



Edward Gildea 1892-1918

Edward was born in Dewsbury on 27th March 1892; his surname was registered as *Kildare*. His father was James Kildare, a Woollen Spinner born in Ireland around 1857 and died in 1894. His mother was Bridget, born in Dewsbury in 1856 and died in 1935; her birth surname was registered as *Loghan* and her marriage surname as *Loughan* and was sometimes spelt *Logan*. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 11th August 1877.

There are many spelling variations of the family's surname; this may possibly be due to phonetic interpretations of their Irish accent. The officially registered names do not always match Baptism and Marriage names in church records.

Their other children were; William *Gildare*, born in 1878 and served in World War 1, Mary Ellen *Gildea*, born in 1881, James *Kildare*, born in 1883 and died in 1893, Joseph *Gildea*, born in 1886 and served in World War 1 and twins Margaret *Kildare*, born in 1889 and died in 1889, Winifred *Kildare*, born in 1889.

On the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census records they lived at 30, Asylum Road, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Edward was single man who attended St. Paulinus Church and the Weekday and Sunday schools and was a member of Westtown Young Men's Club; he worked as a Blanket Fuller at Wormalds and Walkers Mill and was a playing member of Dewsbury Celtic Rugby Club where he was described as one of their best players.

He enlisted in August 1917 and was sent to the Western Front in December that same year serving as Private 47619 in the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in France on 29th March 1918; his family received a letter from his Company Commander 2nd Lieutenant T.R. Aspinall informing them that he had been killed by a sniper. He was buried in Gommecourt British Cemetery No. 2, Hebuterne, Pas-de-Calais, France. Edward was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After a visit made by some parishioners of Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church to the cemetery in 2004 which included members of the Gildea family, it was discovered that his headstone bore the surname '*Gilded*'. Efforts were made to rectify this error which required the obtaining of a copy of his Overseas Death Certificate; a correction was then carried out by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 2008. Interestingly, the Death Certificate gave the cause of death as "*Killed Accidentally*". If this is correct then perhaps the authorities at the time did not wish to disclose the facts to avoid causing distress to his family.

Edward 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.

In Memory of

Private

Edward Gildea

47619, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 29 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Gommecourt British Cemetery No.2, Hebuterne



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

