



Benjamin Farnhill

1876 - 1917

Benjamin was born in Dewsbury in 1876. His father was Sam Farnhill, a Master Joiner born in Dewsbury in 1845 and died in 1882. His mother was Emma (nee Mallinson) born in Huddersfield in 1844 and died in 1915. They were married on 25th July 1871 at the Springfield Congregational Chapel, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Sarah Jane, born in 1873, Mabeth, born in 1878 and Sam, born in 1883 and died 20th December 1921 from the effects of gas poisoning sustained in action whilst serving in World War 1; he was discharged in February 1918 with a disability pension.

On the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census Records they lived at 29, Vulcan Road, Flatts, Dewsbury.

Benjamin worked for Kilner Brothers glass bottle makers, and was formerly a postal worker. He was married to a widow, Harriet Richmond nee Tyas (born in 1872 and died in 1934) on 26th February 1898 at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen, Dewsbury. They had a son, Sam Farnhill born in 1898 and died 22nd October 1919 in Richmond Hospital, Surrey from wounds sustained in action in August 1918 in France. In 1901, Harriet and her children lived at 19, Back Webster Street, Dawgreen whilst Benjamin was serving in South Africa.

Harriet was previously married to Adam James Richmond (born in 1867 and died in 1895) at St. John the Baptist Church on 1st April 1893; they had a son, George William Richmond, born in 1894.

He had served as Private 15685 in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the South Africa Campaign (Boer War) and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Orange Free State & Cape Colony. He was recalled upon the outbreak of war in August 1914 serving as Private 265632 in the 18th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own) and formerly as Private 2260 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He served in France from 13th April 1915 to 16th January 1916 when he was transferred to the Home Service Provisional Battalion at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex due to bronchitis and rheumatism and was later seconded to the Military Police there. He died of wounds from shell fragments whilst sheltering in a doorway in St. Paul's Road, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent, during an air-raid on 30th September 1917. He had been on duty getting people to go under cover. He is buried in Dewsbury Cemetery with his son Sam who died of wounds in 1919. Benjamin was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Benjamin is 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 and on the Memorial in the now demolished St. James Mission Church, Vulcan Road, Flatts and on the Margate War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Benjamin Farnhill

265632, 18th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 30 September 1917 Age 41

Husband of Harriet Farnhill, of 19, Back Webster St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

