil at Le Havre on the 5th. On 29 May, the 20th DLI entered the front line trenches north of Armentieres for the first time. For the next three months, the battalion followed the routines of trench warfare on the Western Front and suffered casualties almost every day.

This may have been the area where Arthur was accidentally killed on the 5th August 1916. There are no specific details of how this accident occurred but papers attached to his attestation papers suggest that a defective rifle may have been the cause.

A note is enclosed with his military records from the 8th August 1916 written by Staff Sergeant D Arnot Armstrong which although incomplete gives something of an explanation for what may have gone wrong - it reads: "I have examined Rifle No 734...[missing text]...find it defective owing to the ful...[missing text]... on cocking piece not engaging with...[missing text]...of sear. This is caused through the...[missing text]... axis pin being slightly rusted up, therefore it does not allow the trigger to rotate on the axis pin and keeps the spring from doing its work."

A Court of Inquiry was held, with the proceedings being sent to Infantry Records on the 28th August. Those notes, though difficult to read, appear to explain that Pte. Arthur Bowser had been accidentally shot by one of his fellow soldiers at a listening post. Private James Tickner (2774) of the 23rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment had been attempting to apply the safety catch on a rifle that he had picked up on his way to the listening post that he later realised was not his own. A witness recorded him having said "there's something the matter with this bloody rifle, there's something the matter with it." Then the rifle went off accidentally and by misfortune happened to be pointed toward Arthur at the time. His death was attributed to the negligence of Private Tickner, on account of his not having pointed his rifle upward whilst attempting to resolve the problem with it.

The Men and Women That Returned:

The following list contains what we have been able to ascertain regarding the names and stories of the men and women named on the Railway Institute War memorial who were fortunate to return home to their families and loved ones. We should not be so presumptuous though as to assume that these were unharmed. Many returned with physical wounds and it's quite likely that the war experiences of many lived on and disturbed them for the rest of their lives.

Airey, M

There are no war records or Shildon Works records available for an M Airey that explain the wartime role of this person - though there was a Miles Robinson Airey born at 2 North Terrace, Brusselton who would have become of eligible age during the war. We cannot be certain it is he named upon the memorial.

Alderson, William Giles

Born 14th March 1884 in New Shildon, the son, and only child of John & Ann Alderson. Worked as a Railway Clerk before the war and lived at 5 Walter Street in 1911 and later before the war 15 Dale Terrace, New Shildon. Married to Lily (nee Hall) in 1909 with 1 child, called Blanche. He had been working for the North Eastern Railway for 16 years and three months when, on 8th November 1915 he left work at the Works and enlisted. His enlistment was into the 20th Durham Light Infantry. He served as a Private transferring to the Royal Engineers with Regimental Number 273545 and being promoted to Sergeant. During the war he received a gunshot wound to his left hip but he carried on serving to the end of the war. He was discharged from the army in August 1919 and returned to Shildon Works on the 5th of that month. He moved back to 15 Dale Terrace. Later he moved to a house called Westholme in Barnard Castle and appears to have remarried to Bertha Hobson Alderson (nee Bruce) in 1920. It's not clear what happened to his former wife, Lily, but his daughter Blanche married Frederick T Gayton and moved away from Shildon to Colchester. William continued working as a Railway Clerk in Barnard Castle. He died 3rd Sept 1944

Allan, A

There are no war records or Shildon Works records available for an A Allan that explain the wartime role of this person - though there was an Alfred Allan born in early 1896 to Railway Guard Robert Allan and his wife Harriet who would have become of eligible age during the war. He was a colliery labourer in 1911. The family were from 10 Scott Street, New Shildon so possible candidates for connection to the Railway Institute. We cannot be certain it is he named upon the memorial.

Allan, Matt

There are no war records or Shildon Works records available for a Matt Allan that explain the wartime role of this person

Allison, Clarence William

Clarence, of 6 Scott Street, New Shildon, was a Shop Clerk at the Shildon Works. He was born on the 18th May 1899, the son of William Allison at Eggleston but the family had moved to 16 Redworth Road by 1911. He had been with the NER company for 4 years and 1 month before enlisting. His last day of work was the 2nd July 1916, after which he enlisted into the Royal Navy on the 6th of that same month. He was eighteen years old at the time. His first posting was HMS Victory I, which was actually not a ship but a land base at Portsmouth where he joined as an Ordinary Seaman from 7th July 1916 to 26th November 1917. The next day Clarence joined the crew of the HMS King George V, which had been launched in October 1911 and was soon promoted to Able Bodied Seaman. He survived the war and was demobilised at Portsmouth on the 23rd January 1919. He returned to Shildon Works on 7th February 1919. After the war Clarence married Hilda and remained a Railway Clerk at the Shildon Works, living at 81 Byerley Road. He died on the 27th March 1975.

Anderson, Thomas

Thomas Anderson, born 9 Sept 1891, lived in 1901 at 31 Tomlin Street with his parents Thomas and Hannah and 3 siblings. Later in 1911 he lived at 38 Charles Street, New Shildon and two more children had joined the family. Thomas had been working as a Shaft Oiler and Pit Mechanic at the Shildon Works. He had been with the company for 2 years and 6 months before he enlisted. His last day at work was the 12th December 1915, when aged 24 years he joined the 32nd Reserve NER Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers as a Private with the regimental number 32/261. Records of his war years have been lost other than his Pension Card which showed that during the war he received gunshot wounds to both legs. He was discharged from the army before the end of the war on the 31st July 1917 and, probably on account of his injuries, only returned to the works on the 2nd April 1918. After the war he lived at 30 Redworth Road with his wife Esther, and worked as a steel machinist for the LNER at the works.

Angus, J B

There are no war records or Shildon Works records available for a J B Angus that explain the wartime role of this person. There was an Angus family living on Simpson Street with the father being Railway Shunter John Robert Angus and sons Joseph William Angus and John Robert Angus Jnr - the latter would have been too young to enlist. There was another Angus household at Number 1 Graham's Terrace, where John Robert Angus was an NER Locomotive Fireman aged 30 in 1911. There is no evidence to directly link any of these family members to war service.

Armstrong, Alfred

There are no specific war records or Shildon Works records available for a J B Angus that explain the wartime role of this person. There were however a possible candidate that might have served during WWI was Alfred Ord Armstrong of 10 Victoria Street, New Shildon who was 17 at the time of the 1911 Census and a shop assistant working for the Newcastle Tea Company. His father John William Armstrong was an Engine Driver for the NER.

Baily J F

There are no specific war records or Shildon Works records available for a J F Baily that explain the wartime role of this person. We are hoping that the 1921 census might help us when it is released in 2022.

Barlow, John Arthur

John Arthur Barlow was the son of John and Florence Ellen Barlow (nee Hawkin) who lived with Ellen's father, John Hawkin, a farmer who had land on Shildon Road (which became Byerley Road). John was born in early 1890 at Bildershaw not far from Shildon, and christened at St

Helen's. The Hawkin family seem to have had a farming tradition as by 1911 Florence Ellen is living with John Hawkin Junior at Town Farm Redworth. She and husband John seem to have separated not long after the two sons were born and a third child died. They remained separate thereafter with John Barlow staying with family at West Auckland. We don't know what occupation John had before the war, but we do know that he lived at 7 Crozier Terrace before it and 15 Pears Terrace after it. John joined the Yorkshire Regiment on the 14th October 1915 with the regimental number 17221. He attained the rank of Sergeant. He survived the war, receiving the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1915 Star. John's younger brother Frederick Barlow also later of 7 Crozier Terrace, New Shildon also went to war, and is not mentioned on the Institute War Memorial. He served in the 6th Reserve Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment under the regimental numbers 2525 and 209638 what little record exists of him states that he was killed in action - though the date of his death is the 30th August 1919, well after the end of the war. Mother Ellen remained local and died on 24 Aug 1962 whilst living at the 15 Pears Terrace address that John gave as his wartime correspondence address. It's not clear what happened to John Arthur Barlow after the war, nor why he is commemorated on the Shildon Railway Institute war memorial but not his brother Frederick who died while serving.

Bath, John Frederick

Fred, son of George and Amy Bath of 6 Kilburn Street, New Shildon, worked as a machinist and then an Apprentice Fitter at the NER's Shildon Works and had been working for the company for 5 years and 9 months before he went to war. Joined the Royal Engineers. His last pre-war day at work for the company was the 15th November 1915. Then he went and enlisted, according to NER records, into the 32nd Battalion North Eastern Railway Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He had no dependents at the time. He was later demobilised at Ripon on the 16th February 1919, and returned to work at Shildon Works on the 28th February 1919. After the war he lived at 9 George Street, Shildon with his wife Melinda Hannah Bath (nee Lisgo) and Fred's mother Amy. By 1939 he was working as a Turner at the Works and acted as an ARP Ambulance man for the LNER who owned the works at that time. John died on the 29th October 1967

Battle, John

John, of 35 All Saints Road, New Shildon worked as an Office Attendant at the Shildon works and was a former Railway Porter. He was much older than most of his comrades in arms, having been born near York on the 6th December 1871. At the time war broke out he was living with his wife of thirteen years, Mary Ellen. He had been with the railway company for 16 years and was 42 years old when he enlisted in 1914. having been a veteran of the South Africa War he already had some experience of military life. According to one account he joined the West Yorkshire Regiment and later the NER Regiment of the Northumberland Fusiliers, but we do know from his war pension card that he later joined the North Staffordshire Regiment with the regimental number 52214 with whom he served as a Regimental Sergeant Major until his discharge on the 14th March 1919. He returned to Shildon Works on 11th April 1919. He later became the licensed landlord of the Prince of Wales Hotel on Willington's High Street and in 1939 was an ARP official. The couple later moved to 10 Willis Street, York. John died in York on 9th April 1951.

Bell, Thomas

Thomas, of 38 Bouch Street, was born on the 30th May 1892 at Middridge. When Thomas's father, John Bell, died in 1895 his mother, Eliza (originally with the surname Raine) had remarried in 1897, to a Coal Miner named Walter Thrower who became Thomas's Stepfather. Thomas worked as a miner himself initially, then was an Axle Turner at the NER wagon works at Shildon before enlisting. He joined the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance with the regimental number 1389 (later 388074). His enlistment papers say that he took his oath to serve king and country at Shildon on the 26th February 1912, before the war and when Thomas would have been about twenty years old. He

appears to have been demobilised at the end of the war, returning to live at 38 Bouch Street. After the war in 1920 he married Mary J Smith and they appear to have had at least three children, and he continued working for the railway company. Died on the 27th December 1977.

Bellas, John Edward

John was the son of John Bellas, a Hewer (Coal Miner) and his wife Mary Elizabeth. In 1901 the family were living at 4 Low Garbutt Street, Shildon. Though John was born in Shildon in 1895, his father was born in Buckley, North Wales and his mother in Startforth in Yorkshire. By 1911, the family had moved to a three room house at 66 Simpson Street, New Shildon where at the age of just fifteen John was working as a Miner, specifically a Pony Driver below ground. Of John's 5 other siblings only he and two others survived infancy. Details of John's military service are a little vague, but it looks as though he may have been another of the Shildon men that joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a private with the regimental number 1460.

Bennett, William

William, was born in New Shildon in September 1893 and was the son of Thomas and Jane Bennett. In 1901 the family lived at 45 Hildyard terrace, but by 1911 they had moved a few doors away to 35 Hildyard Terrace (now part of Redworth Road), New Shildon. William worked for the West Durham Wallsend Coal Company as a Miner at Adelaide Colliery before the war and had then been with the company for 2 years. He had seven siblings. He was nearly 22 years old when he joined up in September 1914 and enlisted on the 6th September, being accepted into the Durham Light Infantry with the regimental number 17761. He served with the 5th, 12th, 13th and 19th Battalions, and in 1918 was transferred to the 9th Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment with regimental number 55808. He was a specialist Machine Gunner. In February 1916 he spent five months in a military hospital suffering from shell shock, but was subsequently reposted. he served in France and in Italy. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 28th January 1919. In 1928 he married Evelyn Robson and by 1939 he and his family were living at 9 Sunnysdale, Shildon.

Benson, S C

There are no specific war records or Shildon Works records that we have found for an S C Benson that explain the wartime role or family connections of this person.

Best, Joseph Forth

Joseph, born in 1884, was a Sawyers Assistant at Shildon Works and prior to the war had been in the employment of the NER there for 13 years. Before enlisting he had been resident, not in Shildon, but at 8 Commercial Street, Darlington, with his wife, Mary Ann (nee Simpson) whom he had married on the 17th September 1916. He was 31 years and eleven months old when he enlisted. He left work on the 3rd October 1916 and signed up on the 7th at Bishop Auckland - being subsequently accepted into the 25th Battalion Durham Light Infantry - part of the Army Service Corps (or Labour Corps). He survived the war years and was demobilised at Ripon on the 19th November 1919. He returned to his job at Shildon Works on 28th November that year.

Bibby, James Henry

James, born 2nd Nov 1893, was the older brother of Walter Bibby (see below) and lived at 9 Beresford Street, New Shildon. He was quite tall for the time, standing at 6 feet tall according to his military records, and had been born at Brusselton. He was employed as a Blacksmith's Striker in the smith's shop and had been working for the North Eastern Railway for 3 years and 9 months. He left work on the 1st November 1915 to enlist at Darlington the very next day, aged 23, and was accepted into the Darlington Heavy Battery Royal Garrison Artillery as a Gunner with the regimental number 295962. He was the first of the two brothers to go to war, and served much of his time in France with the British Expeditionary Forces. In June 1916 he was admitted to hospital

with fractured ribs when a military horse he was riding shied and threw him. James was absolved of blame for the accident. Later, during 1917, he was transferred to the 2nd 1st Battalion North Midland Heavy Battery. He was 'mustard gassed' during 918 and admitted to a military hospital at Boulogne, but he, like his brother Walter, survived the war, and after a further period in the Bradford War Hospital from 13th January 1919 he was demobilised at Ripon on 10th February 1919, returning to his job at the works eighteen days later.

Bibby, Walter

Walter lived with his family, including brother James (another WWI soldier) and father William, at 9 Beresford Street, New Shildon and was employed by the NER at the Shildon Works as a Hammer Driver in the forge. He had been with the company for 8 years when at age 21 years and 7 months, he left his job to enlist. He went to the recruiting office at Bishop Auckland on the 20th November 1915 and following in the footsteps of his older brother he signed up, being accepted into the 13th Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment as a Private with the regimental number 45270. In January 1918 he was granted brief leave from the campaign in France to return to Shildon. He had not returned to his unit afterwards so a police warrant was issued, however he had taken ill and had been admitted to a military hospital in Darlington. The hospital cleared up the matter. Overall Walter's service discipline showed him to be of good character. During his service period Walter received gunshot wounds to the right buttock and left groin leaving him with some disability. He was discharged from the army after the war at the 2nd Northern General Hospital at Beckett Park, Leeds on 25th February 1919. He returned to Shildon Works on the 14th March 1919.

Blanchard, George Edwin

George was born on the 27th April 1894, and we think this happened in the Leeds area and that his parents were Edwin and Jane Annie Blanchard. What brought him to Shildon, and when, has not been possible to ascertain with the record available, and similarly his war records appear to be among those that have been lost. Hopefully we can uncover something when the 1921 census records become available. But we can reveal that after the war he lived, during the 1930s at 145 Redworth Road, New Shildon while he worked as a Brake Fitter at the LNER Works in Shildon. He lived there with his wife Elizabeth (nee Thompson) and daughter Annie. He then lived in his later years at 5a Magnet Street, Shildon. He passed away on 28th September 1953 at Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

Boddy, Robert

Robert was born in the Spring of 1895 to John and Mary Ann Boddy of 56 Hildyard Terrace and later 2 Smeddle Street, New Shildon. John was a Hewer in the Coal Mine and had been born in Shildon, while his wife was from Skeeby in Yorkshire. Robert had been born here in New Shildon. By the age of 16, in 1911, he was already working as a pony driver in the mine. Possibly having had enough of life underground he enlisted before the war, on the 1st September 1913 at Bishop Auckland. he was to spend six years and 214 days as a Private in the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance (part of the Royal Army Medical Corps) with the regimental number 388111 before he was eventually demobilised at Ripon on the 10th February 1919. During his war years he served in France and in the Mediterranean. After the war he married Henrietta Emmerson in 1920. We believe he died in early 1938.

Bowes, John

John, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bowes and born in New Shildon, started work as a Dining Room Attendant at Shildon Works. He was born on the 16th December 1891. The family lived at 9 Smeddle Street, New Shildon. he enlisted on 18th January 1915. He is understood to have served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Private with the regimental number that was first 1341 then later 410192. he was discharged on th 16th February 1919 and returned to his home with his wife

at 27 Station Street, New Shildon suffering from Myalgia. As well as the Victory Medal and British War Medal he was awarded the 1915 Star. After the war he lived with his wife Charlotte (nee Banks) whom he married in 1918 in the Worksop Nottinghamshire District. They lived at 14 Regent Street, Shildon whilst he was working as a Hammer Driver in the forge. He is understood to have died in 1950. John had a brother who also served, Private Thomas Henry Bowes who was with the Northumberland Fusiliers with regimental number 204318 and survived the war, being discharged with a disability on 19th February 1918.

Bradley, John Henry

John Henry Bradley had been born in Knaresborough on 17th March 1886 but had later moved to Shildon to work here as a Coal Miner. Prior to that he had lived at Scriven on the outskirts of Knaresborough with his father, a market gardener, and siblings. He married Mary Sarah Chester, the daughter of Joseph Chester of 4 Vaughan Street, at the end of 1908, and had moved in with the Chester family. Whilst there, Sarah bore John a son, whom they named Eleanor Maude Bradley. The details of John's war service have been lost, as have those of so many former soldiers of the first world war. But we do know that he survived and returned to Shildon to be with Sarah (as she preferred to be known). By the time of the 1939 register he was living at 97 Auckland Terrace with his wife and three daughters. and still working at a local colliery.

Bradley, John

John, of 2 East Street, Shildon was working at Shildon Works as a temporary Blacksmith's Striker when on 29th November 1914 he quit his job to enlist. He was 37 years old and had been with the NER for only 9 months at this point. He did not have the permission of his employer to enlist. We know he became a Sergeant in the 3rd Border Regiment with the regimental number 4101. He was discharged from the army on account of disability on the 23rd July 1918 having served most of the war. The cause of his discharge was reportedly rheumatic fever, a rare complication that usually causes painful joints and heart problems. He did not return to work at Shildon Works after the war, which may have been on account of his disabilities.

Brass, Charles

Charles was brother to John and Fred Brass, and also resided at 21 Charles Street. He was the second of the three brothers to enlist, after having served 2 years and eleven months in the service of the North Eastern Railway, primarily as a Riveters Assistant. Aged 19 he stopped work on the 16th June 1916 and enlisted on the 23rd. He was accepted into the 4th Durham Light Infantry and survived the war. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 26th January 1919, the first of the three brothers to return home. He resumed work at Shildon Works on 14th February 1919.

Brass, Fred Cooper

Fred was the younger brother of John James Brass, and also lived at 21 Charles Street. He was an Apprentice Smith at the Works before enlisting and following in the footsteps of his older brother. His last day at work was the 25th May 1918, and he enlisted on the 31st May and was accepted into the 5th Durham Light Infantry. His war was fortunately short, having joined so late, and he was demobilised at Ripon on the 27th September 1919, returning to work on the 17th November.

Brass, John James

John, of 21 Charles Street, worked as a machinist at the Shildon Works for 7 years before leaving with many of his colleagues on the 18th September 1914 to join the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was 21 years old at the time. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 18th March 1919 before returning to Shildon Works on 4th April 1919. He died on 31st Jan 1974

Brogden, Alfred Henry

Alfred, of 14 Charles Street, New Shildon, was a Painter (most likely a Wagon Painter) at Shildon Works. He was born in Wetherby on 1st June 1897 and was the son of James and Mary Ann Brogden and lived with them prior to the war. His father was also a wagon painter so it was likely that the two worked alongside each other. He had given 4 years service to the North Eastern Railway before leaving to go to war. He was still young, at nineteen years old, when he enlisted. He left Shildon Works on the 15th June 1916 and enlisted into the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as a Private. His war service records are lost but we do know that he was wounded during the war, but survived and demobilised at Ripon on the 31st August 1919. He returned to work at Shildon Works on the 19th September 1919. After the war he moved to Darlington where he became a Wagon Letterer for the LNER at the Faverdale Works, but he remained unmarried and looked after his widowed mother. In WWII he was an ARP Warden at the works. he died on the 10th October 1965 and his estate passed to his sister Florence.

Brooks, J

Our research leads us to believe that this person may be Edward John Brooks, born in 1890 in Somerset. By 1911 Henry John Brooks, who quite possibly preferred to be called by his middle name, was lodging at 4 Magdala Terrace, New Shildon with the Waites family while working as an Assistant Teacher employed by the County Council. As an educated man, and an educator, the literary facilities available at the Institute would have been an attraction. We have been unable to identify any specific war records pertaining to E J Brooks, but a newspaper article from the Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail of Wednesday 9 December 1931 contains implicit verification of his war service. "After 11 years as head master of Hamsterley Council School, near Witton-le-Wear, Mr E J Brooks has been appointed to take charge of the Horden Council Boys School (Grade IV), and will take up his duties at the beginning of the New Year. Mr Brooks began his career in 1905 when he served as a pupil teacher at Eastover Council School, Bridgwater. He came to County Durham in 1910 as assistant master at New Shildon Boys Council School, and to Hamsterley following service in the war." The implication is that Brooks seems to have moved on to Hamsterley shortly after returning from the war.

Brown, George William

George of 10 Kilburn Street, New Shildon, was the son of William and Mary Brown and had been born in the town at the end of 1895. His father was a Foreman Shunter for the NER, so it was almost inevitable that he'd end up working for the company too - which he did, becoming a Lad Oiler in the Locomotive Department by the age of fifteen and it's thought that he subsequently became a Shunter. We don't know quite when he enlisted and his war records appear to be among the many lost, but we know he enlisted himself into the East Yorkshire regiment as a private with the regimental number 50637. He is thought to have survived the war though records currently available reveal nothing of what happened to him during or after the war.

Brownbridge, John William

John was born in around spring of 1890 in Shildon to Thomas and Annie Brownbridge (nee Cooper). His mother, Annie, later remarried to married coal miner James Saltmarsh, who became John's step-father. By 1911, the family had moved to 3 Short Street, New Shildon. James had retired by this point, and John had secured a job in the wagon erecting workshop at the Shildon Works, working for the North Eastern Railway. John is another of the many soldiers whose war records appear to have been mainly lost other than a pension card that shows he served in under the regimental number 144578 in the East Yorkshire Regiment and the Machine Gun Corps. We do know that he survived the war and married Margaret Ellen King. He lived on to the 23rd May 1935 on which date he passed away at Kirk Merrington. After this Margaret received his war pension.

Brownless, Charles T

Charles was a Repairer at the Shildon Works and had been in the service of the NER there for 4 years and 3 months. He lived at 26 East View, Shildon. He left his job at the works on 28th October 1915 aged 28 and enlisted into the Royal Garrison Artillery - Darlington Heavy Battery. He married after enlisting - on the 8th November 1915. After the war he was demobilised at Newcastle on the 21st March 1919 and returned to the Shildon Works on 11th April 1919.

Bruce, John

John was born in Romanby in Yorkshire on the 7th September 1880 and was a Sawyer Machinist at the Shildon Works from at least the time of the 1901 census. In that year he was boarding with the Saltmarsh family so would have been acquainted with John William Brownbridge (also listed) though John Bruce was nine years older. By 1911 John, still working as a Sawyer at the works, was living at number 23 Braithwaite Street, Shildon with his wife May Louisa Ann (nee Harrison) and daughter Doris. The couple had married in around 1906 and little Doris had been born on 25th July 1909. We've not been able to find any reference to John's war service, but this is not uncommon as many records were destroyed. We do know that John returned to Shildon after the war and later some time before 1939 he and May moved to Simpasture Cottages, east of Shildon, where they were both Crossing Keepers for the NER. Daughter Doris also lived with them at this time, though by then her surname had become Sleight suggesting she had been married in the interim.

Burton, Robert William Hodgson Burton

Robert was the younger brother of Thomas Bates Burton (see below) and also the son of Locomotive Driver Thomas Burton and his wife Jane Ann. Like younger brother Thomas, Robert was with the family at 1 Hawthorn Terrace, New Shildon and Fernleigh on Shawville Terrace by 1911. Robert had been born on the 26th March 1891 so was eight years older than Thomas. He enlisted into the Royal Navy where he became a Telegraphist serving at HMS Tamar (the shore station in Hong Kong) from 1916. On 8th Feb 1917 he was initiated into the United Service Lodge of Freemasons in Hong Kong - Lodge Number 1341. After the war he lived at 31 All Saints Road, working as a Civil Servant in that he was a Clerk for the Ministry of Labour and National Service. He had one son, Robert P Burton, born in July 1925. he married Evelyn Farrens in 1942. He later moved to The Limes, Willow Bridge, Darlington and it was in this town that he died on the 27th February 1954. Interestingly the middle brother Jonathan Hodgson Burton also served during the Great War, in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as a Private (regimental Number 34607) but is not mentioned on the Institute memorial.

Burton, Thomas Bates

Thomas Bates Burton was born in Shildon on the 18th March 1899, the son of a Locomotive Driver Thomas and Jane Anne Burton of Fernleigh, Shawville Terrace (now part of Redworth Road) in New Shildon. He was 17 years and 11 months old when he enlisted in March 1917 into the Royal Engineers. Thomas was the youngest of four children - others being Robert W H Burton (the oldest), Annie and Jonathan. Earlier in their lives the family had lived at 1 Hawthorn Terrace. Having enlisted in to the Royal Engineers as a Sapper, Thomas was assigned the regimental number of 322397. He was assigned to a pioneer battalion, and then to the Signals. After the war, in the summer of 1921, he married Ethel Richardson. The couple had at least one child, whom they called Kenneth, born in September 1922. In the 1930s Thomas worked as a Railway Clerk for the NER, and the family lived at 159 Redworth Road. Thomas lived on until the 14th August 1967 where he passed away at the family home on Redworth Road.

Byers, John George

John, known from an early age as Jack, was born in New Shildon in spring of 1894, the son of William Byers and his wife Harriet Jane. Father, William, was a driller in the NER Shildon Works, but at age 16 in 1911, John had become a shop assistant at a boot makers shop in the town. We've not been able to find the detail of his war service, though many papers were destroyed. After the war, in July 1923, he married Elizabeth Watson

Byers, Joseph

Born 10th October 1883, Joseph was a Wagon Builder at the Shildon Works before joining the 17th Northumberland Fusiliers in the NER Battalion. Prior to the war Joseph lived at 54 Auckland Terrace, Shildon with his widowed mother, Maria. His father Thomas had been a wagon repairer, and his uncle, John a fitter. Joseph left his own job at the works on 24th September 1914 along with a large contingent from the works. At that point he had worked for the NER there for 16 years and was 31 years of age. Joseph was wounded in action but survived the war to be demobilised on 22nd May 1919. He returned to the Shildon Works on 8th September 1919. He died on 3rd February 1927.

Calvert, Richard

Richard Calvert was born in 1895 in Shildon to William and Frances Calvert. Father William was a railway wagon repairer, so it was no surprise that Richard followed him into the Shildon Works as a Blacksmith's Apprentice and then Bolt Heater. The family lived at Busty Terrace. Richard had been working for the NER for 5 years when on the 11th May 1915 he left work and enlisted without the permission of his employer into the Royal Engineers. He was 20 at the time. By this point the family had moved to 6 Beresford Street, New Shildon. At the end of the war he was demobilised on 2nd April 1919 at Ripon, and returned to work at the Shildon Works on 25th April 1919. After the war he married Janet Hancock. The couple stayed at the Beresford Street address thereafter while Richard continued his work as a forging machinist for the LNER. He died on the 26th October 1965.

Cass, Arthur

Arthur was born on the 7th March 1895 at Whycliffe in Yorkshire. He lived at 23 Scott Street, New Shildon. He worked as a Machinist at the Shildon Works and had been with the NER for 4 years before going to war. The 1911 census entry describes his job as that of Driller in the Machine Shop. Arthur's father, Thomas was a sawyer at the works. Arthur's last day of work before enlisting was the 18th September 1914 and he enlisted with a huge number of his Shildon Works comrades as part of a large intake into the Royal Army Medical Corps. He enlisted at Shildon so it's possible that recruiters visited Shildon Works looking for volunteers. Despite signing up so early in the war Arthur survived and was demobilised at Ripon on the 21st January 1919. He returned to work at the Shildon Works on 17th February 1919. Later he moved to Darlington with his wife Jessie and carried on work as a machinist there operating a Keller Die Sinking machine at the time of the 1939 wartime register.

Chisem, Frank Blenkinsopp

Frank was born in Darlington in around early 1873, the son of William and Hannah Chisem. In 1891 Frank was 18 and working as a Shunter for the North Eastern Railway whilst living at the houses at Brusselton. His father was a Guard for the NER. In 1899 he had married Mary Bainbridge and started a family, with two children, Laura and John. By this time he was living at 2 South Terrace, Brusselton and had worked his way up to being a Railway Mineral Guard, following his fathers footsteps. He was still living there in 1911, and in the same post, but by this time the couple had three more children. So by the time the war started Frank would already have been one of the older recruits to the services. We've not found any documents that confirm what he did

during the Great War, but we know that many records were destroyed. Frank survived what war service he put in, living to the age of 64 years when he passed away in 1937.

Clarke, C

The likely candidate for this name is Charles Clark, the son of Henry and Margaret of 25 Adamson Street, New Shildon. His father was a Machine Stone Dresser, but young Charles, who was born in the town on 11th November 1896, had by 1911 and at the age of fourteen become a Machinist in the Machine Shop of the North Eastern Railway Works alongside his older brothers Fred, and Marmaduke, though the latter was a Wagon Builder. By that time the lads father, Henry, had passed away - but mother Margaret continued as head of the household, working as a Midwife. Charles's war records appear to be among the many that were lost since the end of the Great War, but we know that he survived his service and returned to Shildon where in 1925 he married Flora E Wastell. He graduated to becoming a Wagon Builder at the Shildon Works and by 1939 he and Flora were living at 64 Byerley Road, Shildon. Charles lived on to be almost ninety years old, passing away on the 11th November 1985.

Clarkson, John George

John was born on the 12th November 1892. He was 23 years old and married when he left his job as a Hammer Driver at the Shildon Works to go to war without permission from his employer on 5th May 1915. He had married Dora in 1914. He had been working at the works for 2 years by that point. He left his wife at 33 Freville Street to join the Remounts. He survived and was demobilised at Ripon on 25th January 1919, returning to work at the Works on 14th February 1919. After the war he stayed in Shildon as a wagon repairer at the works and living with his wife Dora at 2 Osborne Street.

Clarkson, William

We can't be entirely sure of the identity of William Clarkson. There are several people that may be the one mentioned. For example there was a William Clarkson of Station Road, Bishop Auckland who later moved to Arthur Street, Eldon Lane working as a Cartman and who served in the Remount Corps. The most geographically likely would be William Clarkson, the son of Jonathan and Tomasine Clarkson of Beresford Street, New Shildon. His father was a Foreman at the NER Works, though this William Clarkson was only born on the 29th July 1900 so would surely only have been eligible to serve on age grounds towards the latter stages of the war. By 1911 this family lived at Shawville Terrace, now part of Redworth Road and situated just above the Railway Institute. With a works Foreman in the family they are most likely to have had a connection to, and membership of, the Institute but we have not yet been able to find any documented evidence to support William's having served in that conflict. What is worthy of mention perhaps though is that he is recorded as having been taken a prisoner of war by the Japanese during the conflict that followed. During that particular war William served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers

Clayton Fred

Fred was a Shop Clerk at the Shildon Works, having served the NER for 5 and a half years before going to war. Prior to enlisting he had lived at 39 Scott Street, New Shildon. He left work on the 15th November 1915 to join the Northumberland Fusiliers in the 32nd Reserve NER Battalion as a Private. He was demobilised after the war on the 18th June 1919 and returned to the works on 7th July that year.

Clethero, Edgar

Edgar was born on the 1st December 1895, in Shildon, to William and Mary Jane Clethero and in 1901 the family were living as a large and busy household at 9 North Terrace Brusselton, with Edgar attending school. By 1911 the family, much reduced in size as the older children moved on

to form their own lives, had moved to 7 Mill Street, New Shildon, and Edgar aged 15 was already working as a colliery labourer above ground. Edgar's father was a mineral guard for the railway company so it was almost inevitable that Edgar would eventually work for the NER, and by the time he signed his enlistment papers on the 8th December 1915 at Darlington, he had. At this time the family were living at 2 Milburn Street, New Shildon. In 1925 he married Dorothy Saunders and the couple set up a home at 9 Hawthorne Terrace, New Shildon, eventually moving to 64 Redworth Road. In 1927 Edgar was reported in the Midland Counties Tribune of 28th October By 1939 on account of his having been caught driving a car in Leicester Road, Wolvey without a driving license. He was fined £2 but did not attend his court appearance. Edgar was working as a Labourer in the Railway Wagon Works Painters Department with he and his wife looking after his elderly father William. Edgar passed away early in 1980. Edgar's older brother Albert Clethero also served in the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders as a Private during WWI and was killed in action in France on the 11th April 1917, but he was not listed on the Institute memorial. He was buried at Brown Copse Cemetery, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

Cockfield, Alfred

Was an Examiner at Shildon Works and had been in the employment of the NER for thirteen years. He left his employment at the works on 27th November 1915 and went to join the Scottish Horse Regiment with the regimental number 48873. His pre-war address was Hilltop Farm, Brusselton, but during the war the family moved to 11 Regent Street in Shildon. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 6th February 1919, returning to work at Shildon Works on 21st February 1919. Edgar joined the Royal Engineers Transportation Corps, and was posted to the Persian Gulf during 1916. He was wounded in action on the 9th November 1917. In 1918 he was posted to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. He was demobilised after the end of the war and returned to Shildon

Colling, John Parker

John was born in Darlington in 1894, the son of William Richard Colling and his wife Anne. William was a blacksmith for the NER at the Shildon Works. The family lived at 36 Charles Street. By 1911 John was already employed as a shiftman labourer at a nearby coal mine. John enlisted into the Northumberland Fusiliers as a Private with the regimental number 27/159. He became a Lance Corporal during his service years. Before the end of the war his home address changed to 22 Stewart Street, Hope Town, and then 55 Cartmel Terrace, Darlington - another area renowned for its rail working families. Toward the end of the war on the 6th May 1918, he was discharged from the army on account of a disability attributable to his war service - this was DAH or Disorderly Action of the Heart sometimes called "effort syndrome" or "soldier's heart" - usually the result of stress or fatigue. After the war he stayed in Darlington, married Annie, and they couple had a son, Kenneth. John continued working as a Brank Lathe Labourer. He is thought to have passed away in 1955.

Connor, Martin

Martin, born in New Shildon on the 29th October 1894, was the son of Thomas and Catherine Connor who in 1901 lived at 3 Gardiner Street, New Shildon. Thomas was a painter and labourer by trade, and was in the employment of the North Eastern Railway. In a small glimpse into Martins childhood we see that in 1907 he was listed as a new member to the 'Children's Circle' a club with its own newspaper pages featuring contributions of stories and poems run by the Northern Weekly Gazette. So Martin was a reader at 12. Later that year he won a book as a prize in a competition run by the same paper. Before 1907 the family had moved to 19 Tomlin Street, New Shildon. By 1911 Martin appears to have become an Apprentice at a Dentist. Though there are many Martin Connors named among the WWI wartime servicemen's' records we've not been able to identify our Martin Connor specifically. After the war Martin married, became a fully qualified Dentist and was a

widower by the time of the 1939 register and was practicing at the Old Hall on Main Street, Shildon. He passed away in the spring of 1971.

Cooper, John George

John was born in the Spring of 1896 in New Shildon, the son of William and Jane Cooper. Both he and his father worked for the North Eastern Railway. William, originally from Heighington, was a Plate-layer - essentially laying down new track and rails and John himself was a Truck Oiler at age 14, responsible for keeping all of the rolling gear etc lubricated to run freely. William and Jane had 9 children but only 4 of them survived infancy. In 1911 the family lived at 2 Plevna Street and had been there for at least ten years. John enlisted into the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment as a Private with the regimental number 242264. He didn't however serve until the end of the war, and was discharged on the 16th October 1916 on account of a defective knee problem that his army medical examiner concluded had been aggravated by his war service. When he returned to Shildon it was not to Plevna Street, but to 34 Simpson Street. Though he didn't serve to the end of the war he still qualified to receive the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Cottingham, William

William was born at Kirkby Stephen on the 14th November 1890 and became a temporary Breaker-Up at the Shildon Works, having served 9 months before his war service. Prior to this he had been a Plate Layer in the Permanent Way Department for the same company. His last day at work, along with many of his comrades, was the 18th September 1914. Aged 25 he enlisted with many of those colleagues into the Royal Army Medical Corps, leaving behind his wife Susie and two children. At the time of his enlistment the family lived at 22 Station Street, but during his war service they moved to 16 Strand Street, the same street where they had lived when newly married when the 1911 census was taken. After the end of the war William was demobilised at Ripon on the 24th April 1919 and returned to work at Shildon Works on 9th May 1919.

Coulthard, Joseph

Joseph was the older brother of Robert (see below) both of whom were among the children of William and Elizabeth Coulthard. He was born on 28th June 1883 at Redworth. His father, a former Cartwright, was a joiner for the North Eastern Railway at Shildon Works, so Joseph also commenced work there, becoming a Brass Moulder. His parents had ten children, of whom only 6 survived infancy. In 1891 the family lived at 82 Adelaide Street and by 1901 they had moved to 31 Strand Street. By 1911, when Joseph was 27 years old, the family were living at 40 Adelaide Street. We haven't been able to find Joseph's war records, but this is unusual as many were lost or destroyed later. In 1917 Joseph married Evelyn Stephenson. After the war, Joseph returned to Shildon. For a time at least the couple lived at 21 Southland Gardens with Joseph working as a White Metallur. The couple had at least two children, Evelyn and Joseph, though there may have been others. He died in July 1957.

Coulthard, Robert

Robert was born on the 22nd February 1893, so was a few years younger than his brother Joseph. He too was a child of William and Elizabeth Coulthard and as such was a resident of both Adelaide and Simpson Streets before the war. By 1911 young Robert, at 18 years of age, was apprenticed to a Grocer in New Shildon. Once again we've not been able to trace records relating to Robert's war service, though we did find ones for people with the same name from Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor (other details apart from the name were not a specific match for our Robert here. We do know that after the war he returned to Shildon and by 1939 he was living with his wife Mary Louisa (nee Haw) with Louisa's mother Sarah at 116 Redworth Road, New Shildon. They had married in 1923. At this time he was working as a wood working Machinist at the Shildon Works. It is believed that Robert died in 1955, a couple of years before his older brother.

Couper, Thomas

Thomas was born on the 30th July 1888, the son of Samuel Couper and his wife Eliza Annie of Alma Road, New Shildon. By 1911 Thomas, ages 22 had become a Railway Clerk for the North Eastern Railway and was living with his parents and sister, Emily, at 7 Hawthorn Terrace, New Shildon. The two were the only two of Samuel and Eliza's children that had survived infancy - two others had perished. Samuel was a Locomotive Engine Driver and was originally from nearby Hunwick, but the rest were all Shildon born. There are army medal and pension records for several Thomas Coupers but none of these have sufficient detail to enable us to trace them back to our man. He may have served in the Navy even. After the war, in 1930, Thomas married Edith Eleanor Midgley, who had been born only eleven days before him. The couple moved to Darlington before 1939, living at 100 Coniscliffe Road, as Thomas carried on working as a Railway Clerk there, most likely at the LNER's Stoopdale offices. Thomas died on the 3rd February 1961.

Craggs R

There are no specific war records or Shildon Works records that we have found for an R Craggs that explain the wartime role or family connections of this person. nor have we found any genealogical documents that suggest who this person may have been in Shildon or the surrounding area. they may have come to Shildon or the surrounding villages after the 1911 census and before the end of the war. We can perhaps revisit this when the 1921 census is released.

Crook Edward

There are no specific war records or Shildon Works records that we have found for an Edward Crook that explain the wartime role or family connections of this person. nor have we found any genealogical documents that suggest who this person may have been in Shildon or the surrounding area. they may have come to Shildon or the surrounding villages after the 1911 census and before the end of the war. We can perhaps revisit this when the 1921 census is released.

Davison, John

John, of 27 All Saints Road, was born in 1896 at Wear Valley Junction and was a Hammer Driver at the NER Shildon Works and must have started there young for when he enlisted in March 1916 he was only aged 20 but had already been working for the railway company for 6 years. His last day at work was the 2nd March 1916. He left his widowed mother Annie and enlisted into the 32nd NER Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was later transferred to the Shropshire Light Infantry with a regimental number of 45699. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 27th August 1919, returning to his job at the Shildon Works on 26th September 1919. However his war pension records note a disability attributable to his war service and connected with having contracted malaria.

Dixon, Arthur James

Arthur was born on 14th October 1881 in Darlington and lived at 51 Adelaide Street, New Shildon with his wife Eliza and their five children. he was employed as a Furnace Foreman by the NER at the Shildon Works and had been with the company for 11 years prior to enlisting. He left work aged 32 on the 12th September 1914 to join the 6th Durham Light Infantry. His war records are among the many lost, but he survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 25th January 1919 and he returned to work at Shildon Works on 7th February 1919. After the war he moved to Darlington and by 1939 was working as a steel Foreman whilst living at Milton Street.

Douglas, Wilfred

Wilfred was the younger brother of Walter Douglas (see below) by nine years, and had been born at Ludworth, County Durham on 24th July 1898. At the time of the 1911 Census Wilfred was still at school, and little more than a schoolboy when the war broke out. Alas Wilfred's war service records are among the many that have been subsequently lost, though we do know that he survived and married Muriel Harrison in 1924. By 1924 the couple were living in Darlington where Wilfred worked as a Cashier and Accountant to a Wholesale Newsagent and Bookseller. They lived at 50 Hollyhurst Road with their son Kenneth, born in 1929 and Muriel's mother Jane. Wilfred died in 1957.

Douglas, Walter

Walter Douglas was the son of Charles Henry Douglas of Shotton and his wife Anna Maria. He was the older brother of Wilfred Douglas who also went to war. The family lived in 1911 at 1 Thickley Terrace, New Shildon. Charles was a Colliery Mason, but young Walter aged 21 became a Shop Assistant by 1911. Walter had been born in Shotton on the 3rd July 1889 but had moved to New Shildon between 1891 and 1901. Walter had enlisted at Stockton On Tees at age 24 on the 10th August 1915 into the 234th Field Company, Royal Engineers as a Sapper with the regimental number 131360. By this time he had been working as a Clerk. In 1917 Walter was given permission to return home to marry his sweetheart, Margaret, of 2 High Street, Eldon Lane. In February 1916 Walter was promoted to Lance Corporal, and another elevation to 2nd Corporal followed on the 12th August 1916. He was demobilised on the 15th February 1919 after the end of the war, and returned not to New Shildon, but to Eldon Lane. During his war service he was admitted to hospital a couple of times and during 1917 received a gunshot wound to his chest. He later moved to 19 Pearl Street, Shildon. After the war Walter and Margaret lived at 8-10 Alma Road, which we think was the Post Office there - with Margaret being the Sub Post Mistress and Walter a mail Postman Supervisor. Walter died in 1976.

Downs, Fred James

Fred was a Hammer Driver at the Shildon Works and had been in the employment of the North Eastern Railway for 1 year and 9 months before enlisting. He lived with his mother at 30 Wesley Crescent. Aged 19 he left work on the 29th June 1916 to enlist on the 7th June 1916 into the 32nd NER Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers with fellow Hammer Driver Richard Hunt. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 14th November 1919, returning to his job at Shildon Works on the 22nd December, just a few days before Christmas.

Dunning, Herbert Outhwaite

Herbert was born in 1894 to mother Annie, along with a number of siblings. His father left the family and mother Annie remarried to William Outhwaite, an Engine Driver. Herbert himself worked at Shildon Works as a Machinist, serving there for four years before leaving in the 1st of October 1914 to join the 17th Northumberland Fusiliers NER Battalion. The family had been living at 3 Station Street, but by the time of his enlistment had moved to 30 Victoria Street. Herbert was only 20 when he enlisted. Herbert was later discharged from the Army, but did not return to Shildon Works.

Edwards, John Thomas

John was born in September 1897. He was one of the six children of Thomas and Mary Ann Edwards, though only five of these had survived infancy. His father Thomas was a Coal Miner who had been born at Kelloe, his mother was from Staffordshire, though John himself had been born at New Shildon. John lived with this family at 56 Hildyard Terrace, New Shildon, now part of Redworth Road of course. He was employed as a Clerk and eventually moved by the North Eastern Railway to a post at Newcastle early in the war. He was 19 years and 8 months old when on the 8th December 1915 he went to enlist at West Hartlepool, having been given a notice by Mr H R

Cunliffe, Recruiting Agent. He gave his 'next of kin' as being his father, Thomas Edwards. He was not accepted into the forces until August 1916, having been given a certificate of permission by the railway company. He was accepted into the 47th Company Royal Garrison Artillery as a Gunner with the Regimental Number 117874. In February 1919 he was transferred to the Royal Engineers Signals Corps 94th Brigade with the Regimental Number 358429 as a Pioneer. He was demobilised on the 15th April 1919. After the war John continued working as a Railway Clerk and in 1920 married Grace Baxter. The couple moved to 19 Tintern Crescent, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. John carried on until 1985 when he passed away aged 85.

Elders, Albert William

Albert was born on the 12th February 1887 at Brusselton. He was the son of William and Jane Elders. His father, a mineral shunter for the NER was born at Killerby and his mother came from Melsonby, but by 1891 they were living at 31 North Terrace, Brusselton. By 1911, aged 24 he had become a draughtsman for the North Eastern Railway company based at Shildon Works. At this time he was living with his brother and sister at 5 Graham Terrace, New Shildon. We know very little about Albert's war years, but we believe he joined the Army Ordnance Corps with the Regimental Number T1115 and became a Staff Sergeant. After the war he married his sweetheart Eva Kitching, and the couple lived by 1939 at 138 Redworth Road. At this time they had two children living with them, one of whom was son Harry Elders. Albert was working then as a workshop foreman for the LNER at Shildon Works. Albert passed away on the 6th November 1943. Albert's younger brother, John Henry Elders also served in the Royal Navy during WWI but is not listed on the Institute war memorial. He joined in May 1916 and served at Portsmouth land base HMS Victory initially then went to the training base for front line recruits at HMS Excellent (Whale Island, Portsmouth) then land base HMS Vivid II before finally going to sea on the Dreadnought HMS Erin serving in the North and Baltic Seas.

Emmerson Ernest

There are no specific war records or Shildon Works records that we have found for an Ernest Emmerson that explain the wartime role or family connections of this person. nor have we found any genealogical documents that suggest who this person may have been in Shildon or the surrounding area. they may have come to Shildon or the surrounding villages after the 1911 census and before the end of the war. We can perhaps revisit this when the 1921 census is released.

Emmerson, Ralph Hall

Ralph Hall Emmerson, born in 1887, was a Wagon Builder for the North Eastern Railway and had spent 5 years at the Shildon Works before his war service. he lived with his wife Ethel whom he had married at the Primitive Methodist Chapel on 23rd February 1916 at 14 All Saints Road. The marriage was shortly after his enlistment and five months later Ethel gave birth to a boy, Thomas.. He left work aged 25 and went to Bishop Auckland recruiting office on 7th December 1915 to join the Royal Engineers Railway Operating Division as a Sapper in the 10th Company with the regimental number 149928. He spent a considerable portion of his war service in France before being demobilised at Ripon on the 27th September 1919 to return home, by which time Ethel was living at 8 Raby Gardens. He returned to work at Shildon Works on the 13th October 1919.

Emmerson, Ralph

Born in 1889, Ralph lived at 7 Beresford Street, New Shildon with his family, including father William Emmerson. he had been working for the North Eastern Railway for 10 years before going to war and his job before enlisting was that of Hammer Driver. At age 25 his last day at work was during September 1914 whereafter he, along with a swathe of other railway workers from Shildon, enlisted at Newcastle on the 17th September into the NER Pals battalion - the 17th

Northumberland Fusiliers with the regimental number 72021. He was described as having grey eyes and brown hair. He left no dependents behind him. Throughout his time in the army he would occasionally be transferred between the 17th battalion, 1st Battalion, 3rd Battalion and to work at the Regimental Depot. In April 1918 he was appointed as a Corporal. He spent some of his service in Ireland, and two postings in France - one from Nov 1915 to July 1916 and one during 1917, and earned a Royal Defence Corps medal as well as the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He also received wounds in action on the 4th July 1917. He was demobilised at the end of the war on 3rd April 1919, and returned to Shildon Works on the 25th April 1919.

Forbes, Michael

Michael was born on the 14th July 1892, in New Shildon. He was the youngest son of coal miner John Forbes and his wife Ann (nee Edwards). His mother Ann was from Northumberland, and when her husband died in 1896, she became a General Dealer in Kimberley Terrace, New Shildon. By 1911, many of Anne's older children had left the family home and Ann was living at 2 Scott Street with just Michael and his older brother Joshua. She was still a general dealer at this point and Michael appears to have been working with her as a Hawker, essentially selling goods on the street or door to door. Michael enlisted into the Royal Irish Fusiliers with the regimental number 25171, giving a home address of 28 Adamson Street, New Shildon at that time. Beyond this we know little though as only a couple of index cards remain from his service records. After the war, Michael was initiated into Tristram Lodge of the Freemasons in Shildon, being initiated on Feb 10th 1920 and passing on April the 11th. This lodge looks to have begun recruiting members in 1891 John married Mary Ann Thomas in 1922. The couple later moved to 18 Collingwood Street, Bishop Auckland from where Michael worked as a Commercial Traveller, selling hardware and paper. The couple appear to have had at least three children. Michael died in October 1970. We know that Michael's older brother Edward also served as a Private in the Labour Corps during WWI, but he is not mentioned on the Institute memorial.

Foster, Joseph

Joseph was the son of Joseph and Annie Foster. His father was a coal miner from Tow Law, and his mother was born in Quarrington Hill, but Joseph himself was born in Shildon. He was born on the 26th April 1895 and Christened on the 15th May 1895. The family lived at 73 Auckland Terrace where Joseph was the youngest of eight children, one of whom had not survived. By 1911, Joseph himself was working at a coal mine. He enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps with the regimental number 388272. He was discharged before the end of the war on the 18th September 1918 on account of a medical disability. This was deemed to be Synovitis of the knee, where the synovial membrane lining and lubricating the knee becomes inflamed, which the medical examiner deemed to be attributable to Joseph's war service. We don't know a great deal more about Joseph other than that we think he died in 1973 in Lincolnshire.

Fowler, John Henry

John Henry was an Apprentice Builder having served 4 years and 8 months in the service of the NER. Then, at 19 years of age, he left work on 30th June 1916 and on the 6th July enlisted into the Royal Navy. He left behind his home of 23 Bouch Street. He was demobilised at Portsmouth on 23rd January 1919 and resumed work at Shildon Works on 7th Feb 1919.

Gibbon, Henry

Henry had been born at South Church in around 1862. He was the son of a Coal Miner, George Gibbon, originally of Bishop Auckland. In 1881 the family lived at 35 Association Street and young Henry followed his father into the mines. In 1887 he had taken a wife, Elizabeth Rowe, and by 1891 moved to 107 Church Street, and by 1901 he had changed job to become a wagon builder at the Shildon Works, moving to 52 Simpson Street. Henry, or Harry as he preferred to be known, was

also a talented musician and became bandmaster of the New Shildon Temperance Band, conductor of the Shildon male Voice Choir and occasional musical director of the Shildon Operatic Society. He became a Railway Clerk for the Locomotive Department of the NER at Shildon. He was also a Freemason, having been received into the Tristram Lodge in Shildon. His wife died in 1909. The couple were childless. In 1911 Henry Gibbon lived as a boarder with Robert and Sarah Bowman at 22 St John's Road, New Shildon. We don't know when, but at some point he enlisted to the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry where he attained the rank of Sergeant. However if this service was during WWI he may have lied about his age as being born in 1861 he was generally considered too old for military service between 1914-18. There may be a clue in that after the war he signed up to rejoin the same unit for a year to serve on home duties. When he did this he claimed to have been born on Christmas Eve 1871, reducing his declared age by ten years. Henry died on the 17th December 1928 while still living as a boarder at 22 St John's Road.

Gibbon, John

John Gibbon, born in 1887, was a Machinist at the works and had been working for the company for 13 years. He lived at 33 Station Street, New Shildon with his widowed mother Margaret. Aged 29 he left employment at the Works on 6th October 1916 and enlisted a week later on the 13th October. He was accepted into the 80th Training Reserve Battalion. From here he was moved to 226 Company of the Machine Gun Corps with regimental number 83496. he was wounded in action on 19th October 1917 while in France as part of the British Expeditionary Forces. he was captured, declared missing on 21st March 1918 and taken prisoner by the Germans and was held in Langensalza, Germany, but later repatriated on 30th December 1918. He was transferred to the Army Reserve and returned to work on 24th February 1919

Gibbon, Robert Hartley

Robert was a Labourer at the works on a poor salary of 15 shillings. He lived at 36 Beresford Street, New Shildon. His last day at work was the 17th November 1917 after which he enlisted on the 26th November. He was accepted into the Durham Light Infantry. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 9th February 1919, returning to Shildon Works a week later on the 14th February 1919.

Gibbon, Thomas

Thomas was a Furnace-man at the Shildon Works, having worked there for 10 years. he left work to enlist without the permission of his employers, with the 5th May 1915 being his last day at work. he was 24 years old at the time. He left his wife and children to join the Remounts. He was discharged from the Munitions in January of 1920 and returned to Shildon Works on the 2nd February that year.

Gibson, George Clarkson

George, like his brother William, was an Apprentice Smith for the North Eastern Railway. Unlike his brother he chose the Army over the navy and left work on the 21st August 1918 and enlisted into the 5th Reserve DLI on the 2nd September. He was discharged less than a year later on the 16th May 1919 and returned to Shildon Works on 7th July 1919.

Gibson, William Hunter

William Hunter Gibson, like his brother George, lived at the Fleece Inn, New Shildon prior to war service. He worked for the NER at the Shildon Works as an apprentice smith. He left work on the 26th January 1918 and enlisted into the Royal Navy two days later on the 28th. He survived his short spell of service and was demobilised at Portsmouth on the 6th October 1919, returning to work on the 7th November.

Gittens, Robert Farndale

Robert was born in Shildon on the 9th October 1898, the son of William Reece Gittins and his wife Eveline. His father was a Brickmaker. In 1911 the family lived at 10 All Saints Road, New Shildon. They had previously lived at 8 Tomlin Street. In 1911, Robert was still at school. Robert signed up to join the Royal Field Artillery as a Gunner with the regimental number 252027, and during his war career he was promoted to Lance Bombardier. After the war, in late winter of 1923, he married Sarah Argyll. He became a wood sawyer for the LNER and moved to Darlington where the couple lived at 12 Moorlands Road. The couple appear to have had at least two children. During the Second World War Robert served locally as an ARP Warden. He died in 1966 aged sixty-six.

Glass, Nurse Hetty Winifred

Hetty was born on the 19th July 1882 in Sunderland. She was the daughter of William Sutherland Glass, an Accountant, and his wife Magdalene (nee Elliott). Hetty's mother died in 1889, leaving the poor child motherless. By 1901 she was living with her grandmother Ann Glass at 4 Station Street, New Shildon. Ann was by this time a widow, but she had previously been married to John Glass, one of the leading railway figures in New Shildon who had been involved with the Stockton and Darlington Railway from its construction and by the time he died was thought to have been the oldest living railway employee anywhere in the world. He was also very closely associated with the Institute in Shildon and was its longest serving President. Between 1905 and 1908 she trained in nursing at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle. This meant she was a fully trained and experienced Nurse when the war broke out. In 1911 she was working as a residential Nurse in Sheffield to a lady called Mary Ellen Hepworth, a Publican and Farmer. Hetty signed up to join the Territorial Force Nursing Service on April 6th 1914 and worked at the 1st Northern General Hospital in Newcastle nursing wounded soldiers that had been brought back from the front. However, Hetty only served just less than a year there before tendering her resignation on 31st May 1915. She gave her reason as wanting to serve in a smaller civilian hospital where soldiers were being nursed. The TFNS considered this a dishonourable thing to do and made clear that she did not have their permission to resign, vowing that her name would be struck off the rolls and she would never be permitted to join any other recognised nursing service. We don't know exactly where Hetty went after that, but she became a fully Registered Nurse in May 1923, after the war. Later she moved to Leicester to work and live at 90 New Walk, and then in 1939 she worked in Derby at a house called Trebah taking care of Albert J Pollard. Hetty died on the 9th June 1956 in Leicester

Grainger, Fred

Fred Grainger was employed by the NER as a hammer driver and had been in the employ of the company for 6 years prior to war service. He was resident at 35 Charles Street, New Shildon with his widowed mother. His last day at work was the 9th August 1916, whereafter he enlisted on the 12th August and was accepted into the 32nd Reserve NER Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. he was wounded in action and later discharged from the army on 7th October 1919 to return to his job at the Shildon Works ten days later on 17th October 1919.

Hall, John Richard

John was born on 22 Sept 1870, probably at 5 Eldon Terrace, Shildon and was the son of Engine Driver John Hall and his wife Alice. He grew up to become an Engine Fitter and moved to 39 Barron Street, Darlington by 1901 with his wife Constance. The couple had five children, from which only three survived infancy - those being Hilda, Alice and John Walter. By 1911 the couple had moved to 39 Barron Street, in the traditional rail engineering quarter of Hopetown in Darlington. His war service records are among the many lost so we can't say specifically what he did. Nor is it easy to explain why John was included on the Shildon Railway Institute memorial, other than that other members of his family remained in New Shildon. John stayed on at the house on Barron Street after the war where he eventually retired from erecting locomotives.

Hardy, Francis

Francis Hardy was born on the 16th May 1900 at Tudhoe Grange. he was the son of a Riveter named Francis Coulson Hardy, and his wife Ann. For a while the family lived in Stockton before moving to 27 Tomlin Street, New Shildon before 1911. Here his father worked as a Boiler-smith for the North Eastern Railway. Prior to the war Francis junior worked as a Railway Porter. During the war, in August 1917, he enlisted into the Royal Navy as a Boy Sailor with the service number J77372. His first posting was to HMS Powerful, a Boys training ship at Devonport. Then followed HMS Pembroke, another training establishment and barracks at Chatham. He was then posted to HMS Dido - and Eclipse class cruiser that had become a depot ship in the Great War, and other depot ships HMS Diligence and HMS Blenheim before returning to HMS Pembroke at the end of his service. He left the navy on 1 Oct 1919. He married Hilda Charlton in 1922 and later moved away to 58 Clumber Street, where he was employed as a Locomotive Fireman for the LNER though he remained a Royal Navy Reservist. He died in 1951. His death was registered in County Durham which suggests he may have returned closer to his birthplace before his death.

Hawes, Walter M

Walter Hawes, born Dec 19th 1899, lived at the Commercial Inn, New Shildon. According to his war papers he was an Apprentice Wagon Builder at the Shildon Works, and it is thought he had worked there for 4 years and 6 months before going to war. His last day at work was the 1st November 1917. He enlisted on the 2nd November. He was a month away from his eighteenth birthday. He gave his next of kin as being Mary Ann Thompson, his mother, also living at the Commercial Inn. He was taken into the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment with the regimental number 51937. He was discharged from the military hospital at Pembroke Dock on 1st December 1919 and transferred to the Army Reserve on demobilisation on 31st December 1919.

Haykin, Syd

Sydney Haykin was the son of William and Jane Haykin. His father was a Blacksmith for the NER. Syd was born on the 1st February 1899 and christened a month later on the 1st March. By 1911 the family were living at 11 Dean Street, Shildon. Syd was still a schoolboy at this time. He attended the Shildon Church of England School and in July 1911 he was awarded a minor scholarship by the Durham Education Committee. Sydney's war records seem to be among the very may lost after the war so we are not able to tell in what capacity he served. After the war, in 1929 he married Roberta Allan. He became a school teacher living at 124 Byerley Road, and by 1939 he had become an Assistant Head. he was also a member of the Surtees Lodge of Freemasons at Shildon. He died in 1974.

Heartfield, Alf

Alfred is something of a mystery other than that we think he was born in Darlington in July 1880, the son of James Heartfield and Ann Kelsey. He was christened on the 6th August that year.

Henderson, Joseph Robert

Joseph was born in Shildon on the 20th October 1898 and lived at 9A East Street, New Shildon. He was the son of Robert and Sarah Henderson. His father was a Platelayer for the North Eastern Railway but had died before the 1911 census by which time Joseph's mother Sarah had remarried one William Robson Day, Joseph's new step-father and a coal miner. Joseph moved to Ryhope with this new extended family. Joseph too became a coal miner, specifically a Back Overman before he was old enough for war service. Joseph joined the Royal Air Force, a new service formed toward the end of the Great War, with the number 303638. He was described as being 5 feet seven inches tall with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. He was given the post of

Batman, a personal servant to a commissioned officer. At some point his mother moved back to 5 Mechanic Street, New Shildon. Joseph was discharged to the RAG reserve after the war, on 23rd May 1919 and fully discharged in 1920. Joseph died in 1976.

Heslop, Windle

Joseph Windle Heslop was born at Crook in around summer of 1886. He was the son of Joseph Heslop of High Hope Street in that town and his wife Mary Ann. He was Christened on the 27th August 1886. His mother had died by the time little Joseph was 4 years old though his father remarried. Joseph senior was originally a Coke Yard Labourer, but became a Butcher in New Shildon, and had been born in Darlington. As young Joseph grew older he followed in his father's footsteps becoming an assistant in the family business. Windle, as he seems to have preferred to be known, joined the Grenadier Guards as a Guardsman with the regimental number 28103. At the time of his enlisting he had been living at 2 Scott Street, New Shildon. He was discharged on the 22nd May 1919. At the end of the war he did not return to Shildon but moved to 2 Wood View, Denaby Main, a village between Conisbrough and Mexborough in Yorkshire. Here he married Dorothy Kathleen Saville in 1922 and settled down initially at 3 Church Street, Conisbrough and then becoming a Beer Manager at a Club on Hickleton Street, Denaby Main with his wife acting as manageress. They had at least one child, named Mary. Windle died on 4th September 1942.

Heughf, Frank

Francis Heughf was born on the 19th August 1890 at New Shildon and was Christened on the 14th September. His father was John William Heughf and his mother Hannah. The family lived at Maddison Street in 1891 and John, originally from Walworth, worked as a Mineral Guard for the NER. They moved to Magdala Terrace by 1901 and by this time Frank's two older brothers had become Shunters. By 1911, with the family now living at 3 Clarence Terrace, New Shildon, Frank had become a Shearer for the NER at the Shildon Works. We think he married Jane Gibbon in 1912 in Darlington. We've not been able to find any war records for Frank Heughf, but this is not unusual as many were lost after the war. After the war Frank moved away from Shildon to Middlesbrough, then in Cleveland, where he died on the 30th August 1972.

Hewitson Thomas

Thomas Hewitson born in Darlington but we've not been able to find his Shildon connection. We are hoping that the 1921 census might help us when it is released in 2022.

Hind, Edward Reginald

Edward was born about 1900 and was the son of Matthew Hind and his wife Elizabeth. Matthew was a schoolmaster from Coundon and his wife came from South Church. Edward had been born in Shildon. The family lived at All Saints School House in 1901. We've not been able to find any of his war records, which is not unusual as many were destroyed. After the war Edward married Marjorie in 1925 and followed his father into teaching, eventually becoming the head of a school at Langwith, Blackwell, Derbyshire. His career took him further afield as he died on the 20th August 1974 at Weston Super Mare.

Hinson, Jonathan Lumsden

Worked at the Shildon Works as a Machinist and had served 4 years with the NER before enlisting. He lived at 3 Douglas Terrace, New Shildon with his older brother Thomas. Both served their last day at work on the 18th September 1914 before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Northumbrian Field Ambulance 2nd Battalion. Jonathan was 19 years old at the time. He was transferred to the Royal Engineers Transportation Branch as a sapper with old regimental number 463417 being replaced by new one WR150644. He was discharged from a military hospital on the 21st May 1918 and returned to work at Shildon Works on the 30th April 1920.

Hinson Thomas

Worked at the Shildon Works as a Shop Clerk and had served 8 years with the NER before enlisting. He lived at Douglas Terrace, New Shildon with his younger brother Jonathan. Both Thomas and Jonathan served their last day at work on the 18th September 1914 before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Northumbrian Field Ambulance. Thomas was 24 years old at the time. Thomas was promoted to Sergeant. He was demobilised at Ripon on 2nd August 1919 and returned to work on the 15th September.

Hodgson, Bert

This name presented a challenge to our research as there were a few possibilities including an Albert Whitfield Hodgson who was born on 27th October 1894 in West Auckland but lived in Shildon. Albert was a coal miner, specifically a Pony Driver, who lived at 39 Simpson Street with his parents Thomas and Anne. By 1911 the family had moved to Cooperative Street. He enlisted, just short of his twentieth birthday, into the Durham Light Infantry on 7th September 1914 and allocated the regimental number of 19643. He was accepted into the 13th Battalion and later transferred into B Company, 2nd Battalion. He served in France in the regions of Etaples and Boulogne from 25th August 1915, received a shrapnel wound to his face in the line of duty on the 4th August 1916, and then was killed in action on 26th September 1916. His personal effects were sent back to his mother who by then lived at Church Street.

However, there was another 'Bert Hodgson' who is perhaps a more likely candidate - for a couple of reasons. 1) The 'Bert' above was killed in action though the 'Bert' on the memorial is on the 'also served' segment of the memorial - the next Bert I mention survived. 2) The next Bert lived closer to the Institute and 3) the next Bert was also a railway worker which, whilst the Institute was not exclusively limited to rail workers, suggests they were more likely to be recognised by the Institute and its members.

Herbert Hodgson of 41 Redworth Road was 20 years and 6 months old when on April 28th 1915 they enlisted at Darlington to join the Labour Corps with the regimental number of 1672767. He had been born in Kirkby Stephen on 26th October 1894 and was Christened on the 28th December that year. He was the son of Locomotive Driver Thomas Hodgson and his wife Jane. In 1911 the family lived at 13 St John's Road with Herbert working as a Wagon Oiler. He was taken into the 18th Pioneer battalion of the Durham Light Infantry but also spent time in the 21st, 3rd and 7th Battalions. During his service he received a gun shot wound to his wrist in France causing him to spend some time at the 3rd Northern General Hospital. He was discharged from the Army on the 15th March 1918 on account of disability. After the war, in 1921 he married Sarah Foster and the couple had at least three children, possibly four. Sadly though Sarah died while the children were quite young. By 1939 he was living at 14 Caxton Avenue, York where Herbert worked as a Railway Goods Guard. Herbert lived to be 90 and died in the Worcester area in October 1984.

Hogg, Alfred

Alfred Hogg was born in New Shildon on the 9th July 1875. he was the son of William Hogg and his wife Dorothy (nee) Whitfield. Alfred's father died a few years after Alfred was born, so his mother took the family to live with her parents at 27 Strand Street, New Shildon by 1881. By the age of 15 in 1891, Alfred had got a job as an Engine Cleaner. He and his younger brother Ernest supported their widowed mother after her parents died some time before 1901. By 1911 Dorothy too had died, and Alfred stayed with brother Ernest who had married Grace and had a daughter. At this time they were living at 11 Adelaide Street, and Alfred was working as a Labourer at the Locomotive Department of the NER's engine shed. Alfred would have been 39 years old when the war broke out - still eligible to serve, but an older recruit. Unfortunately we've not been able to pinpoint any war pension or service records for him, or any other possible Alf Hogg with connections to Shildon (of which we have identified none), but this may only indicate that his

records were destroyed. After the war Alfred returned to Shildon. He never married, and by 1939 was living at All Saints House on All Saints Road with other members of his brother's branch of the Hogg family. he died in 1947.

Hogg, William

William Alfred Hogg was born on the 1st December 1893. He was the son of a Sedgfield born Railway Mineral Guard named John Hogg, and his wife Sarah. William was born in Brusselton, as were his brothers and sisters. The family lived at 19 North Terrace, Brusselton in 1901 through 1911. William was a month short of his 22nd birthday when he enlisted at Darlington into the Royal Garrison Artillery as a Gunner in the 115th Siege Battery on 9th November 1915. He received the regimental number of 67441. He embarked at Southampton for his first posting to France on the 27th June 1916. He was demobilised on the 10th January 1919. After the war he stayed in Shildon and in 1919 married Jane Richardson. The couple lived at 18 Scott Street and had at least one child we believe. By 1939 William worked as a Plater at the Shildon Works.

Holmes, Thomas William Turnbull

Thomas was born at Red House Cottage, Middridge Grange on the 19th July 1890. He was the son of Thomas Holmes and his wife Elizabeth Eleanor (nee Turnbull). His father was a Horse Keeper. By 1911 the family had moved to 17 Eldon Terrace, New Shildon. We haven't been able to pinpoint what he did during the war. He returned to Shildon after the war and worked as a machinist Metal Driller at the Shildon Works. He married Ada Turnbull (which is interesting as his mother was a Turnbull and he too has Turnbull among his middle names) in 1924 and they had at least one child together. In 1939 they lived at 194 Redworth Road and Thomas additionally served as an ARP warden in WWII for the LNER. We believe he died in 1958.

Hutchinson, William Arthur

Arthur was a Bolt-heater at the Shildon Works and had been working for the company for 6 years when aged 20 he left work on the 7th June 1916 to enlist. At the time he was living at 37 Bouch Street with a wife, Mary, and infant child, William junior. Arthur was accepted into the Army Service Corps as a Private with the regimental number 13384. He then joined the 23rd Labour Company of the Yorkshire Regiment. He went to France with the British Expeditionary Forces on the 11th July 1916. While he was at war his family moved via 2a Baraclough Street, New Shildon to 84 Adelaide Street. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 6th February 1919 and returned to work at the Railway Works on 24th February

Hutchinson, Charles Herbert

Charles was a Clerk for the NER and had been working for the company for 12 years and 5 months when on 16th March 1917 he enlisted and was accepted into the Railway Operating Division of the Royal Engineers. He left his wife behind at Magdala Terrace and, aged 28 went off to war. He was eventually demobilised at Ripon on 2nd November 1919, well after the end of the war, and returned to his job at the Shildon Works on 24th November 1919

Ingledeu J

He was resident at 16 Tomlin Street, New Shildon and employed at the Shildon Works for 5 months as a temporary furnace-man. He was 37 years old when he left employment at the works on 12th March 1915 to enlist without the permission of his employer into the Army Service Corps. He left his wife behind. he survived the war, being demobilised at Clipstone on the 11th February 1919. He restarted work at the works on 24th February 1919

Jackson, George Edwin

George was born on the 26th March 1886. He was the son of William and Elizabeth Ellen Jackson. His father was a Stonemason from Glossop in Derbyshire and his mother was from Yorkshire. George himself was born in Middlesborough. Work however had brought the family to New Shildon where by 1891 they lived at 11 Adelaide Street. William had died before 1901 leaving Elizabeth, George's mother, a widow. A move to 10 Mechanic Street also happened. To support the family George took a job before he was 15 as a Painter's Labourer, and his older brother John became a Nut Tapper at the Shildon Works. By the time of George's enlistment Elizabeth had moved to 47 Wycliffe Terrace, Loftus in Cleveland, near Middlesborough, presumably to be closer to her original family members. Prior to the war George was a Coal Miner. George enlisted on the 14th December 1914, when he was 28 years and 9 months old and was accepted into the 6th Yorkshire Regiment as a Private with the regimental number 18549. He was later transferred to the 5th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment with a new regimental number of 49710. In this capacity he served as part of the British Expeditionary Forces in France. At the time of his enlistment he was living at 26 Market Place, Old Shildon. On the 17th September 1916 he was shot in the back and admitted to a military hospital where he stayed for almost two months receiving treatment. He was demobilised at Clipstone on the 9th January 1919 and returned to Old Shildon, taking up new residence at 37 Brown Street. He married Selena Spence in 1920. By 1939 he was still living on Brown Street and working as a General Labourer. He died, we believe, in 1966.

Kershaw Edward

Edward Kershaw was born on 20th February 1890. he was the son of Moses Kershaw of Stockport and his wife Isabella who was from Liverpool where Edward himself was born. in 1911 the Kershaws lived at 33 Hatherley Street, Liverpool. We know though that Edward had accepted a teaching job in Shildon by 1913 though, as on July the 8th that year he began his initiation into the Tristram Lodge of Freemasons at New Shildon, and was Raised on December 9th that year. Before the war Edward claims in his military records to have suffered from slight physical weakness for which he was receiving treatment by New Shildon's Dr Smeddle. He enlisted at Bishop Auckland on the 15th November 1911 into the 3rd Battalion Durham Light Infantry with the regimental number 31592, and his registered address was 21 Cambridge Terrace, New Shildon. He was nearly 26 at the time. He married Hilda Davison before or during the war. He served at the front in France. In July 1916 he was promoted to Lance Corporal but after going absent without leave at New Year he was demoted to private again in January 1917. He spent an initial 8 and a half months in France at the front before returning to England to undertake an instructing role, after which he returned to France again to carry out physical Pioneer work. On June 17th 1917 he received a gun shot wound in the left leg and later raised a case for discharge on the grounds of being physically unfit for duty. This was upheld and he was discharged on the 21st October 1918, only a few weeks before the Armistice was signed. After the war he continued his employment back in New Shildon. In 1939 he was living at 165 Redworth Road and working as a Mathematics Master at a school. The couple had at least one child, who was born in 1916, John, who also went on to become a Schoolteacher. Hilda died in June 1940 leaving Edward a widower.

King, Thomas Henry "Harry"

Harry was born Thomas Henry King in York on 15th May 1894. He was the son of John King, who became a Labourer for the NER at the Shildon Works. His mother was called Mary Louisa (nee Summerwell). At the time of the 1901 census the family were still living at Swinegate, a street in York, but by 1911 the family lived at 13 Chapel Street, New Shildon. By this time Harry was a general Labourer there too. He had become an assistant Sawyer by the time of his enlistment on 26th February 1913 at Shildon when he was aged 18. This means that he signed up before the war started, though he was not called upon until the 4th August 1914. He joined the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance, part of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Serving under the regimental number

388076 he quickly became a Corporal. He was discharged on the 31st March 1920. After the war, in 1922, he married Annie Bushby and the couple had at least one child, Norma. The family moved to Darlington and by 1939 were living at 195 Brinkburn Road there. At this time he was working as a Sawyer operating a circular saw at the LNER's works in Darlington. He died on 25th April 1948 aged 54

Kitching, John

John was born in Shildon in the spring of 1884. He was the son of a Boot and Shoe Maker and Repairer named John Kitching and his wife Ann. In 1901 the family were living at 1 Hope Street, Old Shildon, and by then John was already working as a Locomotive Cleaner for the NER based in the Locomotive Department. He became a Locomotive Fireman for the North Eastern Railway and by 1911, after having married in 1910, was living with his wife Harriet (nee Ellis) at 8 Chapel Street, New Shildon. At this same time John's father was a property owner having bought three houses on Cooperative street that year for £133 each. Unfortunately, beyond this we know little or nothing. We've not found any evidence of his war service, or anyone of a similar name locally, and have been unable to find any information relating to what he, or Harriet, did after the war. We hope that the 1921 census might offer new insight when it is released.

Kitching, Sydney

Sydney was born on 8th Dec 1893 to Joseph and Mary Kitching. His father was a beef and pork Butcher living at Strand Street in New Shildon that had been born in Coundon. Mother Mary was born in Shildon, and so too was Sydney. By 1911 he had become an Apprentice Butcher working with his father and older brother. We don't know when Sydney enlisted to go to war, however Corporal S Kitching, regimental number 32132, of Shildon was reported as a casualty in the weekly War Office and Air Ministry Casualty List for the DLI on Tues 4 Feb 1919. There is very little evidence remaining of his service record other than an index card confirming the details reported in the Casualty List - i.e. regimental number and that he served in the DLI. In 1925, with the war behind him, he married Sarah J Topping. He carried on the Butchery business at Strand Street for the rest of his life, and he and Sarah had at least two children, Harry and Jennie by 1939. Sydney was also a volunteer for the Special Police at this time. He died on the 12th September 1947 whilst in hospital at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle.

Lakeland, Henry

There is quite a mystery around this name. There was a Henry was born in Shildon in late 1900. He was the son of John Fenton Lakeland originally from Stanhope, and his wife Rachel. John worked as a Machinist drilling iron at the Shildon Works, and the family lived at 24 Lambton Street, Shildon at the time of the 1911 census when Henry was 10 years old. Previously they had lived at 2 Victoria Street, New Shildon. But this whole family emigrated to Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada in 1912 and Henry married Daisy Pennington from that place. We've not been able to find any WWI military connection either in British or Canadian records. Furthermore there is no indication as to who would have ensured his inclusion on the Institute War Memorial if the family had left town. Another Henry Lakeland was born in Stanhope in 1843 and died in 1918 so was too old to serve during that conflict. There was a Thomas Herbert Lakeland of Shildon served in the Royal Engineers, but that is a different name.

Laine, Wilfred

Wilfred was born in Darlington on the 3rd March 1898 and was the son of Thomas Laine and his wife Jane. Thomas was a Machine Shop Foreman for the NER at Shildon Works. In 1911 the family lived at 1 Hawthorne Terrace, Shildon. Wilfred enlisted into the Coldstream Guards as a Private with the regimental number 20169. We don't know when he enlisted, but we do know that during his service years he was wounded, receiving a gun shot wound to the head resulting in a

depressed fracture. He was discharged before the end of the war, on the 5th July 1918. After the war Wilfred moved to Kimberley House on Redworth Road and then with a Mrs Daykin at West View, Eldon Bank before moving away to Hetton where he married Violet Anne Priestman in 1938 and had become a Cinema Manager and Accountant and also a Group Leader of the Special Constabulary by 1939. He died on 27th February 1965 while living at 27 West Green, Heighington.

Lambert, Thomas

Tom Lambert was born 13th October 1881. He became a joiner at the wagon works in the wagon repairs department. He had been living at East View on Redworth Road. His last day at work was the 22nd November 1915 after which he enlisted into the 32nd NER Reserve Battalion of Northumberland Fusiliers where he was promoted to Lance Corporal. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 2nd February 1919. he returned to work at the works on the 24th February 1919. He died on 26th March 1947.

Leng, Joseph Richard

Joseph, of 26 Simpson Street, New Shildon, was a Turner in the service of the NER at Shildon Works. He was the son of William Leng of Railway Terrace, Stanhope. He had been with the company for 15 years, when on 22nd September 1916 he left work. He enlisted at Bishop Auckland on the 28th September, aged 29, into the Army Service Corps with the regimental number 230427. He had no dependents at the time. From his military records it seems that one of his duties during the war was to act as a driver, driving lorries and charabancs (an archaic form of bus or transport vehicle). He served in France and for a time was attached to the 2nd Life Guards Battalion. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on the 27th October 1919, returning to work at Shildon Works on 24th November 1919.

Lewis, John Joseph

John Joseph Lewis was the son of John and Jane Lewis. His father was a Shoemaker from Flint. In 1901 the family lived at 1 Short Street, New Shildon but by 1911 they were resident at Kimberley Terrace, now part of Redworth Road, New Shildon. John had been employed by the NER for 8 years as a Blacksmith and a Bolt maker when he left on the 3rd November 1915 to join the Argyll Sutherland Highlanders. He was later discharged from the Army on the 4th September 1918, but did not return to Shildon Works. Instead he took an alternative position in the NER's Guards Department at Frosterley, Weardale on the 3rd February 1919.

Lincoln, Nurse Elizabeth

Elizabeth was born on 27th December 1896 and was the Daughter of John Thomas Lincoln, landlord of the Cross keys Inn at 6 Cheapside, Shildon. Her mother was Elizabeth Lincoln (nee Simpson) Elizabeth lived at 5 Raby Gardens, Shildon, County Durham when she volunteered on the 23rd September 1916 to be a Red Cross Nurse. Initially she served at the Military Hospital in Newcastle, but on the 12th December 1917 she was transferred to a Military Hospital in France until August 1918 when she returned to Newcastle. She was released from the service on 15th April 1919. In 1935 Elizabeth married William H Ewbank and by 1939 had moved to Appleby in Westmorland. She died in 1976.

Linsley, Thomas William

Thomas William Linsley was a resident of 12 Beresford Street, New Shildon. He had put in 5 years of service with the North Eastern Railway and was working for them as a machinist at Shildon Works when on the 12th May 1916, aged 25, he enlisted into the 3rd Northumberland Fusiliers. That same day was his last day of work at the works. he survived the war and was demobilised at the dispersal centre at Ripon on 7th Feb 1919, returning to work at the works a month later on the 7th March 1919.

Mason, Andrew

Andrew was aged 20 when on 22nd May 1912 he joined the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps with the regimental number 1350. At the time he gave his occupation as that of Apprentice Wagon Wright at the NER's Shildon Works, and his address as 9 Charles Street, New Shildon. He took a medical examination in Shildon the same day and was adjudged to have good vision and satisfactory physical development. He served at home until April 1915 when he was sent to France and was later brought back to serve at home again. Part of the reason for this was that he suffered an accident attempting to stop some horses attached to a some sort of equipment, possibly an ambulance cab, and his knee was injured leaving it with limited movement and painful. We believe he was discharged early after 4 years and 293 days of military service.

Mason, Arthur

Arthur is another mystery and one for which we've not been able to identify the precise individual named. We know that there was an Arthur Mason living at West View, Eldon Bank in 1911 whose father was a Coal Miner but have not been able to connect this person with any likelihood to the Institute, nor found any evidence of military service.

Mason, Fred

Fred Mason was born in the summer of 1893 in Shildon and was the son of John and Louisa Mason. He was also the brother of John George Mason and Maurice Mason who are also listed on the memorial. In 1901 the family lived at 7 Smeddle Street, New Shildon, from where father John, originally from Startforth, went to work as a Joiner at the Shildon Works. As with his brothers, Fred found himself living at 9 Charles Street by 1911, and by this time, being 17 years old, he had secured a job as an Engine Cleaner for the NER. Unfortunately we've not been able to find any military records that reveal what his wartime role was.

Mason, John George

John George Mason was the brother of Maurice and Andrew Mason (also listed), both of 9 Charles Street, New Shildon. He enlisted on the 4th April 1914, aged 18 years and 6 months, and was accepted into the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Private in the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance battalion under the regimental number 388144. One of his postings was to the Military Convalescent Hospital at Woldingham in Surrey. He was demobilised on 1st Feb 1919. He qualified to receive the Victory Medal and British War Medal at the end of his service.

Mason, Maurice

Maurice, an apprentice hammer driver with 11 months service at the Shildon Works, first attempted to enlist when he was under age and was rejected. He had been living at 9 Charles Street, New Shildon. He was 5 feet and 5 inches tall. He succeeded at his second attempt claiming to be 19 years and 2 months old. He left work on the 3rd June 1915 and being accepted into the 6th Durham Light Infantry. He was posted on home service so never served overseas with the Army. He was discharged from the army before the end of the war and returned to work on the 20th March 1916. He wasn't done at that point though. On the 3rd August 1916 he left Shildon Works a second time and on the 15th August he enlisted into the Royal Navy. He was demobilised by the Navy at Portsmouth on 24th January 1919 and returned to Shildon Works on the 10th February.

Mattinson, Arthur Robert

Robert Mattinson lived with his mother and younger brother William at 22 All Saints Road in New Shildon. He had been working as a Shop Clerk at the works for 5 years by the time he chose to enlist. His last day at work was the 7th July 1916, after which he was accepted into the 8th

Battalion Durham Light Infantry aged 20. He survived the war and was demobilised at Ripon on 8th February 1919. He returned to his post at the works on 28th February that year.

Mattinson, William

William, brother of Robert Mattinson (also listed) was only 18 when he enlisted. Prior to that he had been a hammer driver at the Shildon Works, reportedly with 4 years service, which if correct suggests that he started work very young, though he was on a low pay of 19 shillings so may have been an apprentice. He had been living with his mother at 22 All Saints Road, New Shildon. He ended work on the 3rd November 1915 and, along with apprentice wagon builder R Grundy, joined the Northern Cyclists Corps. Grundy would not survive, being killed in action on 8 Aug 1918. Mattinson, however survived to the end of the war - to be demobilised at Ripon on 4th September 1919. He returned to Shildon Works on the 13th October.

McDonald, Thomas Patrick F

Thomas was born on the 1st July 1892. He was the son of Irish parents; his father a Railway Wagon Builder named James McDonald, and his mother was called Annie. In 1901 the family lived at 5 East Street. The family, by 1911, moved to 27 Charles Street and Thomas, then aged 18, had become a Machinist at the Shildon Works. He joined the Northumberland Fusiliers NER Battalion and was promoted to Lance Corporal. After the war he married Winifred and they had at least one child, a daughter, Patricia. By 1939 he had moved to 31 Scott Street, New Shildon from where he attended the Shildon Works as a Wagon Axle Turner. He died on the 19th June 1961

McDowell, Thomas

Thomas was the son of John McDowell of Coxhoe and his wife, New Shildon born Sarah Ann. Thomas was born in New Shildon on the 10th June 1898. When he was only 2 years old the family lived at 2 South Street, very close to Shildon Works, but John McDowell was not a railway worker but a Hewer working underground in a Coal Mine. By 1911 the family had moved six doors away to number 8 South Street. Thomas's father, by then in his sixties, had become a Storeman at the mine, and his brothers had followed their father into mining, but Thomas was still at school - he joined them in the mines later. On the 30th June 1917, with the war still in full flow, Thomas enlisted into the Royal Navy as Ordinary Seaman 72371. His papers describe him as 5' 6" tall with brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion. At the time he was living at 7 Richmond Street, New Shildon, though his records show that after the war he lived at 1 North Street. They also describe that he had tattoos on both forearms. One with flowers and "True Love" and the other with a horseshoe for good luck. He began his navy service at the training base HMS Victory before a transfer in October 1917 to HMS Europa, a 1st Class Diadem-class Cruiser. Then he moved on to HMS Edgar, a Protected Cruiser, HMS Abercrombie, HMS Endymion before being transferred back to HMS Europa and finally back to base at HMS Victory in January 1919. His records show that somewhere during his service period he caught malaria. His service ended on the 20th April 1919. Overall his conduct had been deemed to be very good. He stayed in Shildon after returning from the war and by 1939 was working as a heavy worker loading Scrap and Steel, and was living, unmarried, at a house on Byerley Road with Amos and Isabella Mays. We believe Thomas died in 1968.

McLean, J L

We've not been able to find any information at all about this person and are hoping that the 1921 Census might shed more light when it is released in 2022

Milnes, Albert

Albert Edward Milnes was born on the 28th October 1890 to Robinson Milnes and his wife Elizabeth Ellen (nee Kettlewell). Robinson was a Locomotive Stoker born in Laisterdyke in

Yorkshire, and his wife was from Milby, but Albert was born here in New Shildon. Albert's first home was number 9 Mechanic Street in New Shildon. Tragically Albert's father died in 1893 when he was aged only 27, leaving Elizabeth to raise Albert alone. In 1896, though, she married Newsagent, Tobacconist and Hairdresser James Beddison who became Albert's stepfather. The family lived at 18 Mill Street. By 1911 the family had moved to 13 Alma Road and Albert was helping out as an assistant in his father's shop. In 1917 Albert married Hannah Ashman Dale Young of Carlisle, daughter of a Sunderland born Insurance Manager. We can't say for certain what Albert did during WWI. There was an Albert E Milnes who was a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery with Regimental Number 251864 but we don't know anything else about him and this may well not be our man. After the war Albert became a debt collector in Stockton and died on 19th January 1962.

Minto, Arthur

Arthur was born on 30th July 1892, the son of a Railway Locomotive Driver, John Thomas Minto and his wife Annie Elizabeth. His parents were born in New Shildon, but Arthur was born in Howden-le-Wear. By 1901 the family were living at Henderson Terrace in New Shildon. In 1911 Arthur was an eighteen year old music student, and the family were living at Kimberley Terrace, New Shildon. His older brother George Edward Minto is also listed on the Institute Memorial (see below) and at this time was a Cycle Agent. Another brother was John, who was a Teacher. In January 1918 Arthur married Marie L Brown in Darlington. Unlike his brother George, we've not been able to find any documents or clues that explain Arthur's war service. After the war Arthur moved to Darlington and became a music teacher living at 22 Pierremont Road with his wife and her 'incapacitated' brother Arthur. He was a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and is named as a piano accompanist, soloist and organist in a handful of regional newspaper stories. Arthur died on the 14th January 1965 in Darlington.

Minto, George Edward

George was born in 1885 and Christened at Crook on the 7th October that year. He was the brother of Arthur Minto (see above) also named on the Institute Memorial, and shared the same parentage. He lived at Redworth Road with his wife Hilda (nee Clark) before the war and was thirty years old when he enlisted on 6th December 1915 at Richmond. George and Hilda had been married at All Saints Church. This was to be his second period of service as he explained on his enlistment form that he had served previously as a recruiter himself. George rose from Private in 1915 to Lance Corporal and the Corporal by December 1916. He was accepted into the 21st Battalion Durham Light Infantry but during the course of the war was absorbed into the 87th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps. He had the regimental number 110518. He was demobilised on 13th January 1919. George died in 1955.

Monk, William

William Monk was born on the 15th April 1873 in Bolton in Lancashire - the son of Richard and Rachael Monk. His father was a power loom Overlooker in the mills there. They lived at 25 Armitage Street, in the Barton ward of Salford in 1891 but by 1901 he is already in the army serving as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery and being based at the Citadel Military Barracks at Plymouth, a 17th century fortress originally built to defend our coastline against the Dutch. He had previously tried to join the Royal Artillery in 1892 but was considered not fit enough and rejected. He had then enlisted into the Lancashire Fusiliers on the 11th March 1893 only to desert a month later. He was tried for Desertion in January 1894 but retained. His papers describe him as having blue eyes and brown hair with a mole on his left cheek, a bald patch on the back of his head and a wart three inches below his left nipple. In January 1896 he was transferred to the 2nd battalion Lancashire Fusiliers and the following year promoted to Lance Corporal, only to be demoted again shortly afterwards and transferred again in 1898 to the Royal Artillery, which is how he came to be

in Plymouth by 1901. It wasn't to last though, as he was discharged as medically unfit on 15th June 1901, not long after the 1901 census day. Through his army years though he served in East India, Egypt, Crete, Malta and Sudan and received the Sudan medal and clasp. He married Margaret Annie Blackbird on the 20th April 1907 at All Saints in New Shildon. He was late to go to war, but as he was a Miner at the time of his enlistment this may have been because he was employed in a reserved occupation. By 1911 William was working as a Miner in New Shildon, and living at 4 Pit Row, Old Shildon with their 2 month old son Thomas Richard Monk. By 1918 the couple's address was 3 Back-mill Street, New Shildon. On the 25th April 1918, aged 45, he joined the Royal Air Force, signing up into 36th Squadron for the duration of the war. On his RAF papers he explains that he had previously been a Corporal. He was described as having greying black hair and blue eyes. He was discharged on 17th December 1918 being deemed medically unfit - but by then the war was over. We're not sure what happened to him in the years after the war.

Moore, Edwin Wilson

Edwin Wilson Moore was born in 1879. gave his occupation on his enlistment forms as that of Builder and Contractor, and his address as being 5 All Saints Road, New Shildon. He was 30 years of age when he enlisted at Bishop Auckland on the 26th November 1915. The witness to his enlistment, as with many Shildon men, was Henry Gibbon, bandmaster of the New Shildon Temperance Band who was in the 6th battalion DLI at the time. Edwin was of the Methodist faith, and at the time of joining was already married to Isabella Wilson whom he had married at the Wesleyan Church on the 26th April 1905. He went off to war leaving three children, Ronald, Norman and Elsie. he was accepted into the 338th Road Construction Company of the Royal Engineers as a Sapper with the regimental number 25610. It appears he was stood down until his unit was required, at which time he would be called upon. Instructions were issued for him to join his unit on 4th March 1917 and he joined on 15th march 1917. This unit arrived in Le Havre on the 4th April 1917 with 3 officers, 256 men and 10 horses, and left le havre four days later with an objective of ensuring ongoing routes for supply and reinforcement. During his service he was elevated to Lance Corporal. He was demobilised on 22nd March 1919 whereafter he returned to his home in All Saints Road, New Shildon

Moore, John Robert

John Robert Moore was born in the autumn of 1880 in Heighington. He was the son of a Stone Mason named John Moore, and his wife Isabella, and also the brother of Edwin Wilson Moore, listed above who also features on the Railway Institute memorial. By 1901 the whole family had moved to Kimberley Terrace, New Shildon, and John and his older brother Edwin had joined their father in the building trade. In 1902 John married Shildon born Mary Hanna Hall and the couple had a daughter, Dorothy. Another child died in infancy. By 1911 the family were living at 11 All Saints Road, New Shildon, and John was working as a Bricklayer. Unlike his brother we've not been able to find John's records of war service, nor details of what happened to him after the war. We're hoping that the 1921 census might offer more clues.

Murphy, Martin

Martin was a sawmill labourer at Shildon Works and lived at East View Terrace and then Albion Avenue in Shildon. He was married but had no children at the time of enlisting. he left work on the 23rd September 1916 and enlisted on the 28th of that month. At that time he was 31 years of age, and had been working for the NER for 11 years. He joined 2/1 Hertfordshire Regiment. he survived the war and was discharged, returning to work on 3rd January 1919

Murphy, Peter

Peter was the son of Martin and Bridget Murphy. He was born in Shildon in 1894, though his father, an Enginemen at the Gas Works in Shildon was born in County Sligo in Ireland. Bridget was from

Barnard Castle. Peter's family were catholic and he was baptised at St Wilfrid's Church, Bishop Auckland on the 28th May 1894. This was a popular church with Irish Catholics that had moved to the area. In 1901 the family lived at 3 Gardiner Place. By 1911 Peter was working as a Pawnbroker's Assistant and the family were living at 3 Soho Cottages. Finding Peter's military service records has been problematic as his name is a common one and many records are missing, though we did find a service record for his older brother Thomas below. We don't know how or where Peter served, but we do know that he did not live long after the war. Peter died on 1st July 1924, aged around thirty, leaving his estate to his father.

Murphy, Thomas

Thomas Murphy was born in 1896 and became an Apprentice Blacksmith at Shildon Works and was resident with his father Martin and family at 3 Soho Cottages, New Shildon. He was Roman Catholic. He had been in the service of the North Eastern Railway for four years when he left work to be mobilised on the 30th May 1916 with three other men from the forge in order to enlist. He had actually signed up at Stockton on the 10th Dec 1915. He was only nineteen years and eight months old. He was accepted into the Army Ordnance Corps. Thomas had no dependents and was on quite a low rate of pay of only sixteen shillings, so may have been an apprentice. Of the men who enlisted that day he was the youngest and least experienced. He started in the 36th Training Battalion. He was transferred to the 1st Battalion Dorset Regiment changing his regimental number from 18523 to 19933, and served in France. He was later promoted to Lance Corporal. He survived the war and was later demobilised at Ripon on the 1st September 1919, returning to work on the 26th September.

North, A

We can't be sure as to who this was with the information available to us today though we're hoping that the 1921 census might help us when it is released in 2022. We didn't find evidence of a North family member or individual in Shildon the period around WWI

Oliphant, Chris

Chris worked as a Wagon Repairer at the Shildon Works and joined the East Yorkshire Regiment. His last day at work was the 27th November 1914, so he enlisted quite early in the war. he was only 22 years old at the time and had no dependants. Prior to enlisting he was resident at 18 Regent Street, New Shildon. Despite enlisting early he survived the war and was transferred to the Army Reserve on the 14th January 1918, enabling him to return to work - then later demobilised and discharged on the 18th February 1919.

Othick, Fred

Fred was born in Leeds, West Yorkshire on 24th November 1882. He was the son of Robert Othick and his wife Elizabeth Ann. He worked as an engineering draughtsman for the North Eastern Railway and seems to have moved around quite a lot in that capacity. He probably wasn't in Shildon for very long but while he was here he would have been attached to the Shildon Works. In 1911 he was living with his wife Ann Elizabeth (nee Wilson) and one year old daughter Ida Kathleen at 2 Lord Street, Redcar. He and Ann had married at Hunslet. By the 29th April 1915, when Fred enlisted into the Army Service Corps, the family were living at 2 Bloomfield Road, in Darlington where Fred would have been working at the Railway Works. This we think it possible that Fred only came to Shildon after the war. He was 35 years and 5 months old when he enlisted. He was quickly promoted through Corporal and Sergeant to C.O.M.S. and did serve in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. After the war we think Fred can to work at Shildon Works before once again moving on. By 1939 he was living at 37 Overland Road, Haltemprice and working as a Dock Machinery Engineer Foreman for the LNER. He was also working for the LNER's Air Raid Patrol (ARP) service. He died in Birmingham on the 11th January 1954.

Parker, Robert

Robert, a railway clerk with 13 years service under his belt, used to live at 2 Raby Gardens in Shildon. He was quite well paid for his work, being on a rate of 38 shillings and fourpence. He married Ethel Jackson on the 19th July 1915 at the Primitive Methodist Chapel. He originally enlisted on the 9th December 1915 to join the West Yorkshire Regiment with the regimental number 38934 but was consequently assigned as a reservist and not mobilised. He left work on 13th January 1917 and enlisted into the Army Pay Corps on the 15th January 1917 along with fellow clerk Frank William Robinson. He was promoted to Corporal on 16th January 1918 and then Lance Sergeant in October 1918. He left his wife at home. He does not appear to have seen any front line action and was demobilised at Ripon on the 2nd February 1919, returning to work at the works on the 24th of that month.

Parkin, Henry L

Henry worked as a labourer in the Locomotive department at Shildon on a rate of 22 shillings and then, after 1 year's service joined the NER 17th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was aged 26 at the time. His last day at work was the 24th September 1914. He left his entirely dependant widowed mother at home at 8 Pears Terrace, New Shildon. Henry was later wounded in action but survived to the end of the war. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 21st January 1919 and returned to the Shildon works on 31st January.

Pattinson, James

James was born in Guisborough in spring of 1893, the son of Herbert Pattinson. By 1911 he had moved to Shildon and was lodging at 4 Queen Street with Margaret Ann Burnside and her family. Margaret had three such boarders, all of whom were coal miners. James gave his occupation for the 1911 census as Run Rider on Sets Underground working for Pease and Partners. On 16th March that year he enlisted into the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance - part of the Royal Army Medical Corps - with the regimental number 1104. He was twenty years old and described as 5' 7" in height. He was embodied (called up) on the 5th August 1914 and over his service was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant. He was discharged before the end of the war, on the 15th March 1916 - exactly five years after having signed up, apparently having terminated his engagement himself under regulations. He did not serve overseas in these five years. We don't know what happened to James after this and are hoping that the 1921 census will tell us more. An interesting anomaly is that on the 1911 census and birth records he is named Pattinson and on his war records he is Pattison.

Pearson, George Gregory

George was born in New Shildon in the winter of 1892 to Thomas William Pearson and his wife Hannah. Before starting at the Shildon Works, George spent some time as a colliery labourer. His father however was a joiner for the Railway company, so almost inevitably George followed into the employment of the North Eastern Railway. He was a labourer in the sawmill at the Shildon Works for three years before he enlisted into the 3rd Yorkshire Regiment on the 19th October 1916 with the regimental number of 38717. Two years prior to this he had married Lily Robinson and they had set up home at 1 Henry Street, Shildon. Lily later moved to 16 Elm Road. Going to war now, George was leaving his wife at home alone. His last day at work had been the 9th of October 1916. During his time with the Yorkshire regiment he was promoted to Corporal. He was killed on 17th July 1917 while serving with the 9th Battalion of the Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own) Regiment. He is remembered in the Larch Wood Cemetery at Ypres in Belgium - plot Sp. Mem. B 6

Pearson, William

William Pearson of 7 Thickley Terrace, New Shildon joined the Royal Army Medical Corps 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance on 2nd May 1912 at age nineteen (meaning he'd have been born in about 1893) and was 'embodied' on 5th August 1914 with the regimental number 388061. He had been born in Gateshead and was the son of Joseph and Ann Pearson of that place. In 1901 William lived with his parents at 53-55 John Street in Gateshead. His father was a Sawyer. William served in France as a stretcher bearer and carrying out other Field Ambulance duties. and later was transferred to the 86th Field Ambulance. Prior to his war service he was a Shearer at the NER Shildon Works. It appears that he married, but died in 1926 aged only 33 years old.

Plews, Christopher George

Chris was born on 8 February 1886, and was the son of Robert and Elizabeth Plews (nee Hancock). His father was a Locomotive Fireman from Northallerton, but Chris was born in Shildon. In 1891 the family lived at 41B Adelaide Street, New Shildon. By 1901 his father had graduated to becoming a Locomotive Driver and his older brother a Railway Wagon Number Taker, but Chris was only just too young to work. One might have expected Chris to follow his father into railway work, but by 1911, with the family living at 10 Tomlin Street, New Shildon, Chris had begun working as a Hairdresser. Then came the war, and Chris joined the Durham Light Infantry as a Private, with the regimental number 38457. During his time at war he received a gun shot wound to the neck. After the war, in 1921, he married Isabella Saunders. They had two children, who may have been twins, Muriel and Elsie. In 1939 Chris was still living in Shildon but was out of work as a Hairdresser. Though married he was living alone. Isabella and their two daughters were living elsewhere at 1A Market Place. Chris died in 1952.

Potter, Arthur

Arthur Potter was born in 1882 in Settrington, formerly in the East Riding of Yorkshire. He was Christened on the 25th February 1883. He was the son of Matthew and Sarah Potter. The Potters, in 1891, were Grocers in Thornton le Moor. By 1901, when Arthur was almost 19 he enlisted into the Grenadier Guards 5th Reserve Battalion with the regimental number 9494. he was 5 feet 9 inches tall with grey eyes and dark brown hair and a fresh complexion. He then served in the 1st Battalion and the 3rd Battalion. He was diagnosed by a military doctor as having contracted gonorrhoea in March 1903 and treated at Woolwich hospital. He was discharged to the reserve forces in 1904. He married Emmeline Solomon on 2nd June 1908, and the couple had a daughter, Olivia, in 1909 and another, Minnie in 1911. According to his military papers Arthur suffered from flat feet. By 1911 he and his family lived at 12 Short Soho Street, New Shildon. Arthur took work as a member of the North Eastern Railway's railway police and was based at Shildon. He was remobilised into the Grenadier Guards on the 4th August 1914. he was transferred to the Reserve Battalion on 8th February 1919. Arthur died in 1936. In 1939 Emmeline and her children were still living at Short Street in New Shildon.

Race, William Edward

William was born in Bishop Auckland in 1898, the son of George Longstaff Race and his wife Elizabeth Hay Race (nee Robinson). In 1901 the family lived in Gibbon Street, Bishop Auckland, with George working as a Joiner and Cartwright. By 1911 however the family had moved to 12 Station Street, New Shildon, with William at school and his father working as a Wagon Repairer for the North Eastern Railway. 27th December 1916 saw William, by then working as a Clerk, go to Bishop Auckland to join the army. He was eighteen. He spent time in the Notts and Derbys Regiment with the regimental number 102834, after starting out in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Interestingly he was transferred by the end of the war into the Essex Regiment with a regimental number of 49934. He became a Lance Corporal. We have seen correspondence between the army and William's mother regarding William having been wounded in November 1911 and being looked after at the 34th Casualty Clearing station in France which by the end of the

war (the period when William was wounded) was situated at Solesmes. He was demobilised with pulmonary tuberculosis on the 1st March 1919 by which time the family address was 34 Victoria Street, New Shildon. His tuberculosis was deemed to have not been neither attributable to nor aggravated by his war service. Probably as a consequence of this ailment William died in 1925

Ramsden, Thomas

Thomas was born in Shildon on the 18th December 1882. He was the son of a Coal Miner named Jethro Ramsden and his wife Ellen. In 1881, before Thomas was born the Ramsdens were living at 1 and a half Chapel Street, New Shildon. Thomas didn't get long to know his father who died and was buried in November 1883 at New Shildon leaving Ellen to raise the family on her own. By 1891 Ellen was living with her children at a house on Shildon Road (Now Byerley Road) but Thomas was not with her. But by 1901 they were living at 9 Craddock Street and Thomas was part of the household once more, and by then working as a Wagon Wright at the Shildon Works, being a young adult of eighteen years old. On 18th May 1908, aged 25, he enlisted for an initial four years in the Royal Army Medical Corps as part of the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance with the regimental number of (198) 89000. On the 28th September 1910 he married Mary Jane Bayles at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Shildon. By the time of the 1911 census Thomas was an RAMC Staff Sergeant at the infantry barracks on Fulford Road in York. He did serve in France between April 1917 and May 1919. However in 1922 when Thomas was living at 22 Eldon Terrace in New Shildon, he entered into correspondence with the army over his non receipt of the Territorial Force War Medal claiming that he had made an agreement that he was prepared to serve overseas, something his commanding officer disputed claiming that he had not signed form B.624 which would have declared him eligible for overseas service. Thomas counterclaimed that he had not only signed the form but also made a verbal agreement, yet he was denied the medal. By 1939 he was living at 41 Central Parade with his wife and daughter Dorothy. By this time he was fifty-seven years old and was a Railway Wagon Repair Foreman for the LNER at Shildon Works. It is thought that he died in 1947.

Ranson, Thomas Edward

Thomas was the son of Thomas Newton Ranson, a Stationary Boiler Attendant and his wife Mary Jane (nee Motherhill) who was in turn the daughter of a Railway Lathe Machinist at Shildon Works. In 1901 the family lived with Mary's mother Elizabeth and stepfather Richard Wilbert. Thomas had been born on 26th May 1897 in New Shildon. By 1911 the family were living at 39 Beresford Street, and at that time Thomas was still only thirteen years old and at school. We don't know exactly in what capacity Thomas served, though we did observe a Thomas Edward Ranson who served in the DLI (later Machine Gun Corps) though no address was given - this may not be our man. After the war, in 1923, Thomas married Mary H Wade. He became a Wagon Fitter for the LNER and the couple had at least one child. The couple lived at 11 Victoria Street, New Shildon where he stayed right until his death. He died on the 21st October 1979.

Reed, Robert

Robert was born at Pelton in County Durham in 1894 and was the son of a Coal Miner named Matthew Reed and his New Shildon born wife Hannah (nee Hodgson). Hannah and Matthew had married on 25th October 1890, but Matthew is no longer part of Robert's life by 1901. In the spring of 1900 Hannah married George Henry Wears, a Bricklayer of Newlands Avenue, New Shildon who became Robert's stepfather. By 1911 Robert was working as a Coal Miner below ground. On the 8th May 1912 Robert signed up to join the 2nd Northumbrian Field Ambulance which was part of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and he was embodied as a Private on the 5th August 1914. At the time of signing up he gave his address as being the King William Inn, Shildon and his occupation as Miner. He was assigned the regimental number of 388064. He served overseas in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and in Salonica on the Mediterranean. During his

service he was adjudged to have been a reliable and intelligent soldier. He was discharged in March 1919.

Reeve, Alfred 'Fred'

Alfred was born in New Shildon on the 2nd October 1887 and was a Clerk at the Railway Works, and he had been for about fourteen years by the time he, aged twenty-eight, enlisted into the 4th Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders. Up to that time he had been living at 5 North Terrace, New Shildon, right on the outskirts of the Works with his widowed mother, Elizabeth, who was also an office caretaker at the Works. His father, Nelson Reeve had been a wagon builder. He had an older brother, Tom. Fred was unmarried when he went to war. His last day of work was the 20th November 1915, only a few days after T Richardson who joined the same Regiment. During his period of service Alfred was gassed on the battlefield, but survived that and lived on to be demobilised at Manchester on the 11th January 1919. He resumed work at the Shildon Works on the 24th January 1919. After the war he married Nancy Robson and moved to Darlington where he continued to work as a Clerk for the railway company. He later moved to The Green, Heighington where he died on 27th December 1943.

Richardson, T

Was a Hammer Driver at the Shildon Works and had been doing that for about a year. He left work on the 15th November 1915 and, aged nineteen, without permission from his employers, enlisted as a Private in the Seaforth Highlanders. Prior to that he had lived at 8 Roseberry Terrace, Shildon. He was killed in action on 9th April 1917. He had no dependents.

Riches, Arthur

Arthur was employed as a Wood Machinist Assistant at Shildon Works and had been so for six years. His last day at work at the Works was the 22nd November 1915, after which he enlisted with a large group of his colleagues from the works into the 32nd North Eastern Railway Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was 23 years old at the time and had no dependents. He had been living at 17 Beresford Street, New Shildon. Arthur was wounded during his service years, but not so severely as to prevent him serving the full duration of the war. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 30th January 1919 and returned to work at the works on the 17th February 1919.

Riley, Charles

Charles was a Foreman's Assistant at the Shildon Works. He had been in their employ for three years and six months. He enlisted, without permission from the NER, as a Private in the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. His last day at work was the 11th June 1915. He was killed in action on the 31st December 1915, but curiously is not named among those who had given their lives for their country on the Institute war memorial.

Robinson, Frank William

Frank was a Clerk at the Shildon Works and had been for around ten years when he served his last day on the 13th January 1917 and went to enlist on the 15th January. He had been living at 25 Victoria Street, New Shildon, by that time. He was taken into the Army Pay Corps and was demobilised at Ripon on the 5th January 1920 from Ripon. He returned to work at the Works on the 2nd February 1920.

Robson, Arthur (James Arthur)

Arthur was a Hammer Driver at the Shildon Works and had been employed by them for four years when he left for the war. His last day at work was the 9th June 1916 and he enlisted on the 14th June 1916 into the 21st Battalion, Durham Light Infantry leaving his wife behind. They lived at

Meadow View, Eldon Lane. He was demobilised after the war on the 15th September 1919 and returned to work at the works on 13th October 1919.

Robson, G (Possibly JG)

JG Robson was a Bolt Heater at the Shildon Works and had been doing so for 2 years and 9 months when he left work on the 5th December 1914 to enlist without the permission of his employer. He lived at 4 Foundry Street, Shildon with his wife and one child. He joined the Royal Field Artillery. He was demobilised on the 7th January 1919 at Ripon and returned to work on the 24th January 1919

Robson, Robert Lawson

Robert was a Shearer at the Shildon Works and had been working there for three years when he left for the war. He had been living at 4 Thomas Street, New Shildon up until then. His last day at work was the 2nd June 1916 and he enlisted on the 5th June 1916 aged only 18 years. He joined the 3rd Training Reserve Battalion. During the war he was taken as a prisoner of war, but was later returned and demobilised from the army on 20th Jan 1919 at York. He resumed work at the Works on 7th February 1919.

Robson, Thomas William

Thomas was a painter at the Shildon Works. He had been working for the NER for twelve years when, aged 27 on the 14th of October 1916 he worked his last day and enlisted on the 19th October and became a Private in the 3rd Yorkshire regiment. Prior to that he had been living at 3 North Street, New Shildon, with his wife and infant daughter. He was killed in action on the 25th June 1917, but is not listed as among those who gave their lives for their country on the Institute War Memorial for some strange reason.

Roxborough, William Henry Bowman

Henry, as he seems to have preferred to be called, was born on the 23rd May 1893 in New Shildon. We know he was the grandson of Joseph Bowman, a Locomotive Driver as in 1901 William was living with his grandparents at 1 Eldon Terrace in New Shildon. His father was James Roxborough and his mother was Annie Eliza (nee Bowman). James, however, had died in 1900, leaving Annie a widow. This may be why William was taken in by his grandfather. By 1911 Annie was living at 9 Shildon Road, new Shildon with three of her sons one of whom appears to be William though he is going by his third name Henry. He is listed as working as a Railway Clerk. Annie did remarry in 1916 to a Harry S Wilkinson. As for William he enlisted at Bishop Auckland on 17th December 1915. He gave his occupation at that time as Telegraphist working for the railway company and based at Shildon. he was recorded as being 5' 5" tall. He was mobilised in November 1916 He joined the Royal Engineers and was posted to the 56th Signals company with the regimental number 211249. His initial role was as a Field Lineman (dismounted). He was later part of D Corps Signals Company. In March 1917 he was posted to serve in France. He was awarded the Military Medal, a medal for men of below commissioned rank who exhibited bravery in battle on land, on the 24th January 1919. He was discharged on the 6th July 1919 at Ripon. he returned home and in the summer of 1921 married Ruby Smith. he died in the autumn of 1981

Scott Walter

Walter was born on the 11th May 1884. he became a wagon builder at the works at Shildon. he lived at 6 Pears Terrace, New Shildon. He was 30 when he enlisted, with his near neighbour A Parkin from two doors down, into the 17 Northumberland Fusiliers NER Battalion and had been working for the NER for 15 years. Both Scott and Parkin had left the company's employment on the 29th September 1914. Parkin was poisoned by gas in France and died on the 30th November 1918 (after the war ended), but Walter Scott survived to return home. He was demobilised at

Ripon on the 6th February 1919. He resumed work at the works on the 28th February. He died on the 5th December 1968

Scriven Oliver

Oliver was a machinist at the Shildon Works who left employment on the 12th December 1915 after 4 years and 9 months at in the NERs employment. He had been living at 7 West Street, New Shildon with his widowed mother, whom he listed as being partly dependent upon him. Aged only 18 he enlisted into the 32nd North Eastern Railway Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was wounded in action, but carried on in the army, being demobilised after the war on the 28th June 1919 at Ripon. He returned to Shildon Works on the 7th July 1919.

Shafto, George Ingram

George was the oldest son of a shop keeper called Edward G Shafto from Durham and his wife Elizabeth from St Helens Auckland. George was born in 1892 in the city of Durham. In 1901 the family had a General Dealership at Mill Bank, but by 1911 they were trading at 9 Railway Terrace, New Shildon with Edward working as a General Dealer, and son, George working as a Furniture Dealer. In 1913 George took a trip to New York, returning on the White Star liner "Adriatic." and arriving on 6th April at Liverpool. Later that year he made a trip to Quebec, Canada. George signed up on the 11th October 1916 at Newcastle to join the Royal Army Service Corps and was assigned to 977 company. This was a Motor Transport company. He received a number of transfers throughout his service including to the Scottish Rifles, Signal School, 302nd Labour Company, 363rd Reserve Company, 610 Company and the 5th Rifle Brigade. He served in England from 11th October 1916 to 8th November 1918 and then in France from that date to 11th April 1919. He was transferred to the reserve on 11th December 1919. In 1923 he married a lady called Catherine Annie Bader and the couple had moved by 1939 to 24 Victoria Embankment, Darlington. We don't really know what happened after that.

Shannon M

Was a Furnaceman at the Shildon Works and had only been working there for a year and a half when he left, at age 34, to join the army. His last day at work for the NER was the 24th September 1915. He joined the Army Service Corps. He had been living at Soho Street in New Shildon. He was discharged from the army on the day after Armistice Day in 1918 but did not return to work for the North Eastern Railway until the 9th of February 1920.

Shaw Henry

Henry was a joiner at the Shildon Works and had been with the company for six years when on the 4th August 1916, aged 21, he left the company to join the army. He enlisted on the 7th August 1916 into the 17th York and Lancaster Regiment, leaving behind his widowed mother as his only named dependent. They were at that time living at Houghton House, Kimberley Terrace. He was demobilised after the war at Ripon on the 2nd April 1919, and returned to work at Shildon Works on the 11th April 1919.

Shipley, Bertram F

The general register office records that Bert was born in 1896 at Pembroke Dock in South Wales. He was the oldest of four children born to David Douglas Shipley and his wife Eleanor Myra (nee Davies). His full name was Bertram Frederick Septimus Shipley. In 1901, with Bert just four years old, the family lived at Printing house Square in Darlington, but by 1911 he was living with his mother at 15 Back Station Street, New Shildon and at age 14 had taken work as a Coal Miner Pony Driver. On the 20th May that year Bert appeared in the Darlington & Stockton Times for the 'wrong reasons'. He was named as one of six lads that had appeared in court at Bishop Auckland for malicious and wilful damage to houses. Owing to slackness of work in the town there had been

three or four houses empty and the lads had been throwing half bricks and stones at the windows. Each was fined 7 shillings and sixpence. It appears that Bert's father left his wife to fend for herself and take care of the children. A probate record says that he died in 1906 leaving his estate to his wife, but the record says that he "died on or since 7 June 1906 at some place unknown." The 1911 census lists Eleanor as 'deserted' rather than 'widowed'. Things become more complicated here when trying to find out what happened to Bertram. You would think that Bertram Frederick Septimus Shipley would be an unusual name but it has caused much confusion in research. There was a Private Bertram Frederick Shipley of the DLI from Darlington, the son of Margaret Tessa and Enoch Francis Shipley who died on the 12th September 1917. Also a Lance Corporal Bertram Frederick Septimus Shipley of the West Riding Regiment this time the son of Martha and William Shipley, also of Darlington who died in . Given the different parentage of those two the most likely probability was Private Bertram Shipley of the Coldstream Guards who later transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards). This soldier gave his contact address as via Mr J Daykin of West View, Eldon who may have been John Daykin, the Colliery Under Manager there if Bert was still a miner. We may of course be wrong in this assumption but it feels most probable. Eleanor Myra Shipley died in Spring of 1927 There was a report in 1939 of Bertram F S Shipley with a feasible date of birth living in Stoke on Trent with his wife Ethel Maud (nee Radford) whom he had married in 1923. This person was a Tile Warehouse Manager and also an Army Reservist suggesting he had served during WWI. That Bertram Shipley died in the Stoke area on 4 July 1965. We hope that the 1921 census will help us to refine our understanding here.

Simpson, Harry

Harry was a machinist at the NER's Shildon Works, and had been living at 6 Pearl Street, Shildon. He had worked for the company for 3 years and 6 months when on the 5th January 1917 he left the company aged 17 and enlisted on the 15th January into the 80th Training Reserve battalion. He was demobilised on the 17th February 1919 at Ripon, and returned to his job at Shildon Works on the 25th February 1919.

Smare, Walter

Walter Smare was born in Ferryhill. He was the son of a Railway Boilersmith named John Smare, originally from Wolsingham, and his wife Jane. In 1891 the family were living at Mainsforth, whilst 1901 saw the family living at Bishop Middleham. By 1911 Walter had become a joiner in the Wagon Department for the NER at Shildon Works, and was lodging with relatives at 35 Redworth Road, New Shildon. On the 8th November 1915, Walter went to Darlington to join the army. He was 28 years and eight months old. He gave his address as 38 Bouch Street, New Shildon and his occupation as Wagon Repairer. He was taken into the 15th Heavy Battery Royal Garrison Artillery as a Gunner with the regimental number 6592 - however he was discharged on the 5th January 1916 as not being likely to become an efficient soldier. His military records mention Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The remainder of Walter's life was short. He moved to 181 Eastbourne Road, Darlington, probably to stay with family. Then was moved to Helmington Row Hospital at Crook where he died on 28th January 1919, leaving his meagre £61 estate to his father. He was buried with his mother at Saint Michael's churchyard, Bishop Middleham.

Spaven, Arthur

Arthur Edwin Spaven was born in Redworth in 1877 to Robert and Margaret Spaven. His father was a Labourer for the North Eastern Railway by trade. The family lived at North Terrace in Brusselton in 1881 and are placed at number 29 there in 1891 with Arthur's older brothers also working for the North Eastern Railway. By 1901 Arthur had also become a railway labourer for the company, and was still living with his parents aged 24. In 1914 he married Mary Elizabeth Petch. We have not been able to find specific military service records for Arthur. Mary died in 1936 leaving Arthur to

raise their children alone. By 1939 Arthur was living at 8 Kilburn Street, New Shildon with his children Alan, born in 1918 and Doris, born in 1920.

Spensley, George

George was born in Shildon early in 1896. He was the son of a Yeast merchant named William Spensley and his wife Hannah who ran their business from Lime Tree House, St John's Road, New Shildon. On the 15th May 1915, when he was nineteen years and seven months old, George went to Bishop Auckland to enlist and was accepted into the Royal Horse and Field Artillery. At the time he gave his trade as Yeast Merchant working for his father, which he had been doing even whilst a schoolboy, and living at 1 St John's Road, New Shildon. He was described as a Wesleyan, 5' 10" tall with brown eyes, a fresh complexion and light brown hair. His initial regimental number was 32845 but this seems to have changed at some point to 1018763. He was assigned to the 3rd Reserve battery at No 1 Depot of the Royal Field Artillery as a Gunner and became a Driver in 1917. He served in France from 24th July 1915 to 29th January 1919 then was brought back to England. He married a tavern keeper's daughter, Frances Alice Mountain, on the 22nd Feb 1919 at Billingham. He appears to have stayed with his regiment after the end of the war but in March 1920 committed a 'civil offence' involving stealing and absenting himself without leave and was tried and sentenced to 9 months imprisonment with hard labour. He was subsequently discharged for misconduct on the 20th December 1920. It is thought that George died in 1950.

Spensley, Robert Arthur

Robert was born on the 26th July 1894 at Brusselton. He was the son of a Locomotive Driver named Robert Spensley from Etherley and his wife Elizabeth. By 1911 Robert was aged 16 and working as a Locomotive Cleaner while the family lived at 5 South Terrace, Brusselton. His older brother was already a Locomotive Fireman, a position to which young Robert would rise, working in the locomotive department at Shildon. Sadly we've not been able to find Robert's military records, though we did find a medal card for a Robert A Spensley serving as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. This might be our man, but equally could be someone else. We can't therefore say for certain where or how he served but do know that after the war he returned to work on the 6th November 1919. In 1926 he married Norah Robinson and Robert was at some point promoted to being a Locomotive Driver himself, following in his father's footsteps. 1939 saw the couple living at 18 Raby Road, West Hartlepool. They do not appear to have had children, but we may be incorrect in that assumption. Robert died in 1974 aged 80.

Sproates, Thomas William

Was a hammer driver at the Shildon Works and had been employed by the company in such capacity for five years and nine months. As he was aged twenty when he left to go to war that suggests he had been employed by the NER since the age of fourteen. He lived at 6 Eldon Terrace, New Shildon. He enlisted into the 32nd NER Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, and transferred to the Army Reserve Corps, facing possible recall, on the 16th June 1917. He returned to work at Shildon Works on the 18th June 1917 and he was eventually finally discharged from the army reserve on the 15th March 1918.

Stephenson, Arthur

Arthur was born on the 27th December 1885. He became a railway blacksmith at Shildon. By the time of the war he was living at 5 Graham Terrace, New Shildon with his wife and their one daughter. He had been with the NER for 4 years and six months when he left work on the 29th September 1914 to answer the call to duty. He joined the 17th Northumberland Fusiliers NER Battalion. He was wounded while on service but survived his injuries well enough to carry on in the army, and was only demobilised at Ripon on the 17th February 1919. He returned to work for the North Eastern Railway on the 3rd March 1919. He died on 19th March 1954

Stephenson, Gerald Campion Thomas

Gerald was born on the 21st April 1879 at York and was the son of John Fleming Stephenson and his wife Elizabeth. His father was a Civil Engineer born at St John's Chapel up in Weardale. a draughtsman in the offices of the Shildon Works. In 1881, when Gerald was only a baby, the family lived at 29 East Mount Road, York, in a modestly grand three storey terraced house, suggesting that his father was doing well. By 1885 the family had moved a short distance away to a similar property at 19 South Parade in the same city, but it was on the 14th May that year that John died, leaving Elizabeth a widow with all the children to raise. Gerald's older brothers were by this time working in the railway industry for the NER, so it's little surprise that by 1901 Gerald had joined them, becoming a Mechanical Draughtsman, and moving to Shildon to work at the Shildon Works. He initially boarded with the family of coal miner Noah Stanner at 8 Lumley Crescent. In the summer of 1905 he married a Shildon girl, Gertrude Blenkiron Iley. The couple had a son, whom the named Campion Percy Stephenson. By 1911 the family were living at 2 Dale Terrace, New Shildon. Gerald was the youngest of eight children in the family. We don't know exactly when Gerald joined the Army, but we know that he served in France from 1916 as a soldier in the Royal Garrison Artillery with the regimental number 136646, becoming a Sergeant, and then rising further according to his Medal Card to Lieutenant attached to the Royal Engineers. His understanding of mathematics and geometry as an engineering draughtsman would have been an ideal background for a long distance siege artillery gunner. The medal card also tells us that after the war Gerald moved to 44 East Mount Terrace, Darlington; a coincidentally similar address to his first home as a baby. By 1939 Gerald had become a Chief Foreman of the LNER's Railway Carriage and Wagon Department, living at Brookside on Church Bank in Eggleston. He died on the 25th January 1962, aged 83, leaving his estate to his son Campion Percy Stephenson who had followed his father into railway engineering. Gerald was buried at the Holy Trinity Churchyard in Eggleston with his wife Gertrude who had passed away in 1942. A tragic side-note to this story is that gerald is also buried with his grandson Gerald Campion Trevor Stephenson who was killed accidentally at age 12 on the 12th November 1942. Young Trevor had been given a piece of munition by a Private Alfred Newman of the Pioneer Corps, who, according to a newspaper report, had claimed it to be safe, but the object had exploded while the boy was playing with it alone in the cloakroom at Barnard Castle School.

Stephenson, John W

John worked as a wagon repairer at Shildon Works. He had been living at Shawville Terrace in New Shildon. He'd been working for the NER for 1 year when, on the 24th September 1914, he left the company to join the army. he enlisted into the North Eastern Railway Battalion, the 17th Northumberland Fusiliers along with many of his workmates. He was wounded in action and had to be discharged from the army on account of those wounds, returning to civilian life on the 30th November 1917. It was not until the 10th May 1918 that he was fit enough to return to his job for the North Eastern Railway.

Stephenson, Nurse Cecelia

Cecelia was born on the 6th April 1894 at Tebay in what was then Westmorland. She was the daughter of John Stephenson and his wife Harriett. John was from Carlisle, and Harriett from Ingleton in North Yorkshire. 1901 saw the family living at 32 Charles Street. In 1911 the family were living at 4 All Saints Road, New Shildon, with John working as a Wagon Builder at the NER Works. Cecelia doesn't have an occupation noted at that time, though she would have been sixteen years of age. Prior to volunteering Cecelia lived at Glenroyd on Redworth Road in New Shildon. Cecelia was 22 years of age when she volunteered to become a Red Cross Nurse on 1st August 1916. She was assigned to serve at the 1st West General Military Hospital at Liverpool. During her service she was awarded 2 scarlet stripes on 18th December 1917, which was an emblem used to denote seniority or length of service depending upon where placed. She served

until 10th April 1919. After the war she returned to Shildon and by the time of the 1939 census she was living at 157 Redworth Road, New Shildon with her widowed mother and older brother John who was by that time a Timekeeper at the Shildon Works. Cecelia looks to have been married by this time and is going by the name of Cecelia Kershaw. She died in the Lancaster area in around spring of 1969

Story, Nurse A

This name has presented a few challenges. We started looking for women in the Shildon area, specifically near the Institute, with the surname Story and initial A and there were few possibilities - though nothing to prove without doubt who Nurse A Story was. One possibility was Annie Story (nee Oliphant), the wife of railway Wagon Builder William Reginald Story of 9 Regent Street, Shildon, though the couple had two young children at the time of the 1911 Census, so one would wonder how this Annie would have had the capability in those times to leave the family home and be posted to a hospital. Another possibility was Annie Elizabeth Storey who was the daughter of coal miner Edward Storey and his wife Mary who lived at Eldon Bank. Note though that Storey is spelled consistently differently to the name on the memorial. There are other possibilities including people that might have been known by their middle names. We've not found specific nursing records for either yet and we are hoping that the 1921 census might shed more light on things when it becomes available.

Thompson, Fred

Fred lived at 35 All Saints Road, New Shildon and was employed as a Hammer Driver in the forge at the works. He had only been working for the North Eastern Railway for 1 year and was aged but fifteen when he enlisted, without the permission of his employers, into the 6th Durham Light Infantry. His last day of work was the 1st June 1915. He survived the entire war from there and was demobilised at Ripon on the 11th September 1919. He returned to work for the NER on the 15th October 1919.

Thompson, Henry

Henry was a Hammer Driver for the NER at Shildon Works. He lived at the Commercial Inn, New Shildon. He had been working for the NER for two years by the time he left for the war, his last day being the 12th October 1916. He enlisted on the 21st October 1916 aged eighteen, and became part of the 13th Reserve Training Battalion. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 29th December 1918 and returned to work for the NER on the 24th January 1919.

Thwaites, Albert Edward

Albert was a machinist at the Shildon Works and lived at 8 Whinfell Terrace, New Shildon. His last day of work for the company before his period of service was the 18th May 1918 - quite late in the war. He had probably been unable to join earlier on account of his age. He enlisted on the 21st May into the 53rd Young Soldiers Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. He was demobilised in Ripon on the 26th January 1919 and returned to work on the 31st of that same month.

Trainer, Charles Harrison

Charles was born on the 13th September 1891. He was the son of Thomas and Eliza Trainor of 1 Woodhouse Grove, Bishop Auckland, which is where Charles was born, though his father was a Tailor from Wolsingham who worked for the Co-operative and his mother from Witton Park. By 1911 Charles had become a Hairdresser. Though we have found a couple of pension or medal cards connected with a Charles H Trainer we've been unable to specifically pinpoint how our Charles served in the war, but we know that after it he came to Shildon. In 1939 Charles and Hilda had a hairdressers shop on Redworth Road, and their young son, also named Charles, born in 1925, was at school.

Turnbull, Middleton

Middleton was born on the 27th July 1870 at Newbottle in County Durham. he was the son of William and Mary Turnbull. His father was a Blacksmith. By the time of the 1891 census, Middleton was working as a Solicitor's Clerk and taking care of his widowed mother, still at Newbottle. On the 11th August 1896, he married Amy Rose Stokoe, after which followed a move to Front Street, Sedgfield where in 1901 he was living with his wife and two daughters, Freda and Florence, whilst working as the District Highways Surveyor. At some time before 1906 he had moved the family to Shildon where on the 13th April he was initiated into the Tristram Lodge of Freemasons. Evidence in the newspapers suggests that he had connections there with the Primitive Methodists. By 1911 he was working as a Surveyor for Shildon Urban District Council, and living at Rocklea, Burke Street, Shildon, which coincidentally was also where the Council Offices were located. Two more children had joined the family by then, Halstead and Minnie. We're not sure when, but he enlisted into the Labor Corps, which would have been quite unusual for a man of his age and profession, but did sufficiently well to rise to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. The only records that remain are his medal card and pension card, which offer little insight but do clearly show his Shildon address. After the war Middleton moved to Birmingham working as a Municipal Engineer and eventually retired there living, after his wife died, with his son Halstead who had become a Doctor practicing medicine. Later still he moved to a house called Norton Lees in the Avenue in Stokesley in North Yorkshire where he died on 7th July 1946.

Urwin, George

George was born in Shildon on the 4th April 1895 to Cumbrian parents George and Dinah Urwin. All of his older brothers and sisters had been born in Carlisle like their mother, though his Railway Engine Driver father had been born near Hexham in Northumberland. In 1901 the family lived at 39 Alma Road, and by the time of that year's census George was six years old. Ten years later they had moved to 15 Soho Street and by this time sixteen year old George was already at work as an apprentice Draughtsman at the Shildon Works. When war came, George joined the Service Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, who clearly felt that he was a promising leader as by the time his service came to an end he had been promoted to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant. The address on his military medal card is given as "Roslyn", Cambridge Terrace, New Shildon, though his parents Soho Street address is also given. He served in France. He was demobilised on the 18th January 1918. Two years later, in 1920, George married Miriam Muggeridge, and within four years the couple had their first child, George junior. Evidence suggests that they had at least one more child. By 1939 George had moved the family to Doncaster to work as a railway engineering Draughtsman at the LNER's works there. He died in 1958.

Vickers George

George had been a wagon repairer at Shildon Works for 2 years and 6 months when he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps on the 21st January 1915 at the age of 24. He lived at 4 Railway Terrace, Tow Law, so must have travelled in daily most likely by early train, and had no dependents. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 7th February 1919 and returned to his job at the works on 14th March that year.

Vickers, Harold

Harold was born in Shildon on the 21st June 1900, the son of John R Vickers and his wife Annie. John was a labourer at the NER Works and was himself Shildon born. The family lived at 7 Cross Street in 1901, but by 1911 had moved to 29 Soho Street, New Shildon. John had by this time taken work as a Coal Miner, specifically a hewer underground. Harold was, of course, still at school being only 10 years old. Being so young meant Harold had to wait before he could enlist, and when he could he chose to join the recently formed RAF. By this time he had been working as a Clerk.

He also declared himself to be primitive Methodist by religious denomination. He was described as 5 feet 6 inches tall with brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He was taken into 102 Squadron, a night bomber squadron formed in August 1917 that operated in France specialising in night attacks behind German lines, specifically attacking railway stations and trains. The squadron returned to England in March 1919 and was disbanded on the 3rd July. After the war Harold married Isabella Slee in 1926 and by 1939 the couple were living in Shildon with two children, Audrey and Alan. By that time Harold was a Railway Clerk in the Chief Accountants Dept for the LNER. He died on the 2nd November 1976 at which time he was living at 18 Short Street.

Wall, Fred

Fred was born in Shildon on 16th September 1894. He was the son of Henry and Jane Wall of 20 Craddock Terrace, New Shildon. His father was a Joiner from Egglestone and his mother a fried fish dealer, but by 1911 at age 16 Fred had followed a more clerical line, becoming a Recording Clerk for the NER. His job was being a number taker in the railway operating department at Shildon. On his enlistment papers he refers to himself as a 'checker'. On the 1st December 1914 he enlisted in London. He joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper with the regimental number 250887, and was quite quickly posted overseas as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was on a boat only 6 days after enlisting. He found himself in the Transportation Section. On the 1st May 1915 he was promoted to Second Corporal, and promoted to full Corporal on the 15th April 1917. On the 27th April 1919 he embarked at Boulogne to return to Ripon to be demobilised. He returned to Shildon and later, in 1932 married Nora Stanwix. The couple moved to Darlington by 1939, with Fred working as a Railway Sidings Checker with Nora working as a Teacher. The couple had at least one child, John, born in 1933. Fred died on the 31st March 1954.

Wall, Robert H

Robert was a blacksmith's striker at the works, working with a master blacksmith but wielding a larger heavy hammer and applying blows to the ironwork at the instruction of the more senior smith. He was 22 years of age when he left the Railway Company on the 5th May 1915 with two of his colleagues all of whom enlisted without permission of the railway company. By that point he had worked for the company for three years and nine months. He joined the Army Service Corps Remounts Division who were responsible for the purchase and training of horses and mules for the British army. His two colleagues that also left that day joined the same unit. Up to that point Robert had been living at 20 Craddock Terrace, New Shildon. After the war he was demobilised at Ripon on the 7th March 1919 and returned to work on the 28th March 1919.

Wanless, Thomas Edwin

Ed was a wagon builder for the NER and one of the older recruits from the Shildon Works. He had worked for the company for 20 years and was 37 years old when he enlisted into the Railway Operating Division of the Royal Engineers. His last day at work for the company was 15th May 1916. He had one dependent; his invalid widowed mother. They lived at Walworth Gate near Heighington. He was demobilised at Ripon after the war on 15th June 1919 and went back to work for the North Eastern Railway on 25th July 1919.

Ward, Herbert

Herbert was born on the 15th April 1887. He was the son of George and Eliza Ward. His father was a Schoolmaster and his mother a Schoolmistress. The 1911 census shows him as lodging with a couple of sisters, both spinsters, called Jane and Martha Fenwick, both in their sixties, at 28 Victoria Street, New Shildon. At this time he was living as a Charge-man at the NER's Shildon Works, at the age of 24. His birthplace is listed as Linton-on-Ouse. In the summer of 1911 he was married by the Rev. Picton W Francis at All Saints Church in New Shildon to Jane 'Jennie' Nixon. A notice in the newspaper observed that Herbert was formerly of Newton-on-Ouse, which is where

his parents still lived at that time, and by that year was a prominent worker with All Saints Church and a sides-man there. We've not been able to find his war service records or any other documents that explained in what capacity he served. By 1939 he was living with his wife, Jane, and Jane's father, retired Railway Stores Worker Robert Nixon at 13 Pears Terrace, New Shildon. Herbert was by then the Foreman of the Railway Stores Department.

Ware, Charles Robert

Charles was a Clerk for the North Eastern Railway and lived at 15 Magdala Terrace, New Shildon with his wife and two young children. He had worked for the NER for 15 years and 6 months by the time he left to go to the army aged 36. His last day of work was the 17th June 1916. Unusually he joined the 28th Royal Fusiliers Public Schools Battalion one of many where the men were all recruited from former pupils of Britain's public school system. He was demobilised after the war at Clipstone on the 3rd March 1919.

Warrior, Fred

Fred was employed as a wagon repairer at the Shildon Works. It wasn't all about making wagons - many came back worn out or damaged and a variety of repairs would be undertaken before they were sent back out onto the railway network again. Fred had only been working for the company for 1 year and 6 months by the time he enlisted at age twenty-two. He was one of 22 employees that left on the same day, the 22nd November 1915, to join the army, among whom was also William Warrior, his brother with whom he lived at 11 Scott Street, New Shildon. All of those men joined the NER Battalion 32nd Reserve of the Northumberland Fusiliers. After the war, Fred was demobilised a little later than his younger brother, having to wait until 7th February 1919. He returned to work for the North Eastern Railway on the 24th February 1919.

Warrior, William

William worked as a labourer in the timber yard. Most wagons being built at that time consisted of timber panels and enclosures so the Shildon Works would have consumed a great deal of timber. Prior to the war he lived at 11 Scott Street, New Shildon. His last day of work for the company before going to war was 22nd November 1915 when he was aged 19. He had no dependents and had worked 3 years and 6 months for the company. He enlisted in to the 32nd NER Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was demobilised at Ripon on 16th January 1919 and returned to work for the railway company eight days later on the 24th January.

Warwick, Thomas

Thomas was born on 9th January 1880 at Embsay near Skipton. He was the son of William and Mary Warwick. His father was a Coachman. In 1891 the family were living in Settle, and father William had become a Gardener. By 1901 though Thomas had flown the family nest and was boarding with a family called Sedgwick in Settle whilst working there as a hairdresser. He married on the 1st September 1902 at St John's Church in Shildon, but 1911 saw him back with his parents at Town Head Cottage, Settle, still offering haircuts. he must have spent some of that year in Shildon though, as on the 9th May 1911 he was initiated into the Tristram Lodge of the Freemasons at Shildon, passing on the 13th June and being 'raised' on the 23rd August. At some point before 1915 he moved to New Shildon to set up home with his wife Mary (formerly Ewbank). The couple had three children, William in 1905, Muriel in 1903 and James Robinson Ridley Warwick in 1912. On the 15th November 1915, Thomas, then aged 35 and getting on for 36 years old, went to Bishop Auckland to enlist. he was taken into the Army reserve. At that time he was living at 21 All Saints Road, New Shildon. He was subsequently mobilised into the Durham Light Infantry as a Private with the regimental number 24488 on the 1st March 1917. From there he was transferred to the 41st Labour Corps on the 14th May. he subsequently served in France until he was demobilised by March 1919. By 1939 he was living on Byerley Road with his wife and their

daughter Muriel, and was working as a Master Hairdresser. he was also serving as a Special Constable at that time. He died in 1967.

Wheatley, Alfred

Alfred was a machinist for the NER at Shildon Works and had been employed by them for four years before enlisting at age 33. His last day of work was 28th July 1916 and he enlisted on the 1st August. His only named dependent was his father. Alfred, of 15 Smeddle Street, New Shildon, was accepted into the 32nd Reserve NER Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was wounded in action but survived. At the end of the war he was demobilised at Ripon on the 19th June 1919. He resumed work on the 15th August 1919

Whitfield, Thomas A

Thomas worked as a machinist at Shildon Works. He had been working for the company for 7 years and 9 months when, aged 21, he joined the 17th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (NER Battalion). Prior to this he had lived at Charles Street in New Shildon. He had no dependents when he enlisted. He was discharged from munitions on the 14th December 1918 and returned to work for the NER on the 27th of that month.

Wilcock, Frederick John

Fred was born on the 18th August 1897 and was the son of Thomas William Wilcock and his wife Caroline. Thomas was a Locomotive Driver for the NER and was born at Aycliffe. Fred was born in Northallerton. In 1901 young Fred lived with his parents at 14 Carnot Street in York, not far from the city's railway operations. By 1911 however they had moved to 8 St John's Road, New Shildon. Fred was by this time the only survivor of two children. Before he went to war, Fred had become a Fitter's Apprentice based out of the Locomotive Running Shed at New Shildon, but on the 2nd December, 1915, he went to Bishop Auckland to join the Army. He was mobilised in May 1915 and relegated to the Army Reserve again five days later. Then on the 21st August 1916 he was taken into the Royal Engineers 32nd Company Railway Operating Division as a Sapper with the regimental number 296622. On 16th January 1917 he boarded a ship at Southampton bound for Salonica in Greece where he spent much of his service. he had a couple of spells in hospital, including one in September 1917 to recover from Malaria which became a recurring problem which might tell us something about the conditions under which He was working. he was dispersed from the Royal Engineers at Ripon on the 26th September 1919. After the war, in 1923, he married Mary E Rowland. By 1939 he was living at 114 Auckland Terrace, and still working as a time served Railway Locomotive Fitter. He and Mary had at least three children, Donald, Jean and Fred. He died in 1979 aged 82.

Wilkinson, Herbert

Herbert was born on the 11th January 1882 and was the older brother of Stanley Wilkinson below. he was the son of John Wilkinson, a Locomotive Driver, and his wife Mary. he was born in Shildon, and lived with the family at Redlands on Redworth Road. He was employed as a footplate fireman in the Locomotive department at Shildon. Unfortunately we've not been able to find records as to what he specifically did during the war. After the war he returned to work on the 16th July 1919.

Wilkinson, Stanley

Stanley was born in New Shildon in late 1896. Stanley worked as a Clerk at the time of his enlistment, and was living at the house called Redlands on Shawville Terrace (now part of Redworth Road) New Shildon. He was the son of a Locomotive Driver named John T Wilkinson, and his wife Mary. Though Stanley was Shildon born, his father was born (according to the 1901 census, at Redlands Bank near Appleby in Westmorland - which most likely explains how this house got its name. He went to Bishop Auckland on the 6th November 1915 to join the Army

Service Corps and was accepted into the supply division. He was a month away from being nineteen at the time. He was given the regimental number of 146847. After he enlisted he was given a reference by W D Rudgard, the North Eastern Railway's District Engineer for the Bishop Auckland area, under whom Stanley had worked. The reference described Stanley as "... well up with his work, and a willing and trustworthy servant." On the 21st of January 1916 he boarded a ship called the Transylvania with his comrades which took them to Alexandria in Egypt. While in Cairo he was attached for some time to the Royal Engineers in the 53rd Railway Company before a voluntary transfer in full to the Royal Engineers as a Sapper with a new regimental number 273126 on 11th March 1917 and was then part of the 3rd Echelon Egyptian Expeditionary Force and subsequently spent much time with their Railway Operating Division. Unsurprising given his peacetime experience. January 1918 bought a promotion to 2nd Corporal, and a further promotion to Corporal followed in April. and he was moved on to Somalia. He was promoted then to Acting Sergeant on 28th January 1919. His service began to come to an end on the 20th June 1919 when he embarked a ship to bring him back to Britain. WE don't know a great deal about his life after the war, other than it was tragically short. He died in 1932 aged only 35 years.

Williams, Robert

Robert was employed by the North Eastern Railway at Shildon. He joined the Army Ordnance Corps with the regimental number T1114 and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. We know little of Robert beyond this, and hope that the 1921 Census sheds more light on his connection to Shildon and the Institute.

Wills, George

George was the older brother of Thomas Edward Wills (see below) and also born in York during the winter of 1891. In 1911 he lived with the family at 6 Charles Street, New Shildon. He was a Sawyer Assistant Sharpener for the NER at Shildon Works, keeping the blades sharp for sawing wagon panels. he had been working for the NER for 11 years when aged 25 he enlisted into the Royal Engineers Railway Troops. Prior to that he had lived at 22 Station Street, New Shildon. he had a wife and three children. His last day at work was the 14th October 1916 and he enlisted on the 30th October that year. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 27th October 1919, and resumed working for the NER on the 7th November 1919.

Wills, Thomas Edward

Thomas was the brother of George Wills (above) also remembered on the Institute Memorial. He was the son of George and Annie Wills, and was born in York in around 1895. Though his father and older brother worked for the NER, Thomas was a Labourer at a coal mine at age 20 in 1911 though he is thought to have been employed at the Shildon Works later. Before Enlistment he had been living at 6 Charles Street, New Shildon. He enlisted in to the Royal Army Medical Corps with the regimental number 388042, however his full service records are among the many missing or destroyed so we don't know much more about his war service.

Wilson, Frederick Sydney William

Fred was born on the 20th May 1897. he was Christened on the 27th July that year. He was the son of Henry Rusby Wilson and his wife Louisa, and also the brother of Dorothy and Gertrude Wilson (see below). He was born in Castleford but had moved with his parents to Shildon while young and by 1911 was living at 2 Thickley Terrace. When he signed up to join the Royal Engineers as a Sapper, Fred was living at 31 Redworth Road, New Shildon, really not far from the Institute. he received the regimental number 296749. He was single when he enlisted. he contracted malaria and bronchitis during his war service. He was discharged on the 16th November 1919. There isn't a great deal more available on his war service. In 1925 he married Olive Caygill and the couple had at least two children. By 1939 the family were living at 16 Kilburn

Street, New Shildon from where Fred could walk to work at the Shildon Works as a Die Sinker for the LNER. He died in May 1985 in Penrith in Cumbria.

Wilson, Nurse Dorothy Una

Dorothy Una Wilson was daughter of Henry Rusby Wilson and his wife Louisa - also the sister of Gertrude Mary Wilson above. She was born on 21st August 1893 at Kippax in Yorkshire. By 1911 the Wilsons were living at 2 Thickley Terrace, New Shildon. The Wilsons were, according to a 1911 newspaper article, which mentions a Miss C Stephenson who may be Cecelia who also became a nurse (see above), quite involved with All Saints School and Church. Dorothy stayed with nursing as a career and is listed as having trained as a registered nurse with the number 18417 receiving a certificate at the City of Birmingham Fever Hospital on 29th December 1950. 1939 saw her living at 20 Oakdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street and working as a District Nurse. At this time she was sharing a house with another District Nurse, Anne Williamson.

Wilson, Nurse Gertrude Mary

We understand this to be Gertrude Mary Wilson, daughter of Henry Rusby Wilson and his wife Louisa - also the sister of Dorothy Una Wilson above. Gertrude was born on the 9th August 1895 at Swillington in Yorkshire. She was Christened a month later on the 8th September. Gertrude volunteered to become a Red Cross Nurse on the 10th April 1916 at age 21 and first of all engaged at the 19th Durham Volunteer Auxiliary Hospital at Windlestone. Later she was assigned to the Ripon Drill Hall, The Military Hospital at Ripon and the Military Hospital at Huddersfield. She served as a nurse until 31st July 1918. She returned home to Shildon after the war, living at 1 Hawthorne Terrace. She became a registered nurse on Sept 18th 1925 and received her certification at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital between 1921 and 1924. In 1946 Gertrude was working as a missionary for the church based out of the Chaplain's House, Auckland Castle and travelled to Bombay on the ship "Empress of Australia" setting off on the 25th March. She returned on the Asturias arriving on the 10th April 1949 giving her occupation as Nurse, having spent some time living in Pakistan. Gertrude never married and died in spring 1994 nearly reaching her 100th birthday.

Wilson, Frederick Sydney William (Syd)

Was an apprentice fitter at the Shildon Works for 4 years when he enlisted aged 19. His last day of work before enlistment was the 23rd June 1916 and he enlisted on the 4th July 1916 into the Army Service Corps. He had no dependents. Up until that time he had been living at 31 Redworth Road, New Shildon. He was demobilised at Ripon on the 20th October 1919 and returned to work on the 14th November.

Younghusband, H

Though a common surname in Shildon, There are no specific genealogical records, war records or Shildon Works records available for a H Younghusband that explain the wartime role of this person. We are hoping that the 1921 census might help us when it is released in 2022.

Younghusband, Lancelot

Lance was the son of a Railway Engine Fitter named Thomas Younghusband and his wife Maria. He was born on the 26th May 1894 and in his early years lived at 14 Chapel Street, New Shildon. By 1911, at age sixteen, he was a labourer at the Shildon Works, and by the time he enlisted had become a Machinist. He was with the company for 5 years and prior to enlisting he lived at number 4 South Street. His last day of work before enlisting was the 13th May 1915. He tried to enlist without permission and was initially rejected, but then accepted into the 13th Company, Coldstream Guards with the regimental number 16125 when he went to Bishop Auckland on the 14th May aged almost 21 years. He was described on his papers as having fair hair, a pale

complexion and blue eyes. He was however discharged on the 17th July 1915 on the basis that he would not be likely to become an efficient soldier for medical reasons. His discharge papers suggest that this may be due to his very poor eyesight, and a note added says that he did not have his eyes tested when he signed up. He had no dependents. Other records that exist show, however, that he did not go straight back to Shildon Works and returned to work there on the 21st June 1918. There is no documented explanation for the gap in employment. After the war he returned to living at the family's old home at 14 Chapel Street. By 1939 he was working as a brake fitter at the Works and doubling as an ARP Warden for the LNER. He married Celia. We believe he died in 1958.

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This document should be considered a work in progress rather than a completed article. It is our intention to make this information available via the Railway Institute's website with an invitation for others to contribute additional information based upon what they know - with future expanded iterations to be published at intervals.

"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them." - For the Fallen: Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

