



The Studdy Family

of

**Waddeton Court and
Mazonet**

Stoke Gabriel, Devon

17th and 18th Century

Waddeton Court

Stoke Gabriel



Large country house, near site of earlier house, in landscaped gardens overlooking River Dart. Built in 1829 with circa mid C19 extension at rear (north). Tudor style. Dressed local grey limestone with freestone dressings. Slate roof with gabled ends with mould bargeboards, finials and crested ridge. Two storeys and attic. 2:1:2 bays. Centre projecting and gabled. Two-light oval moulded stone mullion windows with hood moulds, centre ground floor four-light and first floor three-lights with cusped heads. Similar small single-light attic window in gable above.

Large circa mid C19 wing to rear (north) with principal east elevation gabled left and right, with projecting gable to left with gabled porch. Plain stone chimney stacks at ridge. Interior not inspected but is said to contain "some good specimens of ancient carving" (Kelly's Directory of Devon, 1883, page 410).

This may refer to the remains of manor house qv which are situated to north. Waddeton Court was the seat of the Studdy family, and Henry Studdy was the founder of the Royal Dart Yacht Club in 1866 when it had club rooms in the Royal Dart Hotel qv, until its own premises were built in 1881.

Waddeton Court is a substantial country estate within the parish of Stoke Gabriel, and was the mediaeval seat of the Lord of the manor of Waddeton. It had its own chapel, which was founded in 1213, but fell into disrepair and was rebuilt by Henry Bradbridge Studdy in 1868 as a memorial to his father-in-law, the Rev'd Robert Holdsworth, vicar of Dartmouth and Brixham.

In the grounds of Waddeton to the left of the house is a fountain in memory of Henry Studdy built in 1840



By the late 19th century, the estate had passed into the ownership of his son, also called Henry Studdy, the same Henry Studdy who sat on the jury to the inquest into the death of Selina Lever almost two decades earlier and who had more recently been the subject of a court order to pay his tithe-rent charge.

Two of his sons were Colonel Robert Wright Studdy, who on his father's death in 1905 inherited the estate, and Mr Thomas Edward Studdy who resided at Mazonet in Stoke Gabriel village.

Both were active in church affairs, attending vestry meetings throughout Vicar Nevill's period in office.

It was the custom at the time for the church choir to hold weekly practices at Waddeton Court chapel, rather than the parish church, apparently due to the protracted works required on the church organ. But in May 1904 the choir practice was the trigger for a bitter legal dispute that was widely reported in the newspapers across the country.

Due to some unspecified "friction" between Vicar Nevill and Mrs Edith Studdy (wife of Colonel Studdy), the Studdy's decided in May 1904 that the chapel would no longer be used for choir practices.

A letter was written by Mrs Studdy to the vicar that:

"..there will not be a choir practice her on Wednesdays and that only the inhabitants of this hamlet are asked to help in the singing"



St Michael's Chapel
Waddeton Court

Vicar Nevill continued to officiate at the chapel services but by Michaelmas 1904 he had been excluded completely from the estate.

Vicar Nevill brought action in the Chancery Courts against Mr Henry Studdy, Colonel Studdy and Mrs Edith Mary Studdy.

Vicar Nevill claimed that he had the right to the possession and control of the chapel for the performance of divine service and the celebration of the sacraments according to Church of England.

The action came before the court in March 1906, which took evidence from all parties and also Mr Thomas Edward Studdy of Mazonet, who gave evidence in support of his family's defence.



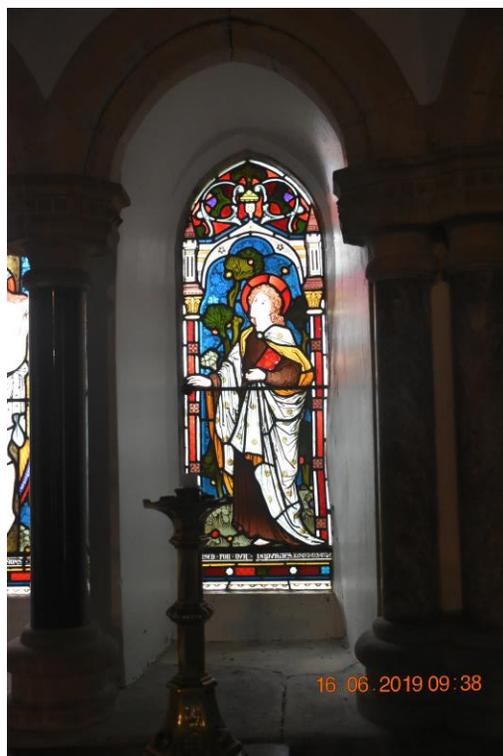
The court decided that the chapel was not a public building, but a private oratory attached to the estate and that the vicar had no right to officiate there except with the consent of the owner. Vicar Nevill did not take the case to appeal.

Mystery of the Murdered Vicar of Stoke Gabriel

At the court hearing in March 1906, Vicar Nevill was cross-examined on the history of the chapel. He said that the original chapel had been built in about 1300 and, to much laughter in the court, that "one of the knights of old erected the chapel by way of atonement for killing the then vicar.

In 1904, Beatrix Cresswell also reported that the original chapel had been built "by one of the Fishacre family to expiate the crime of murdering a Vicar of Stoke Gabriel" The Fishacres were Lords of the Manor of Waddeton in the 13th and 14th century.

The murder of the parish vicar must have occurred before the chapel was founded in the early 13th century, since its founding was to appease divine wrath for the crime.



However, the parish church itself is 13th century and, until the church had been built, there would have been no parish vicar. Before the church, there was a chapel within the existing churchyard that may have been late 11th or early 12th century, but it would probably have been served by itinerant clergy from the mother church of St John the Baptist, Paignton, all of which suggests (but does not prove) that there was no parish vicar at the relevant time. Unhelpfully, the Bishops of Exeter did not start to record their activities until the middle of the 13th century and the absence of any contemporary records obviates conclusion. Though the tradition is unlikely, it remains a mystery.

Being a resident in the village, Mr Thomas Edward Studdy and his family attended Sunday morning services of Matins at the parish church of Stoke Gabriel, but according to local tradition, the Studdy family used to walk out before Vicar Nevill delivered his sermon.

Why they choose to do this , and whether it was connection with the court action, is unknown

On one occasion they chose to stay, which prompted Vicar Nevill to demand that they should depart immediately before he would continue. They duly obliged.

Notwithstanding the occasional friction and conflict between the Studdy's and the vicar, the Studdy family continued to be active in the parish and church affairs and also attended the funeral service for Vicar Nevill in 1915.

Henry Studdy JP of Waddeton Court, in the parish of Stoke Gabriel was an only child, but he had a step mother with family on his fathers 2nd marriage.

These "steps" tried to get rid of him several times, once lying up in Waddeton Quarries, to shoot him.

When he was 3 years old, he was stolen by gypsies and not found until he was 7 years old, in Manchester doing the tight rope.

He was identified as he had odd lobes to his ears.

He married Eleanor Frances Holdsworth and they had 7 children.

Henry Studdy rebuilt Waddeton Court on its present sight, and he was largely responsible for the building of the railway from Torquay to Kingswear.

This extravagant project cost him most of his money in this venture.

He constantly sailed his yacht over to France, with his elder sons as crew, and the lads used to smuggle back Brandy and Tobacco packed in the disused WC on board, without his knowledge.

Children of Henry Studdy

Henry – Captain R.N. Twice married-First to a Brixham fish girl, who raised a fine brood and 2nd wife did ditto.

"Punch" was the eldest of 1st marriage.

Capt. Henry Studdy joined the Indian Police 1914–1935, and served in the Indian Cavalry as Captain 1918 (despatches), and returning home became Chief Constable Northumberland 1935 – 43, then to Durham 1943-44, and finally Chief Constable of West Riding Constabulary from 1943, and made a C.B.E in 1947.

Robert-Colonel in Army Married Edith Becton and had son Francis-died 1914 war. Daughter's Dorthy and Beththa.

Eleanor (Aunt Nell) married Joseph MacCauley.

She was a great character, and once refused to allow bathing bells to be photographed on Paignton sands, she would put her umbrella up in front, so got photographed instead and was front page news in London papers.

Harriot-(Aunt Hatty) very lovely-never married.

Georgina (Georgie) married-Leslie would have been Lady Rothes but died too soon, so their son became Earl.

There were 3 daughters Norah, Mildred and Ina.

Ernest (Uncle Ernest)- father of George (artist) Hubert and Ernestine.

He was unusually good looking, wild and hot on wine and women.

He was a great boxer with a very long reach, so he used to be put up to box and betted on. He was the boy in " Tom Brown's School Days", who was put up to fight Slogger Williams.

Jack- Very dull man, married and had children

Thomas Edward- youngest son- married Mary Fannie Barton the eldest child of Bertram H Barton.

They were 2nd cousins, through their mothers (Cutlers and Holdsworth)and father of Eleanor Francis Lane Claypon (Granny Lane Claypon), Margaret (Aunt Margaret Kemmis), Robert Frank Barton.

A **Cutler** uncle was a parson of Brixham for 50 years

Thomas was educated in Cheltenham and Cirencester Agriculture College .

Most of his working life was as a land agent and was in managing Nicholsons (Gin) estate in Hampshire.

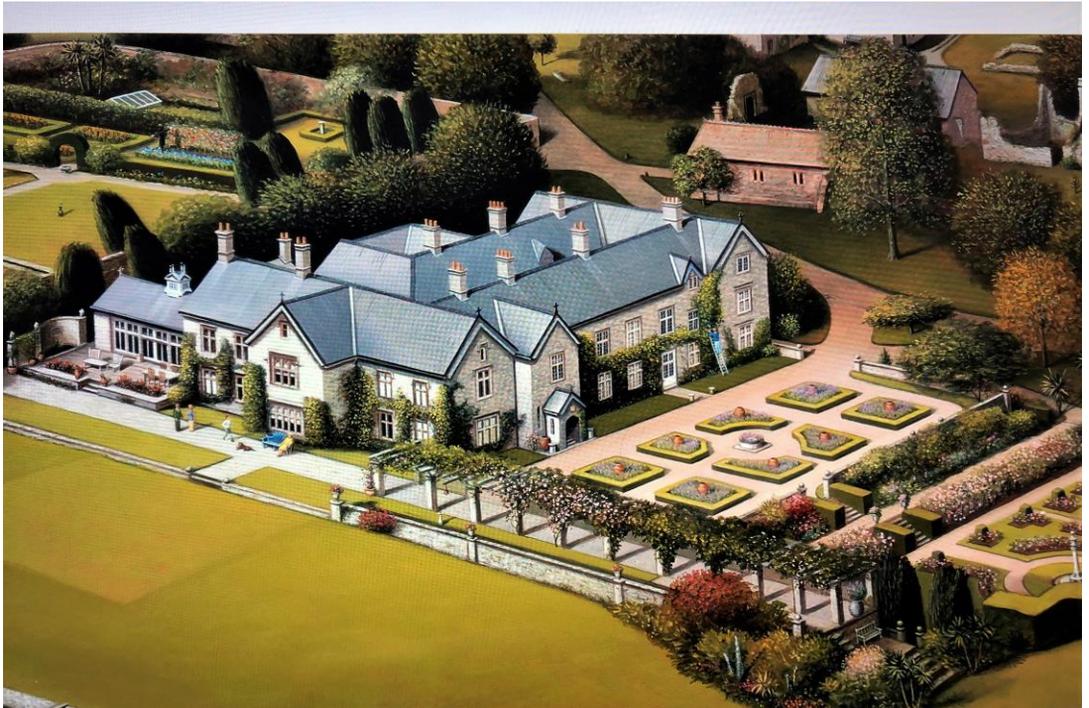
Thomas retired in his 50's and went back to Stoke Gabriel.

Bertram H Barton inherited Straffon House (Co Kildare in the early 1900's and went to live there. He became Deputy lieutenant, and was followed by his eldest son.

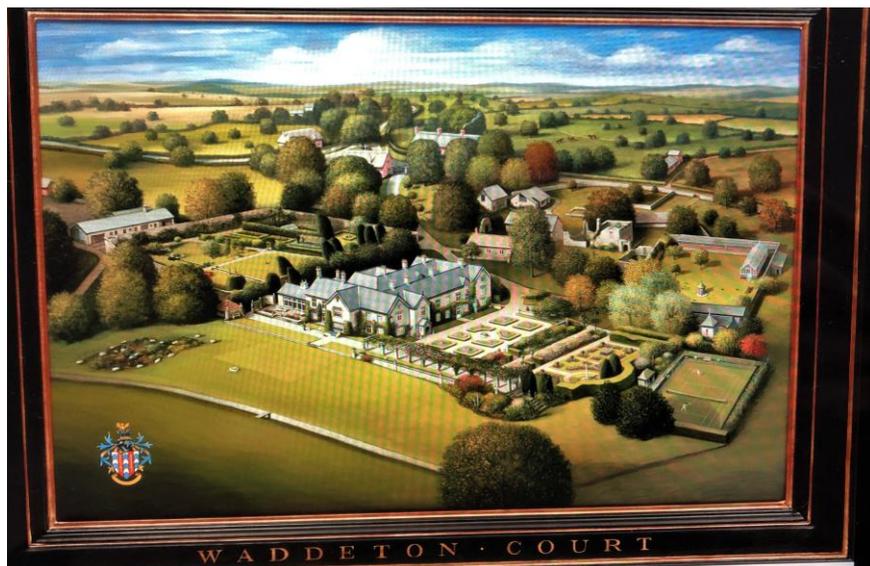
Bertram (Uncle Bertie) father of Storeen, Derick, Ronald.

Waddeton Court, Stoke Gabriel.

Below are an artist's impression of Waddeton Court in its hey day, and you are able to see the fountain in the far left of the picture.



Waddeton Court, Stoke Gabriel



Painting of Waddeton Court

The Study family were wealthy land owners and had several tenant farmers including Belfield, Home Farm, East Farm, White Rock Farm, Waddeton Barton Farm, Well and Lower Well farms, and Waddeton Quarry to name but a few which surrounded the Waddeton estate.

2nd Lieutenant Robert Frank Barton Studdy.

The son of Thomas Edward Studdy, Robert was born 1887 and had lived for a while at Mazonet, Stoke Gabriel.

He was in Canada when the war started and returned with his occupation listed as 'Rancher' and enlisted as No: 835 Trooper Robert Frank Barton Studdy, in the 2nd King Edwards Horse.

This regiment was raised by private subscription and consisted of Britons who had arrived home from overseas to enlist. It was part of the 12th (Eastern) Division, Divisional Mounted Troops.

He landed in France on 14th November 1914 and then returned to UK, where he was commissioned into the 11th (Reserve) Battalion Devonshire Regiment on Feb 1st Feb 1915.

He returned to France on 23rd Nov 1915 and was later transferred to the 5th Service Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment (Pioneers), 12th (Eastern) Division, working with Divisional Troops in Feb 1916.

He was wounded while serving in the Arras sector, and then relinquished his commission on March 9th 1917 due to ill health.

Medal entitlement: Silver War Badge, 1914 Star, Victory Medal, and the British war Medal issued on Nov 18th 1920.

Incidents that involved the Studdy family

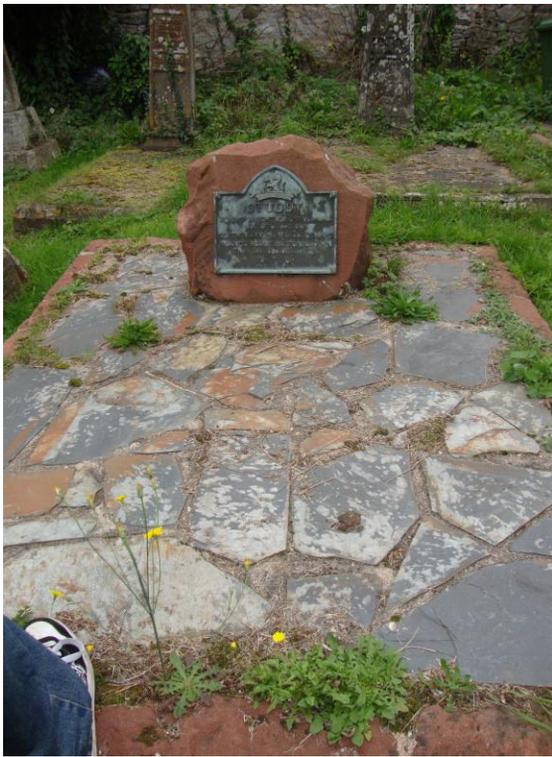
Great Grannie Studdy- Eleanor Francis Studdy raised her family without a doctor in the house, till the youngest were in their teens.

The Studdy uncle's were a wild lot, and used to remove the toll gates on the seafront at Torquay, and push them into the sea, when returning from a ball.

They took Tom the youngest, out into the middle of the River dart, below Waddeton and threw him overboard with an oar, and told him to get back ashore, though he could not swim.

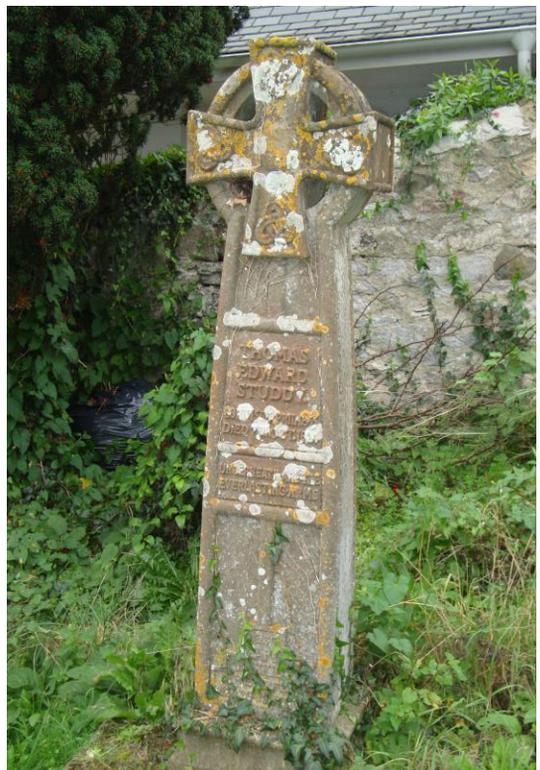
Stoke Gabriel Church

All the Studdy's are buried either in north vault at Stoke Gabriel church up to and after that in the church yard.



The graves are significant , in a way of their grandeur and size. On the left is a family grave. Robert Wright Studdy d.1936 Edith May Studdy d.1911 Francis Robert Beckton R.N. d.1921

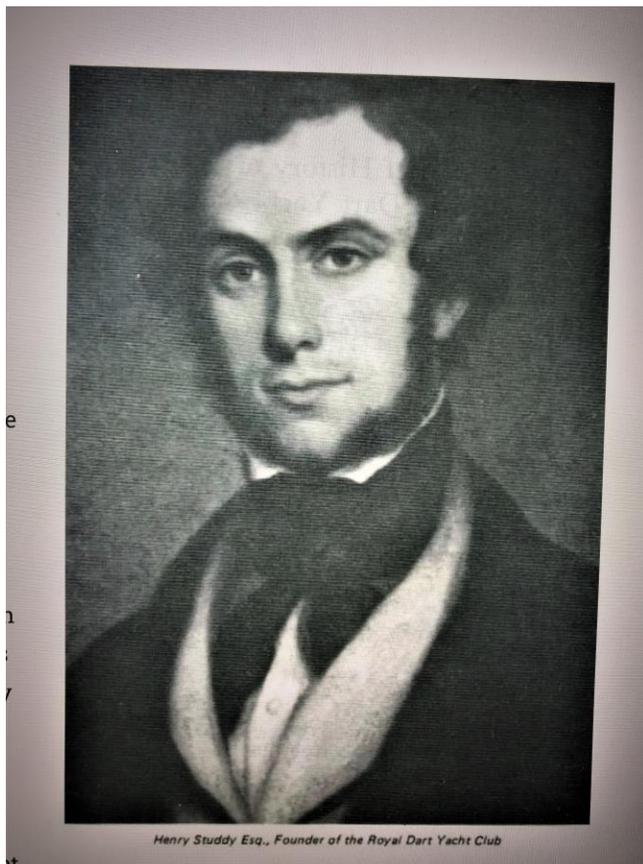
To the right is the grave of Thomas Edward Studdy



The Studdy Coat of Arms



The very early Studdy's had a lot to do with the founding of the Newfoundland fishing industry, so have a fish in their Coat of Arms.



Henry Studdy in his prime

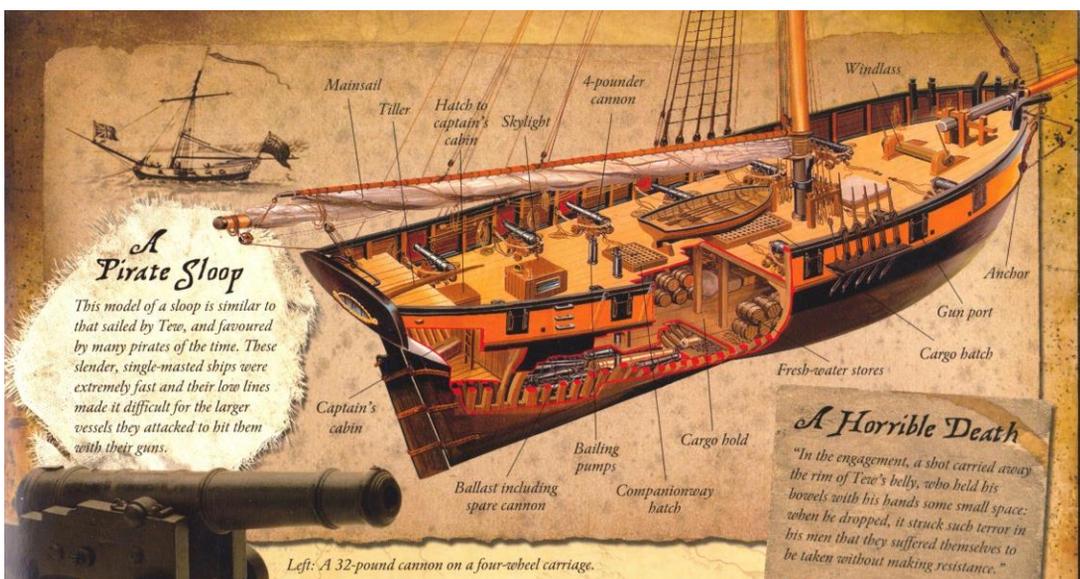
Thomas Bradbridge Studdy- of Coomefishacre House Ipplepen, was the father of this Studdy lot. He had 13 children, and as a monument his name is over the door of Ipplepen church.

And finally in the 1700's there was Commander John Studdy, son of **Henry Studdy** 1686-1768.

His ship named "Rising Sun", and as a freebooter pirate in later years, under the so called protector of Royalty.



Captain John Studdy



A Sloop similar to Capt. John Studdy, called "Rising Sun". She had 6 x 32 pound guns each side, 150 tonnes and carried a crew of 25.

She was very fast and she travelled between England and Newfoundland with cargo.

Mazonet House

Stoke Gabriel



Mazonet, now known as Stoke Gabriel House, Duncannon Lane, is a large detached house in a garden. Built in 1798 for Rear Admiral Thomas Hicks died 1801.

The house was extended and remodelled in 1899, finished in roughcast stone. The slate hipped roof with bracketed eaves, a band at the first floor sill level.

Three storeys 3:1:3 bays.

Late 19th century sash windows with glazing bars and margin panes. In the centre it breaks forward with a pediment and late 19th C porch with pilasters, round headed doorway and side lights. Late 18thC inner doorway with panelled double doors and semi-circular fan light with radiating glazing bars.

Late 19thC two storey wing to the left was added.

Interior: Hall modillion cornice and cantilever geometric staircase with moulded soffit and moulded and wreathed hand rail, and a column newel.

The house contains a late 18th C watercolour by William Payne depicting the house which was then only three bays wide.

Mazonet was used as a convalescent hospital in the 1914-1918 war also known as The Great War.

Local VAD's were established at Torquay (the Town Hall Hospital where Agatha Christie famously worked as a volunteer nurse.) Paignton and Totnes, and these were used as secondary hospital for the less seriously injured.

There were also convalescent hospitals which were large private houses that had been offered up for use in this way.

Some convalescent hospitals were private and for the use by officer and one such house was Mazonet Officers Hospital.



This is a view looking to the West wing and gardens

The Mazonet Officer's Hospital had 16 beds, and was in use from 1914 to 1918, and was staffed by members of the Studdy family.

Thomas Edward Studdy was born at Waddeton Court, but resided at Mazonet with his family. He was Commandant of the Hospital while his wife, Mary Fannie Studdy, was Head of War Work Room and also quartermaster, for which service she received the Volunteer Worker badge.

Their Daughter, Violet Mary Studdy, also worked in the War Work Room and was also a recipient of the Volunteer Worker badge.

The photos depict nurses which worked at Mazonet during the war.



Eleanor Francis Studdy, the youngest of the children, worked first as a cook in Paignton VAD Hospital and then as a cook and pantry maid at Mazonet.

Towards the end of the war she worked in the War Work Room for which she was awarded the Girl Guide war service badge. Another family member, Dorothy Studdy served as a scullery maid and then as a cook.

The only son of Thomas Edward Studdy, namely Robert Frank Barton Studdy, served in the army



To the left is Mudge in the front garden in the sunshine

Mazonet hospital required a core of professionally trained people, from Dawlish, Princetown, Salcombe, Dartmouth and Paignton. They included a Part-time Medical doctor, Sister in Charge, General Duty Nurses, Wardmaids, Masseuse, cooks, pantry maids.

The hospital enjoyed a huge level of support from the local parishioners. They not only volunteered to help with the cleaning and ironing, sewing and mending of hospital linen, and patient clothes, but also lent furniture and provided recreational comforts, such as cigarettes.



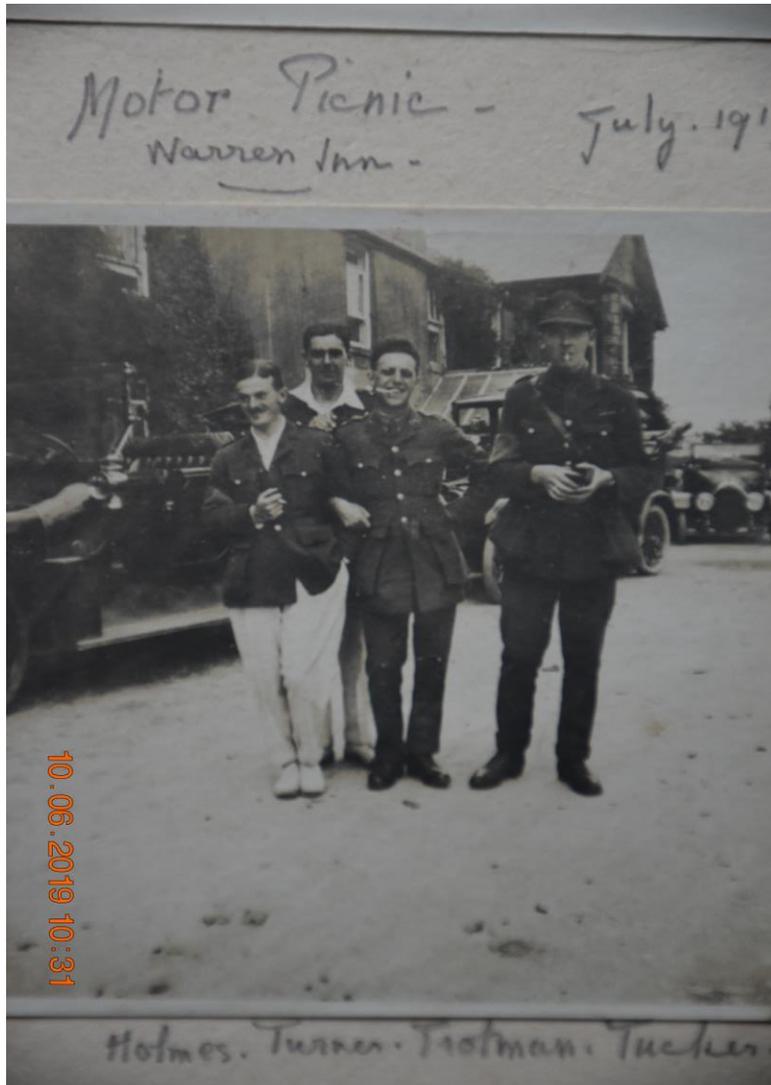
Staff of Mazonet 1918

The Studdy family and Staff gave the Officers enjoyable days out onto Dartmoor and days to the coast as some of the pictures depict.





Two Bridges , Princetown



Warren House Inn, Dartmoor



Officers convalescing outside Mazonet



Thomas Studdy with convalescing Officers in the gardens of Mazonet

As the war came to an end Mazonet would soon be a home again , but there are some photos which is fitting to the sterling work of Mr Thomas Studdy and his family and the Voluntary Aid Detachment.



Christmas Day 1917



A final photo of Mr Thomas Studdy and staff at Mazonet



As you see the stair case was still adorned with Christmas decorations, which made life at Mazonet as normal as possible, while convalescing

Although many members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments left memoirs and accounts of their own wartime lives, there is little written about the VAD organisation itself, and the day to day life, the administration and the difficulties.



Life returning to normal at Mazonet after the war.



Mazonet with a large proportion of family present

**Fashionable Wedding at Collaton Church
and the reception at Mazonet**



The wedding of Captain A. W. Kemmis 10th D. C. O. Lancers and Miss Margaret Everina Studdy, of Mazonet, took place at St Mary's Church Collaton on March 3rd .
The best man was Captain Pipon of the Royal Fusillers both of them in full uniform.
The bridesmaids were Misses Violet and Fannie Studdy and Dotothy and Bethina (cousins)

As you are made aware of the Studdy family, it is clear that there was a lot more going on in the 17th and 18th century, which I hope you find enjoyable to read, and give you a precis summary, of the hard times that were endured in those days. There, are probably many more stories that could be unearthed, with tragedy, romance, and skulduggery, which was befitting in those days.

As they say "if only those walls could talk" there would be many a story to tell.

This is a brief history of the Studdy family, and I hope you enjoy reading it, as I have researched it and put it together.

R Darbyshire

14/12/2020