



William Dring Olley

10689 Lance Sergeant, 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers

He was killed in action on 29th June 1915 in Gallipoli, age 26

William is Remembered with Honour at the Helles Memorial in Turkey

Way back in 1841, 60 years old Wheelwright Davy Olley, his wife, a scattering of various other relatives and a journeyman wheelwright were quietly getting on with life in Kirby Cane. Next door was his son, William Olley, his wife Phebe Stygle from Denton and the first four of the many children that William was to bring into the world. Rather touchingly, William named his first son Davy, after his grandfather, whilst his second son was to be named William jnr after himself.

Whilst in 1851, William was a Cattle Dealer, 10 years previously he had been learning the trade of wheelwright from his father in the usual way of trades being handed down father to son. Was it his marriage, also in 1841, that led him to changing his career?

1841. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Denton 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.
12	October 13 th 1841	William Olley Phebe Stygle	full age full age	Bachelor Spinster	Wheelwright —	Denton Denton	David Olley William Stygle	Wheelwright Laborer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by James by me, Matthew Booth, Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Olley and Phebe Stygle in the Presence of us, James Stygle, his uncle and Ang Stygle

For some reason or other, Phoebe appeared under the name of Sarah in 1861 by which time they had a family of 8 to raise, having moved to Earsham after spending most of the previous 10 years in Ellingham.

The Cattle Dealing must have gone well as by 1861, William could proudly claim to be a farmer, a profession he continued to thrive in, being the owner of 100 acres and employer of 2 men by 1871. His oldest son, 'Dealer' Davy Olley, had married spinster Eliza Farrell in 1870.

1870. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Denton 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.
114	April 14 th	Davy Olley Anne Eliza Farrell	25 25	Bachelor Spinster	Dealer —	Denton Denton	William Olley Joseph Farrell	Farmer Farmer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, W. B. B. B. B.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Davy Olley and Anne Eliza Farrell in the Presence of us, William Olley and James Farrell

This actually gets very tangled, Davy Olley, landlord of the Bell, Wortwell, between at least 1871 and 1872 died young, aged only 28. His widow then married Samuel Rayner, who had followed in

1807	July 10 th	William Olley base born son of	Anne Eliza received into the congregation	Farrell Denton	Spinster	er
No. 78						
1807						

his father's footsteps as a butcher in Wortwell, in 1875, with him taking over the license of the Bell. The 1881 census has 13 years old William

Olley (Farrell) in the household at the Bell, although he is a little old to be legitimate, having been born two years before his parents married. However, his paternity is clearly ascribed when he was baptised 'William Olley Farrell' base born son of Jane Eliza Farrell'. Things then become curiouser and curiouser as, in the 1871 household of William Olley Snr, there are two grand-children, Clifford and Bessie Farrell, aged 6 and 3!



A bit more hunting reveals these to be the children of Alice Farrell, nee Olley, Davy Olley's older sister, who married John Farrell up in London although the family returned to the Waveney Valley to raise their family. With three children under the age of 6 and another on the way I think these two tots had been sent to the grand parents to give mum a break; meanwhile, Emily Olley was in the Farrell household giving big sister Alice a hand!

Davy Olley appeared in the paper having taken a very pragmatic attitude to a pair of quarrelsome customers in midDecember 1871. On 30th December 1871 it was reported that Mr. Olley had permitted disorderly conduct in his house on the morning of 15th December. He had cleared the tap room to allow two quarrelsome customers to go 'about four-rounds'. His excuse of wanting to get rid of the drunken party was considered lame and the magistrates were not satisfied; a drunken person in the morning? No such thing as licensing hours then and it seems that many men started their day with a pint or three! Olley was fined £2 10 and £1 10s costs. I wonder who snitched?

So, where does our hero, William Dring Olley fit into this collection of Olleys? As mentioned above, having named his first son after his father, Davy Olley, William Olley Snr named his second son after himself, we will call this chap William Olley Jnr. William Olley Jnr was cut from the same cloth as his father and by 1891 was farming Broadwash Farm adjacent to the Dove Inn.

William Olley Jnr married Lucy Brock from Alburgh in 1887 and, by George they cracked out those babies. In the 1891 census they had a 5-year-old, a 4-year-old, a 3-year-old, 2 years twins (William Dring and Edith) and a 10-month-old! William Nathan Olley Jnr's older brother and sister, Davy and Alice both died young and I am afraid he did not make old bones either dying in 1898, aged just 45. This left the widowed Lucy on Alburgh Church Hill in 1901, with 6 children to support, including our hero who then went under the name of 'Dring'. This she did by Dressmaking with the support of her sister Jane who was also in the household, and her oldest daughter Alice who was a 'pupil teacher' – a sort of unqualified teaching assistant who could work towards becoming fully qualified.

Lucy did well, by 1911 it was revealed that all the 7 children she and William had brought into the world had survived, she was still Dressmaking with her two youngest girls still at home whilst Dring's twin Edith was working in Essex as a draper's assistant.

William Dring Olley also struck away from the family's rural roots and joined the Army. Slightly bizarrely, he did not join the Norfolks or even the Suffolks but he trotted off to Yarmouth and enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers with whom he appears in the 1911 Army Census; not the only Englishman by a long chalk but heavily outnumbered by men from all over Ireland. Before the

advents of mass aural media (radios, films and eventually TV) regional accents were far stronger than they are today. I can imagine a fair amount of confusion in communications arising!

William Dring Olley was a Lance Sergeant or Corporal when he died, along with a number of other men from Harleston and villages in the disastrous Turkish or Dardanelles Campaign, now more widely known under the term Gallipoli.

Another Olley from the village was also involved in the Dardanelles offensive, this was Clare Davey Olley, son of the illegitimate first son of William Dring's Uncle, Davy Olley. I am not quite sure what this makes the relationship – cousins of some sort of remove or other.

Clare Davy Olley has his own biography on the Harleston Royal British Legion Website <http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/harlestone/harlestone-war-heroes> and his death, which took place in Britain following a combination of TB and being gassed, is marked on the Broad Street Memorial.



Whilst, by 1919, Lucy had moved to Framlingham, she chose to not only have her son marked on the Alburgh War Memorial, but also to have an inscription marking his passing added to her husband's headstone in the Churchyard. I feel the link between William Dring Olley and his cousin Clare Davy Olley who is marked on the Harleston Memorial entitles him to our attention and respect.