

The History Behind the Name Olive Harriette Paterson 17 May 1895 – 1980

Olive Harriette Mower was born to George A Mower and Katherine Mower (formerly Packard) in 1895 in Kensington, London.

George was an engineer and although originally from Stillwater, Minnesota he moved to England in 1884, following a business trip the previous year. He would go on to establish several engineering companies and acquire a controlling stake in the Bifurcated and Tubular Rivet Co. which would later be moved to Aylesbury.

Olive had one sister Marion Katherine Mower who was born in 1897.



**To the left:
Marion**



**To the right:
George**



**The Mower Residence
14 Collingham Gardens
Kensington**

Olive was 19 when World War I broke out.

She worked as a British Red Cross nurse at Englefield Green Military Hospital, London for five months in 1917 to help the war effort.

Surname MOWER Reg'd 26.10.20.22-6.20
 Christian Name Olive Harriette (Mary-Marian Miss)
 Permanent Address: 14 Collingham Pans.
5th Kensington S.W.
 Date of Engagement 15-5-17 Rank nurse Pay 1
 Date of Termination 16-10-17 Rank Pay
 Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where P.T.C.
 Dept. for References J.W.V.D.D
 Honours awarded
 Character

**Olive's Information
Document from her time as
a nurse**

Leslie, her soon to be husband, was in the army and rose to the ranks of temporary lieutenant and temporary captain of the highland light infantry and machine gun corps respectively. He fought on the Western Front in France.

He was awarded a medal of victory for his efforts.

**Leslie's Medal Card from
World War I**

Campaign 1914-15 (A) Where decoration was earned.
 (B) Present situation.
 Name PATERSON Corp H.L.I. Rank Lieut Reg. No. 151/04
 (B) L.M. M.G.C. Plapt
 Roll on which included (if any)
 MEDAL 1914-15 ROLL OFF/227 PAGE 37
 VICTORY 1914-15
 THEATRE OF WAR France (1)
 Theatre of War France (1)
 QUALIFYING DATE 12-5-15
 (C 34 10) W234-HP550 500,000 4/10 IIWV(P240) R008
 1916 Star issued 151/04/27-1-20 Rel. g. Com. 6-5-18
12/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18 15/11/18

In late 1918 Olive Mower became Olive Paterson after marrying Leslie Martin Paterson, an engineer born in London and raised in Hampshire.

Interestingly Leslie described himself as an engineering pupil based in Kensington on the 1911 census. George Mower lived in Kensington and was himself an engineer – perhaps Leslie was under George's tutelage and this is how he met Olive.

The couple had five children (according to one source) from around 1921-1946.

On November 9th 1939, Olive was elected as the first lady mayor of Aylesbury. She held this position through the turbulent times of World War II and in a video (credit to Mr. McIntosh) of a BBC broadcast she can be seen addressing the people of Aylesbury in Market Square on United Nations Day in 1942. (below)



Although I am unsure of the exact dates of her tenure, to my knowledge she served for between 2-6 years as mayor before being replaced.

Her eldest son, John Mower Alexander Paterson also had an active role during the war. He kept up the running family theme and was also an engineer. These skills were essential in his position as a lieutenant in the 756th Field Company of Royal Engineers.

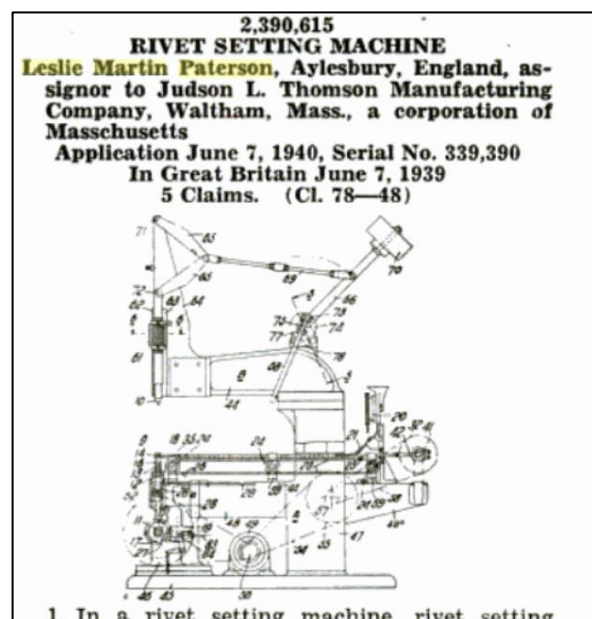
Post war, John lived in Stoke Mandeville and his residence Tudor House on Wendover Road is a grade II listed historical property.

7	WIFE: Mrs. M. Paterson Tudor House Stoke Mandeville V/N.Y. Bucks.	England V N.Y.	-	YES SELF	YES YES 1939 N.Y.	MAR 1939	Business: J.L.Thomson Waltham, Mass.
8	Husband: Mr.L.M.Paterson, Foxhill Aylesbury, Bucks.	England V N.Y.	-	YES SELF	YES YES 1939 N.Y.	MAR 1939	Cousin: Mrs.G.Dudley 107 Hampshire Rd.Syracus Neice
9	U.S. C I T I Z E N	-	-	-	-	-	AS ABOVE

Interestingly this excerpt from a 1948 New York Immigration log shows information on Olive and John, stating their spouses and UK residencies. The row below this marked “US citizen” is from Katherine Mower, Olive’s mother showing a shared voyage between the three of them. Several records of Olive travelling to the USA can be found further displaying the family’s American heritage and links.

Also fascinatingly John states intent to visit Judson L Thomson. He was the founder of Thomson’s Patent Bifurcated Rivets, an American company that had in the past been supplied to by The Bifurcated and Tubular Rivet Co. A legal document even shows Leslie, whom worked for the Aylesbury based company, handing over patent rights to Thomson for a rivet-setting machine with automatic feed.

**Clipping from the
Official Gazette of the
New York Patent Office
in 1945**



Despite losing the responsibility of being mayor, Olive became Alderman (to my knowledge this means she was the mayor’s second-in-command) and additionally was able to pursue other endeavors and was chairwoman of the governors at Aylesbury Grammar School during the 1950s.

It seems that some things never change as even then the 1959 Aylesburian had a segment entitled "SCHOOL NEEDS FUND, 1958/59" stating "The balance in hand on 1st September 1958, was £334 2s. 10d!"

Similarly, to his mother, John was an excellent public servant and he held the responsibility of Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire from 1978-1979. These services led to high recognition and he was included in the Queen's 1985 New Year's Honours list, receiving an OBE for public services in Buckinghamshire.

Kingston Hospital and Royal Dental Hospital,
London.
Robert Frederick James PARSONS. For Political
and Public Service.
**John Mower Alexander PATERSON, D.L. For
public services in Buckinghamshire.**
John Bramwell PATON. Director of Horticulture,
Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
Thomas William Saunderson PATTON, Member,
Belfast City Council.
James Beaumont PENDLE. For Political and
Public Service.
Alan John PIKE. Senior Principal. Department of

**Extract from the London
Gazette from 28th
December 1984 showing
John's OBE recognition**

Disappointingly for John he was not the first in the family to be bestowed this honour. A 1959 copy of the Aylesburian displays Olive's name with the title of OBE – clearly an acknowledgement of her excellent work in the community.

But sadly, his mother was no longer around to see her son receive this award.

Olive passed away in 1980.

Her memory was, however, honoured. The sixth house at Aylesbury Grammar School was born and it was fittingly named, Paterson, after a woman who contributed so much not only to a small school on Walton Road, but the entire town of Aylesbury

Her legacy was maintained further by her son, John, whom continued the Paterson family's positive influence on the school community as chairman of the governors throughout the 1990s.

40 years after it was founded Paterson House continues to flourish. With several trophies in the cabinet and more to come in the future, I hope that Olive would be as proud of her house, as myself and each and every member is to be a part of it.

Sachin Patel, Pa12