

CHAPTER 2 – LANCASTER

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn; At the going down of the sun, and in the morning; We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon

The War Memorial and Garden of Remembrance. Town Hall Lancaster (NIWM No:3307) Map Ref SD 479615

A meeting in Ashton Hall in December 1918 decided upon a Civic Memorial to the fallen. In September 1921 a Committee was established and an appeal made to the public for subscriptions towards the cost of the erection of the memorial. A total of £2,230 was raised to cover the cost of the memorial and associated expenses. £1,894 was spent and the balance of £336 was transferred to the Corporation for the continued repair and upkeep including the addition of names. (See Note 1).

The War Memorial and Garden of Remembrance, CP3, and L1, was designed by T H Mawson & Sons. It is on the east side of the Town Hall. The design is

reminiscent of the Belgian Memorial to Britain on the Thames Embankment in London; it is 36 feet long and stands on a low flagged platform. The stone background is divided into a central portion rising to a height of 16 feet, with wings 11 feet 6 inches high on either side. There are five panels on each wing, each five feet long, on which the names of



L1 1006 men are inscribed. In the centre stands the bronze figure of Peace with outstretched wings and uplifted hands in the attitude of benediction. The figure is on a low pedestal, clear of the Longridge stone background, but the wings are against it. The Bromsgrove School of Art designed the bronze figure and the panels were furnished by Morton of Cheltenham.

The dedication ceremony took place on the 3rd of December 1924 with the Mayor of Lancaster, Alderman George Jackson, presiding and 300 subscribers at the ceremony joined over 900 relatives of the dead. The general public were admitted to the ground around the Fire Station. Every vantage point was taken - Robert Street and Lower Nelson Street being crowded, the windows of the Town Hall were also filled. The bands of the 1st and 5th Battalions of the King's Own Royal Regiment under Captain Morge provided the music on either side of the Garden. The War Memorial Committee handed the Memorial over as follows:

"The seal was placed on the Town's Memorial by a document conveying it to the Corporation to be maintained hereafter by them in the following terms:

"An agreement made the 3rd Day of December 1924 between the Committee of the Lancaster War Memorial (hereafter called the committee) of the one part, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Lancaster (hereinafter called the Corporation) of the other part. Whereas the Committee have by way of public subscription erected on ground of the Corporation situate on the East side of the Town Hall Lancaster aforesaid, a memorial to the men of Lancaster who fell in the Great War and whereas it is expedient that provision should be made for the maintenance repair and protection of the said memorial it is now hereby agreed as follows:

- (1) The Committee hereby transfer the said Memorial to the Corporation to vest in the Corporation and their assigns for ever.*
 - (2) The Corporation hereby accept the said memorial and in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the War Memorials (Local Authority Powers Act 1923) to maintain repair and protect the said memorial for ever*
- In witness whereof the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Committee have hereunto set their hands and the Corporation hereunto cause their common seal to be affixed the day and year before written.*

Signed by:

George Jackson (Chairman) and John Robert Nuttall (Honorary Secretary) on behalf of the Committee in the Presence of G Albert Wilson assistant Hon. Secretary, Lancaster."

{Sadly this important Civic Document can no longer be found in the Town Hall or the Museum. Should anyone know of the whereabouts please inform the Ceremonial Officer at the Town Hall}

Chapter 2 Lancaster

A firing party in the charge of Sergeant Clarkson flanked the left of the memorial and Privates Tabbron, Pennell, Smith and King of the Regimental Depot kept silent watch with arms reversed. An address was given by the Rev J W Mountford, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Circuit, who was a chaplain in the war. The Mayor hoped that Lancastrians would never forget their duty, he trusted that the Corporation (who had on the same day received ownership of the Memorial) would always see that the Memorial was carefully tended, and when spring came each year make the garden beautiful.

BOROUGH OF LANCASTER.
CIVIC RECEPTION, H.M. FORCES.

NAME *Joseph Bell Fording*
 ADDRESS *56 Waltham St. Lancaster*
 REG'TL No AND RANK *Pt 17289* UNIT *9th Lancashire*
 MARRIED OR SINGLE *Single*
 MILITARY DISTINCTIONS AWARDED (IF ANY)
 LENGTH OF SERVICE (HOME) *22/1/14* (ABROAD) *11/1/15* (TOTAL) *33/1/14*
 WHETHER DISCHARGED, DEMOBILISED, OR INVALIDED ON ACCOUNT OF WOUNDS, OR STILL SERVING
 REMARKS *Killed in action. mother*

This information is required for a Permanent Historical Record of the War Service of Men of Lancaster.

L2

Forms were used in 1924 to invite the relatives of the fallen soldiers to a Civic Reception and also to inscribe the names on the Memorial. A facsimile of the form used is at L2 and an illustration, L3, of the sensitive way of bracketing brothers together - this of the four Butterworth Brothers. In WW1 the dead sons of the Lancaster District included one set of four brothers, six sets of three and fifty sets of two; in WW2 there were six sets of two brothers.



L3

Service men from one hundred and twenty three different services and regiments are commemorated on this memorial, a total of 1340. Nearly 300 of those

who died in the First World War have no known grave. Included are men from the following regiments and services:

King's Own Royal Regiment (426), Royal Regiment of Artillery (117); Royal Navy (81), Royal Air Force (66), Lancashire Fusiliers (40), Royal Engineers (34), The Border Regiment (33), The Seaforth Highlanders (32), The King's Liverpool Regiment (28), The Manchester Regiment (24), The Loyal Northern Lancashire Regiment (22) The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (21), The Royal Army Service Corps (20), The Royal Fusiliers (20) The Royal Army Medical Corps (18), The East Lancashire Regiment (16), Canada (25), Australia (6), South Africa (3), New Zealand (2) and The Merchant Navy (1).



L4

Following the Second World War the memorial was extended and a table of stone erected in front of the Angel of Peace upon which, in the centre, is a bronze of the Arms of the City, L4, set in a long bronze panel upon which are recorded the names of a further 300 Lancastrians who died. Later a further 25 additional names have been added from WW1 and WW2, two names from the Korean War and one from the Falklands Campaign.

Note 1. Adding a name to The Memorial. Should anyone wish to add a name to the memorial, from any conflict, please contact The Ceremonial and Members' Officer Lancaster City Council at the Town Hall.