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What's New 29 January 2014

Posted by: lang at 11:07, January 29 2014.

What's new 29 January 2014:

- News Item: Sidney Robert Gotts - War papers for sale on eBay tree #083 - 4 days left to bid!
- News item: Martha Gotts 3106 could be the daughter of William 360, not John 2919 (tree #071)
- News item: Geoffrey Gotts 1346: Early Gotts reference explained
- News item: Railway Gottses in Ancestry
- News item: Samuel GOTTS, a Lowestoft Character
- News item: Another Joseph Gotts : born in Halcomb, Somerset 1751
- News item: Floods aren't new- Lowestoft 1953

Martha Gotts 3106 could be the daughter of William 360, not John 2919 (tree #071)

Posted by: lang at 09:34, January 29 2014.

Members of the Guild of One-Name Studies occasionally conduct 'marriage challenges' where they gather members' marriages in the General Record Office indexes and seek them in church records. This avoids the cost of marriage certificates.

A long exercise has been looking at Westminster marriages which included the marriage of a Martha Gotts in March quarter 1846. The result is illuminating!

Martha Gotts, spinster of full age, married Robert Curtis on 16 March 1846 at St John the Evangelist, Smith Square, London by banns.

The Groom was of Full age, a Bachelor, occ: Smith. His father was also Robert Curtis, occ: Smith

Both bride and groom were living at 6 Horseferry Road. Witnesses: John Barrett, Susannah Cuttriss

The surprise is that Martha's father is shown as William Gotts occ. Excise Officer.

There is only one William, Excise Officer, that we know about. This must be William 630, who married Alice Hawtree then lost his wife and daughter in the Yarmouth Bridge disaster in 1845. To date, we were not aware that William had a daughter Martha. Also, we have only found a Martha in the family of a suitable age once in the 1841 census with John his brother:

1841 census: Ingatestone

John 2919 Gotts, 60 b1781 Excise Officer Not Essex

Martha 3106 Gotts 30 b1811 Not Essex

Maria 3107 Gotts 20 b1821 Not Essex

Rebecca 2922 Gotts 5 b1836 Not Essex

Rebecca is his granddaughter through his son John 1186.

We don't have a record of John after 1841: possibly he died before the 1851 census. Neither do we have any other record of Martha, nor of John's wife.

So if the assumption is correct, that Martha is really daughter of William 630, she would probably have been their first child. They married in February 1815 in Heybridge, Essex, so with Martha's age being 30 in 1841 census, she could have been born 1807-1811 allowing for rounding down. So Martha would appear to have been born before they married.

Another possibility is that she is actually the daughter of John, but that William took over as her father for the marriage, possibly because John had died by then, and his name has become the father in the register.

John's first recorded child is born in 1816, so if she is the daughter of John or William, she appears to be born out of wedlock.

We need some more supporting evidence ie her baptism, which could be in London or Essex.

If anyone has any ideas on these then please let me know!

Geoffrey Gottes 1346: Early Gotts reference explained

Posted by: lang at 11:19, January 26 2014.

We have known of a Geoffrey Gottes in Feudal Rolls in 1346. In the Socieity of Genealogists I found this entry in "Norfolk Antiquities series" by Walter Rye, Vol 1 1873 p 87.

"Extracts of Liber Niger Scaccarii and the Account of the Aid taken in 20th Edward III (ie 20th year of Edward III which is 1346/7)

In the Hundred of Eynesford:

"Heres Galfridi Gottes et alii tenentes sui terrarum quondam Roberti Battallie tenent in Sweington unum quarterium feodi militis de Hugone de Hastynges et idem de Comite Warenn et idem de Rege."

With the help of Louisa Foroughi we have a translation and an explanation:

Translation:

"The heir of Geoffrey Gottes and the other tenants of his lands, formerly of Robert Battallie, hold in Sweington [Swannington] one fourth of a knight's fee of Hugh of Hastings and he [holds it] of Earl Warenn [William de Warenne, probably] and he of the king."

Explanation:

The Liber Niger Scaccarii is the Black Book of the Exchequer. It's basically reference material for the Exchequer - lists of barons, a sort of pithy instruction manual to procedure, etc. The text here though is from the records of the Feudal Aid taken in c.1347 by Edward III, which is housed elsewhere in the exchequer.

By the time period we're talking about, a knight's fee had become decoupled both from actual size of landholding and from the cost of maintaining a knight. Fees were customary taxes attached to landholdings, demanded only on occasion, as part of feudal aids requested by the king. They travelled with the land, not with the individual, and so passed through different hands as the land passed through different hands. By the fourteenth century, they no longer entailed military service - they were just a tax, usually paid in cash (so Geoffrey wouldn't be expected to show up for battle - just to give Hugh de Hastings some cash, when the king asked for it). Fees were also often carved up and split over several landholders - in this case, neither Hugh de Hastings nor the Earl Warenne might actually hold the whole of this particular fee.

It seems that the way the way that the entries in the Feudal aid work is that first you have the actual tenant occupying the land (Geoffrey Gottes), then the *tenent in capite*, then the king. My suspicion is that Gottes is the tenant, Hastings is the esquire/knight (tenant-in-chief), and Warenn is the baron (holding it *per baroniam*).

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2014

Swannington is 20 miles away from Walsingham, and about 10 miles North West of Norwich. We don't have any further knowledge of Geoffrey yet, though we do have reports of a Gotts family in Swannington that we haven't been able to connect anyone to in the 1700s. It is more likely that they next link to Walsingham Gottses.

Thanks to Louisa Foroughi.

Sidney Robert Gotts - papers for sale on eBay tree #083

Posted by: lang at 15:45, January 29 2014.

On eBay are two papers for Cpl Sidney Robert Gotts transfer to reserve in 1919 and Employment during the war.

This is Sidney Robert Gotts 2170 in tree 083, born 1897 he married Caroline Edgar in Shanghai. Their children include Brian Dummer Gotts, Ronald Edgar Gotts and Sidney Gotts. Here is the url:

<http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=400649574499&ssPageName=A DME:B:SS:GB:3160>

4 days to go!

Nicholas Gotts robbed in London in 1776 - tree #079, Bulphan, Essex

Posted by: lang at 17:21, February 14 2014.

From Ben Wood's collection of newspapers we have this item:

"London 2 May 1776, Ipswich Journal

Yesterday, at the public-office in Bow Street, Nicholas Gotts, a poor old farmer from Ingatestone, who supports a family of 8 children on a little farm of £10 per annum, charged William Davies of robbing him of £8 18s 6d. It appeared that Mr Gotts, having come into town to pay a year's rent, was met by the prisoner, who, insinuating himself into his company, enticed him into a public house in the Butcher Row, when two other sharpers entering, they provoked the farmer to produce his money, which the prisoner swept into his hat and ran off with it. The offender was instantly stopped by a gentleman, and a constable searching him, found in his possession a double purse, containing counters (flash money it is called), a blank bankers check, a ring for the purpose of dropping, and other matters for the use of sharpers. The prisoner was committed for trial at the Old Bailey."

This has to be Nicholas Gotts, earliest known ancestor of the Bulphan family, tree #079. This shows him to be a farmer in Ingatestone in 1776, and towards the end of his life rather than the beginning. We know of seven children through two marriages:

Nicholas and Esther Gotts

- Mark abt 1747
- Martha abt 1751
- Catherine bp 16 Jan 1754 Fryerning
- Mary bp 8 Oct 1758 Fryerning
- Jane bp 6 May 1760 Fryerning

Nicholas and Margaret (or Martha) Gotts

- Sarah 17 May 1761 Fryerning
- Susannah 26 Jan 1765 Fryerning

This incident happened a year after Susannah's birth when he is recorded as having 8 children. Is there another earlier child, or is there another born in 1765/66 in Fryerning or Ingatestone? Mind you, though he is referred to as 'old' he has fathered a daughter only two years previous! Maybe the journalist was being slightly pejorative and using 'poor old' as a term applied to middle-aged rural people when they were in London being robbed.

We already know the verdict of the trial: Here in the Old Bailey Records, Nicholas didn't show up. Hopefully he was reunited with his money straight away. This would be the equivalent of £550 today, so quite a lot of cash to carry around.

"William Davis, Theft: theft from a specified place, 22nd May 1776

467. WILLIAM DAVIS was indicted for stealing eight guineas, and a half guinea, the property of Nicholas Gotts, in the dwelling-house of Francis Morris, April the 27th.

The prosecutor was called, but not appearing, the court ordered his recognizance to be estreated.

NOT GUILTY."

See Crime section, Page 1.

We are lucky to have the details of the offence, as it did not get reported at the Old Bailey as Nicholas did not show up, so we only have this because of the committal by the magistrate the day after the robbery took place.

Thanks to Ben Wood for the news item.

Gotts family at Little Chart, Kent (tree 052)

Posted by: lang at 22:04, February 8 2014.

In October 2013 I reported on George 2396 Gotts senior & junior, farmers in Lt Chart, Kent, going bankrupt (tree #052) in 1844.

In the Kentish Times 31 July 1849:

“ASHFORD— Daring Burglary

On Sundav evening, while Mr. and Mrs. Swinnock were at chapel, a daring robbery was committed by some depredator unknown getting over the back wall of the house; after effecting an entrance, a Miss Gotts, a lodger and an invalid, hearing a noise was proceeding down stairs, when the villain ran up, pushed her backwards and held over her mouth a pocket handkerchief, supposed to contain chloroform, as she remembers no more; after dragging her to her room, her watch was taken from her side, her rings from her fingers, her purse from her pocket. After ransacking the upper part of the house, the fellow proceeded to the lower front room, where it is supposed he was disturbed, as the watch and the rings were found on the table, and the plate which was in the same room untouched. We are sorry to hear Miss Gotts is in a precarious state.”

The question is, who is Miss Gotts, an invalid?

Of the daughters of George & Pleasance:

- Pleasance, died in 1845,
- Mary was married in 1846,
- Jane married in 1852.

In 1851 we have Jane 2232 Gotts, 31 annuitant, living on her own in a house headed by a Richard Walker.

There is no sign of a Mr Swinnock in Ashford in 1841 or 1851 to help. There is a Mary Gotts, of independent means living in Maidstone in 1841 who is not from Kent, though she is not there in 1851.

Without any other information, Jane is the closest fit. I have not seen any news reports of any trial, so maybe the burglar was not caught.

In the Kentish Gazette, 5 November 1844 there is a report of a ploughing match for the Ashford Agricultural Association. Also, awards were given to shepherds, including Charles Butcher, shepherd to Philip Gotts of Brabourne, for rearing 301 lambs from 258 ewes, of which 86 were ewe tags. His award was £1 10s. Philip Gotts is the son of George 2396 (senior). In 1851 he is reported a farming 256 acres and employing four hands, so he seems to have managed better than his father and brother.

There is also a George Gotts christened and buried in 24 Jan 1824 in Lt Chart, according to Ancestry and Family Search, but no age or parentage given. However, in FindMyPast we have a different story from the transcriptions by East Kent Burial Index. George Gotts is buried, aged 78, so born in 1746! Assuming that the baptism is incorrect in FamilySearch, the only logical view would be that George is the father of George 2396 Gotts, come to live with his son.

Also, in 1861 a Samuel Gotts died in Westwell, only 7 miles from Lt Chart. Samuel was born in 1799 whilst George 2396 Gotts who married Pleasance was born around 1777-1781 according to the 1841 census, the earliest Gottses in this tree. We already know that a George Gotts married a Pleasance Barber in Holt, Norfolk in 1809. We also can see that George is shown in the 1841 census as not being born in Kent, which would support this situation. So was Samuel a brother of George and son of this newly found George, and all of them from the Holt area? Some more research imminent!

Thanks to Ben Wood for these items from his collection of 50 news cuttings of Gottses, and Ian Gotts of Kings Lynn for the marriage to Pleasance Barber.

1847: Suicide of Maria Gotts in Ingatestone, Essex (tree #071)

Posted by: lang at 14:09, February 15 2014.

The last of Ben Wood's newspaper items in the Essex area is this one:

1847 20 May, Morning Post London

Singular case of Suicide

This is a very sad report of Maria aged 27 in 1847, daughter of John Gotts committing suicide. She was obviously struggling mentally, and occasionally drinking heavily. The full report is contained in the attached document: the details of her death are graphic, so I have not included them in the main news item. It is your choice to read it or not.

[Link to Inquest details](#)

http://www.gotts.org.uk/Maria_Gotts_suicide_1847.pdf

Maria was 27 in 1847, so born 1819/20. John her father, would have been born twenty or thirty years before that, so 1790-1800. There is no mother mentioned as a witness, so presumably she was dead by 1847. John does refer to her as having not been right in the head and needing confinement at some point, presumably in a hospital. Living in Ingatestone in Essex one would expect them to be related to the Bulphan family (#079) or Upminster family (#109), but there does not seem to be a John or Maria of those ages.

Further checks in the 1841 census shows they belong to a different family:

1841 census: Ingatestone

John 2919 60 b1781 Excise Officer born Not Essex

Martha 3106 30 b1811 born Not Essex,

Maria 3107 20 b1821 born Not Essex

Rebecca 2922 5 b1836 born Not Essex

All have the 'born in Scotland, Ireland or foreign parts' box ticked as well as not born in Essex.

This shows the family is from tree #071, the Excise Officer families.

We have John's work record from the Excise Board minutes in TNA, which shows that he was based in several locations in the South East:

- 1803 Bishop Stortford (East Hertfordshire)
- 1804 Framlingham (South Suffolk)
- 1805 Waltham (Waltham Cross, Essex)

- 1806 Edgware (North Middlesex)
- 1810 Maidstone (Kent) (at the distillery: John published a set of tables for calculating the strength of spirits)
- 1811 Stratford (Middlesex)
- 1819 Chatham (Kent)

Looking for their children we find in Family Search: Maria Gotts bapt 6 Feb 1820 St Mary's, Chatham, Kent, daughter of John and Martha. This fits as John was there then, and we now know his wife is called Martha.

We also find in Chatham the baptism of Rebecca Martha Gotts, in 13 May 1821, though we know Martha was born ten years earlier. Rebecca is also the name of Martha's niece, daughter of her brother John.

The next piece of research was to find John's marriage to Martha, likely to be around 1810 when Maria was born. In Family Search we find the marriage of John Gotts and Martha Clarke on 14 Mar 1813 in Wanstead, Essex, which is not far from Stratford where John was based on 1813. There are no other marriages of a John and Martha noted, so this is most likely to be the one.

Lastly, searching for the mother Martha's death we have the death of a Martha in Chelmsford Registration district in 1846, and in FindMyPast we find her burial details care of the Essex Society for Family History: she was buried on 22 Dec 1846, at St Edmund & St Mary's, Ingatestone, aged 60.

Now we know about John and his wife Martha, and his daughter Maria. We don't know what happened to daughter Martha, whether she married or died a spinster. There is no sign in 1851 of a Martha Gotts. We don't actually know where she was born: it could be Maidstone, Stratford or Edgware. John's son John became a brushmaker in Shoreditch. We know from the 1851 census he was born in Stratford around 1806, but we don't have his baptism either.

So John lost his wife in December 1846 and five months later lost his daughter Martha. Two years earlier his brother William lost his wife and daughter in the Yarmouth Bridge disaster. The family seemed to be Quaker, with John and his brother Samuel applying to start a new church in the region of St Albans and John retiring to Quaker Lane.

Bulphan/Orsett Gotts news items (tree#079)

Posted by: lang at 22:36, February 14 2014.

Also from Ben Wood's collection of newspapers::

1835 28th August, Surrey Advertiser.

"Fire by Lightning

In the afternoon of Tuesday last, about four o'clock, during a thunderstorm, the electric fuel set fire to a barn in a farm near Bulphan Fen, in the parish of Orsett, occupied by Mr Jesse Gotts. The flames spread with the greatest rapidity and communicated to a stack, from thence to two stacks, a barley stack, a stack of peas and oats, and two hay stacks, which were all consumed. Several respectable farmers residing in the vicinity were immediately upon the scene and by the unwearied exertions of about 100 labourers, a stack of wheat containing about 50 quarters, as well as two hay stacks, were rescued from the flames. The house was saved, but the furniture was damaged by removal. The engine from Tilbury Fort arrived in time to afford assistance. Great credit is due to the labourers, who, encouraged by the farmers, stood many hours conveying ... during a most severe tempest, the rain continued to fall in torrents. Mr Gotts is insured in the East Economic Fire Office, but not to the full amount of his loss, which has been estimated at £1000. The estate belongs to Mrs Jane Baker, of Orsett. 2 men who were working in the barn when it was ... by the electric fluid, escaped unhurt."

This is most likely to be Jesse 2638 b 1781 who married Mary Roach. This would put him at 54 in 1835. If it were his son Jesse, he would only be 18 at the time, which seems too early. So he is renting the farm from Jane Baker, and is not covered for the total loss. This must have caused hardship to the family to be in debt for the difference.

It is interesting the way that electricity is referred to: "electric fuel" and "electric fluid." It is likely that lightning struck the barn and the early electric cables were not robust enough to stop the lightning surge from setting the barn on fire.

Still with this family:

1842 8 July, Essex Standard

"Births

On Tuesday, at Bulphan Fens, the wife of Mark Gotts, of a daughter."

The father is Mark 2641, who married Sarah Livermore. The baby daughter is Sarah 3068, their only child.

1843 9 June, Essex Standard

"Marriages

At Dunmow, on 27th ult, Mr J Roach Gotts, only son of Mr Gotts, Orsett, to Miss Susanna Livermore, of Upminster, in this county."

This is Jesse Roach (Nicholas) 1633. Quite why they married in Dunmow, nearly 40 miles away is unclear. Maybe that is where the Livermore family had moved to.

At present, we do not know what relationship there is between Sarah Livermore, Mark's wife, and Susanna Livermore, who is the wife of Jesse Roach Nicholas, Mark's grandson.

1843 31 March, Chelmsford Chronicle

"Election of Poor Law Guardians

Orsett Union:- The only contest was in the parish of Orsett. Where the number were as follows:-

Mr WM Randall 47, Jesse Gotts 44, Thomas Ashford 43, Mr Samuel Newcome 37, Thomas Bunter 31, William Cook 17. The first three named, who are guardians, were elected.

1844 29 March, Chelmsford Chronicle

Orsett Union- The guardians of the union, as usual at the termination of the year, dined together on Thursday last, at the George Inn, the Rev Thomas Hand, in the chair. There was not so numerous an attendance of the guardians as has sometimes been the case; there were, however, present – The Rev James Blomefield, the Rev James Bird, Samuel Newcome Esq. And other influential gentlemen in the neighbourhood, unconnected with the board, to mark their perfect approbation of the manner in which the guardians had fulfilled their duties. - the majority of the guardians for the past year have been re-elected; Orsett has been the only parish in the union contested, where S Newcome, Esq, Mr Gotts and Mr Randall were returned, by a large majority, over Messrs Bunter and Bright. "

This Jesse is most likely to be Jesse 2638, born 1781, son of Mark and father of Jesse Roach Nicholas. He married Mary Roach, hence their son's middle name.

So more flesh on bones of this Bulphan family.

Nicholas Gotts robbed in London in 1776 - tree #079, Bulphan, Essex

Posted by: lang at 17:21, February 14 2014.

From Ben Wood's collection of newspapers we have this item:

"London 2 May 1776, Ipswich Journal

Yesterday, at the public-office in Bow Street, Nicholas Gotts, a poor old farmer from Ingatestone, who supports a family of 8 children on a little farm of £10 per annum, charged William Davies of robbing him of £8 18s 6d. It appeared that Mr Gotts, having come into town to pay a year's rent, was met by the prisoner, who, insinuating himself into his company, enticed him into a public house in the Butcher Row, when two other sharpers entering, they provoked the farmer to produce his money, which the prisoner swept into his hat and ran off with it. The offender was instantly stopped by a gentleman, and a constable searching him, found in his possession a double purse, containing counters (flash money it is called), a blank bankers check, a ring for the purpose of dropping, and other matters for the use of sharpers. The prisoner was committed for trial at the Old Bailey."

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Nicholas and Margaret (or Martha) Gotts

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- Susannah 26 Jan 1765 Fryerning

This incident happened a year after Susannah's birth when he is recorded as having 8 children. Is there another earlier child, or is there another born in 1765/66 in Fryerning or Ingatestone? Mind you, though he is referred to as 'old' he has fathered a daughter only two years previous! Maybe the journalist was being slightly pejorative and using 'poor old' as a term applied to middle-aged rural people when they were in London being robbed.

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"William Davis, Theft: theft from a specified place, 22nd May 1776

467. WILLIAM DAVIS was indicted for stealing eight guineas, and a half guinea, the property of Nicholas Gotts, in the dwelling-house of Francis Morris, April the 27th.

The prosecutor was called, but not appearing, the court ordered his recognizance to be estreated.

NOT GUILTY."

See Crime section, Page 1.

We are lucky to have the details of the offence, as it did not get reported at the Old Bailey as Nicholas did not show up, so we only have this because of the committal by the magistrate the day after the robbery took place.

Thanks to Ben Wood for the news item.

James Gotts a witness to furious driving in Norwich 1847

Posted by: lang at 17:12, March 22 2014.

Norfolk News 29 February 1844

"John China was charged with driving a pony and cart very furiously in St Benedicts Street on 3rd inst. Two witnesses, named William Colby and James Gotts, deposed to see the defendant drive on the night in question at the rate of seven miles per hour.... The policeman who brought the case stated that two people had been knocked down by the pony but would not give their evidence..."

I am not sure who James Gotts is, but I could not resist the idea that seven miles an hour is furious.

Maria who committed suicide in 1847 Ingatestone- a post script - #071

Posted by: lang at 16:44, March 22 2014.

As a prequel to Maria committing suicide in 1847, (see news item 15 Feb 2014) I have just found this news item in 1846:

Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 9th October 1846:

"Maria Gotts of Ingatestone was apprehended upon a warrant for violently assaulting and threatening the life of her father, a superannuated officer of excise. The assault rose out of some family jars; the defendant expressing deep contrition for what had transpired, begged her parent not to press the charge, and she was dismissed upon entering into her own recognizances to keep the peace for three months. The father paid the expenses of the case."

So Maria seems to have been struggling in more ways than one.

What's New 13 March 2014

Posted by: lang at 17:01, March 13 2014.

Just a short note to say the World War 1 section has been updated considerably.

We now have seven stories of the men who served in the War: these can be found here:

[WW1](#)

These stories paint a picture of what life was like for them.

Having been through all the Medal Rolls I have found more Gottses who were involved in the war:

I have found 109 Gottses out of whom I have identified 70.

I have updated the Summary and Consolidated Record lists which you can get to from this link. Maybe your relatives are here?

If anyone would like to write something up on one of their relatives, or would like me to help do that, then please get in touch.

What's New 4 March 2014

Posted by: lang at 20:48, March 4 2014.

I have revised the military section to add a new section on World War 1. In this I have added a consolidated list of Gottses who served in WW1, and a link to a list of all the records I am aware of for them. I have identified most of them by family and my reference number.

I would like to expand this section with pages giving more detail of these soldiers. Already, Ian Gotts of Kings Lynn has written up about two brothers of his grandfather. This now includes images of two 'In Memoriam' cards that Ian has. Vivienne Hayward has an article about her relative Charles Herbert and life in the trenches. I am working on a page for James Atkinson Gotts, my great uncle who died on the Somme.

If anyone has any more information or would like to write up their relative then please let me have that and I will add it. Any photos or images relating to them are great.

Other new items:

- News item: Sidney Robert Gotts - War papers for sale on eBay tree #083 - I know the papers were sold but I don't know who bought them.
- News item: Newspaper cutting from Ben Wood on Gotts family at Little Chart, Kent (tree 052)
- News item: Newspaper cutting from Ben Wood on Nicholas Gotts robbed in London in 1776 - (tree #079, Bulphan, Essex)
- News item: Newspaper cuttings from Ben Wood on Bulphan/Orsett Gotts news items (tree #079)
- News item: Newspaper cuttings from Ben Wood on 1847: Suicide of Maria Gotts in Ingatestone, Essex (tree #071 excise officers)
- 'Occupations' tab renamed to 'Work and War' and now contains links to military information and occupational information (Work and War tab)
- Queries: five pages of queries added: these were previously in the Queries forum which has now been closed. Having the queries here makes them searchable. If anyone wishes me to add more Gotts Queries then just send them to me and I will add them.

Gottses in World War 1

Posted by: lang at 23:12, March 1 2014.

Here is a table with a summary of all the Gottses I can find that have records for WW1.

Of 48 that are recorded, 19 died, which is a very high death rate compared to the average of 1 in 10.

Further details are in the Military section of the website: see Occupations/Military.

I would like to write up some stories of what these soldiers were like and what they went through. Vivian Hayward has already done it for Charles Herbert on Snapshots - 8. Please send me any information you have and I will publish it.

Name	Gotts Ref number	Tree number	Date of Death	Birth Year
L W W (Leslie William W)	284	009	26/07/1916	1891
Samuel	1543	011?	28/10/1917	1888
Abraham	156	016	27/09/1919	
Arthur	934	016		abt 1893
Christopher George	169	022		abt 1882
George	480	022		abt 1877
Herbert	491	022	26/10/1917	1893
Herbert	249	022		
Herbert	249	022		
James ?? (Henry)	169	022		1883
John	169	022		abt 1884
Mathew	489	022		
Matthew	15	022?	08/02/1916	1885
Albert Ernest	129	034		abt 1882
Grace, Mrs	365	034		
Leonard Henry	202	034		abt 1897
M F (Marshall Frederick)	131	034	15/09/1916	

Bertie George	724	034	05/01/1918	
Charles William	804	038		abt 1885
Obadiah Pells	803	038		abt 1885
E J (Edward James?)	774	038?		
C H	220	040		
George	109	040	27/02/1917	1891
J W (John William)	139	040	23/04/1917	1894
Arthur Walter	223	040	24/07/1916	
Charles Herbert	2207	040	12/03/1915	
James Atkinson	433	040	01/07/1916	
Maxwell William	224	040	25/03/1918	
Albert John	338	040?		abt 1888
Frederick	161	053	17/04/1917	
H D (Henry Davenport)	116	071		
L D (Leslie Davenport)	117	071		
Clarence Augustus	1862	071	27/03/1918	
Frederick John	307	083		abt 1885
Joseph William	166	083		abt 1882
Mark Edward	3	083	18/09/1915	
William Albert	105	083	21/10/1914	
Harry	1276	091?		abt 1899
Sidney	345	108	16/04/1917	1896

George David	3071	108?	
C S			
Frederick			
John		23/04/1917	
John			abt 1891
John William			
Robert			
W			
William			

Jonathan Gotts (247) run over in 1841 (tree 009 Gresham)

Posted by: lang at 20:15, March 23 2014.

An item in the Norfolk Chronicle 24 June 1841

"On Thursday se'nnight, Jonathan Gotts, team-man in the employ of Mr Greenacre of Gresham, when on his way to Cromer, with a wagon for coals, near Mr Daniels of Aylmerton, the horses took fright and the poor man was run over and crushed to death, He was on the point of marriage, his master speaks of him as a very valuable servant"

So this poor chap is Jonathan 247 in the Gresham tree 009. Born in 1805, one of 13 children of Samuel Gotts & Martha Woodhouse.

I wonder who he was about to marry, and whether banns had been called which would let us know?

Thomas 1449 Gotts Schoolmaster at Bangor Tree #040

Posted by: lang at 12:08, April 20 2014.

Thomas was born in 1853 in Gt Yarmouth, eldest son of Francis & Elizabeth Gotts. By 1871 he was a pupil teacher in Gt Yarmouth, living with his uncle & aunt, Samuel & Mary Ann Howard. By 1881 he was a 'Public elementary schoolmaster' at the National School, at Bangor, where he stayed until he died in 1917 aged 64.

The local newspapers give quite a lot of snippets about him:

- 1880 Mr Gotts acted as a steward at the music festival at the newly opened Bangor Cathedral nave
- 1882 April 2 Bangor National School: Inspectors: "Boys school: very promising, considering the barely adequate character of his staff, Mr Gotts has raised this department to a degree of efficiency I should hardly have deemed possible twelve months ago"
- 1883 Presided at a meeting of Bangor & Bethesda Teachers Union, also donated £1 to the building of a new North Wales College (*Now Bangor University of North Wales*)
- Later that year he attended a meeting to organise celebrating Bangor being appointed for the new North Wales College, though reported as J Gotts. He also attended a lecture at the Menai Society on the Significance of Ideals
- 1885 He is a witness in a case of wilful damage to a street lamp by a 12 year old. Listed as Master, of the National Schools, Garth Road
- 1886 November, he spoke as the Education Minister at the first meeting of the Bangor Parliamentary Debating Society
- 1886 In September, Mr Gotts was referred to at the Bangor Cricket Club Annual Dinner as an active member
- 1887 Noted that Mr Gotts, headmaster of the Bangor National Schools "is to be heartily congratulated upon the splendid results of the recent government examination"
- 1888 March Mr T Gotts was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Bangor Workingmen's Conservative Association
- 1888 Sept 22nd. Thomas Gotts had to demonstrate his eligibility to be on the electoral roll. 'Mr Thomas Gotts, master of the National School, claimed with respect to the school-house. Replying to Mr RD Williams, Mr Gotts said that he had occupied the premises for the last eight years, and he was under no compulsion to reside there. He proved the payment of £10 annual rent by the school treasurer's books. The Barrister: "The claim is allowed. I think Mr Gotts has proved his right to be on the register."'
- 1888 November he attended the Educational Conference in Bangor of the National Union of Elementary Teachers.
- 1888 December He is noted as on the Arts committee for the National Eisteddfod 1890.

1889 December 21st & 28th: "Alleged assault on Schools Inspector"

Following a representation to the School Board, Mr Gotts sent a letter to the North Wales Chronicle which was published in 21st Dec stating what had happened, and making out he had been provoked. On 28th Dec there is a reply from the school inspector about the assault making it clear it was about attendance forms not submitted and a provocative attitude towards him by Mr Gotts. He also states Mr Gotts was of a larger build than him, and left it to the readers to decide who had used bad language that day. We don't know the outcome, but Thomas continued to teach there through 1911.

- 1895: In Slater's Directory of North Wales for 1895, it lists: Bangor, National Schools: Garth Road (St Marys), built in 1868 for 499 children, boys average attendance 170, girls 150, infants 120. Thomas Gotts, master; Miss Clara Whatmough, mistress; Miss AE Griffith, infants' mistress.

Thomas and Clara married in 1900 in Prescott, Lancs, where she was from, so we know where they met.

- In 1900 August the Old Boys of St Mary's National School resolved to present Mr T Gotts with a testimonial on the occasion of his marriage. In September, the boys and teachers at the National School presented a clock to Mr & Mrs Gotts of the schools on the occasion of their marriage.
- 1900 December, the Superintendent of the Welsh Sunday School Committee complained to the School Board about Mr Gotts's conduct towards them, accusing them of breaking the harmonium, not allowing school coals to be used on Sunday, requiring benches, etc to be moved. Clearly all was not well in his relations with the community.

At least through the newspaper reports we get a much richer picture of Thomas. We know they had one son, Reginald Arthur, born in Bangor in 1901, who was a chemist, living in Somerset when he died in 1968, but we don't know if there are any living relatives yet.

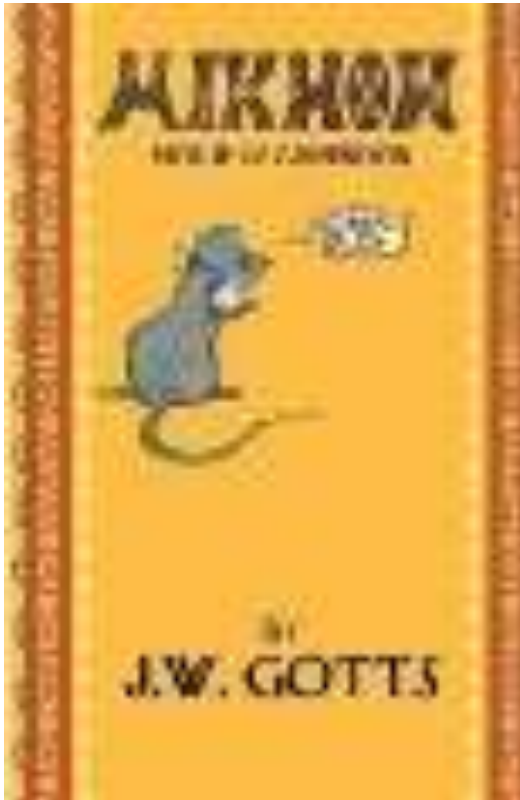
Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2014

Book on Ebay by JW Gotts in US: Mikmoh the Mouse of Cameroon

Posted by: lang at 21:54, April 19 2014.

I've just spotted this book on eBay:

Mikmoh the Mouse of Cameroon by JW Gotts, published in USA.



For anyone wishing to view the item on eBay [here's the link](#)

I don't know who this is: if anyone knows then please tell me. I will put this on the website under Gottses in Print.

What's New 10 April 2014

Posted by: lang at 22:18, April 10 2014.

What's new since the last update:

- News item: Maria who committed suicide in 1847 Ingatestone- a post script - #071
- News item: James Gotts a witness to furious driving in Norwich 1847
- News item: Jonathan Gotts (247) run over in 1841 (tree 009 Gresham)
- News items: Captain Thomas Gotts has been identified, and the story of his ship the Gibraltar (previously the Sumter) written up
- World War 1 Records for Gottses: now we have 9 stories to read. Stories added for Cecil Harry who won a DCM, Percy and Leopold. Please keep telling me about your relatives See Work & War/WW1 Records
- Known Families/053 Hull has been updated

Captain Thomas Gotts and the sinking of the Gibraltar aka the Confederate ship Sumter (#053)

Posted by: lang at 17:02, April 10 2014.

The Last of the Confederate cruiser Sumter

"The Gibraltar (Captain Gotts) belonging to Mr TH Lyon of Hull, and formerly the Sumter, of the Confederate government, closed her eventful career on Thursday morning. She set out for London on Wednesday, and on the evening of that day, and when off the Dogger Bank, it was found that the ship had sprung a leak below the engineroom. The water came in fast and all hands were called to the pumps; but after working for six hours the pumps became choked and no hope remained of saving the vessel. The crew took to their boats and were picked up by a fishing smack and landed at Grimsby on Saturday morning, and afterwards passed on the Hull."

What is interesting is the level of detail varies between papers. Some give more detail of the Sumter, others describe how a Leith steamer, the Warsaw checked to see if they could tow the ship to port, but they decided it couldn't make it. Because they were on the Dogger Bank and the sea was calm they decided to get a fishing smack to take them off if they couldn't rescue it. Two other papers give more detail about the history of the ship that year, and describes what they had been carrying from Helsingborg in Sweden and Helsingfors in Finland, and why the pumps got choked.

With all the records of him as a mariner and the census Thomas can be identified as Thomas 1865 son of George Gotts & Hannah Sexton. He was born in Yarmouth and moved to Hull.

For more details of him and the sinking of the Gibraltar see [Thomas Gotts capt tree #053](#)

Castleford (Yorks) Gottses are now connected to tree #040

Posted by: lang at 08:23, May 7 2014.

I was rooting round in some online newspapers looking for someone and found an 'In Memoriam' for a Charles Gotts from Castleford in Yorkshire who was in the squad for the 1936 Berlin Olympics! But more of that in another news item to come.

I checked my existing family trees, and found Charles in tree #120, born in 1910 in the Pontefract district, which includes Castleford. In the 1911 census we can see Charles in the family of George Herbert at 18 Perseverance Street, Castleford. With the family is George's mother, Sarah, born 1845, from Dilham in Norfolk. This is the first time I have looked at this tree since I extracted all the 1911 census and added the records to the trees where I could. And with Sarah included on the census, with her birthplace as Dilham, got me even more interested as that is roughly where my own tree is located: East Ruston, Dilham, Brumstead.

I found in our own tree that the most likely candidate was Sarah Maria 132, born 1845 in East Ruston according to the 1861 census, though 1851 says Dilham, but we had no further information about her after 1861 when she was still at home with the family.

So was George Herbert 3403 her son? The starting point was to try and find George's marriage details. He married Mary Ellen Taylor (known as Nellie) in York district in 1904, but I can't find a church marriage, only the civil date. So there is no free way to check for his father's name there.

Looking across the censuses:

In the 1871 census Sarah is at Frenchgate, St Mary Parish, Richmond, Yorkshire:

- Sarah Gotts, Servant, 25, b 1845, born in Dilham, Norfolk, housemaid to Ann Ryder, widow.

Her eldest sister Mary (m George Payne) is living at East Hauxwell, 10 miles away, and next eldest sister Elizabeth (m Charles Harris Ducker) is living at Marske, 6 miles away. Both husbands are gamekeepers, which may explain the movements round the country as they changed estates.

1881 she is at Leighfields, Rufford, Notts, with her sister Mary Ann & Charles Harris Ducker:

- Sarah Maria Gotts visitor, unkm, 35, from Dilham.

Her son George Herbert is boarding with George Raper in York aged 4, and is noted as born in Marske next the Sea. This is a different Marske to where sister Elizabeth was living in 1871, and is where her brother James 132 and his wife Jessie were living in 1881. So did Sarah Maria go to her brother's to have George Herbert? He is shown as being born in Guisborough district in the civil index.

In 1891 Sarah is at Park Lodge, Rufford, Notts, with brother in law Charles who is now a widower, (Mary Ann dying in 1885 in Nottinghamshire) and he is Head Gamekeeper, with:

- Sarah Maria Gotts sister-in-law, unnm, 40, from Dilham (Sarah obviously established as housekeeper not visitor, and has only aged 5 years in the last ten!)
- Elizabeth Payne, visitor, married, 45, also from Dilham. Elizabeth is the sister of both Mary Ann and Sarah Maria.

There are clearly no children to Charles & Mary Ann, but Sarah Maria's son George Herbert, is now boarding at the Tuxford Grammar school, ten miles down the road. Did Charles help George Herbert, not having any sons of his own?

In 1901 Sarah and George are visitors staying with Jessie, Sarah's sister in law, on the outskirts of York. Again, Sarah is described as from Dilham, and George Herbert from Marske. Her brother James, Jessie's husband appears to have died in 1890.

And finally, in 1911 Sarah is back with her son George Herbert in Castleford, though George is listed as born in York.

Clearly the family looked after each other. Did Elizabeth and Mary Ann find a job in Richmond for Sarah Maria? And did her brother James & Jessie help out when George Herbert was born? And Sarah then becomes housekeeper to her brother in law Charles Ducker after Mary Ann dies.

One point to note is that George Herbert's son was named Charles Harris Gotts, so there was clearly some strong association with his uncle Charles Harris Ducker.

And through Charles Harris's daughter Jean Tonkinson, neé Gotts I now know I'm related to an Olympic weightlifter! But that's the next story!

Thanks to Jean Tonkinson and Ian Gotts of Kings Lynn for help with this.

Louisa/Lois Jane Gotts 2123 in Tree 097 is definitely Lois!

Posted by: lang at 11:51, May 28 2014.

Val Waites contacted me to say that on the first page of tree #097 Robert Gotts & Susan Gowers of Methwold, it stated one daughter as Louisa Jane. Val said that this should be Lois Jane, not Louisa. Val is the great great grand-daughter of Lois.

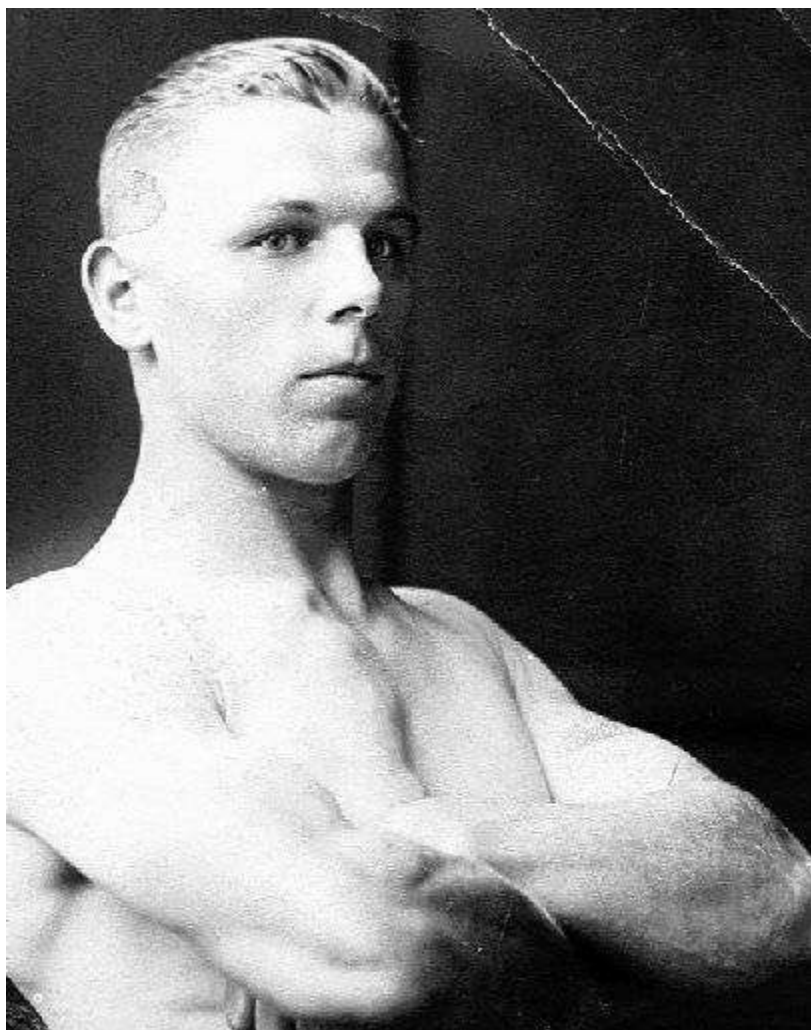
I have been through the baptism and civil records and Val is absolutely correct. There is one census in 1881 where it has been transcribed incorrectly as Louisa Jane.

Lois married George Thomas Gilbert in 1886 in the Guisborough district, and they had a son Walter Gotts Gilbert. He joined up when he was under age to fight in WW1. Photos of him are on the website.

Charles Harris Gotts: Olympic weightlifter 1936

Posted by: lang at 08:55, May 28 2014.

As I mentioned in the previous news item, I was rooting round in some online newspapers looking for someone and found an 'In Memoriam' for a Charles Gotts from Castleford in Yorkshire who was in the squad for the 1936 Berlin Olympics. This was new. Here is the photo it showed:



In the earlier post I described how this item led me to Jean Tonkinson, Charles's daughter. This was via an article in the Pontefract and Castleford Express in 2012:

[pontefractandcastlefordexpress](http://www.pontefractandcastlefordexpress.co.uk/news/local-news/town-s-olympic-hero-1-4716701)

<http://www.pontefractandcastlefordexpress.co.uk/news/local-news/town-s-olympic-hero-1-4716701>

Jean has some items from the 1936 Berlin Olympics and the story of Charles being a weightlifter in the English Squad. But as he died from cancer in 1947 at the age of 36 – when she was just six-years-old – she never knew the full details of her father's Olympic success. When I spoke to her she described how he had been British Champion in 1934,

and that she had spoken to the University in East London who hold the British Olympic Authority archives and had some records which needed a lot of reading through to find if Charles was indeed in the team.

He certainly had some mementos including this silk scarf/handkerchief with the national flags.



You can see the German swastika on the right hand side, which dates the flag to 1936.

So far, I haven't found any reference to Charles competing in 1936, though he does appear in some newspapers in the 1930's where they have reported weightlifting competitions. The Daily Mail on 29 April 1932 mentions 'S Gotts of Castleford' (clearly a typo) as coming third in the Yorkshire finals. His three olympic lifts were: Military press 140lbs, Snatch 159 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs, Clean and Jerk 225lbs.

On 5th November 1934 the Yorkshire Post reports Charles Gotts of Castleford taking part in the Northern Counties championship, though not winning.

This website has a history of weightlifting, and mentions 'Gotts' in the 1937 World championships:

[history-of-weightlifting-2](#)

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2014

<http://www.muscleenhancers.com/history-of-weightlifting-2.htm>

I have arranged to go and see the British Olympic Archives at UEL to try and establish the Olympic story, but if anyone knows anything about where the British weightlifting records might be then please let me know.

WW1 Tyne Cot Memorials for Herbert 2491 in tree #022 and Samuel 1543 in tree #040/011

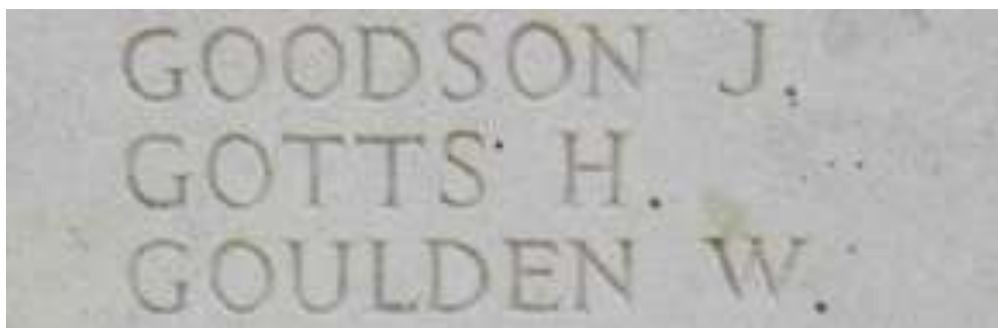
Posted by: lang at 19:58, July 27 2014.

Tyne Cot cemetery is the largest British cemetery in France. It holds 12,000 graves, of which 8,300 are unknown soldiers. It is a concentration cemetery, where bodies were moved there from other local smaller cemeteries and grave sites. The sheer size of it is overwhelming.

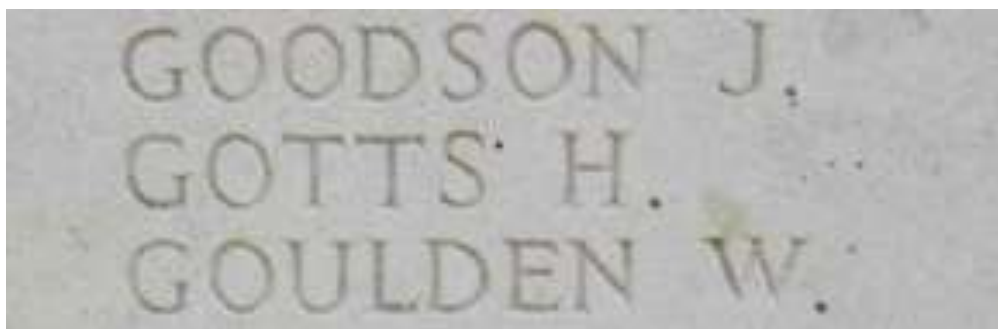


The wall at the back is the Tyne Cot Memorial, which has the names of 35,000 British and New Zealand soldiers who died after 17 August 1917 on the Ypres Salient, the name for this area. This is where the names of Herbert Gotts and Samuel Gotts are engraved on panels 53 and 34 respectively.

Herbert 2491 Gotts



Here is the inscription for Herbert Gotts, on panel 53 for the Yorkshire Regiment. See half-way down left column.



Herbert 2491 is in tree #022. CWGC describes him as Private No. 22688 in the 4th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action on 26/10/1917 in France & Flanders, aged 24.

Enlisted 25/07/1916 at Stockton. Born in 1893 in Stockton-On-Tees, son of James and Agnes Gotts, of 7, Tower St., Stockton-on-Tees.

At the minute I don't know any more about Herbert: if anyone has some information then please share it with us.

Samuel 1543

Here is the inscription for Samuel Gotts on panel 34 for the Norfolk Regiment. He is Samuel 1543 in tree #040/011.



This is on Panel 34 in the right column.

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Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2014

Again, we don't have any more information on Samuel. If anyone can add anything then please let me know.

WW1 grave for Bertie George Gotts ref 724 in tree #034

Posted by: lang at 16:59, July 25 2014.

I went on a World War 1 coach tour in June, and managed to get photos of several Gottses on memorials, which I will add to the website soon, and one headstone. This is for

Bertie George Gotts ref 724 in tree #034. His grave is at Lijssenthoek near Poperinge in Belgium. Here is a photo of his headstone:



It reads 374557 Gunner BG Gotts

Royal Garrison Artillery who died 5th January 1918 Age 37.

This has the Artillery Company insignia set inside the cross.



At the bottom of the stone is the inscription " We shall go to him but he shall not return to us..."

The bottom line is obscured by the overgrowth. It appears to be one of the standard inscriptions offered to the next of kin.

Most Commonwealth governments paid for the inscriptions, but UK charged 3½d per letter and 2½d per space up to a maximum of 60 characters. A full inscription would cost a working man's weekly wage.

This cemetery at Lijssenthoek has 9900 graves, and is one of the largest. It was a hospital cemetery: Lijssenthoek was a clearing station and hospital for the wounded, so the graves were filled as soldiers died. Bertie George must have died there of his wounds.



This view is from the gate, looking across to Bertie's grave at the far corner where there are some people in the distance.

The Commonwealth War Graves record gives some more information:

In Memory of Bertie George Gotts, Gunner, reg no 374557, 217th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on Saturday, 5th January 1918. Age 37.

Additional Information: Son of Marshall and Caroline Gotts, of Mundesley-on-Sea, Norfolk; husband of Rosie Gotts, of Cyder House, Pilgrims' Way, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.

Buried in British Cemetery at Lijssenthoek Military, Poperinge, West-Flaanderen, Belgium.

From other records we know he enlisted in Norwich, but we don't know when. Given his age, it is possible that he was conscripted after 1916, unless he was in a Territorial battalion before the war. He was a journeyman bricklayer before enlisting. The address for his wife Rosie is Guildford, which might be her address after the war when the CWGC were erecting the monuments.

If anyone has more details of Bertie's army career then please share them with us

WW1 Arras Memorial, Clarence Augustus 1862 tree#071 and John Gotts of Canning Town

Posted by: lang at 10:26, July 28 2014.

These are the last images from my WW1 trip.

The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. This image is courtesy of CWGC:



There are two Gottses recorded here: Clarence Augustus 1862 in tree #071 and John Gotts. Because the panels are under an overhanging roof which will protect them, there is no direct light to create shadows, making reading and photography very difficult. The panels are about 20 feet tall, and at least one entry on the memorial has been blacked in to make it readable. So my images are not a very high standard. For one of them, it was high up the wall and I had to stand on the stone bench below the panels, and lean back while someone supported me to get anywhere near the inscription!

Clarence Augustus 1862

Here is his inscription on Bay 6:



CWGC records him as Clarence Augustus, Private no 31122 in 11th Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, killed in action on 27/03/1918 aged 19. Son of Emily Louisa Gotts, of 60, Lea Bridge Gardens, Leyton, London, and the late Augustus James Gotts.

Clarence was born early in 1899, one of four children of Augustus James Gotts and Emily Louisa Purcell in Leyton, East London. He enlisted in Leyton, but we do not know when.

John Gotts

Here is John's inscription in the Queen's Regiment section on Bay 2:



CWGC records John as Private L/10881 in Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He was killed in action on 23/04/1917.

His Medal Roll also shows him as Service no.15127 in the Machine Gun Corps.

Another record shows he enlisted in Guildford, Surrey, was born in Canning Town and lived in Mile End. There is no indication of his age anywhere. Apart from that I have not been able to place John in a known tree yet.

The Battalion diary is on the Queens Regiment website and shows they were In attack between Fontaine and La Croisille Railway cutting T27a. You can see it here by looking at April 1917 [West Surrey 11th Battalion diary](http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/war_diaries/local/11Bn_Queens.shtml)
http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/war_diaries/local/11Bn_Queens.shtml

If anyone has more information about Clarence or John them please get in touch.

WW1 Menin Gate and William Albert 1053 in tree #083

Posted by: lang at 07:37, July 28 2014.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. The Salient (or inroad into the German lines) was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south.

The Memorial in Ypres, or Ieper which is its current Flemish name, contains the names of 54,000 soldiers killed in action in that area.



Every evening at 8pm the Fire Brigade play 'The Last Post', a ceremony they have conducted since 1928 except for during WW2. The traffic is stopped and you need to be there by 7pm to get a place to see them. This is them relaxing after the ceremony.



The only Gotts listed here is William Albert 1053 in tree #083. Here is his inscription:

GORDON G.D.	AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY
GOTTS W.A.	GRENADIER GUARDS
GRUNDY H.	GRENADIER GUARDS

All the panels are enormous, and we are lucky that he is near the bottom. It is on Addenda panel 57, which is up the stairs on the North side of the memorial. He is in the Sergeants list near the bottom of the left column.



Some people have managed to wedge poppies into the cracks. This example includes an 'In memoriam' card.



CWGC records William Albert as Sergeant no.13447 in Grenadier Guards. He died on 21/10/1914 aged 25. His mother was Mrs. Gotts, of 112, Chandos Rd., Stratford, London; husband of E. Docking (formerly Gotts, of 34, Barclay Rd., Walthamstow, Essex).

William Albert was born at 46 Chandos Road, Stratford into a family of eight children of John Henry Gotts and Charlotte Spellar.

In the 1911 census he already in 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at St George, London. The entry is:

William Albert Gotts, acting schoolmaster sergeant, age 21, a School assistant born Essex -Stratford

He married Elizabeth Bond Robertson Leighton 3785 Leighton in 1911 in Forest Gate, London and they had a daughter Margaret Henrietta before the War.

WW1 Thiepval inscription for James Atkinson 443 in tree #040

Posted by: lang at 05:43, July 28 2014.

Thiepval monument is another of the famous memorials with a small cemetery. It bears 72,000 names of soldiers killed in action in the Somme sector before 29 Sep 1918, 90% of which died between July and November 1916 in the great Somme offensive.



The only Gotts on it is my great-uncle James Atkinson Gotts ref 433/#040.

CWGC list him as Lance Corporal James Atkinson no.22/155 22nd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. Died 01/07/1916 aged 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Gotts, of 43, Middle Row, Bates Cottages, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland.

Here is his inscription on Pier 11B.



This is part of the large number of Northumberland Fusiliers covering three faces.

NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS	
LCE CORPORAL	LCE CORPORAL
CLARK D.	MADDEN A.
CLARK J.	MADDISON F.
CLARK P.	MADDOX J.
CLARK P.M.	MALONE J.
CLEMENT M.E.	MALPASS J.T.
CLOUGH G.	MARTINSON M.
COLLPITTS T.E.	MASKEY J.
COOPER G.	MEEK B.
COOPER W.	MIDDLETON A.C.M.
COWLER T.	MILTON D.
COXON P.	MITCHELL R.
COYNE J.P.	MITCHELL W.
CRAWFORD J.	MITCHELSON T.
CRAWLEY J.	MOIR H.
SERVED AS	MOODY E.
COWIE J.	MOODY T.W.
CRONIN P.	MOORE J.
CRUDDAS G.	MORTON L.A.
CURRY R.D.	MURRAY T.
DALE C.W.	NEE J.
DALE J.	NICHOLSON C.
DARLINGTON H.	O'REILLY J.
DAVIS H.N.	PALMER J.
DAVISON R.	PARKER N.
DIXON J.	PARKER R.
DIXON R.G.M.	PARKIN N.
DOBINSON G.	PATRICK W.H.
DODDS J.B.	PATTERSON N.
DOLPHIN C.E.	PATTISON R.
DOUGLAS T.	PEARSON J.A.
DUNN A.	PEARSON J.F.
DUNWOODIE A.	PHILIPS D.
DURKIN W.	PLUSE T.
EDGE J.W.	PRATT E.
ELLIOTT G.A.	PRESTON T.
EMBLETON W.C.	PURDY J.
ETHERIDGE W.	PYBUS T.
EYRE P.	REED C.
FAIRLESS G.	REED N.
FLOWER H.B.	RENTON J.
FORSTER F.	RHODES W.H.
FRASER W.C.	RICHARDSON O.
GLAISTER J.	RICHARDSON T.
GODDEN T.H.	ROBERTSON J.
GOLDTHORP S.T.	ROBSON J.
GORDON C.	ROBSON W.
GORTON V.J.	ROWAN E.
GOTTS J.A.	ROWE S.H.
GRAVES C.H.	ROWELL W.
GRAY J.	SAINT J.M.M.
GREY J.	SALMON H.

Read more about him on [World War 1 Records for Gottses](#)

WW1 Extra CWGC entries for Gottses

Posted by: lang at 16:57, July 30 2014.

The Royal British Legion have just released an online project called "Every Man Remembered"

You can search the CWGC records in a wider way. I have found these two entries for GOTTSS here:

LANCE CORPORAL FREDRICK WILLIAM GREEN

NORFOLK REGIMENT

DIED ON 12 MARCH 1917 AGE 27

AVELUY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, SOMME FRANCE

Husband of Charlotte Gotts (formerly Green), of The Green, Walcot, Norwich.

This is Charlotte 339 Clarke in tree #040 who married Frederick Green, then after he died she married Albert 338 Gotts.

HENRY FREDERICK CHARLES TAYLOR

ROYAL MARINE ENGINEERS

DIED ON 18 DECEMBER 1918 AGE 35

BANHAM (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION

NORFOLK UNITED KINGDOM

Son of Henry and Maria Taylor, of Banham husband of Ellen E. Gotts (formerly Taylor), of 4, Mount Pleasant. Diss, Norfolk.

This is Ellen E Taylor 3025 in tree #034 who married Leonard Henry 2022 Gotts. Two children were noted in the civil indexes as having the mother's name as ELSEY, so maybe that is her maiden name.

WW1 Prisoner of War: Matthew 489 Gotts in Tree #022

Posted by: lang at 09:48, August 7 2014.

Whilst trying to find out more about John Gotts who died at Arras in 1917, I was searching the records of the West Surrey (Queen's) Regiment, which are held at Surrey History Centre. I found a reference to a Matthew Gotts who was held a Prisoner of War:

Gotts M, Matthew Pte 11th 206999, from Mundesley on Sea, Norfolk, ref QRWS/1/5/1.

I already had Matthew's regimental number from Nick Gotts, who is Matthew's grandson, who knew that Matthew had been a POW but his grandfather had never talked about it.

[surreyhistorycentre](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre)

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre>

Surrey History Centre kindly sent me further details of the offline record:

Name M Gotts Regimental no. 206999, 11th Battalion, Queen's (RWS) Regiment

Date of record 16 July 1918, Prisoner of War camp: Cottbus Coy L9 Brandenburg, Prussia.

Name of adopter: Hon Sec. Mundesley War Relief Committee, Prospect Cottage, Mundesley

No. of parcels 28/-, 2.7/2

Next of kin, Wife, Mrs M Gotts, No.2 Ozone Villas, Mundesley on Sea, Norfolk.

Nick remembers his father mentioning Ozone Villas as his first home. And it appears that prisoners were formally sponsored by people at home, presumably to send food parcels etc.

The Battalion diaries for the Royal West Surrey Regiment have been put on line:

<http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/>

This leads to the [website:http://qrrarchive](http://qrrarchive), where you can select the battalion and date. I started at 16 July and worked back. The first missing person I've come across is 29th May, with an Other Ranks soldier reported missing. There may be earlier ones, but the trouble is that OR (Other Ranks) don't seem to be named. This is the entry:

May

29th Nothing of importance occurred during the day. Large fighting patrol consisting of 3 officers & 50 O.Rs. left our trenches at 1.4.d.2.8. to raid suspected post at 1.5.c.5.6. Enemy were encountered, 3 enemy being killed by 2/Lt.G. NEVELIAN, 2 others being accounted for by the remainder of the party. Patrol was caught in T.M. & M.G. barrage. On return of patrol, 1 O.R. was found to be missing.

Other entries show they were based near Potijze, near Ypres, Dilly Farm. On this map Potijze is marked with the arrow, and Dilly Farm is East and slightly South of it. So Matthew was presumably on patrol here when he was captured. If anyone can work out the map references to verify this please let me know. If you click on the map it should open a larger image in a new window.

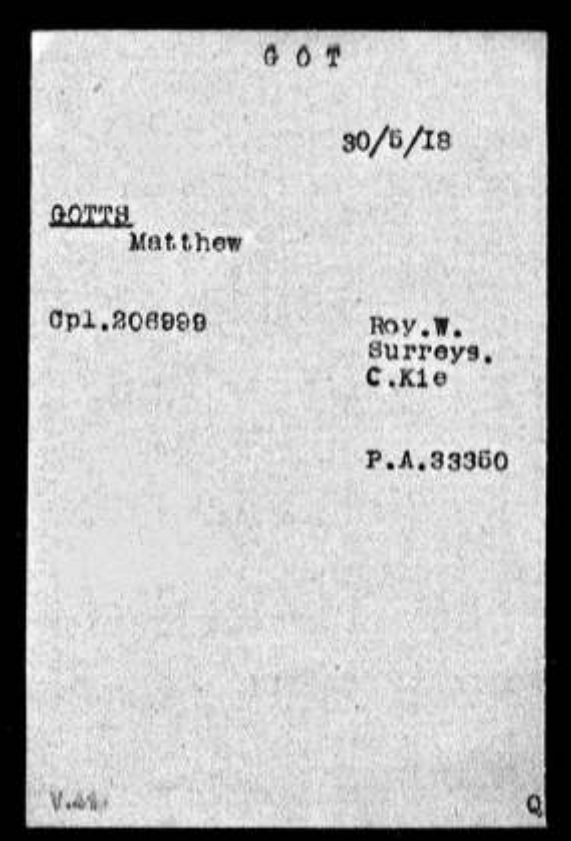


Cottbus POW Camp

Cottbus is in Germany, close to the Polish border, so Matthew must have been transported some 1000km. I then started trying to find out about Cottbus, the POW camp in Prussia, and found an entry on the Red Cross site: <http://grandequerre.icrc.org/>

Firstly on the 'Life in Internment Camps' tab I could see where Cottbus was, and that there were five camps in that area. Clicking on the map it took me to the visit report by ICRC on 18th December 1918, after the armistice. In particular it showed how many prisoners there were of each nationality, and almost all 1500 British POWs were in Cottbus 1. If anyone fancies translating it from French then I can provide the document as a pdf.

Also on the ICRC website are cards for each POW.



Matthew's card confirms his identity and points to an extra file PA 33350.

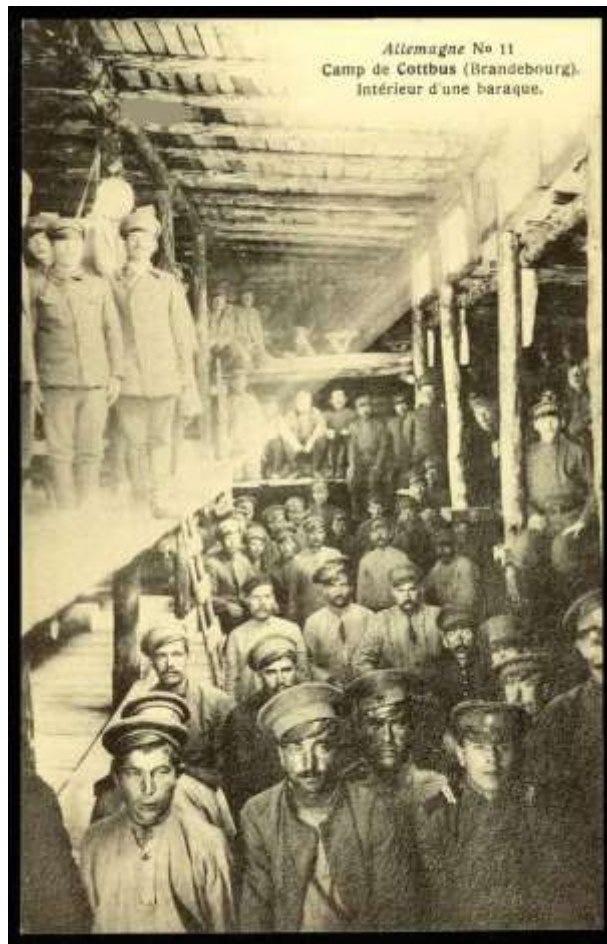
1	2	3	4	5	6
Lib. No.	a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur bei Rufname) c) nur bei Rufname Dienstadt des Dienstes	Dienst- grad	a) (Empfangs- b) (bei c) Stempel	a) Gefangenname (bei und Tag) b) (bei und Tag) c) vorstehender Auf- nahmeheft	a) Gefangenen- und -Ort b) Adresse des Mittels c) Delegation
473	JONES JAMES 1894	Pte	Bartholomew Harrison	Barry on 27.5.18 Hirson	1-2-18 Hirson Hirson Hirson
474	GOTTS MATTHEW 2068888	Opl	Surreys C	Ypres 30-5-18 Hirson	Harwich 30-5-18 Hirson Hirson Hirson

This shows the list sent by the POW Camp to the Red Cross with Matthew's details. I'm not a German expert, but it identifies him as a Corporal in Royal West Surreys, and I think it means C Company. I believe it says he was taken prisoner on 30 May 1918, (which matches my earlier investigation) at Ypres, and wasn't injured. Hirson is a place near Arras, so it is possibly where he was taken after being captured. It has his date of birth and next of kin.

Anecdotal evidence is that when soldiers were captured they were beaten up to reveal any intelligence of the enemy's intentions, strength and fortifications. This happened on

both sides. Also, the German soldiers were slowly starving by 1918 on meagre rations, so POWs would be at least as badly treated. So life would have been very hard for Matthew. He was lucky that it was only a matter of months presumably, until they were in better hands.

Lastly, on the ICRC website they have a series of postcards of POW camps, and four are of Cottbus. I have included one here, but I don't think these are British soldiers, more likely Russian. But it is likely that Cottbus 1 looked similar to this.



Thanks to Nick Gotts

WW1 Mark Edward 3273 tree #083 headstone

Posted by: lang at 14:29, August 6 2014.

Many thanks to you who replied to the latest news email who have found the latest posts interesting, and Andrew Zilm in tree #040/011 asked me to thank all the contributors to the website.

Marion Auffret in tree #083 sent through a photo of the headstone of Mark Edward 3273 Gotts at Houplines cemetery:



CWGC states:

Mark Edward Gotts, Private, Service No:4566.

Date of Death:18/09/1915 Age:30

Royal Fusiliers 9th Bn.

Grave Reference: III. B. 4. Cemetery:HOUPLINES COMMUNAL CEMETERY
EXTENSION

Husband of Charlotte Elizabeth Gotts, of 3A, Shandy St., Stepney, London.

Houplines is 2 kilometres east of the centre of Armentieres, 20 km south of Ypres, and the cemetery extension was established in 1914. Altogether it has 466 identified graves. It was used as a concentration cemetery for other smaller cemeteries in the area, so we can say that Mark would have been killed somewhere in the vicinity.

Photo is courtesy of CWGC.



Thanks to Marion for the photo.

Roll of Honour at the Tower of London: Gotts names being read out.

Posted by: lang at 14:25, August 21 2014.

At the Tower of London they are reading out the names of Soldiers who died in World War 1 when they sound the Last Post, every night until 11 November. I have submitted the names of all the Gottses I am aware of who died then. Most have been listed to be read on 26th August, next Tuesday. They are videoing these and will make them available online later.

Person	Gotts Ref no	Tree no	Date died	Service no	Rank	Regiment/Parents	No. in list on 26th Aug
Abraham	1564	016	27/09/1919	69871	private	Son of Mrs. E. E. Allport, of 44, Lever St., North Ormesby, Middlesbrough.	124
Arthur Walter	223	040	24/07/1916	25407	private	Son of William and Alice Gotts, of 100, Century Rd., Gt. Yarmouth.	90
Bertie George	724	034	05/01/1918	374557	gunner	Son of Marshall and Caroline Gotts, of Mundesley-on-Sea, Norfolk; husband of Rosie Gotts, of Cyder House, Pilgrims' Way, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.	102
Charles Herbert	2207	040	12/03/1915	3198	Lance Corporal	Son of the late John Gotts.	TBA
Clarence Augustus	1862	071	27/03/1918	31122	private	Son of Emily Louisa Gotts, of 60, Lea Bridge Gardens, Leyton, London, and the late Augustus James Gotts.	55
Frederick	1614	053	17/04/1917	5/45007	private	Son of Maria Gotts, of 355, South Boulevard, Hessle Rd., Hull, and the late Frederick Gotts	TBA
George	1096	040	27/02/1917	3/7088	private	Son of John and Alice Gotts, of Ridlington Common, Happisburgh, Norwich.	108
Herbert	2491	022	26/10/1917	22688	private	Son of James and Agnes Gotts, of 7, Tower St., Stockton-on-Tees.	63
J W (John William)	1396	040	23/04/1917	Z/4306	Leading seaman	Div. Son of William Henry and Mary Elizabeth Gotts, of 38, Cullercoats St., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	TBA
James Atkinson	433	040	01/07/1916	22/155	Lance Corporal	Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Gotts, of 43, Middle Row, Bates Cottages, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland.	50

John	?	?	23/04/1917	L/10881 /15127	private	Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 1st Battalion. Mother Mrs A Gotts, 113 Star Lane, Canning Town, London	58
L W W (Leslie William W)	2847	009	26/07/1916	30035	Sergeant	Royal Garrison Artillery,	137
M F (Marshall Frederick)	1316	034	15/09/1916	15156	private		99
Mark Edward	3273	083	18/09/1915	4566	private	Husband of Charlotte Elizabeth Gotts, of 3A, Shandy St., Stepney, London.	
Matthew	1561	022?	08/02/1916	102869	Sapper	No info	112
Maxwell William	224	040	25/03/1918	43446	Corporal	Son of William and Alice Gotts, of 160. Century Rd., Southtown, Great Yarmouth.	116
Samuel	1543	040/011	28/10/17	40946	private	Son of Mr & Mrs Gotts of 123, Grace St., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne (Alfred & Mary J Brown?)	71
Sidney	3456	108	16/04/1917	41012	private	Parents William and Elizabeth Gotts, of 229, Hillingdon St., Walworth, London	93
William Albert	1053	083	21/10/1914	13447	Sergeant	Son of Mrs. Gotts, of 112, Chandos Rd., Stratford, London; husband of E. Docking (formerly Gotts, of 34, Barclay Rd., Walthamstow. Essex.	78

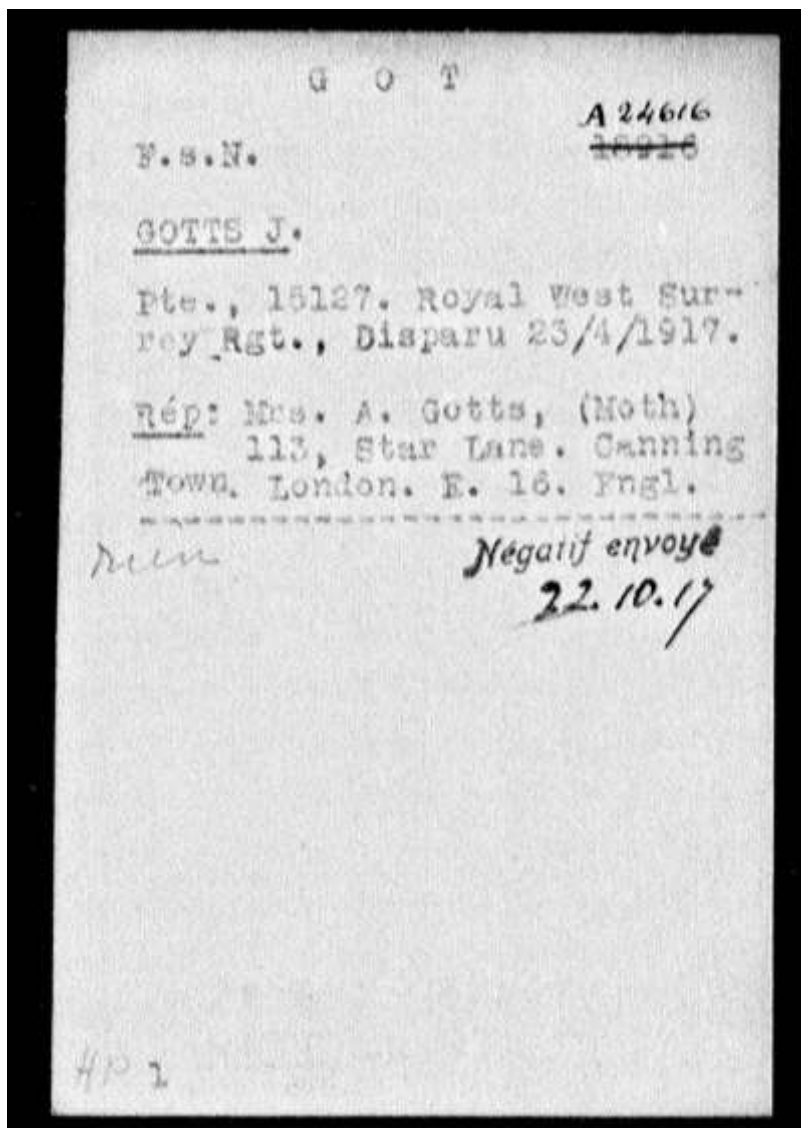
Mark Edward has already been nominated by Marion Auffret and read out on 19th August, and I am still waiting to hear when Charles Herbert, Frederick and John William are scheduled.

John Gotts who died at Arras - is he George John in tree #109?

Posted by: lang at 10:40, August 20 2014.

Earlier, I mentioned I didn't know who John Gotts was who is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

In the ICRC database, there is a card about John Gotts.



It shows his regimental number as 15127 in the Royal West Surrey Regiment, and the date he disappeared. The 'negatif envoyé' 22/10/17 means they wrote to the next of kin to say they have found no information about him. The next of kin is very interesting though: it is his mother, Mrs A Gotts, of 113 Star Lane, Canning Town, London E 16.

Marion Auffret has spotted a John George Gotts, born in Stepney in 1897, so would be 20 in 1917. He is the son of Annie Isabella 3200 Gotts, a widow by 1901 with a son John 3201 aged 14.

Possibles that I am aware of are:

- Annie 1166 nee Davenport of 26 West Hill Road, Wandsworth, London S W in tree 071: no sons John
- Annie 2958 of 36 Clapton Square, Lower Clapton, Hackney N E in tree 071: no information beyond her single in Rotherham in 1901
- Adelaide 1663 of 42 Gold St, Stepney E, Mile End Old Town in tree 083, but doesn't have a John we are aware of and not accounted for
- Alice 2168 nee Dummer of 79 Lyal Road, Bethnal Green in tree 083 married to Sidney John, but no known Johns. Sidney died in 1832, so he would have been the next of kin if alive
- Ann Eliza 1999 nee Owen of 55 St Thomas Road, Finsbury Park, Islington in tree 098 married to John: they had a son John William, who was married by 1911, so next of kin would be his wife not his mother
- Annie Isabella 3200 of 13 B Juniper Street, Shadwell, Stepney in tree 109, who has a son George John born in 1897, known as John in 1911 census
- Alice 3196 of 61 Fillebrook Rd, Leytonstone, West Ham in tree 109, but she is an unmarried servant and no known children

So Annie Isabella and John George are the most likely, unless someone can shed any more light on this?

John Gotts Rally driver in 1960's: anyone know him? - tree #071?

Posted by: lang at 14:27, September 26 2014.

On eBay there are currently two copies of Autosport which mention John Gotts a rally driver.

Here are the links:

1963

<http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/AUTOSPORT-DECEMBER-27-1963-HEALEY-STORY-JOHN-GOTTS-RALLY-RAND-GRAND-PRIX-/161433229609?ssPageName=ADME:B:SS:GB:3160>

1964

http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/151422667353?_trksid=p2055119.m1438.l2649&ssPageName=STRK%3AMEBIDX%3AIT

I don't know if the 1964 version has a photo of him on the front or not, but if someone wants an article with him mentioned then just click on the links.

If anyone knows which family he belongs to then please let me know.

Further Googling suggests he may be John Gotts: owner of the LaserMaster motorcycle team, based in Redruth. John also has a son Josh who appears to be doing well as part of that team. Lots of news items are available on this website:

TMOnline.net

<http://www.tmunonline.net/news/>

In Cornwall are descendants of Henry Shearman Gotts, in tree #071

From bully beef to sweet peas – Matthew 489 Gotts in tree #022

Posted by: lang at 08:17, October 1 2014.

Following on from the News Item on Matthew Gotts who was held prisoner during WW1 (7 Aug 2014), Ian Gotts of Kings Lynn and Nick Gotts, Matthew's grandson having been sharing what happened to Matthew after the war.

From Eric Reading's "A Mundesley Album" (Poppyland Publishing, 1985), p16, picked up at a second-hand bookshop in Norwich some time ago by Ian:

"The Head Gardener from 1905, Matthew Gotts, excelled in producing first class vegetables and flowers and exhibited at the Norfolk and Norwich shows, twice winning the Sutton Cup against all comers at the Sweet Pea Society's annual show."

Nick confirms that Matthew was head gardener and junior partner at the Mundesley Sanatorium. There's a book by the senior partner, a medic called Sydney Vere Pearson: "Men, Medicine and Myself", who seems to have been quite eminent, and himself a tuberculosis survivor.

"My father told me his father won first prize for sweet peas at the Chelsea Flower Show - but, class relations being what they were, the prize was officially awarded to Dr. Pearson!"

It's nice to reflect that Matthew probably found a sort of soothing tranquility at Mundesley's Sanatorium, when he was there after the war.

Thanks to Ian and Nick Gotts for this item.

Bertie Reginald 773 Gotts & Olive Dowsing: what happened next - Gotts/Witton Tree #038

Posted by: lang at 22:56, December 31 2014.

Chuck Newyar contacted me about Bertie Reginald 773 Gotts in Tree #038. He knows the history of Bertie and his wife Olive Dowsing:

Here's what he said:

"Bertie fought in France in WWI, was gassed in France, later went to fight in Mesopotamia against the Turks. When on leave he travelled in India.

Bertie Gotts and Olive Dowsing married and moved to Canada, establishing a homestead near Abernethy, Saskatchewan.

During the Second World War, Bertie was a camp guard at a German POW camp in the Kananaskis area of Alberta, about 60 km west of Calgary. After that he became a diesel engine engineer, and worked at the Steep Rock mine in Atikokan, Ontario, where they retired. Bertie and Olive died around 1980.

Bertie and Olive had two children while they were on the homestead: Olive Dorothy and Robert.

- Dorothy married Donald Newyar and had two sons: John Bruce, and Charles Timothy. (Chuck is Charles)
- Robert married Adeline and had three children: Brian, Naomi and Melanie, all of whom are married and have children.

I know that Naomi and Melanie, and Melanie's daughters, are in touch with relatives in England.

My father Donald Newyar and my uncle Robert Gotts passed away this year.

I have posted a photo album here (see FAMILY)

[Chuck Newyar](#)

<https://get.google.com/albumarchive/110904357514009903251/album/AF1QipPic62BiTfNia2w-WyzAN83Wl7cUmZmITAAQ7Tz>

It has many family photos from around the early 1900s, but I cannot identify all the people.

I am hoping that we can find out who these relatives were, before it gets forgotten. These would be people from the Stiffkey, Morsten, Blakeney area of Norfolk, most likely.

Please note that I have other relatives' photos there that are not Gotts. (Buchyns, Nieuwejaar, Newyar, Mason). I can organize it better in the future.

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2014

Also, I have about 6 full photo albums inherited from Bertie and Olive. I have many, many more historical photographs that I would like to distribute to the interested relatives. I hope to scan them all later this year, perhaps have a dedicated photo website, and mail them out on flash drive units."

If anyone can help identify any one in the photo albums, then contact him.

Chuck can be contacted on 403-803-4464 or email on cnewyar@gmail.com

More family identified of John Thurston 2539 Gotts in tree #108

Posted by: lang at 20:07, December 21 2014.

Cathy Bridges is the grand-daughter Jessie 2543 Gotts, the daughter of John Thurston Gotts and his third wife Sarah Goss.

Cathy has also identified that Jessie had a sister Martha.

She knows some of the history of this marriage:

"Sarah 2540 Goss was disowned by her family for marrying John Thurston 2539 Gotts. The reason for the estrangement has been lost in time. My grandmother, Jessie 2543 Gotts, remembered seeing her Grandmother Goss only once. Her grandmother had come to their house in a covered carriage. Sarah took baby Martha out to the carriage to show her the new baby. The visit lasted only a few minutes.

In 1904, the family entered the Hampstead Workhouse on New End Road. Sarah had cancer. John Thurston was 67 years old and had lost a leg at some point previously. The girls were sent to a Barnado's orphanage. George (2542) was sent to a non-Barnardo's orphanage. George, Jessie (2543) and Martha were shipped to Canada in 1908 and 1909 under the BHC British Home Children program. George joined the Canadian Army during WWI and was sent to Europe. He survived the war and remained in London. John Thurston remained in the Hampstead workhouse until his death in 1915."

Cathy has also been able to identify Frederick (2541), George, Jessie & Martha's brother, as one of the WW1 soldiers who I had not yet been able to fit into a tree yet, so that is excellent! She has also given me details of George's enlistment papers, which have the address and father's name which clearly shows he is George 2542.

Thanks very much to Cathy, and several pages of the website are now updated: Tree #108 page 1, and WW1 Summary 5 & 6.

Photo of Mark Gotts' butcher's shop in Brentwood on eBay -- tree #079

Posted by: lang at 07:20, November 1 2014.

This photo of Mark Gotts' butcher's shop appeared on eBay. This is how it was described:



A lovely characterful study of a butcher's shop c1890-1910. This is an original photograph, not a modern reproduction. All sorts of cuts of meat hanging up as well as sausages and rabbits. Two of the workers have their sharpening steels hanging in front of their aprons. And the one in the doorway holds up a butchers knife. The actual photograph measures 20.5 x 15cm. The reverse of the photograph has the photographers stamp of 'Rayner Green, Photographic Artist, Crescent Road, Brentwood Essex.' Mark Gotts appears in the 1901 census as being born in 1879, occupation Butcher and address of Kings Road Brentwood. Kings Road joins Brentwood High Street. So am not sure if this would be a separate home address or if he lived above the shop. Original glazed, maple veneer frame. Really interesting slice of local history.

This is Mark 1643, son of Jesse Nicholas and Sarah Tandy. The 1901 census entry they mention is:

Mark 1643 Head Male 22 1879 Butcher Essex Bulphan
Laurie E Farley Manageress s Female 24 1877 Manageress Essex Barking

Mark married Laurie in 1902. Presumably that is him in the doorway of his shop.
It's great for us to have access to the image.

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2014

Soldiers Wills in UK Probate Office

Posted by: lang at 11:32, November 1 2014.

The UK Probate office has a website where they have will indexes from 1995 to now, but also soldiers wills.

Looking at it we have some Gotts wills from WW1.

The website is:

[probatesearch](https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills)

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

Application to set up a place of worship in Watford in 1811: tree #071 (Bushey)

Posted by: lang at 08:28, December 16 2014.

Liberty of St Albans Quarter Sessions Easter 1811

There are two documents in Hertfordshire Archives & Library Service which describe an application to start a new church. The first is the minute book recording an application to start a place of worship in the house of James Webb in Watford. The Rolls contains the original application with the details of those applying and are much more interesting:

“To his Majesty's Justices of the Peace at the General Quarter Sessions held in the Parish and Liberty of St Albans and County of Herts.

That is to say that we whose names are undersigned do hereby give notice that we intend opening a room belonging to Mr James Webb at his house in Farthing Lane, in the parish of Watford and County of Herts for the public worship of God.

Dated this 25th day of April one thousand eight hundred and eleven at Watford Herts.

Ambrose Hanshen (Hanshew?)
Thomas Phrimpton (Plumpton?)
Henry Simmonds
Thomas Stone
Samuel Gotts
William Gotts
William Clark
James Webb”

This has been transcribed as part of the Hertfordshire County Record series published by William le Hardy in 1923, however looking at the original I have a different view of two of the names as marked in brackets.

Our interest is Samuel and William Gotts. Samuel was born in 1785 in Aldermaston, and William, his brother was born there in 1791, both sons of an Exciseman, who was moved round the Home Counties.

William was an Exciseman also, and he married Alice Hawtree from St Albans, but the marriage took place in 1816 in Heybridge, Essex. Quite why they married over there is unclear, but we know there was a strong Quaker community there. Alice and her daughter also called Alice, died in the Yarmouth Bridge disaster in 1845 where 82 people died, 60 of them children.

In 1851 Samuel is living in Bushey Village, a shoemaker, with his son William, an apprentice shoemaker. It seems that William took over the shoemaking business, and Samuel made his money as a watch & clockmaker. This extract from the Watford Leader of 30th January 1894 tells of William's death:

“Death of Mr William Gotts- Another native of Bushey, has passed away in the person of William Gotts boot & shoemaker of High Street, Bushey, who died on Sunday last after a long and painful illness. Mr Gotts was the son of Mr Samuel Gotts, well-known many years ago as the village clockmaker and noted also as an excellent shoemaker. The funeral takes place on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 at the parish church.”

I haven't been able to find out anything about the church they were trying to found: was it a Quaker church somewhere in Watford itself? Does anyone have any information on this?

