



## **Willie Croft**

### **1892-1918**

Willie was born in Thornhill Lees on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1892 and baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1892 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill. His father was Simon Croft, a blanket raiser born in Thornhill Lees in 1856 and died in 1902. His mother was Martha Ann (nee Dewhirst) born in Thornhill in 1855 and died in 1928. They were married on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1881 at St. Michael and All Angels Church.

Their other children were; William, born in 1881 and died in 1882, Percy, born in 1883, Ada Ann, born in 1885, Edith, born in 1890, Jesse, born in 1894 and Ellen, born in 1895.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Schofield Buildings, Edge Road, Thornhill, in 1901 and 1911 at Edge End East, Thornhill.

Willie worked as a Coal Miner/Hurrier and was married to Maggie Senior (born in 1893 and died in 1950) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Denby Dale near Huddersfield on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1918; they did not have any children. Maggie later moved to live at 14, Park View, New Scarborough, Yeadon, Yorkshire.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 66635 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was killed in action near Le Quesnoy, France on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918; he was buried in Ruesnes Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Willie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ruesnes is a village approximately 4 kilometres north-west of Le Quesnoy, Ruesnes Communal Cemetery lies to the north-west of the village on the road to Sepmeries. Ruesnes was occupied by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. The Commonwealth plots were made by the 62<sup>nd</sup> (West Riding) Division, and contain the graves of soldiers who fell in November, 1918. There are now over 80, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

Willie 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.

In Memory of  
Private  
**W Croft**

66635, 5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 04 November 1918 Age 26

Husband of Maggie Croft, of 14, Park View, New Scarborough, Yeadon, Leeds.

Remembered with Honour  
**Ruesnes Communal Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.