

## Herbert Barker (1894 – 1927)

Although his parents were living together in Farnhill in 1894, when six week old Herbert Barker was baptised, census records show that as young boy his family lived apart. By the time he was seven, although his mother Margaret and his younger brother, Rupert, were still living in Farnhill, Herbert and his father, together with the husband of his maternal aunt, were living in Poulton-le-Fylde near the Lancashire coast. They must have returned to Yorkshire because Herbert's father died in Silsden in 1905 and records show that Herbert, his mother and brother lived in Farnhill.

No Photo  
Available

Volunteering early in the war, Herbert went to France in 1915. He sent various artefacts he had collected back to his mother at home, including pieces of shrapnel and a German bullet. Ironically Herbert subsequently received a minor wound from a ricochet.

Herbert was demobbed in 1919 and worked in the electrical department at Bairstow's mill in Sutton-in-Craven. He married the daughter of the Crosshills station master and the couple, who made their home in Farnhill, had two children.

Herbert seemed to be very active in village life. Described as an upright and respectable character, he died in 1927 and was buried in Kildwick burial ground.

### Pre-war life

Herbert Barker was the eldest child of Lot Barker, who was born in Keighley in 1865, and Margaret Sugden Jackson, born in Kildwick in 1866. They were married in 1891.

Herbert was born on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1894 and was baptised six weeks later at Farnhill Methodist Chapel. The Rev. Ward seems to have forgotten to make the entry in the register at the time and squeezed it in later.

1893	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Clara	Thomas and Sarah Alice	Parker	Farnhill	barlooker	Thomas Shaw
No. 123	1894	Baptised March 10.	Herbert Lot	Starkes Lane	Intuace	Thomas	
1894	Jan 31. 1894	Born	Margaret Barker	Farnhill	man	Shaw	
No. 124	1894	Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie	Frank and Ellen	Archer	Farnhill	Weaver
							Thomas Shaw

Scan of the baptismal register of Farnhill Primitive Methodist Chapel  
From the archive of the Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group

Although the baptismal entry shows his parents living in Starkey Lane, Farnhill, Herbert's entry in the 1901 census recorded him, aged 7, living with his father in Poulton-le-Fylde near Morecambe. Also at the same address, was Horace Lund – the husband of Margaret's younger sister Annie. Lot's brother, Joe, was living in Morecambe at that time.

At this time Margaret, Herbert's mother, was living in Farnhill in the home of her father Robert Sugden, at 7 South View, along with her mother Grace, brother Fred, sister Annie, Annie's 3-month old daughter Gladys, and her and Lot's younger son, the 4-year old Rupert.

Robert Sugden, Margaret's father, was a member of the committee of Kildwick and District Brass Band, and its sometime conductor. In 1905 he gave land in the Arbour, Farnhill, to the band so that they could build a practice hall. It is almost certain that Herbert became a member of the band in the years before WW1.

**Note:** Herbert's mother Margaret appears on the register of her birth and on her marriage certificate as Margaret Sugden Jackson. She was the daughter of Robert Sugden. How do we explain the different surnames ?

Robert Jackson, born March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1840, was the illegitimate son of a single woman, Margaret Jackson. When he married Grace Baron, in 1863, he was recorded as Robert Jackson.

However, all of Robert and Grace's children, including their daughter Margaret, were given the middle name Sugden and, at some point, Robert himself started to use the surname Sugden.

Interestingly, Robert Jackson appears on two census returns, aged 11 and 21, living in the home of William Sugden, the Kildwick coal merchant. Aged 31, he and his new wife Grace were living there and Robert was referred to as Robert Sugden, the son of William.

Robert later joined Sugden's company, as a book-keeper.

It seems beyond doubt then that Robert was the illegitimate son of Margaret Jackson and William Sugden. This would make Robert's grandsons, Herbert and Rupert Barker, distant cousins of Thomas Edward Sugden, another of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers.

Lot Barker died in 1905, in Silsden, and the 1911 census shows the other family members, Margaret and her two sons, living at 9 Mary Street, Farnhill; which would remain Herbert's home for the rest of his life. The 17-year old Herbert was recorded as being an apprentice mill mechanic. There is evidence that this was at T. and M. Bairstow's mill in Sutton-in-Craven.



Photograph courtesy of Barry Durham

It seems likely that Herbert maintained a lifelong connection with Farnhill Methodist Chapel and, at a meeting held in May 1918, he was elected as one of the Chapel's trustees.

## WW1 service

Herbert Barker's WW1 service records have not survived (70% of the records were destroyed during WW2, in the London blitz of 1940) but it is clear from contemporary newspaper reports that he must have volunteered to serve early in the war and was a member of 1/6<sup>th</sup> battalion the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

The battalion embarked for France on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1915, and Herbert Barker's name is among the list of men who were members of the battalion recorded in the book "Craven's Part in the Great War", published after the war.



## FIRST 6th DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT.

NOMINAL ROLL of Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men who embarked with the 1/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment at Folkestone on 14th April, 1915.

Pte. C. Ackroyd.	Pte. J. Bailey.	Pte. P. Barton.	Pte. S. Bishop.	Sgt. J. Brennand.
Pte. W. Addyman.	Pte. G. C. Bailey.	Sgt. F. Barwick.	Pte. W. G. Blackwell.	Pte. H. Brentley.
Pte. E. V. Ainsworth.	Pte. F. Baldwin.	Pte. R. Bass.	Pte. P. N. Blenkarn.	Pte. E. Briggs.
Pte. J. Ainsworth.	Pte. P. Baldwin.	Cpl. J. Bateson.	Pte. W. H. Bolton.	Pte. J. Briggs.
Pte. E. Ainsworth.	Pte. H. Balmforth.	Pte. W. Bateson.	Pte. T. Bonnick.	Pte. W. G. Briggs.
Pte. E. Alderson.	Pte. J. Balmforth.	Pte. M. Baxter.	Cpl. A. M. Booth.	Sgt. T. P. Brighthouse.
Pte. H. Aldous.	Pte. J. H. Bamford.	Pte. S. Beard.	Pte. J. Booth.	Pte. W. Broadfoot.
Pte. W. Alison.	Pte. A. Bamforth.	Pte. F. Beckett.	Pte. S. Booth.	Pte. A. Brook.
Pte. S. E. Allen.	Pte. J. Bamforth.	Pte. J. Beckwith.	Pte. C. P. Boothman.	Pte. T. Brook.
Pte. J. Allison.	Pte. F. Banbury.	Pte. J. E. Beecroft.	Pte. P. Boothman.	Pte. C. Brooks.
Sgt. G. Allsopp.	Pte. F. Bancroft.	Pte. A. C. Bell.	Pte. R. Borrissow.	Pte. C. Brooks.
Pte. T. Allsopp.	Pte. J. G. Bancroft.	L./Cpl. E. Bell.	Pte. C. Bottomley.	Pte. H. Brooks.
Pte. W. Allsopp.	Pte. S. Bancroft.	Pte. F. Bell.	Pte. W. Bottomley.	Pte. J. Brooks.
Act./Cpl. T. Ambler.	Pte. A. Banks.	Pte. G. H. Bell.	Pte. C. Bolton.	Pte. R. B. Broster.
Pte. A. Anderson.	Pte. J. Banks.	Sgt. J. W. Bell.	Pte. A. Bower.	Pte. W. Broster.
Pte. R. Andrews.	Pte. C. J. Barker.	Pte. J. W. Bell.	Pte. S. Bower.	Dr. A. Brown.
Pte. J. Appleby.	Pte. E. Barker.	Pte. S. H. Bell.	Pte. A. Bowker.	Pte. A. Brown.
Act./Sgt. H. Armitage.	Pte. H. Barker.	Pte. A. Benson.	Pte. W. Bowker.	Coy. Sgt.-Major
Pte. J. Armitage.	Pte. J. W. Barnes.	Pte. E. Benson.	Pte. F. Bracewell.	A. H. Brown.
Pte. W. R. Armstrong.	Sgt. W. Barnes.	Pte. J. Bentley.	Pte. J. R. W. Bracewell.	Pte. E. H. Brown.
Pte. E. Askew.	Pte. H. Barraclough.	Pte. W. H. Best.	Pte. H. Bradbury.	Pte. C. Brown.
Pte. F. Askey.	Pte. A. Barrett.	Pte. R. Bibby.	Pte. J. E. Bradbury.	Pte. E. Brown.
Pte. J. Asquith.	Pte. F. Barrett.	Pte. E. Billows.	Pte. J. T. Bradley.	Pte. F. Brown.
Dr. A. Atkinson.	L./Cpl. G. H. Barrett.	Cpl. C. T. Binns.	Pte. W. G. Bradley.	Pte. H. Brown.
Pte. M. W. Atkinson.	Pte. J. Barrett.	Pte. A. Binns.	Pte. J. E. Bradley.	Pte. J. Brown.
Pte. H. Atkinson.	Pte. A. Barron.	Pte. E. Binns.	Pte. A. Bradwell.	Pte. J. J. Brown.
Pte. B. Ayres.	Pte. W. P. Barry.	Pte. U. Binns.	Pte. F. Brady.	Pte. J. W. Brown.
Pte. A. Bailey.	Pte. R. Barson.	Pte. W. Binns.	Pte. W. H. Brassington.	Pte. N. R. Brown.

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A page from "Craven's Part in the Great War" listing men of 1/6<sup>th</sup> battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment

A WW1 medal card bearing the name Herbert Barker confirms that he entered service in France in April 1915.

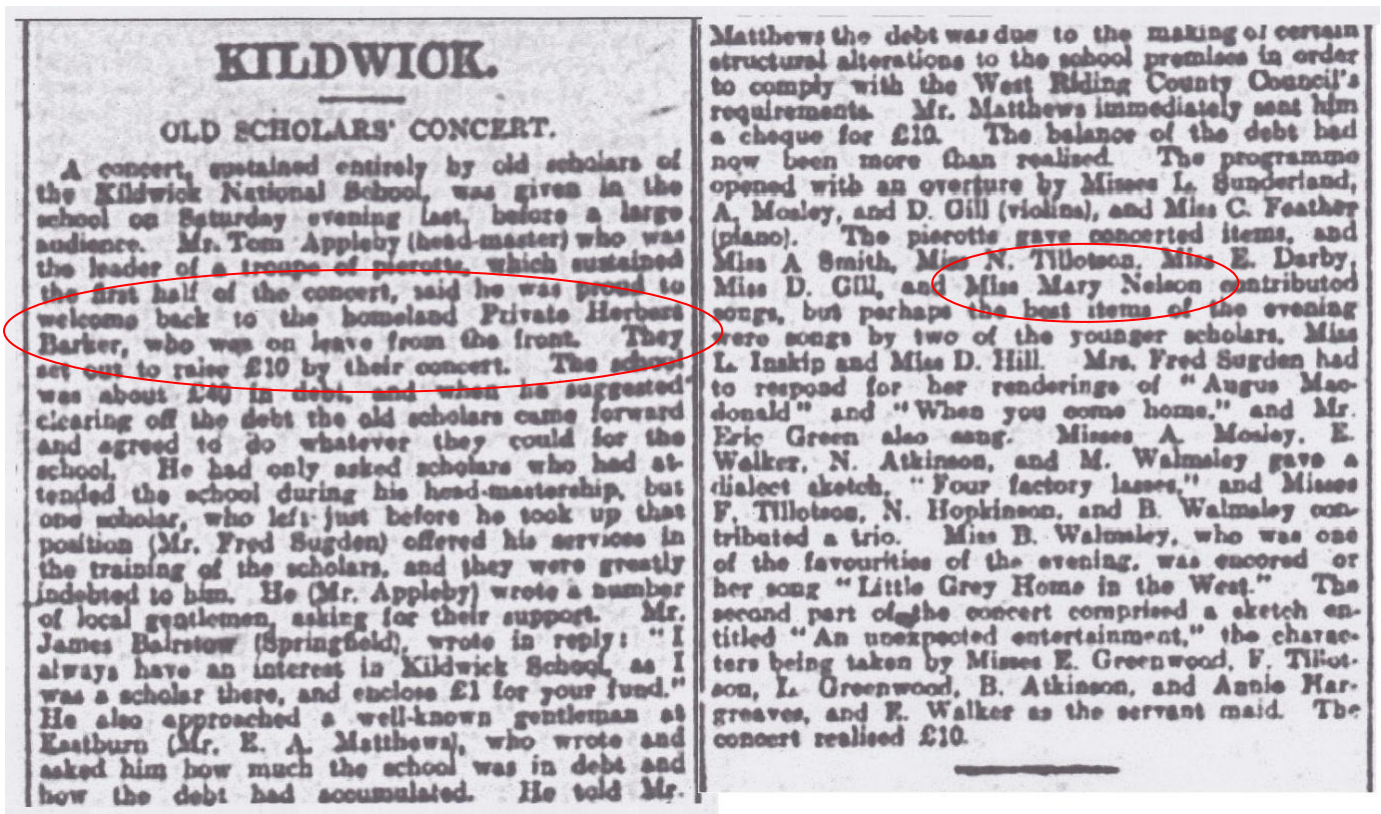
Herbert must have seen some action early on, as by June 1915 he was already sending artefacts of the war back home to his mother. This is from the West Yorkshire Pioneer (18/6/1915).



By kind permission of Craven Herald

The Regimental War Diary of 1/6<sup>th</sup> battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment for 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915 recorded that Private H. Barker (service number 2716) of "A Company" was wounded in the right thigh at 8:45 pm by a ricocheting bullet. This must have been a minor wound as it was not recorded in the local press and did not require Herbert's admission to hospital.

Herbert must have been back home on leave in May 1916. This is from the Keighley News (6/5/1916).



**KILDWICK.**

**OLD SCHOLARS' CONCERT.**

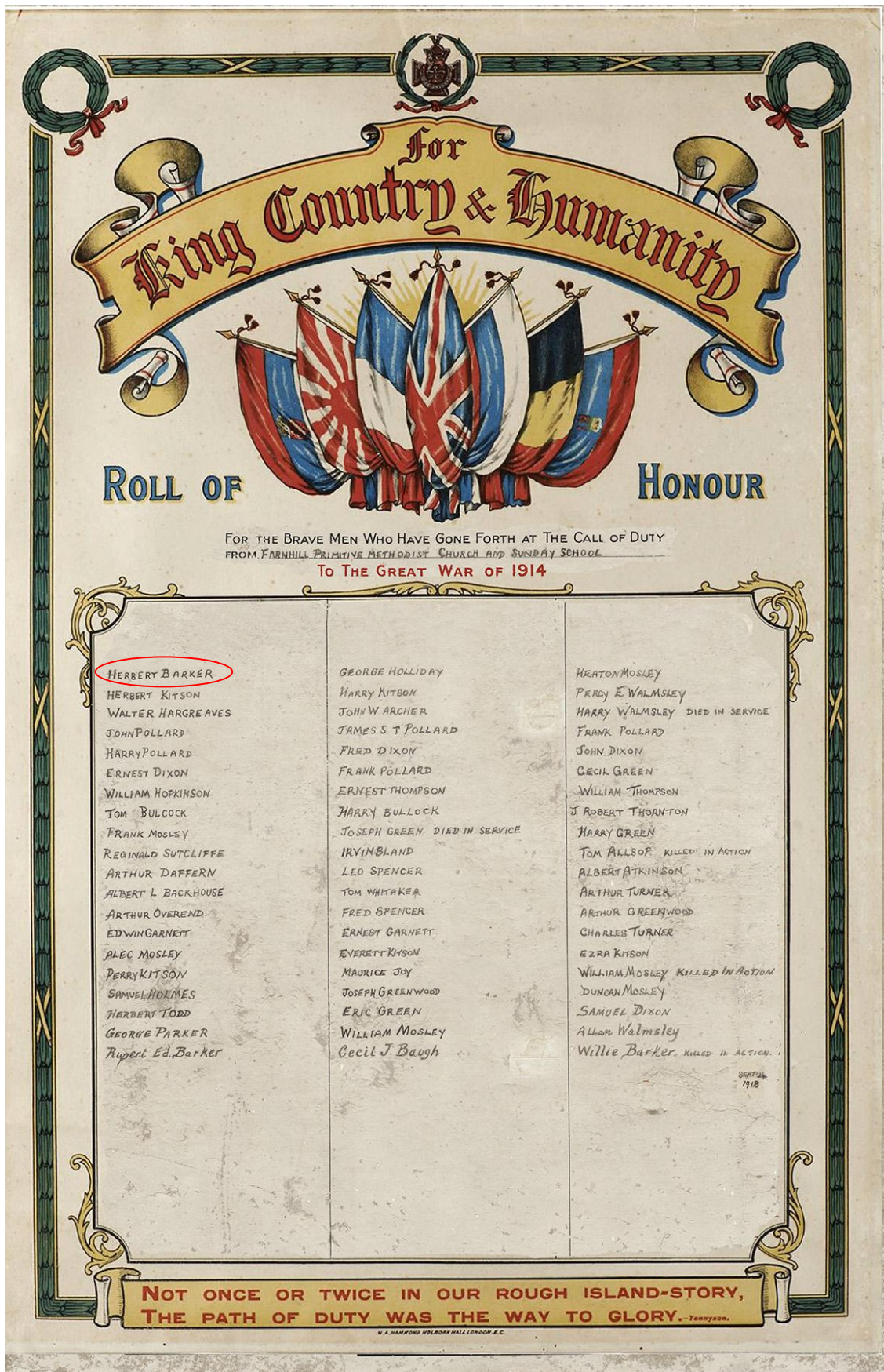
A concert, sustained entirely by old scholars of the Kildwick National School, was given in the school on Saturday evening last, before a large audience. Mr. Tom Appleby (head-master) who was the leader of a troupe of pierrots, which sustained the first half of the concert, said he was proud to welcome back to the homeland Private Herbert Barker, who was on leave from the front. They set out to raise £10 by their concert. The school was about £40 in debt, and when he suggested clearing off the debt the old scholars came forward and agreed to do whatever they could for the school. He had only asked scholars who had attended the school during his head-mastership, but one scholar, who left just before he took up that position (Mr. Fred Sugden) offered his services in the training of the scholars, and they were greatly indebted to him. He (Mr. Appleby) wrote a number of local gentlemen, asking for their support. Mr. James Balnstow (Springfield), wrote in reply: "I always have an interest in Kildwick School, as I was a scholar there, and enclose £1 for your fund." He also approached a well-known gentleman at Eastburn (Mr. E. A. Matthews), who wrote and asked him how much the school was in debt and how the debt had accumulated. He told Mr. Matthews the debt was due to the making of certain structural alterations to the school premises in order to comply with the West Riding County Council's requirements. Mr. Matthews immediately sent him a cheque for £10. The balance of the debt had now been more than realised. The programme opened with an overture by Misses L. Sunderland, A. Mosley, and D. Gill (violins), and Miss C. Feather (piano). The pierrots gave concerted items, and Miss A. Smith, Miss N. Tillotson, Miss E. Darby, Miss D. Gill, and Miss Mary Nelson contributed songs, but perhaps the best items of the evening were songs by two of the younger scholars, Miss L. Inskip and Miss D. Hill. Mrs. Fred Sugden had to respond for her renderings of "Angus Macdonald" and "When you come home," and Mr. Eric Green also sang. Misses A. Mosley, E. Walker, N. Atkinson, and M. Walmaley gave a dialect sketch, "Four factory lasses," and Misses F. Tillotson, N. Hopkinson, and B. Walmaley contributed a trio. Miss B. Walmaley, who was one of the favourites of the evening, was encored over her song "Little Grey Home in the West." The second part of the concert comprised a sketch entitled "An unexpected entertainment," the characters being taken by Misses E. Greenwood, F. Tillotson, L. Greenwood, B. Atkinson, and Annie Hargreaves, and E. Walker as the servant maid. The concert realised £10.

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Also mentioned in this article, as a member of Tom Appleby's Pierrot Troupe, is Mary Nelson – Herbert's future wife (see later).

Herbert's was the first name recorded on Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour, which was unveiled on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

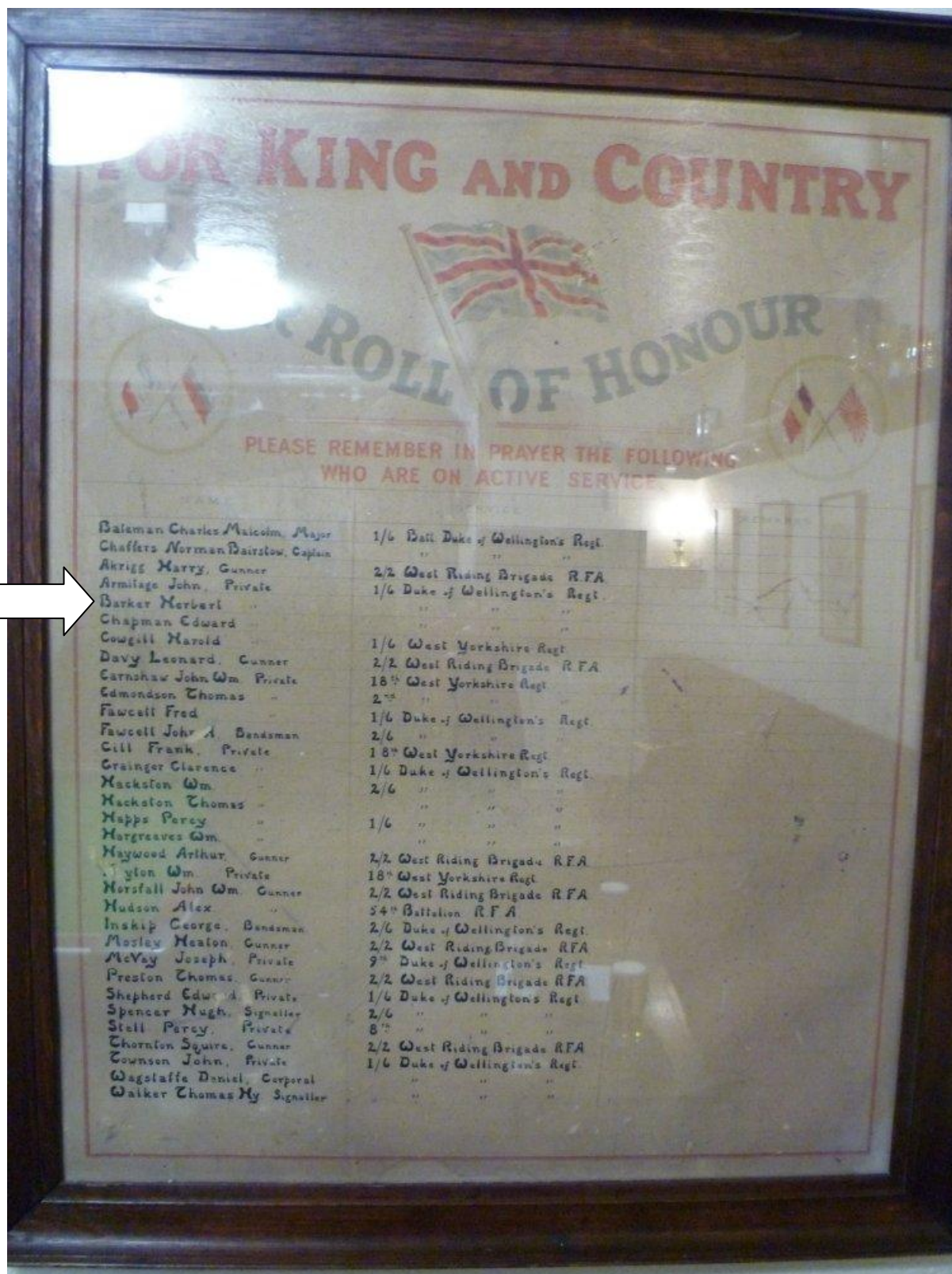




The digitally-restored Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour (1916)



Herbert's name was also included on a Roll of Honour listing men who had gone to serve from Bairstow's mill.



Bairstow's Mill WW1 Roll of Honour – now kept in the King's Arms, Sutton-in-Craven  
Photograph by kind permission of the landlord

Herbert's military career ended when he was demobilised on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1919. He subsequently received a 1915 Star, Victory Medal and British War Medal in acknowledgement of his war service.

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Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
<b>BARKER</b> Herbert	<b>W Rtd R</b> 11/6	<b>Pte</b>	<b>2716</b> 265707
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
<b>VICTORY</b>	02/10/1922	3088	Disemb. 22/2/19 (265707)
<b>BRITISH</b>	do	20	
<b>15 STAR</b>	02/3 B	45	
Theatre of War first served in	1) France		
Date of entry therein	14-4-15		

K 1380.

Herbert Barker's WW1 Medal Card, showing his medal entitlement.  
Used under licence from the National Archive

## Post-war life

On his return to Farnhill, Herbert resumed work at T & M Bairstow's mill in Sutton-in-Craven. He was employed in the electrical department, eventually becoming its head.



Bairstow's Mill, Sutton-in-Craven.  
Photograph courtesy of Keighley and District Digital Archive



On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1919, Herbert married Mary Nelson, the 26-year old daughter of the Crosshills stationmaster J.J Nelson and his wife, in Farnhill Methodist Chapel.

The ceremony was reported in the local press on the following weekend.

## **KILDWICK & FARNHILL.**

**Wedding.**—A very pretty wedding was solemnised at the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Saturday afternoon, the contracting parties being Mr. Herbert Barker, son of the late Mr. Lot Barker, and Mrs. Barker, of Mary Street, Farnhill, and Miss Mary Nelson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Nelson, of Crosshills. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a dress of ivory silk crepe de chine, with overdress of georgette, embroidered with opal and silver trimmings, and hat to match. She carried a bouquet of white roses, white carnations and white heather, gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Miss Hetty Nelson (sister of the bride), and Miss Elsie Nixon (friend of the bride), who wore dresses of blue aerial crepe-de-chine, with black picture hats to match, and carried bouquets of pink sweet peas and pink carnations. Mr. R. Edward Barker (brother of the bridegroom) was "best man," and the duties of groomsman were performed by Mr. Heaton Mosley (Crosshills). The Rev. J. H. Middleton (Keighley) was the officiating minister, assisted by the Rev. T. Ladlay (Farnhill). The service was fully choral, and appropriate music was played on the organ by Mr. Edward Spencer. After tea a concert and dance were held in the Institute. About 100 guests were invited. Mr. and Mrs. Barker were the recipients of numerous and costly presents, including a barometer from the staff at Crosshills Station. The honeymoon is being spent at Bispham.

By kind permission of Craven Herald

The newly-weds set up home at 9 Mary Street. Initially they shared the house with Herbert's mother and brother, but by the time of the 1921 electoral roll both his mother and brother had moved away.

The 1921 census shows Herbert, Mary and their six month old son living at 9 Mary Street. Herbert gave his occupation as Engineer work at Bairstow's Mill.

Herbert and Mary had two children: a son, Leslie Nelson, born in 1920; and a daughter, Dorothy, born in 1925. Both were baptised at Farnhill Methodist Chapel.

1892/ January Second Born 1920 December No. 246 sixth	Leslie Nelson	Herbert D Mary	Barker	9, Mary Street Farnhill	Mechanic	John Hodges
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18 1920 March 8 Born Feb 6 No. 260	Dorothy	Herbert Mary	Barker	Mary St. Farnhill	Electrician	J Henderson
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Scans of the baptismal register of Farnhill Primitive Methodist Chapel  
From the archive of the Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group

The Kildwick School pupil admissions records for 1918 to 1931 (the only years for which records have been found) record the attendance of Leslie Nelson Barker from 11/1/1926 (aged 5 years and 1 month) to 4/7/1927 – when he is recorded as having left the village.

Herbert played a significant part in the post-war life of the village, including:

- Acting as trustee and some-time treasurer of the Methodist Chapel
- Standing as umpire for the Kildwick Albion Cricket Club
- Membership of the Loyal Staincliffe branch of the Oddfellows

Herbert Barker was taken ill in the spring of 1927 and died on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Bradford Infirmary; he was aged 33. His funeral was at the Farnhill Methodist Chapel and he was buried in Kildwick churchyard, as recorded in the Craven Herald (20/5/1927).



## FARNHILL.

### THE LATE MR. H. BARKER.

Amidst many manifestations of regret and sympathy, the remains of the late Mr. Herbert Barker, whose death was recorded in last week's CRAVEN HERALD, were laid to rest in the Kildwick Church burial ground on Saturday in the presence of a large assembly. A service was held in the Primitive Methodist Church. Appropriate music was played on the organ by Mr. Edward Spencer, and the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," was sung. An address was given by the Rev. J. Henderson. He spoke of the upright character and the integrity of the deceased and of the good work he had done for the Church. Mr. Henderson conducted the last rites at the graveside.

Messrs. T. and M. Bairstow were represented by Messrs. H. M. Nutter, H. Barrett, J. R. Barrett, W. Brierley, J. Armitage and F. Greenwood, who acted as bearers. Mr. A. Butterfield represented the Loyal Staincliffe branch of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. The Primitive Methodist Church was represented by all the trustees and the Kildwick Albion Cricket Club by Messrs. L. E. Hargreaves (secretary), E. Green and T. Addy. Floral tributes were sent from:— His loving wife and children, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and Hetty, Mother, Edward and family, Percy and Susie, Uncle Tom and family, Aunt Ann and Hetty, Annie, Eric and Madge, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, White Bear Farm, Aunt Emma and family, Pollie, Misses Smith (Morecambe), Uncle Joe and family, Uncle and Aunt (Morecambe), Uncle and Aunt and Cousin Freda, Aunt Ada and cousins, Fred, Mabel and Agnes, Uncle James, Aunt Emily and Violet, Emmie and Dorrie, fellow workers, and Kildwick Albion Cricket Club.

By kind permission of Craven Herald

## Postscript

Herbert's death was recorded in the minutes of the Farnhill Chapel Trustees:

*10/6/1927 -- ... we record with deep regret the death of Mr. Herbert Barker at the age of 33 and we place on record our appreciation of his services as Treasurer and Steward to our church.*

From the Farnhill Chapel Trustees minute book; held in the West Yorkshire Archives, Bradford

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1928 Mary Barker, Herbert's widow, who at this time was living at 12 Ravenstone Gardens, Sutton-in-Craven, married Willie Dixon of Hardings Houses, at St. Thomas's Church, Sutton. They lived for a year or so at Ravenstone Gardens and then for a few more at 4 North View, Sutton, after which they appear to have separated. From 1935, Willie Dixon was living back with his family in Hardings Houses; he died in 1965, aged 79.

The 1939 Register, compiled to enable ration cards to be issued at the start of WW2, recorded Mary living with a Walter Dixon, in Bradford. She died, somewhere in the Bradford area on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1971, aged 77. Her ashes were interred in Kildwick new churchyard.

Both of Mary and Herbert's children are known to have married, and there may be descendants living in the local area.



## Herbert Barker – a life in summary

**Born:** 31/1/1894, Farnhill  
**Baptised:** 10/3/1894, Farnhill Methodist Chapel  
**Died:** 10/5/1927, Bradford Infirmary **Aged:** 33  
**Home address:** 9 Mary Street, Farnhill

### Parents

**Father:** Lot; b. 1865, Keighley; d. 2/3/1905, Silsden  
**Mother:** Margaret Sugden Jackson; b. 29/3/1866, Farnhill;  
d. 1946, Skipton (Registration district)  
**Married:** 1891, Skipton (Registration district)

### Siblings

Rupert Edward; b. 8/5/1896, Junction; d. 26/3/1964, Farnhill

### Relationship to other volunteers

Rupert Edward Barker – brother  
William (Willie) Barker – paternal cousin  
Thomas Edward Sugden – distant cousin

### WW1 service

**Service period:** prior to 14/4/1915 – 22/2/1919  
**Regt./Unit:** 1/6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regt. (Private. no. 2716, later 265707)  
**Medals:** 1915 Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal  
**Home address:** 9 Mary Street, Farnhill

### Marriage

**Wife:** Mary (nee Nelson); b. 2/6/1893, Bingley;  
d. 8/5/1971 – as Mary Dixon; ashes buried at St. Andrew's, Kildwick  
**Date:** 6/9/1919, Farnhill Methodist Chapel

### Children

Leslie Nelson, b. 6/12/1920; baptised at Farnhill Methodist Chapel, 2/1/1921  
m. Madge Fieldhouse, 1942, Bradford (Registration district)  
d. June 1972, Gosport (Registration district)  
Dorothy, b. 6/2/1925; baptised at Farnhill Methodist Chapel, 8/3/1925  
m. John H. Richards, 1943, Bradford (Registration district)  
d. July 1996, Bradford (Registration district)

