



## Richard Herbert Stote Pemberton

Lieutenant, H.M.S. Southampton, Royal Navy

He was killed in action at sea on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1941, aged 32

Richard is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial

Richard Herbert Stote Pemberton was atypical of most of the men on our Harleston memorial. He had not been born, or raised or probably had even lived in the town. Instead his only real link was through his grandmother and from her arose the situation where his mother spent her later years and retirement in the town.

For generations back the men of the Pemberton family had been born and raised in Durham

although they often looked further afield for their wives. In 1867 Richard Stote Pemberton's grandfather, Richard Lawrence Pemberton, married Miss Elizabeth Dennison of the Dove House Mendham and this is where the link to the town of Harleston arises. Elizabeth was the daughter of a local Vicar, Rev James W Stote Dennison and his wife Elizabeth Mary nee Whittaker, the daughter of another local Vicar and landowner. The wedding was attended by the local great and good with six bridesmaids recruited from the ranks of the local squirearchy/clergy, some of whom (the Whitakers for certain) were cousins. Many locals lined up to see the spectacle; the costumes were ornate and rich, the honeymoon was on the continent. This was the Mendham version of Charles and Di, 120 years previous! Two years later, when Elizabeth nee Dennison's grandfather, the Rev. T. J. Whittaker died, her father was able to buy the house enabling family possession to continue, albeit through the distaff line.

*Norfolk Chronicle*  
4 May 1867

### HARLESTON.

*Marriage of Richard Lawrence Pemberton, Esq., and Miss Donnison.*—On Tuesday, at Mendham Church was solemnised the marriage of Richard Lawrence Pemberton, Esq., of the Barnes, Sunderland, with Elizabeth Jane, the eldest daughter of the Rev. J. W. S. Donnison, of the Dove-house, Mendham. The usually quiet road that leads from Harleston to Mendham seemed on Tuesday morning all astir. Carriages, gigs, and dog-carts, laden with merry parties, followed each other in close succession for some time before the time at which the marriage was to take place. The church was quite full of visitors long before the bridal party arrived, and almost as many spectators assembled in front of the church to watch the approach of the carriages. The ceremony was to take place at eleven o'clock, and shortly before that time the bridegroom arrived at the church and awaited the bride in the chancel. The bridal party were punctual, and then followed the bride on the arm of her father, followed by the bridesmaids, six in number. They were the Misses Donnison, Whittaker, Holmes, Creve, Ormerod, and Kindersley. The bride was attired in a dress of rich white satin, with lace veil, and wreaths of orange blossoms, she also carried in her hand a very handsome bouquet. The bridesmaids' dresses were of white silk; Zouave jackets, trimmed with cerise plush, with streamers, and white bonnets trimmed with flowers to match. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Prebendary Whittaker, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. A. H. Brereton, the vicar of the parish. At half-past two the bride and bridegroom departed in a carriage drawn by four beautiful greys, for Halesworth, en route for the continent.

Norfolk Chronicle 27 Oct 1838  
 Earlier evidence of the Whittaker's  
 Ownership of Dove House

TO BE LET,  
 WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION,  
**THE DOVE HOUSE,**  
 IN the parish of Mendham, about half a mile from the Market and Post Town of Harleston, Norfolk, and late in the occupation of the Rev. G. A. Whitaker; comprising an Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, and Study, six Bed Rooms, and Dressing Room, Servants' Bed Rooms, Laundry, Servants' Hall, and other Offices, two three-stall Stables and double Coach House, with numerous convenient Out-buildings, Conservatory, productive Kitchen Garden, and Pleasure Grounds, with a Lawn containing eleven and a half Acres. This excellent Family Residence is delightfully situated on an eminence studded with handsome oaks and other forest trees, and commanding an extensive view of a richly wooded valley, through which flows the River Waveney. The Right of Sporting over the adjoining Manor may be also had if required.  
 For further particulars apply (if by letter, post-paid) to the Rev. T. W. Whitaker, Stanton-by-Bridge, near Derby; or to Mr. Edward Juby, Harleston, Norfolk.

Elizabeth Dennison's husband, and grandfather of our Harleston Hero, Richard Lawrence Pemberton, was a wealthy widower from Barnes, County Durham. Walter Pemberton (living at Denton House) JP and landowner, was part of the same family and may have affected the introduction. Although Richard Lawrence was the only son of Richard Pemberton Snr, the family could trace their ancestry back to 1400 and would no doubt have been very aware of their contemporary network of cousins! Based up in the North East they had long been substantial landowners but their 19<sup>th</sup> century fortune was based on coal; Harleston Hero Richard Stote Pemberton's great-grandfather (yet another Richard Pemberton) described himself as a Coal Mine Owner.

Although Richard Pemberton's branch of the family was firmly seated in the North East, Denton House, remained in the hands of Walter Pemberton's side branch of the family. His rather younger, Italian born, British second wife lived there until her death in 1912. leaving some rather particular instructions for her funeral; no fuss, no music, no nothing, a headstone to cost no more than £3 and just to have her initials, the date of her death, her age and the text – "God be merciful to me, a sinner" and that her name be forgotten. All very dramatic!

Longford Journal  
 Republic of Ireland  
 20 Apr 1912

**WISHED TO BE FORGOTTEN.**  
 Leaving estate of the value of £19,349, Mrs. Mary Ann Pemberton, of Denton House, Denton, Norfolk, left peculiar directions as to her funeral.  
 She desired to be buried in the parish in which she should die, but her name is not to appear on any memorial tablet in any church. No music or singing shall be heard at her funeral, which is to be conducted like a cottager's funeral, and no leaves or flowers shall be placed in her grave or in the form of wreaths and crosses on her grave. Her tombstone, which shall not cost more than £3, shall bear the inscription "M. A. P." and the date of her death and her age, and the text, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." "My sole wish being that my name may be utterly forgotten."

In the Victorian years the leading members of the Pemberton family and it's cadet branches were heavily involved in administering law and their substantial estates but back in 1824, another member of the Barnes' Pembertons, Thomas Pemberton was knee deep in trouble resulting in a challenge to a duel. Having upset a local 'gentleman' at a Local Government meeting, Thomas Pemberton sent a note to the insulted gentleman, Mr Lambton, stating he expected satisfaction of him. Lambton's responded that Pemberton was currently charged with defrauding the excise, had previously been convicted of assault on a woman, was no gentleman and therefore he would not be giving him satisfaction i.e. no duel! Lambton then changed his mind, Pemberton by then had had enough and said – nope you've missed your chance! Not exactly pistols at dawn Georgette Heyer style.

The newspaper reporting all this took a decidedly partisan stance, slated Thomas' character, inferred he was a Tax dodger and had been on the wrong side of the Magistrates bench several times! Amusing, bearing in mind that the Victorian Pembertons were, unlike this Georgian ancestor, very active as deliverers of the law, commissioners of good works, Justices of the Peace and County Lieutenants!

In 1832, Thomas was in trouble for sharp dealing, trying to buy land via a proxy so he could, against the vendors explicit wishes run a rail line across it – in those days almost certainly for horse drawn trucks to and from one of the family mines. Neighbour discovered the trick, refused to honour his side of the bargain, Pemberton took the case to court and so devious had his behaviour been that the case was thrown out!

I don't suppose this uncharacteristic throwback to an earlier time when you had to be ruthless to survive in the English / Scots borders really cared; in 1835 he let a large, savage dog, that attacked horses and men, roam freely!

Our readers may remember that we some time ago called public attention to the fact of a ferocious dog, belonging to Mr Thomas Pemberton, of Barnes, near Sunderland, being suffered to go at large in that neighbourhood, and of its having attacked a horse belonging to a gentleman of this city, in such a manner as to endanger the life of the owner, who was driving him, and materially to lessen the value of the animal. We took occasion to express a hope that Mr Pemberton would see the propriety of guarding against such consequences for the future; but we are surprised to learn that he sets respect for the law and his obligations to society equally at defiance. A few days ago, the same horse was attacked by the dog, near the same spot as before; and, we are informed that scarcely a day passes without affording similar grounds for complaint. It is surely high time for the proper authorities to interfere to put down this dangerous nuisance, which is persisted in, in spite of caution and exposure, in a spirit which it seems nothing short of the enforcement of the law will suffice to break. We advise Mr Pemberton once more to do his duty in this respect; otherwise we can assure him that legal coercion will be resorted to for public protection.

Only 15 years later, in 1847, a more polished Pemberton, Ralph Steven, (born in 1770 at Barnes, son of yet another Richard Pemberton) died in Hyde Park London, Deputy Lieutenant and former High Sherriff of Durham, one of several of the family who took on that role! I am sure a genealogist with time on their hands could spend many a happy month or 6 untangling the family lines!

The grandfather of our Harleston Hero, Richard Lawrence, went to Eton, his London cousins went to Eton, in due course, Richard Lawrence's sons went to Eton and then on to New College Oxford.

As a married man and father, Richard Lawrence made his family home at Hawthorn Towers, a gothic affair built near Easington in the 1820s. Abandoned by the family in about 1910, post war neglect and vandalism led to a lad being killed by falling masonry and this wonderful castellated house with a commanding cliff top position was demolished in 1969. Unlike his father, Richard Lawrence

distanced himself from trade and industry (although income continued to come from the mines as well as the family's large land holdings, including several houses on large estates), instead Pemberton could claim to be the High Sheriff for County Durham, a Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant. Land and law were to continue to be the main occupations of the Pembertons for generations to come.



Richard Pemberton's first, Jersey born wife popped out six children in eight years and died in late 1865, exhausted I suspect. 15 months or so later, and Pemberton's children had a new stepmother in the form of our Elizabeth nee Dennison from Mendham, whose wedding started this tale. She contributed five more children to the family, two of whom had died by the 1911 census. The first born of Elizabeth's children, and Richard Lawrence's third son, was Bertram Pemberton; Bertram was to be the father of our Harleston Hero, Richard Stote Pemberton.



Low Barnes (Tyne & Wear Museums Service)

By 1871, the Pembertons had moved from the pretty little Gothic Hawthorn Towers into the main family seat, Low Barnes, a huge square house with at least 18 live in servants plus various gardeners etc dotted around the estate. The family abandoned this, their former main family seat, when the railway came to town! Not sure whether the railway spoiled the view, attracted the wrong sorts or just made too much noise disturbing the peace of their rolling acres but this

sounded the death knell of the house which, having been abandoned, was demolished in 1921 leaving only a now derelict cottage and gate piers. This picture of the abandoned and semi derelict building would have been taken shortly after the first World War. Ironic considering the machinations that Thomas Pemberton had gone through to get a railway in place on family land!

The family were back in their preferred residence of Hawthorne towers in 1881, complete with 16 live in staff etc etc etc. Whilst the boys were sent away to school, the girls were educated at home; a governess (German) was part of the household staff. We are talking a family who lived in considerable style and had considerable wealth.



In 1881 Richard and Emma's oldest son and heir, John Staypleton was at home enjoying a break from New College Oxford, he later qualified as a solicitor and, in 1890, married a Welsh girl who gave him his first child and only son, Richard Lawrence S Pemberton. It was down through this line that the main estates and wealth would travel; although it was normal for unmarried daughters to be given an allowance, married daughters (once the dowry was arranged) would be their husband's business, younger sons would be educated and set up to make their own way in life.

1890. Marriage solemnized at *Christ Church* in the Parish of *Langfingeham* in the County of *Carleton*

| 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.                |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 37  | <i>June 11<sup>th</sup></i> | <i>John Staypleton Gray Pemberton</i> | <i>29</i> | <i>Bachelor</i> | <i>Barrister</i>    | <i>Hawthorn, Durham</i>            | <i>Richard Lawrence Pemberton</i> | <i>Genl. Hon. J. P. D.L.</i>                 |
|     |                             | <i>Janet Grand Marshall</i>           | <i>23</i> | <i>Spinster</i> | <i>---</i>          | <i>Langfingeham</i>                | <i>Thomas Horatio Marshall</i>    | <i>Lt. Col. 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regt.</i> |

Married in the *Chapel of Ease, Christ Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England* after *Service* by me, *Martin Pope Allen*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John Staypleton Gray Pemberton* in the Presence of us, *Richard Lawrence Pemberton* *Janet Grand Marshall* *Frederick Long Marshall*

*Walter H. Pemberton*  
*John H. Pemberton*  
*Spencer Pitt*



*Richard Lawrence Pemberton with Grandson and Heir, Richard Lawrence Staypleton Pemberton, about 1893, Hawthorn.*

As an adult, John Staypleton's only son, Richard Lawrence Staypleton Pemberton, fought in World War One being several times decorated. He moved to leafy Virginia Water in Surrey before inheriting the mantle of his father. Richard Lawrence Staypleton re-enlisted at the outbreak of WW2 and was very active in civil defence. Mind you he was a terrible driver and all through the 1930's was being hauled up in court for motoring offences – perhaps he had more than a bit of the renegade spirit shown by his ancestor Thomas who was entangled in the duel fiasco 100 years earlier!

Widowed John remarried to a Nira Ross born in India, indicating a military background. The couple had three girls and in 1911 the family appeared in the 35 room Belmont House in Durham. John became the MP for Sunderland between 1900 and 1906, something he had been campaigning for since before 1890. His presence in the house might explain why he appeared, solo, in London in the 1901 census. He also went on to become the Vice Chancellor of Durham University.

Meanwhile, his John Staypleton's father Richard Lawrence Pemberton and his wife Elizabeth nee Dennison appeared in an hotel in Albermarle Street, London for the 1901 census; the staff heavily outnumbered the visitors! Around this time, three of their children, Ralph and spinsters Laura and Margaret, were based in Sussex, but Gerald had gone much further afield to Canada, a favourite destination of younger sons of the landed gentry! Various daughters married military officers; I have not followed all the family but hope none of Richard's offspring did anything too wild.

Elizabeth's husband Richard Lawrence died only a few months after the 1901 census, aged 69, leaving his widow, 9 years his junior, to carry on. John Staypleton stepped into his father's shoes and most of his fortune but it transpired that whilst Richard Lawrence had owned Dove House, the house passed to his wife's oldest son, Bertram, although Richard Lawrence Pembeerton's unmarried sister-in-law was then in occupation. It could well be that Elizabeth or her hiers had actually inherited Dove House when her father died, her mother having long predeceased him. Provision would have been made for Elizabeth's unmarried sister, Anne to remain in the family home, but due to the land ownership rules at the time, Elizabeth's inheritance would have passed to her via a trust held by her husband for her benefit. Legacies were made for Richard Lawrence Pemberton's other children and wife but of course John Staypleton received the bulk of the estate.

Elizabeth chose to retire to her childhood home, the 14 room Dove House where her unmarried sister Anna Stote Dennison had lived all her life with her parents. In 1901, following the death of her father, Anna was visiting her cousin, George Whittaker, another Clergyman, living in Henstead; for this census Dove House was unoccupied other than by servants. At the start of 1901, a Samuel Barnes was taken to court in 1901 for stealing eggs from his employer, Anne Dennison at Dove House – seems extraordinary now that an Inspector would be actively involved in planning and implementing a 'sting' operation to catch an egg thief but I guess that was the power of the 'Big House' at the time!

## HARLESTON.

**PETTY SESSIONS.**—On Friday before Messrs. J. Saucroft Holmes (chairman), Rev. S. Fellows, A. Taylor, and John Pipe, Esqs., Samuel Barnes, gardener, was charged with stealing two hen's eggs, the property of Miss Aura Stote Downison of the Dove House, his employer. Inspector Southgate said he had watched the house from which eggs had been missed, and where marked eggs were placed. He saw defendant go there and afterwards on being searched two eggs, one of which was marked, were found in his possession. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 5s. and costs

when her oldest son Bertram got married in 1908, he gave Dove house as his residence – I think as he was actually working in Derbyshire at the time this was a fiction designed to look good on the marriage certificates! He seems to have then had a break in Wales where he appeared in the 1911 with his wife, one year old Richard Pemberton and three servants!

The third son of the family, Bertram had a decent education (Summerfield House School followed by Eton and then New College Oxford) but would have had to make his own way in life. He started his working life as a teacher but soon drifted back into the family fold, appearing as a farmer on the fringes of the New Forest in 1901, by 1911 he was a married man working as a Land Agent – law and land were the family speciality. Like his oldest brother, John, he married a lass from Wales, Nina Lloyd, very much part of valley high society.

reside at Harles.

### PEMBERTON—LLOYD.

#### Festivities in the Swansea Valley.

On Thursday the marriage took place at St. John's Church, Cilybebyll, near Pontardawe, of Nina Augusta, sixth daughter of Mr Herbert Lloyd, J.P., of Plas Cilybebyll, and Mr Bertram Roper Stote Pemberton, of Dove House, Harleston, Norfolk, third son of the late Mr R. L. Pemberton, of Hawthorne Towers, Durham. The occasion was one of much rejoicing in the locality, triumphal arches spanning the route from The Plas to the church. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a semi-Empire gown of ivory Duchesse satin, exquisitely embroidered with pearls and sequins, worn over an under dress of chiffon; her ornaments were a string of pearls, the gift of the bridegroom's mother, and a diamond and turquoise pendant, the gift of her brothers and sisters. The bridesmaids were Misses Councelletta Lloyd, Nora Lloyd, Clayton, Parker, and Llewelyn—all charmingly attired in cream silk Empire gowns, with inner vests of gold embroidery, and the skirts piped with gold, while the gold crinoline hats were trimmed with gauze and wreathed with cream roses. Mr Field was best man. The service was fully choral, and the Venerable Archdeacon Edmond and the Rev. Morgan Evans Davies (the rector) officiated. After the ceremony the tenants on the estate of the bride's father unhorsed the bridal carriage and drew the happy couple to Plas Cilybebyll, where a reception was held. Subsequently Mr and Mrs Pemberton travelled to London en route for Scotland, where the honeymoon will be spent.

The South Wales Daily Post had a full 2 ½ columns of coverage for the wedding – including reams of details of gifts, a full history of the family, lists of the great and good who attended and a description of Nina Lloyd as a 'beautiful girl with brown curly hair and blue eyes'. I have included a more compact article!

*South Wales Daily News*  
1 May 1908

There was a lot of money floating around, a lot of legalise and a lot of trusts etc going on – the West Glamorgan Archives are chock a block with marriage settlement details, mortgages etc from the Lloyd family archives that involve the Pembertons. Such is the way of those fortunate enough to both own sufficient wealth and conscientious enough to shoulder commensurate responsibilities to preserve heritage and care for inherited or created dependants.

Our hero's grandmother, Bertram's mother, Elizabeth Pemberton nee Dennison, survived to the grand old age of 96. Dying in 1937, she was then the oldest inhabitant of Harleston and was described as a lady of great charm!. Her Grandmother, Jane Whittaker, had also died at Dove House, back in 1857 aged 92! Assuming Jane Whittaker came into the house as a blushing bride of 20 or so, this would take the family history back to the 1770's. Still living at Dove House, Elizabeth was nimble enough in 1935 to climb the steps into the Harleston Corn Exchange to cast her vote – apparently the highlight of an otherwise very boring election!

Around the time of his mother's death Bertram and his wife moved to Dove House (which after all was his); although he was even then not a well man, becoming chronically ill some time before his son's death in 1941.

Bertram's oldest son, our Harleston Hero, Richard Pemberton was a career sailor, entering Dartmouth Navel College in the New Year, 1922 as a thirteen-year-old lad – no Eton for this chap! In 1937, Richard married Miss Sheila Naylor at Bishop's Waltham, the event providing one of the very few images I have been able to find of this apparently camera-shy family! I have to say, in an impromptu snap of the happy couple leaving the church, Richard looks wildly happy although a little chunkier than would seem ideal for a man who was then serving in a submarine! A bit of a society do, the reception was knee deep in high ranking military officers and various Hons and Ladys! The wedding was followed a year later by the birth of Ian R Pemberton in Winchester.



Through an archway of swords after their wedding at Bishop's Waltham come Lieutenant and Mrs. B. Stoke Pemberton. A few minutes before this picture was taken she was Miss S. E. Naylor, of Upham. Her husband is serving in H.M. Submarine L.54.

Richard Herbert Stote Pemberton's death occurred on Jan 11 1941, 2 days after his ship, the H.M.S. Southampton, was damaged so severely in an engagement with the Italian Navy in the Sicilian Channel, backed by German and Italian planes, that she had to be scuttled. 149 men died on board following the attacks, the ship was sunk by the British on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, the day after Richard's death.

*Diss Express*  
24 Jan 1941

**NEEDHAM**

**LIEUT. R. H. S. PEMBERTON, R.N.,  
OF HARLESTON**

A memorial service was held at St. Peter's Church, Needham on Tuesday, for Lieut. Richard Herbert Stote Pemberton, R.N., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. B. R. S. Pemberton, of the Dove House, Harleston, who was killed in action.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. S. Bally) and Miss R. Bush was at the organ.

Members of the family present were: Mrs. B. R. S. Pemberton (mother), Mr. Michael Pemberton, and Capt. and Mrs. W. Fisher. Lieut Pemberton's father was prevented through illness from attending.

There was a large congregation.

#### DEATH OF MR. B. R. S. PEMBERTON

The death has taken place at The Dove House, of Mr. Bertram Roper Stote Pemberton (aged 74), a member of one of the oldest families in the district. He was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Laurence Pemberton, of Hawthorn Tower, county Durham, and was educated at Eton and New College, Oxford. For 25 years Mr. Pemberton was Land Agent to Sir Vauncey Crewe, Bt., of Cork Abbey, Derbyshire, and later for his daughter, Mrs. Mosley. Mr. Pemberton came to reside at the Dove House, Harleston, in 1938, just prior to the death of his mother. His eldest son, Lieut. R. H. S. Pemberton, R.N., was killed on active service on the "Southampton," and there are two other sons serving in the Middle East. The cremation took place at Norwich on Thursday.

*Diss Express*  
8 Jan 1943

A memorial service was held at Needham Church which his mother, his uncle Michael and his cousin, Mrs William Fisher, daughter of his oldest uncle John Staypleton, and her husband attended; Richard Herbert's brothers, Bertram (Stote) Pemberton Jnr and Peter Francis Pemberton were doubtless serving abroad; they were listed as being in the middle East when, two years later, their father Bertram died. Bertram's brother Michael died shortly after he did.

Sadly, Peter died young(ish) only 50, in 1965. The Pembertons were very keen to emphasise the family's Waveney Valley credentials; although his Durham roots and his decades long bailiff career in Derbyshire were both noted, Bertram was described as being a member of one of the oldest families in the district.

Maybe as a third son of Richard Lawrence (second son Gerald had set off to Canada) but the oldest son of Elizabeth nee Dennison etc etc he chose not to emphasise his paternal lineage, from which he was side-lined, but his maternal in which, as his mother's oldest son, he was the prime focus. Older half-brother John having taken the reins of the Durham lands, this is a bit of a recurring theme; whilst Elizabeth's children attended her funeral, none of her step children appear to have made the effort, John Staypleton was represented at his nephew's funeral by a married daughter, but possibly only because of the military link rather than due to family affection. Although to be fair this was the

#### FOR ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.

Fifty years ago members of the Pemberton family, who have now resided at the Dove House, for well over two hundred years, provided allotments for Harleston gardeners at the Cherry Tree end of the town. They were afterwards taken over by the Parish Council. To mark the occasion, Mr. Michael Pemberton, a London member of the family now an evacuee in the district, provided prizes on Saturday for the best-kept allotments. Mr. Jolley, head gardener at Thorpe Abbots Place, acted as judge, prize winners being: H. Rayner W. H. Drake and B. Moyse. Mr. B. R. S. Pemberton of Dove House, Harleston, the present owner of the allotment field, was unfortunately prevented through illness from taking an active interest in the event.

middle of a war, people were busy, the Pembertons (whilst having the clout to get petrol coupons) were also in the thick of defending their country.

*Diss Express*  
15 Aug 1941

In 1941, it was decided to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the leasing of land for Allotments by Rev T J Whittaker, (father of Rev Dennison's wife, who was mother of Richard Pemberton's wife, who finally returned to Dove House when her sister died, at the turn of the Century and whose son was now

living at Dove House (hope you followed all that)) they did make a big thing of the Pemberton family having lived at Dove House for over 200 years – a little tenuous I fear!

Anyway, the elderly Michael Pemberton, younger brother of Bertram did the honours providing the prizes. Having fled London, and who can blame him, he was handily in the area!

Bertram's father, Richard Lawrence Pemberton, had built a church to serve himself and the Hawthorn, County Durham, community in 1862 so not too surprisingly the family erected a memorial plaque there both to Bertram and his son Richard Herbert Stote Pemberton.

It is described below:-

Marble Plaque, on which the central panel has been carved to stand proud. At centre top is a crest in full colour. The lettering is in red Roman capitals for the names and lower case for the rest



In affectionate memory of Bertram Roper Stote Pemberton who died at the Dove House, Mendham Norfolk 4th Jan. 1943 in his 75th year and for his eldest son Lieutenant Richard Herbert Stote Pemberton R.N. who was killed in action on H.M.S. Southampton in the Mediterranean 10th Jan. 1941 aged 31. Son and grandson of Richard Laurence Pemberton of Hawthorn Tower

### *Needham.*

#### **WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED**

A tablet to the memory of four Needham men who gave their lives in the last war was unveiled at St. Peter's Church on Sunday afternoon. The men were John Bally, Albert Chaplin, William Howell, and Richard Pemberton. The service which commenced with the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem was conducted by the Rural Dean (Canon T. A. Nock) who dedicated the tablet after it had been unveiled by Lieut.-Col. L. Rushworth Ward, president of the Harleston and District Branch of the British Legion. Several members of the branch attended, the standard being carried by Mr. W. Calver. Buglers of the Harleston Platoon of the Army Cadets sounded the "Last Post" and the "Reveille." Mr. C. Lockwood was the organist.

Referring to the sacrifices made by the men, who the Rural Dean said, died for their country, the cause of freedom and to preserve their national life, he asked the congregation in return to render unselfish service at the cost of self denial.

Richard Pemberton is also remembered, alongside 3 other men, on a tablet unveiled in Needham Church in 1948 where, as in Harleston, he is commemorated as an individual rather than as a person whose status is aligned to that of his family. In the church at Hawthorne it seems more appropriate that he, and his father, are included in the role call of a family who had served their county and country.

*Diss Express*  
12 Mar 1948

Lt. Richard Pemberton's grandmother, Elizabeth nee Dennison already had a memorial tablet in the Hawthorn Church, installed by

her son Michael and unveiled by her daughter Laura

Bertram's widow, Nina Pemberton, stayed on in the house for many years, hosting fetes and being a general pillar of the community. The house was put up for sale in 1950, when she would have been 77 and probably finding it all too difficult to deal with. Tough old bird, she survived another 18 years, dying in Gloucestershire in 1968 aged 95 having survived two of her 3 sons.

*Diss Express*  
28 Jul 1950

At The Magistrates' Room, Diss,  
On Friday, August 4th, at 4 p.m.  
Lot 1.— HARLESTON  
The beautifully situate and well appointed  
COUNTRY RESIDENCE  
dating from the 17th Century  
"The Dove House," Harleston  
Secluded from the Harleston/Mendham  
road, on the outskirts of Harleston, contain-  
ing:  
Entrance and Inner Halls; 3 Reception  
Rooms; Gentlemen's Cloakroom; Conserva-  
tory; well-planned Domestic Offices with  
"Esse" Cooker and Independent Boiler.  
4 Principal Bedrooms and Dressing Room;  
Bathroom; Lobby with basin; Bathroom and  
Separate W.C.  
The Domestic Quarters of 3 Bedrooms;  
Bathroom; W.C. and 3 Good Boxrooms.  
Main Supply Electricity; Water from deep  
Well with Electric Pump; modern Drain-  
age; Telephone; Stabling and Outbuildings.  
Attractive Garden and Grounds of some  
15½ Acres  
Recently erected Bungalow  
With Vacant Possession of House  
and Gardens  
The Bungalow and Park let.  
THE DOVEHOUSE FARM IS WITHDRAWN  
Particulars of the Auctioneers, Crown  
Street, Diss, or from Messrs. Lyus, Burne &  
Lyus, Diss.

It would be all too easy to dismiss R.H.S. Pemberton as a bit of posh boy who had never actually lived in Harleston, having joined the Navy when he was just a lad whilst his father spent most of his working life in Derbyshire, his mother came from Wales and his male ancestors came from the North East. However, his father, disinherited from his Durham ancestry by his status as third son, embraced the Harleston lineage inherited from the mother of whom he was the oldest son.

Richard's life may have been more comfortable than that of many of the other men whose deaths are marked on our memorial, but like the other boys who went through the Naval Training system he too would have felt loneliness and homesickness as he trained to enter the enclosed world of men on board ships; I would like to emphasise that Richard, like others of our Harleston Heroes, joined the Navy as a lad, taking his chances amongst grown men from the moment he left Dartmouth and joined a ship where all crew, from captain to the lowest ranking, all are at the same risk (except for the stokers whose chances of survival down in the holds of the ship were minimal). He was not the only one of our men to bravely enter the dangerous new world of underwater warfare via a submarine; Richard came from a long line of men accustomed to serving their community, both on a local level and also in the armed forces.

In the first world war and, to a lesser extent, the second world war, people tended to look up to those deemed to have higher social status, today there is a tendency to belittle those deemed to come from a privileged background. 100 years before the birth of Christ, a Roman author wrote:-

As men, we are all equal in the presence of death.

Major-General Sir Fabian Arthur Goulstone Ware KCVO KBE CB CMG took this to be a core principal in the approach of memorialising the death of the fallen of World War One. This still informs the work of the British Legion and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission today As one of those strange ironies, had Ware not been sufficiently privileged to receive a Classical Education he may not have met and encompassed this central tenant of our modern attitude to those who die in conflict today.