



Private 14073 Sidney Herbert Mathews

Served with the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers having previously served in Wiltshire Militia.

Sidney was born at Foxham Lock Cottages, Bremhill on 3 April 1885, he was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Matthews (nee Thorne) of Foxham, Bremhill. He had one brother Ernest born in 1887.

The 1891 census shows all four family members listed in Foxham. Jacob was an agricultural labourer aged 24 and born in Foxham, Elizabeth was also aged 24 and born in South Marston, Sidney was at school aged 6 years old and Ernest listed as aged 4. Both children born in Foxham. In 1901 the family without Jacob are listed as living in houses at Foxham Lock, Bremhill Elizabeth is recorded as married so presumably Jacob was working away on the census night. The two boys Sidney and Ernest are listed as agricultural labourers. By 1911 Elizabeth had been widowed and was recorded as visiting (presumably her mother Mary Ann Thorn) at Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Sidney married Jennie Sinclair Anderson on 27th October 1906 at Tredegar Register Office, Tredegar, Monmouthshire. Jennie was born in Stromness, Orkney, Scotland on 8th May, 1892 and died on 16th July 1980. When they married, they lived at 20 Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar and Sidney was a coal miner.

The 1911 Census has the family as living at 26 Upper Coronation Street, Tredegar Monmouthshire. The family consisted of Sidney Herbert aged 26 an hewer in a coal mine, Jennie his wife aged 21, with children St. Clair (daughter) aged 4, Ernest aged 3 and Kenneth aged 1. The two older children were born in Tredegar and the youngest son in Bremhill. Also listed is a lodger, William J. Whale of Hilmarton, aged 26, single and also a hewer in a coalmine.

Three other children were born after the 1911 Census including Sidney Herbert, born on 11th May 1911, Wilhelmina J. (Molly) born 1912 and Barbara J. was born in 1914.

All of Sidney's children married, except Ernest. Sidney's children between them produced at least 15 grandchildren for Sidney and Jennie.



Sidney Herbert Mathews enlisted into the army at the Newport Recruiting Office. He was recruited into the 1st Battalion South Wales Borders. He was killed in action on 10th May 1915 and is buried at Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France - Grave Reference:- III C 16. He is also commemorated on the Central Memorial, Bedwellty Park, Tredegar.

In all probability Sidney would have been awarded the three medals affectionately known as 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred' otherwise known as the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.