

## Was Kildwick a “Thankful Village” ?

In the 1930s the writer Arthur Mee coined the term “Thankful Village” for those places which had lost no men in World War 1, because all those who left to serve came home again. His initial list identified 32 such villages.

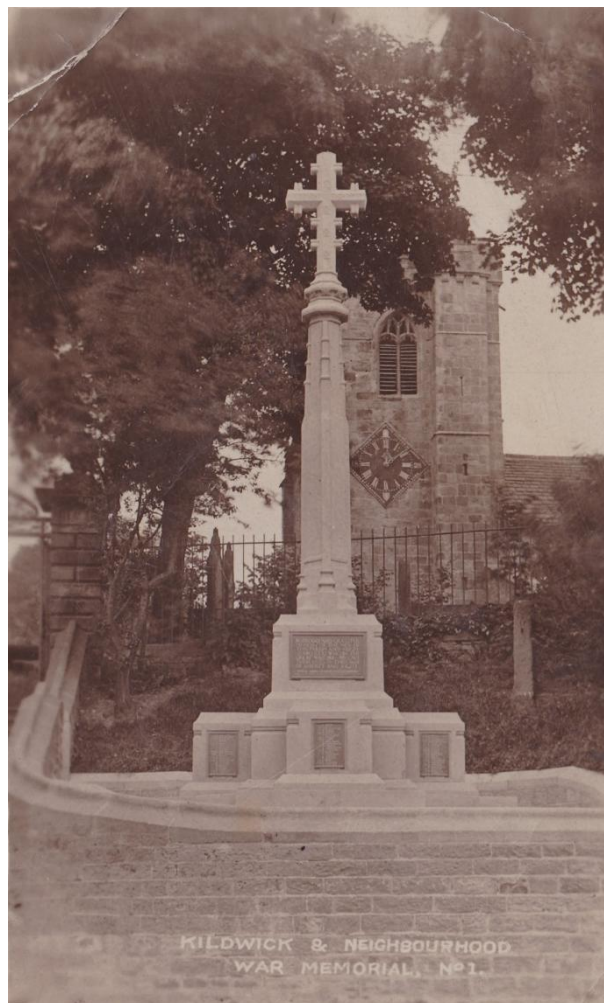
In 2013, an updated list identified 53 civil parishes in England and Wales from which all serving personnel returned. Five of these were in Yorkshire:

- Catwick, near Beverley
- Cundall, near Masham
- Helperthorpe, near Malton
- Norton-le-Clay, near Boroughbridge
- Scruton, near Northallerton

This article will consider whether Kildwick should perhaps be added to this list.

## But what about the war memorial ?

You do not have to look hard to find a WW1 war memorial in Kildwick. You pretty much cannot miss it – just by the steps of St. Andrew’s Church.



It was dedicated in 1921, and lists the names of 58 men killed in WW1.

So, how can Kildwick possibly be a Thankful Village ?



## Differentiating between the “ecclesiastical parish” and the “civil parish” of Kildwick

The current definition of a Thankful Village uses the term “civil parish”. However, the war memorial outside the church covers not just Kildwick village, but all the other adjacent townships that made up the “ecclesiastical parish” of St. Andrews, Kildwick.

The distinction can be seen on the map on the previous page. This is part of an 1892 OS map on which the 1949 boundary of St. Andrew’s ecclesiastical parish is shown in red and the boundary of Kildwick civil parish is shown in green. (For parts of the SE and W boundaries the two follow the same path – shown as a red-green dashed line.)

As can be seen, the civil parish includes what might be thought of as Kildwick village (the houses clustered around the church), the lower part of Station Road, Priest Bank Road, and Grange Road to the west of Starkey Lane. The ecclesiastical parish, on the other hand, also includes all of Farnhill, Crosshills and Junction, and parts of Cononley. Historically, the extent of the St. Andrew’s parish was even greater, including Eastburn, Cowling and Glusburn.

## Where did the men named on the war memorial come from ?

So, if the war memorial covers an area greater than just Kildwick civil parish, where did the men named on it come from – and did any of them come from the civil parish ?

Arthur Mee defined a Thankful Village as “one which lost no men in the Great War because all those who left to serve came home again”. He gave Catwick as an example: “Thirty men went from Catwick to the Great War and thirty came back, though one left an arm behind.”

The 2013 study used the “Soldiers Died in the Great War” data and information provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to find out the home addresses of men that were killed, and so identified villages that had “no resident soldiers recorded as having died”.

In looking at the men named on the Kildwick memorial, participants in the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Project have gone beyond just looking at whether the men had their homes in the civil parish when they were killed; we’ve also studied where they were born and where their parents were born, to see what, if any, connection they had with the village.

For this research we used data provided by the website Craven’s Part in the Great War (which itself uses information from “Soldiers Died in the Great War” and the CWGC), local newspaper reports, civil birth registrations, and 1911 census returns.

We have found the following results.

| Name                    | Died     | Birthplace of father | Birthplace of mother | Birthplace of soldier | Home address of soldier |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allsopp          | 20.11.16 | Richmond             | Farnhill             | Bingley (or Ingrow ?) | Crosshills              |
| Albert Lister Backhouse | 25.04.17 | Oulton, Yorkshire    | Oulton, Yorkshire    | East Marton           | Crosshills              |
| Willie Barker           | 24.09.18 | Keighley             | Farnhill             | Farnhill              | Farnhill                |
| Charlie Berry           | 07.10.18 | Silsden              | Addingham            | Nelson, Lancs.        | Crosshills              |
| Albert Binns            | 26.09.16 | Glusburn             | York                 | Glusburn              | Glusburn                |
| Lewis Binns             | 15.09.16 | Cowling              | Cowling              | Cowling               | Glusburn                |
| George Bland            | 24.09.16 | Bingley              | Wilsden              | Glusburn              | Crosshills              |
| Samuel Booth            | 03.05.17 | Bradford             | Bolton, Bradford     | Bradford              | Farnhill                |



| Name                                      | Died     | Birthplace of father        | Birthplace of mother      | Birthplace of soldier   | Home address of soldier       |
|---|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Frank Bottomley                           | 17.09.18 | Glusburn                    | Crosshills                | Glusburn                | Glusburn                      |
| Fred Bottomley                            | 12.10.18 | Sutton in Craven            | Oldham                    | Glusburn                | Glusburn                      |
| Oscar Brown                               | 10.04.18 | Lothersdale                 | Liverpool                 | Glusburn                | Glusburn                      |
| Frederick George Carlton                  | 05.10.16 | Great Ormside, Westmoreland | Eastburn                  | Crosshills              | Crosshills                    |
| Arthur Chatterton                         | 08.05.17 | Theddlethorpe, Lincs.       | Theddlethorpe, Lincs.     | Theddlethorpe, Lincs.   | Glusburn                      |
| Harold Cowgill                            | 02.07.18 | Bradford                    | Cross Roads, nr. Keighley | Nelson, Lancs.          | Glusburn (or possibly Nelson) |
| Walter Dawson                             | 05.02.17 | Wrose, Shipley              | Steeton                   | Farnhill                | Silsden                       |
| Fred Dixon                                | 14.09.16 | Wilsden                     | Stanbury                  | Haworth                 | Crosshills                    |
| George Dobby                              | 19.05.16 | Leeds                       | Manchester                | Skipton                 | Crosshills                    |
| Benjamin Henry Freeman                    | 05.11.17 | Farley, nr. Otley           | Crosshills                | Crosshills              | Farnhill                      |
| Thomas Alda Friend                        | 08.10.17 | Boston Spa                  | Sutton in Craven          | Sutton in Craven        | Crosshills                    |
| Coulson Fryer                             | 22.10.17 | Pateley Bridge              | Thorp Arch                | Poole, Yorkshire        | 11 Sun Street, Cowling        |
| Alexander Wilfred Gill                    | 01.09.18 | Sutton in Craven            | Crosshills                | Crosshills              | Crosshills                    |
| Ralph Oscar Gladstone                     | 02.11.17 | Anglesey                    | Crosshills                | Cardiff                 | Crosshills                    |
| Joseph Green                              | 13.11.16 | Farnhill                    | Dumfriesshire             | Farnhill                | Farnhill                      |
| William Foster Green                      | 09.04.17 | Keighley                    | Wetherby                  | Keighley                | Woolwich                      |
| Harry Grimston                            | 24.05.18 | Dacre Banks                 | Low Laithe, Hartwith      | Low Laithe, Hartwith    | Eastburn                      |
| Arthur James Happs                        | 20.04.17 | Hadlow, Kent                | Scalby, nr. Scarborough   | Steeton                 | Glusburn                      |
| Matthew Percy Happs                       | 25.04.17 | Hadlow, Kent                | Scalby, nr. Scarborough   | Scalby, nr. Scarborough | Skipton (?)                   |
| Smith Hardaker                            | 13.06.16 | Bingley                     | Haworth                   | Haworth                 | Crosshills                    |
| Arthur Hargreaves                         | 19.04.17 | Sutton in Craven            | Cononley                  | Glusburn                | Glusburn                      |
| Thomas Denton Harker (aka Thomas Jackson) | 19.07.16 | Unknown                     | West Witton               | Blackburn, Lancs.       | Australia                     |
| James Hodkinson                           | 21.03.18 | Turnerford, nr. Clapham     | Steeton                   | Crosshills              | Crosshills                    |
| Cedric Fawcett Horsfall                   | 18.09.16 | Hebden Bridge               | Brearley, Yorkshire       | Crosshills              | Glusburn (?), possibly London |
| George Inskip                             | 27.11.17 | Skipton                     | Bradley                   | Skipton                 | Farnhill                      |
| Tom Millward                              | 18.03.17 | Glasshouses                 | Pateley Bridge            | Glasshouses, Yorkshire  | Aireside, Cononley            |
| James Mosley                              | 03.05.17 | Farnhill                    | Cartmel, Lancs.           | Sutton in Craven        | Glusburn                      |
| William Mosley                            | 03.06.17 | Farnhill                    | Cowling                   | Farnhill                | Farnhill                      |
| James Henry Peel                          | 14.04.17 | Gargrave                    | Bradley                   | Bradley                 | Skipton                       |
| James Scarborough Theodore Pollard        | 07.10.19 | Farnhill                    | Farnhill                  | Farnhill                | Farnhill                      |
| John Pollard                              | 04.11.19 | Farnhill                    | Farnhill                  | Farnhill                | Farnhill                      |
| John Dixon Read                           | 09.10.17 | Bolton Abbey                | Belton, Suffolk           | Crosshills              | Crosshills                    |

| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Died</b> | <b>Birthplace of father</b>    | <b>Birthplace of mother</b> | <b>Birthplace of soldier</b> | <b>Home address of soldier</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| John Hartley Riley           | 08.10.18    | Sutton in Craven               | Rauceby, Lincs.             | Steeton                      | Crosshills                     |
| George Mellor Sanderson      | 02.03.16    | Waterloo, Great Crosby, Lancs. | Winsford, Cheshire          | Liverpool, Lancs.            | Glusburn                       |
| Thomas Whitaker Shuttleworth | 01.05.16    | Eastburn                       | Glusburn                    | Junction                     | Junction                       |
| Frederick Simpson            | 18.04.15    | Sutton in Craven               | Eastburn                    | Sydney, Australia            | Sutton in Craven               |
| David Smith                  | 25.06.17    | Cowling                        | Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire | Crosshills                   | Ilkley                         |
| John Smith                   | 19.09.18    | Cowling                        | Glusburn                    | Sutton in Craven             | Glusburn                       |
| John Allen Smith             | 14.02.19    | Linton                         | Grassington                 | Junction                     | Junction                       |
| Joseph Smith                 | 19.09.14    | Kildwick                       | Morton, Yorkshire           | Dent, Yorkshire              | Farnhill                       |
| Thomas Henry Stephens        | 26.03.18    | Stonehouse, Glos.              | High Bradley                | Crosshills                   | Farnhill                       |
| John Hartley Stow            | 07.12.18    | Steeton                        | Crosshills                  | Blackpool                    | Glusburn                       |
| Thomas Lyall Taylor          | 07.08.15    | Scarborough                    | Alnwick, Northumberland     | Skipton                      | Skipton (possibly Crosshills)  |
| Francis Richmond Thompson    | 10.04.16    | Kildwick                       | Whitehaven, Cumberland      | Glusburn                     | Crosshills (possibly Glusburn) |
| Tom Thompson                 | 10.11.17    | Eastburn                       | Penrith, Cumberland         | Eastburn                     | Crosshills                     |
| Matthew Horseman Towers      | 03.09.16    | Otley                          | York                        | Otley                        | Crosshills                     |
| Harry Walmsley               | 14.12.16    | Farnhill                       | Shipley                     | Farnhill                     | Farnhill                       |
| Harry Foster Walton          | 17.08.17    | Unknown                        | Unknown                     | Crosshills                   | Market Drayton, Shropshire     |
| John William Wellock         | 08.09.18    | Hebden                         | Burnsall                    | Linton                       | Glusburn (?)                   |
| Arthur Thomas Whitaker       | 20.10.18    | Eastburn                       | Hurworth-on-Tees            | Farnhill                     | Farnhill                       |

This analysis reveals:

- None of the men listed on the Kildwick war memorial had a home address within Kildwick civil parish.
- None of the men listed on the Kildwick war memorial were born in Kildwick civil parish.
- None of them had both parents born in Kildwick.
- Only two had a single parent born in Kildwick (the fathers of Joseph Smith and Francis Richmond Thompson).

More of the men listed had a connection with Australia than had a connection with Kildwick !  
(Thomas Denton Harker, also known as Thomas Jackson, was born in Blackburn but lived in Australia.  
Frederick Simpson was born in Australia but lived in Sutton.)

## Were there local men killed who are not named on the Kildwick war memorial ?

This is like asking someone to prove a negative. There is simply no way of knowing – and that applies not just to Kildwick, but to every village.

### Checking the CWGC website database

We have searched the CWGC website database to look for any WW1 casualties who gave their home address as “Kildwick”. This yielded eight names.

Of these, six are included on the Kildwick war memorial – none of whom had home addresses that were actually in Kildwick civil parish. We have looked at news reports of their deaths:

- Willie Barker – actual home address: Arbour Cottage, Farnhill (from Craven Herald, 18/10/1918).
- Samuel Booth – actual home address: 55, Airedale Cottages (newspapers report this as being Kildwick, but the correct address is Farnhill, as per the 1911 census and map shown earlier)
- Benjamin Henry Freeman – actual home address: Skipton Road, Farnhill (from West Yorkshire Pioneer, 23/11/1917).
- George Inskip – actual home address: Hanover Street, Farnhill (from West Yorkshire Pioneer, 21/12/1917)
- Thomas Henry Stephens – actual home address: Newby Road, Farnhill (from Craven Herald, 5/4/1918)
- Harry Walmsley – actual home address: Hanover Street, Farnhill (from Craven Herald, 22/12/1916).

The other two are:

**Joseph Simpson**, from New Zealand. The CWGC site gives his sister’s address as 51 Skipton Road, Kildwick. (The address is actually in Farnhill.)

**Harold Shuttleworth**. The CWGC record gives no address for this man. The full record reads:

*Son of Alice Francis (formerly Shuttleworth), of 46, Bingley St., Brownroyd, Bradford, Yorks., and the late Lawrence Shuttleworth. Native of Kildwick, Skipton.*

Examination of the extant WW1 service records for Harold Shuttleworth have failed to find any other address for him. The only person notified of his death was his mother, at her home in Bradford. Further research suggests that it is highly unlikely that Harold Shuttleworth was living in Kildwick during WW1, if indeed he ever did.

Harold Shuttleworth was born on 31/5/1897 and baptised at St. Andrew’s Kildwick at the end of July that year. His mother and father were recorded as living at Junction.

In the 1901 census the family were living in Glusburn; Lawrence’s place of birth was given as Eastburn; Alice’s as London.

Lawrence Shuttleworth died in 1906; and, in 1908, Alice Shuttleworth married Sam Francis, in Bradford. The 1911 census records the family living at the Bingley Street address used on Harold’s naval record.

So we can say that:

- Harold Shuttleworth was born in Junction.
- He left the Craven area, with his mother, aged 11 at the very latest.
- At age 14 he was recorded as living in Bradford.
- Just after his 18<sup>th</sup> birth he joined the Navy.

It stretches credibility beyond breaking point to think that he might ever have lived in Kildwick civil parish. It is almost certain that, at the time he joined up, he was unmarried and living with his mother and step-father – in Bradford.

Harold Shuttleworth – who was not a “Native of Kildwick” and not a Kildwick resident – was killed on his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, 31/5/1916, when HMS Defatigable was sunk during the Battle of Jutland. Only two of the crew of 1,019 survived.

### **The lost Kildwick school memorial**

In February 1920, a memorial was unveiled in Kildwick School commemorating 15 former pupils who had been killed in WW1. This memorial has since been lost – presumed destroyed.

However, the names listed on the memorial were recorded in newspaper reports of the unveiling:

*A beautiful memorial, provided by former scholars of Kildwick National School to commemorate the sacrifices of old scholars in the great war was unveiled in Kildwick National School on Sunday afternoon. The schoolroom was quite filled with old scholars, relatives and friends, the company including Mr. James Bairstow (Springfield), and Mr. W.A. and Mr. J.J. Brigg (Kildwick Hall). The service was in charge of the vicar of Kildwick (the Rev. C.E.V. Hodge), who said they were met to dedicate the tablet to the memory of the sons of that school who had fallen in the war.*

*The unveiling ceremony was fittingly performed by Mr. Thomas Appleby, who had been in charge of the National School as headmaster during the school days of most of those who had fallen. ...*

*The memorial is of carved oak with brass panels on which are engraven the names of the fifteen old scholars who have fallen. The centre picture is of St. George kneeling, and is a replica, in colour, of the glass panel by Mr. G.W.P. Hutchinson, exhibited at the Royal Academy. ...*

*The names inscribed on the memorial are: Tom Allsopp, Willie Barker, A.L. Backhouse, Fred Carlton, Walter Dawson, Fred Dixon, Joseph Green, William Mosley, Fred Scarfe, Joseph Smith, J. Allan Smith, Archie Sugden, T.H. Stephens, Frank Thompson, and H. Walmsley.*

The list includes two men not found previously. We looked at both of these.

**Fred Scarfe** – the CWGC website gives details of four soldiers killed in WW1. Of these the only possible candidate for a man who was schooled in Kildwick is Pte Frederick Scarfe, 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, serial number 7053. Born in Shipley; killed in action 27/10/1914. His effects were returned to his widow, in York.

**Archie Sugden** – the “Soldiers Died in the Great War” data includes an Archie Sugden, born in Farnhill, who served with the Grenadier Guards and was killed in action on 9/10/1917. The 1901 census showed William Sugden, his wife Emily and their son Archie living at 3/5 Newby Road. By 1911, however, the family had moved to Dewsbury, which is where Archie joined up. His effects were returned to his father, in Dewsbury.

## Did Kildwick actually send any men to war ?

So far in this article we've shown that none of the men who were killed in WW1 and had any connection with Kildwick, were actually living in Kildwick civil parish when they went to war. But, in order for Kildwick to be considered a Thankful Village we must demonstrate that "all those who left to serve came home again". So, did any men from Kildwick village actually serve in WW1 ?

The answer is an emphatic Yes.

The 1918 electoral roll for Kildwick lists seven men who were eligible to vote locally although they were away from the village, serving with the Army or Navy. They were:

- Charles Barritt, of Main Street
- Spencer Barritt, of Church Street
- Charles Alexander (Alec) and Thomas Hargreaves, both of Church Terrace
- Sam Lister, of the White Lion Hotel
- Thomas Edward Sugden, of Holme Bank
- Edwin Rishworth Turner, of High Mark

In addition, the roll also includes William Birch Holmes of the Old Post Office, who had been invalided out of the army in April 1917.

The names Thomas Edward Sugden and William Birch Holmes are amongst the 68 which appear on the Farnhill Parish Council Roll of Honour. In addition, the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Project has also done some research on the Hargreaves brothers.



Tom (left) and Alec Hargreaves (right), shown here with their sister Mary, lived in a cottage on Church Terrace – just in front of the churchyard.



When news of the war became known they were with the Territorials at a summer training camp in Marske-on-Sea. Just five days later they became members of 1/6 battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

They both served throughout the war, and came back to Kildwick – although both were wounded several times.

The photograph shown above must have been taken shortly after October 1916, when their mother died; both of the men are wearing a black button on their uniform, a symbol of mourning.

This is a news report from the Keighley News dated 14/10/1916:

#### **KILDWICK**

*Private Tom Hargreaves, of the West Riding Regiment, has been wounded in the left shoulder. On Thursday his sister received a letter from him stating that he had been sent back to the base and was going back to his battalion. He has been fifteen months in France. Private Hargreaves's mother was buried this week, and endeavours were made to get leave for him to see her before she died, but without avail. Another brother (Private Alec Hargreaves) is also in the West Riding Regiment and has been home this week to attend his mother's funeral. Both these lads resided in Kildwick prior to joining the forces ...*

#### **Not only was Kildwick a "Thankful Village" ...**

... it was doubly thankful. That is, it suffered no casualties in either WW1 or WW2.

The 2013 study found just 14 "doubly thankful villages" in the whole of England and Wales. The only one listed in Yorkshire was Catwick.

However, using the same criteria as was used in 2013 – the village address being used by a man and recorded on the CWGC database – we can say that only one man, Cpl. George Teal, gave a Kildwick address. But this entry, in full, reads:

*Son of Charles and Mary Teal, of Farnhill, Kildwick, Yorkshire.*

He was from Farnhill.

## Acknowledgements

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- Information on “Thankful Villages” was taken from Wikipedia – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thankful\\_Villages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thankful_Villages) The 2013 survey details can be found at <http://www.hellfirecorner.co.uk/thankful.htm>
- The photograph of Kildwick war memorial was provided by Keighley and District Digital Archive.
- The village map was scanned with the permission of Kildwick Parish Meeting.
- Most of the information about the men listed on the Kildwick war memorial was found on the website “Craven’s Part in the Great War” – <http://www.cpgw.org.uk/>
- The photograph of the Hargreaves family was donated to the Farnhill and Kildwick History Group by Rosemary Hargreaves.
- The newspaper extracts are reproduced by permission of the Keighley News.

