

# Montague Parker

Montague Parker's birth is in the Romsey register for the first quarter of 1892. In the 1901 census he's listed as the son of Louisa J Parker, and is living with the family in Jerretts Lane. Charles Parker, Montague's grandfather, was a railway labourer and the rest of the household is made up of Montague's grandmother, mother, aunt, and an intriguing mixture of young Keats and Kebbles. These girls seem to be his cousins, or possibly his half sisters, and were all born in Portsmouth. Of course, this listing doesn't mean that all these people were permanent residents in Jerretts Lane, but they were there for the census.

At this point my research trail seemed to go cold. I couldn't find any of them in the 1911 census records. This doesn't mean they'd all moved abroad or died. There are many transcription errors in both the original records and the internet databases; the surname of the girls at the Parker home is clearly Kebble on the original 1901 paperwork but Kibble in the modern indexing. I kept looking, scouring all the Nursling records with my single clue of 'Prospect Cottage' which is where Montague had lived.

And there they were! Charles was by now retired, Louisa was married to William Truckle (an agricultural labourer), Montague was a domestic gardener and had three smaller siblings. Why wasn't he cross referenced? Because he'd been transcribed in the modern index as Montague Panter. Simply done but frustrating!

Montague volunteered in 1914, and served in the 10th battalion of the Hampshire regiment. They landed at Gallipoli and were soon in action against the Turkish defenders, suffering – as so many battalions did – heavy casualties. And, like so many soldiers killed in this conflict, Montague has no known grave and is listed on the Cape Helles memorial. He died on 10th August 1915, five days after landing

*Ann Laird - Rownhams July 2014*