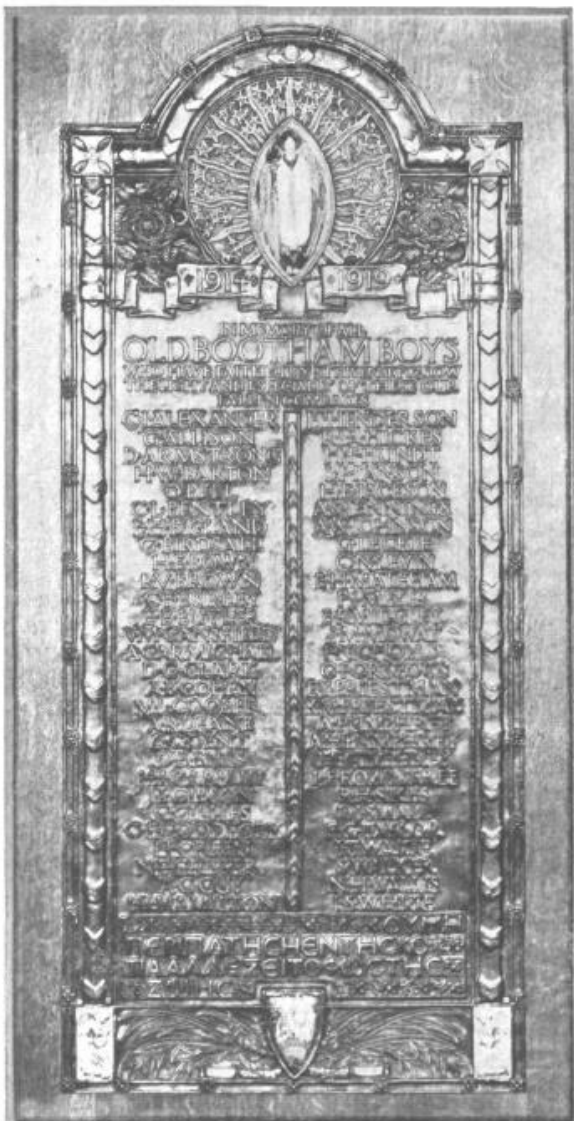




Bootham School World War I Memorial

The April 1920 issue of "Bootham" magazine has a report of the unveiling of the School War memorial.



Our Comrades.

WE met in the John Bright Library on Tuesday afternoon, January 27th, to receive the memorial from the School Committee. Members of the Committee and representatives from the Mount School assembled with us. Whilst the Headmaster read the names of our comrades we all stood. This is the inscription:—

1914-1919.

"In memory of all Old Bootham Boys who have faithfully striven to follow the light and especially of these our fallen comrades:

C. J. ALEXANDER	J. J. HENDERSON
G. ALLISON	R. I. A. HICKES
D. ARMSTRONG	H. F. HUNDT
H. W. BARTON	L. P. I'ANSON
O. BELL	H. E. JACKSON
C. L. BENTLEY	A. S. JENNINGS
E. H. BIGLAND	A. W. JOHNSON
G. BIRDSALL	G. LECKIE
H. E. BOWN	C. N. LEVIN
R. V. BROWN	E. H. MALEHAM
C. F. BURLEY	P. J. MEYER
E. B. BUTLER	E. R. MIDGLEY
V. M. CANSFIELD	J. M. MOWAT
A. CARMICHAEL	F. NICHOLLS
D. G. CLARK	G. PORTEOUS
A. B. COHEN	E. Y. PRIESTMAN
M. L. COOPER	K. M. PRIESTMAN
A. R. DEANE	A. PUMPHREY
A. C. DENT	A. H. PUMPHREY
O. B. ELLIS	H. PUMPHREY
J. H. GARBUTT	L. E. ROWNTREE
J. L. GIBSON	R. H. SIKES
G. GILLIES	D. J. SMALL
O. F. GOODBODY	F. G. TAYLOR
H. GREEN	J. T. WAITE
N. E. GRIPPER	S. WALKER
A. C. GUY	N. H. WALLIS
J. R. HAMILTON	J. S. WHITE.

He shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

ARNOLD S. ROWNTREE presided. He said :

" A year ago the York Schools Committee, after a conference with the Committee of the Old Scholars' Association, came to the conclusion that it would be right to place in the Library a memorial tablet containing the names of those of our comrades who have passed away during the four years of war. They have asked Frank Sturge this afternoon, on their behalf, to hand it over to the School, and I now call upon him to unveil the Tablet."

After the unveiling the Chairman read these notes by Mr. E. Spencer, of the Artificers' Guild, who designed the memorial :

" There is very little in it which is not entirely obvious. It is made of repoussé bronze with translucent and opaque enamels. The centre figure at the top represents Light, the light that is referred to in the inscription. The panels of foliage represent the roses of England and of York, while the panel at the bottom of ' The Pelican in her Piety ' is one of the best-known emblems of sacrifice, and at the same time of the Christian religion. There is nothing else about it that requires description except the little gold crosses and the attendant angels, which have none but the most obvious meaning."

FRANCIS L. P. STURGE :

" I esteem it a great privilege to be allowed to undertake this duty this afternoon. We have been reminded already that we are here to-day to pay friendship's tribute to the memory of those whom we have lost during the years of war. From time to time in this room on Sunday evenings the Headmaster has referred to these names in twos and threes as we learned of their loss. Now all the names are before us, and with the thought of this afternoon in mind I have been asking myself what is this memorial to mean to us and to the School in the years to come. I am sure it will mean just what all those of us who know and love this School really desire to make it. As time passes and we look back upon those five years of war it may be we shall see things in a changed and truer perspective ; we shall see more clearly than we can now. It may be, too, that the lapse of time will mercifully soften some of the sorrows of those who were nearest and dearest to these Old Boys of ours. But I believe that we shall always feel glad that at this time we responded to a spontaneous feeling of friendship and put up this memorial to the memory of our comrades.

" I am one of those, and there are many other comrades here, who look forward to returning often to Bootham. It may be that many months, or possibly years for some of us, will elapse, but sooner or later most will be coming back to visit the School, and are likely to be meeting in this room. I have been

wondering for myself, as I come here again and again, what I would wish that this memorial might be to me. I wish that it may be to others and to me a reminder of the days we spent together in our work and play—the successes, the failures, the times of gaiety and the more serious moments in our lives that we knew as we lived together here. And then, I wish it may be always a token of affection for those whom we have known and lost, especially I wish it may be this. And lastly I would like

the memorial to stand here a tribute to the memory of those who obeyed the call of duty in just the way and at the time which seemed right and best to them. I think only we who have lived through those five years can appreciate how stern and imperious that call was to these men of ours, and to countless others. One of the greatest of our poets and seers has tried to teach us that those who gladly answer to the voice of duty when she calls shall know something of the grace and benignity of her smile, a reflection of the very presence of God Himself.

"And so for those of us who are often in this place, may this memorial help us at time of decision and crisis in our own lives to answer duty's call with glad obedience in the best and truest way we know.

"May I now fulfil the duty laid upon me and, on behalf of the School Committee, hand over to you, Mr. Rowntree, and to the School this Memorial Bronze which has been unveiled this afternoon?"

THE HEAD REEVE (Owen B. Lean) :

"On behalf of the School I want to try to express in a few words how much we who are at school, who have been unable to render active service in the great crisis, appreciate the gift of this beautiful and striking memorial in memory of all Old Boys who sacrificed everything for the sake of their country. This memorial, situated as it is in this room—the very nucleus of our life in the School—should be to all of us here a great reminder of the service each one of us is due to render to his fellow-men. And every morning as we gather together here this Bronze should remind us of the strength needed to carry out our work with the one great aim in view."

THE HEADMASTER (Arthur Rowntree) :

"When Mrs. Rowntree and I visited some Old Boys who were still in Belgium and France last August, we passed through some of the Channel Ports and went over the Paschendaele Ridge, and visited Rheims and Verdun. We stood by the graves of some of the boys whose names are on that Bronze, and we realised that those places were connected in one way or another

with many of these boys whose presence I think we have felt at the roll-call this afternoon. We saw posted on the walls of villages and towns an address by the Minister of Education to the boys and girls who were getting back into their schools, beginning with the striking words: 'Your fathers have had the day of glory; the day of work falls to you.'

"We cannot forget that in these five years seven millions of young men have met violent deaths; there are eight millions of young men living to-day maimed and halt and blind; there are uncounted millions of men, women and children who have suffered—and millions of children who will suffer for years—at the hands of famine and disease, twin children of the war monster. Yours is the day of labour, of creation, of building. Those boys fought and wrought for a better future for mankind. It is for us—I would say rather it is for you boys and girls who are still young—so to work, so to build that future that there will be full opportunity for health and wisdom and goodness and beauty.

"We are grateful to those who have given us this Memorial Bronze. It will stand there beckoning us to strive faithfully to follow the light; it will, as the Head Reeve has said, remind us day by day of the sacrifice that those boys have made for the future of mankind; and from time to time we shall hear them calling to us: 'Why faintest thou? The light we sought is shining still.'"