John Gavaghan



Rank: - Private

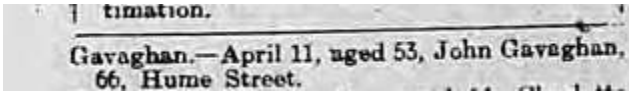
Number: - 12/1682

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 12th Battalion

Died at home after war: - 11/04/1919 Age: 53 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire O 386

Batley News, 19 Apr 1919 (classifieds)



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Gavaghan.—April 11, aged 53, John Gavaghan, 66, Hume Street.

Family Details

John was born in Batley in c.1861 the son of Thomas and Bridget Gavaghan Nee Gallagher who at the age of 10 years was living at Churchfield Terrace, Batley and was already working as a collier. His parents both came from Ireland and Catherine was born in c1863 followed by Thomas 1865, Joseph 1869, Bridget 1871, Mary 1873, Annie 1876 and James 1878. Thomas, his father died in December 1879.

In 1881 the family was still living at Churchfield Place, Batley and Bridget was working as a rag sorter. In 1891 the family had moved to live at 3, Yard 8, Commercial Street, Batley and his mother died in January 1894. John had left the family home to marry Mary Elwood on the 10th February 1890 at St. Mary's Church, Batley. In 1891 he was living at the home of his mother-in-law Honor Ellwood at 4, Fleming Street, Batley and working as a coal miner. He was still at the same address a decade later.

Their children were Margaret who was born in 1891 but sadly died aged 15 months in April 1892, William born 1893 who died May 1894 aged 10 months, John born December 1896 who only lived for 2 hours and Ann born 1899 died aged 5 months in August.

In February 1885 he was drunk and disorderly and from these records we learn that he was a Catholic, 5ft. 4inches with dark brown hair and had a cut on the bridge of his nose and his third left finger and his education was "nil".

Before 1911 John had made some effort to read and write and tried to complete the census form himself. This shows the couple had four children who died in infancy and two who were still born. They were living at 5, Albert Square, Batley in a two roomed house. They later moved to 66, Hume Street, Batley.

Service Details

John enlisted into the KOYLI on 29/7/1915 at Killinghall Moor Camp stating he had previously served in the army for 10 years in the West Yorkshires and the South African War. He said he was 43 years old and 180 days living at 8, Albert Square, Batley Carr. He had married Mary Elwood on the 10th February 1890 at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Batley. He was posted in October 1915 but was

discharged due to chronic bronchitis on the 12th May 1916 having served 289 days. This he said the bronchitis had originated in Batley in 1900 but it had been aggravated by war service. His character on discharge was very good but he did not sign the papers but made his mark. He was described as having a fresh complexion, grey hair, grey eyes and was employed as a labourer. John was discharged under King's Regulations under paragraph 392 (XV1).

He died at home after the war.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group