



Frank Blakeley

1893-1920

Frank was born in Batley Carr in 1893. His father was Tolson Blakeley, a School Caretaker born in Batley Carr in 1864 and died in 1938. His mother was Martha (nee Lyles) born in Batley Carr in 1865 and died in 1911. They were married on 23rd February 1889 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

Their other children were; George Alfred, born in 1889 and died 1890, Walter, born in 1896 and Albert Edward, born in 1902 and died in 1902.

On the 1891 Census, Tolson and Martha lived at 137, Lidgate Lane, Dewsbury, in 1901 with their children Frank and Walter at 30, Beckett's Yard, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 11, Thomas Street, off Beckett Road, Batley Carr and later at 25, Naylor Street, Batley Carr.

Frank was a single man who on the 1911 Census is recorded as a grocer's assistant. When he enlisted in 1915 he gave his occupation as a warehouseman.

He attested in Dewsbury on 22nd October 1915 and was posted to Woolwich the following day, serving as Driver 114406 with the Royal Horse and Field Artillery. He served at home until 14th October 1916 and was sent to Mesopotamia on 15th October 1916. He returned to England on 21st August 1918 and went on leave the following day. Whilst on leave he was admitted to hospital suffering from consumption and was discharged from the Army on 10th October 1918. He was granted a pension of 27/6d per week from 11th October 1918 and issued with Silver War Badge B26875. He died at his home at Naylor Street on 14th August 1920 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Tuberculosis of the Intestine due to active service. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Frank was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Frank is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

He is one of twenty men named on the above but who are not recorded as official war casualties, due to their cause of death not being officially attributed to war service.