

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL  
Ivry, Lady Freyberg

## STELLA WILLOUGHBY SAVILE COBBOLD

January 2019

The Trust has been sent the following piece by **Lucy London** who runs the **Inspirational Women of World War One** Facebook and weblog, passed to us by **David Douglas Cobbold #9809** on the web family tree who lives in Belstead. Thank you David.

“I write to ask if it would be possible, please to say prayers for a lady who worked tirelessly during WWI and died on 2nd December 1918 – **Stella Willoughby Savile Cameron Cobbold (1882-1918)**, (#348 on the web family tree – ED), who was buried in the Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Belstead?

**Julia Barrett** writes: Throughout **Mabel Pretty**'s work with the Red Cross and as the wife of the Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, one of her closest friends and colleagues was Stella Cobbold. Married to Barrister **Clement John Fromanteel Cobbold (1882-1961)** (#347 – ED), of the famous Ipswich brewing family. Stella was also the great niece of **Lord Gwydyr (1810-1909)** (#10552 – ED) of Stoke Park, Belstead. Her father was one of the doctors who pioneered

blood transfusion during the war, as treatment for massive haemorrhage and Stella was involved with Red Cross from its inception. Educated at Roedean, Stella was in the same year group as Mabel's sister-in-law **Mildred Pretty** and **Edith Dempster (later Mrs Edith Pretty of Sutton Hoo)**. Mabel and Stella were founder members of the Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross and their husbands were Commanding Officers of the 1/6th Battalion and 2/6th Battalion Suffolk Regiment respectively.



*Stella Willoughby Savile Cobbold #348*



*Stella's grave at Belstead*



*Lt. Col. Clement John Fromanteel Cobbold #347*

Mabel and Stella were at the head of the group of ladies who so successfully established the Hospital Supplies Depot and the country-wide network of depots which completely supplied all the Red Cross hospitals across the country, as well as sending supplies and medicines directly to the conflict fronts. Both women experienced personal loss during WWI but they worked tirelessly for the entire duration of the conflict, with no let-up even when the **Armistice** came. Moving their work into caring for those recovering from Injuries and the onslaught of the Spanish Flu, Stella herself, worn out by the war and personal loss, finally succumbed. The 2nd December 2018 marked 100 years since an incredible woman gave her life for her country. She was just 36.



*Belstead Church, Ipswich, Suffolk*