Roll of Honour

Men with a known Walkington connection who are not listed on the Walkington War Memorial.

James Gilbank

James Gilbankwas born in Walkington in January 1885 to James and Annie Gilbank, his father had also been born in Walkington and his mother in Cottingham.

On the 1881 census the family were living on West End with daughters Emily and Clara and son John, also living with them was Thomas Gilbank the father of James who came from Kilnwick.

James died in 1884 leaving Annie a widow responsible for 3 children and pregnant with James. They continued to live in Walkington despite Annie marrying a coal miner from Treeton, Rotherham in 1890.

By the 1901 census the family had moved to join James Phillips and his son and daughter at Bole Hill, Treeton.

James Gilbank and his brothers all found employment in mining and in 1904 he married Maud Ann Shaw at Whiston York.

The 1911 census shows them living at 240 Bole Hill Treeton, they had three children William, George and James.

He enlisted in Rotherham into the 9th battalion the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and went to France in September 1915.

Between 17 October and 11 November,1918 the battled hardened troops of the KOYLI finally liberated Mons where it had all begun more than four years before.

James was killed in Action on October 23 1918. He was awarded the Victory Medal, The British War Medal and the 1915 Star.

He is commemorated on the Memorial in Vis-en-Artois.

Foot note

His father James was the brother of Matthew Gilbank of Walkington who also lost a son.

John W Gilbank was killed in action on 6 August 1916 and is remembered on the Walkington War Memorial.

Bethel Hayton

Robert Spencer Hayton, a shepherd of Walkington, (who worked for George Leaper) and his wife Sarah Jane Gunness were parents of a large family of fourteen children, eleven of whom died in childhood. Their three surviving children were Mark Hayton born on 6 August 1894, his brother Bethel born in 1898 and his sister Alice born in 1900.

Shortly after 1901 the family moved to were they lived at 1 Thompson Place, three doors from the Molescroft Inn.

At aged 21 Mark joined the Royal Navy and was serving on HMS Sparrowhawk when she engaged the German Dreadnought battleship SMS Westfalen at the Battle of Jutland in June 1916. Mark survived the war and lived in Beverley, dying in 1975 aged eighty.

Bethel worked as a farm worker at Londesborough Wold until he enlisted aged 18 into the East Yorkshire Regiment, regimental number 33228, on 10th October 1916. He was posted to the 1st Hull Pals ( the Hull commercials) as the 10th battalion was known. Though he had little connection with Hull this was probably because of their heavy losses in the action at Serre on the Somme on 13 November 1916. He arrived in France in early 1917 and would have survived the Hull Pals action at heavily defended Oppy Wood on May 3rd and 4th.

Bethel was killed in action on 7 May 1917, the circumstances of his death are not known but his death was recorded in the Beverley Guardian with a letter from his Platoon officer, C.H. Piper, to his father that sheds light on Bethel’s character.

Piper says that, ‘he was a good and willing worker and a true friend. I am sure his loss will be felt by everyone in the platoon. Kindly accept my deepest sympathy. Trust you will bear the great loss with courage as he died for a noble cause.’

He is buried in the Orchard Dump cemetery at Arleux-en-Gohelle, Dept du Pas-de-Calais France and is remembered on the Molescroft Roll of Honour and also on the East Riding Memorial in Beverley Minster.

He was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Footnote

With thanks to the volunteers on the WW1 project in the Archives dept at the Treasure House, Beverley.

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson was born on 5th July 1894, one of ten children to Richard and Arabell, nee (Lovell), Johnson at Beverley. He was baptised at St Mary’s church and the family lived in School Lane off Walkergate, Beverley.

He was a shipyard worker before enlisting into 6th battalion East Yorkshire Regiment at Hull where his enlistment papers show him as residing in Walkington.

He went to the Balkans on 14th July 1915 and on the 9th August 1915 the 6th were at Vulva Bay advancing across country from Sulajik to the slopes of Teke Tepe. As they began to climb the slopes they came under heavy sniper attacks and Richard was killed in this advance.

He is remembered on the Helles Memorial near Sedd El Bahr in modern day Turkey on the St Mary’s School Roll of Honour, the East Yorkshire Regiment Memorial in Beverley Minster and on the Beverley War Memorial, Hengate.

He was awarded the 1915 Star, the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Footnote

With thanks to B.S.Barnes ‘Known unto God’ and to the volunteers on the WW1 project in the Archives dept at the Treasure House, Beverley.

George Langham

George Langham was born in Walkington in 1891, the census must have been taken just after his birth for he had not been given a first name and is named as just Langham. His father Isaac Langham already had two step sons Walter and Henry Binnington when he married his wife Amelia.

They lived on East End and were neighbours of the Oliver family with young Oliver Cromwell Oliver as a neighbour.

By 1901 Amelia was widowed and living in Little Weighton on Malt Shovel Road with her children Joseph and George both born in Walkington and Arthur, Rachel and Charles all born at Welton. Next door to them was the Forbes family.

By 1911 George was earning his living as a farm labourer at Moor Monkton near York. He married Alice Shepherd in York in 1912 and by September 1915 had enlisted into the 11th battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

Little is known about his service record but he died at the Battle of Transloy on 7th October 1916. This battle was in terrible weather in heavy clinging chalky Somme mud and freezing flooded battle fields which became more formidable than the Germans.

He was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal and 1915 Star, the Medal Roll shows that at some stage the battalion served in the Balkans.

His soldier’s effects of £11.19. 7, was left to his mother, now Amelia Pinchbeck living at White Gap, Little Weighton.

He is commemorated at the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont.

Henry Wright Taylor

Henry Taylor was born in Walkington and baptised at Walkington Church on 29th October 1882. The family lived for a short time in the village living next door to the Langhams whose son George also died in the war.

By 1901 they had moved to Hull where Henry his parents and five brothers lived off Crowle Street.

Circumstances had changed considerably by 1911, all of the brothers had left home and just Henry and his widowed mother were living at the same address.

Henry signed on in December 1915 into 12th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, Regimental Number 12/894.

No information could be found about his service but he died of wounds at home on 25th March 1919. He was awarded the Victory Medal, British War Medal and 1915 Star.

He is commemorated in the Hedon Road Cemetery Hull with the inscription ‘Death divides but memory clings’.

Footnote

It is probable that William Taylor was related to Robert Taylor father of Thomas William Taylor of Walkington who was killed in the Battles of the Somme.