

Bevington, Colin Corry

Colin Corry Bevington was killed in an air accident at Beverley Aerodrome on 2nd May 1918. We have no information about the accident itself.

Name: BEVINGTON, COLIN CORRY

Initials: C C

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force

Unit Text: 72nd Training Sqdn.

Age: 18

Date of Death: 02/05/1918

Additional information: Son of Alexander and Margaret Macfarlane Bevington, of "Silverwood," Pyrford, Woking. Born at Sevenoaks, Kent.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: IX. 181049.

Cemetery: **BROOKWOOD CEMETERY**



Colin was commissioned as a temporary 2nd lieutenant on probation on 29th Jan 1918, reported in the London Gazette on 31st January. The temporary rank was confirmed 19th May 1918 – after his death. The Flight magazine of June 30th 1918 includes him in the list also of those confirmed in the rank of 2nd lieutenant.

Colin is commemorated on the Pyrford War Memorial (pictures Copyright A. Jones/GPCA)



In the 1911 census, Colin was a pupil at a school in Boxgrove Road, Boxgrove,

Guildford. This is probably Allen House.

Allen House, founded in 1871, was located first at Box Grove near Guildford, then on part of the present Royal Grammar School site on Guildford High Street, and finally at Hook Heath in Woking where a purpose-built Prep school was established in 1912. Allen House was a Preparatory school owned, from the outbreak of the Second World War until its closure in 1986, by the Archibald family.

The Flight magazine of 30th May 1918 had though reported the following:

Lieutenant COLIN CORRY BEVINGTON, R.A.F., who was killed on May 22nd, while flying in Yorkshire, was the youngest son of Alex. and Margaret Bevington, of Silverwood, Pyrford, near Woking. He was in his 19th year.



Alexander Bevington, Colin's father, was born in about 1855 and died in 1929. He married Margaret McFarlane Clark in Kensington in 1888. They had four children – two sons and two daughters. Colin's elder brother, Alexander de Horne Bevington, died in 1922.

In the 1901 census, Colin's father is described as a Lloyds Underwriter and was probably a partner in Bevington, Vaizey & Foster since there is a record of a letter he wrote in 1899. Alexander was the son of Louisa de Horne and Alexander Bevington (b. 1815) who in 1861 - 1871 was also a member of Lloyds. He married Louisa in 1844 in Camberwell. Louisa was still alive in 1901 at the age of 82 and living on her own means in Vine Court, Sevenoaks.

Alexander (1815)'s father, Colin's great grandfather, was Samuel Bevington; he was married to Eliza Buckingham and was a leather dealer born 9th July 1772. His father was also called Samuel Bevington and was born in the village of Ettington in Warwickshire in 1733. He moved to London and started a tinplate business. Samuel (1772) was the co-founder of the Neckinger Leather Mills in Bermondsey Surrey, at one time the largest leather factory in Europe. His grand-son, Samuel Bourne Bevington, Alexander's (1815) cousin, became the Mayor of Bermondsey and is commemorated by a statue in Toolley Street.

On the front face of the pedestal, incised and coloured: SAMUEL BOURNE / BEVINGTON V.D. J.P., / 1832-1907 / [space] / COLONEL COMMANDING 3RD. / V.B. THE QUEENS / ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT / 1884-1899 / [space] / FIRST MAYOR OF BERMONDSEY / 1900-1902 / [space] / ERECTED BY HIS / FELLOW CITIZENS

This 1862 photograph was taken at Neckinger Mills. It shows John W. Bevington, James B. Bevington, Samuel Bevington and Horatio Harris, another of the partners or owners.



Neckinger Mill was originally a paper mill where many new inventions were made, including extracting ink from recycled paper. The building is best remembered however, as the biggest leather mills, owned by Bevingtons & Sons from the 1800's to 1980. The mills covered a vast area including not only the existing building but the whole area around the Neckinger Estate. Here they produced light leathers such as Morocco leather and seal-skins for shoes and fancy goods. During WWII women played a key role in this process, the fish oils they used during the glazing process apparently enhanced the beauty in Bermondsey women's skin and hair. Bevington's re-located from Bermondsey to Leicester in the 1980's where it is now a specialist division of Milton Leicester Ltd producing hand-crafted leather goods.

The Bevingtons were a well known Quaker family and can trace their ancestors back to the 15th century if not to the Norman Conquest. Not all the family espoused the Quaker virtues and Colin's Aunt Louisa gained a reputation as an anarchist.

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography contains the following entry for Louisa Bevington at <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/38380> by Katharine McGowran

“Bevington [*married name* Guggenberger], Louisa Sarah (1845–1895), poet and anarchist, was born on 14 May 1845 in St John's Hill, Battersea, Surrey, to Louisa and Alexander Bevington. The eldest of eight children (seven of whom were girls), she was brought up a Quaker. An early enthusiasm for science was fostered by her father. Later, interested by evolutionism, she became a friend of Herbert Spencer. Both her philosophical essays and her poems, which question religion and its moral authority, betray the influence of his ideas.

Louisa Bevington's first volume of poetry, *Key Notes*, was published in 1876 under the pseudonym Arbor Leigh (recalling Elizabeth Barrett Browning's eponymous

heroine, Aurora Leigh) and was reprinted under her own name in 1879. It has the unusual distinction of having captured the interest of the apparently poetry-weary Charles Darwin, who is said to have read it in 1879 'after not having opened a volume of verse for fifteen years' (Miles, 261)."

In 1881 Spencer solicited an article from Louisa Bevington defending scientific philosophy against critics who harped on its 'moral shortcomings'. Her reply, 'The moral colour of rationalism', appeared in the *Fortnightly Review*. A second volume of poetry, *Poems, Lyrics and Sonnets*, was published in 1882, and in 1883 she went to Germany, where she met and married the Munich artist Ignatz Felix Guggenberger. By the early 1890s she had returned to London alone. Little is known about the circumstances surrounding the breakdown of her marriage. Obituaries tentatively report that the couple soon found themselves 'out of tune with one another' (Liberty, 188).

On her return to London, Louisa Bevington became an active member of the anarchist movement. By this time London had become the 'headquarters of continental communist activity' (Oliver, vii), and she belonged to the circle which included the exiled Russian Prince Peter Kropotkin and the communard Louise Michel, whose work *Commune de Paris* she translated. As well as contributing articles to anarchist journals (among them *Liberty*, *Commonweal*, and *Freedom*) she lectured regularly at the *Autonomie Club* and favoured the 'short hair' and 'sensible short skirts and boots' (*ibid.*, 153) worn by its female members. The detail contained in a letter written by Bevington about the Greenwich observatory explosion of 1894, in which an anarchist, Martial Bourdin, was killed (the incident on which Joseph Conrad based his 1907 novel, *The Secret Agent*), reveals her close involvement with the movement.

Louisa Sarah Bevington died, aged fifty, at her home, 25 Lechmere Road, Willesden Green, London, on 28 November 1895, having suffered for some years from heart disease. Liberty recorded that among the mourners at her funeral were Kropotkin and his wife. She was buried on 3 December in St Pancras cemetery, Finchley, without 'any religious ceremony whatever' (*The Torch of Anarchy*, 104). Many of her poems, written in short rhyming stanzas, demonstrate the insignificance of human concerns in the face of the vast scheme of evolution. Others engage with current social issues, most notably 'One More Bruised Heart', which deals movingly with the subject of child abuse."