


Harry Pollard (1894 – 1971)

Harry Pollard was born in Farnhill into a large family – his parents would have ten children altogether. On the death of his mother, when he was two years old, Harry went to live with his father's sister and later he attended Kildwick school and worked in the woollen industry.

Active in village life, although Harry signed on with a reserve battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a medical examination, in 1914, revealed that he was unfit for military service and he was discharged.

He married his cousin in 1917, and it is thought possible that Harry may have seen some active service late in the war.

He and his wife, who had just one daughter who survived infancy, lived in Bradley, where Harry worked at Green's mill. He died in 1971 and is buried in the graveyard of Bradley church.

A rectangular box with a light gray gradient background. The text "No Photo Available" is centered in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

Pre-war life

Harry Pollard was born in Farnhill on 28th November 1894.

His father was Theodore Pollard, born Farnhill in 1854; his mother, Priscilla, born in Glusburn, also in 1854, was the illegitimate daughter of Margaret Brown – who married James Walmsley in 1856.

Harry was born to an already large family. Theodore and Priscilla would have a total of 10 children altogether:

- William; b. 17/7/1882
- Frank; b. 29/6/1883, d. 26/3/1891
- John; b. 18/5/1885
- Martha Ann; b. 20/6/1887
- James Scarborough Theodore Pollard; b. 28/6/1889
- Sarah Margaret; b. 1/1/1891, d. 1892
- Frank; b. 15/3/1893
- *Harry*; b. 28/11/1894
- two others, names unknown, who died prior to 1911

Priscilla Pollard died, in Farnhill, on 24th February 1897 and was buried in Kildwick churchyard three days later. She was aged 42 or 43; Harry was two years old.

The 1901 census gave the family's address as 42 Main Street, Farnhill. However, Harry was not living at that address. He was living at 61 Main Street with his paternal aunt Sophia Annie; his uncle, Binns Hartley; and his cousin, John William Hartley.

There is evidence that Harry attended Kildwick school.



The only known photograph of Kildwick school pupils, 1899.

The back of this photograph has the name "Harry Pollard", but there is no indication of which of the children is Harry.
 Photograph courtesy of Marion Law.

Harry was still living with his aunt and uncle at the time of the 1911 census, but by this time the household also included Binns and Sophia Annie's son, John William, his wife, Liza, and their one year-old daughter, Annie.

He was recorded as being 16 years old and employed as a warehouseman at a worsted manufacturer.

GENUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.							
<i>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.</i>							
<i>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.</i>							
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to head of Family.	AGE (Date Birthdays and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.			PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged 16 years and upwards.	BIRTHPLACE of every person.
1 Binns Hartley	Head	51	Married			Warp Driers 844 Factory work	Yorkshire Cowling
2 Sophia Annie Hartley	Wife	50	Married	26	1 / 1 0		Yorkshire Farnhill
3 Harry Pollard	Nephew	16	Single			Warehouse Man 544 ^{Worsted} Manufactory	Yorkshire Farnhill
4 John William Hartley	Son	25	Married	2		Warp Driers 844 ^{Worsted} Factory	Yorkshire Farnhill
5 Liza Hartley	Daughter-in-law	23	Married	2	1 / 1 0		Yorkshire Alltoft
6 Annie Hartley	Grand Daughter	1	Single				Yorkshire Farnhill

Extract from the 1911 census return for 61 Main Street, Farnhill – Harry Pollard living with the Hartley family
 Used under licence from the National Archive

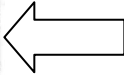
Binns Hartley was a member of Kildwick Brass Band and it is likely that Harry followed his uncle into the band.

Harry also appears to have been a member of the Kildwick Albion Cricket Club team that won the local league Second Division cup in 1913.

Kildwick Albion v. Cowling Second.—Played at Kildwick.

KILDWICK ALBION.—G. Sunderland, b Dale, 7; J. Kitson, b Dale, 1; H. Foster, b Dale, 5; T. Hargreaves, c and b Barker, 5; A. Hargreaves, c Hardy, b Laycock, 2; L. Roberts, b Dale, 0; T. B. Spencer, c Laycock, b Kitson, 5; H. Pollard, b Dale, 11; F. Pollard, run out, 5; A. Kitson, not out, 8; B. Holmes, c Barker, b Laycock, 1; extras, 3; total, 53.

COWLING SECOND.—P. Smith, b J. Kitson, 0; R. Boocock, c Roberts, b J. Kitson, 11; L. Hardy, bow, b J. Kitson, 10; M. Laycock, st Hargreaves, b A. Kitson, 5; A. Barker, b A. Kitson, 1; F. Laycock, b A. Kitson, 0; A. Dale, c Foster, b J. Kitson, 1; A. Shackleton, c and b J. Kitson, 0; G. Barker, b J. Kitson, 5; E. Kitson, not out, 0; extras, 0; total, 32 (only batted ten men).



Score card for Kildwick Albion vs. Cowling Seconds –September 1913
(By kind permission of Craven Herald)



The Kildwick Albion Cricket Club Second Division cup-winning team, 1913.
No key to this photograph is known to exist and so it is not possible to say which of the players is Harry Pollard.
From the Farnhill & Kildwick Local History Group archive

WW1 service

On 12th October 1914, Harry Pollard signed on as a Private (no. 2833) with the 6th Reserve battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

This was a territorial unit, but on attesting he signed his name to the statement:

I ... do hereby agree ... to accept liability, in the event of a national emergency, to serve in any place outside the United Kingdom ...

With the war two months old, and German forces deep within France and Belgium, it seems unlikely that Harry could have imagined his service would be limited to home soil.

I (No.) 2833 (Rank) Private
(Name) Harry Pollard of the
(Unit) 6th RES. BN. DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGT. do hereby agree,
subject to the conditions stated overleaf, to accept liability, in the event of
national emergency, to serve in any place outside the United Kingdom, in
accordance with the provisions of Section XIII (2) (a) of the Territorial and
Reserve Forces Act, 1907.

Harry Pollard
Signature of Officer or Man.

A. Williams **Lieut. Col. Hon. Colonel.**
Comm'dg. 6th Res. Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt.
Signature of Commanding Officer.

Station Kipton

Date 12.10.1914

Just a month later, however, on 13th November 1914, Harry was discharged from the army on medical grounds, suffering from varicose veins.

A medical examination, held at Skipton on 31st October, revealed that he:

Had slight varicosity of right leg when enlisted but it has become aggravated since then and now causes him some discomfort.

and later:

After being stood on his feet for an hour the veins ... stand out very prominently ...

The report of the medical board concluded by stating that Harry had been advised to have an operation, which he declined, and consequently they recommended that he be:

Discharged as permanently unfit.

13. What is his present condition?

Weight should be given in all cases when it is likely to afford evidence of the progress of the disability.

After being on his feet for an hour the veins stand out very prominently & are so now on I examine him!

19. Do you recommend

- (a) Discharge as permanently unfit, or
- (b) Change to England?

Discharge as permanently unfit.

David Walker. Major (7)

Officer in medical charge of case.

I have satisfied myself of the general accuracy of this report, and concur therewith, except †

Station 2nd NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL
LEEDS.

Date 5 NOV. 1914

J. England
for Officer in charge of Hospital.

* Loss of teeth on, or immediately after, active service, should be attributed thereto, unless there is evidence that it is due to some other cause.
† Delete this word if no exceptions are to be made.

Extract from report on Harry Pollard's medical condition
Used under licence from the National Archive

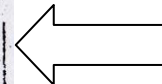
His refusal to have an operation was described as "unreasonable".

This is the full extent of any documentary evidence of Harry Pollard's WW1 military service. However, it seems likely that he subsequently re-enlisted as a volunteer.

In the West Yorkshire Pioneer of 24th December 1915 there was a report on how the membership of Kildwick Brass Band had been depleted by men joining the Colours. The piece ended with a list of the members of the band who had joined up, which included Harry Pollard.

The list identifies one man as "discharged", but this designation is not applied to Harry Pollard – which suggests that he was serving at this time.

KILDWICK.
KILDWICK BAND'S DEPLETED MEMBERSHIP.—During the war the membership of the Kildwick and District Prize Band has suffered very much in number, and now, under Lord Derby's scheme, another batch has been attested, and will be called up in their class. Despite the fact that the membership of the band has been reduced the committee have decided to continue the custom of playing during Christmas and the New Year. The members who have joined the Colours are:— Messrs. J. Smith (killed), G. Inskip, C. Lee, J. Wellock, J. Tateham, H. Riddiough, F. Driver (discharged), Harry Pollard, and W. Ward. Attested: Messrs. W. Hopkinson, H. Walmsley, H. Barker, M. Dawson, R. Knight; rejected: Messrs. J. W. Hartley, H. Heaton, S. Lister.

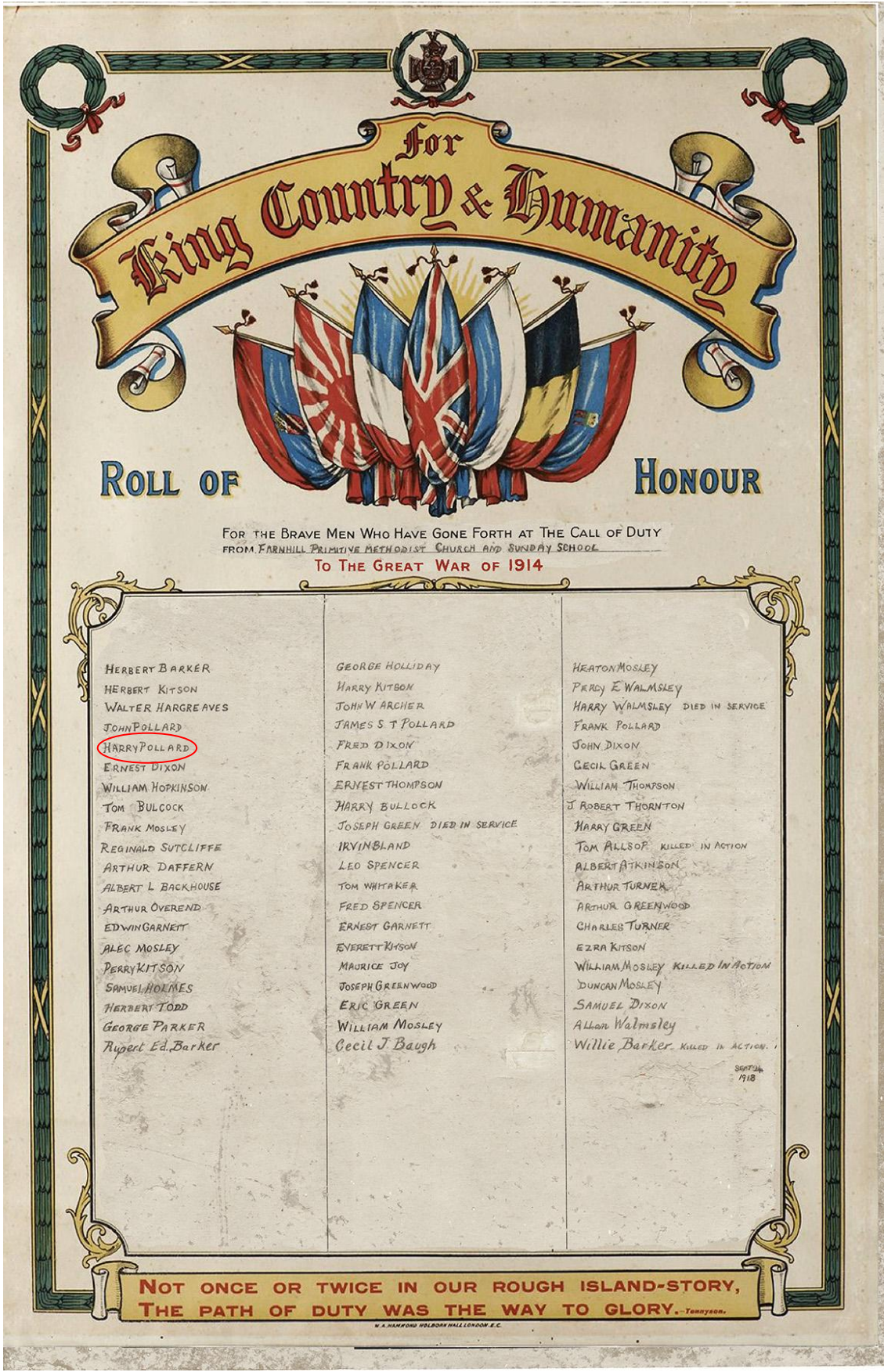


By kind permission of Craven Herald

Harry's name was recorded on Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour, unveiled on 9th July 1916, which also includes the names of his brothers – John, Frank and James.

John and Frank Pollard were both serving with 2/4 Yorks & Lancs Regiment. James was serving with Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (Private; no. 241427).

Two men called Harry Pollard served with Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. One of these, Private no. 241217, has a service number not dissimilar to that of Harry's brother, James. Could it be that Harry rejoined at the time his brother James signed on? Unfortunately, there is no further information available concerning Private no. 241217, Harry Pollard, to indicate whether or not he was from Farnhill.



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
Percy 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.

SEPTEMBER
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)

At the end of 1916 a memorial service was held in the Methodist Chapel for Joseph Green and Harry Walmsley, both casualties of the war and former pupils of the Sunday School. During the service the names of all the men associated with the church who had left the village to join the forces were read out – including Harry Pollard.

Whether or not he was a member of the forces, Harry Pollard was certainly in the local area in May 1917 as, on the 19th, he married his cousin, Eleanor Walmsley of Bradley, at the Methodist Chapel, Grange Road, Skipton. On the marriage certificate Harry gave his occupation as Motor Driver.

1917. Marriage solemnized at the <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel, Grange Road, Skipton</i> in the District of <i>Skipton</i> in the County of <i>York (West Riding)</i>								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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.
30	May Nineteenth 1917	Harry Pollard	22 Years	Bachelor	Motor Driver	61 Main Street- Farnhill	Thos. Pollard (deceased)	Hollon Pee-looker
		Eleanor Walmsley	28 Years	Spinster	Cotton Weaver	1 Mount Pleasant Bradley	Thomas Walmsley	Cotton Weaver
Married in the <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Primitive Methodist</i> by <i>George Chinn</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Harry Pollard</i> <i>Eleanor Walmsley</i>		in the Presence of us,	<i>Herbert Gice</i> <i>Miss Percival</i>		And in the Presence of	<i>George Chinn</i> Authorized Person for <i>the said Chapel</i>

Pollard – Walmsley marriage certificate
(c) Crown Copyright

Post-war life

Harry and Eleanor set up home at 4 Skipton Road, Bradley.

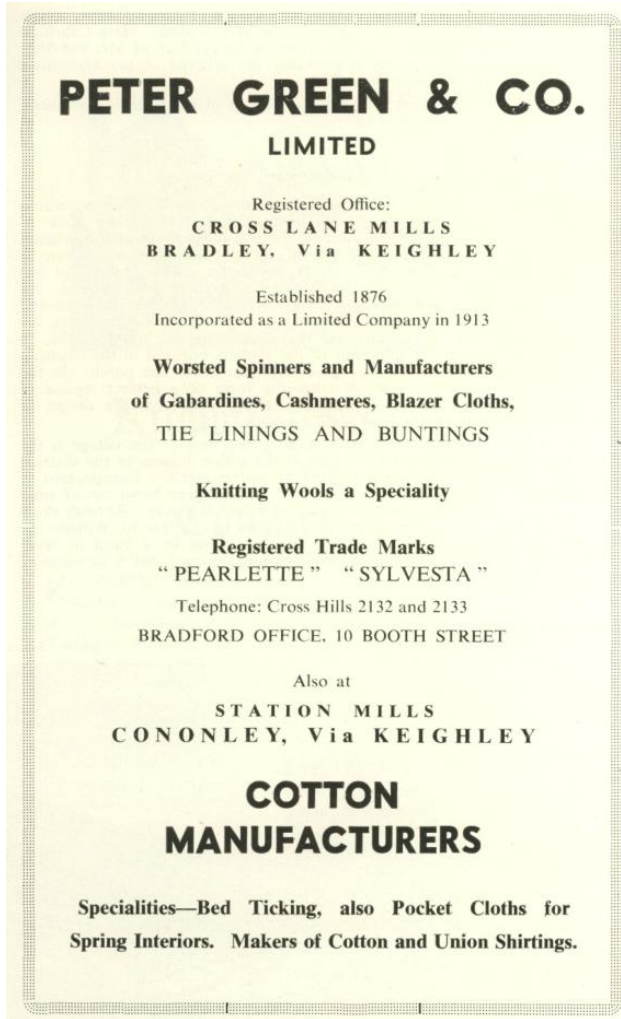
The couple's first child, Mary, was born in the last quarter of 1918 but sadly died before the end of the year. A second child, Margaret, was born on 24th April 1920.

Late 1918 also saw the death of Harry's uncle, Binns Hartley, one of the few people from Farnhill whose death was definitely attributable to the Spanish Flu epidemic.

DEATH OF MR. BINNS HARTLEY.—
A well-known Farnhill resident, Mr. Binns Hartley died on Saturday from influenza. Mr. Hartley had not been well for some time. He was for many years in the employ of Messrs. P. Green and Co., Bradley, and was known in all the neighbouring villages by reason of his breezy and unconventional manner. He was for a number of years an energetic member of Kildwick Brass Band, and was also a vice-president of the Institute.

Report on the death of Binns Hartley – West Yorkshire Pioneer, 29/11/1918
Courtesy of Craven Herald

The 1921 census records the Pollard family living in Bradley, where Harry was employed as a Motor Driver, working for Peter Green & Co.

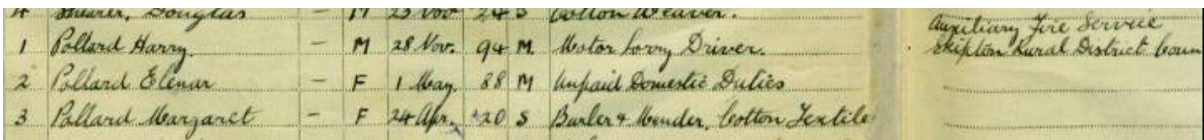


An advertisement for Peter Green & Co Ltd.. (1959, source unknown)

In 1924 the family moved from 4 Skipton Road, Bradley, to number 3. They lived there until 1929, when they moved to 2 Hill Crest.

Despite having moved out of the village it appears that Harry kept up his membership of Kildwick & Farnhill Institute into the 1930s. The project has seen records of him paying membership fees of 7/6d each year for 1937 to 1939.

The 1939 Register, created when ration cards were being distributed at the start of WW2, recorded the family of three living at 2 Hill Crest. It also notes that Harry was a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service of Skipton Rural District Council.



1939 Register entry for 2 Hill Crest, Bradley – Harry is an auxiliary fireman
 Used under licence from the National Archive

Harry's wife, Eleanor, died on 21st June 1956.

Harry continued to live at his home in Bradley, with his unmarried daughter, Margaret. He died, at home, on 30th October 1971, and was buried in Bradley cemetery a few days later. He was aged 76.



Grave of Harry and Eleanor Pollard – Bradley cemetery

The following obituary appeared in the Keighley News (5/11/1971).

GARDENERS' DEATH
One of Bradley's keen gardeners, Mr. Harry Pollard, died suddenly at his home at 2 Hill Crest, on Saturday. He was 76. Mr Pollard was a former employee of Peter Green and Co. He drove a lorry to all parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire and transported workers from Skipton to the Bradley and Cononley mills. In his younger days he played cricket for Bradley and was a keen walker. His wife died in 1956 and he leaves one daughter.

Harry Pollard's obituary

Postscript

Margaret Pollard continued to live at 2 Hill Crest until at least 1976. She is not thought to have married. She died in 1983 and was buried in the plot immediately adjacent to her parents, in Bradley cemetery.



Margaret Pollard's grave – Bradley cemetery

Harry Pollard – a life in summary

Born: 28/11/1894, Farnhill
Died: 30/10/1971 **Aged:** 76
Home address: 2 Hill Crest, Bradley

Parents

Father: Theodore; b. 16/6/1854, Farnhill; d. 15/10/1913, Farnhill
Mother: Priscilla (nee Brown, later Walmsley); b. 1854, Glusburn;
d. 24/2/1897, Farnhill; buried 27/2/1897, Kildwick
Married: 1882, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

William; b. 17/7/1882, Farnhill; m. Ellen Cockcroft, 14/5/1910, Steeton; d. 7/9/1944, Farnhill
Frank; b. 29/6/1883, Farnhill; d. 26/3/1891, Farnhill
John; b. 18/5/1885, Farnhill; m. Ada Blanche Thomas, 9/1/1906, Skipton Registry Office;
d. 4/11/1919, Pas-de-Calais
Martha Ann; b. 20/6/1887, Farnhill; m. Sam Tillotson, 27/12/1915, Kildwick;
d. 1967, Staincliffe (Registration district)
James Scarborough Theodore; b. 28/6/1889, Farnhill; d. 7/10/1919, Farnhill
Sarah Margaret; b. 1/1/1891; d. 1892 – buried 12/1/1892
Frank; b. 15/3/1893, Farnhill; d. 1/10/1932, Crosshills

plus two others who died prior to the 1911 census

WW1 service

Service period: 12/10/1914 to 13/11/1914 (discharged as unfit)
Regt.: 6th Reserve battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.
Private (no. 2833)
Home address: 61 Main Street, Farnhill

Note: He may also have served subsequently with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, as Private no. 241217

Relationship to other volunteers

James Scarborough Theodore Pollard – brother
John Pollard – brother
Frank Pollard – brother

Note: Harry Pollard lived with his uncle and aunt.

Marriage

Wife: Eleanor Walmsley; b. 1/5/1888, Skipton (Registration district); d. 21/6/1956, Bradley

Date: 19/5/1917; Methodist Chapel, Grange Road, Skipton

Children

Mary, b. 1918, Skipton (Registration district); d. in infancy

Margaret, b. 24/4/1920 Skipton (Registration district); d. 1983, Keighley (Registration district)

