



Willie Wainwright

1896 -1916

Willie was born in Thornhill on 20th August 1896 and was baptised at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 16th January 1897. His father was Joseph Henry Wainwright, a stonemason born in Batley in 1870 and died in 1932. His mother was Frances Amelia (née Firth) born in Thorne near Doncaster in 1862 and died in 1927. They were married at St. Mary's Parish Church, Barnsley on 29th December 1890. On the 1911 Census they declare nine children born to the marriage of which two had died.

Their other children who could be traced were; Walter, born in 1894 and served in World War 1, George, born in 1898 and served in World War 1, Herbert, born in 1900, Bingley Wilson, born in 1902, John William, born in 1904 and Hubert, born in 1906.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at Victoria Cottages, Thornhill, in 1911 at 6, Morton Street, Thornhill Lees and later at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees.

Willie was a single man whose occupation in 1911 was an Errand Boy for a Grocer and prior to enlisting worked at the Lion Stores Grocery in Thornhill Lees. He was connected with Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Chapel and Bible Class and was member of Thornhill Lees Church Institute and Bowling Club.

He enlisted on 15th December 1915 as Private 42344 in the Northumberland Fusiliers and was later transferred to the 1st/8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry serving as Private 301770. He was sent to the Western Front on 6th October 1916 and was killed in action on 5th November 1916 during the later stages of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Willie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Willie is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Willie Wainwright

301770, 1st/8th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 05 November 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

WAINWRIGHT W.