

The Seven Fallen Sons of Sutton

As is the case with so many towns and villages across the UK, the names of the seven men from Sutton St. Nicholas who were killed during the First World War have been read out as part of the Act of Remembrance every Armistice Day since 1920.

In memory of those men and in order to only know their names, Sue & Mike Winnell carried out research to try and provide some background about their lives.

The result of their research is shown below.

Harold George Wright

Harold was born in March 1891 and baptised in St. Nicholas church on 23rd March 1891. His parents, Alfred & Hannah Wright, lived at Sutton Lakes, where his father was a wagoner on a farm Harold joined the Border Regiment and was the first of the seven fallen sons of Sutton to die. He was killed in France, on 18th November 1916 and is buried in the Munich Trench of the Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, France. When he died, Harold was 25.

William John Phillips

Known as Billy, he was born in late 1890 to John & Elizabeth Phillips and was the eldest of 4 children. His family home was Holly Lodge, Breinton, where his parents owned a Market Garden. His father died in 1901 and in 1903 his mother married Tom Watkins and they moved, first to West Lydiate, Withington, then to The Firs, Wyatt Road.

When Billy joined the Army, he was assigned to the Labour Corp. Later he transferred to the Kings Liverpool Rifles. In the Spring of 1917 Billy was wounded in France and re-patriated to Shrewsbury Hospital. His mother visited him there twice and it was she that the War Office notified of his death. Billy died aged 27 on 10 April 1917 and is buried in St Nicholas's Churchyard.

Fredrick Wright

Frederick was the older brother of Harold Wright who had been killed in action in November 1916. He was born on 1st May 1883 and lived at Sutton Lakes for all of his life and he was a farm worker. On 21st October 1907, he married Emily Prosser and in 1910 they had a son, who they named Rowland. He initially joined the Cheshire Regiment, but was later transferred to the Labour Corp. He is buried in the Dickebusch Cemetery, Belgium. Frederick died on 20th July 1917 when he was 34.

George Duggan

He was born on 7th November 1889, possibly at Byford. His parents' names are not known. During his childhood he lived with his grand-parents, Edward & Ann Duggan, at their smallholding called "Middlefield", which is still located the Wyatt Road. George worked as a gardener at "Sugwas Pool", which is where Wyevale Garden Centre is now located.

In 1913 he married Florence Barrow and by 1917 they were living in Malvern. A member of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, George was killed in action in France on 26th October 1917 though he has no known grave, his name is recorded on the Tyn Cot Memorial, near Zonnebeke, Belgium. George was 26 when he was killed

Oswald Pumphrey:

He was born in Dilwyn, on 8th October 1888, to John & Betsey Pumphrey. Oswald was the son of his mother's second marriage and he had 5 half-brother's and sisters from her first marriage to a Mr Williams. When growing up, his family home was the Golden Cross Pub.

Oswald worked as a clerk for the Great Western Railway in Newport, where in 1910, he married Mabel Hurn. They had a daughter they named Marjorie in 1913. Mable died in 1914 and Oswald married Lily Lloyd in 1917.

He was in the Royal Engineers Regiment and died when the transport ship he was on struck a mine in entrance to Alexandria harbour. His body was never found but his name is inscribed on the Chatby Memorial at Alexandria. He was age 29.

George Martin White

Known as Martin, he was the younger brother of Thomas White and was born on 25 April 1897. His first home was also at The Moor, Bodenham, later moving with his family to Sutton when his father became a wagoner, probably at Court Farm

A few years later, the family moved to Little London, on the Ridgway Road and Martin became a farm worker.

He served in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was killed in Italy on 3rd May 1918. His name is inscribed on the Giavera del Montello Memorial, which is in the town of that name, some miles north of Venice. Martin was 21 when he was killed

Thomas George White:

Thomas was born on the 5th June 1891. His parents were Thomas and Eliza White of The Moor, Bodenham. By 1901, his family were living at Slade Villa, which still stands on the Marden Road, opposite Court Farm.

At that time his father was working as a wagoner, probably for Court Farm. By 1911 he and his family were living at Little London and Thomas was also working as a wagoner.

During the war he served in the Royal Field Artillery. At the time of his death in France on 23rd March 1918 he was a sergeant. There is no grave recorded for Thomas, but his name is inscribed on the Arras Memorial, in the Pas-de-Calais region of France. Thomas was 26 when he was killed.