



William Bailey

1879 – 1916

William was born in Mirfield on 16th March 1879 and baptised on 25th June 1880 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield. His father was John Bailey, a Cab Driver born in Staincliffe, Dewsbury in 1854. His mother was Mary (née Garforth) born in Mirfield in 1855 and died in 1886. They were married at St. Mary's Church on 25th December 1874.

Their other children were; Martha Elizabeth, born in 1875 and died in 1876, Annie, born in 1876 and Mary Jane, born in 1878.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Fenton Folly, Mirfield.

John was remarried on 19th May 1887 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe to Eliza Booth (born in Clay Cross, Derbyshire in 1866 and died in 1944). Their children were; Elsie, born in 1889 and died in 1889, John Frederick, born in 1890, Hilda, born in 1892, Louie, born in 1893, Nora born in 1895, Thomas, born in 1896 and died in 1896, Willie, born in 1897, Mabel born in 1903 and Lily, born in 1904 and died in 1905.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Foundry Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1901 at 17, Town Street, Harrogate and in 1911 at 13, Bagshaw Street, Dewsbury.

William was educated at St. Saviour's Church School and was a Cab Driver for Messrs Box Brothers before opening his own business on Webster Hill, Dewsbury. He was described as being "*well known to the fraternity of drivers who used to stand in Dewsbury Market Place*". He was married on 25th December 1898 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe to Annie Heald Smith (born in 1874 and died in 1949) they had a daughter, Gladys, born in 1900 and lived at 50, Cliffe Street, Dewsbury.

He served as Private M2/200985 in the 52nd Company Army Service Corps into which he attested on 2nd August 1916 and was sent to The Western Front two weeks later. He was killed in a motor accident in France on 19th November 1916 which involved his motor transport wagon being in a collision with one driven by another soldier. He was buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Puchevillers is a village about 19 kilometres north-east of Amiens. In June 1916, just before the opening of the Battles of the Somme, the 3rd and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations came to the village and burials were made by those hospitals before the end of March 1917. The graves of men who died in the German advance in 1918 were buried by the 49th Clearing Station in March 1918 or by the 48th Labour Group in August. Puchevillers British Cemetery contains 1,763 First World War burials.

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

W Bailey

M2/200985, 52nd Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 19 November 1916

Remembered with Honour

Puchevillers British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

