

## THE STIDSTON FAMILY OF BARTON STACEY, HAMPSHIRE, 1890-1920S

by Linda Moffatt © 2013  
for the Barton Stacey History Group

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At the sale of the Gavelacre Estate in 1924 the major tenant by far (holding 816 acres at that time) was farmer Charles Cornthwaite Stidston of Bransbury Manor House, Barton Stacey. He was born in 1863, son of James Stidston, farmer of Wonwell Court, Kingston, Devon, and his wife Ellen (née Cornthwaite). He married Annie Beatrice Johnson in 1891 in Norfolk. He died in Wiltshire at the age of 81 in 1944, followed by his wife in 1945 aged 80.

At the time of the 1881 census Charles Stidston and his older brother John were farming 390 acres at Kingston, employing 7 men and 3 boys. They lived at Wonwell Court with their widowed mother and their younger sister Ellen. By 1891 he was farming at Court Farm, Netheravon, Wiltshire, where his four children were born. He and his family moved at some time between the birth of their youngest child in 1898 and the time of the census in March 1901 to live at Bransbury House, Bransbury, in the parish of Barton Stacey, Hampshire<sup>1</sup>, where they appear to have remained until at least 1924. Mr Stidston farmed Church Farm for Robert Kirkman Hodgson.

1901 census for Bransbury House, Barton Stacey:

Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN
			Males	Females				
Charles C. Stidston	Head.	M.	37	✓	Farmer ✓	Employer		Devonshire Kingston
Annie B. Do.	Wife	M.	36	✓				Norfolk, King's Lynn, St. Peter's
Kathleen A. Do.	Daughter	F.	8	✓				Hills Netheravon
Perceval J. Do.	Son		6	✓				Do. Do.
Elsie M. Do.	Daughter		5	✓				Do. Do.
Mary E. Do.	Daughter		3	✓				Do. Do.
John S. Parrott.	Vis.	Wid.	48	✓	Living on Own Means			Devon, Bury Pomeroy
Mabel G. Wheatley	Serv.	S.	23	✓	Governess Dom.			Scotland (N. K.)
Mary A. Richardson	Serv.	S.	17	✓	General Serv. (Domestic)			Hants, Barton Stacey
Daisy A. Powell	Serv.	S.	16	✓	Housemaid (Do)			Hants, Fyfield

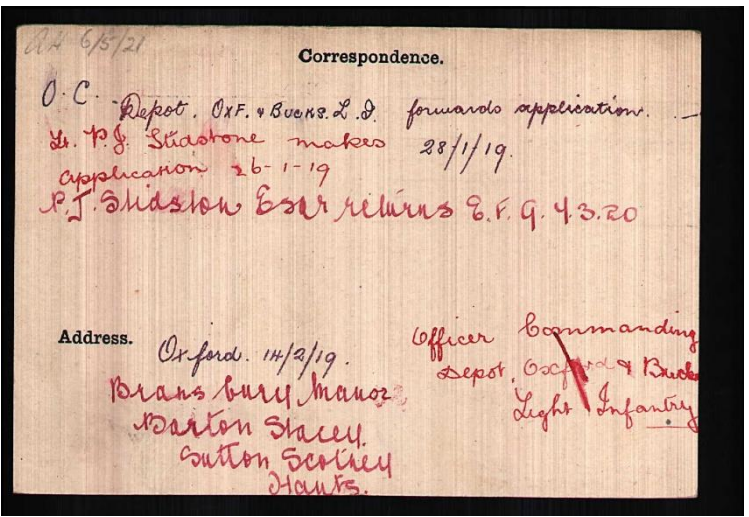
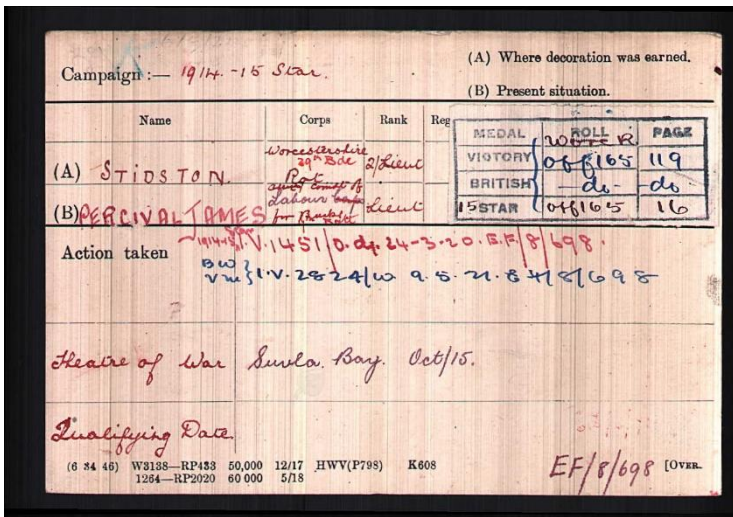
At the time of the 1911 census, the enumerator called the farmhouse Bransbury House but, when giving his postal address, Mr Stidston called the house Bransbury Manor, Barton Stacey R.S.O.

<sup>1</sup> 1871 census piece 2104 folio 51; 1881 census piece 2184 folio 50; 1891 census piece 1612 folio 10; 1901 census piece 1113 folio 19; 1911 census piece 6321 ED2 SN18.

In 1911 the younger girls were away at school - New College, Brookvale Road, Southampton, run by Miss Alice Bertha Trist.

**The children of Charles Cornthwaite and Annie Beatrice (Johnson) Stidston, born and baptised at Netheravon,**

- i. Kathleen Ann, born 21 May 1892 and baptised 4 August 1892. She married widower Stephen W. Elgar (1880-1942), a bank clerk, in 1938. Mrs Elgar died in 1980 aged 88.
- ii. Percival James, baptised 13 July 1894. After their move to Bransbury around 1900, he helped his father with the running of Church Farm. In the Great War he joined the Worcestershire Regiment and served with the 39th Brigade in 13th (Western) Division. They moved to Tidworth but by January 1915 were in billets in Basingstoke. They then moved to Blackdown (Aldershot) in February 1915 before sailing from Avonmouth in June 1915 and landing on Gallipoli the following month. Percy Stidston's medal card shows that he was at the landing at Suvla Bay. This was an amphibious landing, which commenced on the night of 6 August 1915, made at Suvla on the Aegean coast of Gallipoli peninsula in the Ottoman Empire as part of the August Offensive, the final British attempt to break the deadlock of the Battle of Gallipoli.  
 He was later with the Home Service Battalions (the Army in the UK), attached to the North Lancashire Regiment, and was promoted to temporary 2nd Lieutenant on 27 September 1917.  
 Percy Stidston married Amy Herbert Savage in 1929. He died at Torwood, Fittleworth, Sussex on 6 September 1935 aged 41, his widow at Winchester on 23 June 1982.



- iii. Elsie Kate, born 1895 She died early in 1921 aged 25, and is buried in All Saints' churchyard, Barton Stacey.
- iv. May Ellen, born 2 December 1897 in Netheravon and baptised there on 25 January 1898. Miss Stidston was an assistant in a music shop at the time of the 1939 Register, when she lived at 4 Coniston Road, Redbridge, on the edge of Southampton. She died in 1992 aged 94.

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