

Ninety Nine Years Later

This unused real photographic postcard captioned 'Brasted and Sundridge Reserves 1913-14' shows a joint village soccer team raised from two Kentish villages in the UK. Which whilst they are only a couple of miles apart, are less than 45 km from central London and these days bordered to their north by the famous M25 motorway. The smartly attired team, the very interesting gentleman on the left, the bike leaning upon the right hand wall are all lovely examples of social history to be found on old postcards. Even to the lady's face looking out from the small window: who were these souls? The photo of the team taken in the back yard of someone's building, note the wonky angle of the center chair, was quite possibly taken in the European spring of 1914, at the end of the UK soccer season to record the team's achievement. Whilst we may never know who the team members were, one thing we do know for certain is who took the photograph: a W H Drake of 63 Bassingham Rd. Earlsfield SW (that's London's South West.)

He was my grandfather. A few years ago my sister, who still lives in the UK did our family tree and found that our grandfather on our father's side was a photographer and postcard publisher. He had died before we were born and is so often the case, up until then, we knew nothing of his background. However upon this interesting discovery I removed (with great difficulty) old family photos from an ancient family album and in doing so found that most of them had been developed on stock postcard blanks with this address and in some cases an earlier one, already pre-printed. What an interesting find and how wonderful that I'm into collecting postcards a century later and I never knew.

So when WACCS Inc. Auction No. 147 was compiled and lot 90 was included it was indeed a shock and a total surprise to me that a postcard published by my grandfather should firstly be here in Western Australia and secondly be offered in our own auction. Of course it now resides in my collection but what a story it could tell of its life over the past 99 years. I still know nothing really of my grandfather's output but have found various examples of his other postcards on ebay. However this one is the first I've come across that is not a country scene or country house but they are always in an area not more that 20 miles (35km) from his home. This postcard image is now included on <http://www.brasted.co.uk> a website set up by Paul Furst who has documented the village's history. By the way do you know the names of any of the people shown ? You may think I'm joking but if this postcard can find me after all this time then you may just know who they were. It was only 99 years ago - so you never know!

Norman Drake. Perth

