

William Seviour

Born in Brokerswood 1872

Died of War Related Illness 10 April 1916

William had a long history of Army service, having signed up as a Driver with the Royal Artillery when he was 18 years old in 1890. He had served with the Wiltshire Regiment (presumably the Territorial Force) before then. Found at Woolwich Barracks in 1891, the next year he was sent to India, until his transfer to the Reserve in 1897. He was recalled to serve in South Africa from December 1899 to May 1900. William was discharged in April 1902, having completed the 12 years service he signed up for.

Just 3 months before he reached the National Reserve age limit of 42 years old, William was recalled when war broke out on 4th August 1914.

William arrived in France in mid-September 1914 joining the 16th Battery Royal Field Artillery at Ypres at the end of October. His Commanding Officer wrote later "While at Ypres he certainly underwent much exposure and hardship as the drivers had no billets and were continually wet, with no chance of changing their clothes." William frequently went sick, suffering from intermittent pains in his back and shoulders. On 9th August 1915 he was admitted to hospital and did not return to his unit. It was found that he had a heart condition when he enlisted, which had been aggravated by active service. In January 1916 William was discharged as unfit for war service and awarded a pension with 50% incapacity. He died at home in Wimborne Minster in Dorset, in April 1916.

He is buried in Wimborne Minster Cemetery, where a Commonwealth War Graves Commission gravestone marks his resting place. His name is included on the Great War memorial plaque inside the church and a churchyard cross is dedicated to the memory of all those named there.

See William Seviour's Life Story at: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/3963463>

Father: Henry Seviour

Born and brought up in Wanstrow, Somerset, one of at least 9 children.

An Agricultural Labourer all his life. Died late in 1916 at 77 years of age.

Mother: Ann Sparey

Born in Corsley, not far from Brokerswood, also one of at least 9 children. Her father was an Agricultural Labourer.

Was working as a Dairymaid on a large farm in Wanstrow in the 1861 Census. Lived to 83 years old, and is buried in North Bradley.

Married in 1862, they may have had up to 5 children while living in Wanstrow, but only Henry junior appears to have survived early childhood. They moved to Brokerswood about 1868, where they had another 9 children, including William. They lived in Brokerswood for the rest of their lives.

G/father

Charles Seviour
b. Wanstrow, Somerset,
Agricultural Labourer

G/mother

Mary Ann ?

G/father

Joseph Sparey
b. ?,
Agricultural Labourer

G/mother

Mary ?

William Seviour

Born in Brokerswood in 1872, a Labourer when he signed up for Regular Army service.

After his discharge, William worked as a Coachman for a hotel, first in Glastonbury, Somerset, later in Blandford, Dorset.

Wife: Sophia Squire

Born in 1867 in Exeter, Devon, like her parents, the family moved to Gillingham, Dorset when Sophia was very young.

Her father was a Horseman, working for the Railway in Gillingham.

Sophia was a live-in Domestic Servant to the Bennett family in Gillingham until she married.

She did not remarry. She died in South Wales, where her son's family was, at the age of 93.

William married Sophia in the Parish Church of Gillingham, Dorset on 15 July 1903. Their only child, Henry William Seviour was born in January 1908.

William's younger brother Albert, who had moved away to Middlesex, also served in the Army, but survived.