

Where the Volunteers lived, and where they went – a statistical breakdown

The electoral rolls for the West Riding of Yorkshire (including Farnhill, the nearby townships, and Skipton), up to 1962, are available online via Ancestry.

This information, together with information obtained from other sources, has been used to answer questions about where the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers lived.

Where did they come from in the village ?

Based on where families were living in 1915, it appears that the 68 Volunteers came from throughout the village, with the highest average number per household probably being from Mary Street.

Main Street	17
Mary Street	12
Starkey Lane	7
Grange Road	6
The Arbour	4
Hanover Street	4
Skipton Road (New Road)	4
Kirkgate	3
Newby Road	2
Bucklar Hill	2
Bright Street	2
South View	2
Hardings Houses	1
Kildwick	2
Total	68

Notes:

- Addresses were obtained from the 1915 electoral roll and from enlistment documents, where they exist. Gaps were filled-in using the 1918 electoral roll and the 1911 census returns.
- The total for Main Street includes Ambrose Bower who was living in Keighley but almost certainly lodged with his parents and siblings during the week, whilst working for William Sugden, the coal merchant.
- Two of the Farnhill Volunteers actually lived in Kildwick. William Birch Holmes lived with his mother at the Post Office, and Thomas Edward Sugden lived with his parents at Holme Bank (now St. Andrew's vicarage).
- The Grange Road total is elevated due to four brothers from the Slack family volunteering.

Where did they live after WW1 ?

For men returning from the war, the 1920s and 30s were a difficult period in which to find work. This must have been particularly the case in Farnhill, where the loss of the local mills in 1905/6 must have meant that most men would have had to travel out of the village to work.

Analysis of the electoral rolls from 1920 to 1960 shows that many of the Volunteers moved away from Farnhill, mostly to the nearby townships. (See details on the next page.)

Notes:

- The number reported as "Gone/dead" includes the men known to have died plus those who have moved out of the area permanently and cannot subsequently be found in the West Riding electoral roll.
- One of the Volunteers (Fred Hargreaves) is known to have emigrated for a few years to Australia, but subsequently returned to Silsden and later moved to Keighley. Another (Thomas Bulcock) departed for Canada in 1926 and, it is thought, did not return. He is reckoned as one of those "gone".
- There does not appear to have been a significant exodus to the major population centres, with many of the moves being to the adjacent townships: Silsden, Crosshills, Cowling, Eastburn, etc. In particular Skipton does not appear to have held any appeal; with Keighley being far more popular.
- Most of the migration was in the period 1920 to 1935. See later for a further analysis of this trend.

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How old were they when they moved away ?

40 of the Volunteers are known to have moved out of the village. The table below shows how old they were when they moved away.

Age range	Count
< 25	1
25-30	14
30-35	13
35-40	8
>40	4
Total	40

Notes:

- Perhaps not surprising the peak age range for leaving the village was 25 to 35.
- The 28 Volunteers who did not move out of the village includes: those who lived all of their lives in the village, plus those who died in WW1 or in the immediate aftermath of the war. (William Lister Slack died, in Farnhill, 16/3/1919. James Scarborough Theodore Pollard died, in Farnhill, 7/10/1919; his brother, John, died still serving with the forces in France, 4/11/1919.)

Was getting married a trigger for leaving the village ?

Of the 58 Volunteers who survived WW1 and its immediate aftermath, 54 of them married. 11 of these were pre-war marriages, the other 43 took place either during or after the war.

Of the 43 wartime and post-war marriages, 10 were to men who subsequently remained in the village; and six were to men who had already left. The remaining 27, were marriages involving Volunteers who would subsequently leave the village. Looking at these 27 marriages and departures:

Av. age of men who left the village after marriage:	31.5 years (sample size = 27)
Av. length of marriage before leaving:	2.2 years

These departures took place between 1918 and 1934, as follows:

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
4	2	1	4	1	4	1	1	0	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

Young men leaving the village shortly after marrying may not seem remarkable. What is surprising is that this does not seem to have been the case for the pre-war marriages.

Looking at the men who married pre-war: six subsequently left the village, and five remained. All six of these departures were in 1918 or post-war, as follows:

Year	How many years married ?	Age of man
1918	13	34
1920	12	38
1920	9	29
1924	20	43
1925	13	40
1926	15	41

It does appear as if there was an end-of-war and post-war move out of the village, even by men who would have been considered middle-aged. For men making post-war marriages there seems to have been a further impetus to move out of the village before settling down.

