

Oswestry and Welsh Border Area

Crimean War Veterans

1. Helen Smith did the original research into those men with a link to Oswestry and the Welsh Border Area who served in the Crimean War. In February 2006 Derek Williams photocopied her work and added numbers at the top of each "page" to enable a rudimentary name index to be compiled.
2. Since then further information has come to hand due to the continuing efforts of Helen and her husband Ian. That later information has, like the earlier information, been put into plastic sleeves in the order in which it has been received and is now in a ring binder at Oswestry Library (HUB)? The time has now come to update and improve the first index.
3. To update the index all the numbering begun earlier has been continued. It is however more manageable to call the "pages" sleeves as often the sleeves hold several sheets and these have not at any stage been individually numbered. This enables continuity between the earlier and this later index.
4. All sheets in each sleeve have been read. While doing so names have been abstracted together with other information leading to the creation of two spread sheets.

Spread Sheet 1

This gives as far as possible surnames, first names, ranks and service numbers. Where reported, information is given on birth and death dates. The last column gives sleeve numbers where further information can be found about the person named. When two or more individuals appear in a report they are all listed so there will be examples of several references to one sleeve.

Spread Sheet 2

This gives surnames and first names. Whenever possible corps / regiment, service numbers and rank are given. Next mentioned are campaigns in which men fought, medals they were awarded, information about wounds or death, and relevant dates. In the majority of cases the local connection is identified.

In a few cases other information is also provided.

Other Service

Some of this is indicated in the Campaigns and Medals columns. IM stands for Indian Mutiny, L stands for Lucknow. Some served in the West Indies. The Royal Navy is represented. Its ships took part in actions and transport of men, horses and equipment.

5. The ring binder also contains two important lists. One gives names of those in the 11th Hussars and the other gives names of those in the 17th Lancers who were entitled to various medals and clasps as a result of their service in Crimea. The geography of these is mainly beyond the scope of Helen

Smith's research remit. At the same time the phrase – Oswestry and Welsh Border Area - has been used in an inclusive way.

Persevere

If you are looking for information about a forebear who may have been in the Crimea and find that names match but rank does not bear in mind that many gained and some lost rank.

If you are looking for information about a forebear and the local connection given does not match the information you have bear in mind people moved about.

At times one person appears to have two possible surnames. In the present study Aston and Ashton, Dolton and Dalton appear.

Gaps and Incompleteness

The spread sheets have many gaps. You may have information that would help fill some of these gaps. You may have information about someone who served that lies outside the scope of the spread sheet. You may know of other people from the Oswestry and Welsh Border area who served in the Crimean War. If so, please share it with the volunteers at OFLHG at Oswestry Library (HUB?)

Taken together

The many sheets resulting from Helen and George Smiths' researches provide valuable information. A VC was gained, some men were mentioned in despatches. Others were wounded, some were killed in action. An amputee had an artificial leg provided by public subscription to which Queen Victoria contributed. Yet more were hospitalised at Scutari. Some died at sea. Another was killed in the charge at Balaclava. And some were taken prisoner. Later there was suicide.

The valuable cameos of men who volunteered reveal poignancy, heroism, perseverance and endurance. Helen and Ian Smith's work shows they too have some of these qualities.