

THE LOST MEN  
Of  
CREETING ST. MARY

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



The Creeting St Mary War Memorial sits in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Creeting St Mary, it is in the form of a Celtic Cross mounted on a shaft atop a plinth with a one-stepped base all made from Cornish granite. There are sixteen names listed for World War 1 and four for World War 2. The memorial was unveiled on 15 February 1920 by Lt-Colonel Wylde and cost £150; the builder was Mr E E Saunders. Inside the church is a further scroll containing a roll of honour and two brass commemorative tablets.

A brief background of each of the "Lost Men" is given on the following pages.

Six of the "Lost Men" are laid to rest or otherwise acknowledged on gravestones in the churchyard. Let us all remember them with honour and remember that for our tomorrow they gave their today.

## 1914-1919

### ***PRIVATE PERCY BARKER***

Private G/43772 Percy George Barker was born in Needham Market c1894. He enlisted in the 1st Middlesex Regiment in Warley. He served in France & Flanders and was killed in action on 22nd September 1918 aged 24. He is remembered on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial Panel 8-9 and on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Mrs. H. A. Barker, of Creeting Hills, Needham Market, Suffolk. His body was never knowingly recovered.

### ***PRIVATE JAMES BRETT***

Private 23659 James William Brett was born in c1895 and enlisted in the 13th Durham Light Infantry. He served in France & Flanders from 25th August 1915 and died on 8th October 1915 aged 20. He is buried at Sailly-Sur-La-Lys Canadian Cemetery Grave I E 104 and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Harry and Eliza Brett, of Harleston Green, Stowmarket.

### ***PRIVATE JOHN BROWN***

Private 18933 John Robert Brown was born in Creeting St Mary. He enlisted in the 7th Suffolk Regiment in Bury St Edmunds. He served in France & Flanders from 15th December 1915 and was killed in action on 28th April 1917. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial Bay 4 and on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. His body was never knowingly recovered.

### ***PRIVATE EDWARD CHAPLIN***

Private 16219 Edward Chaplin was born in Creeting. He enlisted in the 9th Suffolk Regiment in Ipswich. He served in France & Flanders from 31st August 1915 and was killed in action on 9/16th September 1916. He is remembered on the Thiépval Memorial Pier & Face 1C&2A and on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. His body was never knowingly recovered.

### ***PRIVATE GEORGE CHAPLIN***

Private 201223 George Henry Chaplin was born in c1893. He originally enlisted as 3808 in the Suffolk Regiment in Ipswich later transferring to the 2nd Suffolks. He served in France & Flanders and was killed in action on 1st October 1918 aged 25. He is buried at Ribecourt Railway Cemetery Grave D2 and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of William and Annie Chaplin, of 20, Cross Road, Lexden, Colchester.

### ***2nd LIEUT. HENRY W. F. COOPER***

2nd Lieutenant Henry Frank Weatherly Cooper was born in c1881. He enlisted in the 7th Royal Fusiliers. He served in France & Flanders and died on 29th April 1917 aged 36. He is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Grave III. H. 34 and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Thomas Henry Cooper, M.R.C.S., and Emma Eliza, his wife. B A. of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

### ***CORPORAL SYDNEY DAY***

Corporal 20553 Sydney Ernest Day was born in Needham c1889. He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps King's Own in Needham and was attached to the 1st Battalion Royal Lancaster Regiment. He served in France & Flanders from 24th August 1914 and was killed in action on 1st July 1916 aged 27. He is buried at Sucrierie Military Cemetery, Colincamps Grave I. I. 80 and is remembered on Creting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Ernest and Ellen Day, of Needham Market; husband of Maud Mary Day, of Fen Farm, Creting St. Mary, Needham Market.

### ***SERGEANT GEORGE GROOM***

Sergeant 16581 George Alfred Groom was born in Ipswich. He enlisted in the Royal Horse Artillery 'T' Battery in London. He served in France & Flanders from 5th October 1914 and died of wounds on 25th July 1916. He is buried at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe Grave II. C. 59 and is remembered on Creting St Mary War Memorial. In the 1911 census he was aged 32, son of Ellen Groom (a widow), Coachman in Hotel Yard, born creting St Mary and resident with his mother at Creting Hills, Creting St Mary."

### ***SERGEANT CHARLES WILLIAM LUSHER***

Sergeant 5658 Charles William Lusher was born in Hitchen Suffolk c1882. He enlisted in the 9th Suffolk Regiment in Bury St Edmunds. He served in France & Flanders from 10th October 1914 and was killed in action on 8th August 1916 aged 34. He is buried at Auchonvillers Military Cemetery Grave II. G. 1 and is remembered on Creting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Charles Lusher, of Stowmarket, Suffolk; husband of Mrs. Lusher (now Allum), of 7, Paynters Row, Halstead. He also served in the South African campaign.

### ***PRIVATE JAMES MAYHEW***

Private 15698 James Robert Mayhew was born in Creting All Saints c1894. He enlisted in the 2nd Suffolk Regiment in Ipswich. He served in France & Flanders from 27th July 1915 and died on 22nd February 1916 aged 22. He is buried at Creting St Mary Churchyard and is remembered on Creting St Mary War Memorial. He was the only son of James and Jane

### ***PRIVATE FREDERICK MICKLEY***

Driver M/283792 Frederick W A Mickley was born in Ilford. He enlisted in the Army Service Corps Royal Garrison Artillery in Greenwich and was attached to the 265th Siege Battery. He served in France & Flanders and died of wounds on 28th October 1918. He is buried at Awoingt British Cemetery Grave II. D. 19 and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the husband of M. Mickley of Needham Market.

### ***PRIVATE ARTHUR WILLIAM MILLER***

Private 201241 Arthur Robert William Miller was born in c1897. He enlisted in the 4th Suffolk Regiment 'B' Company in Ipswich. He served in France & Flanders and was killed in action on 20th July 1916 aged 19. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial Pier & Face 1C & 2A and on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Miller, of Red Houses, Creeting St. Mary, Needham Market **He is mentioned on his parents gravestone in the churchyard** His father Cornelius died in 1920 and his mother Elizabeth in 1949, the solitary word "United" below all their names. His body was never knowingly recovered.

### ***PRIVATE HORACE RACE***

Private 43358 Horace Victor Race was born in c1893. He originally enlisted as 1942 in the Suffolk Regiment in Ipswich, later transferring to the 2nd Suffolks. He served in France & Flanders and was killed in action on 28th April 1917 aged 24. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial Bay 4 and on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Mrs. M. A. Race, of Norwich Road, Creeting St. Mary. His body was never knowingly recovered.

### ***ABLE SEAMAN FREDERICK TAYLOR***

Able Seaman London/Z/3577 Frederick Taylor was born on 16th February 1897. He enlisted in the Royal Naval Division Nelson Battalion on 18th October 1915. He was 5 feet 2½ inches tall with brown hair, grey eyes and a medium complexion and was a labourer residing at Causeway in Hitcham at the time of his enlistment. He served in France & Flanders from September 1916 and received a gunshot wound in the skull and spine on 8th June 1917 resulting in a compound fracture. He was brought back to England and treated in King George's Hospital, Stamford Street where his condition deteriorated before he died at 8:15pm on 19th July 1917 aged 20. He is buried at Creeting St Mary Churchyard and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of the late Alfred and Jane Taylor of Creeting St Mary

***CAPTAIN CECIL ROBERT TIDSWELL***

Captain, Cecil Robert Tidswell, born circa 1880. Served in the 1st (Royal) Dragoons and 19th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. Killed in action on 16th October 1916, aged 36. Buried in Isolated Grave near Etricourt, Pas de Calais, France. Son of Richard H Tidswell, of 49, Wilton Crescent, Wimbledon, London. In 1911 he was serving as a Captain in 1st (Royal) Dragoons in Muttra, India, born Needham Market, Suffolk.

***DRIVER FREDERICK WOOLNOUGH***

Driver 110207, 19th Battery, 9th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 28 April 1919. Aged 20. Son of William and Sabina Woolnough, of Creeting St. Mary. In the 1911 census he was aged 12, at school, born Foulridge, Lancashire, resident with his mother, father, grandfather and six siblings in Red Houses, Creeting St Mary. His death was registered in the April to June Quarter 1919 in the Bosmere Registration District, Suffolk. He was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal. Buried in the south west part of Creeting St Mary Churchyard, Suffolk

## 1939-1945

***CORPORAL JACK BALDRY***

Corporal 5825820 Charles William Jack Baldry served in the Suffolk Regiment. He died on 27th September 1943 aged 29. He is buried at Creeting St Mary Churchyard and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of William Joseph and Maud Baldry, of Creeting St Peter; husband of Edith Mary Baldry, of Stowmarket.

***PRIVATE ALEC HAMMOND***

Private 5825345 Alec Gordon Hammond served in the 1st Suffolk Regiment. He died on 19th June 1944 aged 31. He is buried at La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres Grave I. F. 2 and is remembered on Creeting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of Walter Cecil and Gertrude Sarah Hammond; husband of Phyllis Irene Hammond, of Forward Green.

### **BOMBARDIER JOHN HUNT**

Bombardier 916636 John William Hunt served in the Royal Horse Artillery 107 (The South Notts. Hussars) Regiment. He died on 1st October 1944 aged 25. He is buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery Plot 6. Row A. Grave 1 and is remembered on Creting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of William and Helen Elizabeth Hunt, of Needham Market.

### **BOMBARDIER ARTHUR SWAIN**

Bombardier 909608 Arthur Patrick Swain served in the Royal Artillery 67 Medium Regiment. He died on 21st June 1942 aged 23. He is buried at Tobruk War Cemetery Grave 10. D. 13 and is remembered on Creting St Mary War Memorial. He was the son of George Sleath Swain and Margaret Swain, of Needham Market.

## **Not on war Memorial**

### **SERGEANT ETHELWYN WAKE**

Reserve Field Company, 1st London Division, Royal Engineers who died on 20th December 1915. He appears to have no foreign service and also no local connections, and his residence is recorded as Bristol. I can only assume that he died locally and having no known relatives was buried locally. His headstone, which had become worn, was recently replaced with a new one by the CWGC.

### **HUGH COSSONS**

Suffolk Regiment, cyclist Batt. Died April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1915 in his 19<sup>th</sup> year. Mentioned on his parents gravestone.

### **P. C. WEST**

Lieutenant killed in action 1918. Mentioned on his parents gravestone.

### **ALFRED NEWBOULD**

Killed in action 1917. Mentioned on his wife's gravestone

### **JOHN HAYWOOD GODFREY FRANKLIN**

Flying officer RAF, killed on duty in Iraq 11<sup>th</sup> October 1924 aged 20 years. Interred in the British War cemetery at Basra. Mentioned on the family gravestone.

**Memorials within the church:**

***SGT. GEORGE A. GROOM***

A brass tablet to Sergeant George Groom

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF SGT. GEORGE A. GROOM RHA, WHO DIED FOR HIS COUNTRY JULY 25th 1916. BURIED IN FRANCE".

***LIEUT. WILLIAM JAMES AND 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUT. DOUGLASS JAMES***

A brass tablet to two brothers,

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF WILLIAM DOUGLASS JAMES. LIEUT. ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY. AGED 23 WHO FELL IN ACTION IN THE BATTLE OF LOOS ON SEPT 25TH 1915. ALSO DOUGLASS CHARLES JAMES. 2ND LIEUT. SOUTH STAFFORD SHIRE REGT. AGED 20 WHO DIED AT VERSAILLES ON SEPT. 3rd FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED IN THE SAME ACTION. THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THEIR SISTER EVELYN MARY FLEETWOOD OF CREETING RECTORY".

Their grandfather was Sir James Nicholas Douglass FRS (1826 - 1898) a pioneering lighthouse builder and Engineer in Chief of Trinity House. He designed Longships Lighthouse off Land's End.

***DENNIS CHAPLIN***

Son of Charles W. Chaplin, died whilst a POW in Japan, July 18th 1943, aged 26. Mentioned on his father's gravestone