



Woodford Remembers



Pte. Harry Robinson

12 October 1890 - 6 July 1916

Family

George Robinson b Aldwinkle and his wife Eliza (b Swineshead) 1864 lived a couple of doors down from the manse in the High Street. He was employed as a Traction Engine Driver. Their eldest son George had been born in Denford, but the other five children were born in Woodford. (A seventh child died in infancy). Harry was baptised on 7 December 1890 in St Mary's Church, Woodford.

Harry was third eldest and is listed as five months old on the 1891 census. Harry attended the village school from 26 February 1894. Harry's father, George died in November 1908 and the 1911 census shows Harry aged 20 living at home with his widowed mother, and working as an Ironstone labourer. Younger brother John was a farm labourer, Annie, his sister, a sewing machinist and Alfred a carrier boy.

On 8 December 1911 Harry married Violet Lowe elder sister of Arthur Lowe (see Woodford Remembers). Violet had worked as a servant in Bird's Yard just around the corner from Harry's home.

Harry's three children when attending school gave their address as Wells Yard.

According to the newspaper report, the floral tribute placed by his family on the War Memorial at the unveiling ceremony, Harry was referred to as Henry despite all official records naming him as Harry.

Army Service

Harry enlisted in Kettering (Regimental number 16271) into the Northamptonshire Regiment at Kettering. His service number implies this took place on 16 November 1914 alongside many other Woodford men including Herbert Betts and John Sawford who are also recorded on the village memorials.

He is known to have died of wounds on 6 July 1916 at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme.

Burial / grave

Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Grave Plot 1 Row D Grave 28.

(A grave shared with two others (Pte CW Bradley (Lincs) and Pte G Kent (Yorks)), all three named on the headstone, a practice at this medical clearing station/cemetery where space was short and trains to take the dead and injured away from the front were often infrequent.)

Dependants

Widow Violet; and children Arthur (b1912), Frederick (b1913) and Betty (b1915).

Commemoration

Woodford War Memorial

St Mary's Church Memorial, Woodford



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If you can help with more information please contact

clerk@woodfordpc.co.uk