

Frank Newman was a Member of the Essex Association of Change Ringers between 1902 and 1912. He rung the treble to a peal of minor on March 7th 1905. Frank was born in Heybridge on 13th March 1877. Frank's parents were Joseph a Malt Maker born 1835 at Coggeshall and Ann nee Jealous born at Felsted in 1838. They were married at Maldon in 1865. Joseph died in 1879 and Ann in 1912. Frank had an elder brother Joseph who was born at Heybridge in 1867. He married Alice and they had three children Lilian, Clara and Frederick all born at Stoke Newington.

Frank joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Second Class aged 16 on 7th January 1893. His first week was spent on HMS Impregnable a training establishment located on HMS Howe. On his 18th birthday Frank became an Ordinary Seaman. His service record indicates that his engagement was for 12 years. Whilst serving on HMS Victorious participated she took part in the Fleet Review for Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee on the 26th June 1897. Following the review she moved from home waters to the Mediterranean. In February 1898 HMS Victorious was detached from Mediterranean Service for the China Station. However she ran aground whilst entering Port Said and re-floated two days later. HMS Victorious returned to the Mediterranean for a refit in Malta. On 16th May 1900 Frank joined HMS Revenge as she was returning to home waters having been recommissioned in Malta. Frank was discharged from the Royal Navy on 3rd May 1901 the reason being "Shore by Purchase".

At Heybridge on May 7th 1900 Frank married Rhoda Springett. She was born in Heybridge on 25th April 1875. Prior to her marriage Rhoda was a domestic servant to the Rev H.T.W Eyre. At the time of the 1901 census Frank and Rhoda were living with Frank's mother Ann at Heybridge.

On the 24th October 1903 Frank joined the Royal Navy Reserves and signed up for 5 years.

In 1911 Frank and Rhoda were still living with Frank's mother but at Broad Street Green. His occupation a Gardener and Sexton. (A Sexton is an official of a church charged with taking care of the edifice and its contents, ringing the bell etc and sometimes burying the dead).

On the 2nd of August, at the out-brake of WW 1, Frank was posted to HMS Euryalus. Most of the ship's company were reservists. Euryalus was in the 7th Cruiser Squadron and deployed to cover the landing of the British Expeditionary Force in France 7-16 August and then took a distant role in the Battle of Heligoland Bight on the 28th August 1914. This was the first general action of the war and four German Ships were sunk. Euryalus then continued to the Dogger Bank patrol. On September 20th Euryalus left to coal and narrowly avoided the fate of her sister ships Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy who were torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U9 on September the 22nd. Frank continued to serve in the Royal Navy and was finally discharged on the 25th April 1919.

Frank died in 1949 and Rhoda in 1953. I have not been able to trace any children however Rhoda had several siblings Esther, Arthur, Emma, Charles, Herbert, Polly and George.