

HERBERT LANGFORD WILSON (1899)

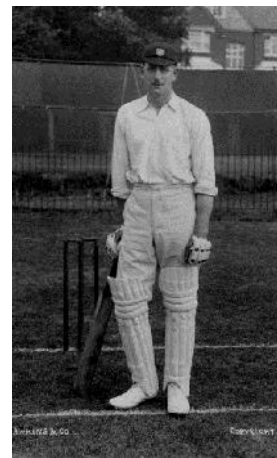
Born on 27 June 1881 at Cottesbrooke, Guilsborough, Northamptonshire. He was a first class cricketer, playing initially for Suffolk (1905-1912) who he captained to the Minor Counties Championship in 1910, 1911 and 1912. He then played for Sussex from 1913 to 1930 and captained them from 1919 to 1921. He scored over 6000 runs at an average of 24.7, with a highest score of 187 v Warwickshire in 1920. Although predominantly a right hand bat, he did also take 26 first class wickets at an average of 48.07, using right arm slow. Captained Gentlemen v Players in 1920. He ended his cricket playing for Sussex 2nd XI in 1935.



The picture on the left shows him (on the right) going out to bat for Sussex in 1921.

Alongside his successful cricketing career he was a not so successful gentleman farmer, bankrupted 2 farms and a nursery/ chicken farm, in each case having to be bailed out by his wife!

He died on 15 March 1937 at Halland, Uckfield, Sussex aged only 55 years.



Herbert's grandson, Robin Riseley, has been good enough to provide the photos and the following additional information :-



When war broke out in 1914 HLW and GMW volunteered for the British Red Cross and were ambulance drivers in Ypres from Dec 1914 to about June 1915, they then joined the Army. HLW was a 2nd lieutenant RFA and was a Staff Officer at the 4th Army HQ under Sir Henry Rawlinson.

[The picture on the left shows him in 1914 in Boulogne and the one on the right shows him with his brother **George Micklethwait Wilson (1899-1900)** in 1916. His brother was a farmer who was wounded and mentioned in dispatches during WW1.]



When in Ypres he collected a lot of souvenirs: including bayonets, shell cases (some huge), paintings (looted from bombed out houses) and 4 numerals from the clock tower of the famous Cloth Hall. He also brought back (later stolen) the hands from one of the clocks. From studying old photographs I have calculated that the minute hand would have been 8 feet long, and it was solid brass. How the hell did he manage to transport it all back to England?

He died suddenly (whilst mulching raspberry canes in his garden, collapsed and landed in a wheelbarrow) in 1937.

We have also heard from his great niece, Denise Sandford, who as well as supplying some of the same photos above, also told us that Herbert and George were related to royalty through George, Duke of Clarence and his father Richard III. She has provide the following additional information :-

This cutting is taken from the Manchester Courier dated 20 June 1914.

gain their third victory. The hero of the batting yesterday was the Sussex acting captain, Herbert Langford Wilson, a Northants man by birth, who played for Suffolk during the years 1905 to 1912. He is a fine forcing batsman, who, withal, plays splendid cricket.

MR. H. L. WILSON BURIED AT EAST HOATHLY

A former Sussex County Cricket Club captain, Mr. Herbert Langford Wilson died suddenly at Belvoir Lodge, Halland, on Sunday. He was in his 57th year. He formerly lived at Gullsborough, Northamptonshire.

Educated at Framlingham College, he became associated with Sussex cricket in 1913, qualifying by residence. He was appointed captain in 1919, and the following year captained the Gentlemen's team against the Players. He resigned the captaincy of the County Club in 1922 owing to business reasons, and was succeeded by Mr. A. E. R. Gilligan.

He first played for Sussex on May 12th, 1913, against Kent, and during that season his aggregate of runs was 1,352. His highest innings for Sussex was 187, scored against Warwickshire at Hove in 1920, while he also made 109 against Gloucester, 105 against Lancashire, 104 against Hampshire and 101 against Northampton. He scored 6,122 runs for Sussex from 344 completed innings, his average being 35.50. In addition he was a slow right arm bowler and his final county analysis was 1,229 runs, 26 wickets, and 47.36 average. Before coming to Sussex, Mr. Wilson played for Suffolk, while latterly he had been connected with the Sussex Martlets, the M.C.C. and the Free Foresters, and had also played for Eastbourne.

He was secretary of the Devonshire Club at Eastbourne, and had lived at Halland for nearly three years. He leaves a widow, one son and two daughters.

The funeral took place at East Hoathly Parish Church yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, and was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. W. Tomlinson). The service included Psalm 23, and the hymns "On the Resurrection Morning," and "Abide With Me," while Mrs. C. Hall, who was at the organ, played Chopin's Funeral March at the close.

The chief mourners were Mrs. Wilson (widow), Mr. and Mrs. D. Pinney (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. P. D. Wilson (son), Miss Heather Wilson (daughter), Colonel F. Wilson, Mr. C. Wilson, and Mr. G. M. Wilson (brothers), General Cummings (brother-in-law), and Mrs. E. Renton (aunt).

Others present included Mr. Herbert Elliott and Mr. H. D. Swan (representing the Sussex County Cricket Club), Mr. J. G. Robinson and Mr. W. S. Grevett (representing the Eastbourne Cricket and Football Club), Mr. H. Storey, Mr. A. DeMierre (chairman), and Mr. D. Davies (steward), representing the Devonshire Club, Eastbourne; Mr. E. D. Constant (representing Sussex Club, Eastbourne); Mr. and Mrs. C. C. B. Dorman, Mr. C. D. Buckett, Mr. H. J. Philcox, Mr. R. J. J. Philcox, Commander and Mrs. H. J. M. Ashby, Mrs. Westgate, Mrs. Turner (Halland), Mr. R. M. Cardwell, Captain L. Grant-Dillon, Mr. G. W. Plummer, Mr. Eric Taylor and Mr. Wadman.

Floral tributes were sent from Dorothy, Pat and Heather; Beryl, Charlie, June and Natalie; Di and David; Tommy and Frank; Maude and Dan; Phil and Kitty; Tot, Guy, Joan and Dick; John, Beanie and Pam; President, vice-presidents and committee of the Sussex County Cricket Club; Chairman and members of the Devonshire Club, Eastbourne; Chairman and members of the Sussex Club; members of the Dominic Club, Eastbourne; the staff of the Devonshire Club.

President, vice-presidents, committee and members of the Eastbourne Cricket and Football Club; all his friends at Old Malvernian Cricket Tour; members of the Willington Golf Club; Mrs. F. Dixon Baker; Mr. Cuthbert C. B. Dorman; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Payne; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wagner; Mr. H. W. Llewellyn; Herbert and Walter Elliott; Joan and Jane Vine; Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Debonne and Frey; Colonel and Mrs. T. du B. Whalley; Gladys and Alice Swan; Commander and Mrs. H. J. M. Ashby; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. G. Hall and family; Mr. and Mrs. F. Mitchell; Mr. and Mrs. Buckett.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Richard Hall and Sons, of East Hoathly.

For full cricket statistics see <http://content-usa.cricinfo.com/england/content/player/23072.html>