

Ecton Men in The Great War

As part of a group of people from U3A who are studying the Great War, I was recently given a print-out of the service records of seventeen of the eighteen people who are on the plaque on the Shrine. Of the eighteenth man there is apparently to date no record. Who is he and why is he on the Ecton memorial?

The research into this revealed some interesting facts about the people who's names are on the Shrine and has led to the group deciding to try and discover as much as they can not only about the Shrine but also the eighty-four men on the Roll of Honour of Ecton men who went to War, which is in the Church. Together with details about some men who are neither on the Shrine or the Roll but are in the WW1 book. We will be trying to discover where they were on the day they died and how the battles they took part in progressed. Using battalion diaries and other military sources.

Of the people commemorated on the Shrine, Sidney Brown, John Garley, Lionel Sotheby and Andrew Wood do not appear on the Roll of Honour. Sidney Brown was the grandson of William and Sarah Fennell who lived in Ecton but Sidney himself lived with his mother who had remarried in Kettering.

John Garley born in Weston Favell was a plasterer before the war and he died in Dagenham in Essex 1919 and is buried in the churchyard of Saints Peter and Paul in Dagenham. He was married to Lily Randle daughter of George and Elizabeth who lived in Front St.

Lionel Sotheby, a member of the Sotheby family died at the age of 20 in the battle of Loos. There is no record of him actually living in Ecton before he enlisted.

Andrew Wood was the mystery man, there was no record of a Wood family living in the village and it was only after going through everyone else's records with a fine tooth comb that it was discovered that Sidney Brown's mother, Sarah Ann had remarried a Stephen Wood who lived in Kettering and he already had a sixteen year old son called Andrew. Who was born in Buckinghamshire. To date his military records have yet to come to light.

This fascinating project will probably keep this group occupied for the next few years!

Angela Crabtree.

