

The Boys On The Ombersley School War Memorial

The Ombersley School war memorial and roll of honour lists all of the old boys who died during World War One. There is another war memorial in Sytchampton School for their Old Boys.

Many of these men are also recorded on the village war memorial cross beside the churchyard, the list of the fallen behind the altar in the church and on the Roll of honour in the Memorial Hall.

The information on this list has been researched by Jeanette Horn, Julia Letts and Jenni Waugh in November 2017.

1. Percy Biddle died aged 19. He lived at Court stables in Ombersley and worked as a gardener. He had 3 brothers and a sister who were probably all at our school. We know one brother also went in the army and was wounded, and another brother was given permission to leave school early to do war work.
2. James Blount died from his wounds whilst at sea after the Battle of Gallipoli in August 1915. The news had filtered through to Ombersley by September and his death is recorded alongside 3 others on 14th September. He was born in Ombersley and had two brothers.
3. Wilfred Brookes was the eldest of 10 children born to Walter and Bertha Brookes. The family lived at Hadley and Wilfred worked on a farm before enlisting. He died a week after his 19th birthday in August 1916 and is buried at a cemetery in France. Several of his brothers and sisters are mentioned in our school log book.
4. Harry Brown was a farm labourer and lived in Racks Lane with his wife Ellen. Their marriage was registered in 1916 and we think they had three children, the youngest of which was probably born after Harry's death in October 1917. Harry was 29 when he was killed in France.
5. Albert Butler grew up in Oldfield Lane in Ombersley and went to our school. He lied about his age and joined the Worcestershire Regiment when he was 17. Albert fought at Gallipoli but became sick and was taken to Malta on a hospital ship. Sadly he died there aged just 18 and a half.
6. Albert Davis was a carter on a farm before the war. He grew up in Ombersley with a brother and two sisters. He was killed in March 1918 aged 23. His brother Howard also served and is listed on the Roll of Honour in the School Log book.

7. Allen Davis lived in Uphampton and worked on a farm. He was in the Worcestershire regiment and we think he died a couple of weeks after Armistice Day in 1918 aged 23.
8. Harry Farmer is listed as a horseman on a farm before the war. At this time he is living in Haye Lane in Ombersley with 2 sisters and a brother who were all at our school. He served with the Worcestershire Regiment. Harry died aged 26 a few months after the war ended in January 1919. He is buried in our churchyard.
9. Brothers Percy and Roland Green were born into a large family in Ombersley and by 1911 they were living on a farm at Elmbridge. At some point during the next couple of years they moved to Ontario in Canada where they worked as farmers and by 1914 they had both enlisted in the Canadian Infantry. Roland was killed in 1916 and Percy in 1918. Percy was awarded a medal for gallantry. Both brothers are buried in France. A younger brother Oswin also attended our school and served in the war.
10. Roland Green (see above)
11. Albert Hicks's job before the war is listed as a pantry boy at Malvern College. He was born in Ombersley and had an older brother and 2 sisters. He joined up in 1915 and died 2 years later in France aged 21. His brother John is also on the Roll of Honour in the school log book.
12. Albert Hill was 30 when he died of his wounds when fighting at Gallipoli in June 1915. Before the war he was a farm hand, living at Pope's Hole Farm near Hadley. He was married to Elisabeth and had 3 small children. The school log book reports that his brother Ernest was dangerously wounded at around the same time as Albert died, but we think Ernest survived.
13. Herbert Hobday died in September 1916 aged 23. He lived in Sinton cottages in Ombersley with his parents and was also a farm labourer. He had three younger sisters Lily, Annie and Dorothy who almost certainly attended our school. All three remained in the local area for the rest of their lives.
14. Albert Miles was one of the first 4 Ombersley boys to be killed in the war. His death is reported in the school log book in September 1915. The Miles family lived at Brant House in Ombersley. There were four boys and they all served in the armed forces. Albert was killed, and two other brothers were wounded.

15. William Morris was married to Lilian and had 2 children when he died in 1915 aged 30. He was born in Ombersley to George and Ann Morris, and had a brother called Thomas. His occupation was listed as 'Repairer (below ground)' which suggests he was a mine engineer. He is buried in Alexandria, Egypt.
16. Reginald Moule had three brothers and two sisters and lived at Skeys farm near Hartlebury. After leaving our school, he joined his father on the farm and was also a scout leader. Reg was killed in Iraq in 1917 aged 21. It was a terrible day for his battalion who lost 340 men in battle. There are lots of references to Moules in the school log book and these may be siblings or relatives.
17. Wilfred Page was the son of Ombersley School's headmaster, William Page who wrote in the log book on 30th October 1916 "We have received official information that our son Wilfred was killed in action". On the same day poor Mr Page also heard that his son-in-law had been killed, as well as 2 other old boys from the school. Wilfred was 32.
18. George Philips was 21 when he died at Gallipoli in Turkey. He lived on Haye Lane at the north end of our village. George had a sister and 2 older brothers, Thomas and William. They all went to our school and all three boys joined the army.
19. Alfred Smith was married to Florence and was working as a farm labourer when he enlisted. He lived in Racks Lane in Ombersley. His death was reported by the headmaster in the school log book in September 1915. He is buried at a cemetery in Egypt.
20. Herbert Smith lived in Powers Cottage in Ombersley with his wife Lily. He was 40 and had three young children – one daughter Lilian is mentioned in the school log book. Herbert died in July 1915 in the Battle of Gallipoli and is buried in Turkey.
21. Joseph Weston came from Uphampton, and was the son of James and Mary. He was part of a big family with 3 brothers and 2 sisters. He was 20 when he died in June 1917. His grave is in our churchyard.
22. Frederick and Reginald Wild were killed on the same day in the same battle. They were born in Ombersley but at some point emigrated to Canada. Their parents George and Mary Ann are listed as living in Ontario at the time of their sons' deaths. Fred was a carpenter and Reg a farmer. They both joined the Canadian Light Infantry and were killed in Belgium aged 27 and 22. The roll

of honour in the school log book names two other Wilds, William and Arthur, and a newspaper cutting from 1915 has pictures of three Ombersley brothers, two of which were killed and one wounded.

23. See above

24. George Wood was born in Ombersley and went to school in the village before starting work on a local farm. His parents Thomas and Emma Wood had 5 boys and 3 girls. There are three other Woods listed on the Roll of honour in the school log book – Edwin, Richard and Thomas. Four Wood boys fought in the war but only three came home. In April 1918 George was listed as 'missing in action' in France.