



## **Fred Evan Oldroyd**

### **1887-1918**

Fred was born in Ravensthorpe on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1887. His father was Thomas Even Oldroyd, a blanket raiser born in Batley in 1846 and died in 1913. His mother was Sarah Hannah (nee Clegg) born in Dewsbury in 1845 and died in 1911. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1874.

The paternal middle name is variously spelt as *Even*, *Evan* and on Fred's Birth Record as *Heven*, his Marriage Record as *Evan* which was altered to *Even* and his father Thomas's Birth Record as *Evans*.

Their other children were; Margaret Ann, born in 1874, Joseph, born in 1877 and died in 1908, Hannah May, born in 1882 and Allen Buckley, born in 1884 and died of wounds on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1917.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 42, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury Moor, in 1901 at 110, Knowles Hill Road, and in 1911 at 8, Wroe Street, Dewsbury Moor.

Fred was educated at St. John's School, Dewsbury Moor and attended St. John the Evangelist Church. He worked as a Corn Miller for Mr. Benjamin Tolson, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor and was married to Louisa Dransfield (born in 1879 and died in 1922) on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1911 at Dewsbury Register Office. They lived with Louisa's mother Martha Ann at 20, Fall Lane, Dewsbury and later at 78, Gledhill Terrace, Dewsbury Moor. They had a daughter, Edith, born in 1911. Louisa had a daughter, Nellie Dransfield, born in 1906 and died in 1929.

He enlisted in December 1915 serving as Private 202233 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front early in 1917, he was slightly wounded later that year and came home on leave at Easter 1918. He died of wounds on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1918 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital, Doullens, France and was buried in Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Gezaincourt is a village a little south-west of the town of Doullens. The Communal Cemetery Extension was opened in March 1916 and used until March 1917, and again from March to October 1918. In most cases, the burials were carried out from casualty clearing stations and, in June to August 1918, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital. The cemetery contains 596 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 3 of which are unidentified.

Fred 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. He is listed as *Fred E. Oldroyd* on the latter two.

In Memory of

Private

**F E Oldroyd**

202233, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 26 June 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.