

# Sam Holmes (1889 – 1947)

Sam Holmes, born in Farnhill, became a bobbin setter in one of the local mills while still attending school part-time.

An active member of Kildwick and Farnhill Institute he served on various committees.

Not much is known about his war service or whether he actually served overseas but his name is included in Farnhill Parish Council's Roll of Honour.



Sam Holmes married in 1932 and he and his wife made their home in Cononley. The couple had no children and Sam died suddenly, at his work place in Crosshills, when he was 57.

## Pre-war life

Sam Holmes was born in Farnhill on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1889 and was baptised in St. Andrew's church, Kildwick, a month later. He was the youngest of four children born to Jonas and Ann Holmes (nee Watson). His father was a stonemason's labourer and a native of Farnhill; his mother was from Cononley.

Sam first appears in the documentary record on the 1891 census, when the family was living at 3 Bucklar Hill. His eldest sister, Martha, who was already 21 years old, was working in one of the local mills. His other sister, Mary aged eight, was attending school.

**Note:** The other child of the family was a boy called Samuel. He was born in 1872 and died in 1881.

By the time of the 1901 census, Martha had married William Glover of Keighley and was no longer living with the rest of the family. Sam, aged 12, was, like many children of the time, attending school part-time and also working part-time in a local mill, where he was a bobbin setter.

| Civil Parish of <i>Farnhill</i> |   | Ecclesiastical Parish of <i>Kildwick</i> |           | County Borough; Municipal Borough, or Urban District of <i>Farnhill</i> |          | Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District of <i>Farnhill</i> |                                 | Rural District of <i>Stipton</i> |                 | Parliamentary Borough or Division of <i>Stipton</i> |     | Town or Village of <i>Farnhill</i> |                                  |                    |             |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------|---|----------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1                               | 2   | 3  | 4         | 5   | 6        | 7   | 8                               | 9                                | 10              | 11  | 12  | 13                                 | 14                               | 15                 | 16          |
| No. of Inhabitants              | ROAD, STREET &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE | Uninhabited                              | Inhabited | Not in separate houses  | Building | Part of house of 2 or more tenements                              | Name and Surname of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family       | Usual Residence | Age last Birthday of                                | Sex | PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION           | Employer, Worker, or Own account | If Working at Home | WHERE BORN  |
| 74                              | 3 Bucklar Hill 1.                         |  |           |   |          |   | Jonas Holmes                    | Head                             | M               | 56  | M   | Stonemason's Labourer              | Worker                           |                    | Do Do       |
|                                 |   |  |           |   |          |   | Ann                             | Wife                             | F               | 52  | F   | Do                                 | Do                               |                    | Do Bowling  |
|                                 |   |  |           |   |          |   | Mary                            | Daughter                         | F               | 18  | F   | Woolstaple Twister                 | Worker                           |                    | Do Farnhill |
|                                 |   |  |           |   |          |   | Sam                             | Son                              | M               | 12  | M   | Do (Bucklar Hill Time)             | Do                               |                    | Do Do       |

Extract from the 1901 census return for Farnhill – Holmes family at 3 Bucklar Hill  
Used under licence from the National Archive

In early December 1907, Sam's sister Mary died, at the age of 25. She was buried in Kildwick graveyard.

In 1909 the family, by this time consisting of just Sam and his parents, moved from Bucklar Hill to 15 Starkey Lane and this is where they were living when the 1911 census was taken.

It is likely that around this time Sam became a member of Kildwick and Farnhill Institute.

## Sam Holmes during WW1

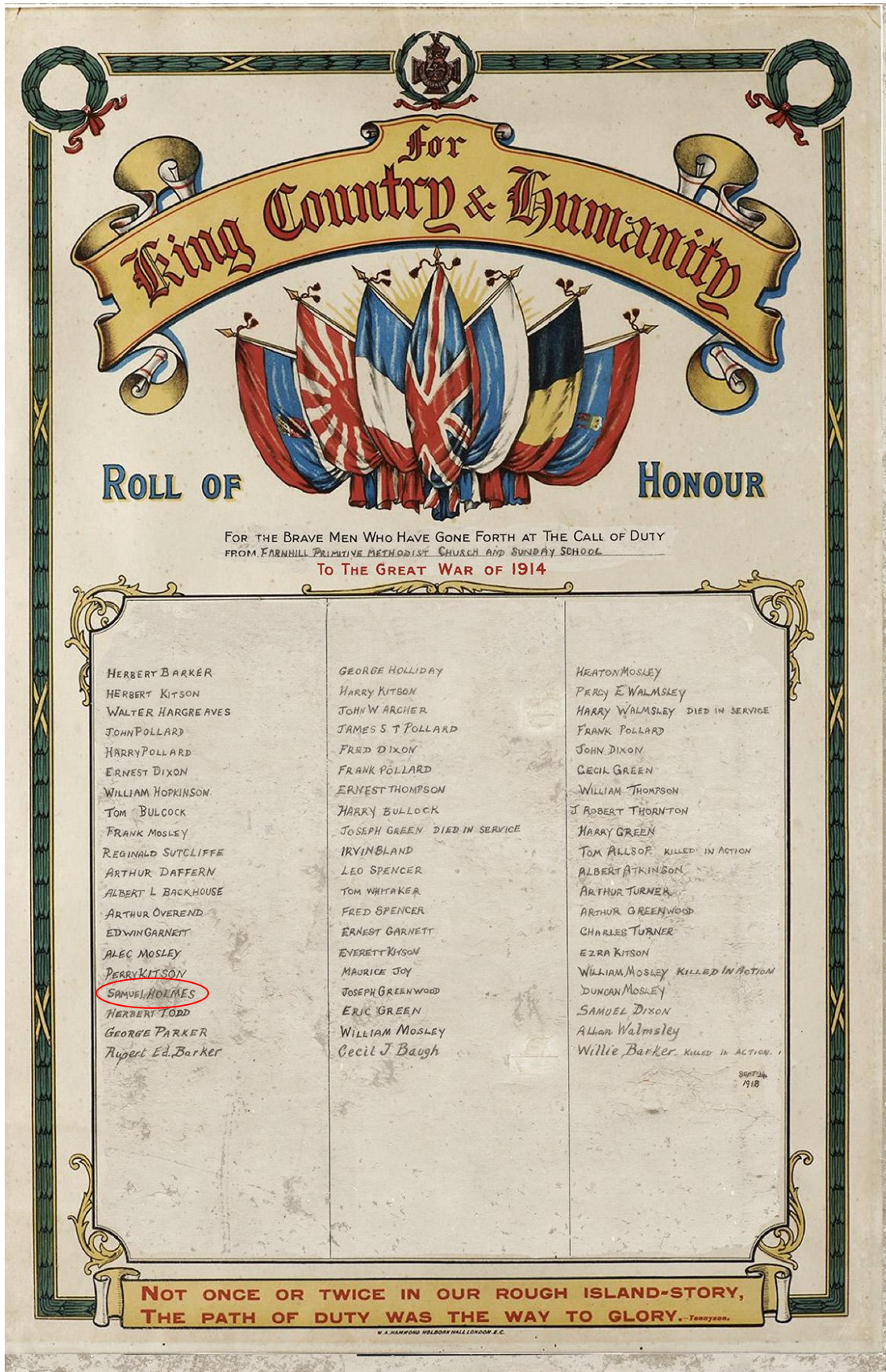
There is no doubt that Sam Holmes volunteered to serve in WW1 – otherwise his name would not have been included in the Farnhill Parish Council Roll of Honour. However, it has not been possible to say when, where, or how he served.

No newspaper reports of the period mentioned him as a member of the armed forces, or included his name in any list of the men who were serving. His name did appear in two news reports during the war period, both of which suggest that he was still in the village up until at least October 1915.

In October 1914 Sam Holmes was elected to the Farnhill Institute management committee (reported in the Keighley News 17/10/1914) and the following year he was appointed to a committee formed by the Institute to investigate the possibility of forming a scheme to “provide comforts for the lads who had enlisted from the village” (Keighley News 16/10/1915).

**Note:** The latter committee also included the subsequent Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Peter Slack and Charles Green and, at the same meeting, Thomas Edward Sugden was appointed as an Institute committee member.

It seems likely that by July 1916 had himself enlisted and left the village, as his name was included on the Farnhill Methodist Chapel’s Roll of Honour which was unveiled on the 9<sup>th</sup>.



For  
**King Country & Humanity**



**ROLL OF HONOUR**

FOR THE BRAVE MEN WHO HAVE GONE FORTH AT THE CALL OF DUTY  
 FROM FARNHILL PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 TO THE GREAT WAR OF 1914

HERBERT BARKER  
 HERBERT KITSON  
 WALTER HARGREAVES  
 JOHN POLLARD  
 HARRY POLLARD  
 ERNEST DIXON  
 WILLIAM HOPKINSON  
 TOM BULCOCK  
 FRANK MOSLEY  
 REGINALD SUTCLIFFE  
 ARTHUR DAFFERN  
 ALBERT L. BACKHOUSE  
 ARTHUR OVEREND  
 EDWIN GARNETT  
 ALEC MOSLEY  
 PERRY KITSON  
SAMUEL HOLMES  
 HERBERT TODD  
 GEORGE PARKER  
 Rupert Ed. Barker

GEORGE HOLIDAY  
 HARRY KITSON  
 JOHN W. ARCHER  
 JAMES S. T. POLLARD  
 FRED DIXON  
 FRANK POLLARD  
 ERNEST THOMPSON  
 HARRY BULLOCK  
 JOSEPH GREEN DIED IN SERVICE  
 IRVIN BLAND  
 LEO SPENCER  
 TOM WHITAKER  
 FRED SPENCER  
 ERNEST GARNETT  
 EVERETT KITSON  
 MAURICE JOY  
 JOSEPH GREENWOOD  
 ERIC GREEN  
 WILLIAM MOSLEY  
 Cecil J. Baugh

HEATON MOSLEY  
 PERRY E. WALMSLEY  
 HARRY WALMSLEY DIED IN SERVICE  
 FRANK POLLARD  
 JOHN DIXON  
 CECIL GREEN  
 WILLIAM THOMPSON  
 J. ROBERT THORNTON  
 HARRY GREEN  
 TOM ALLSOP KILLED IN ACTION  
 ALBERT ATKINSON  
 ARTHUR TURNER  
 ARTHUR GREENWOOD  
 CHARLES TURNER  
 EZRA KITSON  
 WILLIAM MOSLEY KILLED IN ACTION  
 DUNCAN MOSLEY  
 SAMUEL DIXON  
 ALBAN WALMSLEY  
 Willie Barker killed in action.

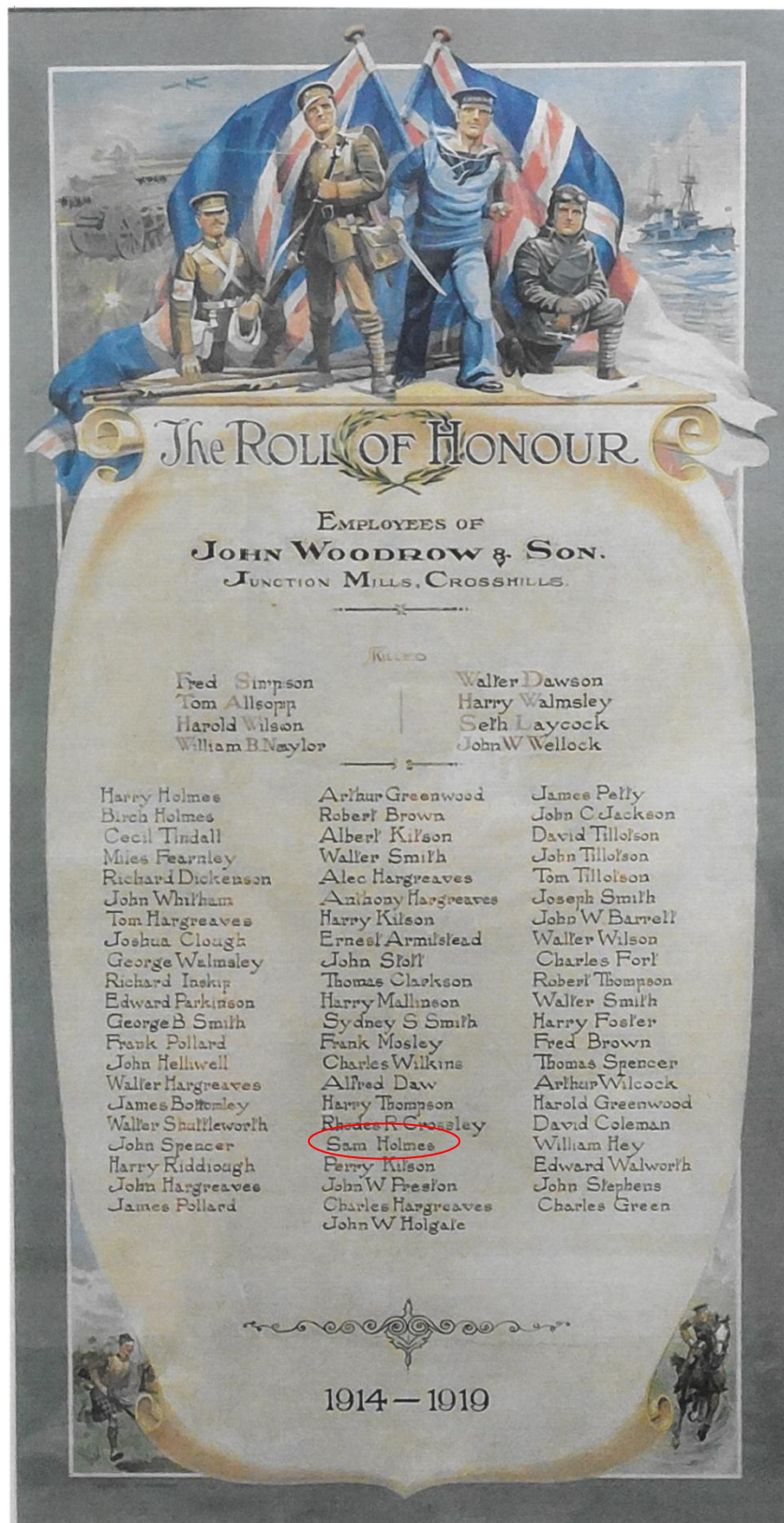
SEP 26  
 1918

**NOT ONCE OR TWICE IN OUR ROUGH ISLAND-STORY,  
 THE PATH OF DUTY WAS THE WAY TO GLORY. —Tennyson.**

W. A. HANFORD HOLBORN HALL LONDON E.C.

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

It is possible that the mill Sam worked at prior to WW1 was Woodrow's at Junction. Many men from Farnhill worked there and a man with the name Sam Holmes was subsequently included on the mill's recently found WW1 Roll of Honour.



With thanks to Burberry Group, PLC

## Post-war life

It has not been possible to establish whether or not he served abroad, but Sam Holmes was certainly back home by the beginning of May 1919, when he was appointed to the committee of the reformed Kildwick Old Boys' Football Club.

The 1921 census records Sam living at home, 15 Starkey Lane, with his parents. He was employed as a warehouseman at a mill in Keighley.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 1922, the 32-year old Sam married Lillian Mosley, a 42-year old spinster of Main Street Cononley, in St. John's Church Cononley. The groom's witness was his nephew Eric Glover – one of his sister Martha's three sons.

| 1922. Marriage solemnized at <u>St John's Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Cononley</u> in the County of <u>York</u>                           |               |   |      |                        |                     |  |                             |                               |
|--|---------------|---|------|------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Column No.   | 1             | 2   | 3    | 4                      | 5                   | 6  | 7                           | 8                             |
| No.  | When Married. | Name and Surname.                             | Age. | Condition.             | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the time of Marriage.                               | Father's Name and Surname.  | Rank or Profession of Father. |
| 250  | June 24 1922  | Samuel Holmes                                 | 32   | Bachelor               | Warehouseman        | Starkey Lane Farnhill  | Jonas Holmes                | Gentleman                     |
|  |               | Lillian <sup>Mosley</sup> <del>Holmes</del>   | 41   | Spinster               | —                   | 94 Main St.  | Portmouey Mosley (deceased) | Dresser                       |
| Married in the <u>parish church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>established church</u> by — or at <u>Cononley</u> by me, |               |   |      |                        |                     |  |                             |                               |
| This Marriage was solemnized between us,   |               | <u>Samuel Holmes</u><br><u>Lillian Mosley</u> |      | in the Presence of us, |                     | <u>Eric Glover</u><br><u>Edith Mosley</u><br><u>J. J. Turner</u> |                             |                               |

Holmes – Mosley marriage certificate  
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Sam and Lillian set up home at 3 Shady Lane, Cononley.

Between 1921 and 1925 Sam rented an allotment from Farnhill Parish Council, initially at a cost of 3/9d (19p) and later at 6/3d (31p) per year. His final payment was for the year up to the end of March 1925.

In 1927 Sam's mother, Ann, died and the couple were then joined in their home by his father, Jonas. This arrangement continued until 1932, when Sam and Lillian moved to Spring Bank Cononley, and Jonas went to live with Martha in Keighley, where he died in 1933.

## DIED AT NINETY.

### Mr. Jonas Holmes' Long Farnhill Connection.

The death took place on Monday of Mr. Jonas Holmes, who attained his ninetieth birthday on 5 September.



Eighty-four years of his life were spent in his native village of Farnhill, and it was on the death of his wife, six years ago, that he went to reside with a married son (Mr. Sam Holmes) at Cononley, and subsequently, up to his death, with his daughter, Mrs. Glover, at 169, West Lane, Keighley. Born at Starkey

Lane, Farnhill, he began work in a local mill at the age of eight, starting without the knowledge of his parents, who were in straitened circumstances. When 16 he worked on the railway as a labourer, and his father and himself walked night and morning between Skipton and Farnhill, where they caught the ballast train to Morecambe, working on the building of the station there.

Most of his life was spent in labouring work for various local contractors, and he was also engaged for many years as a greye-digger in Kildwick

Jonas Holmes obituary

By kind permission of Craven Herald

Sam and Lillian lived at Spring Bank, Cononley, for the rest of their lives.

Despite having moved out of the village, it appears that Sam may have kept up his membership of Kildwick & Farnhill Institute into the 1930s. The project has seen records of an "S. Holmes" paying membership fees for the years 1937 to 1939.

Sam Holmes died suddenly at his place of work – Redman and Smith's Mill, in Crosshills – on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1947. He was aged 57.

**Death of Mr. S. Holmes.—**  
The death occurred suddenly on Tuesday morning of Mr. Samuel Holmes, of Spring Bank, Cononley. He arrived as usual at his work at Redman and Smiths, Cross Hills, when he collapsed and died before medical aid could be summoned. He was 57 years of age and was a native of Farnhill, but had resided in Cononley since his marriage 25 years ago. He had been employed by Redman and Smith for the past 21 years, and was also employed by Messrs. Woodrow at the same works. He was an active Oddfellow at Farnhill, having been through all the chairs, and was also a member of the Cononley Lodge of the R.A.O.B. He was keenly interested in all kinds of sport, particularly cricket and football. He leaves a widow.

Sam Holmes' obituary notice  
By kind permission of Keighley News

(RAOB is the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.)

## Postscript

Lillian died at Spring Bank on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1959. She was aged 78.

Sam and Lillian had no children.

Martha, Sam's older sister, had three sons. It is likely that there are descendants living in the locally.

## Sam Holmes – a life in summary

**Born:** 7/2/1889, Farnhill  
**Baptised:** 30/3/1889, Kildwick  
**Died:** 7/1/1947, Crosshills      **Aged:** 57  
**Home address:** Spring Bank, Cononley

### Parents

**Father:** Jonas; b. 2/9/1843, Farnhill; d. 1933, Keighley (Registration district)  
**Mother:** Ann (nee Watson); b. 26/3/1849, Cowling; bapt. 5/4/1884, Kildwick;  
d. 1927, Farnhill; buried 5/10/1927, Kildwick  
**Married:** 5/9/1868, Kildwick

### Siblings

Martha; b. 3/5/1870, Farnhill; m1. William Glover, 26/3/1892, Kildwick;  
m2. James Coulton, 15/12/1928, Keighley;  
d. August 1956  
Samuel; b. 10/11/1872, Farnhill; d. October 1881, Farnhill  
Mary; b. 5/9/1882, Farnhill; d. December 1907, Farnhill

### WW1 service

No service details known.

### Marriage

**Wife:** Lillian Mosley; b. 18/5/1880, Skipton (Registration district); d. 26/1/1959, Cononley  
**Date:** 24/6/1922, St John's Cononley

