



## Summer News Extra Friends of Spital Cemetery FoSC July 2021 Cemetery Stories

Denise Masters contacted us for help to find the plaque to a relative whose cremated remains are in Spital Cemetery and on hearing about our service at Dawn on Anzac Day sent us this item about her relative, George Hewitt.

### About George Hewitt by Denise Masters

*'George was the husband of my great grandmother, Mary. Mary gave birth to my grandfather, Albert in 1895. She went on to marry George Hewitt in December 1900 at the register office and had two more children, Gladys and Edgar. Emilio de Chiro is the grandson of Edgar Hewitt.*

*George had died from wounds on 9th August 1915. This article was on the front page of the Derbyshire Courier on Tuesday 21st September 1915.*

#### *Fate of a Chesterfield Reservist*

#### *Ashantee, South Africa and Gallipoli*

*Chesterfield continues to pay a heavy price for her patriotism. one of the latest additions to the roll of the fallen is Private George Hewitt, 9th Sherwood Foresters. Notification of his death was received from the War Office on Friday by his wife, who lives at 4, Whitehouses, Hasland Road, Stoney Bridge, Chesterfield.*

*Aged 39 years, Private Hewitt, who in civil life worked as a miner at Markham No. 1 Colliery, was called up as a reservist at the outbreak of war. He had previously served 10 years and 10 months with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and was considered by his superiors as a highly efficient soldier, both in the infantry and mounted units. His army credentials were excellent. He had four good conduct badges. He was also the proud possessor of the Ashantee star. During the South African campaign he was picked out for service with the mounted brigade, but was kept*



**PRIVATE G. HEWITT,  
CHESTERFIELD  
(Killed).**

*back at the eleventh hour for hospital duties on account of the large number of enteric fever cases.*

*On being called up at the outbreak of war he was attached to the 9th Sherwood Foresters, and was chosen as officer's servant to Lieut. Brown. Going out with the Battalion on 1st June, he saw much of the fighting at the Dardanelles, having amongst his comrades the brave Australians.*

*"He was a soldier of the bravest type" said the wife to a "Courier" representative. "He liked a soldier's life, and it was his express wish that he should die a hero's death. His one request was that at his death he should be given a military funeral."*

*While in the army Private Hewitt took a keen interest in football, and it is claimed that he scored the goal which won for his battalion the Leinster League Cup. He was chosen one of the guard of honour to the late Queen Victoria when she visited Ireland.*

*Before leaving England Private Hewitt captured a large spider which he sent to his wife. Among the souvenirs which he has sent home are a number of Australian and French coins and a piece of shrapnel from which he narrowly escaped being struck.*

*It is considered a strange incident by the members of his family that while private Hewitt was sitting at home during his farewell visit a dove flew into the house and settled upon his knee. Since his departure the bird declined to leave the house, although at liberty.*

*Private Hewitt has a number of relatives serving with the Colours, including Sergt Holland, 11th Sherwood Foresters (British Expeditionary Force), Foresters (British Expeditionary Force), Private Albert Widdowson, K.O.Y.L.L. and Sapper J. Hardy, Royal Engineers. A brother of Sapper Hardy is at present a prisoner of war in Hanover, having been there since the early part of the war.'*

## **Annie Siddall**

by Norman

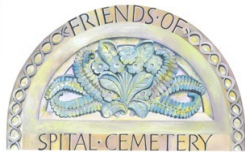
*"My mum, Betty, was Annie Barnard's Granddaughter. Betty had lost her father, Ernest, Annie's only son, when she was 5. Betty was always told that her grandmother, Annie, had died. She never knew any different. One day she was looking through a book about Staveley in the 90s and saw a photo of them at Lowgates Church. Betty had always tried to find Annie's grave but failed. I decided to search for her and contacted the Friends. Recently my mum turned 90 and it had always been something she wanted to do. Finally I could take her to visit the grave. The photo is of Betty beside the grave, holding a photo of Annie.*



*Annie Siddall born 13/7/1884 to Richard Siddall and Mary Siddall in Lightwood lane Eckington. Baptised 16/8/84. Mum Mary died in November 1894. January 1885 Dad Richard was on trial for assaulting three of the sisters. In March he received 10yrs with 2yrs hard labour. In 1901 Annie was working as a general servant in New Whittington. Annie married William Barnard 22/12/1906. Son Ernest was born 2/3/1909. 1911 Annie was living in Staveley with William and her son Ernest, also Richard, her father and her brother Albert.*

*Annie suffered much loss in her life. Her sister Beatrice died in July 1919, her father Richard died in September 1921, her sister Ada died in October 1925, and her brother Albert died in January 1926.*

*On the 21/5/1929 Annie was admitted to Mickleover Pastures Hospital. We have evidence she came out on day trips but no evidence she was ever discharged. Several searches shows in the 1939 census Annie was still in there. We think she was in there for 28 and a half years. Her son, Ernest, died 11/7/1936, aged 27 with complications of the lungs working at the Staveley works. Annie was not present at the funeral. Her husband, William, died 7/3/1952. Annie died at Scarsdale Hospital on the 28/10/1957, and is buried in grave 603 in Spital Cemetery."*



Friends of Spital Cemetery seek to promote Spital Cemetery as a haven for wildlife, and a place of remembrance, heritage and learning for the community.

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