

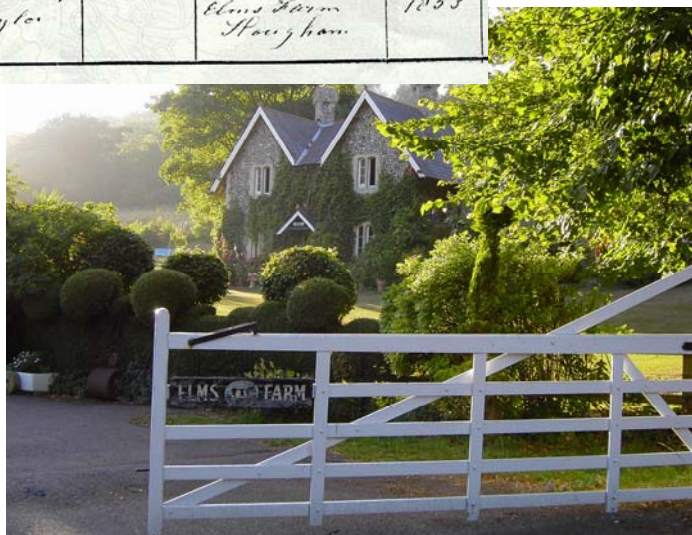
***“Who  
Did He Think  
He Was?”***

**Walter Tull’s  
Family History  
in  
Dover and Folkestone**

Daniel Tull, Walter's father, came from Barbados. But Walter's family history can also be found here, in Dover and Folkestone. Alice Palmer, Walter's mother, was born in Hougham. Census returns, church registers and local newspapers help to tell the story.

1853. BIRTHS in the District of <i>Hougham</i> in the County of <i>Kent</i>								
No.	When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
314	<i>Nineteenth March 1853</i> <i>Elms Farm</i> <i>Hougham</i>	<i>Alice</i> <i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>girl</i>	<i>Stephen</i> <i>Palmer</i>	<i>Sarah Ann</i> <i>Palmer</i> <i>formerly</i> <i>Taylor</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>	<i>The Mark of</i> <i>Stephen Palmer</i> <i>Father</i> <i>Elms Farm</i> <i>Hougham</i>	<i>Twentieth</i> <i>March</i> <i>1853</i>

Alice Elizabeth Palmer was born at Elms Farm, at the end of Elms Vale Road on 19 March 1853 to Stephen and Sarah Palmer. She was baptised at St Lawrence Church in Hougham, where her father had also been baptised in 1813. Walter's step-mother, Clara Palmer, Alice's niece, was baptised here too, in 1870.



*Elms Farm, Hougham*  
Picture: Simon John Chambers



*St Lawrence Parish Church, Hougham*  
Picture: Simon John Chambers

Walter's grandparents and great-grandparents are buried here. Members of the Palmer family have been baptised and buried at St Lawrence since the 1650s

The family is shown on the 1871 census as living at West End Farm in Hougham and shows Alice as having two brothers at this time, Richard, who was four years older, and John, two years her junior.

In 1891 Stephen and Sarah, Walter's grandparents, are recorded as still living in Hougham, at Young's Cottages.

<i>Stephen Palmer</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>Ag</i>
<i>Sarah A. Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>47</i>	
<i>Richard G Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unmar</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Ag</i>
<i>Alice E Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unmar</i>	<i>18</i>	
<i>John A. Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Unmar</i>	<i>16</i>	
<i>John Drake</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>Unmar</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Fa</i>
<i>James Cox</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>Unmar</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Fa</i>

*Extract from 1871 Census*  
*Copy from Local Studies, Dover Library*

Census records for 7 April 1861, show that the future mother of Walter Tull, Alice Palmer, then aged 8, and her brother Richard, were staying with their maternal grandmother, Elizabeth, in Cheriton Street. Elizabeth was then aged 63, and was married for a second time to Richard Smissen, a Farm Bailiff. The area is much changed since that time; however there is a distinctive curve in the road that Alice would recognise today, and just possibly some of the houses might be familiar.



Cheriton Street  
Picture: Simon John Chambers

1880. Marriage solemnized at the <i>Wesleyan Chapel</i> in the district of <i>Folkestone</i> of <i>Elham</i>						
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.
85	<i>Twenty-fifth February 1880</i>	<i>Daniel Tull</i>	<i>24 years</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>carpenter</i>	<i>14 Darby Road Folkestone</i>
		<i>Alice Elizabeth Palmer</i>	<i>26 years</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>18 Ford Road Folkestone</i>

Married in the *Wesleyan Chapel* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Wesleyans*

Daniel Tull and Alice Palmer were married in the Grace Hill Wesleyan Chapel in Folkestone on 25 February 1880. The extract from the marriage certificate shows them residing at 14 Darby Road and 18 Foord Road respectively. Early in their marriage the Tulls suffered the loss of their first child, Bertha, who died in March 1881 aged just 5 weeks. The funeral service was conducted by Mr Moorehouse Thorpe, the same minister who had married her parents the previous year.

The Tulls moved house a number of times as their family grew. Their first son, William Stephen Palmer Tull, was born at 8 Allendale Street, a style of building known as a Monkey Puzzle house because one frontage is for two homes and internally they fit together like a 3D wooden puzzle.



8 Allendale Street  
Picture: Simon John Chambers



Walter Daniel John Tull was born just along the road at 16 Allendale Street on 28 April 1888.

1888. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <i>Folkestone</i>					
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.
146	<i>Twenty eighth April 1888 16 Allendale Street Folkestone U.S.D.</i>	<i>Walter Daniel John</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Daniel Tull</i>	<i>Alice Elizabeth Tull formerly Palmer</i>

16 Allendale Street

Picture: Simon John Chambers

Walter and his brother Edward attended the North Board School (now Mundella School) in Black Bull Road. As can be seen from the two pictures below, Walter would easily recognise it today.



Mundella School 2009

Picture : Simon John Chambers



North Board School circa 1880



The Tull family worshipped at the Grace Hill Wesleyan Chapel. It was here that family members were baptised and married. When Alice Tull became ill, the church granted sums of money to her husband, Daniel. Daniel's second wife was also granted assistance of £1 in the weeks following his death. The chapel was demolished after a new church was opened in 1976 and the site is now Grace Court, a home for elderly people.


Grace Hill Chapel

Picture courtesy of Folkestone Library, Local Studies

In 1895 the family was living at 51 Walton Road and it was here that Alice Tull died on 14 April, at the age of 42, from breast cancer. Walter's father, Daniel, was with her when she died.

Following Alice's death, Daniel Tull married Clara Palmer. When Daniel died just 14 months later, in December 1897, she found that she could not cope with all the children and made the difficult decision to split the family up. Walter and his older brother Edward were placed in the care of the Bonner Road Children's Home and Orphanage in Bethnal Green, East London. Walter's two sisters, Cecilia and Elsie, and his half-sister, Miriam, stayed with Clara. Cecilia went into service. In 1899 Clara married again, to William Beer, and in 1901 the Beers, Elsie and Miriam were living in Coldred. They later moved to Redvers Cottages in Kearsney.

**FORM OF AGREEMENT.**

 S. J. Tull

*N.B. The Parent, if living, or eldest Brother or Sister, if of age, or other legal Guardian of the Child, will be required TO SIGN THE FORM BELOW BEFORE THE CASE CAN BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE.*

It should be distinctly understood by the persons signing this Form of Agreement that they thereby give to the Committee the power to send the child to any situation either in this country or abroad. This does not imply that the child will actually be sent out of the country, but the Committee claim the right to exercise their power if, when the time comes for the child to leave the Home, they consider its future welfare will be better secured by emigration.

I, Elsie Alice Seward Walter Daniel John Tull  
 hereby declare that Walter Daniel John Tull  
 enters The Children's Home with my full approval and consent, and I hereby commit him to the care of the Principal of the said Home, and I pledge myself not to interfere with him in any way so long as he remains therein; and I hereby further agree to the Child being sent to any situation in this country or abroad, chosen by the said Principal. Also I promise to give every assistance in my power to the Principal and Officers in their efforts on the Child's behalf.

Further, I hereby agree not to remove the Child without the consent of the Committee, but should I do so I hereby agree to make payment to the Treasurer for the time being, of the said Children's Home, of the outlay which shall have been expended by the Institution on the Child's behalf, at the rate of Eight Shillings per week from the time of admission.

In witness hereof this Agreement is subscribed by me, at the Address given below, the Third  
 day of January Eighteen Hundred and Nineteen before the subscribing witnesses.

Signature and Address of Legal Guardian. Clara A S Tull 51 Waltham Cross, Tottenham.

Signature and Address of Witnesses. George Seward, 90 Chilton Road, Tottenham.  
Walter T. R. Barrow, Wynne St. Kent.

Extract from Walter's orphanage admittance papers  
 Courtesy of the Tull family



Redvers Cottages, Kearsney  
 Picture: Simon John Chambers

It is from this house that both Elsie and Miriam were married at St Peter & St Paul's Church in River. Elsie married Alfred Seward, a motor mechanic, on 3 April 1920. The marriage was witnessed by her step-father and step-sister. In 1924 Miriam married Leslie Kingsland, a railway clerk. One of the witnesses to the marriage was Elsie's husband, Alfred.

Elsie and Alfred lived at 2, The Paddock in Dover until they moved to London, where Alfred died during World War II.

Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
No.	When married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence at the time of marriage	Father's name and surname
342	April the third 1920	Alfred Seward	27	Bachelor	Motor Mechanic	45 Fuller St Eleutherias Lane.	George Seward
		Elsie Alice Elizabeth Tull	27	Spinster	—	1 Redvers Cottages River	Daniel Tull (deceased)
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of							D.A.
This marriage was solemnized between us,		Alfred Seward	in the presence of us,		William Charles Beer	Miriam Victoria Alice Tull	

Marriage Certificate of Elsie Tull and Arthur Seward

2 The Paddock, Dover  
 Picture: Michelle Cooper

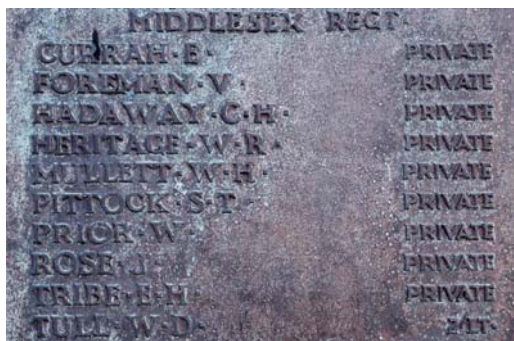


Despite his parents' death and family separation, Walter's new family in Dover remained in touch. After his death he was always in their thoughts; in 1921 they ensured that his name was inscribed on their Parish Memorial at River. There is also a scroll in the church which bears his name. The family attended the unveiling of the memorial, laying a wreath which read "From Mum and Dad, Elsie and Miriam". Miriam later named her only child after her lost brother.

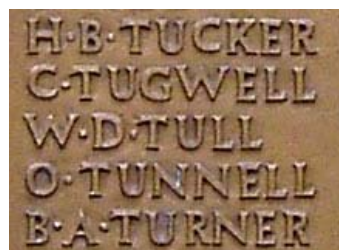


St Peter & St Paul's Church, River,  
Scroll and detail from memorial  
Pictures : Simon John Chambers

Walter Tull is also named on the Folkestone War Memorial at the top of the Road of Remembrance in Folkestone, where so many soldiers marched down the hill to embark for France. His name was placed there by his old school teacher, Mr Mummery. The memorial was unveiled in 1922 by the then Vice-Admiral Sir Roger Keyes.



Folkestone War Memorial and (left) detail of plaque  
Pictures: Simon John Chambers



In 1924, at the request of his family, Walter Tull's name was included on the Dover War Memorial outside Maison Dieu House.

Dover Memorial and detail of plaque  
Pictures: Simon John Chambers

Like so many families, Walter's relatives had to cope with the loss of a number of family members during the Great War. Walter's cousin Charles, son of his mother's older brother Richard Graves Palmer and his wife Sarah, died when HMS Russell was mined on 27 April 1916. Charles is buried in Malta and commemorated at Swingfield.

Two more cousins, like Walter, have no known grave. George and Stephen Palmer were the sons of his mother's younger brother, John Alexander Palmer and his second wife, Harriet Roseblade. They married at St Anthony of Pamiers, Alkham, on 17 January 1891. Daniel Tull and Clara Palmer were witnesses.



*St Anthony of Pamiers, Alkham  
Picture: Simon John Chambers*

George Palmer died on 19 August 1916 of wounds received in action and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in Northern France.



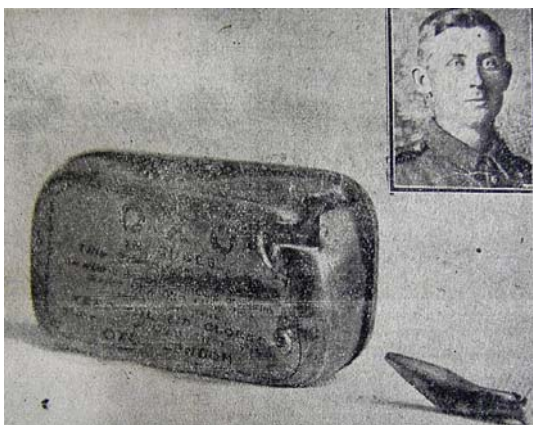
*George Palmer & his leather dog tag  
From the Coombe Family Collection*



*(Right) Thiepval Memorial  
Picture: Michelle Cooper*



Stephen Palmer (named after their Grandfather) served with the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. In 1915 Stephen's life was saved by an Oxo tin, sent to the Front by his brother. It stopped a bullet that had already gone through his breast pocket and tobacco tin. Stephen's coat was "torn in twenty places", but Stephen himself was only bruised.



*Stephen Palmer and the tin that saved his life  
Picture courtesy of the Dover Express*

Stephen is remembered on the Menin Gate in Ypres, killed in action on 19 July 1917.



*Detail from Dover War Memorial  
Picture: Simon John Chambers*

George and Stephen are both named on the Dover War Memorial

Their father, John Palmer, died in St Radigund's Road in 1921. At the inquest they gave the verdict that he had taken his own life; one of the factors in his depression was the loss of his sons during the Great War.



59 Greenfield Road  
Picture: Simon John Chambers

William Stephen Palmer Tull was the eldest of Walter's brothers. Like his cousin, he was also named after his maternal grandfather. He lived at 59 Greenfield Road with his wife, Gertrude (nee Boxer), and children.

William also served in the Great War. He died at home on 12 March 1920 from tuberculosis; the family tell us he suffered gassing during the War. He is buried at Cheriton, Folkestone and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Also buried in Cheriton Cemetery are Walter's parents, his eldest sister, Bertha, and two of William's children, Frederick and Winifred. Winifred was one year and 11 months when she died and is buried in an unmarked grave in the shadow of the Cross of Sacrifice.



Frederick Tull's grave with his father, William's in background  
Picture: Simon John Chambers

William's daughter, Mildred, lived in Greenfield Road for many years, until she died in an old peoples' home in 1999 in Folkestone. She ran the Sunday School at St John's Church. Cousins from the Boxer family recall visiting 'Aunt Millie'. One cousin, Paul, remembers vividly a family picnic in Aunt Millie's garden even though he was then only three years old – he had the misfortune to sit on an ants' nest!



6 Cambridge Gardens  
Picture: Simon John Chambers

The 1901 Census records show Walter's sister, Cecilia (always known as 'Cissie') living at 6 Cambridge Gardens, in employment as a domestic servant for Mary David, a retired lodging house keeper.

Cissie ended her days living with sister Elsie in Rochester, where they ran the tea bar at St Bartholomew's Hospital. On 7 November 1977, Elsie received an MBE for her work at the hospital.



Elsie Seward  
Picture: Kent Messenger Group

Descendents of Walter's family still live locally in Kent, but like Walter's father, others have settled far from home. The Palmer family now has descendents across the world, including Canada, the USA and New Zealand.



“Who do you think you are?”

Discover the surprises hidden in  
your own family history

Maybe you too are related to  
Walter Tull ....?

*Walter's great-niece (granddaughter of Walter's brother William) Rita Humphrey, laying a cross in the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice in 2008.  
Picture: Simon John Chambers*

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**“Who Did He Think He Was?”**

Walter Tull's Family History in Dover and Folkestone  
Display created by the Dover War Memorial Project and Friends