



Henry Smithson

1881-1918

Henry was born in Dewsbury in 1881. His father was George Smithson, a Cloth Finisher born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1903. His mother was Hannah Maria (nee Dyson) born in Dewsbury in 1855 and died in 1929. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 25th March 1876.

Their other children were; Alfred, born in 1877 and died in 1877, Albert, born in 1878 and died in 1878, Featherstone, born in 1879 and died in 1880, John Edwin, born in 1883, George, born in 1885, Fred, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Ned, born in 1889, Sarah, born in 1891 and Martha, born in 1896.

On the 1881 Census the family lived in Scargill Street, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 28, Quarry Street, Batley and in 1901 and 1911 at 76, Upper Road, Dewsbury and later at Salter Street, Batley Carr.

Henry was married in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 21st December 1901 to Alice Ada Blakeley (born in 1880 and died in 1917) his occupation was shown as a Spinner but by 1911 he was a District Manager for an Insurance Company. They lived at 47, Thornhill Road, Dewsbury and had five children; Albert, born in 1903, Mabel, born in 1905 and died in 1905, Eva, born in 1907 and died in 1908, Norman, born in 1909 and Cyril, born in 1911. The family relocated in 1913 to live at Garforth near Leeds where Henry took a job in the office at the Garforth Colliery and was also the ambulance instructor, a role he had filled for many years in Dewsbury.

He enlisted at the outbreak of the war in August 1914 serving in Royal Army Medical Corps with the Service Number 1861 rising to the rank of Serjeant. He briefly served on the Western Front but was posted to Salonika around November 1915 with the 1st West Riding Field Ambulance serving as Serjeant 401499. After six months there he contracted a fever which ultimately left him paralysed and he was confined to Rochester Row Military Hospital in London for two and a half years until he died on 7th November 1918. Henry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was buried in Garforth Cemetery with his wife Alice who had died on 15th February 1917.

Henry 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 Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Garforth War Memorial.

In Memory of
Serjeant
Henry Smithson

401499, 1st West Riding Field Amb, Royal Army Medical Corps who died on 07 November 1918 Age 37

Husband of the late Alice Ada Smithson, who is buried in the same grave.

Remembered with Honour
Garforth Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

