

No 30 August 2017

1. 265337 Corporal Charles Clarke Hallam 2nd Battalion Notts & Derby (Sherwood Foresters) Regiment. In the 1911 census Charles was listed as a 33 year-old rural postman living at Yard Head with his mother Emma (father John had died in 1896). Charles enlisted in February 1915. He left the army in 1919 a year after the death of his mother Emma. He was living on Netherside when he died in 1942. In the parish of St Barnabas' record of Baptisms for 22nd March 1878 his first name appears as 'Giles' but perhaps this is a transcription error.
2. 2nd Lieutenant Arnold Henry Mason 4th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Perhaps Arnold could be considered to have had one of the most distinguished careers of all of the wartime visitors to Bradwell. His father William Henry Mason was the Primitive Methodist Minister in the Manse on Brookside throughout WWI. Arnold had been born in March 1885 in Birkenhead, then in Cheshire, where his father was minister; his mother was Elizabeth Ann (née Gerrard). By 1911 William's ministry had taken the family to Ludlow, but sadly Elizabeth had died in 1905. In the 1911 census Arnold's occupation was stated to be artist (painter). By the time he enlisted as a private in the Artist's Rifles (London Regiment) in November 1914 he had already acted as an assistant to Sir William Richmond in the internal decoration of the Old Bailey. But it was to be as a portrait artist that he made his reputation. One of his first portraits was completed in late 1918 when now as 2nd Lieutenant he was in hospital in Blackpool when he painted a portrait of Mrs Hearn, the wife of the adjutant. While in hospital and believing he might die he married his nurse Nora Settle to save her from being sent to the front. The marriage was destined not to last and divorce proceedings were begun in 1920. After the war he joined the Slade School in London and thereafter his reputation grew until he was elected to the Royal Academy (RA) in 1951. He died in 1963 and a notice of his death and cremation in Mortlake crematorium appeared in the Times that year.