

Maurice Joy (1891 – 1963)


Maurice Joy was born in Farnhill and was the only child of Wilson and Alice Joy, although he had an older half-sister.

After attending Kildwick school Maurice was employed as a warp dresser at a mill in Cononley.

Not much is known about his war service but his name was included, in 1917, on a list of men who had gone to France. In his obituary, in the local newspaper, it was indicated that he had seen service on the Macedonian Front.

After the war he was very much involved with the Farnhill Lodge of the Oddfellows.

Maurice Joy married and made his home in Cononley and he died, without issue, in 1963.



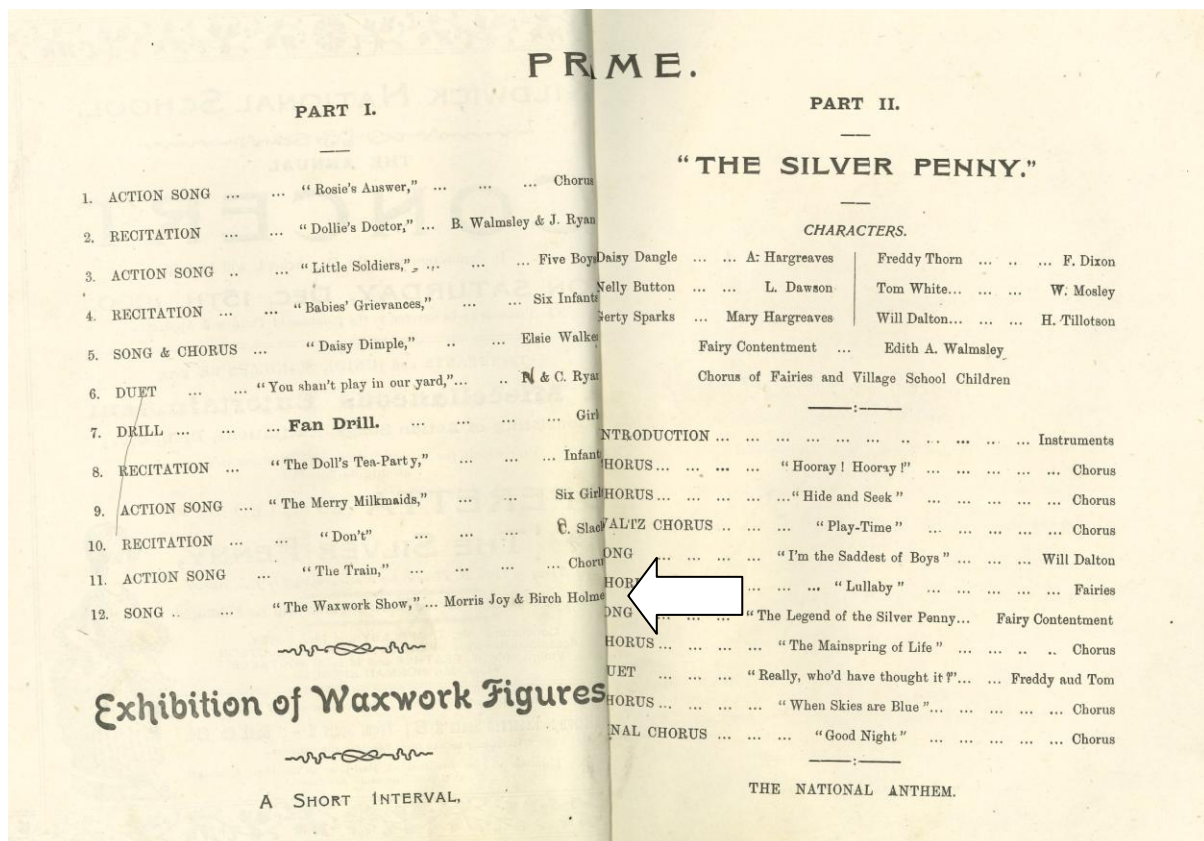
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Pre-war life

Maurice Joy was born in Farnhill on 21st October 1891. He was the only child of Wilson Joy and Alice (nee Miller) although he had an older half-sister, Mary Ann Miller, who was Alice's daughter.

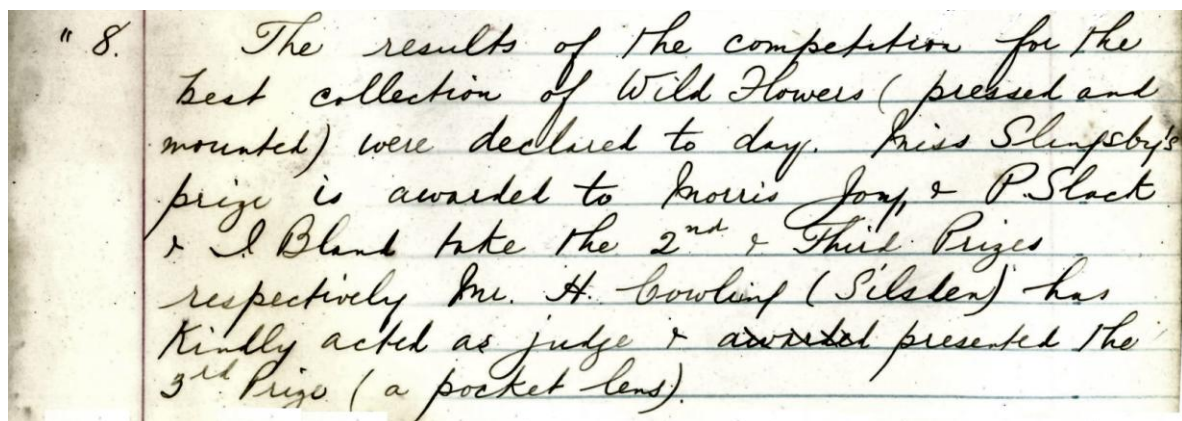
Like many of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers, Maurice attended Kildwick school and his name appears twice in the school log kept by the headmaster, Thomas Appleby.

In 1900, Maurice took part in the school's Christmas concert, where he performed alongside William Birch Holmes who would also subsequently become one of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers.



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In October 1903 he won a prize donated by Miss Slingsby of Farnhill Hall for the best collection of pressed wildflowers. In this competition, second prize was won by future Farnhill WW1 Volunteer Peter Slack.



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On 1st June 1910, Maurice's half-sister Mary Ann married John Walter Metcalf in Kildwick Church. Maurice signed the register as a witness.

The 1911 census recorded Maurice, aged 19, living with his parents at 63 Main Street, Farnhill, and employed as a warp-dresser in a cotton mill. There is evidence (see later) that this was Peter Green's mill in Cononley.

Maurice Joy during WW1

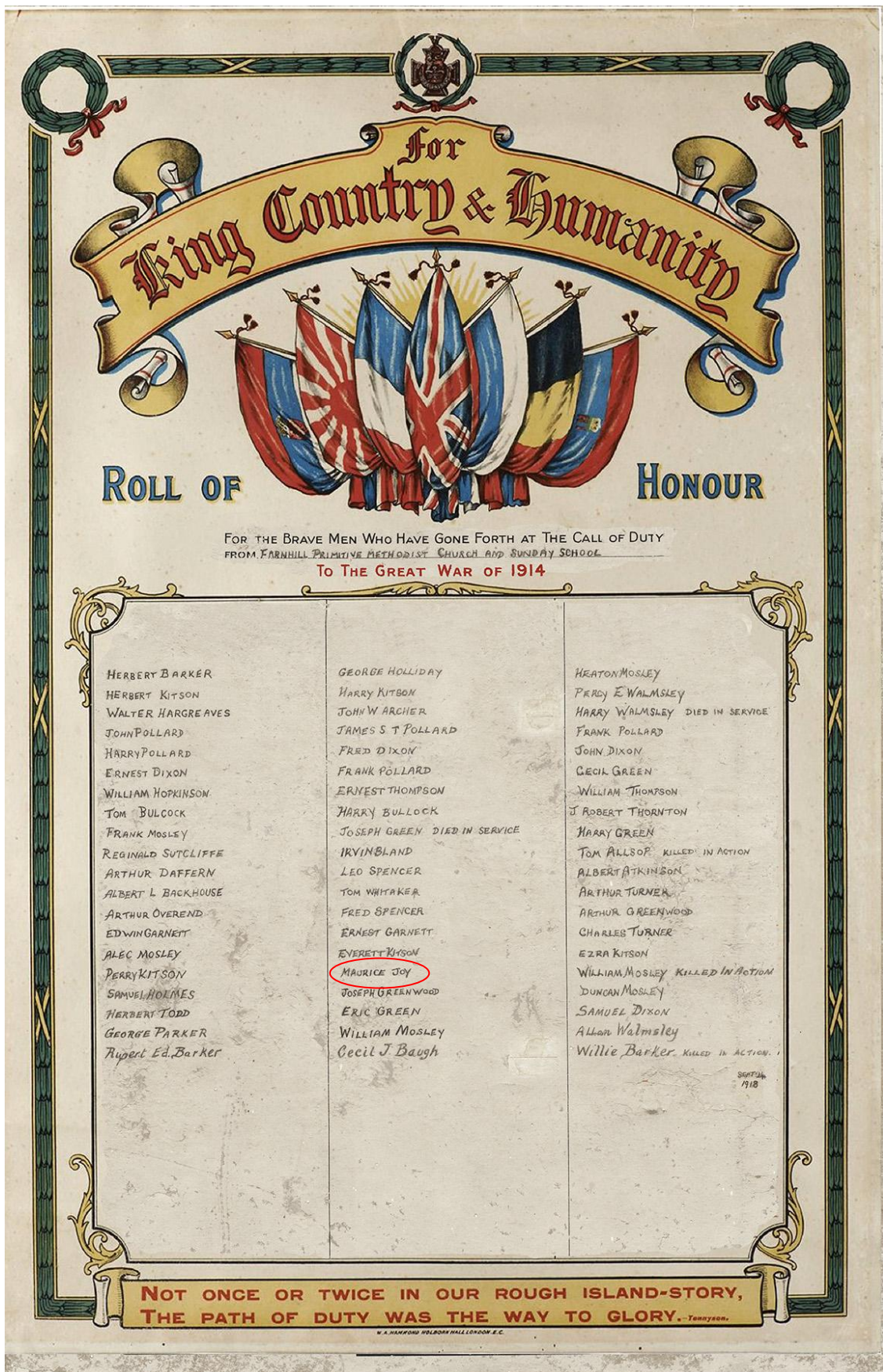
There is no doubt that Maurice Joy volunteered to serve in WW1 – otherwise his name would not have been included in the Farnhill Parish Council Roll of Honour. However it has not been possible to say when he served or what unit he served with, although there is some evidence (see later) that he was with the army in Salonika, on the Macedonian Front.

Newspaper reports from 1914 and 1915 suggest that he was still in the village up until at least March 1915.

- In December 1914 he operated the lantern for a slideshow given at Kildwick and Farnhill Institute (Keighley News, 5/12/1914) and later that month, on New Year's Eve, he was master of ceremonies at a dance also held there (Keighley News, 2/1/1915).
- On 1/3/1915 he again operated the lantern at a Band of Hope meeting held in Farnhill Methodist school room (Keighley News, 6/3/1915).

Maurice must have been serving by 9th July 1916, as his name is recorded on the Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour which was unveiled on that date.

His name appears towards the end of the list (perhaps suggesting his service had started quite recently) but is certainly in the original group, rather than in the last three rows of names which were added subsequent to the unveiling.



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

On 6th January 1917, the Keighley News reported that Maurice's name was included in a list of the men who had gone from Farnhill Methodist Chapel to serve abroad, read out during a memorial service for Harry Walmsley.

Post-war life

After the war, Maurice returned to Farnhill.

The 1921 census records him living with his parents at 63 Main Street, Farnhill; he was employed as a warp dresser at Peter Green's Mill in Cononley.

It seems that his social life may have included involvement with the Farnhill Lodge of the Oddfellows, which held its meetings in a hall just down the street.

On 9th August 1926, Maurice's father died and was buried a few days later in the new graveyard of St. Andrew's Church, Kildwick.

On 18th February 1927, Richard Green Kitson, who lived at 67 Main Street and was the head of the Farnhill Oddfellows Lodge, died. Maurice was one of the coffin bearers, all of whom were Oddfellows.

A few months later, on 30th April, Maurice married Hilda Abbott Smith at St. John's Church, Cononley. His witness was fellow Farnhill WW1 Volunteer and Oddfellow Albert Kitson, the son of Richard Green Kitson.

Hilda was from Bradford and the couple set up home at 6 St. John's Cross, Cononley. This is where the couple were living when the 1939 Register was compiled at the start of WW2, to enable ration cards to be issued.

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O, V, S, P, or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S, M, W, or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No 6 St John's Cross.	71	1	Joy Maurice		M	21 Oct	93	M	Warp dresser Cotton.
1/c RSN.	71	2	Joy Hilda Abbott		F	20 Sept	96	M	Warp dresser Cotton. w/ based domestic duties

Extract from the 1939 Register – the Joys living at 6 St. John's Cross, Cononley
Used under licence from the National Archive

Maurice's mother continued to live alone in Farnhill until she died in 1947. She was buried with her husband in Kildwick extension graveyard.



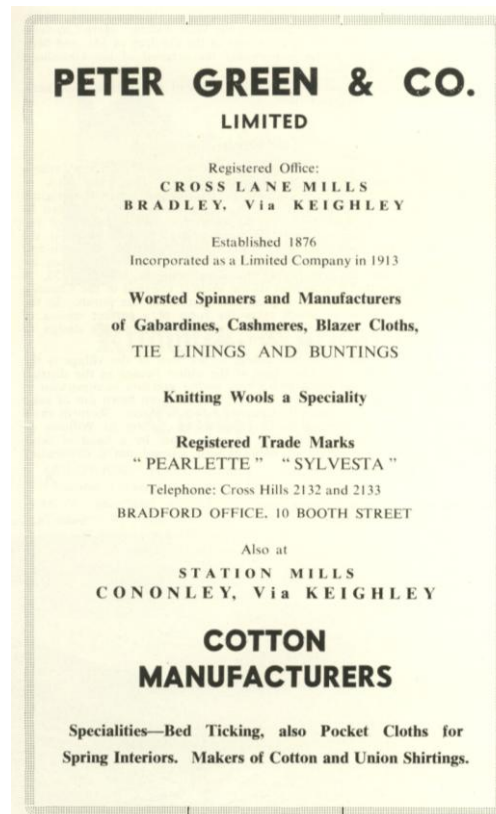
Photograph courtesy of Keighley and District Digital Archive.

Maurice's wife, Hilda, died in Cononley on 15th December 1956; and Maurice himself died in hospital in Keighley on 2nd March 1963, aged 71. He was buried in Bradley.

The following obituary appeared in the local press (Craven Herald 8/3/1963).

Cononley
MR. MAURICE JOY. — The death occurred, in St. John's Hospital, Keighley, on Saturday, of Mr. Maurice Joy, who was 70. He was a native of Parnhill, but on his marriage 35 years ago he moved to Cononley, and was very well known in the surrounding district. All his working life had been spent at the mill of Messrs. Peter Green and Co., Cononley, as a warp dresser. He served in the Forces during the 1914-18 war, and saw service in Salonika. A keen gardener, his retirement in the last five years had been spent mostly in the garden. The funeral was on Wednesday morning, at St. John's Church, Cononley, the Vicar, the Rev. R. T. G. Sharp, officiating.

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An advertisement for Peter Green & Co Ltd.. (1959, source unknown)



The main entrance to Peter Green's mill, Cononley, 1969
From David Gulliver

Postscript

Maurice and Hilda had no children.

Maurice's half-sister, Mary Ann, married and had two children but it is not known whether there are any living descendants.

Maurice Joy – a life in summary

Born: 21/10/1891, Farnhill

Baptised: 17/7/1892, Kildwick

Died: 2/3/1963, St. John's Hospital, Keighley **Aged:** 71

Home address: St. John's Cross, Cononley

Parents

Father: Wilson Joy; b. 1866, Shipley; d. 9/8/1926, Farnhill

Mother: Alice (nee Miller); b. 1865, Wharton (Lancs); bapt. 9/4/1865, St Oswald, Wharton;
d. 17/3/1947, Farnhill

Married: 24/1/1891, Kildwick

Siblings

Mary Ann Miller (half-sister); b. 24/12/1885, Farnhill; m. John Walter Metcalf, 1/6/1910, Kildwick;
d. 1965, Darwen (Registration district)

WW1 service details

Service details not known. Army – Salonika ?

Marriage

Wife: Hilda Abbott Smith; b. 20/9/1893, Bradford; d. 15/12/1956, Cononley

Date: 30/4/1927, St. John's Cononley

Children

None known.

