



William Norman Podmore

1880 – 1916

William was born in Thornhill on 12th November 1879. His father was James Podmore, an Estate Agents Accountant born in Lilleshall, Shropshire in 1845 and died in 1917. His mother was Emma (née Conyers) born in Taunton, Massachusetts, U.S.A in 1852 and died in 1908. They were married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 7th February 1872. James was later a Town Councillor in Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Mary, born in 1873, Harold, born in 1874, Kate, born in 1878 and died in 1879, Florence Margaret, born in 1882 and died in 1882, James Winnall, born in 1885, Philip Conyers, born in 1886, Edwin, born in 1887, Doris, born in 1889, Barbara, born in 1890 and died in 1891 and Constance, born in 1892.

On the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 62, Nursery Street, Thornhill and in 1911 at Bottoms House, Savile Road, Savile Town.

William was a single man who worked as a Laundry Manager for the Cooperative Society in Wallsend, Northumberland. On the 1911 census he was boarding at 47, Laburnum Crescent, Wallsend where he was a Freemason belonging to the Wallsend Lodge.

He served as Private 10567 in the 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers and was attached to the Lewis Gun Section when he was slightly wounded on 2nd October 1916 but refused to leave his post. He was killed in action on 7th October 1916 during what was to be the start of a phase of the Battle of the Somme referred to as the Battle of the Transloy Ridges from 7th to 20th October. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His family received letters from a Corporal H. Pinnock and an officer, P.H. Digby-Jones telling of the circumstances of his death and offering their deep sympathy.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

William is also 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Roll of Honour in Wallsend Social Club and on the Memorial Plaque in St. Luke's Church, Wallsend and on the Memorial Plaque in Wallsend Masonic Hall.

In Memory of

Private

William Norman Podmore

10567, 9th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 07 October 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

