



Research Toolkit 3: The Home Front in World War 1

Research Toolkit 3: The Home Front in World War 1 (WW1)

This Research Toolkit has been developed by Gloucestershire Archives (www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives). It will help you to find out how WW1 affected Gloucestershire and what life was like in different parts of the county on the 'Home Front'. Given the wide-ranging nature of the subject, the toolkit is organised into three sections:

- **General Sources** such as official records, newspapers, & others (**pages 4-9**)
- **Resources that will help you to research people and places** such as business records, trade directories, school records, and personal diaries and correspondence (**pages 9-13**)
- **Resources that will help you to research particular themes** such as VAD Hospitals, Conscription, Conscientious Objectors, Rationing, Industry, Agriculture, Social Life, Refugees, and Running the Home (**pages 13-27**)

Each section contains information on the sort of records you might need to look at, what you might find in them and how you can find these records. When searching any online catalogue it is worth trying variants on the term 'First World War' (such as 'Great War', 'WW1', 'WWI', or even simply 'War' because people creating documents during WW1 did not know there would be another global conflict).

Through this and other toolkits available to download at www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/WW1/resources, the Gloucestershire Remembers WW1 Project (www.glosremembers.co.uk) is enabling people to learn more about soldiers from the county who served in WW1 and the impact that the war had on local areas throughout the county. If you or an organisation in your area are undertaking research or any other commemorative activities for WW1 please let us know. If you would like to develop your research into a larger project see the **Next Steps** section on **page 28**.

Share what you find

The Gloucestershire Remembers WW1 Project is committed to sharing information commemorating any aspect of the impact of WW1 in the county. You can share what you've found with us by adding it directly to the Glos Remembers Facebook (www.facebook.com/GlosWWI), Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/GlosWWI>), or send it to us at archives@goucestershire.gov.uk or Gloucestershire Archives, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW.

Preserve what you find

As part of the Gloucestershire Remembers WW1 Project, Gloucestershire Archives would like to preserve original material and information about any aspect of WW1 and Gloucestershire as a legacy for future generations. Please contact archives@goucestershire.gov.uk or write to Gloucestershire Archives, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW if you have original documents concerning WW1 or research or research notes that you would like to donate to the archives.

Background to life on the ‘Home Front’

The ‘Home Front’ is the informal term that describes the civilian population or the civilian activities of a country at war. It came into general use in WW2, but has since been applied to everyday life in Britain during WW1.

Upon the outbreak of WW1, despite the fact that there was some domestic unrest in the UK – notably amongst the labour and suffrage movements – the population rapidly rallied to the national cause. The UK Liberal government (led by Herbert Henry Asquith) believed that, in order to maintain a stable and functioning country, it was necessary to continue society in the same way as before the war. They believed that any change in normal day-to-day behaviour would damage morale and be a victory for the enemy. However, on 8 August, the government did introduce the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) (**see page 5 below**).

However as the war progressed, things changed dramatically. In May 1915, a combination of the dissatisfaction at the handling of the war, a crisis in the munitions industry, and the failed Gallipoli campaign caused a split in the cabinet. In order to stay in power, Asquith formed a coalition government with the Conservatives (under their leader Andrew Bonar Law). The coalition was fraught with internal tensions and in December 1916, the Conservatives withdrew their support, forcing Asquith to resign. The popular Minister for Munitions, David Lloyd George became Prime Minister at the head of a new coalition government made up of mainly Conservatives with a Liberal minority.

Although a Liberal, Lloyd-George was a staunch supporter of the war and he immediately dropped the ‘business as usual’ attitude, replacing it with one of ‘total war’. He was an effective organiser and knew what it would take to win the war. This led to legislation for conscription and food rationing that ultimately paved the way to victory, albeit at the cost of the government starting to intervene in everyday life to an extent that had never occurred before.

Where can I find out more information?

The best sources for finding out about politics and the role of government in WW1 are published sources, such as general histories of the war and biographies of the main players (Asquith, Lloyd George, Churchill, etc).

Newspapers (**see pages 7-8**) are an excellent source of the day-to-day reporting of events. Some of the national newspapers can be accessed via the internet. The Times Digital Archive is available free of charge from Gloucestershire County Council’s Virtual Reference Library (<http://www.gloscountygovuk/libraries/vrl>). A guide to local Gloucestershire newspapers can be found here: <http://www.gloscountygovuk/archives/CHtpHandler.ashx?id=24402&p=0>. See also **Appendix 1: Gloucestershire Newspapers during WW1** on pages 28-30.

How can I access the resources mentioned in this toolkit?

Access to Gloucestershire Archives and the documents there is free but please note that there is a charge for using the onsite car park. Access to the Ancestry and Find My Past websites is also free at the [Gloucestershire Family History Society Resource Centre](#), although the same car parking charge applies.

Some of the original resources at Gloucestershire Archives have access restrictions for data protection reasons. It will usually be possible for you to see these items, but you may be asked to sign an agreement about sharing information from them.

The online resources listed are all available to view. Searches of the databases on the Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk) and Find My Past (www.findmypast.co.uk) are free, however if you access the websites from home you may be asked to pay a fee or set up a free trial with them in order to view their images of original records.

However, if you access the Ancestry and Find My Past websites from Gloucestershire Archives or libraries around the county you will be able to view the images of original documents on them for free.

1. General Sources

Official Records

These comprise records generated by the following:

- County Council
- District and Rural District Councils
- Parish Councils
- Boards of Guardians
- Quarter Sessions (primarily records of the Police)
- Petty Sessions
- Coroner's Records

More information on District Councils, Police Records, the Quarter Sessions, Petty Sessions and Coroner's records can be found in Gloucestershire Archives' (<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/article/114368/Archives-research-guides>).

All of the above records can be found by searching Gloucestershire Archives' online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

County, District and Rural District, and Parish Council Records

The records of the councils include everyday matters, such as council finance, local elections, planning, highways, rating, medical issues and disease control, etc. They

also include war-related material and its imposition on the population. Records of council meetings are contained within council minute books (which are chronological in order) while other records are held under various departmental records.

As well as administering the county in the normal way, it was the responsibility of the councils to put in place directives from national government, including forming War Tribunals for military service (see the section on **Conscientious Objectors** on **pages 15-6**), creating war committees – notably the range of sub-committees created to improve agricultural production – as well as undertaking the day-to-day running of their respective concerns.

The first piece of wartime legislation that was enacted was the Alien Restriction Act, which required every 'alien' (or non-UK citizen) aged over 16 to register with the police. This was primarily intended to help solve the problem of spies but, for the first time in history, it gave the government some reasonably accurate information concerning migrants in terms of numbers, their places of residence, occupations and race.

This was followed by the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA), which granted the government wide-ranging powers to requisition buildings or land for the war effort, to make regulations creating criminal offences and to censor the written and spoken word. The Act was responsible for introducing some long-standing regulations, familiar to us today, most notably the introduction of British Summer Time (1916) and the restriction in pub opening hours, notably the afternoon closure. Records generated by DORA can mainly be found in Official Records. A copy of DORA can be found here:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/first_world_war/p_defence.htm.
A summary of it can be found here: <http://revisionworld.co.uk/gcse-revision/history/world-history/world-war-one-1914-1918/dora-defence-realm-act> .

The DORA was followed by the National Registration Act 1915. The Act required a register of every adult in the country between the ages of 15 and 65 to be created. It was administered by the Registrar General who acted under the direction of the Local Government Board. The local authorities (metropolitan and municipal boroughs and all urban and rural districts) were the local registration authorities. On Registration Day (15 August 1915 and annually thereafter until 1919), everyone within the specified age group had to complete a form giving their name, age, nationality, marital status and employment details. The reason for the Act was that it supplied manpower statistics and also enabled the military authorities to discriminate between persons who should be called up for military service (the so-called 'shirkers' and 'slackers') and those who should be retained in civil employment for the national interest. The register was a key feature in identifying the men required for industrial 'reserved occupations', but also enabled the government to look to the future with regards to the supply of men to the military.

Sadly, few local returns have survived. The National Register information is mostly held at the National Archives in London, but some records were retained locally, although they are somewhat piecemeal in nature, such as isolated movement registers (indicating the movement of workers in and out of local areas) and enumerators' books.

Useful Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers for official records are:

- **GBR** Gloucester Borough Records
- **CBR** Cheltenham Borough Records
- **TBR** Tewkesbury Borough Records
- **DA** District Council and Rural District Council Records
- **C/CWA/M** War Agricultural Executive Committee and sub-committee minutes 1916-1920
- **D4175/3** National registration cards
- **DA26/226/1** Dursley Rural District Council Register of Arrivals, 1915

The Boards of Guardians' Records

The Boards of Guardians were the organisations responsible for looking after the county's poor, a role which they continued to undertake until 1934. The Boards of Guardians' records include minute books, workhouse registers, rate books and registers of those receiving financial assistance.

Additional information on these records can be found in Gloucestershire Archives' Boards of Guardians' research guide:

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHtpHandler.ashx?id=58234&p=0>.

Quarter Sessions, Petty Sessions, and Police Records

The Quarter Sessions ran the county's judiciary and some administrative functions but were also responsible for the operation and administration of Gloucestershire Constabulary. For WW1, these records contain Alien Restriction Orders issued by the Chief Constable (Gloucestershire Archives Reference Number: Q/Y/2/2/5)

The Petty Sessions dealt with licensing of alehouses, highways, appeals against poor rates, adoptions, and minor crimes (usually those which carried up to a 2 year sentence). The Petty Sessions Courts can include information relating to prosecution of offenders brought under the Defence of the Realm Act and such things as rationing offenses. They are arranged by the location of the Court and then chronologically so searching them can be time consuming. They generally contain little information other than the name of the offender, details of the offence and the sentence imposed.

Police records include registers with details of the composition and size of the force and individual personnel records of officers. Unfortunately station diaries for this period do not exist.

Additional information on these records can be found in Gloucestershire Archives' research guides to:

Quarter Sessions

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56554&p=0>

Petty Sessions

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56550&p=0>

Police Staff Records

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56551&p=0>

Coroners' Records

Coroner's records can be an excellent source of information and usually include registers of inquests and/or inquest files which give name(s) of the deceased, a cause of death and the official verdict. These can be useful in, for example, military aircraft crashes, bodies washed ashore along the estuary and also deaths at military camps and training establishments.

The office of Coroner was, like the Quarter Sessions, part of the network of royal officials responsible for administering the law throughout the country. The coroner's primary duty was to protect the crown's financial and property interests in criminal proceedings but they were also charged with enquiring into unexpected deaths to determine the cause. To investigate a death, the coroner would generally appoint a jury, which was able to call witnesses to an inquest to give evidence and then decide a verdict (i.e. death by natural causes, accidental death, murder, etc, etc). As well as the general public, the coroner would also investigate the deaths of serving members of the armed forces who died within the coroner's jurisdiction.

Additional information on these records can be found in Gloucestershire Archives' research guide to Coroners' Records:

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56576&p=0>

Newspapers

Newspapers contain a wealth of material regarding everyday life, national and local politics, war news, plus local events, local services, entertainment and sport. They are also useful for finding information on local deaths and reports on coroner's inquests.

Newspapers were far more important than they are today because they were the main source of information and news for most people. Though newspapers were subject to government censorship, they were far more patriotic and acted far more responsibly than they do today when reporting military events, to the point where they were essentially self-regulating.

The most popular national papers of the period included: *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily Chronicle* and *The Morning Post*. Popular weekly newspapers

included *The Graphic*. Local Gloucestershire newspapers included: *The Citizen*, *Gloucester Journal*, *Tewkesbury Weekly Record* and the *Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic*. For a full list see Appendix 1 on **pages 28-30**.

Some national newspapers can be accessed via their own internet archives. The Times Digital Archive is available free of charge from Gloucestershire County Council's Virtual Reference Library (<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/vrl>).

More information on newspapers can be found in the Gloucestershire Archives' Research Guide to Newspapers:

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56545&p=0>

For a full list of Gloucestershire newspapers and where you can find them, please also see Gloucestershire Archives' Newspaper Handlist:

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24402&p=0>

Useful Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers for Newspapers include:

D2455/F3/7/3/7 Newscuttings concerning the progress of WW1

D4180 Scrapbooks of First World War events, 1914-1919

D4548/17 Gloucester Citizen's "Sunday War Edition" 1916

RR79.9GS Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard "War Special" Thursday 13th August 1914

GAL Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic, 1914-1918

Other Sources

Archive Material

One of the best sources for WW1 held at Gloucestershire Archives is a series of four scrapbooks of WW1 newspaper cuttings and pictures compiled by Mr F E Cardwell of Northampton and Cheltenham between 1914 and 1919. They are highly eclectic in nature and somewhat haphazardly complied, but are very informative and contain lots of newspaper photographs. These can be viewed at Gloucestershire Archives and are held under reference number **D4180**.

Published Material

There is a lot of published material on the Home Front in Gloucestershire that can be used to research events and topics. For a list please see **Appendix 2** on **pages 30-32**.

Reminiscence and oral history

Memories and stories that have been passed down in families and communities are powerful and important sources of information about our past. As such, they are valuable sources of information about WW1. Although memories of WW1 are now almost out of living memory, many still alive today will have grown up knowing parents and grandparents who lived through it. Speaking to people about memories that they may have heard about wartime (and its aftermath) is a valuable way of gathering information about the period. Such memories are usually unique insights and impressions into the wartime experience, even if they are by their very nature partial and short. If no one asks about memories and stories that may have been passed down then these unique impressions will be lost with the passage of time. When memories and stories can be told, they should be recorded (by whatever means possible), preserved, and shared.

2. Resources for researching people and places

Business records

Business records include a number of different types of business whose work covers the wartime period:

- Firms whose work was of national importance, such as the *Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Company*, *H Martyn & Co Ltd*, and *Fielding & Platt Ltd*.
- Utility companies, such as local gas and water companies.
- Small local businesses, such as estate agents, breweries, chemists, shops

A major development in WW1 was the appearance of women in the workplace. When Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914 and men began joining up, women were called on to do work and take on roles that were outside their traditional gender roles – notably in the munitions industry (filling shells with explosives, although this was deemed unskilled labour) and in agriculture (see sections on **Industry** and **Agriculture** on pages 19-22).

Between 1914 and 1918, it is estimated that over two million women replaced men in employment, resulting in an increase in the proportion of women in total employment from 24 per cent in July 1914 to 37 per cent by November 1918. It also broke the traditional role of women as domestic servants and began to open up new careers.

As well as paid employment, women were also expected to run their homes as usual and were encouraged to take on other voluntary work – such as preparing bandages, knitting clothes and preparing hampers for soldiers on the front. All this was not without controversy, not least within the Suffragette movement, which essentially split over the issue. The mainstream faction, represented by Emmeline

and Christabel Pankhurst's 'Women's Social and Political Union' (WSPU) argued that undertaking such work was patriotic and would show that women were equally capable of doing men's work, thus helping to prove that women deserved the vote. The other more radical faction the 'Women's Suffrage Federation' (represented by Sylvia Pankhurst) decided that to continue to support the war effort would only damage their cause.

What will business records tell me?

Many business records are financial in nature, but many can also include other material, including photographs, engineering drawings, circulars, newsletters and publicity material, correspondence, sales records (including things like records of medicines sold), etc. A few companies also retained staff records.

How can I find them?

These records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching for the name of the company in the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Trade Directories (see below) and (**Newspapers** (see **pages 7-8** and **Appendix 1** on **pages 28-30**) are very useful sources of information on and advertisements for local companies.

Useful Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers for businesses include:

D7338 Fielding and Platt Ltd

D4791 Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co.

D5922 H H Martyn and Co

D2752 Walwins of Gloucester

D2299 Bruton Knowles & Co, Gloucester

D3085 Kell & Co. of Gloucester, Ironfounders

D4187 Cheltenham Waterworks Company

D2879 Stroud Gas Light and Coke Company

Trade Directories

Trade Directories are similar to the modern 'Yellow Pages' and comprise lists of private residents and local businesses. The latter are usually included in a section grouped by trade but also feature in the street listings. These directories also carry adverts for local companies.

What will trade directories tell me?

Trade directories can provide useful information on where people lived and the location of businesses.

How can I find them?

Some trade directories can be found online via the University of Leicester's Historical Directories website:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/find/specialcollections/specialcollections/historical-directories>

or via their Historical Directories Collection:

<http://cdm16445.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4>

A wide selection of trade directories for the county can be found at Gloucestershire Archives and at the various Library Local Studies Centres.

School Records

School records such as School Log Books and Admission registers can be useful in researching the Home Front in several ways.

School Log Books

Head teachers were required to keep a log book or day-to-day record of events in their school from 1862 onwards. The amount of information recorded does vary according to individual head teachers and some log books are much fuller in their daily entries than others.

Log books can include information about pupil attendance and factors which affected attendance, such as extreme weather (especially heavy snowfalls, rain and flooding), local epidemics of measles or mumps, or children helping with the harvest. They also record visits of inspectors, school timetables, subjects taught, building problems (e.g. coal shortages), celebratory events, and movements or issues with the teaching staff.

In addition, they frequently include the names of staff and ex-pupils who joined up and went to fight in WW1. There are many instances where a head has noted the names of people connected with the school who were killed, wounded, taken prisoner or who received awards for bravery. Occasionally ex-pupils returned to their school to talk to staff and children.

Another important aspect of log books is that they often record instances where school children were released for war work, which could include local agricultural work, shipping and/or dockside work and official government sponsored work (such as collecting horse chestnuts for the munitions industry or collecting blackberries to make jam for the forces).

Interesting Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers for School log books include:

S154/14/3 Archdeacon Street Boys' School, Gloucester Log book (re: rationing)

S15/1/3 Ampney Crucis School log book (re: horse-chestnut collecting)

S27/1 Aston-sub-Edge School Log book (re: blackberry picking)

S78/6/1/2 Christchurch School, Cheltenham (re: ex-pupils returning to visit as soldiers)

Admission registers

Admission registers record when children entered and left a school. They are excellent sources for tracing families in villages and parishes. Admission registers can also help to map the arrival of refugees into an area. In WW1, refugees mainly came to the county from Belgium.

How can I find school records?

School records are identified by the name of the village in rural areas or where there was more than one school (i.e. in towns) by the name of the school. They can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Personal Diaries & Correspondence

This is an extensive group of records that are among the best sources for information about the Home Front (and also the front line). They are useful because they often cover a wide range of social issues and can be generated by different social classes. They therefore provide different perspectives on the same issues, such as rationing. Many cover the entire wartime period.

What will personal diaries and correspondence tell me?

In addition to personal details, these records frequently record items of national and local interest, often in a wonderfully eclectic manner. They can also include the experiences of war written by serving personnel. However, correspondence between the troops and their families was subject to censorship. So, while letters to the front are often quite detailed, letters and postcards sent home by the troops contain far less useful information, many being simple postcards with pre-printed replies that were either crossed out or left visible.

How can I find them?

This class of records can be much harder to identify as they were generally deposited in archives as individual documents or part of larger family collections.

Any diary or correspondence from the WW1 period can potentially contain useful material.

The best way to locate these records is to undertake a surname search of Gloucestershire Archives' online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Interesting Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers for WW1 diaries and correspondence include:

D3981 Diaries of William Thomas Swift of Churchdown, schoolteacher

D1571/F886 Correspondence to Thomas Sotheron regarding citation of A. Sotheron-Estcourt for gallantry in 1918

D1799/C163 Letters to and from Rev W Blathwayt of Dyrham from parishioners on active service

D5130/9 Diaries of Dorothy Daubney, working as a ward nurse in WW1

D4500/1/13/2 Appointments diaries of Frances Cadwallader, 1914-1916, 1918

D37/1 Correspondence of Maynard Colchester – Wemyss with King of Siam, 1913-1925

D4761/6 Letters describing air raids on London during World War I

P154/14 MI 4/3 Parish magazine of Gloucester St Michael's Parish with copies of letters sent to soldiers and sailors at war

3. Resources for researching particular themes

Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospitals

Background

As the war progressed there was a need for more hospitals to care for wounded soldiers. The Red Cross set up a large number of Voluntary Aid (VA) hospitals across the UK, of which there were about 30 in Gloucestershire. Many of these hospitals were based in large residential houses loaned to the Red Cross by their owners, while others were set up in public buildings (including church halls, community centres – one was even set up in the main grandstand at Cheltenham racecourse).

The hospitals were run by Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD), which was a voluntary organisation founded in 1909 to provide field nursing services, mainly in hospitals, in the UK and other countries in the British Empire. During the war there were around 65 VADs established in Gloucestershire alone.

Where can I find out more information?

Only one set of records from the VA hospitals in Gloucestershire is known to survive. These records are of the Leckhampton VA Hospital (Glos. 42). They mostly comprise photographs of patients taken by fellow patients and also by nurses. The records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives under the collection reference

D10203 (Leckhampton Court Red Cross Hospital).

The Red Cross published a series of annual reports on the work of the VA Hospitals during the war under the title 'The Red Cross in Gloucestershire'. In addition, at the end of the war they published a summary volume. These publications are held at Gloucestershire Archives (**reference number JQ11.1 ('The Red Cross in Gloucestershire')**).

A good summary of the Gloucestershire VA hospitals can be found online here: www.angelfire.com/az/garethknight/redcross/glosva.html

Background information on the role of the Red Cross can be found here: www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/Museums-and-archives/Historical-factsheets/Nurses-and-hospitals

Conscription

Background

Between 1914 and 1919 over 5 million men served in the armed forces. Recruitment began the day after war was declared, with 30,000 men joining up that day alone. By September 1914, 750,000 men had signed up.

Government propaganda was a powerful influence. The government organised rallies, processions, and a poster campaign. They also undertook local recruiting drives for 'Pals battalions' and the 'Group' or 'Derby' Scheme. The 'Pals' system encouraged groups of friends, neighbours and work colleagues (especially those from large firms, such as the *Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Company* and *Fielding & Platt*) to enlist together with the promise that they would be able to serve alongside each other rather than be arbitrarily allocated to regular Army regiments. The 'Derby Scheme' was intended to attract family men and used door-to-door visits to get men to 'attest' to serve if needed, with a promise that bachelors would be called up before married men.

As the war progressed recruitment fell and by late September 1915, only around 700,000 men per month were joining up. Almost two out of every five volunteers were found to be unsuitable for military service on health grounds. In January 1916 the government passed an Act introducing conscription to army service. It came into force on 2 March 1916 and specified that men from 18 to 41 years old were liable to be called up for army service unless they were married, widowed with children, serving in the Royal Navy, a minister of religion, or working in one of a number of reserved occupations. A second Act in May 1916 extended it to include married men and a third Act in 1918 extended the upper age limit to 51. Conscription remained in force in the home nations until the end of the war.

Where can I find out more information?

Records relating to conscription and recruitment can be found in a wide range of sources, especially published sources and newspapers. Local government was not

hugely involved, apart from in the setting up of the War Tribunals (see **Conscientious Objectors** below), although the County Council did discuss such things as reserving jobs for conscripted men and also pension provision. These subjects are recorded in the County Council minutes (see **Official Records** on **pages 4-5**).

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

D10820/Box 144/2/1/18 Poster for enrolment in the Cirencester Unit of the Gloucestershire Volunteer Regiment

D5435/1/1 Farm letter book kept by C. S. Holliday,

D10820/Box 144/2/1/16 First World War posters from Cirencester

D3983/5 Provincial Typographical Association (Gloucester Branch) committee meeting minutes, 1913-17

Conscientious Objectors

Background

The conscription legislation of January 1916 introduced the right of the individual to refuse military service, allowing for men to be exempted from combat with the option of performing alternative civilian service or serving as non-combatants in the army. Men could ask for an exemption on the following grounds:

- Moral grounds – if they were a conscientious objector
- Medical grounds – if they had a disability
- Family grounds – if they were looking after dependents
- Economic grounds – if they were the sole proprietor of a business

Applications for exemptions were decided locally by Military Service Tribunals, which were the responsibility of the Local Government Board. The Board requested Borough and District Councils to set up tribunals to handle applicants in their own respective areas. Each tribunal was comprised of four local men of good standing (often councillors) and a Military Representative. The Military Representative's job was to argue that each man that appeared in front of the tribunal should be conscripted. There was no appeal system.

Around 16,500 men were recorded as conscientious objectors with Quakers (who were traditionally pacifist) making up the largest proportion of this largest group. Of this overall figure, around 4,500 were sent to work on farms (which was deemed 'work of national importance'), 6,000 undertook non-combatant military duties (e.g. as stretcher bearers), while the remaining 6,000 were forced into army service.

Once in the army, if they refused to obey orders they were subject to King's

Regulations and liable to military courts martial where, if found guilty, they could be imprisoned or sentenced to death. A total of 35 men were condemned in this way but the sentences were all commuted to 10 years penal servitude. In 1919, all those who had been imprisoned had their sentences revoked and were released.

Conscientious objectors deemed not to have made any useful contribution to the war effort were disenfranchised for five years after the war, so do not appear on the local electoral registers.

At the end of the war, the Government issued instructions to the Local Government Boards that all tribunal material should be destroyed, with the exception of the Middlesex Appeal records and the Lothian and Peebles Appeal in Scotland which were preserved as examples (not for posterity, but for possible future use). However, isolated examples escaped this systematic destruction and survive today, including some from Gloucestershire.

Where can I find out more information?

Records relating to conscientious objectors and recruitment can be found in a wide range of sources, especially published sources, such as newspapers. There are also good sources at local archives, usually in local government records (see pages 4-5) and personal diaries and papers (see pages 11-12).

There are a few Military Tribunal records surviving at Gloucestershire Archives (see in particular reference numbers: [D1340/C3/Z1](#), [D1578/8/9](#), and [D3789](#)).

Food and Rationing

Background to food in WW1

At the start of WW1, Britain and Germany both relied on imported food to help feed their populations. In Britain, the amount of food imported was roughly as follows:

- Four-fifths of all wheat and wheat flour for bread
- One-third of all beef
- Two-fifths of lamb and mutton
- Three-quarters of all bacon
- Half of the nation's eggs
- All sugar

Butter and cheese were dominated by imports from Holland and Denmark. Britain was actually only self-sufficient in milk, potatoes and pork. Germany was in a similar position but, in addition to importing food, Germany imported lots of fertiliser for use in her agricultural industry.

Both governments decided that the best way to win the war was to embark on a blockade of their respective enemies in order to prevent food and war supplies from reaching them.

Upon the outbreak of war, there was an initial wave of panic buying, which caused temporary shortages. These did not last long because shipping and food imports were hardly affected and stocks soon made up.

In line with its “business as usual” policy, the UK Liberal government (led by Herbert Henry Asquith) did little to ensure the safety of food supply, although it did introduce some modest controls on sugar and wheat. For most people, a worrying concern was that, as the war continued, the cost of food began to rise. This was, in part, because the government restricted the amount of food and other goods that could be imported (preferring instead to import materials to help the military war effort) which forced prices up.

However, as time passed, the government began to become concerned. It had to send more and more food to feed the troops (eventually around 3.2 million tons of food went abroad). The government’s first move to ease the situation was to encourage the consumption of less food while encouraging farmers to grow more. Some of the measures bordered on the absurd. In 1916, for example, it became illegal to consume more than two courses whilst lunching in a public eating place or more than three for dinner. Fines were also introduced for members of the public found feeding pigeons or stray animals.

When the Germans commenced full-scale unrestricted submarine warfare in January 1917, British and allied shipping losses suddenly escalated dramatically. In March, over a quarter of all ships heading for Britain were sunk by U-boats with the consequence that food and other essential supplies quickly began to run short. In April even more were sunk and the government realised that the country had just six weeks’ supply of wheat. Shop prices also began to soar and queues for food became commonplace with shops often running out of food.

Once again, the government tried to reduce consumption by introducing a voluntary code of rationing, whereby people limited themselves to what they should eat. This initiative was led by the Royal Family amid a huge propaganda campaign. Its main aim was to save wheat by getting people to eat less bread. People were asked to restrict their food intake to no more than 4lb of bread (or food made from 3lb flour), 2lb 8oz of meat (including bacon and sausages) and 12oz of sugar a week. There was no limit to the amount of fish or eggs you could eat. For the better off, this was not too difficult. But it was for the poor, who relied on bread as their main food and who could not afford meat or any other alternatives.

In June 1917 the Royal Navy (reluctantly in some quarters) adopted the convoy system. Almost immediately shipping losses began to fall, although they still continued at a high rate and food stocks remained critical. By the end of 1917, the country was still only barely receiving sufficient food imports. On the streets, there

was growing resentment against the better off (who could afford the rising prices and could also use the black market if necessary). Faced with rising civil unrest and with no prospect of increasing food levels, the government decided to introduce rationing.

Background to rationing in WW1

Rationing of sugar, tea, butter, margarine, cheese and lard was first imposed in Pontypool, Wales, on 17 December 1917. On 1 January 1918 it was introduced for the Birmingham area and then the Home Counties in the South East of England. By April it had been extended nationwide, using newly established Food Control Committees run by local councils. Everyone was issued with a ration card (which could only be used at a specified shop) and each person was allowed the following:

- 15oz (425g) of meat per week
- 5oz (142g) of bacon per week
- 4oz (113g) of butter or margarine per week

Sugar was also rationed and the government also stepped in to control the availability of other goods and commodities, such as coal. Like most forms of government control, people accepted it even though they did not particularly like it. However, rationing did solve the problems of rising prices and food queues and ensured that Britain's food would last.

Surprisingly, under rationing, the health of the majority of people improved, especially amongst the poor, who could get a share of better food than they could previously afford, while the well off ate less of the food that was bad for them.

Where can I find out more information?

Records relating to rationing can be found in a range of sources, though much relates to WW2 (where, learning from WW1, rationing was introduced immediately).

Newspapers (see pages 7-8 and Appendix 1 on pages 28-30) and Published sources (see Appendix 2 on pages 30-32) often contain a great deal of information, especially with regard to how to save food. Gloucestershire Archives has examples of WW1 ration cards and there are many references to rationing in **Personal Diaries & Correspondence (see pages 11-12)**.

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

D4761/5 Food rationing cards

D10820/W2-2/j WW1 Proclamations & posters

D37/1/206 Rationing & prices of bread

D37/1/220 Coal rationing

DA30/118 Newent Rural District Council Food Control Committee minutes

C/CC/M2/13 Enforcement of Food Control Orders Gloucestershire County Council minutes, 1917-1920

Industry

Background to industry in Gloucestershire in WW1

The main problems facing local industries were the loss of workers and a reduction in the availability of raw materials. The loss of workers was a particular problem for the engineering companies who lost a disproportionate number of skilled male workers.

The idea of retaining skilled workers in 'reserved occupations' in key industries was first introduced by the Munitions of War Act 1915, which in effect gave the new Ministry of Munitions control of the work of companies supplying the war effort. The Act allowed the ministry to regulate wages, working hours, and employment conditions. It could also impose restrictions on workers, notably making it a penal offence for anyone to leave a job at a 'Controlled Establishment' without the consent of his employer (which in practice was almost impossible to obtain).

War work became a key feature of Gloucestershire's industries. In 1916 Fielding & Platt Ltd. manufactured their first extrusion presses to make shell cases for the munitions industry. The Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Company made railway wagons and ambulances for the front. Another local firm of national importance was H H Martyn and Co Ltd. of Cheltenham (a firm of sculptors, carvers and modellers who began to make aviation components, propellers and aircraft). They went on to become the world famous Gloucester Aircraft Company.

One substantial government owned and operated munitions factory was established in Gloucestershire. It was called National Filling Factory No. 5 at Quedgeley and was one of 12 established across the country. Construction work on the site began in late 1915 and production commenced in March 1916. At its height, around 6,200 workers were employed on site. 81% of these employees were women – known universally as the 'Canary girls' because the explosive they handled gave their skin a distinct yellow tint. A major local knock-on effect was that special trains, buses and ferries were laid on day and night to take these workers to and from the factory. Work ceased at the site in November 1918 after some 17 million shells and cartridges had been filled.

How can I find out more?

The best way to research this aspect of the Home Front is to look for **business records** (see **pages 8-9**). For national concerns (such as the munitions factory at Quedgeley) most official records are held at the National Archives in London.

Many business records are financial in nature, but they frequently contain minute books which may contain references to employees. A few companies also retained staff records which may hold more information.

There is also a wealth of published material on local industry, such as company histories and material in local history journals. The latter are published by individual

local history societies and often contain articles on local firms researched by society members. The journal of the county-wide Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology (www.gsia.org.uk/reprints) is another key resource for all aspects of local industry. The journals of most local societies (including the GSIA) can be found at Gloucestershire Archives and various Library Local Studies Centres. For information on journal articles related to Gloucestershire and WW1, download the document **Books and journal articles on Gloucestershire and WW1** from www.goucestershire.gov.uk/archives/WW1/resources.

Records relating to local industries can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>.

You should search the catalogue using the name of a company. This can often be found by looking in the **trade directories** (see **pages 10-11**).

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

GAL 4 GSIA Journal 1994 National Filling Factory No.5 Quedgeley

D7338 Fielding and Platt

D4791 Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co.

D5922 H H Martyn and Co

D3085 Kell & Co. of Gloucester, ironfounders

Agriculture

Background

Gloucestershire is a largely rural county and therefore agriculture was a key industry for it. Agriculture was also seriously affected by the war. Apart from the sudden loss of manpower caused by farm workers joining up, in the first two years of war agriculture was hardly affected.

There were good harvests in 1914 and 1915 and the only steps taken to safeguard food production by the government was to establish the County War Agricultural Committees (or 'War Ags'). These were set up by the County Councils and were comprised of council members, farmers and representatives of various agricultural organisations. Their aims were to consider how food production could best be maintained or increased, to report on shortages of feed, fertiliser, machinery and other supplies, and how the labour supply might be organised. However they had no executive powers and were not mandatory, so they achieved relatively little.

However in December 1916, the government created the Ministry of Food to regulate the supply, price and consumption of food and, most importantly, to encourage food

production. One of its first moves was to launch a 'Plough up' campaign to persuade farmers to grow more. However, since this was voluntary scheme, many farmers were reluctant to do so unless grain prices could be guaranteed. When the food supply situation continued to worsen, the government was forced to set up a Food Production Department to organise agriculture, oversee labour, feed, fertiliser and machinery and at the same time to increase crop production.

The Food Production Department was given executive powers to pass 'Cultivation of Land Orders'. These saw unoccupied land requisitioned by the government and imposed quotas of grain and potatoes on the local War Agricultural Committees. The War Ags were also given new executive powers which forced farmers to comply with their demands and which allowed the War Ag to decide the amount of extra grassland that was required to be ploughed up for arable use in each county.

In 1917, the Corn Production Act was passed. It boosted arable production by guaranteeing minimum prices for wheat and oats, a minimum wage for agricultural workers, and also established the Agricultural Wages Board, to ensure stability for both farmers and agricultural workers.

Finding farm labour was one of the great problems which held back increased production. In addition to losing farm workers who had joined up, many agricultural workers subsequently left the land to go and work in munitions factories (which offered better wages). To fill these gaps, several organisations were set up to persuade women to undertake agricultural work, but none were very successful until January 1917 when the 'Women's Land Army' was established.

By the end of 1917 there were 20,000 women in the 'Land Army' itself and over 250,000 women working as farm labourers. Even so, labour was still in short supply and eventually the War Office was forced to release soldiers and prisoners-of-war to help with the spring cultivation and harvest. In total, around 50,000 servicemen (including traction engine drivers, skilled ploughmen, and other agricultural workers) were used. By 1918, over 30,000 German prisoners (60% of the total number of POWs) were involved in agriculture.

One other source of farm labour was children though this was always a source of concern. Children (aged 11 or over) could be employed by farmers if:

- they were officially exempted from school (there were over 2,600 children in this category at the end of 1917)
- they worked after school hours (at least 5,000 public schoolboys were volunteered for harvest work in 1917 and 15,000 in 1918)
- there was official ministry approval

Examples of the latter are the arrangements made between the Food Controller and Education Boards in 1917 for school children to collect chestnuts, acorns and

blackberries in school hours. Entries for these foraging events can be found in many Gloucestershire **School Log Books** (see pages 11-12).

How can I find out more?

The War Agriculture Committee and the various sub-committees created a wealth of material including detailed information about equipment and manpower, surveys of farmland, use of women workers, children and POWs. They also include useful statistical information about machinery, horses, etc.

Local records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Published material can also contain a wealth of information (see **Appendix 2** on pages 30-32)

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

D8815/1/3 Staunton Court farm accounts, 1917 (includes army privates working as farm labourers)

D1348 Bundle 72 WarAg Ploughing up orders

DA35/118 Minutes of the War Agricultural Sub-Committee, Stroud

GCC/COU/1/1/13 Gloucestershire County Council, Minutes September 1915, formation of the County War Agricultural Committee

D5435/1/1 Farm letter book kept by C. S. Holliday,

Sporting and Social Life

Background to social life

Social life was of great importance during the war as it was considered the best way to maintain morale and British society.

The most common form of social entertainment was the pub. During WW1, the main effects of the war on alehouses, beer houses and pubs were:

- that their opening hours were cut (the afternoon break in licensing hours was introduced)
- that beer was watered down
- that customers in pubs were not allowed to buy rounds of drinks

The main aim of these restrictions was to try to keep workers sober and so maintain production. These two factors were especially important for those workers involved

in the munitions industry. Pub entertainments such as skittles, darts, billiards, and shove halfpenny were all played throughout the war.

Music hall was perhaps the second most popular form of entertainment and the best sources of information about these are the **Local Newspapers** (see **pages 7-8** and **Appendix 1** on **pages 28-30**), which carry advertisements and programmes.

Cinema, although in its infancy, was in existence and there were several in Gloucestershire. During this period, music halls and theatres often doubled as picture houses.

Many entertainments were undertaken as charitable affairs to raise money for the armed forces. There were lots of ways that people supported the war through social events, such as attending concerts, knitting 'comforters' (such as balaclavas, socks and mittens), and visiting the wounded. However, it was fund raising by street collectors (usually selling flags in the same way that we buy remembrance poppies today), charity postcards, attendance at tea parties and concerts that were most effective and popular. Parish churches were often involved in these sorts of activity and good archives exist for most of the Anglican parish records in Gloucestershire. These can be found by searching Gloucestershire Archives' online catalogue.

Background to sports

Between 1915 and 1919 most competitive sports including rugby, cricket and football were suspended in England as most of the players quickly signed up to fight in the war. However, some regional football games were played and inter-service sports continued unabated, with football, cricket and rugby matches all being played, mostly used as fund raisers for military charities and local hospitals.

One rugby international was played in April 1915 at Cardiff Arms Park. The match between Wales and England was primarily a fund-raising game for military charities, but was also used as a recruitment exercise for the Welsh Guards.

Almost all of the players of Gloucester Rugby Football Club signed up and went straight into the 5th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. They made the regimental rugby team one of the best in the whole army. As might be expected, several never returned.

Horse racing continued more or less unaffected, although many race courses were requisitioned as military camps. The grandstand at Cheltenham, for example, was used as a VAD hospital.

How can I find out more?

The **trade directories** (see **page 10-11**) for Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud and the whole county contain lists of alehouses and public houses, as well as local breweries. There are also some excellent published histories of pubs around the county.

The best sources of information for this aspect of the Home Front are **Local Newspapers** (see **pages 7-8** and **Appendix 1** on **pages 28-30**), all of which list a

range of the various social activities and entertainments that were available, including adverts, notices and reports of various events.

Local records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

D10820/W2-1/J Concerts given for soldiers, in aid of the Red Cross, Disabled Soldiers and Sailors and Belgian refugees

PS/SD/P5/13 Stroud Petty Sessions, Licensing papers for music, theatre and dancing venues, 1912-1930

D10820/W2-1/y Programme of Entertainment by The Aerolites - Corn Hall, April 1917 in aid of Soldier's and Sailor's Comforts Fund.

N29.5GS Programme of military sports in aid of the recreation rooms at the Gloucester Red Cross hospitals

D9008 Barton Street Working Men's Club, Gloucester

D1277 Churchdown and Chosen Hill Golf Clubs

D9125/1/5317 Minute book of the Gloucester tank week committee and victory loan campaign

D551/11 County Lieutenancy; war relief (including the Prince of Wales Fund, the Queen's Work for Women Fund and a local fund)

P78/7 Minutes of St Luke's parish war savings association, 1918-1920.

S151/1/11/3 H J Hadlow - Headmaster of Frenchay National School, 1894-1923

P225 IN 4/3 Newent Parish, prayers and services used during First World War 1915-1918

D9125/1/5305 Minute book of the Gloucester branch of the Queen's work for women fund.

Children

Background to children in WW1

One terrible aspect of the war was the number of children who were left fatherless. Life for these children and their families was hard even though widows and dependants of servicemen received pensions. Relatives were able to claim a pension even if their husbands or fathers died from a war-related injury many years after 1918. Pension records for servicemen are held at the National Archives:

(<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/britisharmysoldierafter1913.htm>).

Families who needed help would have come to the attention of the local **Board of Guardians** and so the records of these organisations can prove useful in researching them (see **page 6**). In some instances, children may have been removed from their families, and so organisations such as the County council (see Official Records) and Barnardo's (www.barnados.org.uk) may have become involved.

How can I find out more?

The best sources for researching the lives of children during WW1 are **School Records** (see **pages 11-12**). There were frequent mentions of children in **Local Newspapers** (see **pages 7-8** and **Appendix 1** on **pages 28-30**), often linked to philanthropic stories. Children also frequently appear in **Personal Diaries & Correspondence** (see **pages 12-13**) although finding precise details can be difficult because, although they are often written about, they can be just mentioned rather than named. However because people also wrote about their lives as children during the war, there is excellent material in some of **Published sources** (see **Appendix 2** on **pages 30-32**) such as biographies.

Local records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue

(<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=index.tcl>)

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

S8/2 Aldsworth School Log book (re: knitting socks for soldiers & War Loan Savings)

S154/31/1/2 Whaddon Council School Log book

S154/14/3 Archdeacon Street Boys' School, Gloucester Log book (re: rationing)

S15/1/3 Ampney Crucis School Log book (re: horse-chestnut collecting)

S27/1 Aston-sub-Edge School Log book (re: blackberry picking)

S78/6/1/2 Christchurch School, Cheltenham (re: ex-pupils returning to visit as soldiers)

GPS/154/592 Photograph of Children playing soldiers in Bishopstone Road, Gloucester, 1914

GPS/220/35 Photograph of Mitcheldean school children with teachers, 1915

G/CH/8e/1 Cheltenham Children's Home Committee

D10820/P2-4/k Cirencester Children's Care Committee

Refugees

Background to refugees

The German invasion of Belgium in the early weeks of the war triggered a wave of refugees who fled the war zones to safer parts of Belgium or elsewhere. Many refugees went to the Netherlands (which was neutral in WW1) and about 300,000 to France.

Many more headed for Britain. From Ostend, a steady trickle of refugees arrived in the Kent and East Coast ports. The War Refugees Committee (W.R.C.) was formed to help them. On 24 August 1914 national newspapers carried the Committee's first public appeal. It received an overwhelming response to the extent that within two weeks the organization was in a position to offer hospitality to almost 100,000 displaced persons. By the middle of September Belgian refugees were arriving in London at the rate of around 500 per day. The fall of Antwerp triggered yet more to come. When the port of Ostend fell, over 26,000 Belgians entered Britain.

The total number of Belgian refugees eventually numbered over 200,000. The W.R.C. and the Local Government Board set up over 2,500 local reception centres across the country to find homes for the refugees. It was not always an easy task, as there were many large families (often twelve or more) who naturally did not want to be split up. English goodwill towards the refugees continued and *The Times* announced 'The Belgium Relief Fund', a fund-raising campaign to help those Belgians who had remained in their country. As well as Belgians, some Russian refugees entered the country in 1916 prior to the Russian Revolution.

How can I find out more?

Local records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

S343/2/2 Twyning National School admission register

D37/1/28 Belgian refugees at Chaxhill, 1914 with 5 children attending village school

(Hyett) F7.7(55)GS Lantern lecture on Belgium - the ewe lamb of Europe

D575 Barnwood and Wotton Without Belgian Refugees Committee

D3983/5 Provincial Typographical Association (Gloucester Branch) committee meeting minutes, 1913-17

D4180/1 Scrapbook of First World War events

P141 IN 4/14 Fairford Parish magazine, 1914, includes notes on Fairford Belgian Relief Committee

Running the Home

Background

Newspapers were quick to advise people on how to economise, especially as there was concern about how much food people wasted. The public were asked to use less sugar in their tea, to make-do with cheaper, lower-grade tea, and to eat cheap, streaky bacon instead of leaner cuts. People were also urged to spread butter more thinly on their bread and to make use of the previous day's loaf for toasting. Stale loaves could be damped and popped into the oven to make them fresh enough to eat! If meat became too expensive, people were encouraged to eat more offal, such as tripe or sheep's heads. Soups became more popular being made from leftover bones and vegetables.

How can I find out more?

Information regarding running the home in WW1 can come from a wide range of resources. **Personal Diaries & Correspondence** (see **pages 12-13**) are among the best sources for local information. However **Local Newspapers** (see **pages 7-8** and **Appendix 1** on **pages 28-30**) and, more importantly, the adverts they contain, perhaps offer the best resource as they cover a wide range of subjects, from foods and food supplements to clothing and war fashions.

Local records can be found at Gloucestershire Archives by searching the online catalogue:

<http://ww3.goucestershire.gov.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Index.tcl>

Example Gloucestershire Archives reference numbers include:

GPS/611/42 Photograph of motorman and conductress standing beside Kingsholm to Tuffley tram

D2455/F3/7/1/1/10 Letters to Lady Lucy Hicks Beach from her husband, Sir Michael Edward Hicks Beach

D9125/1/5306 Minute book of the women's employment committee, Gloucester,

J11.62(2)GS Suggestions to solicitors to the duty of considering the new conditions of imperial, national and social life, arising out the Great War

D37/1/112 Colchester-Wemyss diaries - Life going on as usual, 191

D6652/2/1 Itemised bill from Cheltenham (branch of Gloucester Co-operative & Industrial Society for goods bought by Miss Humphries when setting up home shortly before her marriage

D37/1/208 Colchester-Wemyss diaries – Domestic affairs, 1918

D3981/46 Thomas Swift – Diary, November 1914 - February 1915

Next steps

Why not find out more about the servicemen who served from your local area? Download our free "Research Toolkit 1: First Steps in tracing Servicemen in WW1" and "Research Toolkit 2: Discover More About Servicemen in WW1" from www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/WW1/resources. There are many other resources available to download for free at this address that may help with your research into WW1 too.

Want to develop your research into a larger project?

If you are considering your own WW1 project, why not take advantage of the Gloucestershire Archives' Project Advisory Service? We can provide you with advice about how to proceed, including how to apply for funding. We can also help to broker joint bids from a number of organisations (e.g. a group of parish councils, a local heritage group or a school) for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund's [First World War: Then and Now](#) programme (www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/FirstWorldWarThenandNow.aspx#.UtAEUjiYbIU). More information can be found at about the project advisory service can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/communityheritage or contact Gloucestershire Archives on archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Appendix 1: Gloucestershire newspapers during WW1

***Gloucester Journal* (Weekly newspaper, Liberal)**

Microfilm and hard copy held at Gloucestershire Archives

Coverage: Gloucester and the county

***Gloucestershire Chronicle* (Weekly newspaper, Conservative)**

Microfilm only at Gloucestershire Archives

Coverage: Gloucester and the county

***Gloucestershire Echo* (Daily newspaper)**

Hard copy and microfilm at Gloucestershire Archives. Microfilm at Cheltenham Local and Family History Library

Coverage: Cheltenham and the county

***Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic* (Weekly pictorial magazine)**

Hard copies at Gloucestershire Archives (reference numbers GAL/J4 and B324-B325). Also held at Cheltenham Local and Family History Library.

Coverage: Cheltenham and the county

Citizen (Daily newspaper)

Microfilm only at Gloucestershire Archives

Coverage: Gloucester and its local area

Cheltenham Chronicle (Weekly newspaper, Conservative)

Microfilm only at Cheltenham Local & Family History Library

Coverage: the Cheltenham area

Cheltenham Looker-On (Weekly newspaper, Conservative)

Hard copy at Cheltenham Library

Coverage: the Cheltenham area

Dursley Gazette (Weekly newspaper)

Hard copy and microfilm at Gloucestershire Archives

Coverage: the Dursley area.

Tewkesbury Register (Weekly newspaper)

Microfilm only at Gloucestershire Archives (the 1916 microfilm is missing at Gloucestershire Archives. Tewkesbury library has a microfilm and hardcopy (reference: D10485).

Coverage: the Tewkesbury area.

Evesham Journal (Weekly newspaper)

Microfilm at Stow-on-the-Wold library

Coverage: Evesham and North Cotswolds area

Dean Forest Mercury (Weekly newspaper)

Microfilm held at Cinderford Library

Coverage: the Forest of Dean area

Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard (Weekly newspaper)

Microfilm held at Cirencester Library

Coverage: the Cirencester area

Stroud News (Weekly newspaper, Conservative)

Microfilm held at Stroud Library

Coverage: Stroud and its surrounding area

Appendix 2: WW1 Books held at Gloucestershire Archives relating to the Home Front

Family history

Tracing your First World War Ancestors; A Guide for Family Historians – Simon Fowler, (available at [Cheltenham Local & Family History Centre](#))

First world war; essential guide to sources in the UK National Archives – Ian Beckett, (GAL/E3/52206)

Army Service Records of the First World War – William Spencer (GAL/H1)

Tracing your prisoner of war ancestors: the first world war – Sarah Paterson, (GAL/H1/55519)

Great war handbook; a guide for family historians and students of the conflict – Geoff Bridger (GAL/H1/51806)

Agriculture

Rural life in England in the First World War – Pamela Horn (GAL/F2/52672)

British agriculture in the First World War – P.E Dewey (GAL/L3/55728GS)

Yeomen of the Cotswolds – Eleanor Porter & Mary Abbott (GAL/F4)

Regimental history

Royal Gloucestershire Hussars – Rollo Clifford (GAL/E3)

Cap of Honour; 300 years of the Gloucestershire Regiment – David Scott Daniell (GAL/E3/49985)

Memoirs – home front

From a Cotswold height – John Henry Garrett, North Cotswolds at the time of the First World War (B511/45505)

Country lad at heart – George Rutter Growing up in Northwood Green at the time of the First World War (B615/47993)

Parcel of time; a First World War childhood – Richard Kennedy (B662/39467)

Home Front

All quiet on the home front - an oral history of life in Britain during the First World War – Richard Van Emden (GAL/L3/55729GS)

Home front, 1914-1918: how Britain survived the Great War – Ian Beckett (GAL/L3/55730GS)

On her their lives depend: munitions workers in the Great War – Angela Woollacott (GAL/L3/55727GS)

War memorials

Leaving all that was dear; Cheltenham and the Great War – Joseph Devereux (GAL/L3/48210)

Gloucestershire Village In The Great War; the Story Of Apperley And Deerhurst 1914 -1918 – Steve Miller (GAL/L3/49055)

Lost generations; Old Cryptians killed during the Great War and Second World War – Simon & Sarah Birch & Ray Pocock (GAL/L3/49969)

Stow on the Wold War memorial – Susan Brattin (GAL/L3/50058)

Campden 1914 – 18; a tribute to the 487 men and women from Campden who served during the Great War, 1914–18 – Paul R. Hughes (GAL/L3/51125)

Have many gone from here?; Pauntley's first world war memorial (R230.3)

Lechlade and the Great War 1914-18; an account of the village during the first World War and the stories behind the names on the war memorial – Paul & Tessa Cobb (RR183.22)

Mickleton soldiers of the Great War – Neville Mellon (GAL/L3/49801)

Officers died in the Great War 1914-1919 (Gloucestershire Regiment) (GAL/E3/47674)

Soldiers died in the Great War, 1914-19 (Gloucestershire Regiment) (GAL/E3/45570)

Lest ye forget, Stroud District and its part in the Great War 1914-1919 (GAL/L3/53802)

Records of Upton St. Leonard's; containing Parish gleanings in Upton St. Leonard's and Letters from Upton St. Leonard's, together with other records of the parish (Include lists of Upton men who served in the Great War) – A J Brewster (P347b PC 41/3)

Remembering the Great War in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire – Ray Westlake (B424/49293)

Rural sacrifice; the war dead of Bisley, Eastcombe and Oakridge (1914-1919) – Nick Thornicroft (R46.13)

VC's of Gloucestershire and North Bristol – Nick Thornicroft (GAL/G4/50020)

Gloucestershire and North Bristol Soldiers on the Somme – Nick Thornicroft (GAL/E3/50157)

Far from his native land he lies; the story of the men from Amberley, Box and Woodchester who gave their lives in two world wars – Nick Thornicroft (B547/49414)

Be proud that you're fighting for England!; Dursley: a study of a small town at war 1914 – 1918 – David Evans (GAL/D2/50551)

Lest we forget; World war 1, 1914-1918, book of remembrance – Stonehouse Royal British Legion (B151/54525)

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'Til the boys come home, Great Rissington soldiers – Clare Mayo – (GAL/L3/55691)