

Edward Arthur Legg HATCHER

Born: 1886, Binstead (Ryde)

Parents: Edward Legg Hatcher and Elizabeth Jessie Harris

Last known address: Glenlea (no. 41) Pallance Road, Northwood

Last known occupation: Gardener

Service number: 7251

Regiment: 3rd Battalion (Reserve) Hampshire Regiment

Service history summary:

- pensioned no. 8001164
- enlisted: 23rd August 1914
- rank: Private
- decorations: 14 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Died: 27th October 1918

Age: 32

Buried: Ryde Borough Cemetery

Family/descendants: Edward Arthur's surname varies between Hatcher and Legg leading to much confusion. He was born in Ryde on May 22nd 1886 and was registered as Edward Arthur Legg. His father, Edward senior, had been born out of wedlock to Emma Legg but in 1860 Emma married Henry William Hatcher, a gardener from Ryde, at St Thomas's Chapel, Ryde. Henry established a gardening business, Henry Hatcher and Son(s), at Osborne Cottages, Pellhurst Road, Ryde. The couple appear to have had no further children and Edward senior appears to have been described by his step-father Henry as 'son' for business purposes.

Edward Legg married Elizabeth (Jessie) Harris, of Arthur Street, Ryde, on September 16th 1878. He gave his address as Pellhurst Road and claimed that his father Henry Legg [*sic*] was deceased. Jessie was the daughter of William Harris, deceased. This was convenient as both bride and groom, being aged 20, would normally have had needed their parents' consent to marry. The births of Edward and Elizabeth's children, including Edward Arthur, were registered under the name of Legg but they were christened as Hatchers. Edward Arthur was the couple's third child and first son. He had two elder sisters and a twin, Hilda Elizabeth Hatcher Legg. A younger sister was born in 1888 and followed by another set of twins in 1890. Edward junior was baptised in All Saints Church, Ryde on 15th March 1888 as Edward Arthur Hatcher, son of Edward Hatcher, greengrocer of the High Street, Ryde. In September 1888 Hilda, Grace and Mabel were baptised together, which may have been prompted by the birth of Grace, the fifth child, or possibly because Hilda, Edward's twin sister, was seriously ill (she died the same year). The children's parents were described as Jessie Elizabeth and Edward Hatcher, gardener.

Edward junior married Bertha Annie Young, aged 27, at St John the Baptist Church, Northwood in 1909. He was described as a labourer living in Cowes. Edward and

Bertha had one daughter, Dorothy Hilda, born in 1910. Bertha never remarried after Edward's death. Her mother, Mary Jane Young, died in 1917 aged 55 and her father Frank Young in 1928 aged 73. Bertha died in 1964 at the age of 82, her sister, Frances, having died in 1959 aged 81. Bertha was buried in Northwood cemetery with her parents and her sister rather than in Ryde with her deceased husband. Edward and Bertha's daughter, Dorothy, married Bertram Augustus Ansell in 1930 at St John the Baptist Church, Northwood. They do not appear to have had any children and Dorothy died in 1994 aged 84.

Brother: Frederick (1890)

Sisters: Ethel Amy (1878), Mabel Irene (1881), Hilda Elizabeth (1886-88), Grace (1888) and Muriel (1890).

Wife: Bertha Annie Young

Daughter: Dorothy Hilda (1910)

Northwood/Gurnard connection: in 1891 Edward junior, then aged 4, was living with his family in Binstead and his father was working as a domestic gardener. Ten years later Edward's parents had moved to Osborne View, Pellhurst Road, Ryde, probably to help with the family gardening business there but Edward was no longer living with them. When Edward and Bertha married, the couple lived at *Glenlea* (now no. 41) Pallance Road with Bertha's parents, Frank Young, a general labourer, his wife Mary Jane and Bertha's sister, Frances Emma. Edward was described as a general labourer like his father-in-law. After the death of her parents, Bertha Annie lived at *Glenlea* into the 1950s with her unmarried sister, Frances Emma.

War record: Edward's service record has not survived but his medal card indicates that he enlisted on August 23rd 1914, shortly after the outbreak of war. The 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment in which he served had been formed from the Hampshire Militia, a locally-recruited force of volunteers who received a few weeks initial training at drill and then received a month's training a year. The 3rd Battalion was a depot/training unit which remained in the UK for the duration of the war. Mobilised in Winchester in August 1914 it moved to Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. In January 1915 it moved to Gosport and remained there.

Edward died from pneumonia and cardiac syncope on October 27th 1918 at Victoria Cottage, Pellhurst Road, Ryde with his father in attendance. He is described on the death certificate as Edward Legg & Hatcher, a gardener and florist of Pallance Road, Northwood and also as Army Pensioner Private no. 80001164 of the Hampshire Regiment. The fact that he was receiving a pension suggests that he had been discharged from the Army, possibly due to ill health related to the heart condition which killed him. He appears to have been working with his father at the family business in Ryde at the time of his death. He was buried in Ryde Borough Cemetery on October 30th 1918. It is unclear why Edward was buried there rather than in Northwood where his wife and daughter were living. Edward's name appears on the Ryde District WWI memorial, also in All Saints Church on the memorial and in the Church's memorial chapel.



Picture courtesy of Mrs Janette Gregson