



Titanic Memorial in St. Peter's, Bramshaw

The names on the memorial have a particularly sad story. Leonard Mark Hickman went to Nova Scotia in 1907 and Manitoba in 1908 – he apparently loved the life out there and returned home to persuade family members and some friends to join him in Manitoba. Owing to a coal strike, only the three brothers and four friends managed to get tickets on another ship – Titanic, where they upgraded to 2nd Class. As were the Goodwin family of Melksham who also perished.

Lewis was newly married and Leonard was due to marry when he returned to Manitoba.

Barbara Hickman has written a fascinating full account of their lives in her booklet 'The Hickmans of Fritham and The Titanic'.

Charles Henry Davies

Mr. Charles Henry Davies was born in Bramshaw, Hampshire, England in the Spring of 1893.

He was the eldest child of Ernest Davies (b. 1865), a farmer, and Edith Biddlecombe (b. 1867), both Bramshaw natives who had married in 1892. He had three siblings: Arthur Frank (b. 1894), Robert Edward (b. 1897) and Elsie May (b. 1900).

The family are living at an unspecified address in Bramshaw on the 1901 census and later at Brook Hill, Bramshaw on the 1911 census. On the latter record, Charles is described as a general domestic servant.

Charles Davies boarded the Titanic at Southampton as a second class passenger (joint ticket number 14879 which cost £73, 10s). He was travelling to Eden, Manitoba.

Charles Davies died in the sinking. His body, if recovered, was never identified.

His mother died in 1925 and his father in 1929.

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Percy William Deacon

Percy was born in Fordingbridge, Hampshire in the December Registration Quarter of 1894. He was the son of Albert William Deacon born in 1869 in Frogham, Hampshire and is recorded in the 1911 census as a farm labourer resident of Fritham, Lyndhurst, Hampshire and enumerated as part of the Bramshaw District formerly in Wiltshire. He is listed with wife Elizabeth Kate nee Downer, aged 38 of Bickton, Hampshire, the couple had married in 1893. Their surviving children are listed as:- son, Percy William, aged 16 born in Ogdens, Fordingbridge, a baker, son, Albert James, aged 14 born in Ogdens, Fordingbridge, a farm worker, son Sidney Laurence, aged 11 born in Hungerford, Fordingbridge, son, Edward George, aged 5 born in Fritham, Lyndhurst, Hampshire and daughter, Florence Mildred Kate, aged 3 born in Fritham, Lyndhurst. There were two other children born to the couple one of whom was Alfred Charles who was born in 1898 in Fordingbridge and died in 1902 in the same place.

Deacon boarded the Titanic at Southampton as a second class passenger on a joint ticket numbered 14879 which cost £73 10s. in total and he was travelling with six others all of whom perished. They were Ambrose Hood, Charles Henry Davies, William Dibden, Leonard Mark Hickman, Lewis Hickman and Stanley George Hickman, all from the same locale. His destination is not certain; there is a suggestion he was travelling to Eden, Manitoba with the rest of his party but also that he was bound for Boston to join an uncle who had emigrated previously, planning to enrol in a missionary school there. According to family legend, Percy had borrowed his share of the fare from the Hickman brothers' father, Herbert Hickman. When the news broke of the sinking, Mr. Hickman appeared at the door to the family cottage one evening and demanded his money back!

Percy Deacon died in the sinking. His body, if recovered, was never identified. He is remembered, along with his travelling companions on a memorial plaque in St. Peter's Church, Bramshaw pictured above.

His parents later had another child, a son, in 1913 named Ernest Francis (1913-1999). Further sorrow was caused to the family when Percy's brother Albert died aged 18 in 1915. His mother died only the following year aged 44. His father died in 1929.

William Dibden

Mr. William Dibden was born on 29 October 1893 in Bramshaw, England, a small parish straddling the Hampshire and Wiltshire borders.

He was the son of William Dibden (b. 1857), a butcher, and Eliza Hester, née Dibden (b. 1864). His father was a native of Bramshaw and his mother of Nomansland, Redlynch, Wiltshire and they had married in early 1885. He had four siblings: Mary (b. 1886), Bessie (b. 1888), Benjamin (b. 1896) and Hester Eveline (b. 1900).

William appears on the 1901 and 1911 censuses living at Furzley in Bramshaw and he is described as a general labourer on the latter census. Living close by, among other family, was his aunt and uncle Ambrose and Sarah Hood and his cousin Ambrose. His father died in 1901 and his mother never remarried.

William boarded the Titanic at Southampton as a second class passenger (joint ticket number 14879 which cost £73, 10s) and he was travelling with his cousin Ambrose Hood. He was travelling to Eden, Manitoba.

William Dibden died in the sinking. His body, if recovered, was never identified. He is remembered on his parents' headstone in St. Peter's Churchyard, Bramshaw:

William, Eldest Son of the Above
Who Was Lost in the Wreck of the
S.S. Titanic April 15th 1912 Aged 18 Years

Lewis Hickman



Mr. Lewis Hickman was born in Fritham, Hampshire, England in 1879, and worked in a munitions factory at Fritham. After his marriage he decided to seek his fortune in Canada. His younger brother Leonard had emigrated to Neepawa, Manitoba, in 1908, and had done well for himself working at nearby Eden as a farmhand for a wealthy mixed-grain farmer, Harold Honeyman.

Leonard went home to Fritham for Christmas in 1911 and persuaded the entire Hickman family of eleven to emigrate to Canada. Because of the coal strike, alternative passage was found for only three of the others - Leonard, Lewis and

Stanley. They travelled with four companions from Fritham, Percy Deacon, Ambrose Hood, Charlie Davies and William Dibden on a single ticket (ticket number S.O.C. 14879, £73 10s).

No doubt they were delighted to learn that because of the inconvenience they all had been upgraded from Third Class on another ship to Second Class on Titanic.

As the Titanic was sinking, Lewis grabbed his brother Leonard's coat before he went up on deck. Lewis' body was the 256th recovered from the Atlantic, but it was identified as that of Leonard because Leonard's membership card in the Foresters Lodge was found in a pocket.

NO. 256. - MALE. - ESTIMATED AGE, 40. - HAIR, FAIR; AND MOUSTACHE.

CLOTHING - Grey overcoat; fancy Vest; dark suit.

EFFECTS-Keys; razors; scissors; silver watch and chain; amber cigarette holder; cigarette case; £14 10s. in gold; 7s.

SECOND CLASS.

NAME - LEONARD HICKMAN.

On Friday 3rd May, the Neepawa Press reported,

Amongst the bodies of the Titanic victims found was that of Leonard Hickman of Eden who went home last December and was returning with two brothers and several other young men to accept positions with farmers in the neighbourhood. Private correspondence from Fritham tells of the terrible affliction of two families there as a result of the Titanic disaster. Parents of Messrs. Leonard, Stanley and Lewis Hickman are so prostrated that there are fears for their recovery, and a Mrs Davies, whose son was also on the lost vessel en route to Eden is believed to be hopelessly unnerved.

Normally, because the body recovered was of a second class passenger, it would have been buried in Halifax, however, when Leonard's lodge members in Neepawa learned that the corpse of one of their brothers had been found, they paid to have it shipped to Simpson, Undertakers, Neepawa, for burial. Harold Honeyman had a tombstone prepared with Leonard's name on it. The body left Halifax by train on May 4. It arrived an hour before the funeral was to begin on May 10, when the casket was opened, Honeyman was shocked to discover he could not identify the body as anyone he knew.

Leonard was dark and clean shaven; the body that arrived was that of an older man, fair-haired and sporting a moustache. The church was crowded with people waiting for the funeral to begin, so Honeyman decided to have the casket sealed and let the funeral go ahead, the congregation none the wiser. "To have said it was not Leonard was going to create awful confusion," Honeyman said later. The Neepawa Press explained that mourners were not allowed to view the body because "it was in the water for two weeks, and more than one week en route from the scene of death." Still, the newspaper assured readers, "the body was remarkably well preserved and the features were readily recognized by acquaintances who were permitted to view the remains.

"Thus was laid to rest the remains of Leonard Hickman, an efficient English farm labourer. Had he been a state dignitary or a millionaire, there might have been more pomp, but there could not have

been more genuine sorrow and respect manifested. All honour to Neepawa, the farthest west resting place (in Canada) of a Titanic hero."

The body was interred in Riverside Cemetery, one of the prettiest and well-kept rural cemeteries in all of Canada. Only after the personal effects were returned to the Hickman family in England did Lewis' wife, Marie, suspect that it was her husband and not Leonard who was buried in Neepawa. She identified the silver watch and chain and an amber cigarette holder as belonging to her husband. When confronted with the evidence, Honeyman confirmed her suspicions. "I suppose you know by this time that it was not Leonard's body that was forwarded to us here," Honeyman wrote to Albert Hickman on May 20, 1912, "I do not know how the mistake occurred, but I am satisfied it was your bother, Lewis." Later, the inscription of the tombstone, which had been erected by the citizens of Neepawa and district was changed. It now reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LEWIS HICKMAN
AGED 32 YRS
BELOVED HUSBAND OF
MARIE HICKMAN.
ALSO OF
LEONARD MARK HICKMAN
AGED 24 YRS. AND
STANLEY GEORGE
HICKMAN AGED 21 YRS.
SONS OF HERBERT & EMILY
HICKMAN FRITHAM, HAUTS.(sic)
ENGLAND, VICTIMS OF THE TITANIC
DISASTER, APR. 15, 1912.

There are also memorials to the Hickman brothers in Fritham, Free Church, New Forest Hampshire, and on a stone at St. Peter's Church, Bramshaw, New Forest, Hampshire.

Leonard Mark Hickman



Mr. Leonard Mark Hickman, 24, from Fritham, Hampshire, England. Leonard emigrated to Neepawa, Manitoba, in 1908, and had done well for himself working at nearby Eden as a farmhand for a wealthy mixed-grain farmer, Harold Honeyman. Leonard went home to Fritham for Christmas in 1911 and persuaded the entire Hickman family of eleven to emigrate to Canada. Because of the coal strike, alternative passage was found for only three of the bothers - Leonard, Lewis and Stanley. They travelled with four companions from Fritham, Percy Deacon, Ambrose Hood, Charlie Davies and William Dibden on a single ticket number 14879 which cost £73 10s. They boarded the Titanic at Southampton as second class passengers.

Leonard Mark Hickman died in the sinking. At first it was thought that his body had been recovered (#256), it was only much later that this body was discovered to be that of his brother Lewis.

Stanley George Hickman



Stanley George Hickman, 21, from Fritham, Hampshire, England was emigrating to Canada with his brothers - Leonard and Lewis. They travelled with four companions from Fritham, Percy Deacon, Ambrose Hood, Charlie Davies and William Dibden on a single ticket number 14879 which cost £72 10s. They boarded the *Titanic* at Southampton as second class passengers.

Stanley George Hickman died in the sinking. His body, if recovered, was never identified.

Ambrose Hood

Mr. Ambrose Hood, Jnr. was born in 1891 in Bramshaw. He was baptised on 21 June that same year.

He was the son of Ambrose Hood (b. 1847), a carpenter, and Sarah Jane Dibden (b. 1850). His father was a native of Plaitford, Wiltshire and his mother of Bramshaw and they were married in 1867.

One of ten surviving children from a total of eleven, Ambrose' siblings were: Mary (b. 1869), Frank (b. 1872), Ernest (b. 1874), Harry (b. 1878), Michael (b. 1880), Mabel (b. 1883), Hope (b. 1884), Tom Harvey (b. 1887) and Dora Sarah (b. 1894).

In the months prior to Ambrose' birth his family were recorded on the 1891 census living at Furzley in Bramshaw and they would be at the same address through to the 1911 census. By the time of the latter record Ambrose Jnr. was described as an unmarried farm labourer. Living close by, among other family, was his aunt and uncle William and Eliza Dibden and his cousin William Dibden. Ambrose boarded the *Titanic* at Southampton as a second class passenger (joint ticket number 14879 which cost £73, 10s) and he was travelling with his cousin William Dibden. He was travelling to Eden, Manitoba.

Ambrose Hood died in the sinking. His body, if recovered, was never identified.

His father died in 1922, aged 75, and his mother in 1950 aged 100. He is remembered on their headstone in St. Peter's Churchyard, Bramshaw:

ALSO AMBROSE HOOD
SON OF THE ABOVE
WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN
S.S. TITANIC APRIL 1912
AGED 21 YEARS

Acknowledgements

Images Courtesy: Cecil Pittman, Neepawa