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John William 1396 Gotts #040 WW1

Posted by: lang at 06:31, December 20 2016.

John William 1396 was the son of William Henry 2493 Gotts and Mary Elizabeth Brown from Walker, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Born in 1894 he joined the RNVR in 1915, and ended up as a fighting soldier. Having almost got to Gallipoli in 1916, he ended up near Arras in 1917, attacking the village of Gavrelle. On 23rd April 1917 he was killed in action and is buried at Orchard dump.



Read his story here: [John William 1396](#)

More information on Archie John at Holt Hall

Posted by: lang at 14:48, December 17 2016.

Nick Gotts has replied to the Holt Hall post to say:

“It couldn’t have been Archie John’s eldest brother, my grandfather Matthew. Matthew was at Gunton, “at the big house” (this must be what is now The Gunton Arms, as Gunton Hall was derelict after a fire in 1882, until it was restored in 1980), and became head gardener there around the age of 20, which would be 1905 or 1906. So gardening was definitely in the family. I suppose Archie John could have been “gardener’s boy” at Gunton Hall in 1911 before moving to Holt Hall with a step up to gardener – Matthew having got his younger brother a first job, perhaps. Gunton Park is only a mile or so from South Repps, so he could easily have worked there while living at home.”

What's New 6 Dec 2016

Posted by: lang at 15:52, December 6 2016.

This is what is new on the Gotts Surname website:

Is Archie John Gotts the Mr Gotts of Holt Hall in Norfolk c 1912? Tree #022

A photo of a Mr Gotts who worked at Holt Hall has been published. Is he Archie John Gotts in tree #022? See here for more details:

[Mr Gotts of Holt Hall](#)

GRO new death indexes

I have now been through the new deaths indexes for 1847 to 1915 and added the list to the UK General Register Office page. The ages at death for anyone under 23 are suspect as ages stated in months have been recorded as years. See more here:

[GRO civil deaths indexes](#)

GRO new birth indexes

A new page has been added for the UK General Register Office updates with their online indexes for births and death. See here for details and indexes of GOTTTS entries.

[GRO civil births indexes](#)

Is Archie John Gotts the Mr Gotts of Holt Hall in Norfolk c 1912? Tree #022

Posted by: lang at 13:58, December 6 2016.

I was made aware of a Mr Gotts who worked at Holt Hall. This turned out to be based on this photo taken in 1912 from a book called "The Story of Holt Hall by Theodore W Fanthorpe and Alan Childs".

Mr Gotts is a gardener (back left) but who exactly is he? Is he Archie John Gotts in tree #022?



Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2016

Someone has suggested it could be Archie John Gotts born in South Repps in tree #022. He is listed in the 1911 census as gardeners boy. South Repps is about 14 miles from Holt Hall.

In 1911 census he was living at Lower St, Southrepps, Norfolk with his father Matthew 484 and mother Mary Elizabeth 485. Archie was 19, so he would have been 20 when the photo was taken.

The week after the census, Archie John married Maude Towler at Bradfield, south of South Repps. Unless Maud was the cook or housekeeper she does not appear to be in this photo.

Do you know about Archie John Gotts, or do you recognise the photo as someone else?

Here's the link with more detail: [Query about Mr Gotts of Holt Hall](#)

More on the marriage of William Gotts & Margaret Baldwin 1745 #040

Posted by: lang at 20:50, October 6 2016.

On my last post, I mentioned that we now had William's age by finding their marriage licence bond in the Norwich Archives. The document says:

*'William Gotts of Stratton Strawless in the County of Norfolk husbandman and Edmund/Edward Souter of the parish of St Mary Coslany in the City of Norwich husbandman,
Are firmly bound to the Worshipful Wharton Peck Doctor of Laws Commissary throughout therefore? Deaconry of Norwich for the sum of two hundred pounds...
...William Gotts batchelor aged about 22 years and Margaret Baldwin of Stratton Strawless aforesaid Spinster aged about 32 years...
...the said marriage to be openly solemnized in the Face of the Parish church of Stratton Strawless aforesaid or St Michael at Plea ...'*

Talking to the Archivist he noted that often the reason for a marriage licence was the need for speed, which could often be because a baby was on the way.

We know the marriage took place at St Michael at Plea in Norwich on the same day, 3 June 1745.

Discussing this with Ian Gotts of Kings Lynn, we couldn't find a baptism in Hevingham or Stratton Strawless that fitted this, but Ian and Geoff Gilbert then pointed out that there was a baptism in Brandiston parish next but one to Hevingham for Mary Gotts daughter of William & Margaret Gotts on 15 Feb 1745.

Whilst this looks like it would be before the marriage, given we are working on the

Gregorian calendar still, Feb 1746 is recorded under 1745 as the start of the Gregorian year is April. And we can't find any traces of another couple called William & Margaret Gotts. So Mary fits as being baptised 8-9 months after their marriage in June, and we can add her to the family.

More on the marriage of William Gotts & Margaret Baldwin 1745 #040

Posted by: lang at 11:54, October 5 2016.

On my last post, I mentioned that we now had William's age by finding their marriage licence bond in the Norwich Archives. The document says:

*'William Gotts of Stratton Strawless in the County of Norfolk husbandman and Edmund/Edward Souter of the parish of St Mary Coslany in the City of Norwich husbandman,
Are firmly bound to the Worshipful Wharton Peck Doctor of Laws Commissary throughout therefore? Deaconry of Norwich for the sum of two hundred pounds...
...William Gotts batchelor aged about 22 years and Margaret Baldwin of Stratton Strawless aforesaid Spinster aged about 32 years...
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What's New 25 Sept 2016

Posted by: lang at 14:39, September 25 2016.

Here is what is new:

Main Website

New site filenames

As part of the site maintenance I have changed many of the filenames for the webpages to attract more people researching the name. This may mean that when you try to navigate around it, it may show 'Error 404 file not found'. This could be due to your Internet cache memory having old copies of pages. Try clearing your Internet Cache or browsing history of this happens. Please let me know if you find any broken links and I will fix them.

Bishop Walter of Suffield's Will 1256

In Bishop Walter of Suffield's will in 1256 he leaves 'to Gotte of South Elmham three marks' The original will image is now on ['History of the name-3'](#)

William Gotts of Stratton Strawless age confirmed

We have the marriage licence bond for William Gotts and Margaret Baldwin in 1745 showing William as 22. See [here](#) for details

What's New 4 August 2016

Posted by: lang at 21:11, August 4 2016.

Here is what is new:

Main Website

Merging of trees #022 and 107

(This was mentioned in the last What's New email, but I have included it again in case you missed it) As per the news item 2 May 2016, [Known family #022-107](#)

Bertie George 724 Gotts headstone at Lijssenthoek cemetery - #034

I have finally started adding the images of WW1 gravestones to the website from my trip in April 2016. This is Bertie George 724.

http://www.gotts.org.uk/bertie_george_gotts_ww1.html

Mark Edward 3273 Gotts : Headstone at Houplines cemetery updated. - #083

I have a new photo with the inscription at the bottom of Mark's gravestone at Houplines, together with more information from the Battalion diary.

http://www.gotts.org.uk/mark_edward_gotts-ww1.html

News items

Manchester path of tiles to commemorate 1st day of the Somme

I designed a tile for the Somme Day 1 commemoration, and it was one of 5000 tiles used to build this pathway. It has the key information about James Atkinson Gotts who died on the first day of the Somme at La Boisselle, near Albert.

Bertie George 724 Gotts headstone at Lijssenthoek cemetery - #034

See above

Mark Edward 3273 Gotts : Headstone at Houplines cemetery updated. - #083

See above

Two entries for the Crime section: both John Whitton alias Gotts - #038

Posted by: lang at 20:22, August 4 2016.

In 1831 as part of the 'Swing Riots', John Whitton alias Gotts was charged with damaging a threshing machine in Beeston Regis, the introduction of which would be taking away the livelihoods of farm labourers. This trial, for what it was, was recorded in the Norwich Mercury.

I thought I had previously added this to the website, so I have now rectified that. Thanks to Ian Gotts of Kings Lynn and Cynthia Nisbet for bringing it to my attention again.

In 1903 at the Holt Quarter Sessions we have a different John Whitton alias Gotts pleading guilty to night poaching six rabbits. The record contains details of more of his convictions, which makes interesting reading.

The Whitton alias Gotts connection makes both of these part of tree #038.

More details can be seen here: [John Whitton alias Gotts](#)

Mark Edward 3273 Gotts : Headstone at Houplines cemetery updated. - #083

Posted by: lang at 21:59, July 27 2016.

I visited Houplines cemetery on the Belgian border to photograph the inscription on Mark's headstone.

I have also looked at the Battalion diary for the date he died, but it doesn't give much help. From 14 Sept 1915 the Battalion was stationed at Houplines, but there does not seem to be much going on. There are reports of shells falling in the trenches, but no indication of casualties, all the way through to 18 Sept when he died. It is possible that he was wounded before then and died on 18th in a Clearing station nearby, but it is only conjecture.

At least we have a photo showing the inscription provided by the family.



See here for more details: [Mark Edward Gotts Headstone](#)

Bertie George 724 Gotts headstone at Lijssenthoek cemetery - #034

Posted by: lang at 06:50, July 26 2016.

Following my tour of WW1 cemeteries in April, I am finally finding enough time to start putting images of the Gotts soldier's headstones on the website. Bertie George died in the hospital at Lijssenthoek, near Poperinghe on the France/Belgium border. I had an image of his headstone from my first trip there, but this time the gardeners, who do a wonderful job of keeping the cemeteries neat and tidy, had cut back the flowers covering the inscription at the bottom, and trimmed the edge of the grass. The rain had splashed some soil up onto the inscription, which was decided by the family, but some water and a soft brush soon removed that.



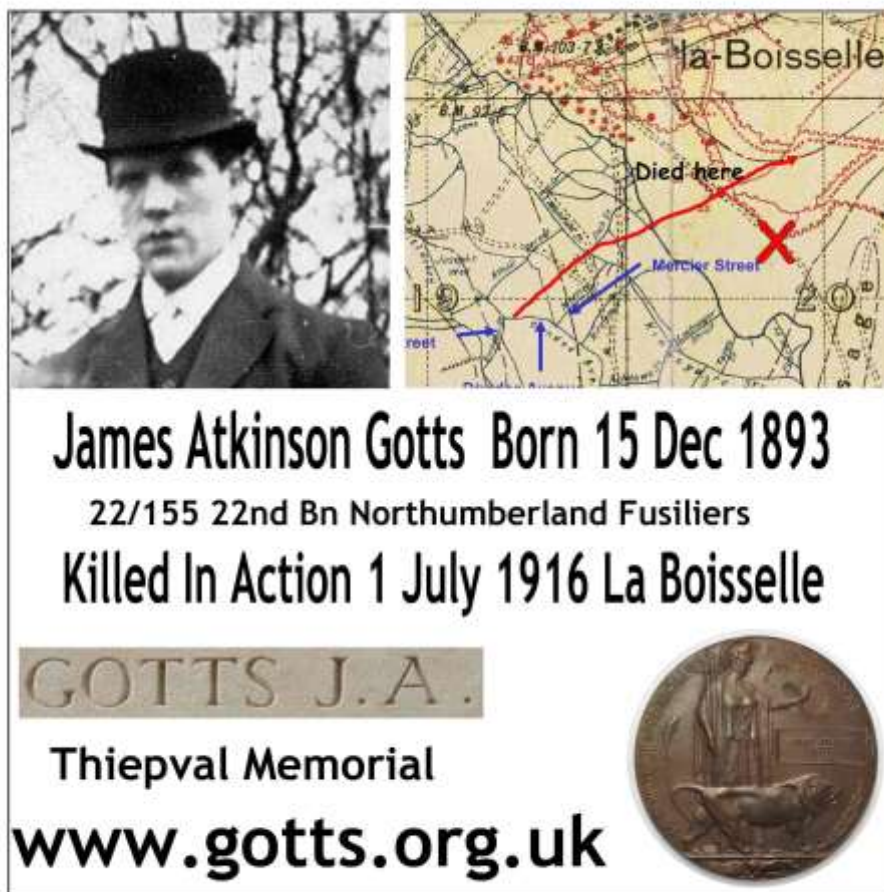
For the full text see this page:

[Bertie George Gotts Headstone](#)

Manchester path of tiles to commemorate 1st day of the Somme

Posted by: lang at 07:05, July 4 2016.

I managed to have a tile included in this temporary memorial for James Atkinson 443 Gotts and Arthur Walter 223 Gotts who died on the 1st day of the Somme battle. Both are in tree #040.



He signed up 9 Nov 1914 to the 22nd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. They landed in France in Jan 1916 and had six months in minor spells in the front line.

Part of the Tyneside and Scottish Brigade, on 1 July 1916 they were lined up south of La Boisselle, between Albert and Bapaume, the front line of the Battle of the Somme.

Their role was to move uphill between La Boisselle and the Lochnagar mine for 2 miles.

They got no more than 500 yards before being mown down by machine guns.

His cousin Arthur Walter Gotts was in the 17th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers and died on the same day at Bernafay Wood, 7 miles away.

All their details are written up here: [James Atkinson Gotts](#) and [Arthur Walter Gotts](#)

The tile gallery is on line here [Manchester Pathway](#)

Possible connections for the top of tree #022- Can you help?

Posted by: lang at 06:50, May 2 2016.

At the top of tree #022 we have:

John 3302 as born about 1724, and married Martha Tyrrell in Barningham Town in 1756.

Their four sons were:

- John 3304 b 1757
- George 3305 b 1760
- Matthew 303 b 1762
- Samuel 3306 b 1766

What happened to the rest of the sons, and where did John 3302 come from?

Nick Gotts has been looking at the possibilities. In an earlier post we describe how John 3304 is the top of the #107 Edgefield, tree, so we can link those together.

Where did John 3302 come from?

The webpage notes that John 3302 was born about 1724 based on John Gotts being buried in Barningham Town on 10th May 1812 at the age of 88. Only one John Gotts baptism record in the whole FreeREG database seems to fit this: the John Gotts born to Samuel and Amie Gotts, and baptised in Cromer (less than 10 miles from Barningham Town) on 20th March 1723/4.

Of course there might be other unrecorded or untranscribed John Gottses, errors in the age, etc., but this seems like a reasonable provisional identification (although two John Gottses died in Cromer in 1727 and 1728). Samuel is a recurring personal name in tree 022 (although it's hardly rare in other trees). Samuel and Amie/Amy had three other children in Cromer (Elizabeth in 1703, Richard in 1709, Amy in 1719), deaths of Amy Gottses are recorded there in 1720 and 1733 – possibly daughter and mother, and of an Elizabeth Gotts in 1725. After 1733 there are no further Gotts records in Cromer until 1799.

What happened to George 3305?

Very speculatively, Nick thinks it is possible that George 3305 married Susan Barnes in Norwich in 1780, who aren't in any current tree. A couple of other possible marriages for George are ruled out by being already assigned to other Georges, but at present the only positive reason for the speculation is that George and Susan had a son called George Matthew, who died young in 1788. The FreeReg database for Norfolk only includes one Matthew Gotts before Matthew 303, one born in 1687, so it seems possible George Matthew was named after his father, and his uncle Matthew.

What happened to Samuel 3306?

Still quite speculatively, Nick suggests that Samuel 3306 may be the same as Samuel 3424 in tree 121 (Castleacre), with both born in 1766. This is based simply on them being the same age, and their choice of children's names (Samuel, Thomas, George, John, Martha – all except Thomas corresponding to names in Samuel 3306's immediate family – although all common names). We know Samuel 3306 was baptised in Barningham Town in 1766 but we don't have any clue as to whether he married died close to Barningham.

In Castleacre the date of birth for Samuel 3424 is calculated from his age at death. When he married Ann Whitby in 1792 his parish was stated as South Acre, close by. The two locations are about 30 miles apart, but that isn't a barrier when you are looking for work.

Can you help?

Two possible ways you could help:

1. Have you found any records which would help to confirm these suggestions? If so, please share them.
2. If you know of a male Gotts who is a direct descendant of the Castleacre family, or George and Susan Barnes, then please get in touch. I can provide a free Y-DNA test which should help us understand if your tree matches tree #022

What's New 10 April 2016

Posted by: lang at 20:35, April 10 2016.

Main Website

Known Family 071 updated

All the pages of this family have been updated, particularly John 556 details with the help of Geoff Gilbert. There is a newspaper cutting of the house he lived in going up for sale.

John Gotts 556

A picture of John's book of Excise table has been added to Gottses in Print-3

Merging of trees #022 and 107

As per the news item, Known family #022-107

Photo of Matthew 484 and his family

Photo of Matthew 484 and his family from Jane Adlem has been added to Known family #022-6.

See Matthew 484 picture

News items

See above

Tree #107 Edgefield appears to be part of tree #022 Barningham

Posted by: lang at 09:35, March 29 2016.

Nick Gotts has been investigating the connections between these tree.

John 2515 was the earliest in the tree #107, with John 2515 marrying Rebecca Rowe in Edgefield in 1783.

Several pieces of evidence link this John with John 3304, born 1757 in Barningham Town.

For a start they are only 4-5 miles apart, so easily linked.

FreeReg has the Archdeacon's Transcript for Edgefield and 1783 shows John Gotts & Rebecca Rowe married by licence 9 Jan 1783.

Ten days later it shows Rebecca's son John 2517 is baptised 19th Jan 1783. He was described as 'baseborn' despite them being married by then, although it is possible he was actually born before 9th January.

However, there are banns in Barningham Town registers with John Gotts as widower of this parish, marrying Rebecca Rowe of Edgefield parish. The images of the banns in FamilySearch they were read on 2 June 1782, 16 June 1782 and 23rd June 1782. Why the big gap? We don't know. Having done this by banns, they didn't need a licence, so for some reason they held off marrying, and had to get a licence.

Then 6 days after their son John was born, the parish get rid of Rebecca:
24 January 1783 Rebecca Gotts, wife of John Gotts, removal order from Edgefield to Barningham.

So it is clear that These two Johns are the same.

We also know that Rebecca died in Barningham Town in 1832 aged 92 according to the burial register. We don't know when John died, or who his first wife was, as he was a widower aged about 26 when he married Rebecca. Who she was, when she died and where they married are yet to be found.

See the revised tree here: [Tree #107](#)

Thanks to Nick Gotts, Evelyn Jenner, Ian Gotts (Kings Lynn) for this.

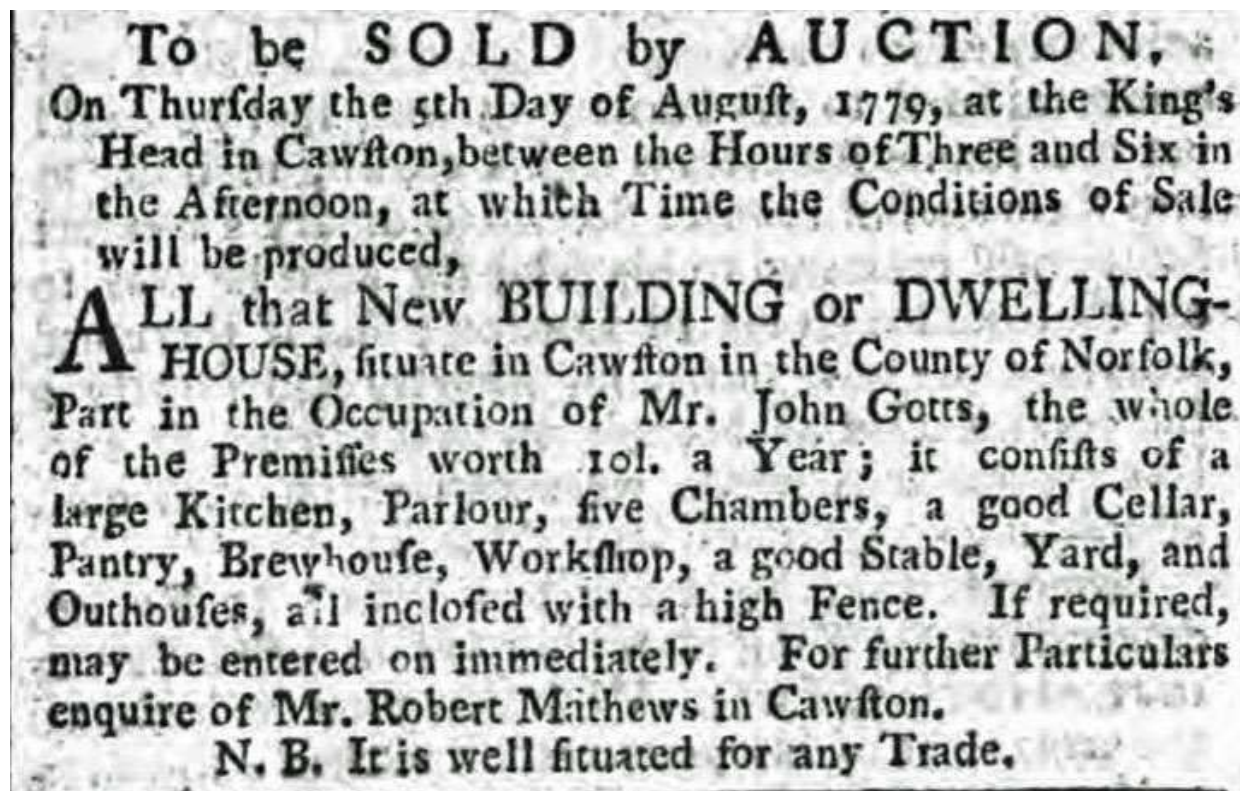
John 556 Gotts house sale in Cawston 1779 -#071

Posted by: lang at 09:47, February 13 2016.

John 556 Gotts is currently the head of tree #071. He was born around 1757, and he is known to have married in Cawston, Norfolk. so the assumption is that he lived there or nearby. At the minute we don't know who his parents are.

Geoff Gilbert sent me loads of information about John, though he is stuck at the same point.

Geoff's email reminded me that Ben Wood sent me a cutting from the Norfolk Chronicle 31 Jul 1779, describing the sale of a house occupied by Mr John Gotts.



To be SOLD by AUCTION,
On Thursday the 5th Day of August, 1779, at the King's Head in Cawston, between the Hours of Three and Six in the Afternoon, at which Time the Conditions of Sale will be produced,
ALL that New BUILDING or DWELLING-HOUSE, situate in Cawston in the County of Norfolk, Part in the Occupation of Mr. John Gotts, the whole of the Premises worth 10l. a Year; it consists of a large Kitchen, Parlour, five Chambers, a good Cellar, Pantry, Brewhouse, Workshop, a good Stable, Yard, and Outhouses, all inclosed with a high Fence. If required, may be entered on immediately. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. Robert Mathews in Cawston.
N. B. It is well situated for any Trade.

I then thought about John's age when this was sold, and he would be about 22, so I was wondering if he had inherited it from his father, and that the previous owner of the house would lead us to his father.

But the important words are 'Occupied by', so on reading it again I think John is only the occupier and the house is probably owned by Mr Robert Mathews of Cawston who is mentioned at the bottom of the advert.

Nevertheless, this is a big house, costing around 10 pounds a year in rent.

The sale is three weeks after John married Anne Vout on 18th July: was he moving somewhere bigger? Three years later he was an Excise man in Watford.

So John is definitely living in Cawston when he married, but where did he originate from? He must have been literate to join the Excise, I would imagine: does that help us with finding out his parents?

So far we have ruled out that he could be John 196 baptised in Hevingham 10 May 1761, as we have a family for him, and also John 3304 in tree #022 bapt 1757 in Barningham Town, who we now think is John 2515 at the top of tree #107 who married in Edgefield. More on that in another post.

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2016

I am aware of two other Johns that I don't think we have in trees:

- 1755 Barnham 1755 02 Feb John bp of John & Mary - noted in the old IGI
- 1755 Hempstead next Holt 1755 17 Aug John bp of John & Mary - this one in the Parish registers

Do we have two John & Marys giving birth the same year? Barnham is west of Norwich, so if the placename is correct it is unlikely to be this John.

Hempstead next Holt is 11 miles from Cawston, and might be a more profitable place to research.

What's New 14 Jan 2016

Posted by: lang at 15:37, January 14 2016.

Main Website

Videos from Tower of London Poppy Roll of Honour now added

When the poppy display was on at the Tower of London a Roll of Honour was read of those who had fallen. Names were those submitted by individuals, and all the Gotts names were submitted and I have captured these and edited them together.

[Roll of Honour](#)

Gotts Freemasons

Some Freemasons records have been released by Ancestry: here are the Gottses on the new Feature:

[Gotts Freemasons](#)

Pages have also been updated for this for:

034-1 Ernest Alfred Gotts 1288

034-1 Henry Frederick Gotts 1289

024 John Gotts 448

083-4 John Benjamin Gotts 1049

077-2 John Thomas Gotts 1501 and his son John 1504

040-2 Thomas Gotts 1449

No entry in the Known Families yet, so details are on the Freemasons Features page:

022 George William Gotts 2264

108-2 Percy William George Gotts 3454

Sidney 1300 Gotts #034 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force

Another soldier's history in WW1 has been added, together with a photo provided by Ernest Gotts. Sidney was in The Army Service Corps and his experience shows a different side of war.

[Sidney 1300 Gotts](#)

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2016

George 2542 #108 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force

George is another Brit who had emigrated and then enlisted in the CEF. You can see where he fought and was during the war

[George 2542](#)

Worldwide distribution of the Gotts surname

Under the Gotts One-Name Study on the Web page are some statistics about the worldwide distribution of the surname Gotts. These are from a site called Forebears [Surname distribution from Forebears](#)

News items

Videos from Tower of London Poppy Roll of Honour now added

See above

Gotts Freemasons

See above

New WW1 memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette

A new memorial has been built which list the soldiers who died in that region, Their names are in the article

Sidney 1300 Gotts #034 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force

See above

George 2542 #108 in the Canadian Expeditionary Force

See above

George 2542 (#108) in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WW1

Posted by: lang at 06:40, January 3 2016.

The second Gotts who fought in the Canadian Expeditionary Force is George 2542, son of John Thurston and Sarah Goss.

George had been sent to Canada as part of the British Home Children program, and enrolled in 1914. He joined the 2nd Battalion Canadian Division, and would have fought in the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

Gotts Surname website: News Archive 2016

He was seconded to the Division Headquarters in November 1915, which may have improved his survival chances, as HQs were usually back from the front line.

[George 2542 in WW1](#)

Sidney 1300 (#034) in WW1 Canadian Expeditionary Force

Posted by: lang at 06:26, January 3 2016.

Sidney 1300, son of John William Marshall 714 emigrated to Canada, then enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He served in the Army Service Corps for four years, firstly in a Horse Transport Battalion, and then in the Train division, which included working on the narrow-gauge railways taking supplies close to the front line. His Service Record is available on-line, and we can track where he went in France.

[Sidney 1300 WW1](#)