

Pte. Harry SIMPSON (1881 – 1915)
(King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry)



Harry Simpson was born in Ossett in 1881. His parents were Henry Simpson and Ann Oldroyd. Henry and Ann were married in 1860 and already had six daughters, Sarah (1861), Jane (1863), Ada (1866), Mary (1868), Etty (1875) and Emily (1877).

Harry lost his mother in 1891 and the 1901 Census records Henry as a widower living at No.5 Yard 2, Halifax Road in the Staincliffe area of Batley with Emily and Harry.

In 1902 Emily married Thomas Oldfield Webb at Staincliffe Church. Harry was a witness at the wedding. His father, Henry, died in 1908 and by the 1911 Census Harry was living with his sister Emily and her family at 29 Gladstone Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

Harry was called up in September 1914 and shortly before his enlistment he married Alice Cass who lived with her brother Patrick and sister's Ellen and Mary in Westtown. Harry was employed as a Card Cleaner at S. Firth and Sons, Hebble Mills, Thornhill Lees.

In early April 1915 Harry was admitted to Lucknow Military Hospital, Tidmouth. He was suffering from Cerebral-spinal fever which was a form of meningitis. He died there a week later on the 12th of April.

He was thought to be the first scholar of Staincliffe National School to die for his country. In recent years he had been a member of the Young Men's Bible Class at Christ Church, Staincliffe and also played for Staincliffe Cricket Club.

Harry and Alice had no children. Alice never remarried and died in 1919.

Harry Simpson, 16546, 7th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Regiment, is Remembered with Honour at Tidworth Military Cemetery. His name also appears on Staincliffe Church of England School Roll of Honour.

Researcher:

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