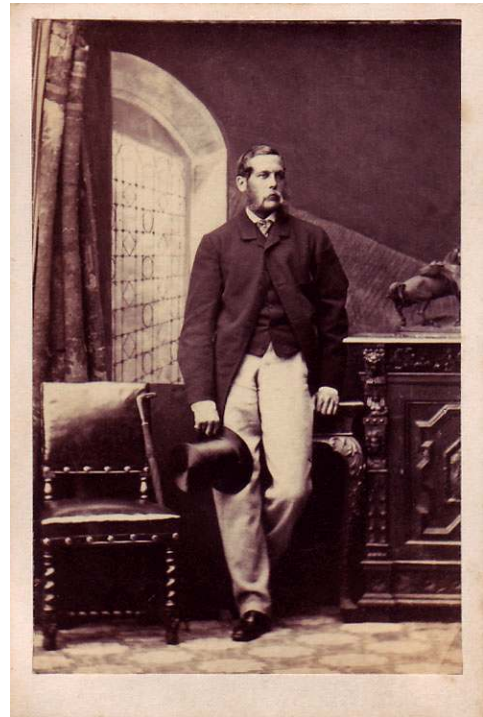


Captain Geoffrey J. Shakerley – former resident of Weddington Hall, Nuneaton (between c1912 and 1915)

Geoffrey J. Shakerley appears on the 1851 census, a 'Gentleman Cadet' at Woolwich. At the time of the census he was 18 years old, so he was born in or about 1833. His place of birth is given as Whatcroft in Cheshire, so he is almost certainly the eldest son of Geoffrey Joseph Shakerley (1800-1878) and older brother of Miss Dora Shakerley.

According to Hart's *Army List* (1863-64), 2nd Captain Geoffrey Joseph Shakerley enlisted in the Royal Artillery on 23 June 1852. He rose from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant on 17 February 1854 and on 1 April 1859 he was promoted Captain. He served in the Crimea from June 1855 and was present at the Siege and Fall of Sebastopol. According to Hart's *Army List* (1874), Captain Shakerley retired on an annuity on 23 September 1871. He is mentioned in successive years of the publication until 1904.



At the time of the 1891 census, Geoffrey Shakerley, 'late Captain [in the] Royal Artillery', was living at Butterton Hall at Trentham in Staffordshire with his wife, Emma, six daughters and two young sons. Also present on the night of the census were 14 live-in servants (with more in out-buildings) and a governess.

By 1901 he was a widower, 'living on [his] own means' at Grove Park Mansion, Budbrooke in Warwickshire. Also present on the night of the census were 6 unmarried daughters and two sons; the elder, also called Geoffrey, was a Captain in the 60th Rifles (Royal Rifle Corps). According to an announcement in the *Times* (24 May 1915), this son, by now a Major, was killed in action during the First World War. **Captain Geoffrey Joseph Shakerley was still alive and living at Weddington Hall, Nuneaton at this time.** His other son, Arthur, according to another announcement in the *Times*, served in the Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action on 22 April 1917. This announcement refers to the father as 'the late Geoffrey Shakerley' and mentions another, third son, Eric, who was also killed in action in 1915.

The index of deaths in England and Wales reveals that Geoffrey Joseph Shakerley died in the September of 1915 at the age of 82. The death was registered at Chapel-en-le-Frith, a market town 5 miles or so north of Buxton in North Derbyshire.

Source:

<http://www.paulfrecker.com/pictureDetails.cfm?pagetype=library&typeID=21&ID=4060>

continued overleaf

The Shackerley connection with Weddington is confirmed by a commemorative plaque situated within St James' Church – an image of which is below. This is dedicated to five soldiers – including all three of Geoffrey Shakerley Snr's sons.



Thanks to Alan F Cook for the above image (© Alan F Cook 2011)