



# Lobley Link 2016



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### Julia and I wish you all another very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

This year, Julia and I have visited Ireland. Although we had been to Derry/Londonderry for the wedding of her sister, I had always wanted to see the rest of Ireland. We spent a glorious couple of weeks touring the South West and far West of Ireland in beautifully sunny weather. I thoroughly recommend a holiday there. We have also just returned from another short break in Lincoln and its Christmas market. This time we enjoyed a roof tour of the enormous medieval cathedral. It was truly awe inspiring, and not for the faint hearted.

I'm still volunteering at the Society of Genealogists, and currently working at indexing trade directories before they are made available to society members.

A Merry Christmas to everyone.

## Phil and Julia

### Benjamin Francis Lobley – Prisoner of War

As I am reviewing my database and adding census records to my online family trees, I have noticed several mistakes that had crept in over the years. One involved Benjamin Francis Lobley, from Bethnal Green. I had, unaccountably, recorded his death as 1908, but noticed that he had two children born after that date. In fact, he died in 1960 in Biggleswade Registration District. I decided to dig a little further into his life.

Born in 1885, the fourth child of Francis Edward Lobley and Sarah Moore from Bethnal Green, he joined the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Essex Regiment and was posted to France in November 1915.

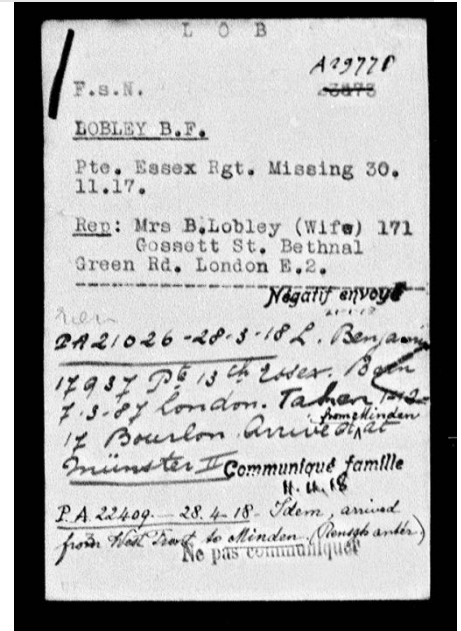
I can not trace his service records, but he was still with the Regiment on 30th November 1917, when he was reported missing in action at Cambrai.

The International Committee of the Red Cross have released their prisoner of war archives online at <http://grandequerre.icrc.org/>.

This image shows that Benjamin's wife, Rachel, submitted a request to the ICRC asking for news of his whereabouts.

This page, and associated links, show that he was captured, unwounded, at Bourlon on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917 and taken to the Munster POW camp, then to Minden camp.

It appears that he was not released until 1918.



The 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion were known as 'The West Ham Pals' and many both lived and worked locally. They followed their local team with a passion and are still remembered with affection at West Ham United.



The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion served in some of the most horrific and historic battles of World War I, including Loos, Ypres, the Somme,

Cambrai and Arras. In all, nearly 9,000 officers and men of the Essex Regiment died during World War I, many having no known grave.

I suppose that Benjamin could be considered lucky to have survived. However, his family were not spared tragedy. His brother, Richard Francis Lobley, serving with the York and Lancaster Regiment, was killed on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1917 in Belgium and is commemorated at Tyne Cot. He was 37 and left a wife and 2 small children.

## News from the General Register Office

In November this year, the GRO released brand new online transcriptions of their birth and death indexes. This would not normally raise a great stir in the family history community, as indexes have been widely available for many years. However, the birth index now includes the maiden name of the child's mother (previously only available from 1911) and the death index includes the age at death (previously only shown in the indexes from 1866). Although any index is susceptible to errors and omissions (and errors have already been found in this index), it has already been a significant help to me in discovering the parents of many 19<sup>th</sup> century Lobleys for whom I had no parents – especially those children who were born and died between two census years.

To access the site (<https://www.gro.gov.uk>) you must obtain a user name and password, but otherwise the information is free. Certificates can also be ordered from the site, at a price.

## The 1939 Register

In late 2015, Find My Past, in association with the National Archives, made the 1939 Register available to their subscribers. Dubbed 'The Wartime Domesday Book', the 1939 Register is the most comprehensive survey of the population of England and Wales ever taken.

In September 1939, the Second World War had just broken out. 65,000 enumerators were employed to visit every house in England and Wales to take stock of the civil population. The information that they recorded was used to issue Identity Cards, plan mass evacuations, establish rationing and coordinate other war-time provisions. In the longer term, the 1939 Register would go on to play a central role in the establishment of post-war services like the NHS.

The 1939 Register is particularly significant as the only surviving record of the population between 1921 and 1951. It bridges a 30-year gap in history as the 1931 census was destroyed during the war and the 1941 census was never taken. Each record includes the names of inhabitants at each address, their date of birth, marital status and occupation.

Only records for those individuals that are deceased or would now be over 100 years old are shown (other names are redacted). No service personnel are included, and the records only cover England and Wales. Records were updated after the war, and the married name of some women is also shown.

New and updated records are being added by FMP, but are prone to errors. In the latest batch, much to my surprise, my mother is recorded as a 15 year old in Suffolk, having been recently evacuated from Grays. However, she is still very alive at the ripe old age of 92 and was highly amused to see her name. She remembers that she was taken to the port of Felixstowe by steamer, along with hundreds of other children. Shortly thereafter, her parents considered (quite rightly) that Trimley, near Felixstowe was in danger of being bombed, so she was taken back home by her mother, who found her, quite happily eating an cheese and raw onion sandwich, outside the house in which she was billeted.

1	Manning Alfred	M	7.2.93	M	disarm an ov fawne
2	Manning Alice	F	12.5.95	M	unpaid domestic
3	Manning Walter	F	18.5.20	S	domestic help
This record is officially closed.					

## My ongoing projects

I am currently working with the software package, Family Tree Maker which, despite earlier threats, continues to be supported by, and linked to the Ancestry online site. I am ensuring that I have images of all census records associated with individuals on my database. After that is complete, I will then link those records to all baptisms, marriages and burials held on Ancestry. Once I have recorded all that information, I intend to export all data to my favoured software package 'Family Historian'. That package has links to FindMyPast, so more work will be needed to associate other images with my Lobley trees.

Once I am content that I have recorded the majority of information available at those two sites, I will construct a comprehensive web site to hold all the information online. That site will be maintained in perpetuity by the Guild of One-Name Studies, to which I belong. All of this should only take me another 10 years!!!

***Until next Year...***

*Phil Lobley*