

## Fred Hargreaves (1892 – 1975)

Fred Hargreaves was born in Kildwick and attended Kildwick school. After working part time in one of the local mills, he became a weaver.

Serving with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment – as did his brother – he suffered trench fever. Towards the end of the war, he was hospitalised in Liverpool, following an injury to his arm which ended his military career.

After a brief spell in Australia, he returned to the local area and became a farmer.

Fred Hargreaves married relatively late in life and was 83 years old when he died in 1975.



Photograph courtesy of Andrew Whittam  
and Jo Birtwhistle

## Pre-war life

Fred Hargreaves was born on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1892, probably in Kildwick. He was the second son of John Edward Hargreaves, a fishmonger, who was born in Steeton in 1866, and Mary Ann (nee Pamment) born in Cambridgeshire in 1866.

The 1901 census showed the Hargreaves family living at Great Slack, a farm on New Lane, Kildwick, above the road from Kildwick to Silsden. There were four children living at home:

- Laurie, aged 11, born in Silsden
- Fred, aged 8, born in Kildwick
- Ben, aged 6, born in Kildwick
- Elizabeth Ann, aged 2, born in Kildwick

Civil Parish of <i>Kildwick</i>	Ecclesiastical Parish of <i>Kildwick</i>	County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District	Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District	Rural District of <i>Skipton</i>	Parliamentary Borough or Division of <i>Skipton</i>	Town- ship								
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ROAD, STREET &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	In buildings	Uninhabited In Cottages &c.	Not an Ordinary dwelling	Building	Number of Inhabitants	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of Males Females	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	
<i>Great Slack 1</i>					4	<i>John E. Augier</i>	Head	M.	35	<i>Highminger</i>	<i>Own Account</i>		<i>Yorks. Skipton</i>	
						<i>Mary A. Do</i>	Wife	F.	34				<i>Wmbs. Skipton</i>	
						<i>Laurie Do</i>	Son	F.	11				<i>Yorks. Skipton</i>	
						<i>Fred Do</i>	Son	F.	8				<i>Do Kildwick</i>	
						<i>Ben Do</i>	Son	F.	6				<i>Do Do</i>	
<i>1st. Mill</i>						<i>Elizabeth A. Do</i>	Daughter	F.	2				<i>Do Do</i>	

Extract from the 1901 census – Hargreaves family at Great Slack  
Used under licence from the National Archive

There was a fifth child, Harry, who was not living with the rest of his family at this time. He was recorded as being aged 4 and born in Kildwick, and was living with his grandmother, Annie Hargreaves, at 10 Mill Street Sutton-in-Craven.

By the time of the 1911 census the family, including Harry, had moved to 17 Starkey Lane, Farnhill, where they were living in four rooms.

Laurie had left the family home. He had married in 1909 and by 1911 he, his wife Alice, nee Emmett, and their one year-old daughter, Phyllis, were living in Sutton-in-Craven with the Emmett family. There had also been an addition to the Starkey Lane family: a daughter, Mary, who was aged three in 1911.

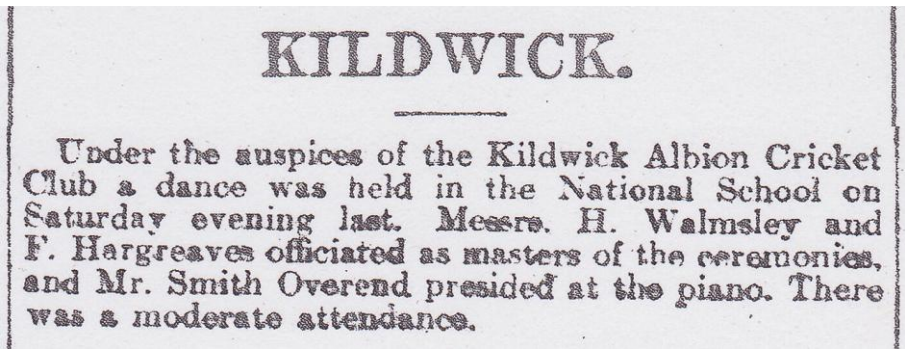
CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.									
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of this Column. The entries should be written in Ink.									
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. 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 Pension, 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 John Hargreaves	Head	45	Married	22	7	6	Fish Monger	922	Tork's Thelon
2 Mary Ann Hargreaves	Wife	45	Married	22	7	6			Not known - OX
3 Fred Hargreaves	Son	19	Single				Weaver Worsted	844	Tork's Thelwicks
4 Ben Hargreaves	Son	16					Spinner Worsted	843	Tork's Thelwicks
5 Harry Hargreaves	Son	14					Spinner Worsted		Tork's Thelwicks
6 Eliza Ann Hargreaves	Daughter	12					School	390	Tork's Thelwicks
7 Mary Hargreaves	Daughter	3							Tork's Thelwicks
8									

Extract from the 1911 census return for 17 Starkey Lane, Farnhill  
Used under licence from the National Archive

**Note:** The "Particulars of Marriage" section records that John and Mary Ann had been married for 22 years, and had had seven children; six were still living, and one child born to the marriage (name unknown) had died.

Fred must have attended Kildwick school and, like many children of the time, probably worked part-time in one of the local mills from the age of 12. Certainly by the time of the 1911 census, taken when he was 19, he was working full-time as a weaver in a worsted mill.

Like a number of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers, Fred was a member of Kildwick and Farnhill Institute and his name appears in a couple of news reports from the start of 1915 (Keighley News, 2/1/1915 and 13/2/1915, below) when he acts as master of ceremonies at fundraising dances.



With kind permission of Keighley News

## WW1 service

Fred Hargreaves' WW1 service records do not appear to have survived (over 70% of these records were destroyed in a fire during the WW2 London blitz). However a fragmentary account of his WW1 service can be constructed from other sources.

It is certain that Fred served as a Private in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, and that his service number was 267240. The surviving records do not provide details of which battalion he served with, but this service number is very close to that of some of the other Farnhill WW1 Volunteers who are known to have served with 2/6 battalion, and the name Fred Hargreaves appears on the Nominal Roll of that battalion listed in the book Craven's Part in the Great War, as a member of "D" Company.

The date on which Fred attested is unclear, but a subsequent document gives his date of "enlistment" as having been 29<sup>th</sup> February 1916. This fits in well with the service records of fellow Farnhill WW1 Volunteer Albert Kitson – also of 2/6 battalion, service number 267151 (a slightly earlier number than Fred's) – which gives his attestation date as 14<sup>th</sup> February 1916.

A partial diary reused by Fred over a number of years suggests that he trained on Salisbury Plain and at Bedford. This also fits in with him being a member of 2/6 battalion as it was from Bedford that this battalion set off for France on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1917.

It appears that in November 1917, towards the end of the battle of Passchendaele, Fred was in a military hospital suffering from trench fever. (Also mentioned in this report is fellow Farnhill WW1 Volunteer Harry Green who the project believe was also with 2/6 battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment and had the service number 267242 – just two on from Fred's.)

**FARNHILL.**  
ON FURLOUGH.—Pte. J. S. Whitham (Duke of Wellington's Regiment) is at present home on leave from the Western front. Pte. Whitham has had some interesting experiences at first-aid posts, and also whilst doing duty as a stretcher-bearer. Pte. Harry Green and Pte. Fred Hargreaves are at present in hospital suffering from trench fever.

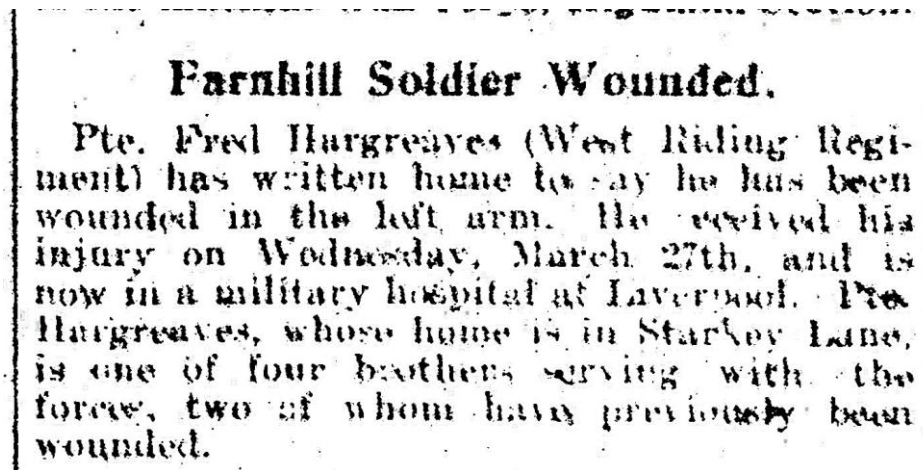
West Yorkshire Pioneer, 16/11/1917  
With kind permission of Craven Herald

On the last day of 1917, 2/6 battalion was disbanded and the men reassigned to other battalions including the 5<sup>th</sup>, the 2/4<sup>th</sup> and the 2/7<sup>th</sup>.

There is no clear evidence where Fred was reassigned. However, the Regimental War diary of 5<sup>th</sup> battalion records a march to Mont St Eloi on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 and Fred's brother Harry, who kept a diary throughout 1918, mentions being there with Fred on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Note:** Although this does not conclusively prove that Fred was with the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion it does rule him out being with 2/7<sup>th</sup>, as the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion diary also records them as being elsewhere.

At the end of March 1918 Fred was wounded in the left arm, an injury which required his removal to a hospital in Liverpool.



West Yorkshire Pioneer, 12/04/1918

With kind permission of Craven Herald

This was during the final major German offensive of the war, the Spring Offensive or Kaiserschlacht (Kaiser's Battle), which began on March 21<sup>st</sup>. If he was with 1/5 battalion, Fred probably sustained this injury during a substantial rearguard action mounted by the battalion south-west of Burquoy in the Somme valley. In this action, between March 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, the battalion lost 2 officers and 30 men killed; 5 officers and 126 men wounded; with 1 officer and 50 men missing.





Fred Hargreaves, left, in hospital "blues"  
 Photograph courtesy of Andrew Whittam and Jo Birtwhistle

It seems that this injury marked the end of Fred's military career.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1918 Fred Hargreaves was discharged from the army due to his wounds and awarded a Silver War Badge (number 430797).

267240.	Private.	HARGREAVES.	Fred.	DING	430797	29.2.1916	31.7.1918	26. Wounds.
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Extract from the WW1 Silver War Badge Roll – showing Fred Hargreaves' service dates  
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**Note:** Silver War Badges (SWB) , sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", were first issued in September 1916. They were awarded to men who were unable to continue in the services due to illness or wounds sustained. They were intended to be worn on civilian clothing and so counteract the practice of "white-feathering" men who had wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance.

Form No. S.B. 36

B.C.-3C.4954.

Surname HARGREAVES Christian Names Lester

(in block letters)

Unit and Regiment or Corps. Co. Kings Regt. No. 115 Rank Pte

Date of Discharge 31-7-18 Year of Birth 1892 Marital Status S. Single

W. = Widower

M. = Married

Address 13 Starkey Lane Keighley

Date of commencement of Pension 1-8-18

Disabilities 1. Am

State whether attributable to or aggravated by Service or non-attributable :-

1. Am 2. Am 3. Am

4. Am 5. Am 6. Am

Extracts from Fred Hargreaves' WW1 pension ledger (SB 36)  
Used under licence from the National Archive

[illegible]

Fred Hargreaves' WW1 Medal Card – showing his eligibility for a Silver War Badge  
Used under licence from the National Archive

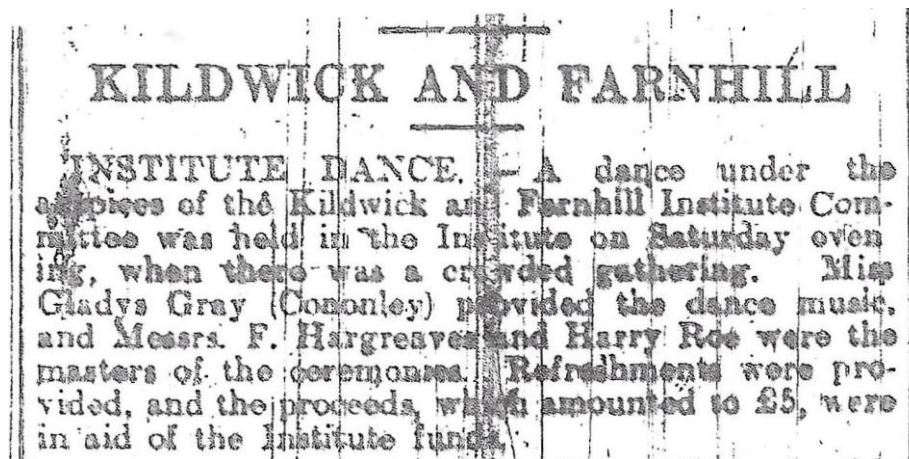


## Post-war life

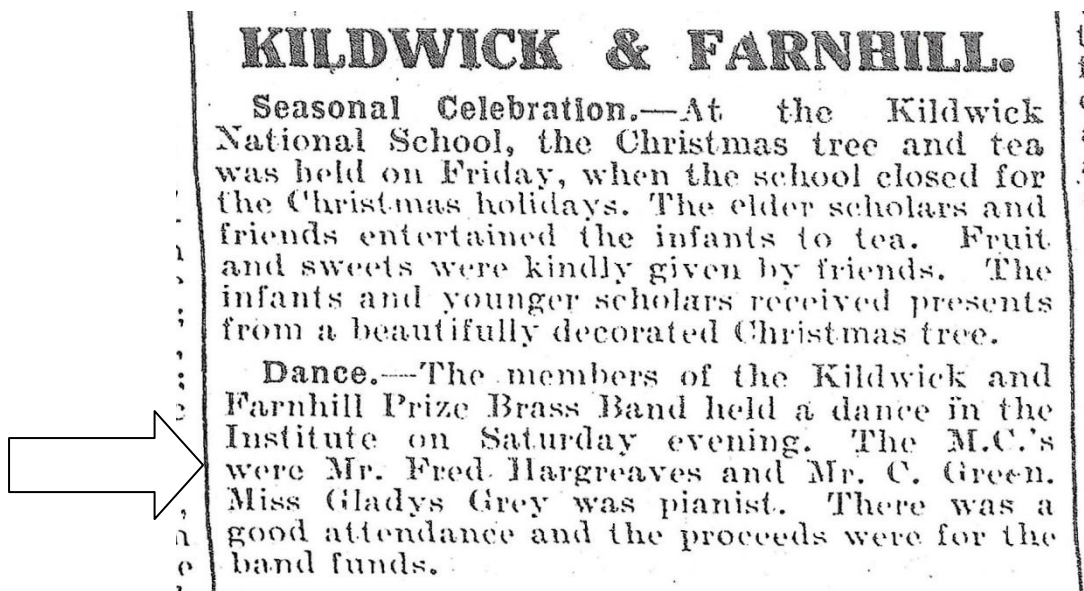
After his discharge Fred returned to Farnhill and lived, for a number of years, at 17 Starkey Lane with his parents and various siblings.

**Note:** His pension ledger gives Fred's address as 13 Starkey Lane. This is certainly wrong.

He also resumed his membership of Kildwick and Farnhill Institute and, possibly, of the Kildwick Brass Band.



Keighley News, 5/4/1919  
With kind permission of Keighley News

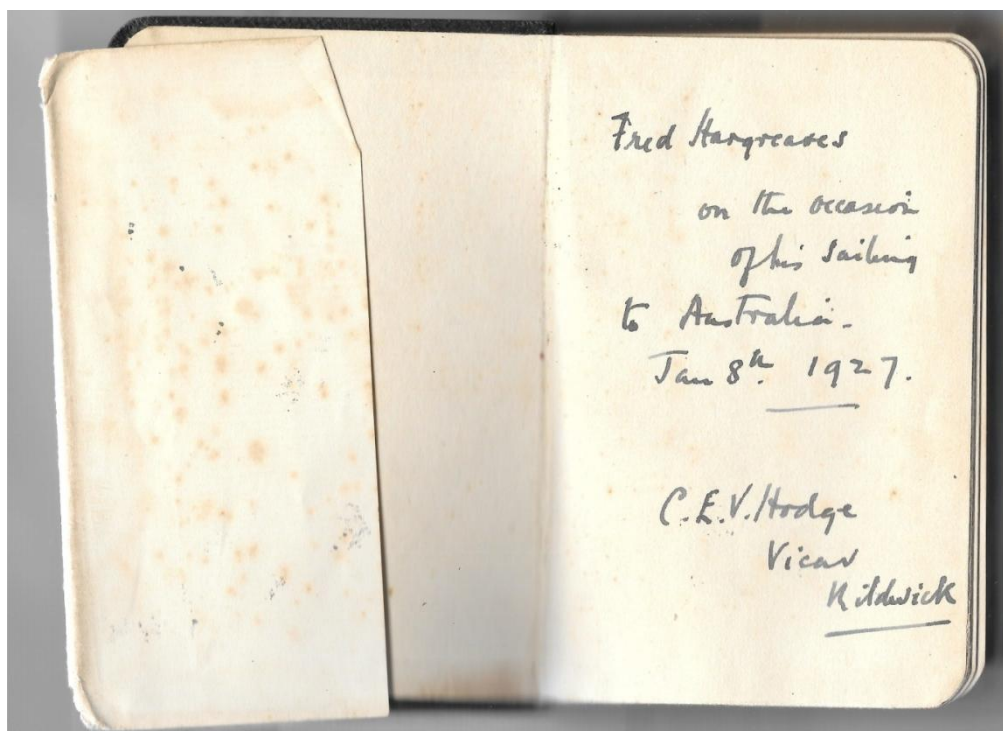


Craven Herald, 26/12/1919  
With kind permission of Craven Herald

The 1921 census records him living at home. It also records him working from home as a pig breeder.

Between 1923 and 1926 Fred Hargreaves rented an allotment from Farnhill Parish Council, at a cost of 6/3d (31p) per year. His final recorded payment was for the year up to the end of March 1926.

Early in 1927 Fred emigrated to Australia, on which occasion he was given a Prayer Book by Rev. C.E.V. Hodge, the vicar of Kildwick.



Photograph courtesy of Andrew Whittam and Jo Birtwhistle

However life in Australia does not seem to have suited Fred, as he returned to England and back to his family in Starkey Lane, in 1930 or '31.

In 1934, after living for a short time with his brother Harry at Heights Farm in Silsden, he himself took up farming and moved to Low Edge Farm (also in Silsden).

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1943, at the age of 51 (although he claimed 50 on the certificate) Fred married Eva Smith (nee Horne) of Ingrow, in Keighley Register Office. She was a divorcee, aged 50, and gave her occupation as a Munitions Worker (Worsted Weaver). She may have had a daughter, born in 1920, who was already married herself by this time.

1943. Marriage solemnized at <u>The Register Office</u> in the							
District of <u>Keighley</u>		in the <u>County of York</u>					
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
232	Twenty third December 1943	Fred Hargreaves	50 years	Bachelor	Farmer	Low Edge Farm, Bradley Moor, Keighley	John Hargreaves, Farmer
		Eva Smith formerly Horne	50 years	Formerly the wife of William Smith (deceased) Munitions Worker (Worsted Weaver) obtained a divorce		36 Laister Street, Ingrow, Keighley	Thomas William Horne (deceased) Nail maker (Journegman)
Married in the <u>Register Office</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Church of England</u> by <u>Walter Smith</u> Registrar							
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>F. Hargreaves</u>	in the Presence of us,		<u>H. Green</u> <u>Charlie Smith</u> <u>Emma Slater</u>	<u>Percy Brown</u> Interim Superintendent Registrar	

Hargreaves – Smith wedding certificate  
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The witnesses included an “H. Green”, who might have been the Farnhill WW1 Volunteer, Harry Green. Harry Green may have enlisted at the same time as Fred and been given a very similar service number in 2/6 Duke of Wellington’s Regiment (see earlier).

Fred and Eva lived at Low Edge Farm until at least 1950 and then moved to 3 Lister Street, Keighley.

Research has been unable to determine exactly when Eva died but her name last appeared with Fred’s on the electoral roll for 1958. In 1959 Fred moved to 5 Harewood Hill, Oakworth.

Fred Hargreaves died on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1975. He was aged 83.

## **Postscript**

Fred and Eva had no children, and there are no direct descendants. Of Fred’s siblings, only one brother is known to have married and had children.

## Fred Hargreaves – a life in summary

**Born:** 8/6/1892, Kildwick  
**Baptised:** 15/4/1900, Kildwick  
**Died:** 17/10/1975, Airedale Hospital      **Aged:** 83  
**Home address:** 5 Harewood Hill, Oakworth

### Parents

**Father:** John Edward; b. 10/2/1866, Steeton; d. 11/6/1945, Farnhill  
**Mother:** Mary Ann (nee Pamment); b. 1866, Isleham (Cambs.);  
d. March 1951; buried 7/3/1951, Kildwick St. Andrew's  
**Married:** 4/8/1888, Kildwick

### Siblings

Laurie; b. 1890, Silsden; m. Alice Emmett, 1909, Bradford (Registration district); d. 1924  
Ben; b. 21/11/1894, Kildwick; d. 4/7/1926, Farnhill  
Harry; b. 20/11/1896, Kildwick; m. Maria Wade, 6/9/1941, Silsden Parish Church;  
d. 1/12/1982, Crosshills  
Elizabeth Ann; b. 1899, Kildwick  
Mary; b. 1908, Kildwick

plus one other who died prior to the 1911 census

### WW1 service

**Service period:** 29/2/1916 to 31/7/1918 (invalided out)  
**Regt.:** West Riding Regiment (Private, no. 267240)  
**Medals:** British War Medal, Victory Medal, Silver War Badge  
**Home address:** 17 Starkey Lane, Farnhill

### Relationship to other volunteers

Ben Hargreaves – brother  
Harry Hargreaves – brother

**Note:** There appears to be no relationship between these three brothers and the other Hargreaves family of Farnhill.

### Marriage

**Wife:** Eva Smith (nee Horne) – divorced  
**Date:** 23/12/1943, at Keighley Register Office

