



## **Michael Flanagan**

### **1875 – 1917**

Michael was born in Dewsbury on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1875. His father was Timothy Flanagan, a mason's labourer born in Ireland around 1847 and died in 1896. His mother was Margaret Waldron or Walder (nee Flanagan) born in County Roscommon, Ireland around 1847 and died in 1879. They were married on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1872 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown, Dewsbury.

They had a daughter, Margaret, born in 1877.

Margaret Flanagan had previously been married to Michael Waldron or Walder on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1863 and almost immediately afterwards they emigrated to the USA. They had a daughter Mary, born there in 1867; Michael Waldron died in the USA and Margaret and Mary returned to Dewsbury.

Following the death of his wife Margaret, Timothy was remarried on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1881 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church to Elizabeth Murray, born in Castlereagh, County Roscommon, Ireland around 1854 and died in 1929.

Their children were; Catherine, born in 1883, Timothy, born in 1885, Thomas Francis, born in 1887 and died of wounds on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1918, James, born in 1889 and served in World War 1 and Dennis, born in 1891.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family were living at 19, Asylum Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 33, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Michael was a single man who worked as a builder for Messrs Wilcox Brothers in Thornhill and was a boarder for several years with Mr. Fred Leather at the Golden Lion Hotel, Westtown, Dewsbury. In his younger days he had played in the St. Paulinus Football Team.

He enlisted in February 1916 serving as Private 242074 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Michael was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Sadly, his medals were disposed of by the authorities as they were returned from the address to which they were sent.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Michael 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Michael Flanagan**

242074, 2nd/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 25 February 1917

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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