

KEEN William

Born	June 1896 in Westcott Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on September 3rd 1916 age 20
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France
Grave or memorial reference	Pier & face 10A & D
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 12112
Unit	6th Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Westcott Barton

William was a son of Edward, sometimes called Edwin Keen born in Middle Barton in 1863 & Martha born in Steeple Aston in 1862. A family tree had been posted on Ancestry which said her maiden name was Gamage. I couldn't find a marriage under that name. However in 1891 they had living with them a child John as son in law & a girl Annie as daughter in law. I then found Martha had married a John Smith in December 1892 as Martha Gammage. She then married Edward in June 1890. In the 1901 census the family was living 'in the village' of Westcott Barton where Edward was an ordinary labourer. They then had the following children all born Westcott Barton, Jessie in 1890, George 1892, Harry 1895, William, Edward 1899, & Eva 1900 together with Annie Smith born in 1887. In 1911 when the family was living in Fox Lane Martha said she had been married for 21 years & had given birth to 13 children of whom 11 were still living. I can't find more than seven children in her marriage to Edward so she probably counted those that she had with John Smith. Edward was now a Roadman surveyor for the Rural District Council as was John Smith born in 1884 his step son. George was a waggoner, Henry a farm labourer, William a garden labourer. There had been one more child born since the previous census, Edith in 1904. As was noted for Frederick Carpenter, they both enlisted the same day & had consecutive numbers. They entered France on July 22nd 1915 and both were killed the same day.

The Thiepval Memorial with the graves of 300 unknown Commonwealth & French soldiers below.



KIRBY George Felix

Born	September 1896 in Swindon, Wiltshire
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on July 23rd 1916 age 21
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme , France
Grave or memorial reference	Piers 9A, 9B & 10B
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 14/1263
Unit	B Company 14th Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton

George was one of just three children born to Felix John (Phil) Kirby born 1869 in Middle Barton & Marianne nee Kirby born in 1870 in Steeple Ashton, Oxfordshire. They had married in Oxford in March 1896. The only census in which I can find the family is that of 1911 when they were living in Middle Barton & keeping the shop in North Street. Felix was then a grocer & draper, Marianne assisting in the business as was George. The other children were Winifred Annie born in 1898 also in Swindon & Mona Alice May in 1907 in Filkins Oxfordshire. Living with them were two sisters of private means, Susannah Luing born in 1833 & Lydia Luing born in 1839 both in Middle Barton. They were Marianne's aunts, her mother Martha came between the two sisters in age. George enlisted in Birmingham & said he was then living in West Bromwich, Staffordshire. None of his service records have survived.

Yet another Middle Barton lad commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial

When you see the size of the people inside you will realise how difficult it is to photograph a name which might be at the top of the white panels.



LUING Frederick John

Born	June 1879 in Steeple Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on December 2nd 1917 age 38
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West Flanders, Belgium.
Grave or memorial reference	Panels 105 -106
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 28821
Unit	Princess Charlotte of Wales, Royal Berkshire Regiment .2nd Battalion
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton

Frederick was a son of William born in 185 in Steeple Barton an agricultural labourer & Emma nee Matthews also born in 1852 in Steeple Barton as were all their children. They married in December 1874. In the 1881 census they just had three children & Emma was working as a gloveress. They were Anne born 1875, William 1877 & Frederick 1879. They were then living in Jacob's Yard. In 1891 the family was living in Duns's Tew Road. William was then a 13 year old plough boy. The further children in the family were now Mary in 1882, Edith 1885, Florence in 1888 & Hester 1890. In 1901 the family was living in Cleaver's Gardens which appeared next to Church Farm in the census. There had been one further child born, Eva in 1892. William was then a cattle man on a farm & Frederick an agricultural labourer. By the time of the 1911 census Frederick was living with an uncle Charles Johnson in 33 Adelaide Street, Oxford, he was then a jobbing gardener. William was living with 3 other staff members in Barton Abbey where he was a farm labourer. The Abbey had 32 rooms. Emma was living in 6 rooms somewhere in Steeple Barton with Florence & 2 boarders. This house had 6 rooms, quite an improvement from earlier days when they had 4 rooms & a large family. Emma stated here she had been married 36 years & three out of the eight children she had born had died. Frederick did not appear to have married.

Tyne Cot Memorial (the panels on the walls) & the cemetery below, the largest in Belgium.



MARSHALL Jenner Stephen Chance

Born	June 1895 in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire
Killed in Action or Died	Died of wounds on October 23rd 1914 age 19
Buried at or commemorated	Buried in Ypres Town Cemetery, Ypres, West Flanders, Belgium
Grave or memorial reference	E 2 .6
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	2nd Lieutenant
Unit	2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Westcott Barton Tablet on the wall of Westcott Barton Church

Jenner was the only son of Jenner Guest Marshall born 1861 in Westcott Barton, a mechanical consulting engineer and Grace Eleanor nee Chance born in 1861 in Edgbaston, Birmingham They married in the Upton on Severn district in March 1895. Jenner's grandfather was the Reverend Jenner Marshall of Westcott Barton. He died age 87 in 1904 & left £35,674 a not inconsiderable sum in those days especially for a clergyman. Jenner's own father died in Berne in Switzerland on May 5th 1908, he only left £6288. In 1901 the family was living in Cofton Hackett, Warwickshire. In Jenner Guest's application to be made an associate member of Civil Engineers I noted he had worked in Zurich, Paris & for Messrs Chance brothers, glass works in Warwickshire so it seems he married the boss' daughter. He had been to New York in 1899 & is shown returning to Liverpool in July 1899 some 2 months after being admitted to the Institute of Civil Engineers. In the 1911 census Grace was back at Westcott Barton manor with a daughter Elizabeth Eleanor De Peyster born in 1904 in Rednall near Birmingham. They had 3 or 4 servants in each census. Her husband was possibly overseas at that time as he doesn't appear in any census. Young Jenner was an early casualty of the war In October 1914, he apparently died two days after being injured , he too left a will with £1277 to his mother. Grace married Reverend George T Miller who was of Teffont Ewyas Rectory, Salisbury in Marylebone District in June 1914. Her father Arent de Peyster Chance died in 1906 & left £77184.

Ypres Town Cemetery. From De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour which mainly only gives details of officers



Jenner S. C. Marshall.

(R.F.R., CD. B. 10077), D.S. 10077, B.M.S. Cressy; lost in action in the North Sea, 22 Sept. 1914.

MARSHALL, JENNER STEPHEN CHANCE, 2nd Lieut., 2nd Battn. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire L.I., only s of the late Jenner Guest Marshall, of Westcott Barton Manor, co. Oxford, J.P., by his wife, Grace Eleanor (now wife of the Rev. George Miller, Rector of Teffont Ewyas, near Salisbury), dau. of A. de Peyster Chance, of Wheatfields, Worcester, J.P.; b. Hagley, co. Worcester, 1 June, 1895; educ. Connaught House, Weymouth Verites, Charterhouse, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; gazetted 2nd Lieut. to the 2nd Oxford and Bucks L.I., 17 Sept. 1913; went to France with his Battn., which formed part of the 5th Brigade, in Aug. 1914, and died on 23 Oct. following, of wounds received on the 21st, near Langemarck, Ypres. Buried in Ypres Cemetery: *unn.*

PARSONS William James

Born	Westminster, London June 1881
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action August 27th 1917 age 36
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West Flanders, Belgium
Grave or memorial reference	Panels 96-98
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 267370
Unit	2nd/1st Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Westcott Barton & on his parents grave in Westcott Barton Churchyard

Apart from William's commemoration on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site I can find very little about him. I did eventually find his birth in Westminster district in December 1881. His parents were James born in 1855 in Middle Barton & Jane born in Paddington in 1856 . I can't find a marriage although in 1911 Jane said she had been married for 30 years. In 1881 James & Jane were in 9 Hopkins Street, St James, Westminster & James was a police constable. In 1891 they were in Harris Place St James Middlesex where James was still a police constable. They then had William J age 10 born in St James. By 1901 they were in Westcott Barton at the Fox Inn with James as the Inn Keeper & a daughter Jane born in 1895 in Middle Barton. In 1911 they were still in Westcott Barton, James a police pensioner. Jane a small grocer & daughter assisting in business . She said she had only had two children, both still living but I can't find William in either 1901, 1911 or Army records. His CWGC record said he was the husband of Winifred D Parsons of Waterperry, Oxfordshire but I can't find trace of this marriage.

Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial, The memorials are on panels at the rear. The Cross of Sacrifice was built on an old German bunker.



PROFFITT William Daniel

Born	March 1889 in Oxford
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on July 5th 1916 age 26
Buried at or commemorated	Buried in St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle, Pas de Calais, France
Grave or memorial reference	III A 20
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Sapper 155806
Unit	173rd Co Royal Engineers, formerly 15716 Gloucester Regiment 173rd Tunnelling Co.
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Westcott Barton

William was the eldest surviving son of William born in 1852 in Middle Barton & Ellen May born 1862 in Wescott Barton, nee Franklin. I can't find their marriage although Ellen said she had been married for 24 years in 1911 & a family tree on Ancestry gave her maiden name. In the 1891 census the family was living in St Ebbes Oxford, William was then a drayman & their children then were Ellen born in 1888 & William both in Oxford. They also had two lodgers. By 1901 they had moved to Old Toll Gate, Steeple Barton, William senior was then an agricultural labourer, Ellen & her daughter Ellen were both laundresses. Their family had increased with the births of Violet May in 1895 & Frederick 1897 both in Oxford. In 1911 they were living at Turnpike Middle Barton (this was probably the same as Old Toll Gate) Both Williams were working as Shepherds & Frederick was a 'boy on farm' Her widowed mother Martha Franklin born in 1840 in North Aston, Oxfordshire was also living with them. Ellen then said of the ten children she had given birth to only 3 were still surviving. The daughter Ellen had died in March 1903 age 15 and father William in March 1915 age 63. So Ellen had lost all those children, her husband & another son by 1916.

St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos. Note the French burials with the crosses among our own.

This cemetery was very quiet although so close to the Loos Memorial which is on a very busy main road



RIACH Nigel Malcolm Stewart

Born	September 1899 in Westcott Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Died of wounds on September 30th 1918 age 19
Buried at or commemorated	Buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium.
Grave or memorial reference	XXIV E 23
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 23725
Unit	14th Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton & a plaque in the church

If it hadn't been for a family tree posted on Ancestry I would have found very little of this man's family. His father was Malcolm Stewart Riach born in 1860 in Hampstead, Middlesex. His mother Marian Alexandra Gertrude Hall born in Dun's Tew in 1864. They married in December 1889. In the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record it says that Nigel was born in Barton Abbey. He had two elder brothers, Malcolm Alexander Stewart born in 1892 & Ronald Stewart born in 1894 both in Bermuda. Their father must have taken his wife with him when posted. The only census where I can find the family is the 1901 one when they are at Bandrum House, Saline, Fife, Scotland. Unless you pay for access to the Scottish records Ancestry just gives ages, where born if in Scotland, otherwise just England or in this case Bermuda for the two sons. Here they had seven servants including a governess & cook. One of the servants was an Annie Luig born in 1877 who I feel sure must have been taken with them from Middle Barton as it's such a local name. Despite assuming that Riach is a Scottish name Malcolm's father was born in Limerick, Ireland & was a warehouseman. Marian's father was Alexander W Hall a JP, deputy lieutenant (I assume a county Lt), farmed as many as 800 acres & in one census it gave him as a brewer so presumably of the well known Oxford brewers. He seemed to move address as in one census the family was at Shipton Court at Shipton under Wychwood, other times Barton Lodge. Her mother was born in Charlecombe near Bath which is presumably why his parents gave this as their address when CWGC made the commemorations. He died in April 1941, his probate record giving him of The Brae, Middle Barton. He had been gazetted as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Cameron Highlanders in May 1906. Lijssenthoek where Nigel was buried was close to casualty clearing stations & so took in many men who had died of wounds. It is the 2nd largest cemetery in Belgium & now has a visitor centre showing photos of many of the men.

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, note the French graves in the background.



SMITH John Edwin

Born	September 1893 in Steeple Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Died of Wounds on July 23rd 1919, presumably at home as death was registered in Woodstock age 35
Buried at or commemorated	Buried in Steeple Barton Churchyard
Grave or memorial reference	
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 203341
Unit	1st/4th Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton

John was the eldest son of John Keen born in 1854 in Steeple Barton. He was the eldest child of John Smith an agricultural labourer born in 1854 in Steeple Barton & Martha nee Gammage born in 1862 in Steeple Barton. They had married in December 1882. In the 1881 census John was living with his sister Anne a gloveress born in 1859 in Fox Lane. They had the following children:- John, Elizabeth born in 1884 & Annie in December 1888. John died age only 34 in September 1888 so Martha was left with three children, one apparently born posthumously. However she married Edward Keen in June 1890. By the time of the 1891 census the family was still in Fox Lane with Martha's three children noted as son or daughters in law (this was how they were noted at this time) & Jessie Keen age 10 months. John was not with the Keen family in the 1901 census, nor was his sister Elizabeth. However by the time of the 1911 census He was back with them, still in Fox Lane. Edward & John were both noted as Roadway surveyors for the Rural district Council. His half brothers & sisters were noted on William Keen's history .A family tree on Ancestry suggests that Martha died in 1916. I can't find any death that fits with this but hopefully she didn't have to live to see the death of two sons. I can't find any of John's details in Military records.

STEVEN Charles Bernard



Born	1896 in Warwick Christened September 24th 1896
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on October 12th 1917 age 21
Buried at or commemorated	Buried in Cement House Cemetery Langemark, West Flanders, Belgium
Grave or memorial reference	VI. D.27
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 43676
Unit	10th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, formerly 1795 Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton memorial

Charles was the younger of two sons born to Robert Marshall Steven born in 1869 in Leamington Warwickshire and Mary Matilda nee Thompson also born in Leamington in 1869. They married in March 1891 in the Warwick registration district. In the 1901 census Mary was with the two boys at 119 Emscote road, Warwick. She said she was the wife of an Imperial Yeoman gone to the front. (South Africa presumably) She had William Oswald born in 1892 in Leamington & Charles living with her. In 1911 the family was still at the same address with Robert now a hairdresser, William a brewer's labourer & Charles a Wayman for the Great Western Railway. Mary said she had been married for 20 years & had only had the two children.

It would need electoral rolls checking to see whether Robert & Mary retired to the Bartons by the time the men were commemorated to see why Charles is commemorated here Was the GWR near enough for him to have lodged here before he enlisted?

Cement House Cemetery, Langemark, Belgium



STEWART Horace Percy

Born	September 1895 in Westcott Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on September 3rd 1916 age 21
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France
Grave or memorial reference	Pier & face 10A D
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 12477
Unit	6th Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Westcott Barton.

Horace was actually registered as Percy Thomas, the eldest child of Thomas Henry Stewart born 1863 in Westcott Barton & Lucy nee Baker born 1866 in Tackley, Oxon. They married in December 1883. In the 1901 census the family was living in Jarvis Yard, Westcott Barton & the next family to be enumerated was the Keens whose son William as well as Frederick Constable were all killed on the same day. What must it have been like to be living in the village in the aftermath of those three deaths? Horace's siblings were Martha Annie born in 1899 & William John in 1904. In the 1901 census they had a niece Emily Rose Baker born in 1891 living with them. In 1911 Thomas was a General labourer master on a farm. Horace was then a farm labourer. Martha then said she had been married for 28 years and that one out of the five children she had born had died. I found an Elsie May born in 1887 recorded on a family tree & then on the 1891 census I had difficulty finding their marriage as Thomas had been recorded as Stewart. The only military record I could find for Horace was in 'Soldiers who died in the Great War' In it it said he enlisted in Derby so he possibly was working there.

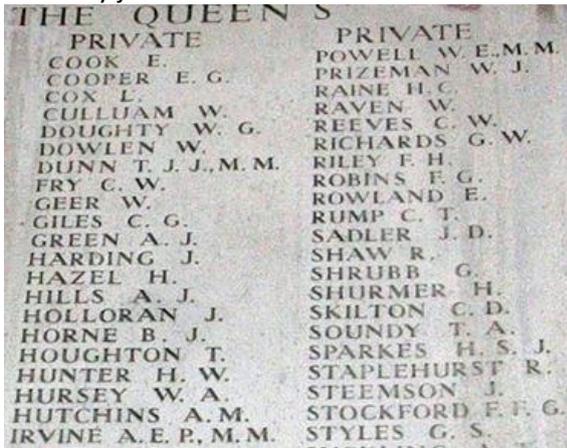
This was found on a Family Tree saying it came from Headington records

COWLEY BARRACKS Postcard sent to Mrs. T.H. Stewart of Westcott Barton from her son Horace, a farm labourer, aged 18 years. 4 September 1914. Pencilled message reads "Dear Mother and Father, Just writing a few lines to let you know we are at Cowley Barracks but not for long, there is hundreds. I expect we shall be shifted tomorrow. We have plenty of food to eat. When we know w(h)ere we are going I will let you know. With love all all. From your loving son, H.P. Stewart."



STOCKFORD Felix Francis George

Felix's name on the Ploegsteert Memorial.
This area called Plugstreet by the Tommies is only just over the border from France.



Born	December 1898 in Middle Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on April 13th 1918 age 19
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial Hainaut, Belgium
Grave or memorial reference	Panels 1 & 2
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private G/25259
Unit	1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys)
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton

Felix was a son of Mark Thomas Stockford born 1879 in Middle Barton & Annie Hollis nee Kirby also born in Middle Barton in 1871. The strange thing is that they married in the Highworth, Wiltshire registration district which seems to be around Swindon in September 1892. Felix's siblings were Sybil born 1891 in Westcott Barton, Muriel Anne born 1893 in Middle Barton, Mark 1895, then Thomas Jeremiah 1898 in Middle Barton, then Felix, Ralph Richard 1900, Rachel Rhoda May 1902, William Vincent 1905, Thomas George 1906 all in Westcott Barton. The family seemed to have lived in Fox Lane in both the 1901 & 1911 census. Mark was initially a journeyman baker & later a master baker. Muriel was a school teacher, Mark junior a builder's apprentice. The others were still at school. In 1911 Annie said she had been married 20 years & had lost two of the ten children she had born. They had another son George B in 1913, In 'Soldiers who died in the Great War' it said Felix was living in Gray's Essex so he had possibly gone there to work.

The two lions who guard the Ploegsteert Memorial with their different expressions



WOODRUFF Walter Allison

Born	September 1886 in Middle Barton
Killed in Action or Died	Killed in action on August 16th 1917 age 31
Buried at or commemorated	Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West Flanders, Belgium
Grave or memorial reference	Panels 96- 98
Service / Branch	Army
Rank	Private 33321
Unit	1/4th Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, formerly 3067 QOOH (Queens Own Oxford Hussars??)
Awards	
Local memorials on which commemorated	Steeple Barton

I found William one of the most difficult to research. For a start he was registered as Walter Adison Woodruff. I was never able to find his parents together on any census. It was only by trying the Allison name that I found Sarah born 1850 in Middle Barton had married William Woodruff in June 1873 in the Steyning Sussex registration district. He had been born in March 1849 in the Newmarket Suffolk registration district which corresponded to his place of birth as Chippenham, Cambridgeshire. Yes there is a Chippenham on the border of Suffolk & Cambridgeshire. I first found a Hannah Allison a widow born in 1819 in Middle Barton, a charwoman with a grandson William born in 1874 in Brighton. They were in Church Lane. In 1881 William, father was living in 5 Keble Terrace, Oxford as a butler. In 1891 he was living in Steeple Ashton with an Edward Hemingway a surgeon, his wife & a Marmaduke Hemingway said to have been a lunatic for 4 years. William was an attendant there. In 1901 he was in High Street Oxford with his son Henry born in 1882 in Middle Barton. William was a brewer's labourer & Henry a gentleman's attendant. Meanwhile Sarah in 1881 was in Staines on a visit to her brother William Allison born in 1853 in Middle Barton, she was in 1891 with her mother Hannah with all four of her children. She had been enumerated under the name of Allison so again it hadn't been straightforward to find her. He children were Ernest William born in 1874 an agricultural labourer, Henry in 1882, Edward Frank in 1886 & Walter in 1887. This was in Church Lane. In 1911 she said she had been married for 39 years & had had four children, all of whom were still living. She then said she was a miller's carter, Frank an agricultural labourer & nothing against Walter as an occupation. It seems that Walter didn't have much contact with his father. When he enlisted he was said to be living Tipton, Staffordshire Sarah died in December 1915 age 66, William in March 1921 age 70.



Tyne Cot Memorial Panels