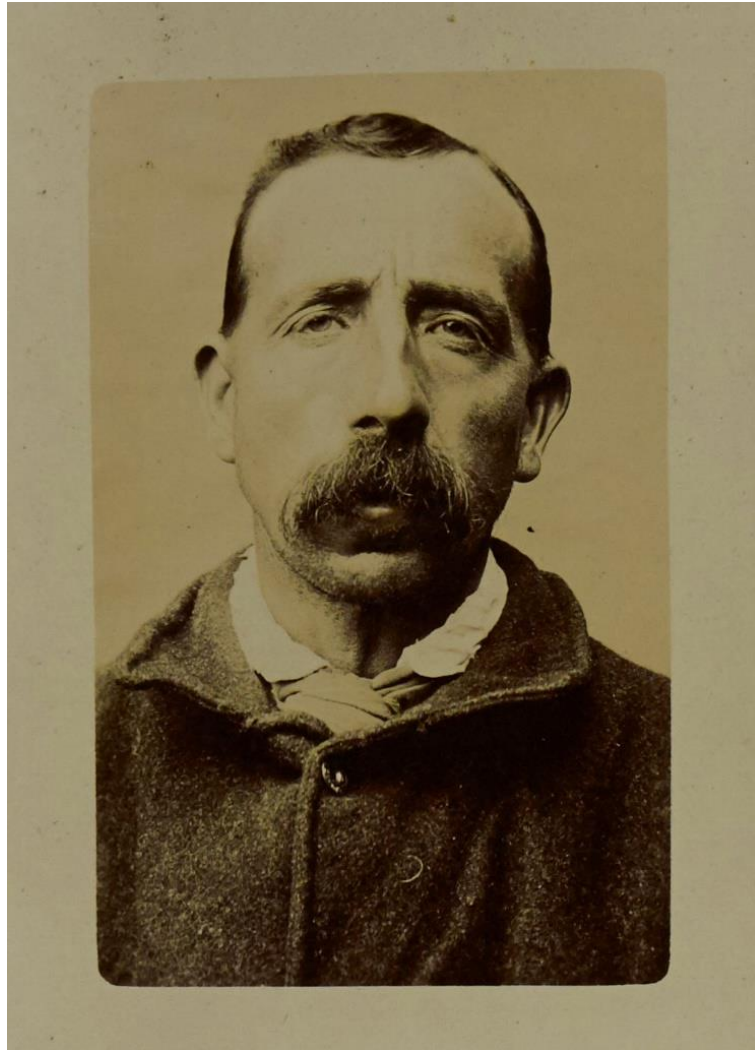




2049 Pte Robert James Bliss (Senior)

20th Hussars 1882 - 1894



Robert James Bliss in later life

Great Grandad Bliss

This is the result of much research and trawling the Internet, Military Records and searching anything to do with the

20th Hussars in Sudan 1884



Pre-World War 1

2049 Private Robert James Bliss – 20th Hussars (Gran Browns Father)



20th Hussars Cap Badge



Camel Cavalry Uniform

Life Synopsis:

October 1862 Born in Folkestone

2nd November 1862 Baptised in St Mary and St Eanswythe's Church, Folkestone

2nd April 1871 Census he was living at 15 Darlington Street aged 9 years.

3rd April 1881 Census he was a general labourer living at 15 Darlington Street aged 18.

4th September 1882 Medical at Canterbury for Army Service.

8th September 1882 signed up to Regiment: 20th Hussars in Cahir Ireland.

10th September 1884 stationed at Aldershot.

14th March 1885 Suakin (Sudan)

13th September 1886 Cairo Egypt

18th November 1887 returned to the UK

22nd March 1894 released from the army after 12 years of service.

During his almost 3 years in Africa, he spent 187 Days Sick – 56 Days in military prison.

1901 he had a boot shop at 12a Foord Road Folkestone and lived at 15 Darlington Street Folkestone. At some point after this but before 1908 he was committed to the Kent Asylum in Chartham and died in 1909 aged 47 years.

British involvement in Egypt deepened after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, many British officers being seconded to the Khedive's Army. When the army mutinied in 1892 and triggered off a general anti-European uprising, an Anglo-French expedition was mounted. Subsequently the French withdrew before a landing was effected. Trouble erupted in the Sudan (under Anglo-Egyptian administration) in 1884 where General Gordon was besieged at Khartoum. Further campaigns aimed at the overthrow of the Mahdi and the re-conquest of the Sudan. These prolonged operations created immense logistical problems. Nile transportation in particular was a matter resolved only when Canadian Voyagers were recruited to handle the riverboats.

20th Hussars returned home from India late in 1872 and were then in England till they departed for Cahir, Tipperary in 1879. In 1884 they moved back to Aldershot briefly before being deployed on active service in Egypt and Sudan till 1887. 1887-95 they were back home in England.

Robert James Bliss Attestation 1882

7,000 7-82 Forms H. 265 11

SHORT SERVICE, ATTESTATION OF Army Form B. 265.

No. *12049* Name *Robert James Bliss*

Duplicate Corps *20th Hussars*

Joined at *Wahit* ON *8 Sept 1882*

A. Miller

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

Robert James Bliss

1. What is your Name?.....
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?
3. What is your Age?
4. What is your Trade or Calling?.....
5. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? if so, where? }
to whom? and for what period?.....
6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years }
continuously in the same place, or occupied a house or land of the yearly }
value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, }
if so, state where?.....
7. Are you Married?
8. Have you ever been discharged from any part of Her }
Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on }
account of conviction of felony, or of a sentence of penal servitude, }
or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy? And you }
are warned that there is a special provision in the Army Act which renders you }
liable to Penal Servitude if you make a false answer to this question. }
9. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, Her }
Majesty's Army?
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, the Marines? }
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, the }
Militia, or Militia Reserve?.....
12. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, the }
Royal Navy?
13. Do you now belong to the Volunteers, or to the Naval }
Artillery Volunteers? or to the Royal Naval Reserve Force?.....

14. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous }
Service?
15. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for Her Majesty's }
Service?
16. For what Corps are you willing to be enlisted, or are you }
willing to be enlisted for General Service?
17. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning? }
18. Who gave you the Notice?
19. Are you willing to serve for the term of twelve Years, }
provided Her Majesty should so long require your services, for the first seven }
years in Army Service, and for the remaining five years in the 1st Class of the }
Army Reserve, or if, at the termination of such period of Army Service, you }
are serving beyond the sea, then for the first eight years in Army Service, }
and for the remaining four years in the 1st Class of the Army Reserve?
20. Are you aware that if, at the expiration of the above-men- }
tioned terms of Army Service, whether of seven or eight years, a state of war }
exists, you will be liable, if so directed by the competent Military Authority, }
to serve in Army Service for a further term not exceeding 12 months?
21. Are you aware that if, at the expiration of the above-men- }
tioned terms of Army Service, you are so required by a proclamation }
from Her Majesty in case of imminent national danger or great emergency, }
you may be required to serve in Army Service so as to complete your term }
of 12 years, and for a further period not exceeding 12 months?
22. Are you aware that, if the above-mentioned term of 12 }
years expires while you are on service with the Regular Forces beyond the }
sea, or while a state of war exists with a Foreign Power, or while soldiers }
in the Reserves are required by proclamation to continue in or re-enter }
upon Army Service, you will be liable to serve for a further period not }
exceeding twelve months?.....

14. *Yes*
15. *No*
16. *20th Hussars*
17. *Yes*
18. *Person, Say, Garrison*
19. *Yes*
20. *Yes*
21. *Yes*
22. *Yes*

I, *Robert James Bliss* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

Robert James Bliss Signature of Recruit. *John Lawrence* Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Robert James Bliss* do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers as over me. So help me God.

Witness my hand. *Robert James Bliss* Signature of Recruit. *John Lawrence* Signature of Witness.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and oath before me at *Wahit* on this *4th* day of *September* 1882.

John Lawrence Signature of the Justice.

The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form B. 202.

Robert James Bliss Enlistment

Description of Robert James Bliss on Enlistment.

Age apparently 20 years _____ months.
 Age physically } 20 years _____ months.
 equivalent to }
 Height 5 feet 6 1/2 inches.
 Weight 142 lbs.
 Chest Measurement 37 inches.
 Complexion Fair
 Eyes Blue
 Hair Brown
 Religious denomination Ch of England

** Distinctive Marks.*
 Has been previously served
 Indistinctly
 Tattooed - Anchor, Shield
 Sun & Star on back of
 left forearm, and hand

Note.—Civilian Medical Practitioners on making the primary examination of a recruit are to enter the above particulars in pencil only.
 * If the recruit is above the physical equivalent of 19, enter here "above 19."
 † A Civilian Medical Practitioner is not required to fill this in.
 ‡ Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will (unless the man acknowledges to any previous service) make a note to that effect in the column for distinctive marks.

CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION—(by a Civilian Medical Practitioner.)

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz.:—
 Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing;
 hernia; hamorrhoids; varicose veins beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle;
 inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with
 the letters D., or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical
 defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see at the required distance with either eye, his heart and lungs are healthy, he has the free use of his
 joints and limbs, and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for service in the Army.

I have filled up the above "Description" in pencil.

Date _____

Place _____

Civil Medical
Practitioner.

Note.—This Certificate should be left blank when the Recruit is examined in the first instance by an Approving Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF FINAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION—(by an Approving Medical Officer.)

Examined by me in accordance with above Certificate I consider him Fit & Approve him

I have completed the above Description in ink.

Date 4th Sept-1882

Place Canterbury

* Insert here "fit," or "unfit."

Wm Robinson
Surg Major
 Surgeon, Approving
 Medical Officer.

Note.—Should the Approving Medical Officer consider the recruit unfit, he will state here briefly the cause of unfitness.

Certificate of Primary Military Examination.

I hereby certify that the above-named recruit was inspected by me, and I consider him
 * fit for Her Majesty's Service, and that I have examined this Attestation and find it properly
 filled up.

Date 4th September 1882

Place Canterbury

* Note.—Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

A Jackson Captain
Adjutant, 3rd Regimental District
 Recruiting
 Officer.

Certificate of Approving Field Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named recruit is correct, and that the required forms appear to have been
 complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to 20th Hussars.

If enlisted by special authority, number and date to be here quoted

Date 4th September 1882

Place Canterbury

A. H. Steward Colonel
Commanding, 3rd Regimental District
 Approving
 Field Officer.

Robert James Bliss Statement of Services

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. *2049* Name *Robert James Bliss*

Corps in which served	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Period of Service in each Rank		Amount of Service towards Lim. Engagt.		Amount of Service towards Pension		Amount of Service towards G. C. Pay	
			From	To	years	days	years	days	years	days
<i>2nd Hussars Attached</i>	<i>Granted 1st Lt. Pay 4 Sep 1884</i>	<i>1st Lt</i>	<i>11 Sep 82</i>	<i>24 Dec 86</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>112</i>
	<i>In confinement awaiting trial tried and imp. Conduct in presence of Good order and Military Discipline</i>		<i>25 Dec 86</i>	<i>1 Jan 87</i>		<i>14</i>				<i>14</i>
	<i>Released</i>		<i>8 Jan 87</i>	<i>16 Feb 87</i>		<i>42</i>				<i>42</i>
	<i>Forfeits 1st Lt. Pay 25 Dec 1886</i>		<i>19 Feb 87</i>	<i>21 May 88</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>31</i>
	<i>Restored 1st Lt. Pay 19 Feb 1888</i>				<i>5</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>199</i>
	<i>Passed to the Army Reserve per Army Act 1887 19 Feb 1888</i>									
	<i>1st Lt. 46. d. 7 March 1888</i>									
	<i>Confirmed correct</i>									
	<i>1st Lt. AR Transferred 22 Mar 88</i>									
	<i>3.9.94</i>									
	<i>Colonel</i>									
	<i>Comm'dt Cavalry Depot</i>									
	<i>Total Service as above</i>				<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>199</i>	
	<i>I have examined the above details, and find them in every respect correct.</i>									
	<i>Further Service from the finally discharged</i>									
	<i>Total Service allowed to reckon to the day of final discharge</i>				<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>199</i>	

Robert James Bliss Military History Sheet

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1.—Service at Home and Abroad (including former service of re-enlisted men, when allowed to reckon towards G. O. Pay or Pension).

COUNTRY	FROM	TO	YEARS	DAYS
Home	4 Apr 82	19 Feb 85	2	169
Spadah	20 Feb 85	18. 11. 87	2	272
Home	19. 11. 87	21. 3. 88	-	123
"	22. 3. 88	3. 9. 94	6	166
			12	

N.B.—The Country only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service in the different stations of same country. England, Scotland, and Ireland to be shown under the general term "Home."

For mode of computing Foreign Service, see Sec. XIX., para. 142, Queen's Regulations, 1881.

2. Next of Kin ... Father Harry; Mother Mary; 15 Downington Rd. Tolkestone
 Brother John, Abraham, Richard d-
 Sisters Sarah, Linda, Elizabeth, Caroline d-
 3. Campaigns ... Sudan 1885, Egyptian S.F. Force 1885-6
 Battle of Ginn
 4. Wounded ...
 5. Effects of Wounds ...
 6. Special instances of gallant conduct ...
 7. Medals, decorations, and annuities ... Egyptian medal & clasp Sudan 85
 Khedive Buzge Star 1884-6
 8. Injuries in or by the Service ...
 9. Married ... To whom ...
 Place and Date ...
 10. Passed Classes of Instruction...
 11. Certificates of Education ...
 12. Character on being passed to Reserve ... Good, in possession of one (1) Good Conduct badge
 13. Character on being Discharged ...
 14. Place of Discharge ...
 15. Cause of Discharge ...
 16. Pension awarded ...
 17. Died ...
 18. Notes ...

Initials of Officer making the Entry.
 Alf.
 J.C.
 W.S.W.

Note.—These entries are to be made from time to time as they occur, and initialed by the Officer making the entry.

The Campaign Robert James Bliss was involved in.

Gordon Relief Expedition 1884-5

The expedition under Sir Garnet Wolseley was split into two main subdivisions, the River Column and the Desert Column. The latter column was made up of camel mounted troops which were divided into 3 regiments made up from detachments from various units. The Light Camel Regiment consisted of men from the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 18th, 20th and 21st Hussars. The 20th supplied 2 officers and 43 men, but they and the other hussar detachments must have been hugely disappointed when they were informed that they had to remain at Korti to guard the supplies. Thus, the Light Camel Regiment took no part in the desert crossing and the battle at Abu Klea.

Suakin, March 1885

In February 1885, two squadrons of the 20th Hussars embarked at Portsmouth and landed at Suakin in March. The force being gathered there, under the command of General Sir Gerald Graham, consisted of British, Indian, Australian and Egyptian troops. There was a reconnaissance in force which took them out into the desert, but nothing was found, and they returned to Suakin. Another recce led by the 20th went out with the objective of establishing the prospects for building a railway from Suakin to Berber on the Nile. But the hinterland was dominated by the Hadendowa Beja tribesmen led by the slave trader Osman Digna. It was decided to break his control and on 20th March Sir Gerald went out to Hasheen, 10 miles west of the port, with the Suakin Field Force in square formation. A series of fierce battles were fought in which the tribesmen suffered heavy casualties, but the results were inconclusive. The Empire troops suffered 45 casualties, and when they returned, the 20th embarked for Cairo to join the rest of the regiment.

Ginnis, 30 December 1885

Having concentrated at Cairo, the 20th Hussars moved up the Nile to Wadi Halfa to join General Sir Frederick Stephenson's Frontier Field Force of British and Egyptian troops. The Dervishes, led by the Mahdi's successor, Khalifa Abdullahi ibn Muhammad, were preparing for an invasion of Egypt so in December the Field Force marched out to do battle. The confrontation occurred at Ginnis which is a battle famous in British history for being the last time troops fought in red uniforms, although this only applied to some of the units. The main fighting was carried out by the infantry in the streets of the town and in the Dervish camp but when the enemy retreated to the Atab Defile the cavalry under Colonel Benjamin Blake, CO of the 20th, attacked and pursued them. One detachment of 50 men and one officer chased them for 50 miles upstream as far as Absarat. The 20th were dressed in khaki for this battle.

Medals awarded to Robert James Bliss



Suakin 85 Medal



Khedive's Star 1884-6



Battle of Tofrek 20th Hussars.

Robert James Bliss Medical History (Signing Up)

Form F. Army Form B. 178
(late W. O. Form 1143)

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Bliss Christian Name Robert James

Enlisted { on 4th day of Sept. 1882 at Laurelburg

Birthplace { Parish Folsom County Kent

Age, (last birthday) 20

Former Trade Laborer

Height 66½ Inches.

Weight 142 lbs.

Chest Measurement 37 Inches.

Physical Development Good

Small Pox Marks None

Vaccination Marks { Arm Left Number One

When Vaccinated Infancy

Marks on body, congenital or otherwise. Indistinct tattoo marks. Achen Shield brand & star in back of left forearm & hand.

Finally approved by Wm. Robinson

Surgeon Major

Examined for re-engagement, day of _____ 18____

* Considered _____ Surgeon _____

* If unfit, state disability. _____

Re-vaccinated on 20th day of October 1882

Arm Right Number 3

Result perfect

W. M. Bailey Surgeon Major

On Enlistment Joined	CORPS.	REGTL. NUMBER.	DATE.
...	<u>50th Hussars</u>	<u>2049</u>	<u>Sep 7 1882</u>
Transferred to			

APPEARED BEFORE A MEDICAL BOARD.

Station	Date	Disease	Result

General remarks as to habits, conduct, &c. Regular Good Temperate

W. M. Bailey Surgeon Major

21.3.88 James J. P. H. H. H.

N.B.—This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in G. O. 11. 1877. on the man becoming non-effective; the date and cause being stated at foot of next page.

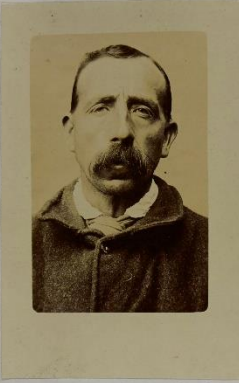
F & T 49,000 9—80 Forms B. 178
[8-30-28]

Robert James Bliss – Army Medical History

[illegible]

Robert James Bliss (Snr) St Augustine's record

Patient's Name. <i>Robert James Bliss</i>										CAUSE OF INSANITY.		FORM OF MENTAL			
Date of Admission.	Age on Admission.	Married, Single, or Widowed.	Weight and Height.	No. of Attacks.	Previously in Public or Private Asylum.	Profession or Occupation.	Predisposing.	Exciting.	Mania A. C. R.	Melancholia A. C. R.	Dementia Primary	Dementia Secondary	Other		
<i>Aug 17 1908</i>	<i>44+</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>st 66 10-8 5-6 1/2</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Boot-maker</i>	<i>Syphilis.</i>								



3/9/08

Elice Bliss (wife)
Address of Relatives *11 Skellens Street, Walsworth*

Brought by *P. Hemmley R.L.*

The Medical Certificate states *Has great ideas of his powers of fishing, says he has a net 37 fathoms & capable of catching 2 tons of fish, which he can put into his little pleasure boat. sends his boat with pieces of leather. Says that at the judgment Day all Jews will be left on the earth.*

History. *No notice taken of P.M. paragraph.*
Paral. attack commenced 3 months ago, with change of speech, loss of memory, & sleeplessness. Also started fishing & taking his children out for hours at a time - has had to be prevented from drowning three times. History of syphilis (pt's own statement).
Mother Consumptive.

Mentally. *She is fairly well married. Has dark brown hair, eyes grey, pupils unequal R much larger than L, they do not react to light stimulus. Tongue moist, furred with marked tremors. Speech a little slurring. Pulse regular, soft. Heart & lungs appear to be healthy. No bruise. Has paralytic sore on left shin the size of a florin, also small sore on L shin.*
Temp. 97.4.
Urine
Mentally. *She at once commences to talk in a boastful way of his great fishing powers. Says he gave up bootmaking a short time ago & bought a boat for 50. to go fishing in, but then filled 9 sacks under him, the same fate happened to a second boat, he has now a third which he says will hold 3 tons of fish which he can catch in one haul in his net, which is, he says, 37 fathoms*

deep & he is going to buy some more netting half a mile long, says he will soon make his fortune & that Christ will help him.

Aug 22nd Copy of statement.
He is suffering from Dementia with General Paralysis, has some exaltation, says that he has cured 100 people with his own talent, that he three times saved his regiment from disaster. He is in moderate health.

Aug. 29th *Is restless & does not occupy himself. Talks in a rambling way about the enormous quantity of fish he would catch to clean for*

Sept. 6th *Is excited and delirious, ramble in conversation. Is quiet & gives no trouble. Health poor.*

Sept. 13th *Is excited & boastful with delusions of grandeur. Unemployed, still under treatment.*

Oct. 13th *Says his wife has just been left several hundred pounds - memory weak, does not know how long he has been here. Quiet. Health poor.*

Nov. 14th *Is deluded about large sums of money. Has poor memory. Is excited & chatty. Speech more incoherent. Health moderate.*

1909. January. *Remains in much the same condition health poor.*

1st April. *Excited and grandiose delusions persist constantly, says how his wife is: Speech has become more incoherent, marked labial tremor. Is more feeble on his legs, takes several days to get*

July. 19. *Speech incoherent. Grandiose delusions disappear. Shaky on legs. Demented. Destructive & dirty.*

22 JUL 1909 Copy of letter Sept 10
He is suffering from General Paralysis. Is demented. Cannot remember who he is. Has no memory.
Health feeble.

18 Oct 1909. *Demented. Speech very incoherent. Very feeble - confined to bed. Sinking.*

20 Oct 1909. *Died Tonight at 7.35 P.M. in presence of all. Wise.*

21 Oct 1909. *P.M. today. Vide Reg E. vol. 118.*

Cause of Death as Certified.
General Paralysis of Insane.

G. Duncan.

Robert James Bliss Notice of Death at Chartham Asylum

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Mental Disease.

General Paralysis.

Union. *Elham.*

DISEASE.	Suffering from Epilepsy.	Suffering from General Paralysis.	Having Suicidal Propensity.	Whether Dangerous to others.	Having Phthisical Family History.	Having Family History of Intemperance.	Habits.	Religious Persuasion.	Time Insane.			Continuation Reference.	RESULT.
									Y.	M.	D.		
		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>C. & Bretham.</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>			<i>Died</i> <i>30 Oct 1909</i>

LUNACY ACT, 1890.—KENT COUNTY ASYLUM, CHARTHAM.—NOTICE OF DEATH.

Date of Reception Order—the *17th* day of *August* 190*8*
 I HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that *Robert James Bliss*
 a *Pauper* Patient received into this Asylum on the *17th* day of *August* 190*8*,
 died therein on the *20th* day of *October* 190*9*

(Signed) *Wm. W. Sibley* Clerk to the Asylum.

Dated the *22nd* day of *October*, 190*9*.

To the Coroner for East Kent.

STATEMENT RESPECTING THE ABOVE-NAMED PATIENT.

Name *Robert James Bliss*
 Sex and Age *Sex: Male Age: 45 years*
 Married, Single, or Widowed *Married*
 Profession or Occupation *Bookmaker*
 Previous place of Abode *No 11 Shellons Street Folkestone Kent*
 Apparent Cause of Death *General Paralysis of Insane*
 Post Mortem or Not *Yes*
 Time, and any unusual circumstances attending Death, or any Injuries known to exist or found on body after Death *7.35 PM None*
 Mental Condition at Death *Dementia*
 Duration of Disease of which Patient died *5 1/2 months*
 Name and Description of Persons present at Death *Attendant Walter Wise*
 Whether Mechanical Restraint was applied within 7 days of Death: if so, character and duration *No*

I hereby certify that the particulars contained in the above statement are true.

W. W. Sibley
 Medical Officer of the Asylum.

Robert James Bliss – Post-mortem (Not gruesome)

118

NAME. Robert James Bliss.

Regd. No.	Case Book reference.	Age.	Sex.	Occupation.	Admitted.	Died.	Post-Mortem Examination.	Mental State on Admission.	Mental State at Death.
	O 165.	45	M.	Bootmaker	17 Aug 1908	20 Oct 1909	21 Oct 1909	G. P. I.	G. P. I. Dement.

Condition of Body and external appearances, and whether or not bed-sores present.

P.M. 17 hours after death.
Body poorly nourished. P.M. rigidity present. No bed-sores.

HEAD.

Dura Mater shows some haemorrhage over R parieto-occipital region. Very slight excess of cerebro spinal fluid.
Pia was a little adherent at parts. Cerebral vessels were very congested. Vessels at base appeared normal.
Frontal convolutions showed slight wasting.

THORAX.

(Describe Condition of Ribs.)

Ribs intact.
Lungs: R lung was congested at base
L lung healthy.
Heart: appeared healthy.

118

Chartham.

Heard.		R. Lung.		L. Lung.		Liver.		Spleen.		R. Kidney.		L. Kidney.		Other Organs.	
lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz.
16½	9½	25		19½		56½		6½		6		7½		11½	oz.

Liver: some congestion
 Spleen: Congested
 Kidneys: R. showed small white infarct & one small cyst.
 L. appeared normal.

General Paralysis of Insane

(Signed) L. D. M. C. M.

Information provided by Dr Helen Wicker senior researcher at Kent Archives.

The Chartham Asylum Registers of Patients record that Robert James Bliss senior was admitted to the Asylum on 17 August 1908. Using this information, I was able to locate his case notes within volume ref. MH/T3/Mc48 f.165. His notes cover two pages, plus the notice of death recording that he died on 20 October 1909. A photograph of Robert, dated 3 September 1908, is also included.

Robert's case notes record that he was suffering from General Paralysis of the Insane upon admission, which means that he had been infected by syphilis. In the latter stages of this illness there are acute psychological symptoms, including delusions and later dementia. When Robert was admitted, his medical certificate recorded that he was already suffering from delusions: 'Has great ideas of his powers of fishing, says he has a net 37 fathoms & capable of catching 2 tons of fish, which he can put into his little pleasure boat, mends his boat with pieces of leather. Says that at the Judgment Day all Jews will be left on the earth'...'Present attack commenced 3 months ago, with change of speech, loss of memory, & sleeplessness. Has started fishing & taking his children out for hours at a time – has had to be rescued from drowning three times'. Although his trade is given as a bootmaker, Robert told doctors that he had given up his trade recently to take up fishing – although given his mental state, it is unclear how truthful this statement was.

Robert James Bliss outside his shop pre-1908

Whilst searching through some old boxes in a cupboard in my Dads house, I stumbled across this photo. It is Robert James Bliss (Snr) outside his Shoe shop in Folkestone; it was the only photo my Gran Brown had of her father as far as I can find. He is the one on the right, someone, probably my Gran put a cross above his head so we would know which one he was. The photo is circa 1901.

On 17 August 1908 he was committed to the Kent Asylum which may have been part of the reason his wife Eliza Bliss put the three boys into foster homes and kept the two girls.



Looking at the number above the door this must have been the shop in 12a Foord Road Folkestone. The area has long since been redeveloped and is now small blocks of flats or apartments.

[illegible]

Robert James Bliss 2049 marked by a Red star.

Robert James Bliss Baptism

Page 224							
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Folkestone in the County of Kent in the Year 1862							
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.	
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Christian.	Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.	
18 62 16th Oct 62	John Edwin	John	Stone	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
No. 1785	Edwin Emma	Edwin	Emma	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
18 62 19th Oct 62	Charles Benedict	Charles	Benedict	Folkestone	Labourer	R. Perfect	Curate
No. 1786	Frederick Alex	Frederick	Alex	Folkestone	Labourer	R. Perfect	Curate
18 62 19th Oct 62	George Thomas	George	Thomas	Folkestone	Labourer	R. Perfect	Curate
No. 1787	George Harry	George	Harry	Folkestone	Labourer	R. Perfect	Curate
18 62 22nd Oct 62	Edith Charles	Edith	Charles	Folkestone	Merchant	R. Perfect	Curate
No. 1788	Mary Mary Ann	Mary	Mary Ann	Folkestone	Merchant	R. Perfect	Curate
18 62 26th Oct 62	George John	George	John	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
No. 1789	Frank Louisa	Frank	Louisa	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
18 62 30th Oct 62	John John	John	John	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
No. 1790	Doris Louisa	Doris	Louisa	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
18 62 26th Oct 62	Harriet Thomas	Harriet	Thomas	Folkestone	Merchant	W. Bartley	Curate
No. 1791	Jane Harriet	Jane	Harriet	Folkestone	Merchant	W. Bartley	Curate
18 62 26th Oct 62	Arthur Edward	Arthur	Edward	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate
No. 1792	Harman Oliver	Harman	Oliver	Folkestone	Labourer	W. Bartley	Curate

Marked with the red star

I, ROBERT JAMES BLISS, of 24, Broadmead Road, and 12a, Foord Road, Folkestone, give Notice that I will not be responsible for any debts incurred by my wife, Eliza Bliss after this date, October 20th, 1905.

Newspaper cutting, not sure what went on here, but Robert James Bliss put this in the local paper The Folkestone Herald published on 21st October 1905.

Blackburn Eliza (Mrs.), sparis. see Gillard
Bliss Carl, greengrocer, 33 Green hill
Bliss Robert, boot maker, 12a, Foord road
Bodker Laura (Mrs.), newsagent No. 106 Gt

Business directory entry unknown year.

villa, De Burgh hill
Bliss & Carter, boot & shoe makers, 8 Folkestone road
Rockham Ernest Frank, tool dr & cutler, Worthington st

Dover Business Directory unknown year



**FOLKESTONE
QUARTER SESSIONS.**

JEWEL ROBBERIES.

The Quarter Sessions of the Peace were held at the Town Hall, Folkestone, on Saturday, before the Recorder, John Charles Lewis Coward, K.C., Esq. There were five prisoners for trial. The Recorder was accompanied on the Bench by the Mayor (Alderman Penfold) and the following Magistrates:—Aldermen Banks and Vaughan, Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton, Lieut.-Colonel Fynmore, Messrs. R. J. Linton, T. Ames, W. C. Carpenter, and J. Stainer.

THE GRAND JURY.

The Grand Jury were sworn in as follows:—
Messrs. Henry Charles H. Breuer, James Edward Berwick, Thomas Henry Binfield, Henry George Birch, Charles Frederick Bruce, Herbert F. Brown, Thomas Bull, William Bull, Arthur Richardson Burgess, John Walter Cann, William Curtis, Stephen Anderson, Joseph Ashdown, Arthur Ernest Baker, John Beecheno, Robert James Bliss, Arthur Belts, Walter R. Boughton, Albert Bowles, Henry John Bridges, and John Brissenden.

The above newspaper cutting appeared in the Folkestone Express, Sandgate, Shorncliffe & Hythe Advertiser Wednesday July 11, 1906 where it appears Robert James Bliss was a member of the Jury.

Robert James Bliss Grave

Cheriton Road Cemetery - Plot 5, Grave 3913 SHARED GRAVE



15 Darlington Street Folkestone in 2018