

Stodmarsh



The parish tribute to the fallen of the Great War, from the village of Stodmarsh near Canterbury, is in the form of the brass memorial as shown above. It is located in the parish church of St. Mary, and as can be seen when making the comparison between the two plaques, it is in a style very similar to that in remembrance of local Boer War casualty, Ernest Edward Sole.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ARTER, ARCHIBALD ROBERT. Rifleman, 7737.

4th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 25 May 1915. Aged 27.

Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Grove, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Alfred A. Arter and Agnes Arter (probably née Grant) of Sandpit Cottage, Grove, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 51.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Arter family resided at Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Leeds, Yorkshire native Alfred Arter, who was an Own Account Farm Thatcher. Archibald was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 14, and employed as a Workboy on a Farm On the memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary's, Stodmarsh, Archibald is commemorated as being a Lance Corporal, serving in the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, which would appear to be partially correct as on 2 May 1915, Archibald was appointed an unpaid Lance Corporal. The fact that Archibald's battalion served in at time the time of his death, although not correct, it is probably due to the fact that after he was attested to the King's Royal Rifle Corps on 5 December 1906, the bulk of his long service was spent as a member of the 2nd Battalion, including time spent in India. In 1909 Archibald attended and successfully passed a Mounted Infantry course, and on 3 August 1901 he passed his 3rd class Army Education Certificate. Archibald was a brother of Harold Arter who is the next casualty briefly commemorated. On the 1901 census Harold was 7 years old. The youngest of the Arter brothers, Norman; also served in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the Great War, having enlisted in the Territorial Force for 4 years at Wingham, Canterbury, Kent on 25 November 1913. At the time of enlisting, Norman stated that he was 17 years old and employed as a Groom at The Red Lion, Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent.

ARTER, HAROLD. Serjeant, T/242995.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 24 February 1917.

Born and resided Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Wingham, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Alfred A. Arter and Agnes Arter (probably née Grant) of Sandpit Cottage, Grove, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XXIX. B. 105/116.

On the memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary's, Stodmarsh, Archibald is commemorated as serving in the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Kellys Directory of 1918 records Alfred A. Arter as being a Beer Seller, which might be indicative of him being the Licensee of The Red Lion.

SOLE, ALFRED EDGAR. Corporal, G/17553.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 24 September 1918. Aged 24.

Born Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Alfred Sole and Dinah Sophia Jane Sole (née Holness) of Sawkinge Farm, Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Vadencourt British Cemetery, Maiseemy, Aisne, France.

Grave Ref: IV. H. 4.

At the time of the 1901 census the Sole family resided at Elbridge Farm, Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. It was noted that Alfred's mother was recorded by the census enumerator, with the Christian name Jane Sole, it probably being the name by which she was known to all and sundry.



SOLE, ERNEST ALBERT. Private.

33rd Company, 11th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry, Royal East Kent Yeomanry.
Died 24 July 1900. Aged 20.

Born and resided Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Albert and Louisa Sole (née Daniels) of Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent.

Inscribed on the memorial plaque above in memory of Ernest is the following:-

In Loving Memory of ERNEST ALBERT SOLE of the East Kent Yeomanry, who was one of the first to volunteer for service in South Africa. He died of fever at Standerton at the age of 20 on July 24 1900, whilst serving with the South African Light Force in defence of his Queen and Country. This Tablet and Pulpit are erected to his memory by his comrades and friends. "In the midst of life we are in death." The pulpit at the parish church of St. Marys, Stodmarsh, also has a brass plaque on it which has the inscription:- In memory of E. A. SOLE of this Parish"

Also commemorated on the Second Boer War Memorial (1899-1902) which is located in Dane John Gardens, Canterbury, Kent.