

## MAJOR GEORGE HERBERT HIND MANFIELD MC (1889-94)

We are grateful to his great great niece Jane Helliwell for the following biography and to his great great niece Mary Lipop for the photo.

Born July 1877, George Herbert Hind Manfield was born at Ixworth Thorpe, the 10<sup>th</sup> child and 3<sup>rd</sup> son of William and Sarah Manfield. He was baptised August 26<sup>th</sup> 1877 by Rev<sup>d</sup> William Marsden Hind. When he was about 13, he attended Framlingham College, Suffolk from 1889-1894 (the same college his brother-in-law **Wheelton Hind (1875-77)** also attended) where he attained in December 1893 according to the List of Medical and Dental Students dated 1895 his examination in Arts: Camb. Jun. Loc.; and after attending Stoke Science School February 12<sup>th</sup> 1895 he registered February 15<sup>th</sup> in 1895 at the medical school of Guy's Hospital where his brother-in-law **Wheelton** had also preceded him. He gained his M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.R.C.P. London 1901 (Guy's) before becoming an Assistant House Surgeon at the North Staffs. Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent in 1902, again I suspect under the influence and help of his brother-in-law.

From medical directories we can follow his movements from 1910 onwards. The 1<sup>st</sup> entry lists him at the White House, Shenstone, Lichfield, Staffs (Tel: 4 Shenstone) where he was Pub. Vacc. Shenstone Dist., Lichfield Union. The 1911 census lists him still at White House, Shenstone, Lichfield with his mother Sarah Maria Manfield before his marriage.

In 1912, George married aged 35, Lucy Georgina Gardiner on October 14<sup>th</sup> 1912, the daughter of Theodore Senior Gardiner and Lucy Georgina Gardiner née Holdsworth at St Paul's Church, Cambridge. In the newspaper report below the assistant priest's surname is misspelt and should read as Boldero.

Lucy was born May 21<sup>st</sup> 1880 in Edinburgh and her grandfather was the Rev<sup>d</sup> Alexander Gardiner, Rector of Wixoe, Suffolk now part of the Stour Valley Benefice which includes Clare where I use to live. Her father Theodore was a surgeon which I think may have been how they met or when she was a nursing sister as reported in a newspaper article at the time.

At sometime, George joined the Territorial Force (TF) and in 1915 he is still listed living at Shenstone as above. By 1916 he was in France, a captain in the R.A.M.C where he was awarded the Military Medal in August that year but I do not know which sector. He was where the fighting was very heavy so considering the month (August), I think it might have been somewhere on the Somme. His citation reads "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. He worked day and night tending the wounded in our advanced positions under heavy fire, and carried many of them down the trench after all his bearers had been wounded."

He was listed as still being at Shenstone in the 1916 Kelly's Directory although we know he was abroad. Sometime afterwards he became a Major, then in the directory entry for 1920 he gives a % address using Messrs. Holt & Co at 44, Charing Cross London SW1 and as his first child Helen was born in Croydon, Surrey between Jan – March 1919, I suspect he was in that area still in the TF. Unfortunately, Helen died between April - June 1920 and the death was also registered in Croydon. George and Lucy's second child, John Robert Manfield was born between Jan – March 1921 and registered at Basford, Derbyshire. I know the marriage was not a happy one and that George and Lucy separated sometime between the world wars and as a result some of George's sisters at various time acted as his housekeeper. Lucy died September 9<sup>th</sup> 1965 at Edwalton, Nottinghamshire.

In the 1925 Medical Directory, he had moved to 64, Clarendon Street, Nottingham (Tel: 41892) where he remained living for the rest of his life. He became an ENT surgeon at the Nottingham Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital and medical officer at the Royal Midland Institute for the Blind and was a member of the Nottingham Medical Society and the BMA. I think he must have been a GP surgeon like his brother-in-law as he became



caught up in the notorious Baguley double murder trial in Nottingham in 1936 as a prosecution witness. The following information comes from contemporary newspaper reports at the time and I quote:

"Nurse Dorothea Nancy Waddington, aged 34 and her partner Mr Ronald Joseph Sullivan, aged 41 were running an unregistered Care Home at their home address 32, Devon Drive, Sherwood, Nottingham and as a result of suspected murder it was discovered that Mrs Waddington was not a qualified nurse and had only been a ward maid in a previous employment. A widow Mrs Louisa Baguley and her daughter Miss Ada Baguley had become residents at the care home due to the ill health of both of them a short time before the death of Mrs Baguley aged 87. Dr George Manfield had attended Mrs Baguley who was suffering from heart disease and certified her dead, on May 12th 1935. He was called out again by Waddington when Ada Baguley became ill in September and she died on September 11<sup>th</sup>. He issued the death certificate stating as the cause a cerebral haemorrhage and also the certificate permitting cremation when shown a letter signed by Ada at the end of August saying she wanted to be cremated. The letter and certificates accompanied her body to the crematoria and they were seen by the local Nottingham public health authority doctor, Dr Banks who noted a cramped inserted passage saying she did not want her relatives informed of her death. He became suspicious and ordered a post mortem which discovered Ada had been poisoned by morphine. Her mother Louisa's body was exhumed and after a post mortem, she also had got excessive morphine in her system as well. Nottingham Police arrested Waddington and Sullivan and they were charged with the double murders".

The trial began in February 1936 and George was a significant witness but unfortunately, he did not come across very well as can be seen from the newspaper cuttings at the time. Sullivan was acquitted but Waddington was found guilty with the jury giving a recommendation for mercy, probably because she already had 4 children and a fifth one was born whilst in prison and she was breast-feeding. The Judge passed the death sentence and after an appeal failed, she was hung on April 16<sup>th</sup> 1936 at Birmingham's Winston Green Prison.

I suspect George never recovered from the ordeal. I do not know if or when he retired but he was looked after by several of his sisters as has already been stated. He died at the Nottingham General Hospital from bronco-pneumonia and cancer on March 17<sup>th</sup> 1955.

As I have already indicated George provided a home to 3 of his unmarried sisters, Isabel, Mabel and Maud and let them live on in his house at 64, Clarendon Street until the last one died.