



## **Frederick Thomas Sheldrake**

### **1893 – 1917**

Thomas was born in Thornhill Lees on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1893 and baptised on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December of that year at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was Albert George Sheldrake, a Maltster born in Mendlesham, Suffolk in 1870. His mother was Annie Sophia (nee Freshney) born in Wesley Hills near Spalding, Lincolnshire in 1868 and died in 1919. They were married on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1892 at Holy Trinity Church, Wakefield.

Annie had a daughter, Edith Annie Freshney, born in 1889.

Their other children were; William, born in 1895 and died in 1896, Robert, born in 1898 and served in World War 1, Hetty, born in 1899 and Ruth Hilda, born in 1902.

On the 1901 Census, Annie is recorded as the head of the family at 7, Parker Road, Dewsbury. Albert is living as a boarder at 1, Tadman's Buildings off Thornes Lane, Wakefield. He served a 10 day prison sentence for a rates debt in February 1901 and later a 1 month prison sentence in June 1902 for the desertion of his wife. No further trace of him or death record has been found.

On the 1911 Census Annie and her children were living with a widower Herbert Lister and three of his four children at 13, Back Albion Street, Springfield, Dewsbury; they had a son, Herbert Lister Sheldrake, born in 1907.

Thomas was married in 1912 to Emily Sheard (born in 1890 and died in 1970), they lived at 105, Rothery's Yard, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr and had a son; Bernard, born in 1913. Prior to enlistment he had worked at Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton's Shaw Cross Colliery. Emily was remarried in 1919 to Francis Commons (born in 1897 and died in 1937) they had two children; Fred Sheard, born in 1923 and Harry, born in 1925.

He enlisted at the outbreak of war on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 into the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 1505, rising to the rank of Serjeant; he was sent to the Western Front on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 1915. He was wounded in the arm and leg on the First Day of the Battle of the Somme on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 and was wounded again in the hand and back on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1916, coming home on sick leave for 10 days. On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1917 whilst serving in the Ypres Salient he was in the process of being taken to a dressing station suffering from Shell Shock but was posted as wounded and missing and was subsequently recorded as being killed in action on that date. In June 1921 his remains were found and he was reburied in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Thomas was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Thomas is commemorated as *Thomas Sheldrake* on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of  
Serjeant  
**T Sheldrake**

1505, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 23 January 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Ypres Reservoir Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.