



Joseph Slater 1863-1914

Joseph was born in South Hiendley, near Hemsworth, Yorkshire on 4th September 1863 and baptised on 5th September at St. Peter's Church, Felkirk, South Hiendley. His father was Matthew Slater, an Engineer in a woollen mill born in Whenby near York in 1826 and died in 1881. His mother was Jane (nee Welch) born in Raskelf, Yorkshire in 1827 and died in 1884. They were married on 2nd August 1848 at St. Helen's Church, Stillingfleet, Yorkshire.

Their other children were; Mary Jane, born in Stillington, near Easingwold, Yorkshire in 1854 and Matthew, born in Stillington in 1856.

On the 1871 Census the family lived at Chidswell, Dewsbury and in 1881 at Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Joseph worked as a Coal Miner at the Shaw Cross Pit of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton; he was married to Violet Field (born in 1862 and died in 1949) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 23rd November 1884. They did not have any children.

On the 1891 census their address is Collier Row, Leeds Road, Dewsbury; in 1901 their address is recorded as "bottom of Leeds Road Cutting" in 1911 at 7, Collier Row, Leeds Road and later at 98, Leeds Road where Violet was still living in 1939. Joseph was well known in Dewsbury due to his connection with the St. John Ambulance Association.

He enlisted on 4th August 1914 serving as M/9473 Senior Reserve Attendant in the Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve in Chatham, Kent. On 17th November he was confined to bed with a cold and died of double pneumonia at the Royal Naval Hospital in Chatham on 19th November 1914. He was buried in Hanging Heaton (St. Paul) Churchyard but with the passage of time, his original grave site could not be properly maintained and so he is commemorated on a Special Memorial Headstone as "*Buried Elsewhere In This Churchyard*". Joseph was awarded the British War Medal. His Commonwealth War Graves Commission Record incorrectly states that he was born at Dewsbury.

The report of his funeral and obituary in the Dewsbury District News on 28th November 1914 makes reference to an adopted son, Master Herbert Brook who was born 24th February 1909; he was the son of Joseph and Violet's niece Louisa Hannah Brook (later Mrs Fred Fisher). On the 1911 Census he lived at 5, Collier Row with his mother Louisa, her brother Arthur Ernest Brook and grandmother Sarah Brook (nee Field).

The Rev. W.E. Cleworth who conducted Joseph's funeral at St. Paul's Church paid tribute to his: "*sterling work in the ambulance movement*".

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library; the War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park, the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road now relocated to Dewsbury Minster and on the Hanging Heaton War Memorial in the grounds of St. Paul's Church and on the Memorial Plaque to former employees of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton situated in the porch of St. Paul's Church and in the book: 'The Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev W.E. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Associate of King's College University of London. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

In Memory of
Senior Reserve Attendant
Joseph Slater

M/9473, H.M.S. "Pembroke.", Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve who died on 19 November 1914
Age 51

Son of Mathew and Jane Slater; husband of Violet Slater, of 98, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury. Born at Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Hanging Heaton (St. Paul) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

