



## William Henry Peach 1896 – 1915

William was born in Thornhill in 1896. His father was Benjamin Peach, born in Stockerston, Leicestershire in 1857 and died in 1896. His mother was Beatrice (nee Gilligan) born in Pontefract in 1869 and died in 1909; her birth name is recorded as *Bridget*. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church, Halifax on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1890.

Their other children were; John Edward, born in Siddall, Halifax in 1891 and Amy, born in Thornhill in 1894.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Lower Wat Ing, Norland near Halifax, in 1901 at Combs Road, Thornhill. In 1911 William was living with the family of his half- brother Thomas at 16, Walker Street, Lees Moor, Thornhill.

Benjamin was previously married in 1877 to Sarah Ann Pridmore (born in Morcott, Rutland in 1858 and died in 1889). They had five children; Mary, born in Stockerston in 1878, Charles, born in Alford, Northamptonshire in 1879, Benjamin, born in Morcott in 1881, Joseph, born in Siddall in 1884, and Thomas, born in Siddall in 1886.

William was a single man whose occupation in 1911 was as a Haulage Boy (Labourer) in a coal mine.

He enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards serving as Private 12225 and was sent to the Western Front on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1915. He was killed near Vermelles, France on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1915 and is buried in Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vermelles is a village 10 kilometres north-west of Lens. It was in German hands from the middle of October 1914 to the early December 1914, when it was recaptured by the French. The cemetery was begun in August 1915 (though a few graves are slightly earlier), and during the Battle of Loos, when the Chateau was used as a dressing station. There are now over 2134 First World War casualties commemorated in this cemetery. Of these, 198 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to six soldiers from the United Kingdom, known to be buried among them.

William 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. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill where his surname is spelt *Peace*.

In Memory of

Private

**W H Peach**

12225, 1st Bn., Coldstream Guards who died on 08 October 1915 Age 19

Son of Benjamin and Beatrice Peach, of Thornhill, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Vermelles British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.