

Donald Philcox - Newspaper Transcripts

From the "Bexhill Chronicle", 14th November 1914 (Slide DSCF2758)

"There was an enlistment of friends in the 6th Sussex Battery, R. F. A., early this week which is worth noting. The young men were Donald Philcox, of Amherst Road; J. H. Smart, A. R. C. O., of Amherst Road, organist of St Andrew's Church, Wickham Avenue; Lionel Evershed, son of Mr Evershed, of Station Road; Claude Lawrence, who has been for some time with Mr Philcox in his business; and W. Weddell."

"A few lines with regard to these recruits are worth writing. Mr Philcox is withdrawing temporarily from a valuable business in the Sackville Road, founded by his father and himself, at the call of his King and country. Mr Smart is leaving the profession in which he is taking a deep interest, also at the same call. The same remarks apply to the other recruits. This patriotism should be an incentive to many other young men in similar responsible positions."

"Mr Holes (Scoutmaster), son of Mr T. B. Holes, has also joined the standard."

From the "Bexhill Observer", 27th February 1915 (Slide 270215-3)

"BEXHILL ARTILLERYMEN AT SLOUGH"

"Amongst those on leave on Sunday from Slough, from the R. F. A. there stationed, was Gunner Philcox, son of Mr F. Philcox, of Amherst Road. Gunner Philcox was ill at Christmas and could not use the leave then available. His commanding officer gave him special leave last Sunday."

"Gunner Philcox had a very pleasant account to give of Slough and its surroundings. The camp was improving in its sanitary condition. The water was subsiding in the locality, and the health of the men was improving. They were all looking to still more hopeful conditions in the near future."

"The health of the Bexhill men was good and not only were they "fit", but doing, from a military point of view, very well indeed. The last inspection by a General had resulted in a compliment being paid to them by the inspecting officer, and the battery, composed largely of Bexhill men, was specially praised."

From the "Bexhill Chronicle", 29th January 1916 (Slide DSCF1804)

"Our readers will be pleased to hear that Mr Donald Philcox, R. F. A., Son of Mr F. Philcox, of Amherst Place, has completely recovered from his recent severe illness, and has been passed for foreign service. He is awaiting orders now to go abroad."

From the "Bexhill Observer", 20th October 1917 (P1070457)

"BEXHILL SOLDIER'S WEDDING"

"A pretty wedding of interest to Bexhill was quietly solemnised on Sunday at St Martin's Church, Brasted, near Westerham by the Rector, the Rev. Eustace Bryan."

"The bridegroom was Gunner Donald Philcox, R. F. A., only son of Mr J. F. Philcox, of 19, Amherst-Road, Bexhill. The bride was Miss Dorothy Towner, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Towner, of Brasted. The bridegroom has been stationed at headquarters in France, and has been in the stirring events on the Somme."

He is home on short leave and expects to return this week-end. The bride's parents are well known residence of Brasted."

"The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of pale blue crêpe-de-chine, and a black chiffon velvet hat, lined with blue. She carried a bouquet of white roses and lilies, the gift of the bridegroom."

"The bride's little niece, Miss Irene Smith, was the bridesmaid. She wore a dress of pale blue silk crêpe and a little lace."

"Mr C. Towner, brother of the bride, was the best man."

"A reception was held at the house of the bride's parents. The bride and bridegroom subsequently left for the honeymoon Bexhill. The brides going-away dress was a brown coat-frock with hat to match."

"The presents were numerous."

From the "Bexhill Observer", 17th May, 1919 (P1030606)

"STORY OF A WAR MARRIAGE"

"BEXHILL SOLDIER REPENTS"

"FATHER'S DISAPPROVAL"

"At the Sevenoaks Petty Sessions, on Friday last week, Mrs Dorothy Sophia Philcox made application for a maintenance and separation order against her husband, Mr Donald Philcox, of 19, Amherst-road, Bexhill, on the grounds of desertion."

"Mr W. H. House, of Sevenoaks, appeared for plaintiff, and the defendant was represented by Mr E. D. Berry, of Reading."

"Mr House, in opening, said the parties became acquainted in 1916, when defendant, who was in the Royal Sussex Regiment, was stationed at Brasted. In the September he went out to France, and in October of the following year he came home on leave, and they were married at Brasted Church. He went out again, and they corresponded regularly till November, 1918, when he came home again for 14 days leave. They then lived together. In December last defendant was down with pleurisy, and he again came home and went into hospital, where he remained until the beginning of January of this year. His wife saw him in London, and he then proceeded to Bexhill, where he set about making plans for the future home. His father was a grocer with two businesses, and the plan was that defendant and his wife should go to Bexhill and carry on one of the businesses for his father. That was the intention until quite recently. About the end of February, however, the wife seemed to notice a difference in her husband's letters and she wrote and asked if anything she had written had upset him. Addressing her as "Dearest Doris", defendant replied that there was nothing in her letters to make him cross, but that the difference was all on his side."

"CEASED TO LOVE HER"

"Mr House at this point read a number of letters showing that defendant was purchasing various articles for the home, and that the wife was also getting small things together, but on March 23rd defendant wrote that it was time they came to some understanding. He had ceased to love her as a husband should love his wife, he had no further regard for her, and it would be impossible that they could ever live happily together. He went on to say that the only thing was to get the marriage annulled, and it was no use living in unhappiness. If she wished to be free he would help her in every way. Mr House said he thought it was the coolest case the Bench had ever had to deal with. He had married the girl and then simply did not wish to maintain her."

"Mr Berry – Pardon me."

“Mr House – Well, he did not wish to have her to live with him as his wife.”

“Continuing, Mr House said the wife went to Bexhill to see what he was going to do, and he said he would make her some payment out of his wages of £1 a week. Later he said he was prepared to allow her 14s per week.”

“GO THEIR OWN WAYS”

“Dorothy Sophia Philcox, complainant, said she was living with her parents at High Street, Brasted, when she met the defendant, and they were married on 4th October, 1917, spending the honeymoon at Bexhill. The question of making a home at Bexhill was discussed at Bexhill, and the father said that as soon as they were settle down her husband would have one of the businesses to carry on on his own account. The defendant’s stepmother also told her the same thing. In January he wrote giving her a list of things he had already got together and asked her to send her boxes of things on to Bexhill from Brasted. This she did, and she was proposing sending other boxes down in March when she received the letter telling her that he had changed, but that he should always remember she was his wife, although they must each go their own ways. That was the first intimation she had had that he had ceased to love her, and that he had stopped making arrangements for their home. He went down to Bexhill on 31st March, and he then said that he did not wish to live with her, but was quite willing to allow her part of his earnings. She had never had an explanation from him as to why he did not wish to live with her.”

“Replying to Mr Berry, witness said the reason why they did not go to live at Bexhill when he came out of the Army was that the house was not vacant, but defendant’s mother told her that it was vacant. She had not been to see the house, and she did not know exactly where it was, but she believed it was somewhere in Windsor-road. When she was married she was munition making. She left that in March, 1917. She afterwards lived at home for some time, and then went into service in May, 1918. It was on her husband’s advice that she gave notice and went home. He gave her sums of money amounting to about £6, mostly Christmas and birthday presents. He had been sending her 14s a week since April 4th. The last time they lived together was in November of last year.”

“THE REASON WHY”

“At the conclusion of complainant’s evidence the Chairman asked if there was any reason why the differences should not be made up. It seemed to the Bench that no reason what ever had been given as to why they were estranged.”

“Mr Berry said it was one of those unfortunate war marriages where the father and mother did not countenance the union.”

“Mr House said this could hardly be the case, at least with the mother, because she had written a most friendly letter.”

“Mr Berry said the father had married again to a much younger woman. What his client was prepared to do was to go on paying the 14s per week until some other arrangements could be made. He had hopes of getting out to Canada, and he would probably take his wife with him if he did go.”

“Some question having arisen as to defendant earnings, the latter said he earned £2 a week, and paid 25s a week for board and lodgings.”

“WIVES AND FATHERS”

“The Chairman asked why defendant did not get another situation and leave his father?”

“Mr Berry replied the defendant was between the devil and the deep blue sea.”

“Mr House – And he chose the devil.”

“Mr Berry – Well, one can always get a fresh wife, but one cannot always get a fresh father.”

“A Magistrate pointed out that he did not agree with the facts, because in the letter he said he did not wish to live with his wife.”

“Defendant, in reply to a question as to what he received actually in the way of salary, said that he lived at home and 25s per week was deducted for board and lodging. He received £1 per week and a small commission, making it up to about 25s per week.”

“Mr House pointed out that defendant’s statements had been most inconsistent on this point and it was hardly reasonable to suppose that a grocer’s assistant would be working for £2 a week, which was now an agricultural labourer’s pay.”

“The Bench retired to consider the case, and upon returning into Court the Chairman said the Magistrates felt very much in the dark about it all, but there were always certain difficulties where people were employed by their parents. They hoped that the plaintiff and defendant would come together again in time. They granted the wife a maintenance order for 15s per week and £2 2s costs, and also made an order for separation.”
