Harry Boyes



Rank: - Driver

Number: - 231905

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery "C" Bty. 83rd Bde.

Died in Batley: - 04/07/1918 Age: 30 years

Cemetery: - Morley Cemetery, Yorkshire, C. Gen. 1078.

Batley News 13th July 1918

Family Details

Harry was born at Farnley on 26th October 1887 the son of Samuel Clayton and Sarah Boyes (nee Wigglesworth). The couple had married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on the 1st November 1873 when Samuel gave his occupation as a power loom tuner. In 1881 they were living at Lower Wortley Road, Leeds with their sons Jeremiah 1874, Joseph 1876 and John 1878 who were born in Gomersal. Joseph died in March 1883. John born 1874 died aged 3 months.

Ephraim was born in November 1881, Lydia in January 1884 at Farnley. When the 1891 the family was living at Spurr? Lane Farnley and whilst Samuel was still a tuner Jeremiah had become a farm boy. Before 1901 Samuel had become a farmer living at Backer Hill, Farsley and many of his children including thirteen-year-old Harry was working for him.

Within the next decade they moved to Shay Farm, Batley which is near Carlinghow.

Harry married Jane Hannah Hartley on 18th February 1911 at Bruntcliffe, St. Andrew's Church and they lived at 21, Upper Batley Lane when the 1911 was taken. Harry was working as a horseman working on his father's farm. They later moved to Howden Clough Road, Bruntcliffe. Hartley was born in 1913 and Marjorie in 1918.

Service Details

Harry enlisted and went to France about September 1917 and came home for 14 days leave on June 10th after nine months service in France. On the Saturday June 22nd before his leave expired, he was shooting rabbits at his father's home, Shay Farm, Carlinghow when he accidently shot himself in the left foot. His brother, Ephraim, carried him to Batley Hospital on his back and he appeared to improve and was able to get up but on Monday 1st July he grew worse and Colonel Russell was sent for and he ordered his removal to Staincliffe Hospital the same day. He died on the evening of Thursday 4th July.

His widow explained at the inquest that he had told her he had seen a rabbit running across another field. He ran to the gate and jumped on it but it swung open. In trying to balance himself the top of the gate caught the trigger and the charge entered his foot. The damage was caused between the fourth and fifth

toes and although alright at first it tetanus was suspected and a specialist, Major Vining, from Leeds was called and injected serum. On the Wednesday his temperature rose and pneumonia supervened. Colonel Russell was asked how pneumonia had come about and he replied probably because of influenza of which the hospital was rife. He added that this was the first case in over 20 years at Batley Hospital.

Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Howden Clough Methodist Church and Batley War Memorial Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group