

# HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING AT WAR: HOUGHTON'S CENOTAPH



THE UNVEILING OF THE CENOTAPH. 1925

ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, Houghton-le-Spring fell silent as we remembered the War Dead in our homes, in the local churches, throughout the community and at the Cenotaph in the town centre. The Cenotaph was unveiled on November 7<sup>th</sup> 1925 in the southwest corner of the churchyard. Made of Portland stone at a cost of £7,000, the memorial was erected in memory of those who died during the Great War of 1914 – 1919. Funds were raised by public subscription and even the Scouts lent a hand in fundraising at a carnival on Houghton Racecourse.

The memorial, which stands at 18 ½ feet, was unveiled by the Earl of Durham and was dedicated by the Rector of Houghton, Rev Ralph Watson. It was designed by Francis Doyle Jones, who is known for his sculptures of St Patrick in Downpatrick and the bust of T.M. Kettle in St Stephen's Green, Dublin, and features a carved soldier and sailor with the words *Our Glorious Dead 1914 – 1919*. Curiously, most state that the Great War ended in 1918 but Houghton's Cenotaph acknowledges that we were still at war until the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1919.

The names of the 236 individuals killed in action are listed on the memorial in alphabetical order of surname, though the name of HENDERSON G. must have been a late addition as he is



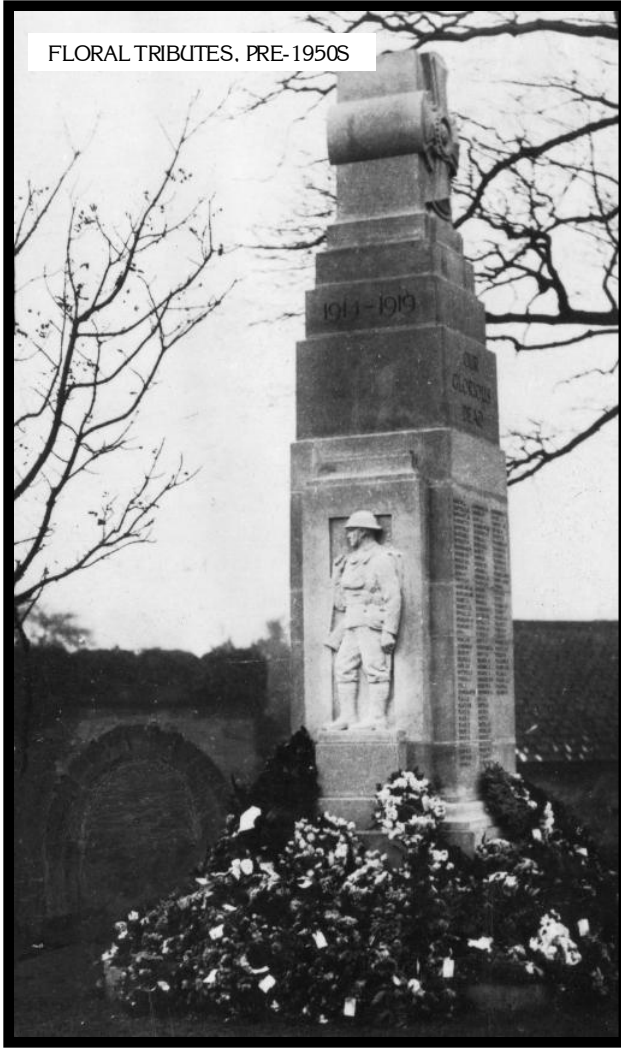
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FLORAL TRIBUTES, PRE-1950S



included at the end. One name proved to be a controversial addition, or rather omission. Alessandro Riani's name was initially not to be included as he was not English – he and his brother Columbo Riani were proprietors of the popular Gaiety Temperance Bar on Newbottle Street having come to Houghton from Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, in the Lucca province of Tuscany, Italy – and yet Alessandro had fought for England during the Great War and paid with his life. The people of Houghton were outraged that his name was not to be included and many refused to attend any unveiling until his name was rightly added on.

The war memorial is now showing signs of staining from the large sycamore trees growing nearby and many of the inscribed names on the top half of the rear side are fading away. In early 2012 a small sample of names was re-carved (PRICE J., PURVIS J., PURVIS, R. and QUINN A.) on a cleaned corner and made an impressive contrast to the other panels. Sadly, there is no

sculptured memorial to those killed in the Second World War, though there is space at the base of the Cenotaph for names to be added, perhaps on rectangular panels attached to the base.

The First World War Centenary is fast approaching and the Government has recently announced plans to commemorate the anniversary with a series of fitting events. In the meantime, we will remember Houghton's many war heroes with honour.

*Paul Lanagan*

PAUL LANAGAN BA HONS  
LOCAL HISTORIAN  
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# NAMES ON HOUGHTON'S CENOTAPH

\* = indicates that further information is known about the individual (see other article)

ADAMSON D.F.*	CLARK A.	GREAVES F.	KELLS T.
ADDISON W.	CLARK R.	GREY R.	KELLS W.
AHEARNE P.	CLARK W.	GRICE W.	KENNEDY R.
ALLAN R.	CLARK W.	GUY G.	KENNEDY W.
ANDERSON R.	CLAY J.G.	HAMILTON J.	LAING C.
APPLEBY N.	COCKBURN G.	HAMILTON W.	LANGLEY W.A.
AUNGLER W.	COLTMAN J.	HANSON J. W.	LARMER J.
BAINBRIDGE J.	COUGHLIN M.	HARLAND J.	LAWSON C.
BAINBRIDGE T.S.	COULSON C.	HARTILL W.	LEE F.G.
BALMER P.	COULSON C.	HAYES G.	LEECH J.R.
BARKESS RALPH.	COULSON J.	HEASLIP M.	LIDFORD R.W.
BARKESS ROBERT.	CRAKE W.	HEDLEY J.	LONGSTAFF R.
BARKESS T.	CROSTHWAITHE H.	HENDERSON G.?	LUKE J.W.
BARRASS M.	CUMMINGS J.	HENDERSON J.W.	LUMLEY J.
BASSETT W.	DAWSON A.	HENDERSON R.	MACKAY W.
BATY B.C.	DAWSON A.	HEPPLEWHITE W.	MADDISON A.
BELL G.W.	DIXON B.	HILL N.	MARKHAM A.
BELL J.F.	DIXON G.	HIND T.A.	MARTIN J.
BENSON G.	DIXON J.	HINTON J.	MASTERS C.R.
BESTFORD T.	DIXON T.	HINTON J.W.	MCDERMOTT M.
BOLTON T. W.	DIXON T.	HOARE R.	MCDERMOTT P.
BROOME T.	DOWIE S.	HOGARTH R.	MCGOVERN J.
BROWN D.W.	DRESSER E.	HOPE W.	MCINTYRE J.
BROWN J.	DUFFY J.	HORN R.	MCTEAR T.W.
BROWN J.H.	EDE F.C.	HOWE R.	MESSINGER W
BROWN T.	EDMONSON T.	HOWE R.G.	MORGAN C.W..
BROWN T.	ELLIOTT J.	HULTON W.	MORLEY A.S.*
BROWN W.	FALLON T.	HUNTER W.H.	MORRIS W.
BUCKLEY G.	FENTON T.	JAMES R.E.	MOSS W.
BURN T.	FENTON T.	JAMES T.	MOYLE C.W.
CALVERT T. J.	FISH W.	JOHNSTON A.	MULHOLLAND JAS.
CARR G.	FORTH J.	JOHNSTON W.H.	MULHOLLAND JOHN
CARR JAMES	FORSTER J.	JORDISON T.	NAISBETT J.
CARR JOHN	GALLAGHER J.	JOYCE W.	NAISBETT J.S.
CHARLTON E.G.	GILL R.	KEEGAN P.	
	GREATHEAD J.H.	KELLS F.	



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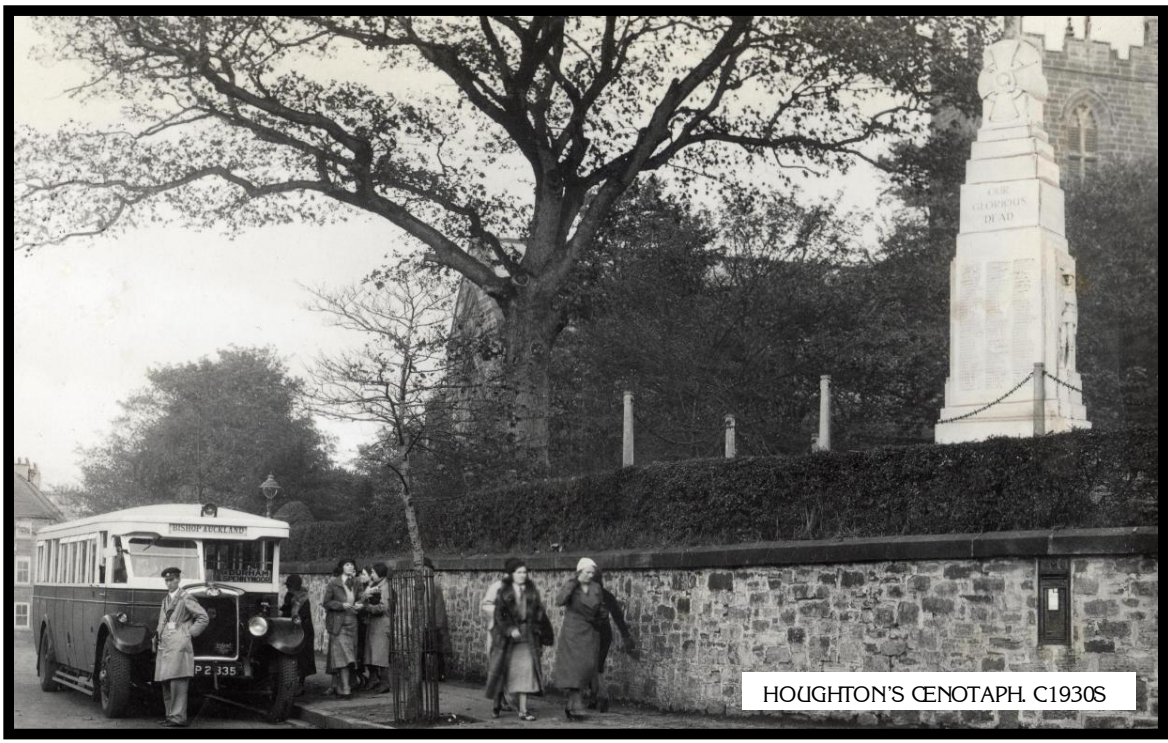


NEWALL J.F.  
 NICHOLSON J.F.  
 NICHOLSON T.  
 ORD F.  
 ORME J. W.  
 OXENHAM W.  
 OXLEY W.  
 PALMER J.  
 PARK A.B.  
 PATTRICK F.  
 PEEBLES J.  
 PEEL C.  
 PENDERCAST W.  
 PLACE E.  
 PLACE F.H.\*  
 PLACE G.  
 PLACE J.\*  
 PLACE T.  
 PREST J.\*  
 PREST R.\*  
 PRICE J.  
 PURVIS J.  
 PURVIS R.  
 QUINN A.

RAMSHAW J.R.  
 REDDEL W.  
 RIANI A.\*  
 RICHARDSON A.E.\*  
 RICHARDSON W.  
 RIDDLE E.W.  
 RIDDLE H.C.  
 RIGBY, RILEY T.  
 RITSON M.  
 ROBINSON J.C.  
 ROBINSON L.  
 ROBINSON L.  
 ROBSON J.W.  
 ROBSON L.\*  
 ROBSON R.  
 ROMPEN O.  
 RUNDLE E.S.  
 RUTHERFORD T.  
 RUTTER T.H.  
 SCARTH J.M.  
 SCARTH W.  
 SCOTT J.  
 SEDGEWICK T.A.  
 SHAW E.R.

SHEARER B.  
 SHEARER G.  
 SHEARER R.  
 SHEPHERD A.  
 SHERRIFF F.W.  
 SHERRIFF G.  
 SILL A.  
 SMITH A.  
 SMITH D.\*  
 SMITH E.  
 SMITH J.B.\*  
 SMITH J.R.  
 SMITH R.  
 SMITH R. W.  
 SMITH W.T.\*  
 STOKOE P.  
 STOTHARD A  
 SUMMERBELL T.  
 SUNLEY J.E.  
 TARBETT J.R.  
 TAYLOR W.  
 TENNET G.  
 THOMPSON J.C.  
 THUBURN H.

THUBURN J.  
 THUBURN R.  
 TREVETT F.  
 TURNBULL JAMES  
 TURNBULL  
 JOSEPH  
 TURNER F.  
 VEITCH R.  
 VERITY J.  
 VICKERS J.W.  
 VICKERS T.  
 WALKER J.S.  
 WALLER S.  
 WARDLE N.  
 WATSON R.  
 WHEATLEY J.  
 WHITE J.E.D.  
 WICK R.W.  
 WILLIAMS N.  
 WILSON E.W.  
 WILSON G.  
 WILSON G.J.  
 WILSON R.  
 WILSON W.



HOUGHTON'S CENOTAPH. C1930S



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