

## Joseph Green (1889 – 1916)

Joseph Green was one of seven children from an old established Farnhill family.

An above average scholar, winning a prize for Arithmetic, he attended Kildwick School and Farnhill Methodist Sunday School.

When he was 12 he worked part time in one of the local mills and then went on to work, with his father, as a stone mason, for the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Company.

Assigned to the Inland Water Transport section of the Royal Engineers, he died in November 1916, whilst serving in France – probably of nephritis, a common consequence of trench foot.

Buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Joseph Green's name is recorded on the Kildwick War Memorial and was also included on the Kildwick School memorial.



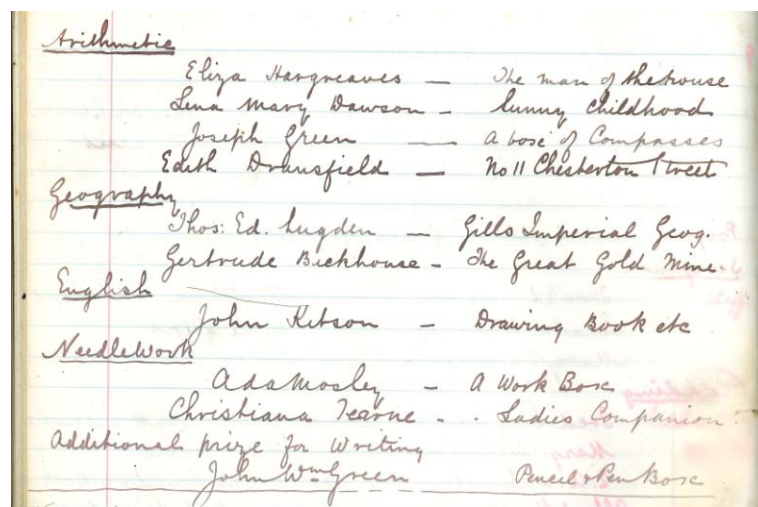
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### Pre-war life

The Green family lived at 11 Mary Street, Farnhill. Charles Whiteoak Green, Joseph's father, appears to have been from an established Farnhill family; his mother, Janet (nee Beattie), was from Scotland.

Joseph was born in Farnhill on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1889, and baptised in St. Andrew's church a couple of months later. He was the fourth of seven children: the second of four boys and three girls.

Joseph attended Kildwick school and the Farnhill Primitive Methodist Sunday School. He seems to have been an above-average pupil. In December 1897 (aged 8) he won a school prize for Arithmetic and was awarded a set of compasses. (His older brother, John William, was awarded a special prize for Writing.)



Extract from the Kildwick school Log Book – December 1897

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And at Christmas 1901 he took part in the annual school concert.

PROGRAMME.	
PART I.	
1. Recitation ... "A Welcome Speech" ...	Infants
2. Song ... "Naughty Jack" ...	Infants
3. Recitation ... "Mixed Pickles" ...	Birch Holmes and 6 Infants
4. ... "Butterfly Drill" ...	Girls
5. Action Song ... "Topsy Turvy Song" ...	Juniors
6. Musical Recitation ... "Our Baby" ...	Elsie Walker and Chorus
7. Action Song ... "The Three Jolly Barbers" ...	J. S. Pollard, H. Slater, and J. Green.
A SHORT INTERVAL.	
PART II.	
"THE HAPPY FAMILY."	
CHARACTERS.	
"The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe" S. A. Mosley	
Her Sons.	
Aladdin ...	H. Tiltotson
Sindbad the Sailor ...	H. Slater
Blue Beard ...	W. Mosley
Robinson Crusoe ...	J. S. Pollard
Ali Baba ...	Joseph Green
Adopted Son—) The Black "Man" ...	N. Mosley and N. Kitson
Friday ...	F. Greenwood
Chorus of Sailors ...	Members of the Old Woman's Family, not mentioned in "History."
Her Daughters.	
Miss Muffitt ...	C. Ryan
Marjory Daw ...	E. K. Walmsley
Dorothy Draggletail ...	E. Greenwood
Cinderella ...	F. Tiltotson
PART II.—CONTINUED.	
1. Symphony ...	Instruments
2. Chorus ... "A Happy Family We" ...	Chorus
3. Song ... "A Long, Long Time Ago" ...	Old Woman
4. Recit ... "This my Children is my Birthday" ...	Old Woman
5. Song ... "When Bent on Adventure" ...	Aladdin
6. Chorus ... "Aladdin, Alas!" ...	Chorus
Duet ... "I am your Sister" ...	Aladdin & Miss Muffitt
Song ... "Since first I left" ...	Sindbad
9. Song ... "Oh! we are the Crew" ...	Sailors
10. Song ... "The Sailor leadeth" ...	Chorus
11. Song ... "For many years" ...	Marjory Daw
12. Recit ... "Don't let me cause" ...	Blue Beard
13. Duet ... "Are you my Sister?" ...	Blue Beard & Dorothy
14. Song ... "When the Heart is sad and sore" ...	Dorothy
15. Song ... "I ran off to Sea" ...	Robinson Crusoe
16. Song and Chorus ... "I was a Black Savage" ...	Friday
17. Trio ... "Children should all agree" ...	Cinderella—Grace & Patience
18. Recit ... "My name is Ali Baba bold" ...	Ali Baba
19. Song ... "Honesty is the Best Policy" ...	Goody Two Shoes
20. ... "Tug of War" ...	
21. Chorus ... "A Sweet Good Night" ...	Chorus
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.	

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By this time, he was also working part-time in one of the local mills – as is recorded on the 1901 census.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village			
of Farnhill		of Kildwick		of		of		of Skipton		of Skipton		of			
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE		HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION		Employer, Worker, or Own account		WHERE BORN			
97 11 Mary St.		1		Charles Green		Head		145		Stone mason		York, Farnhill			
				Janet Do		Wife		46				Scotland			
				David A Do		Daughter		16		Cotton Weaver		York, Farnhill			
				Ellen Do		Daughter		15		Washed Spinner		Do Do			
				John W Do		Son		13		Washed Spinner		Do Do			
				Joseph Do		Son		12		Washed Spinner		Do Do			
				Harry Do		Son		7		Washed Spinner		Do Do			
				Lily Do		Daughter		6		(Half time)		Do Do			
				Charles Do		Son		2				Do Do			
				John Whitehead		Father-in-law		69		Retired Wool Sorter		Do Do			

Extract from the 1901 census return for Farnhill – the Green family at 11 Mary Street  
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Joseph's mother died in 1904, and was buried in Kildwick churchyard; the inscription on her grave, "Rest after weariness", perhaps suggesting that she suffered a prolonged illness.



By the time of the 1911 census, Joseph had adopted his father’s trade of stone mason and both father and son were recorded as working for the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Company.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.											
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.											
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions than the preparation of Statistical Tables.											
NAME AND SURNAME		RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.			PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	
1	Charles Green	Head	56	Widower	Y	W	Stone mason	433	Lgd Canal Company	Widnes	Yorks Hillwich Parish
2	Ellen Green	daughter	25	single			House - keeper				Yorks Hillwich Parish
3	John William Green	son	23	single			Weaver	250		Widnes	Yorks Hillwich Parish
4	Joseph Green	son	22	single			Stone labourer	433	Lgd Canal Co	Widnes	Yorks Hillwich Parish
5	Henry Green	son	17	single			Weaver	250		Widnes	Yorks Hillwich Parish
6	Lily Green	daughter	16	single			Weaver	"		Widnes	Yorks Hillwich Parish
7	Charles Green	son	12				Domestic purposes	429	School	"	Yorks Hillwich Parish

Extract from the 1911 census return for 11 Mary Street, Farnhill  
Used under licence from the National Archive

Pre-WW1 newspaper reports record that Joseph was a member of the Farnhill branch of the Paxton Society, for allotment and smallholders; he also belonged to the Kildwick and Farnhill Institute, and the Kildwick Conservative Club.

WW1 service

Joseph Green appears to have attested his willingness to serve in the armed forces early in 1916, just ahead of the introduction of mandatory conscription. He was assigned to the Inland Water Transport section of the Royal Engineers, formed in 1914 to deal with transport along the canals and waterways in France and Belgium. This posting probably suited Joseph’s civilian career.

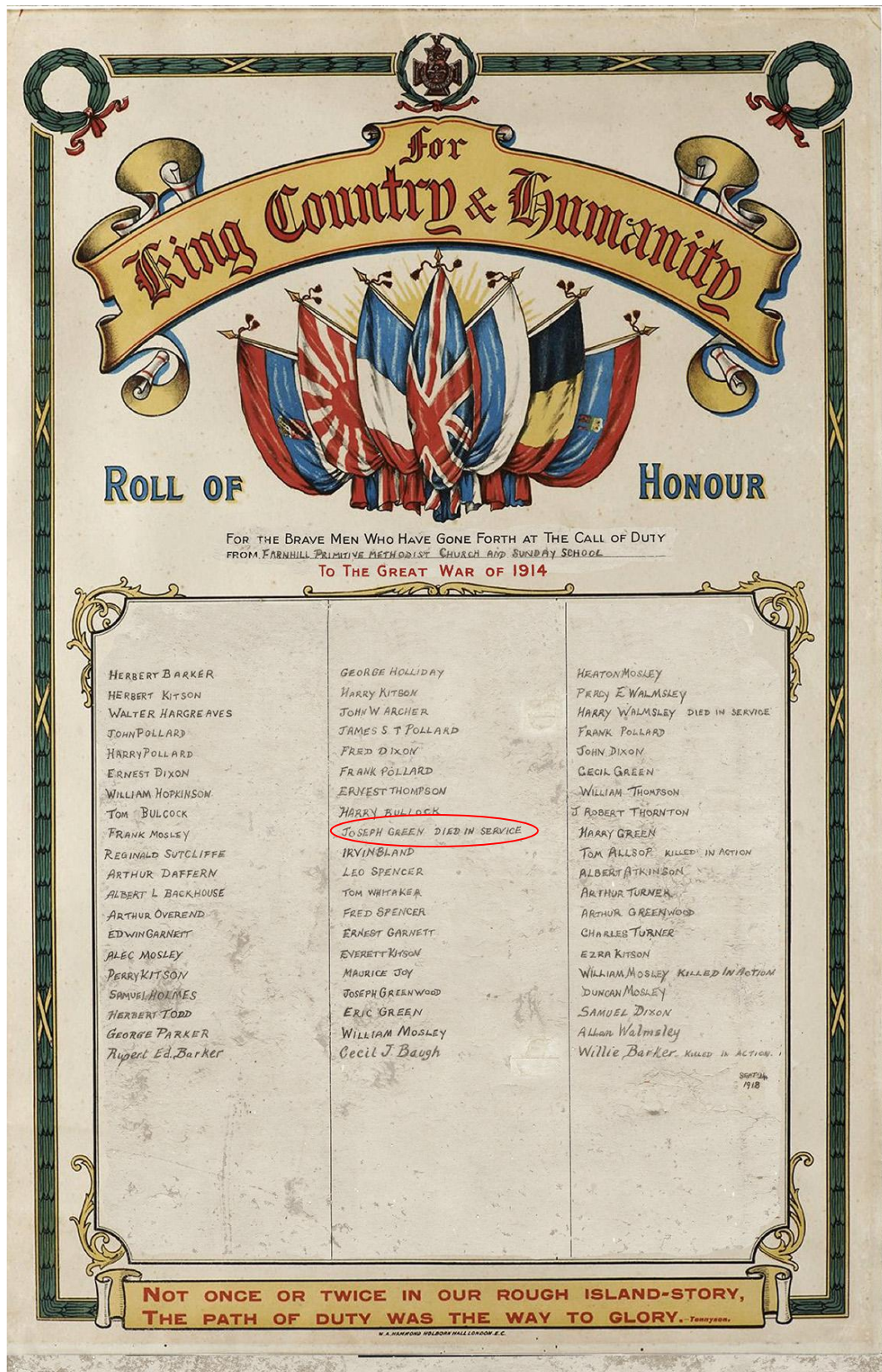
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
GREEN	R. E.	A./2/Cpl	150290
Joseph			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RE/101 B 185	44425	
BRITISH	do -	do -	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K 1280

WW1 Medal Card for Cpl. Joseph Green, Royal Engineers  
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Joseph's name was recorded on Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour, which also includes the names of his two younger brothers, Charles and Harry. This was unveiled on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916, by which time Joseph was already serving in France.



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

## Circumstances of death

Corporal Joseph Green died on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1916, while on active service in France. He was aged 27.

However his death was not as a result of enemy action; as was revealed in a letter sent to one of his sisters in Farnhill by his commanding officer (Craven Herald, 1/12/1916):

*"Dear Miss Green, - I regret to inform you that your brother, Corporal Joseph Green, was taken ill suddenly last Sunday night and passed away in his sleep, being found dead in his bunk by his officer, Sergt.-Major Solley, when he called in the morning. The Sergeant tells me that your brother had felt some pain that night. I think he vomited twice, but turned in and appeared to be sleeping the same as usual. The doctor, on examining him, told me that his death was due to disease of the kidneys. Your brother had not complained at all of feeling ill, but the sergeant tells me he was evidently delicate. The sergeant thought much of your brother, his future being of very good promise. I sympathise with you. There is just this to be thankful for - he had not long to suffer. I am writing this unofficially. Yours truly, Captain H. Pitman, R.E."*

**Note:** Inflammation of the kidneys (nephritis) was a common consequence of trench-foot, caused by infestation of the resulting sores by nematode worms.

When news of his death reached this village, the flag on the Institute building was lowered to half-mast (Keighley News, 2/12/1916).

Joseph's father was awarded a pension for life for the loss of his son.

S.B. 36.—D.		Regional No. <b>4/D/1340</b>	
(41084) Wt 1260g/256a 400 Bks 7/19 H & J, Ld (42567) Wt 1268g/272 278 Bks 8/19			
Particulars of Man.		Particulars of Claimant.	
Name <b>GREEN, Joseph</b>	Name <b>Mrs Charles Green</b>	Name of any man in respect of whom the said Claimant has made a previous claim.	
Regiment <b>R. E.</b> Regtl. No. <b>150290</b>	Address <b>25 Stanley Lane, Farnhill</b>	Regiment ..... Regtl. No. ....	
Rank <b>42 Cpl</b> Marital Status <b>(S)</b>	<b>Keighley and Keighley Lks</b>	Rank ..... Marital Status <b>(M)</b>	
Date and cause of death <b>13/11/16 Bled of acute fulminating uraemia</b>	New Address and date of <b>Letter</b> Date of Birth <b>18.5.5</b>	Date and cause of death ..... While serving } Case No. ....	
While serving } After discharge }	Relationship <b>Letter</b> Birth }	While serving } After discharge }	
Particulars of any Claimant who has preferred a previous claim in respect of the man.			
Case No. ....		Name .....	
Address .....		Relationship .....	
Particulars of Awards.		Appeals.	
Special features of case, e.g., referred to S.G.C. Accidents coming under Rules, etc.		Other Files bearing on the case. M.F.S., C.R., etc.	
31.7.20 6-261 Part 2/12 from 24.4.24 for life			

Extract from Joseph Green's WW1 pension ledger (SB 36)

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Joseph was buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery.



Photograph by kind permission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org))

He is also commemorated on Kildwick war memorial, unveiled in 1921.



Photographs provided by Keighley and District Digital Archive



## Postscript

In 1919, the family received the British War Medal and Victory Medal awarded to Joseph for his war service. They would also have received a bronze plaque (colloquially known as a “death penny”) and a scroll, both of which were usual for families of men killed in action.

In February 1920, the following news report appeared throughout the local press:

*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 only known photograph of the Kildwick School WW1 memorial, courtesy of Anne Hweitt.  
The memorial itself remains missing, presumed destroyed.



Joseph's father died in 1922 and was buried alongside his wife in Kildwick churchyard.



Photograph by kind permission of the Keighley and District Digital Archive

Of Joseph's six siblings, four are known to have married. These include his youngest sister, Lily, who married George Spencer on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1932 at St. Andrew's Church. He was the organist there and the father of another of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers, Leo Spencer. When they married, Lily was aged 37, George was aged 61; she was his third wife and less than two years older than her new step son.



## Joseph Green – a life in summary

**Born:** 16/2/1889, Farnhill  
**Baptised:** 28/4/1889, Kildwick  
**Died:** 13/11/1916, near Dunkirk, France      **Aged:** 27

### Parents

**Father:** Charles Whiteoak Green; b. 20/8/1855, Farnhill; d. 21/1/1922, Farnhill  
**Mother:** Janet (nee Beattie); b. 15/7/1862, Dumfries; d. 8/4/1904, Farnhill;  
buried 11/4/1904, Kildwick  
**Married:** 1882, Skipton (Registration district)

### Siblings

Sarah Hannah; b. 5/9/1884, Farnhill; m. George Waterhouse, 20/8/1910, Keighley Parish Church  
Ellen; b. 14/3/1886, Farnhill; d. 8/3/1936, Farnhill  
John William; b. 22/7/1887, Farnhill; d. August/September 1918; buried 3/9/1918, Silsden  
Harry; b. 29/5/1893, Farnhill; m. Ethel Earnshaw, 9/4/1921, Steeton  
Lily; b. 16/3/1895, Farnhill; m. George Spencer, 1/10/1932, Kildwick  
Charles; b. 28/8/1898, Farnhill; m. May Gallagher, 7/6/1924, Silsden; d. 28/2/1972, Ripon

### Relationship to other volunteers

Harry Green – brother  
Charles Green – brother  
Leo Spencer – Joseph's sister Lily married Leo's father in 1932

### WW1 service

**Signed-up:** January 1916  
**Service started:** June 1916  
**Regt.:** Royal Engineers - Inland Water Transport (Regt. no. 150290)  
**Medals:** Victory Medal, British War Medal  
**Home address:** 11 Mary Street, Farnhill

