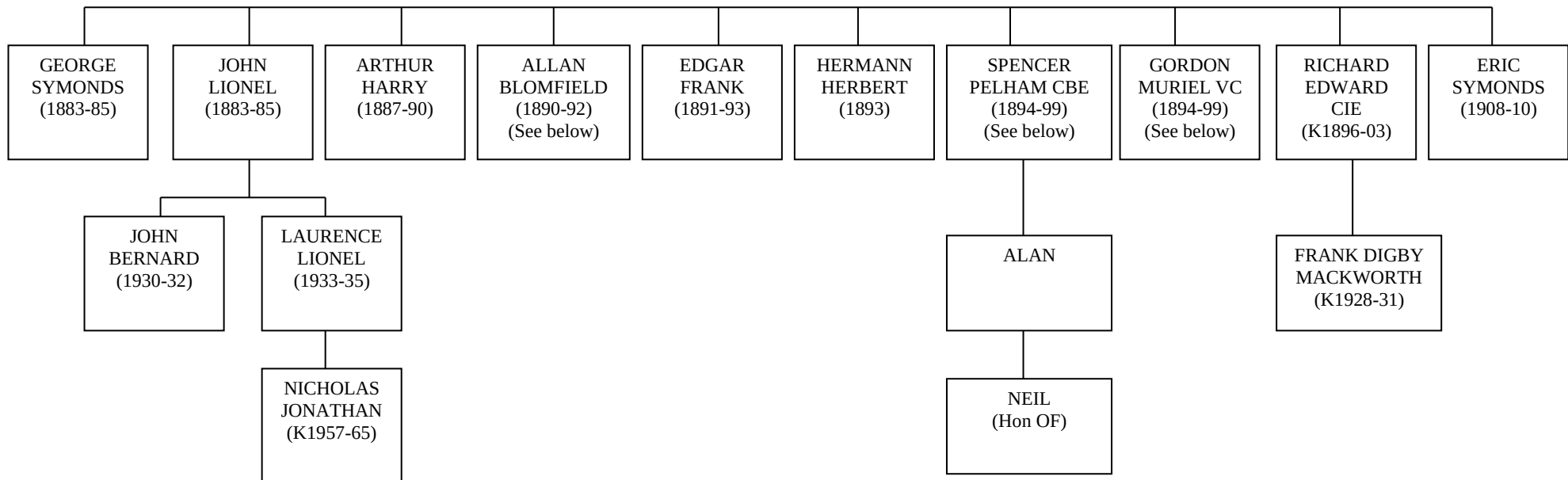


FLOWERDEW BROTHERS (Dates shown are years at Framlingham)

All 10 sons of A J B Flowerdew of Billingford Hall in Scole, Suffolk attended the College, including Gordon Flowerdew VC



Allan Blomfield Flowerdew is mentioned on the Boer War Memorial in the Chapel

http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/gallery2/main.php?g2_view=core.DownloadItem&g2_itemId=11085&g2_serialNumber=1&g2_GALLERYSID=TMP_SESSION_ID_DI_NOISSES_PMT

Gordon Muriel Flowerdew won the VC

http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/gallery2/main.php?g2_view=core.DownloadItem&g2_itemId=13676&g2_serialNumber=1&g2_GALLERYSID=TMP_SESSION_ID_DI_NOISSES_PMT

Richard Edward Flowerdew was awarded the CIE

<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/images/articles/LTCOLONELRICHARDEDWARDFLOWERDEWCIE1896-1903.pdf>

Spencer Pelham Flowerdew was awarded CBE VD <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20070222155839464>

John Bernard Flowerdew is mentioned on WW2 Memorial <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20061111164245159>

Frank Digby Mackworth Flowerdew was an accomplished squash player
<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20070222160434133>

We are indebted to Neil Flowerdew (Hon OF) for the following family photograph taken in 1890 showing 12 of the Billingford Fifteen - plus Father and Mother - 8 OFs - George already gone awander and Eric not yet born. Gordon is bottom right with straw hat.



Neil Flowerdew (Hon OF) provided the following additional information on the 10 Flowerdew brothers :-

George Symonds **Order in Family:** Oldest (Fram: 1883-5)

Left Billingford on 16 Apr 1890 and sailed for Canada. He went to Winnipeg, before moving on to British Columbia, Washington and then California. His sister Florie got married in 1894 and one of the family wrote a letter which unsettled him and so he came back to Suffolk in 1895, but he again couldn't settle and went straight off to Perth, Australia. Gold called and he followed the Rush, unsuccessfully. He then joined the mounted police in Perth in 1898 but moved on to New Zealand in 1899. He returned to the UK after he married Hannah and moved to Eye, where he farmed Oak Lawn Farm until he died. He was twice (or perhaps three times) Mayor of Eye.

John Lionel **Order in Family:** Second (Fram: 1883-5)

Lionel was a Census Enumerator at Billingford in 1891, when he was working for his father. In Mar 1896 he went off and joined the Army (6th Dragoon Guards); his father bought him out for £12 in Sep. In Oct 1899 he again joined the Army, and was refunded the £12. He went out to the Boer War briefly, returning to England from South Africa in 1901. He is first recorded in India in 1903, at Bengal. In 1905 he was a Sergeant in the Dragoon Guards, based at 'the Depot'. In Sep of that year he took exams to qualify for 'the Military Farms' in Allahabad. He was assistant overseer of the Military Farms from 1905-1910. In 1908 he was overseer at Bangalore, where he married 'Honor'. In 1910 they were in Ambala, where their first child died, and he was also somewhere called Sehore Gantts. He retired in 1924, eventually as a Captain, but he was by then ill, and remained so for the rest of his life. They retired to Sudbury, to live with his sister Ella, and remained there until he died. His mother also lived there, and did not die until 1930.

Arthur Harry **Order in Family:** Fifth (Fram: 1887-90)

In 1890 he left Framlingham and established that he was not a farmer at heart. In 1891 he was at Billingford on Census Night. He completed a wheelwright's apprenticeship and in 1895 he signed up for service in the RN. He saw action in the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 in the Far East. He was part of the crew of HMS Pygmy, a Yangtze River gun boat; his rank was Engineer Lieutenant. On leaving the RN, in 1902, he went out to Southern Rhodesia, where he worked as an accountant at a mine and saved the fees for the next stage of his education. He is recorded by his sister, Lorna, as being in Rhodesia for eight years.

He then returned to the UK and attended Camborne School of Mines from 1909 to 1912. He met his future wife Nina at Camborne where she had her own school. After Camborne he went out to Nigeria, possibly to a mine at Joss. Nina went out to join him and they were married by the Bishop of Lagos. In Feb 1914 he headed to Malaya as a Mine Manager at Tronoh Mines, Perak. He moved on to Kuala Lumpur in 1918 and stayed until 1938 as a consulting mining engineer. Australia beckoned and he became Mine Manager at Tronoh Mines, Harrietville, Victoria. When the war ended in 1945 he returned briefly to

England before returning again to Malaya to help in the rehabilitation of the country. Nina had meantime stayed in Australia to sell up, before joining him again in Malaya. She returned to the UK on her own at some stage and died in England in 1950. After his second marriage he and his second wife moved out to Nairobi, where his younger brother, Dick, lived. Arthur died in Nairobi.

Allan Blomfield **Order in Family:** Sixth (Fram: 1890-2)

After school, which he left when he was 16, he joined Barclay's Bank in Bury St Edmunds. Along with many others he signed up for the Boer War and died on service (23 March 1903) in South Africa at Zeerust in the Transvaal. Again like many of his colleagues, he died of 'enteric'. Enteric was a polite term for cholera.

He was a Trooper in the 43rd Company Imperial Yeomanry; his Service Number was 6825. Little is known about him, except that he won a carving set in a bicycle race at Botesdale, which suggests, like his brothers, he was something of an athlete.

Edgar Frank **Order in Family:** Seventh (Fram: 1891-3)

After school, he went into the bank in Bury St Edmunds. He signed up for the Imperial Yeomanry on 6 Jan 1900. This was the Suffolk Volunteer's Brigade. He served during the Boer War and was wounded in the left shoulder. He was discharged at his own request in Jan 1901, but may have rejoined later. The London Gazette shows his as being temporarily promoted to Lieutenant in November 1901.

After the war he returned to South Africa, probably between 1902 and 1910, and was a Secretary and Mine Accountant, but no further detail is available. He returned to Billingford, and presided at the Harvest Dinner in 1910. He took over the management of Billingford about then. He was, at this stage, managing three farms.

He later had his own farm, but this may have been confiscated during the Second World War owing to bad management; accounts vary hence the caveating 'may'. If he was evicted, Lorna, his youngest sister, was married to the man who may have had a hand in any eviction; Stamford Tillott, who was on the Committee which dealt with confiscation of farms that were not being managed adequately; this was an agricultural measure taken in WWII. He died in Essex.

Footnote: Recently, his great nephew (Neil Flowerdew (Hon OF)) came across a small item in Frank's mother's book of newspaper cuttings: Around Easter 1912, the EDP reported that Frank was thrown when returning from a Hunt, his horse having been startled by a passing motor. Frank had a serious head injury, and a decision was made to conduct the operation known as trepanning. *Trepanning is a surgical intervention in which a hole is drilled or scraped into the human skull, exposing the **dura mater** to treat health problems related to intracranial diseases – in this case almost certainly to relieve pressure on the brain.* The report comments that he was well known in local sporting and athletic circles.

Hermann Herbert Order in Family:

Eighth (Fram: 1893)

After school he went to London and worked as a clerk for a company of brewers. He then joined the City of London branch of the Imperial Yeomanry and served, like three of the others, in the Boer War. On his return from the war, he rejoined the brewing company, but could not settle. He briefly went out to Bulawayo, in Southern Rhodesia, as a Mine Accountant and Secretary at a gold mine, but returned to the UK on medical grounds.

He tried Canada next, going to Queen's Bay in 1903, with Gordon, to their mother's sister (Alice Mahood). Hermann moved on to Vancouver. He settled down as an Estate Agent's accountant for the next fifty years or so. He died in Vancouver.

Spencer Pelham Order in Family: Tenth (Fram: 1894-99)

Joined Indian State Railways in 1902 as Asst Engineer. He also joined the United Provinces Light Horse as a Trooper in WWI, but was never released by the Railway, even when he later joined the Volunteer battalion of the Royal Berkshire and Middlesex Regt, which must have existed in India. He also held the rank of captain in the Railway Rifles at some stage, and saw action in skirmishes with the natives. He did valuable work keeping communications open at the time of the Amritsar Riots (1919). By 1925 he was Divisional Superintendent of a division of the railway. In 1925 he was appointed Chief Engineer of Indian State railway. He became Director of Civil Engineering (Railway Board) in 1929.

In 1930 he retired from the Indian Railways and was selected as the Chief Engineer of the Northern Extension, Nyasaland Railways. This was the extension of the railway from Limbe to Salima. He had the C of E church in Limbe built, and also one in India. He retired to Rickingham in 1935, where he owned The Cottage, and was awarded the CBE in 1936. He was deeply involved in local government after he retired, and was Chairman of the Rural District Council of Thedwastre during the war. He was also on the County Council, and a Magistrate. During the War he was a member of the Observer Corps and ran salvage and savings schemes.

Gordon Muriel Order in Family:

Twelfth (Fram: 1894-99)

He went out to Canada in 1903, sailing on 15 Oct. He was 18 and Hermann, who travelled with him, was days short of his 25th birthday. It isn't obvious what Gordon did between leaving school and emigrating; almost certainly he worked on the farm. Initially he and Herman were at Queen's Bay with their maternal aunt, Alice Mahood. Moving on, Hermann went to Vancouver and Gordon headed for Ontario, working on various farms. At one stage he had a piece of land, but that does not seem to have worked out. He moved up to British Columbia in 1909, ending up at Walhachin, where he remained until he enlisted as a trooper and went to the War. In early 1915 his Regiment were billeted on family land near Billingford, and both he and Eric are mentioned as visiting the Hall in his mother's 1915 diary. The Regiment crossed to France in mid-1915, initially as infantry, but later being re-united with their horses and serving in their prime role as cavalry.

His wartime service is recorded in detail in many documents, but suffice to say that he was awarded a posthumous VC after a brutal action at Morieul Wood. He remains a revered figure in Canadian Army lore.

Richard Edward (**Dick**)

Order in Family: Thirteenth (Fram: 1896-1903)

He joined the Indian Medical Service (of the Indian Army) in 1909. In 1910 he was at Sialkot, Amballah and Sehore Gauths. In May 1914 he went to the Andaman Islands in civil employment as Medical Superintendent of Cellular and Female Jails at Port Blair. Recalled to military duties in Oct 1914 and posted to Mesopotamia [Iraq] as Medical Officer (MO) of the 76th Punjabis he was present at Shaiba, Karun River and Nasarielh.

After these actions he was invalided back to India. In 1916 he became Senior MO Delhi cantonments. He did occasional trips to the Persian Gulf on the Hospital Ship Elloa. He joined the 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry in 1917 as MO at Dera Israel Khan. He was in a Medical Staff Appt in 1918 at Northern Command and on active duty at Waziristan on the North West Frontier in 1919.

His wife may have been in England during the war - she features in her mother-in-law's diary entries in 1916.

He was again, or still, on the North West Frontier in 1921 and later returned to Delhi as head of a hospital unit. His services were placed at the disposal of the Gaol Dept of the Govt of Burma in 1922. He was Supt of the Rangoon Gaol for several years and featured in the Rangoon Gaol riots in the 1920s. 1931-1936 saw him in the same role at Calcutta

He was awarded the CIE (Companion of the Indian Empire) for his efforts. In 1937 he reverted to military duty and went to the North West Province at Bannu - as Officer Commanding Combined Military Hospitals

He retired in Apr 1939, but was recalled and was posted to Meerut for hospital and station duties. He was invalided to England in 1940 and the following year was appointed medical officer of the Internee's Camp on the Isle of Man.

He finally retired in 1944 and went to Kenya because his son Digby (OF), also a doctor of medicine, was already there. He died in Nairobi.

Eric Symonds

Order in Family:

Fifteenth and last (Fram:1908-10)

Shortly after leaving school he joined Gordon in Walhachin – it was 1910 and he was 14 years old. In 1914 he joined up in Lord Strathcona's Horse at the same time as his elder brother – Eric now aged 17. He stayed with the Regt until Feb 1918. He saw a great deal of action, sometimes as infantry, as the Regt were without their horses for a period. He was promoted to Corporal in 1917 and was commissioned into the Artillery late in the War. He missed the

events at Moreuil Wood because he was under training for that shift to the Artillery. After the war he returned to Canada, started on a Soldier's Settlement ranch near Vancouver, and later went to Cognam in the Fraser Valley

He was the first British Columbian poultry breeder to win the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, egg-laying competition which was open to the world. He stayed poultry farming, at which he became a very noteworthy forward thinking expert, and remained in Canada until his death.

Comment: Eric, the youngest, may have been a bit of a handful. He reputedly mixed too much with the men on the farm in his youth. His parents may have encouraged him to go out to Gordon. He was a bit difficult to get on with, and even Pelham found him rather tricky. *[On the other hand, emigrating at 14 is probably fairly challenging, and there are no obvious clues as to what he did at Walhachin – we must assume he was under Gordon's eye]*

Another Note - Gordon, in what was almost certainly his last letter dated 5 Mar 1918, written to Arthur as Gordon returned to the Regt after a spell of leave at home, comments that *'Eric is safe for about six months, I did not get down to Brighton to see him, he was very keen so I hope will do well.'* Those comments suggest that Gordon felt a duty of care that was fairly deeply ingrained.