

32: Sydney Percival Gamon

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Sydney Percival Gamon

Rank: Captain

Battalion / Regiment: Royal Flying Corps. and 5th Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: ? Date of Death: 23 March 1918 Age at Death: 23

Buried / Commemorated at: Neston Cemetery

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of John Percival and Margaret Alice Gamon of Leighton Banastre, Parkgate, Cheshire

Sydney Percival Gamon was the eldest of the three sons (and there was one daughter) of John Percival and Margaret Alice Gamon of Leighton Banastre, Parkgate, a large house located behind the Parade which is now designated as a listed building. John Percival Gamon was a Solicitor and Notary, a partner in the firm of Gamon, Farmer & Co., Solicitors (Chester), Clerk to the Neston & Parkgate Urban District Council and Clerk to the Chester Rural Council.

John Percival Gamon, the eldest son of John Gamon of Ashton Grange near Chester married Margaret Alice Geddes, the third daughter of Alexander Geddes of Liverpool on 11 Jan 1894. John Percival and Margaret lived at "Ashfield", Wrexham Road, Chester then at "High Croft" Chester and later at Neston. John Percival was a solicitor. They had 3 sons: Sydney Percival born 1894, John born 1898 and Geoffrey Alexander born 1902. The eldest 2 sons were both pilots in the Royal Naval Air Service in WWI. Sydney was killed in a flying accident in 1918 and is buried at Neston. Geoffrey, an Imperial Airways pilot, was killed in an accident at Cairo in 1934.

[Source: <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>]

At the time of the 1901 census the family was living at 'Ashfield' on the Wrexham Road, Chester, close to the site of the King's School:

224	Ashfield D.	1				Charlotte Stone	D.	0	17	Board	D.			Cheshire Chester
						John Percival Gamon	Head	36		Solicitor & Notary				D. D.
						Margaret A. D.	Wife	35						James Bootle
						Sydney P. D.	Son	6						Cheshire Chester
						Margaret J. D.	Daughter	4						D. D.
						John D.	Son	2						D. D.
						Nellie Manuell	Servant	24		Nurse	Domestic			Devon Devonport
						Alice Langford	D.	18		Housemaid	D.			Cheshire Handley
						Mary Ann Jones	D.	29		Cook	D.			Denbigh Ruthin

1901 census – 'Ashfield', Wrexham Road, Chester

John Percival Gamon	36	solicitor and notary	born Chester
Margaret A.	35		born Bootle
Sydney P.	6		born Chester
Margaret J.	4		born Chester
John	2		born Chester
Nellie Manuell	24	servant, nurse	born Devonport
Alice Langford	18	housemaid	born Handley
Mary Ann Jones	29	cook	born Ruthin



'Ashfield', Wrexham Road, Chester
[Source: Google Street View]

By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved a short distance north, to Hough Green, on the other side of Westminster Park. Sydney (16), however, was recorded in the census as a boarder at Uppingham School, Rutland.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
1	John Percival Gamon	Head	46		Married	17	4	4	Solicitor and Notary	Yes	own account		Parish of Chester		
2	Margaret Alice Gamon	Wife	45		"	17	4	4					Bootle & Liverpool	055	
3	Margaret Joyce Gamon	Daughter	14		Single								Chester		
4	John Gamon	Son	12		"								Chester		
5	Geoffrey Alexander Percival Gamon	Son	9		"								Chester		
6	Mary Roberts	Domestic servant	28		"				Waitress (stewardess)		Widow		Rotherhithe	000	
7	Mary Tinsley	Cook	28		"				Cook				Threapwood	120	
8	Emily Hindley	Housemaid	22		"				Housemaid				Chester		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)		(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)	
<p>I certify that—</p> <p>(1) All the names in this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.</p> <p>(2) I have entered the date and duration in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have entered their sum with the total number of persons.</p> <p>(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries in the Schedule which appeared to be definite, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.</p> <p>Initials of Enumerator: <i>J.P.</i></p>		<p>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.</p> <p>14</p> <p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>Signature: <i>J.P. Gamon</i></p> <p>Postal Address: <i>21 Hough Green Chester</i></p>	

1911 census (condensed) – 21, Hough Green, Chester

John Percival Gamon	46	solicitor and notary	born Chester
Margaret Alice	45		born Bootle
Margaret Joyce	14		born Chester
John	12		born Chester
Geoffrey Alexander Percival	9		born Chester
Mary Roberts	28	domestic servant, waitress	born Rotherhithe
Mary Tinsley	28	servant, cook	born Threapwood
Emily Hindley	22	housemaid	born Chester

John and Margaret had been married for 17 years and all four children had survived.

John Percival Gamon died on 11 January 1934 at Llys y Gwynt Deganwy, Caernarvonshire.

Margaret Alice Gamon died on 10 March 1953; her address was given as Grey Friars Cottage, Chester.

Margaret Joyce Gamon was born on 28 August 1897 and she was baptised at Holy Trinity, Chester, on 27 September 1896. In mid-1923 she married Brigadier General Noel Hugh-Jones MC at St Mary's Church, Chester, and it appears that they spent some time - possibly the whole of WW2 - in India as Margaret gave India as her previous place of domicile when she arrived back at Southampton on the P&O *Strathnaver* on 2 May 1946. Margaret was then 49 and she gave her British address as Grey Friars Cottage, Chester, her mother's home. Noel Hugh-Jones died 10 June 1952 at East Preston, Sussex, and Margaret died mid-1975 in Worthing.

John Gamon was born 25 July 1898 and Major Geoffrey Alexander Percival Gamon was born 9 January 1902. In 1920 Geoffrey, aged 18, recorded that he was a law student when he arrived back at Liverpool on the SS *Digby* from St Johns, Newfoundland and he gave his address as 2 White Friars, Chester. Further details of these two brothers are given in this account.

The following information, taken from the internet, has not been verified in full:

'He was said to have applied for the RNAS in August 1914 but in fact joined the 5th Cheshire Territorials as a Lieutenant in command of the machine gun section. Going to France with the Battalion in February 1915 he was later promoted Captain and "D" Company CO. In May 1916 he was transferred to the RFC and served as an observer until November 1916. Back in England he trained as a pilot and became a Flying Officer in March 1917'

'Capt S P Gamon of No 78 Sqn RFC, based at Sutton's Farm aerodrome, was killed in an accident while flying Sopwith Camel C6726 on 23 March 1918. He was practicing aerobatics near Hornchurch when the aeroplane entered a spinning nose dive and crashed'

'Sydney had a brother Geoffrey Alexander Percival Gamon, born 9 Jan. 1902, a Pilot with Imperial Airways flying out of London who was killed in an aeroplane accident at Cairo on 24 Oct. 1934 [The Marlborough College Register]'. 'I have come across another flyer in the Gamon family - Capt John Gamon DSC (b 25 July 1898 son of John Percival and Margaret A Gamon of Cheshire). He flew DH4s and had 7 victories: Gamon, John, Flt Lt. Born 25th July 1898 Entered the RNAS 30th July 1916. Joined 5 Sqn September 1917 and later 205 Squadron 1st April 1918. Distinguished Service Cross gazetted 17th June 1918. Also took part in the raid to Caix & Rosieres on 31st March 1918. Survived the war' [Source: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/>]

'He was killed whilst conducting aerobatics in Camel C6726 whilst serving with 78 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. He was stationed at Sutton's Farm Aerodrome, in Hornchurch, Essex. Captain Sydney Percival GAMON, Cheshire Regiment and R.F.C., who was killed accidentally while flying on March 23rd, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Gamon, of Leighton Banastre, Parkgate, Cheshire, and was 23 years old. He was educated at St. Fillan's Heswall, The Leas, Hoylake, and Uppingham School. An application for entrance into the R.N.A.S. which he made in August, 1914, was refused, as he then held a commission in a Territorial Force as officer commanding the machine-gun section. This section was chiefly manned by men from the Chester Hydraulic Engineering Company, with whom he was completing a course of engineering, and he went to the front with his regiment in February, 1915 remaining with them there till May, 1916, and having during that time gained the permanent rank of captain. He then obtained leave to join the R.F.C., and was acting as observer in France from May to November, 1916, when he returned to England to take his pilot's course. Obtaining his wings early in 1917, he had since been engaged in the aerial defence of London. While flying in South Essex on March 23rd 1934 [sic] Captain Sydney Percival Gamon, Cheshires and R.F.C., was killed. At the inquest a verdict of "Accidental Death " was returned'.



Sydney Percival Gamon

[Source, Flight Magazine, April 11th 1918 - Flight Archive, www.militaryimages.net/]

SURNAME	RANK	INITIALS	FORENAME	DOB	REGT	SQ	DATE	DETAILS
Gamon	Lt	SP				12Sq	21.09.16	Ok [4499 BE2c] f/l and o/t on t/o to show new pilot Corps front. 2Lt TE Gorman Ok/Lt SP Gamon Ok
Gamon	Lt	SP	S. P.		Ches. R. T.F		08.10.16	to be Flying Officer (Observer)
Gamon	Lt (TCapt)	SP	S.P.		Cheshire Regt.		08.10.16	is seconded for duty with the R.F.C.
Gamon	Lt	SP				12Sq	05.11.16	[5801 BE2d] Blew over whilst taxiing after landing from patrol. Lt SP Gamon
Gamon	Lt (TCapt)	SP	S.P.		Cheshire Regt.		19.03.17	is seconded for duty with R.F.C.
Gamon	Lt (TCapt)	SP	S.P.		Ches. R. T.F.		19.03.17	to be Flying Officer from a Flying Officer (Observer) with seniority from 12th May 1916.
Gamon	Capt	SP			5 Cheshire R		00.03.18	Flying Officer
Gamon	Captain	SP	Sydney Percival	circa.1895	RFC		23.03.18	AGE:23 UK
Gamon	Capt	SP				78Sq	23.03.18	died [C6726 Sopwith Camel] Spinning nose dive on practice flight Hornchurch. Capt SP Gamon+
Gamon	Capt	SP	S P					
Gamon	Capt	SP	Sidney Percival		5th Cheshire Regt Lt. RFC Captain			

Sydney Percival Gamon's record with the Royal Flying Corps

Royal Flying Corps - people index G - airhistory.org.uk [www.airhistory.org.uk/rfc/people_indexG.html]

On the base of the cross at Neston Cemetery are three metal plaques inscribed:

[front face] 'To the memory of Sydney Percival Gamon Capt. 5th Battn. Cheshire Regt. Pilot R.F.C. who was at the front in France from February 1915 to December 1916 and was afterwards engaged on the aerial defence of London where he was killed on March 23rd 1918 in his 23rd year'

[left hand face] 'Remember also John Percival Gamon born on March 23rd 1865 who passed over to join his son on January 11th 1934'

[right hand face] 'Also remembering Margaret Alice Gamon Born 19th September 1866 Died 10th March 1953'



Captain Who Said Machine Was "O.K." is Killed.

An inquest was held in South Essex to-day on Captain Sidney Percival Gamon, of Cheshires and R.F.C., who was killed in a flying accident on Saturday afternoon. Evidence showed that the deceased's machine crashed to earth in a thickly populated neighbourhood, the officer being instantly killed. The machine was in good order, and deceased had described it as O.K.

The Coroner said this was another mystery of the air which it was impossible to solve, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Evening Telegraph - Monday 25 March 1918.
The same report appeared in the *Western Times* on Tuesday 26 March 1918

GAMON--March 23, accidentally killed while flying, Captain SYDNEY PERCIVAL GAMON (Cheshire Regiment, F.R.C.), eldest son of J. P. Gamon, solicitor, Chester and Liverpool. Funeral at Neston Parish Church to-morrow (Wednesday), at 3.15 p.m.

Liverpool Echo - Tuesday 26 March 1918

Campaign :— 1914-15 Star.

(A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
(A) GAMON	5 th Ches.	Lt - x		BRITISH	Off. 164	190
(B) S.P.	4 th Ches.	Capt - x		5 STAR	Off. 164	14

Sidney Percival.
Action taken

1915 Star
20/1/19

14x 4681-4. 1/8/22. NW/6/19214.

Theatre of War
France
Western 15-2-15

Qualifying Date
EF/9/21-9 23/9/1499
NW/6/1827. [Over.

(6 34 46) W8138—RP433 50,000 12/17 HWV(P798) K608
1264—RP2020 60 000 5/18

Correspondence.

O.C. 5th (S of C) Bn Cheshire Regt forwards nominal roll of Officers eligible for the '1914-15 Star' list of claims submitted by O/C No. 2 Inf. Div. 2-3-19.

J.P. Gamon Esq. (Father)
2 White Friars
Chester

Address
The Academy School,
Shrewsbury.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

A sidenote – John Gamon

DISTINCTION FOR FLIGHT COMMANDER J. GAMON.

Before commencing the business of Chester Rural Council on Saturday, the chairman (Col. T. Thornycroft Vernon), mentioned with deep regret that the clerk (Mr. J. P. Gamon) had lost his eldest son. He had written to Mr. Gamon on his own and the members' behalf, expressing sympathy. No one could be more honoured than by losing a son in the interests of the country, and he thought that would be a consolation to the clerk, besides any sympathy the council could give him.—The members signified their condolence by standing.—Mr. Gamon said he had had so many kind words said and so many hand shakings at the last meeting that he knew what was in the minds of the council. He very much appreciated their sympathy, and he thanked the chairman for the very kind letter he wrote. He had now a subject of congratulation to mention. He had received a telegram from the commanding officer under whom his second son, Flight Commander John Gamon, was serving in France, stating that he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 11 May 1918

In addition to recording the death of Sydney Gamon, this report also notes the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Flight Commander John Gamon, Sydney's younger brother. His citation read:

*Flight Lieutenant John Gamon, RNAS.
For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On 30 March 1918, whilst returning from a bombing raid, he was attacked by three enemy triplanes, one of which he brought down and drove off the other two. He has carried out very many bombing raids on enemy lines of communication, aerodromes, and dumps. His work has always been of the greatest merit, and he has set a splendid example to those around him.*

He was confirmed in his appointment, and promoted to the war substantive rank of flying officer on 27 September 1941 and was promoted to flight lieutenant on 1 January 1944.

He remained in the Air Force Reserves after the war, finally relinquishing his commission on 10 February 1954, being permitted to retain the rank of flight lieutenant. Gamon died on 5 December 1976, and he, alongside his father and brothers, is commemorated in a window in the cloister of Chester Cathedral.

[Adapted from:
http://www.wikiwand.com/en/John_Gamon]

John Gamon, the second son of John Percival and Margaret Gamon, was born in Chester on 25 July 1898.

John Gamon entered the Royal Naval Air Service as a probationary temporary flight sub-lieutenant, being commissioned as a flight sub-lieutenant on 30 July 1916, five days after his 18th birthday. Assigned to No. 5 Squadron RNAS, flying the DH.4, Gamon gained his first victory on 8 December 1917 forcing down an Albatross D.V over Aertrycke airfield. He was promoted to flight lieutenant on 31 December 1917. John Gamon's next victory came on 30 March 1918 when he destroyed a Fokker Dr.I during the First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux – it was for this that he was awarded the DSC.

Two days later, on 1 April, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Army's Royal Flying Corps were merged to form the Royal Air Force, and No. 5 Squadron RNAS was renamed No. 205 Squadron RAF. Gamon was promoted to captain on 4 April. He accounted for two more enemy aircraft on 23 April, and shared two more on 3 May, all over Chaulnes. His seventh and final victory came on 20 May, destroying a Pfalz D.III over Mericombe.

He left the RAF in June 1919 but returned to military service during World War II, being commissioned as a probationary pilot officer "for the duration of hostilities" in the RAF Volunteer Reserve on 27 September 1940.

CAPT. S. P. GAMON (KILLED)

MILITARY FUNERAL AT NESTON.

News of the fatal flying accident to Capt. Sidney Percival Gamon, Royal Flying Corps, and eldest son of Mr. J. Percival Gamon, of Leighton Banastre, Parkgate, and of the firm of Messrs. Gamon, Farmer and Co., solicitors, Chester, was received with profound sorrow in Chester and by his old Cheshire Territorial battalion. Captain Gamon, who was 23 years of age, was a popular officer in the local Territorials before the war. He went to the front with his battalion in Feb., 1915, and about 15 months later transferred to the R.F.C., first doing duty as an observer at the front. He returned to England and got his wings as pilot early in 1917, since which time he has been engaged as a pilot in the aerial defence of London. Whilst flying at Hornchurch, Essex, his machine came down on Saturday, and the gallant officer sustained fatal injuries. Capt. Gamon was educated at The Leas, Hoylake, and Uppingham School, and when mobilisation took place was finishing his course at the Hydraulic Engineering Works. His younger brother, Flight-Lieut. John Gamon, R.N.A.S., is at present serving in France. Much sympathy will be extended to his parents and family.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at the Neston Cemetery with full military honours on Wednesday. The body was placed in the church in the morning by a bearing party consisting of four officers of the R.F.C., and lay in the church covered with a Union Jack and beautiful wreaths until the service, which was held in the afternoon. The Rev. J. R. Fuller, vicar of St. Paul's, Chester (in the unavoidable absence of the vicar of Neston) and the Rev. H. M. Harris, Neston, officiated at an impressive service at the church, which was attended by a large number of relatives, officers from the Flying Corps, the Depot Cheshire Regiment, and the deceased officer's Territorial battalion. The service was choral, Mr. R. Howick officiating at the organ. The hymns "O God our help in ages past" and "Lead kindly light" were sung. From the church the solemn procession to the cemetery was led by a firing party from the Cheshire Regiment and the band of the Depot Cheshire Regiment, who also supplied the bearing party. The hearse was followed by brother officers. The mourners were Mr. J. P. and Mrs. Gamon (father and mother), Miss Joyce Gamon (sister), Mr. Geoffrey Gamon (brother), Mr. Harry Gamon and Mr. V. P. Gamon (uncles), Mr. Lionel Gamon, Border Regiment (cousin), Mrs. Humphrey Gamon (aunt), Lieut. Glazebrook, R.N.V.R. and Mrs. Glazebrook (uncle and aunt), Mrs. Sykes (aunt),

and Miss Sykes (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gamon, Mr. R. Farmer, Mr. H. G. Williams, Lieut. Hubbard, R.F.C., Horndwiche, and 2nd Lieut. Sidebottom, Second Lieut. Mavity, Second Lieut. Weaver Adams, Second Lieut. Pattullo, and Second Lieut. Woodhouse, of the R.F.C., Shotwick; Major E. Husey and Capt. A. G. Porcher, Depot Cheshire Regiment; Major A. J. Musgrave, Capt. E. M. Dixon, Capt. G. Fell Milner, Lieut. R. H. Glegg, officers of the Cheshire Territorials; Mr. Henry Jolliffe and Mrs. Jolliffe, Lieut. Dr. Grant, Mr. R. L. Price, Mrs. C. B. Coltart, Mr. A. D. Prentice, Mr. Williams, Miss Ward, Miss Seager, Mr. Senior, Mr. J. Birch, Mr. Wharam, Mrs. Barrett, Mr. W. Roberts, Mrs. and Miss Bamber, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Martin, Miss Ward, Mr. J. G. Lee, the Misses Roberts, Miss Lyon. Three volleys were fired over the grave, and the Last Post was sounded. There were numerous floral tributes, including one from the Cheshire Regiment, T.F., the officers at the Depot Cheshire Regiment, the 78th Home Defence Squadron, R.F.C., Flight Commander Lawrence Irving, R.N.A.S., and Flight Lieut. Broad, R.N.A.S.

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 30 March 1918

AIRMAN'S DEATH IN ESSEX.

JURY'S COMMENT ON LOW FLYING.

An inquest was held on Monday on the body of Capt. Sidney Percival Gamon, 6th Cheshires and B.F.C., who was killed in a flying accident in Essex. Deceased was stated to be 23 years of age and the son of a Cheshire solicitor. He was a Territorial when the war broke out, and while in France in 1916 transferred to the B.F.C. On Saturday deceased was seen flying at a height of about 2,000 feet. He was flying level and apparently all right. A few minutes later a member of the B.F.C. heard a crash, and found that the machine had come down in a garden. No observer actually saw the fall, or what happened in the air. On arriving at the spot where the machine had fallen it was found that it was smashed up and that deceased had broken his neck. There was nothing to indicate that there had been any engine trouble, or how the accident was caused. Deceased was a proficient flyer.—The Coroner said it was one of those cases in which there was no explanation of the actual cause of the accident.—The jury returned a verdict of Accidental death, and expressed sympathy with the relatives.

A Juror said he thought the attention of the authorities should be called to the dangers of low flying by airmen over populated districts. It was a great danger not only to the airmen themselves but also to civilians. In his district they came down very low and almost struck the houses.—The Coroner said he had intended to mention the matter, because in his district the same thing had happened, and it was very dangerous. He understood it was prohibited.—An Adjutant of the B.F.C. said he would bring the remarks of the jury and the Coroner to the notice of the proper authorities.

Chelmsford Chronicle - Friday 29 March 1918

1/18—18 Bks.—Wt. & Sons, Ltd. 1591						CREDITS		
Record No.	Registry No.	NAME AND RANK	Regt. or Corps	Date and Place of Death	Account	Effects 1917-1918	Effects 1918-19	
37812.	9/22/1917	Gamon	Cheshire	23.3.18.	Cox & Co.	3/18. 2.	4 4 =	✓
		Capt.	S. P.	accident	" "	3/18. 2.	9 " 5	1
					P.O.F.	4/18.		✓ 3 12 8
					Transfer 2944	14.6.18		171 14 9

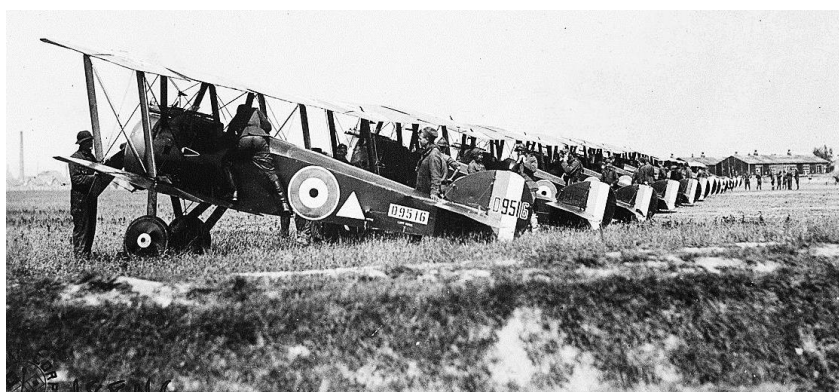
Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives.

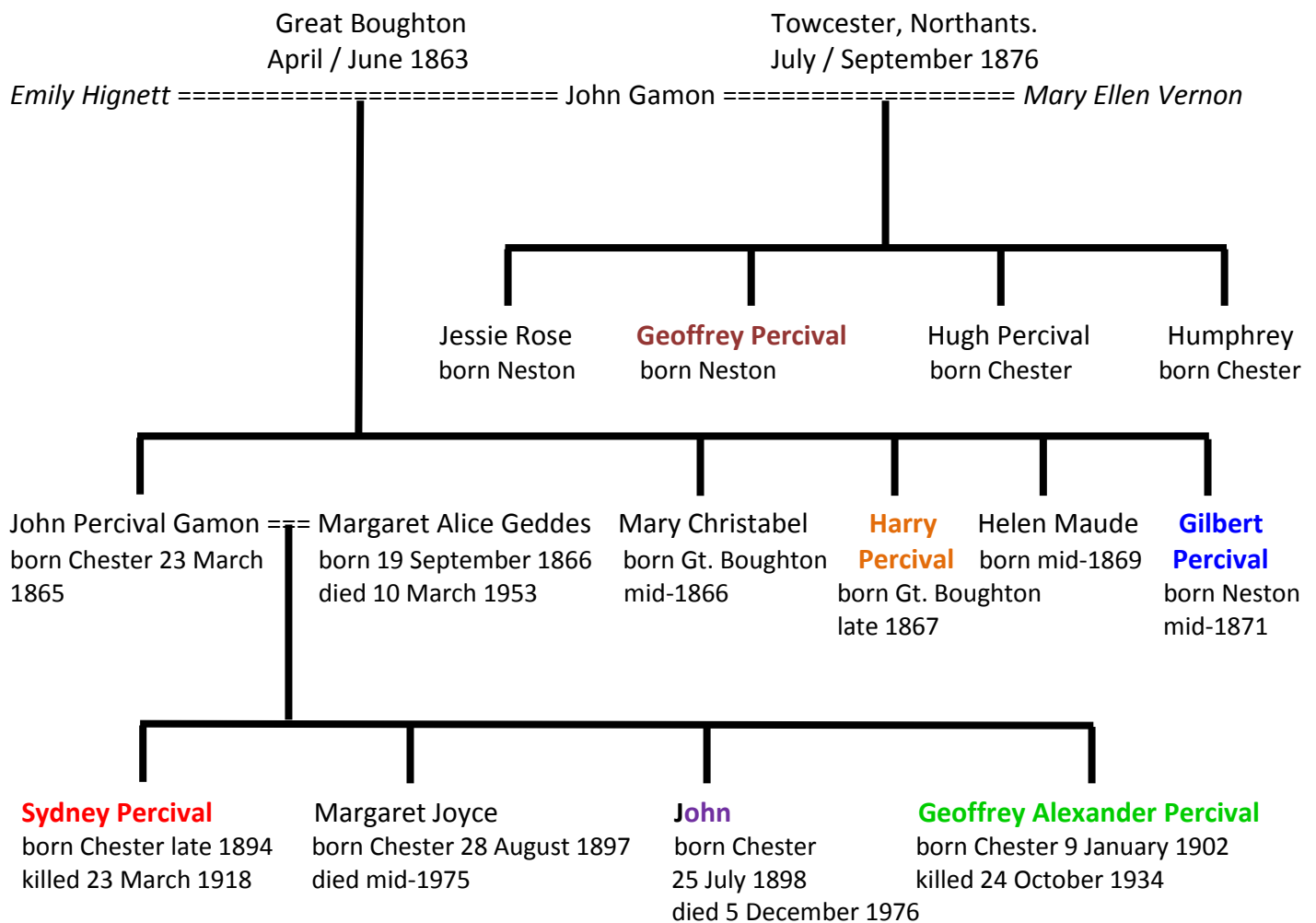
Sydney Gamon had accrued credits of £4 4s, £9 11s 5d, £3 12 8d and a 'transfer' payment of £171 14s 9d (the significance of this is unknown). There is no indication of a named legatee although some of the money was paid through an account of Cox & Co., one of the finance agents used by officers in the armed forces. The total payment, £189 2s 10d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £28750 in 2016.

It is of interest that the WW1 Memorial Window in Neston Parish Church was created by Sydney's paternal uncle, Gilbert Percival Gamon. Further details of the window and of Gilbert Percival Gamon are given in *Volume 1 : An Introduction* of this work and an outline family tree of the Gamon family is shown on the following page of this account.

Sidney Percival Gamon was flying a Sopwith Camel when he died. *The Sopwith Camel was a British First World War single-seat biplane fighter aircraft introduced on the Western Front in 1917. Manufactured by the Sopwith Aviation Company, it used a rotary engine, and had twin synchronized machine guns. Though difficult to handle it offered very good manoeuvrability to an experienced pilot. Camel pilots were credited with shooting down 1,294 enemy aircraft, more than any other Allied fighter of the conflict. It also served as a ground-attack aircraft, especially towards the end of the war when it had become outclassed in the air-to-air role.*



[Text and photographs: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sopwith_Camel]



Abbreviated Gamon family tree

Sydney Percival Gamon is the subject of this account.

Harry Percival Gamon, Sydney's uncle, was a Stocks and Shares Broker, married to Ada (nee Holroyd). In 1901 They lived at *Dee Royal*, Telegraph Road, Heswall, with their children John Lionel Percival Gamon (aged 3) and Harry Percival Gamon (aged 7 months). John Gamon was born in Bramley, Yorkshire on 14 April 1897 and baptised on 19 May 1897 at St Peter's Church, Bramley, Yorkshire. In WW1 he served with 'C' Company 1st Battalion Border Regiment (attached to 51st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers). He arrived in France with the Battalion on 22 August 1916 and took part as a front line soldier in the Battle of Cambrai. On Tuesday 4 June 1918, whilst on home leave awaiting his return to the front line, he was training recruits in Redcar, Yorkshire, when he was accidently shot and killed, aged 21. His funeral took place on Saturday 8 June 1918 at St. James's Church, Christleton, Chester.

Gilbert Percival Gamon, Sydney's uncle, constructed the memorial window in Neston Parish Church.

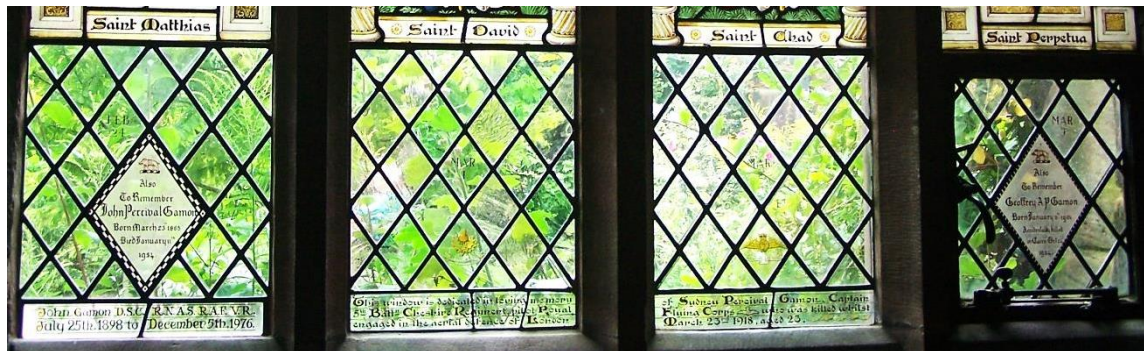
Geoffrey Percival Gamon, Gilbert's half-brother, was a director of Williams, Gamon & Co., (Kaleyards) Ltd., Chester, the leaded-lights manufacturer.

John Gamon, Sydney and Geoffrey's brother, was a WW1 flying ace.

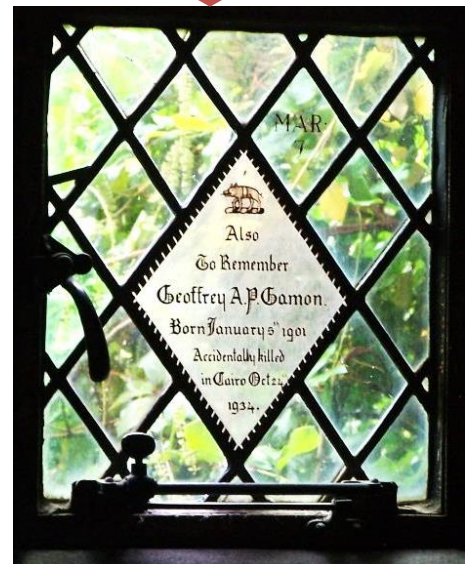
Geoffrey Alexander Percival Gamon, Sydney and John's brother, died on 24 October 1934, supposedly killed in an aeroplane accident at Cairo, is commemorated in a window in the cloisters at Chester Cathedral. This is a part of the larger Gamon window.

Geoffrey's address was recorded as The Old Farm, Gayton, Heswall, and it is understood that he died at the Heliopolis House Hotel, Heliopolis, Cairo, a common haunt of pilots and air crew at that time. His effects went to his widow, Mary Esther Gamon.

The Gamon window in the cloisters in Chester Cathedral



The Sydney Percival Gamon segments of the window are shown on the following page





This window is dedicated in loving memory of Sydney Percival Gamon, Captain 5th Battⁿ. Cheshire Regiment, pilot Royal Flying Corps who was killed whilst engaged in the aerial defence of London March 23rd 1918, aged 23.