ARTHUR ALBERT WHITE

Pte. G/50332, 2nd Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own, Middlesex Regiment

Died 27th March 1918

Emily Jane Alexander, Arthur White's mother, was born illegitimately at Shoelands, Puttenham in 1880. Her mother was 19-year-old Emily Alexander, who married Alfred Inkerman White, a Farnborough coachman in January the next year at Puttenham. At 25, he was already a widower with two children; baby Emily Jane Alexander had the White surname added after the marriage. The couple set up home at Stoke, where Alfred became a cab driver; they had 3 children.

In 1892 they came to no. 15, The Gardens, then called Pembroke Villa, with a baby,



Frederick, before tragedy struck in October that year, when Alfred Inkerman White died. Wife Emily was four months pregnant with Ethel, who was born the following year.

The next birth in the family was Arthur Albert White, the 17-year-old Emily Jane Alexander's illegitimate son, who was born in 1897 and baptised here in 1899, the year before her mother Emily died aged 39, leaving Emily Jane and her half-brother.

In 1908, Emily Jane Alexander White married bricklayer William Boylett. They carried on living at The Gardens with young Arthur and had one child, William Frederick, born in 1913. This is a photo of him taken about 1915 with Emily Jane (who was of course also Arthur White's mother).



Arthur Albert White enlisted at Guildford, first in the Queens, then was transferred to the 2nd Middlesex. He died on March 27th 1918 at Rosieres during Operation Michael, the German offensive, which, after the tide was turned, ultimately led to the end of the Great War.

What a tragedy for Emily, to first lose her husband, William Boylett in 1916, then her son, Arthur White less than two years later.