



Tom Riley

1879-1918

Tom was born in Hanging Heaton on 3rd December 1879 and baptised on 8th November 1880 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton. His father was Benjamin Riley, a Woollen Spinner born in Ossett in 1846 and died in 1939. His mother was Hannah (nee Bowring) born in Monk Bretton near Barnsley in 1851 and died in 1884. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 10th April 1871.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1872, Emily, born in 1873, Eliza Jane, born in 1874, Robert Henry, born in 1877, Sarah, born in 1880, Agnes, born in 1882 and Frank, born in 1884.

On the 1881 Census the family were living at Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton, in 1891 and 1901 at New Street, Hanging Heaton and in 1911 at 7, Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton.

Benjamin was remarried at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett to Martha Pickles (born in 1851 and died in 1927) on 27th December 1890.

Tom was educated at Mill Lane Council School in Batley and attended Commonside Wesleyan Sunday school. He was employed as a Card Cleaner at the Scarr End Woollen Mill in Earlsheaton but was also a well-known musician, being an accomplished concertina player and violinist in the Hanging Heaton Orchestral Band. He was married to Annie Eliza Smith (born in 1880 and died in 1963) on 26th September 1903 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury; in 1911 they lived at 25, Brook Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and later at 80, Walker Street, Earlsheaton where their son, Norman was born on 27th November 1915. After Tom's death, Annie moved to 5, Mission Street, Flatts where she was still living with son Norman in 1939.

He enlisted on 27th May 1918 serving as Private 85753 in the 4th Reserve Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and was attached to the Officers Mess based at Hornsea, Yorkshire; he died there of heart failure on 13th October 1918 and was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Tom did not qualify for any medal awards as he did not serve overseas.

Tom 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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the War Memorial outside St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and on the addenda panel on Batley War Memorial 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

Private

T Riley

85753, 4th Reserve Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 13 October 1918 Age 39

Son of Mr. Benjamin Riley, of 6, New St., Hanging Heaton, Batley; husband of Annie Eliza Riley, of 5, Mission St., Flatts, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

