

# Lawford War Memorial

*These Men of Lawford gave their Lives for their Country.*



*This is the record of their Honour and of our Gratitude.*

# Lawford

## ***These Men of Lawford gave their Lives for their Country.***

It was some while after the end of the war before the movement to set up local 'memorials' came about. There were long debates in places as to who should lead this and what form they should take. One typical discussion was whether to go for a new Memorial Village Hall, playing field or other 'useful' notion, rather than a monument.

Lawford War Memorial is situated on the corner of Church Road and Wignall Street, almost opposite Ogilvie Hall.

The Memorial's face commemorates those men of Lawford who gave their lives for their country in both the First and Second World Wars.

There are eight names from World War One and six from World War Two.

Upon two sides of this memorial are also listed the names of 79 men who also served in the Great War. Of the three War Memorials in Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley, this is the only one that records the names of those who survived, these included a number of brothers.

In 1911 Lawford had a rural population of 900 souls, with 450 males of all ages. Of the 8 names listed as dying, none overlap with Manningtree or Mistley memorials.

About a fifth of the entire male population served, and about ten percent of these died, two percent of the male population lost to the war. This is in stark contrast to the Manningtree Memorial which records 47 lost, and Mistley where 60 are listed as War dead.

The following information is taken from the records of Lawford Parish Council:

*'On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 1919 a Parish Meeting was held at the Club Hall (now Ogilvie Hall) at 7pm to discuss a War Memorial for the Parish. It was proposed by Reverend R G Whytehead and seconded by Mr Whitney that Mr W H Richardson be Chairman of the meeting. The Chairman spoke a few words of deep appreciation of all those who had taken part in the war, out of 80 who had gone from this Parish, seven had given their lives (note eight names are recorded on the memorial), suggestions were then asked for from those present as to the form a War Memorial should take in the Parish, if a Monument was decided on, a suitable site had been offered by Mr Nichols, at the corner of Lawford Hall Park, opposite the Club Hall. The following resolution was moved by Mr E K N Whitney, seconded by Reverend R G Whytehead and carried unanimously that "A Monument be erected on the site given by Mr Nichols, with the names of all who had fallen inscribed on one side, and on the other side the names of all who had taken part in the War, from this Parish. The Monument be suitably nailed in." A Committee was then formed to carry out the work, and to collect funds, consisting of Reverend R G Whytehead, Messrs Ogilvie, Nicholls, Booth, Richardson, Whitney and Lamb, with power to add to their members.*



*It was proposed by J W Burrows, seconded by Mr Weeden, and carried unanimously. Mr H Burrows to be Treasurer and Secretary which was proposed by Mr Baker, seconded by Mr Payne, and also carried unanimously. A note of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.'*

There is then no mention of the War Memorial until a Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 1921 when it was proposed by Reverend R G Whytehead, seconded by Mr Whitney, that the parish Council agree to the suggestion of the War Memorial Committee that the Memorial be handed over to the Parish Council in trust for the Parish. This was carried unanimously.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1921 the draft Deed of Gift of the War Memorial site was read and approved by the Council. A year later a letter was read from Mr Nichols enclosing the Deed of Gift of the War Memorial site, also cheque of £5-2-5 being balance in hand from the War Memorial Fund. The clerk was directed to write and thank him on behalf of the Council.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 1923 the attention of the Council was called to the need of cleaning and re-lettering the War Memorial, as the names could scarcely now be read. It was proposed by Mr Lamb and seconded by Mr Bettis the letters on the War Memorial be painted black, and the Clerk was directed to obtain estimates for cleaning the stone and painting the letters, and to bring the matter forward at the next meeting. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1923 estimates for cleaning and painting the War Memorial were produced. Mr C S Simppors' being £2-5-0 and Mr E Caut £3-18-0. It was resolved that the lowest tender be accepted.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 1929 it was reported that the War Memorial was again in need of attention and a small Committee was appointed on the proposition of Mr Crisp seconded by Mr Seager, consisting of Canon Hadland, the Chairman and Clerk to inspect and report to a later meeting.

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1929 it was agreed to tidy up the War Memorial, paint the posts and have the path gravelled, and afterwards ask the British Legion to attend to it periodically and keep it in order. This was proposed by Mr Seager, seconded Mr Payne, and carried unanimously.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 1929 a letter was read out from the local branch of the British Legion, offering to take over care of the War Memorial, this offer was accepted unanimously with thanks, and an amount of £1-4-6 was passed to be paid in conjunction with painting the posts and general tidying up of the Memorial carried out by the Parish Council. It was proposed by Mr Seager, seconded by Mr Chaplin and carried unanimously that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr H J Poole for giving the Guard for the path around the Memorial.

Due to weathering and the fact that the names were becoming increasingly unreadable, in 2007 Lawford Parish Council submitted plans to refurbish the War Memorial, and in March 2008 the work on the War Memorial was completed and stands as we see it today.

**Acknowledgments.** Work on the Lawford memorial was a joint effort by Andy Baker of the Manningtree and District Royal British Legion and Philip Cunningham - Manningtree Museum & Local History Group (Charity 297543). Thanks also to all the relatives who provided information and photographs.  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

# Lawford Memorial

*In alphabetical order by surname*

01	Ernest Baalham	31 <sup>st</sup> October 1916
02	Bertie Barton	1 <sup>st</sup> September 1918
03	J Bruce	Not Known
04	James Denny	27 <sup>th</sup> January 1917
05	Arthur Gardiner	5 <sup>th</sup> July 1917
06	Percy Parmenter Lamb	28 <sup>th</sup> April 1917
07	Charles Theophilus Rudge	11 <sup>th</sup> April 1917
08	William Rudge	12 <sup>th</sup> May 1917

*Note there is an Arthur George Barton on Manningtree Memorial*

<p>1. E Baalham</p> <p>Born 1898 Lawford, Essex</p>	<h2 style="color: #E67E22;">Ernest Baalham</h2>	<p>Killed in action 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916 Aged 18</p> <p>Pas de Calais France</p>
<p>Enlisted Warley</p>	<p>1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment (formerly 28653, Suffolk Regiment)</p>	<p>Private 40020</p>

**1901:** Ernest (aged 4) was living with his father Tillett (an Agricultural Labourer), mother Annie, older sister Ethel (aged 8) and younger brother Stanley (aged 1) in Wignall Street, Lawford.

It would appear that Ernest's mother Annie died in the first quarter of 1911, her death being registered in Tendring.

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is buried at Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoue  
Brother of Mrs. E. A. Rogers, of Wignal St, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex.

2. B Barton

Born 1900  
Lawford,  
Essex

Enlisted  
Chelmsford

## Bertie Barton

Royal Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, London  
Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)  
(formerly TR/13/61053 53<sup>rd</sup> Kings  
Royal Rifle Corps)

Killed in action  
1<sup>st</sup> September  
1918.  
Aged 18

France

Private  
92337

**1911:** Bertie (aged 11) was living with father Edward (a GER Platelayer), mother Lucy and his older brother Edward at Railway Cottage, Station Road, Lawford.

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, France.

3. J Bruce

Born

**J Bruce**

Enlisted

As yet unidentified

If you have any information on this family please contact Manningtree  
Museum.

<p>4. J Denny</p> <p>Born 1894 Lawford, Essex</p> <p>Enlisted Colchester</p>	<h2 style="color: orange;">James Denny</h2> <p>Essex Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion</p>	<p>Killed in action 27<sup>th</sup> January 1917 Aged 23</p> <p>Somme France</p> <p>Corporal 10747</p>
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**1901:** James (aged 7) was living with his father George (an Agricultural Labourer), mother Harriett, sisters Thurma (aged 12) and Gertrude (aged 2) and brothers George (aged 9) and Edward (aged 5) at Bloomfields, Lawford.

**1911:** James (aged 17) was living with his father George (a Domestic Gardener), mother Harriett, sisters Gertrude (aged 12), Mary (aged 9) and Daisy (aged 7) and brothers Edward (aged 15) and Percy (aged 1) at Kennel Cottage, Lawford. He is shown employed as a Farm Labourer.

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, entered Theatre of War 1<sup>st</sup> December 1915.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.  
Son of Mr & Mrs G.H. Denny of Kennel Cottages, Lawford.



5.A Gardiner

## Arthur Gardiner

Killed in action  
5<sup>th</sup> July 1917  
Aged 29

Born 1888  
Boxted, Essex

Belgium

Enlisted  
Colchester

Royal Garrison Artillery,  
29<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery

Gunner  
50189

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, entered Theatre of War 1<sup>st</sup> September 1915.

He is buried at Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension

Son of Mr G. Gardiner of Dale Hill Cottage, Lawford.

<p>6. P Lamb</p> <p>Born 1888 Manningtree</p>	<p><b>Percy Parmenter Lamb</b></p>	<p>Killed in action 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917 Aged 29</p> <p>Arras</p>
<p>Enlisted Ipswich</p>	<p>Suffolk Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion</p>	<p>Corporal 12124</p>

**1911:** Percy (aged 23) was living with his father Charles (a Smith), mother Elizabeth, older brother Albert (aged 29) and younger sister Ethel (aged 21) in Wignall Street, Lawford. He is shown as being an Out of Employment Footman.

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, entered Theatre of War 30<sup>th</sup> May 1915.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 1917 Probate was granted at Ipswich to Charles Henry Lamb Blacksmith. Effects of £140 12 shillings.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial

Son of Charles Henry & Sarah Elizabeth Lamb of Lawford.

7. C Rudge

Born 1894  
Lawford,  
Essex

Enlisted  
London

## Charles Theophilus Rudge

Household Battalion

Killed in action  
11<sup>th</sup> April 1917  
Aged 25

Pas de Calais  
France

Corporal of  
Horse  
3102

**1901:** Charles (aged 10) was living with his father James (Milkman on Farm), brothers Walter (aged 17) and Henry (aged 12) and sister Gerty (aged 14), and his nephew William (aged 5) in Hungerdown Lane, Lawford. Also living in the house was Florence Humphreys (Housekeeper) and her son Earnest (aged 2).

It would appear that Charles' mother Letitia (born 1851) died in 1899, aged 48, when he was just 5 years old.

**1911:** Charles (shows as aged 16 but probably 19/20) was living with his father James (Working on farm), stepmother Maria, older brother Walter (shown as 25) and his nephew William (aged 15) in Hungerdown Lane, Lawford. Charles is shown working as a Farm Labourer.

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, entered Theatre of War 5<sup>th</sup> August 1915

He is buried at Athies Communal Cemetery Extension

Son of James & Letitia Rudge of Lawford.

His nephew William also fell (see next page).

8. W Rudge

Born 1896  
Lawford or  
Manningtree

Enlisted  
Ipswich

## William Rudge

Royal Field Artillery  
65<sup>th</sup> Howitzer Battery

Killed in action  
12<sup>th</sup> May 1917  
Aged 21

Pas de Calais  
France

Gunner  
98757

### Believed to be.

1901: William (aged 5) was living with his grandfather James (Milkman on Farm), uncles Walter (aged 17), Henry (aged 12) and Charles (aged 10), and his Aunt Gerty (aged 14) in Hungerdown Lane, Lawford. Also living in the house was Florence Humphreys (Housekeeper) and her son Earnest (aged 2).

1911: William (now aged 15) was living with his grandfather James (Working on farm), step-grandmother Maria, uncles Walter (shows as 25) and Charles (shows as aged 16 by probably 19/20). William is shown working as a Farm Labourer.

His Medal Index Card shows he was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, entered Theatre of War (France) 30<sup>th</sup> July 1915.

He is buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery.

His Uncle Charles also fell (see previous page).