

Missing volunteers & other men who served

The Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Project has very deliberately restricted its research efforts to the 68 men whose names appear on the Farnhill Parish Council Roll of Honour.

However during the course of the project we have come across names of other local men who served during WW1 whose stories deserve to be told.

These men may become the basis of a future project for the Farnhill & Kildwick Local History Group in 2019 and beyond.

The names fall into two categories:

- Local men who were volunteers and whose names were missed off the Roll when it was created in February 1916.
- Other local men, conscripted to serve in WW1.

The “missing” Volunteers

The Farnhill Parish Council Roll was compiled by Tom Turner. He was 16 years old and had only been Clerk to the Council for a few months, having taken over from his father in November 1915.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that while going round the village collecting names of the men who were serving or had volunteered, he missed a few.

Here are some names we think Tom might have included.

- **John William Archer** – of 9 Starkey Lane, Farnhill; the brother-in-law of Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Albert Edgar and Ambrose Bower.

He attested, in Keighley, on Monday 4th January 1915 (perhaps it was a New Year resolution ?) and he was sent to France, with the Royal Field Artillery, in September of that year.

In the news reports of Ambrose Bower’s Military Medal, in January 1917, there are references to *“Gunner JW Archer, his brother-in-law who has been serving ‘somewhere in France’ for over two years”* – a slight exaggeration.

John was missed off the Farnhill Roll and may even have been forgotten by the Army. This is a letter he wrote in 1920.

Sir. 20/62/3456
I should like to know, if there is
any medals for me. I went to France, in
September 1915, with the R.F.A. in the
25th Div. and was transferred to the
R.G.A. in France, sometime in 1917.
this was my number in the R.F.A.
Gnr. J.W. Archer 64456.
this my number in the R.G.A.
174273 Gnr. Archer
J.W. Archer
By James Sgts
Bilsden Via Highley
York

ARMY PAY OFFICE
18 NOV 1920
-DOVER-

I should like to know if there is any medals for me. I went to France in September 1915 with the R.F.A. in the 25th Div. and was transferred to the R.G.A., in France, sometime in 1917...

He was subsequently awarded a 1915 Star, a British War Medal and an Allied Victory Medal.

- **Albert Atkinson** – of 21 Starkey Lane, was a serving soldier in India when war started. Reports of him being seriously wounded appeared in the local press in June 1915.



- **Arthur Daffern** – his name appears in a list of men from Farnhill who had joined up, published in the local press in November 1915.

His service records have survived and suggest that he may have served, from 1910 to 1919 in India and Afghanistan.

His name was included on the Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour.

- **Benjamin Henry Freeman** – originally from Crosshills, enlisted in Canada in 1915.



In 1916 he married Margaret Hartley, the sister of Farnhill WW1 Volunteer James Arthur Hartley and moved to Airedale Cottages.

He served with the Canadian Infantry and was killed in action on 5th November 1917.

- **Tom and Alec Hargreaves** – were almost certainly missed off the Farnhill list because they lived in Kildwick.



The two brothers, shown above wearing a “mourning button” for their late mother, are named in a number of newspaper reports of local men who had been wounded. Tom Hargreaves is known to have been shot through the throat – the bullet entering and leaving without causing any long-term damage.

(With thanks to Tom’s daughter, the late Rosemary Hargreaves.)

- **Walter Hargreaves** – of 1 Starkey Lane, appears in a list of men from Farnhill who had joined up, published in the local press in November 1915.

A local news report from December 1917 suggests that he served in the Royal Field Artillery.

His name was also included on the Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour.

- **Heaton Mosley** – his name appears in a list of men from Farnhill who had joined up, published in the local press in November 1915.

His service records have not survived, but the only WW1 medal card for a man with this name suggests that he served with the Royal Field Artillery.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
MOSLEY	R 7-a.	Gnr	2550
	R 7-a.		781916
Heaton			

Metal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	(TF) R 7-a/176 ^B	15488	
BRITISH	- do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

His name was also included on the Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour.

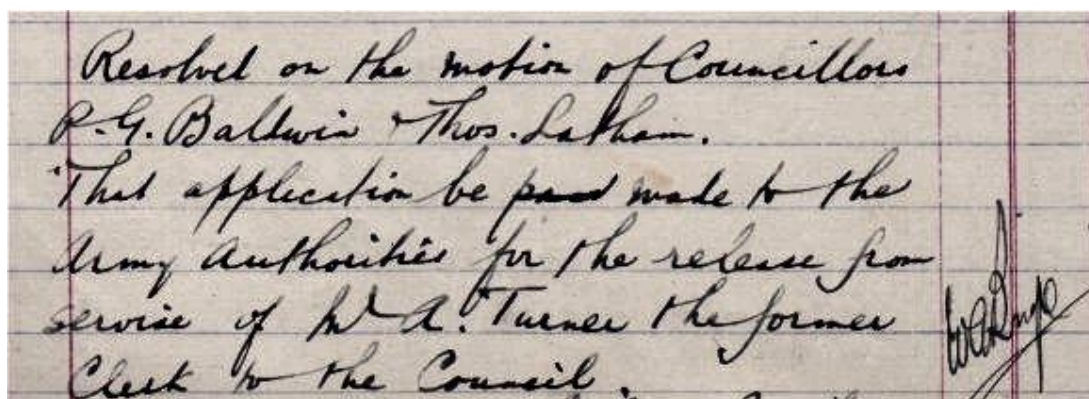
- **Arthur Turner** – the former Clerk to Farnhill Parish Council, who wished him well when he resigned to join the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in November 1915.

*Resolved on the motion of Councillor Wetherall
seconded by Councillor Petham:- That we thank
the Clerk for past services and wish him success
in his new career.*

Arthur Turner served in Malta, Salonika, and Italy.

Pte. A. Turner, of the R.A.M.C., formerly clerk to the Parish Council, has been in hospital in Italy, suffering from malarial fever. Pte. Turner enlisted in November, 1915, and after training in England has served at Malta and Salonika. He is hoping to resume duties shortly.

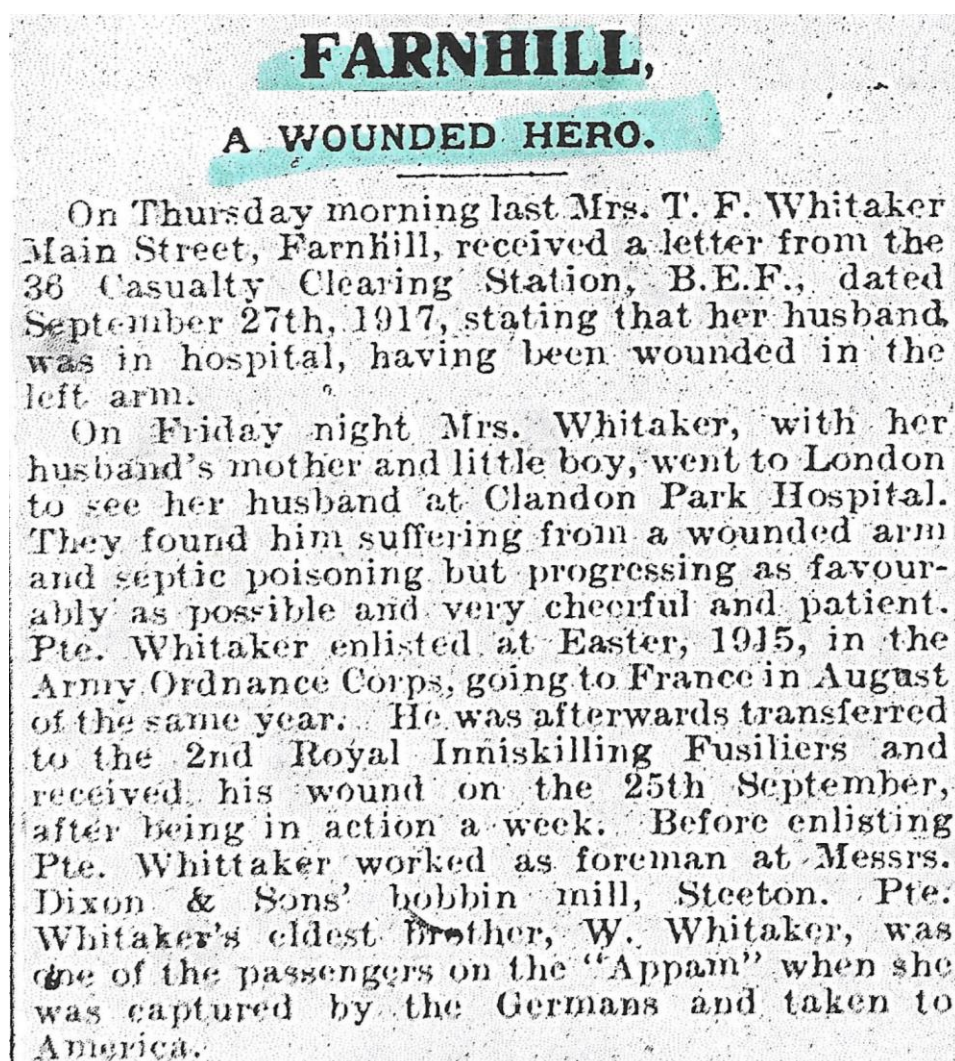
When the war ended, the Parish Council were keen to have him back – this is from the Council minutes of 17th March 1919.



Resolved on the motion of Councillors
P. G. Baldwin & Thos. Latham.
That application be paid made to the
Army Authorities for the release from
service of W. A. Turner the former
Clerk to the Council.

There is one immediate question: How did Tom Turner manage to miss his own father off the Roll of Honour ?

- **Thomas Fielding Whitaker** – was recorded living with his parents at 7 Kirkgate, Farnhill, in 1911. In 1913 he married Laura Jennings, in Bradford but appears to have settled in Farnhill.



FARNHILL,
A WOUNDED HERO.

On Thursday morning last Mrs. T. F. Whitaker Main Street, Farnhill, received a letter from the 38 Casualty Clearing Station, B.E.F., dated September 27th, 1917, stating that her husband was in hospital, having been wounded in the left arm.

On Friday night Mrs. Whitaker, with her husband's mother and little boy, went to London to see her husband at Clandon Park Hospital. They found him suffering from a wounded arm and septic poisoning but progressing as favourably as possible and very cheerful and patient. Pte. Whitaker enlisted at Easter, 1915, in the Army Ordnance Corps, going to France in August of the same year. He was afterwards transferred to the 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and received his wound on the 25th September, after being in action a week. Before enlisting Pte. Whitaker worked as foreman at Messrs. Dixon & Sons' bobbin mill, Steeton. Pte. Whitaker's eldest brother, W. Whitaker, was one of the passengers on the "Appam" when she was captured by the Germans and taken to America.

He was awarded a 1915 Star, a British War Medal, an Allied Victory Medal, and a Silver War Badge (after being discharged in September 1918).

Farnhill conscripts

There is no definitive list of the men from Farnhill who were conscripted to serve. The following is a partial list derived from various sources.

The following men, from Farnhill, died in service during the war and are named on the Kildwick War Memorial.

Samuel Booth, of 55 Airedale Cottages

Killed in action, 8th June 1917. He was the next door neighbour of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Ernest and William Thompson.

William Mosley, of 53 Starkey Lane

Killed in action, 2nd June 1917. He was a bell-ringer and the centenary of his death was commemorated at St. Andrew's Church.



Thomas Henry Stephens, of 25 Newby Road



An accidental death while serving with the RAF, 26th March 1918.

Thomas and another man were killed outright. No further details were provided.

Arthur Thomas Whitaker, of Grange Road



Killed in action, 20th October 1918.

His parents initially thought that reports of his death must have been incorrect, when they subsequently received a letter from him. His death was later confirmed.

The following names appear in war-time newspaper reports connected with the village:

- **Archie Dawson**, brother of Farnhill WW1 Volunteer Walter Dawson and nephew of John William Dawson
- **Joe Greenwood**, of Starkey Lane
- **William Hopkinson**, 19 Starkey Lane
- **Frank Mosley**, of Starkey Lane
- **George Parker**, of 24 Main Street
- **Norman Rhodes**, of Starkey Lane. The brother of Volunteer Cecil Rhodes and the subject of a failed appeal to a Military Tribunal by his father.
- **John Stott**, of The Arbour. Prior to the war he had been a barber in the village
- **Tom Turner**, who compiled the Farnhill Roll of Honour and was later conscripted – having turned 18.

The following names, not included above or on the Volunteers roll, appeared on the 1918 electoral roll for Farnhill – these men were eligible to vote due to their military service and were almost certainly WW1 conscripts:

- **James Atkinson**, of 36 Main Street
- **Mortimer Banks**, of 4 Bright Street
- **Walter Birch**, of 15 Newby Road
- **Reginald Boocock**, of 19 Mary Street
- **Henry Clarke**, of 2 Aireside
- **William Clarke**, of 2 Aireside
- **Charles Leonard Crick**, of 11 Staincliffe Street
- **Wilfred Kenealy Crossley**, of 7 Hanover Street
- **Samuel Charles Davies**, of 42 Airedale Cottages
- **Arthur Dobson**, of Aireside
- **Harry Foster**, of 12 Main Street
- **Perry Kitson**, of 69 Main Street
- **William Henry Mason**, of 21 Main Street
- **William Millward**, of 7 Aireside
- **James William Overend**, of 53 Main Street
- **Harry Roe**, of 5 Bucklar Hill
- **Anthony Russell**, of 2 Hanover Street
- **Sam Tillotson**, of Arbour Cottage
- **Tom Tillotson**, of 14 Main Street

