



## Smith Kimmings 1887-1918

Smith was born *Smith Brown Kimmings* in Northorpe, Mirfield on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1887 and was baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1888 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield. His father was Thomas (Tom) William Kimmings, a coal miner born in Birkby, Huddersfield in 1843 and died in 1905. On his birth record his surname is spelt *Kemmins*. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Brown, formerly Campbell) born in Liverpool around 1847 and died in 1915. They were married in 1894.

Their other children were: Clara Brown Kimmings, born in 1890 and Randolph Kimmings, born in 1894.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Shillbank, Mirfield, in 1901 at Grove Place, North Road, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 11, Kent Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Thomas was previously married in 1867 in Huddersfield to Mary Jane Parker (born in Ripon in 1846 and died in 1885). They had six children and there were many spelling variations of their surname; William Henry *Kimins*, born in 1868, Albert *Kimmonds*, born in 1870, Tom *Kimonds*, born in 1872 and died in 1873, Frank *Kemings*, born in 1873, John Thomas *Kimmons*, born in 1878 and Florence *Kimmins*, born in 1880 and died in 1880. Elizabeth Brown had married William Campbell in Liverpool in 1883.

Smith worked as a farm labourer and on the 1911 Census he is living and working on a farm at Howley Hall, Morley, his place of birth is shown as California, USA! He was married to Annie Schofield (born in 1889 and died in 1976) at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen, Dewsbury on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1913, they lived at Lower Lees Hall Farm, Thornhill Lees and had two children; Hilda Elizabeth, born in 1915 and Julia May, born in 1916 .

He enlisted in Mirfield on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1915 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with the Service Number 4501 and later as Private 23907. He was sent to the Western Front on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and in the spring of 1918, whilst home on 14 days furlough, he injured his foot whilst working on the farm and was admitted to Dewsbury War Hospital for a month. He returned to France on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1918 and was killed in action near Reims on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne. His remains were discovered in 1919 and he was buried in Courmas British Cemetery, Marne, France. Smith was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Courmas is a village about 7 miles south-west of Reims. The cemetery was made after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the neighbouring battlefields and from two small cemeteries made by the 62<sup>nd</sup> (West Riding) Division after the fighting of the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918. There are now 207 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in Courmas British Cemetery. Of these, 77 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to seven British soldiers believed to be buried among them.

Smith 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

**S Kimmings**

23907, 5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 20 July 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Courmas British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

