



## William John Hines

6639 Lance Corporal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards

He died on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1914 in Flanders, aged 24

William was buried at Poperinge Communal Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium

Having enlisted in the Coldstream Guards on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1906, when he would have been 18, William Hines was one of the relatively few career soldiers who appear on our War Memorial. He appeared in 1911 at 107 Regent Park Road visiting his sister who was, most unusually at the time, a trained maternity nurse! 107 Regent's Park Road was, then as now, a shop with accommodation over; Nurse Minnie Hines was one of several households occupying the premises. I feel it may have been quite a jolly set up; 3 siblings in their twenties shared one suite of three rooms, a fourth sibling was visiting, a middle-aged lady had another suite of three rooms and was also enjoying a visitor whilst Minnie had just the one room and was, of course, being visited by her brother. All the residents bar one, who had no employment, had nice white-collar jobs; these were not people struggling on the fringes of society!



101 – 109 Regent's Park Road, then and now!

Pte William Hines, as the 23-year-old then was (not 20 as stated on the census return), had been born in Waterford not that this means, necessary, that he was Irish; during Victorian times, Waterford was very much a Garrison town. His sister's birthplace of Woolwich would also strongly hint that this might have been an Army family; Woolwich was the home of the famous Arsenal after which a fairly well-known football team took its name.

As it turned out William John Hines' regimental birth registered in Waterford in 1889, reveals he was the son of a chap in the Royal Artillery. This then gives another hint on finding some more siblings, we already knew about Minnie, another Royal Artillery Regimental birth, this time at Woolwich in 1874, another strong possibility is the James Henry. W(illiam). Royal Artillery Regimental birth, in Gibraltar in 1875 although I have not been able to track down any subsequent records, Florence Royal Artillery Regimental birth in Waterford in 1887 was definitely another of the siblings.

I was then able to track down, in 1901, William and Minnie's parents living at Barton Mills, Mildenhall; the father, James, was a 52 years old miller claiming birth in Eye but the mother, Mary Ann, had been in Harleston. Minnie, 26, had been, as expected, born in Woolwich, the next child Florence, 13, born in Waterford then, on the next page, there is a bit of a shambles but with a bit of tweaking we find William, also born in Waterford and another lady, Elizabeth Hine, aged 35, who was working as a servant and had been born in Norwood.

**ATTESTATION PAPER.**

put to the Recruit, before Attestation.

*His name was James Hines*  
*He was born at Eye, Suffolk*  
*on the 15th day of May 1851, at 2 o'clock P.M.*

What is your Name? *James Hines*  
 In the Parish of *Hoxne* in or near the Town of *Shawch* in the County of *Suffolk*  
 How long have you resided in the County of *Suffolk*? *20* Years *—* Months.  
 What is your Trade or Calling? *Miller*  
 Are you an Apprentice? *No*  
 Are you Married? *No*  
 Do you now belong to the Militia, or to the Naval Coast Artillery, or to the Royal Naval Reserve Force, or do you belong to any Regiment or Corps in Her Majesty's Army?  
 Have you ever served in the Army, Marines, Militia, or in Her Majesty's Indian Forces?  
 Is the Recruit to state the particulars of his former Service, and the cause of his Discharge, and is to produce his Parchment of Discharge?  
 Have you ever been rejected as unfit for Her Majesty's Service, or for Her Majesty's Indian Forces, upon any prior Enlistment?  
 Have you ever been marked with the letter "D" or the letters "B.C."?  
 Where, when, and by whom were you enlisted?  
 Did you receive a Notice, and did you understand its meaning?  
 What Bounty and Kit did you enlist?  
 Have you any objection to make to the manner of your enlistment?  
 Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, or in Her Majesty's Indian Forces, for the term of three Years, provided Her Majesty should so long require your services, and also for such further term, not exceeding twelve months, as shall be directed by the Commanding Officer on any Foreign, Colonial, or Indian Station?

Signature of Recruit *James Hines*  
 Witness *William Briggs Cornhill*

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**  
 I, *James Hines*, do solemnly and sincerely declare, That to the best of my age and Belief the above answers to the foregoing questions made and signed by me are true; and that I am to be attested for the Term of Twelve Years provided Her Majesty should so long require my Services, and such further term, not exceeding Twelve Months, as shall be directed by the Commanding Officer on any Foreign, Colonial, or Indian Station.

Signature of Recruit *James Hines* { Signature of Witness } *William Briggs Cornhill*

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.**  
 I, *James Hines*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and true Allegiance to Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully serve Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey the Orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Witness my hand. *James Hines*  
 Signature of Recruit *James Hines*  
 Witness present *William Briggs Cornhill*

The above questions were asked of the said *James Hines* and answered by him in presence, as herein recorded; and the said *James Hines* made the above Declaration at before me at *Woolwich* this *15th* day of *May* One Thousand *Sixtyeight* at *2.40* o'clock *P.M.*

Signature of the Justice *J. H. Patten*

James' Attestation Papers, from when he first enlisted, reveal that he had originally been a miller, this being his given profession when he signed up in May 1868, at the age of 20. These papers also reveal he came from Hoxne, rather than Eye and that he had actually enlisted at Woolwich for a £1 bounty plus free kit! Going back to 1851, 2 years old James was living with his parents, an older brother, and a paternal grandfather (after whom he had been named) at Heckfield Green; he reappeared there in 1861 census by which time he had 4 more, younger siblings. James' papers also show that the lad had enlisted at age 20, obviously keen to get off to a life of adventure.

Our Harleston Hero's parents, James Hines and Mary Ann Soanes had married in Greenwich in early 1873. Harleston born Mary Ann must have met James when she was working as a servant up in London; she appeared aged 20 in 1871 in an interesting household headed by William H Walenn who described himself as an 'Civil Engineer and Electrician, Writer on Chemistry and Physical Science'! He was one of the men working in the early development of Electromagnetic theory and wrote a number papers on various

scientific subjects: his works included, 'Little Experiments for Little chemists' which is currently available in a paper back re-print and undoubtedly in fine Victorian style had a noble disregard of current health and safety concerns. He may have been a scientist, his wife, with the unusual name of Skene, was a gifted amateur musician. Her creative abilities were passed on to several of her children: Herbert Walenn was a cellist and professor at the Royal Academy of Music; Charles Walenn was a singer; another son was an organist, and Gerald Walenn and a daughter were violinists. Two other children found their way into other creative professions whilst a daughter, Isabella, married the designer Arthur Silver.



Brecknock Road

I would have thought this would have been quite an interesting, if noisy, household to work for. Although much of the Victorian housing stock on Brecknock Road has been demolished and replaced by modern buildings, the remaining 4 story villas, roughly opposite where the Wallens would have lived gives an idea of the stolid magnitude of where Mary Ann Soanes and her half-sister Hannah were working in 1871. The houses had already been subdivided into two dwellings by 1911, but originally had 9 reception/bedrooms; a marked contrast to the cramped house that Mary Ann was living in in 1861 with her father John, a bricklayer, and her mother Ann, a laundress. Duke William Lane was one of

the poorer parts of Harleston and the family were surrounded by households just scraping by. The family were also in the heart of a positive nest of other brick makers and brick layers, including the Wards, related to Henry Ward, our first winner of a V.C. This was not however a simple family arrangement, trotting back another 10 years to 1851, and we find John Soanes, 24 (as expected), his rather older wife Ann, 30 (as expected) his 'daughter' Mary Ann Soanes 13 (not as expected) and a 'daughter in law' Hannah Randall, aged 7 months.

I think that the census taker may have been slightly muddled in this 1851 census, what would make much more sense would be Mary Ann Soanes, being the 7 month old baby and the product of John and Ann's recent marriage and the 'daughter in law' (interchangeable with adopted or step-daughter at the time) being 13 years old Hannah Randall from a previous relationship of Ann's. So, essentially the census taker had got the ages of the daughter and stepdaughter reversed; it would be most unlikely that John had become a father at the age of 11!

Nice theory but it is all too easy to blame discrepancies on the census taker rather than a mistake in your own logic, so you can imagine how delighted I was to find a marriage between John Soanes, a bricklayer, and Ann Barker, a lady 3 years widowed, both living in Brockdish, in 1849! Still a bit tenuous, wrong town, Ann Barker, not Ann Randall, but then the actual certificate revealed that Ann Barker was then a widow, and the daughter of Henry Randall, all tying together beautifully with another marriage certificate three years earlier, in 1846, when Ann Randall married William Barker

The baptism records show Hannah was indeed Ann's illegitimate child although, rather sweetly, in 1841, aged 3, she was being raised by her grandparents. One slight surprise though, the marriage certificate of Ann nee Randall, ex Barker shows that John Soanes was the (presumably illegitimate but acknowledged) son of Stephen Ward, and back we go to the bricklaying Wards of Harleston!

1846. Marriage solemnized at the Church of St. Andrew in the Parish of Brockdish in the County of Stafford

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
21	July 13 <sup>th</sup> 1846	William Barker	24 yrs	Single man	Labourer	Brockdish	William Barker	Labourer
		Ann Randall	30 yrs	Single woman		Brockdish	Henry Randall	Labourer

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church by me, James Thomas

This Marriage was solemnized between us, The parish of St. Andrew William Barker } in the Presence of us, St. Andrew } William Soanes } Ann Randall

1849. Marriage solemnized *at the church* in the *parish of Brockdish* in the County of *Norfolk*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
36	<i>Oct 30<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>John Soanes</i>	<i>Full age</i>	<i>bachelor</i>	<i>bricklayer</i>	<i>Brockdish</i>	<i>Stephen Ward</i>	<i>labourer</i>
	<i>1849</i>	<i>Ann Barker</i>	<i>Full age</i>	<i>widow</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Brockdish</i>	<i>Henry Randall</i>	<i>labourer</i>

Married in the *church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church* by me, *George France*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *The mark of X* *John Soanes* } in the Presence of us, { *The mark of +* *Henry Randall* }  
 { *The mark of +* *Ann Barker* } { *The mark of +* *Bathshela Shepherd* }

*Anne's first and second marriages*

Stephen Ward was a firmly married father of 6 children in 1841 and this census reveals that his oldest son was John Ward and his wife was named Eliza. Hoofing back into marriage and birth certificates, it transpires that Eliza's maiden name was Soanes and back in 1827 she had baptised her illegitimate son John Ward Soanes, using the custom of the time to firmly lay parent-hood at the feet of Stephen Ward, the man she went on to marry in March 1828 when their son was 4 months old. By the time of the 1841 census, John Soanes was fully absorbed into the Ward family and was bearing his father's name, not as a middle name but as his own surname.

It was probably only when John Ward Soanes decided to get married and his baptismal records were delved into, that his true name, under which he married Ann Barker nee Randall, became apparent. John (now Soanes) and his wife Ann stayed around the Duke William, there were no more children although a London born grandson, 4 years old Henry J Colquhon appeared in the 1871 census. The mystery of this wee lad is solved when looking back at Mary Ann Soanes' census entry from 1871; she was the housemaid in the rather high achieving Wallen household, the cook was a married lady by the name of Hannah Colquhon, who had been born in Brockdish. Hannah Colquhon was in fact Mary Ann Soanes' older half sister, Hannah Randall! 10 years earlier, Hannah had been working in Yarmouth, as a general servant before specialising in the better paid job of a cook.

Following Ann's death in the 1880's, John remarried to a Suffolk lass.

It has to be said that this family have not been the easiest to follow through the years, even aside from the various red-herrings and false trails created by the combination of confused census takers and confused family lineages!

Having located Mary Ann Soanes working in London in 1871, her 22 years old husband to be Bombadier James Hines was at Dover Castle! I suspect it was when James was posted to the depot at Woolwich that he met young Mary Ann, the two slightly home sick young folks would have bonded over their shared heritage and memories of the Waveney Valley. I lose the pair in 1881, but I strongly suspect they were in Ireland. Again I cannot find them in 1891, when James would have been either freshly, or on the brink of, leaving the Army. The only exception was 15 years old Minnie who was working in Woolwich as a servant to the caretaker of a Baptist Church!

James seems to have made the decision to return to his roots on his retirement. Many men in his situation joined other large institutions such as the railway, the police or even became school janitors or attendance officers; James decided to return to East Anglia and resurrect his dusty skills as a miller appearing as such in the 1901 census as detailed above.

Just to keep things complicated, James did not die in Barton Mills where he was milling, nor in Depwade where his widow wound up, but instead he died in London in 1909. Shortly after, in 1910, widowed Mary Ann Hines, back on the outskirts of her hometown of Harleston, married widower

Henry Thomas Martin. He was 65, she was 60, he was a literate widowed cowman, she was an illiterate widow. They had set up home in a 5-room house on Low Road Wortwell and I do hope they lived happily there for the three years of marriage they were destined to enjoy, Henry Martin died in 1913 at the relatively young age of 67.

Poor Mary Ann had lived a rootless existence, following her husband as he travelled with the Army. Her oldest daughter had done well to find one of the few formal careers (other than school teaching) that was open to a woman of her time and background. A son, William James, joined a prestigious regiment, and she herself returned to the town she had left 4 decades earlier, to spend a few years in the nearby village of Wortwell before moving back into town, probably following the death of her second husband, living up at Jay's Green in the 1920's.

Sadly, we will never know if Mary Ann's son William James Hines, would have settled down in East Anglia or London, or if he too would have roved the empire, with or without a wife. William was in fact the first of the men of Harleston, by dint of his unofficial Ward heritage, and the first of the men of Wortwell via his Soane's heritage from his paternal great grandmother, to die in what became known as the Great War.

