



MEMORIAL TO THE PAST

SILEBY MEN WHO NEVER MADE IT HOME 1914 – 1920

SURNAMES L - P

Bertie Lawton
(Bombardier)
Royal Field Artillery 54468

Born: 1891 at Stafford, Staffordshire

Died: 6th October 1917

Commemorated at:

- Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West Vlaanderen, Belgium
(Panel 4 to 6 and 162)
- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

Little is known about Bertie Lawton. He was born in or around Stafford in 1891. His early years are a mystery. He joined the Royal Field Artillery and was listed as a driver at Roberts Heights Camp, Transvaal, South Africa in the 1911 census. His connection with Sileby seems tenuous. He married Elizabeth Hall in the Barrow upon Soar registration district in 1916 and had probably settled in the village around that time.

His war service is equally elusive. He was still in the Royal Field Artillery and saw active service from the 6th October 1914. He was promoted to Bombardier, and he was serving with the 105th Battery of the 22nd Brigade when he died. He was killed in action on the 6th October 1917. He was 26 years old.

Walter Lovett
(Private)
Royal Field Artillery 174593
Northumberland Fusiliers 47447

Born: 30th January 1890 at Sileby, Leicestershire

Died: 26th February 1917

Commemorated at:

- Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France (Plot III, Row D, Grave 4)
 - Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby
- Sileby Cemetery, Sileby, Leicestershire (Consecrated section, Plot B, Grave 174)

Walter Lovett was born at Sileby on 30th January 1890 and was baptised in the Parish Church two months later on the 30th March 1890. He was the son (and one of eleven children) of Israel and Dorothy Eliza Lovett. The family lived in a large house called Holmleigh on Barrow Road, the site of which is now occupied by the Lovett's Court housing complex. Israel Lovett was a coal merchant working from the coal wharf at Sileby's railway sidings. By 1911 Walter had joined his father's business working there as a carter. He married Rose Ellen Webster of Wakerley, Northamptonshire at the end of September 1916.

Walter enlisted at Loughborough shortly after his marriage on the 2nd October 1916. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and was whisked off to Glasgow for training. After three months he was transferred to the 23rd Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and embarked for France. He was killed in action on the 26th February 1917. He was 27 years of age and had been married fewer than five months.

Sileby Parish Church magazine of April 1917 relayed the news;

“After spending four days leave at Wakerley, his wife's home, he was drafted to France on December 29th (1916). This man's death strikes one as being particularly sad, for Walter had been in the army less than five months.”



‘Holmleigh’ and barn, 44 Barrow Road, Sileby c1978

William Henry Meadows
(Guardsmen)
Grenadier Guards 14508



Born: 1891 at Seagrave, Leicestershire
Died: 4th September 1914

Commemorated at:

- Guards Grave, Villers-Cotterets Forest, France (Plot I, Grave 4)
 - Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby
 - Working Men's Club, Sileby

William Henry Meadows's birth was registered in early 1891. He was the son of Charles Meadows, a limestone labourer, and Elizabeth his wife. William lived at Church Street in Seagrave with his three sisters; Cecily Gertrude, Elizabeth Agnes and Kate Millicent. By 1901 there was also Sarah Eva and Elsie Victoria.

William enlisted with the Grenadier Guards at Ilkeston, Derbyshire but at an unknown date. In 1911 Private 'Henry' Meadows of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards was in quarters at Malplaquet Barracks, Aldershot with the rest of his battalion. He married Eveline Betts of Sileby at Sileby Parish Church on the 11th April 1914. In the marriage register he was recorded as a labourer suggesting that he had served his time with the colours and was then in the reserve. They had set up home at 2 Ratcliffe Road but was recalled to his battalion at the outbreak of hostilities, and was in France by the end of August 1914. Eveline was pregnant by this time. William Henry was killed in action on the 4th September 1914. He died whilst defending positions near Foret de Retz in a rearguard action following the allied defeat at Mons.

He was 23 and left a pregnant wife. Eveline gave birth to a daughter, also named Eveline, who was baptised at Sileby Parish Church on the 7th March 1915. They were then living at 13 Back Lane.



2 Ratcliffe Road, Sileby

Alfred Rastall Middleton

(Private)

Cheshire Regiment 5301

Lancashire Fusiliers 48868

Born: 8th August 1897 at Sileby, Leicestershire

Died: 25th December 1917

Buried at Ribecourt Road Cemetery, Trescault, Pas de Calais, France
(Plot 1, Row D, Grave 4)

Commemorated at:

- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
- St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

Alfred Rastall Middleton (mistakenly called A.E. Middleton on Sileby's memorials) was born at Sileby on the 8th August 1897. He was one of 11 children born to John Thomas Middleton, a master painter and Ada his wife. Alfred was baptised on the 31st October 1897 at Sileby Parish Church. The family lived at 19-21 High Street, Sileby, where Café 19 is now situated. Most of the Middleton sons followed their father into the house decorating and painting trade. However, the family had also branched out into retail hardware and ironmongery at their High Street address. At the 1911 census Alfred was the youngest son living at home with no listed occupation.

In common with many other Sileby servicemen Alfred's service details have not survived. He enlisted aged 19 at Leicester around November 1916. He initially joined the Cheshire Regiment before being transferred to the 10th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was killed in action, shot by a sniper on Christmas Day 1917.

On 15th February 1918 The Loughborough Echo remarks,
"Pte. A. R. Middleton, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, was killed in action on Christmas Day. He was 20 years of age, and enlisted some 15 months ago. Private A. R. Middleton was the youngest son of the late J. T. Middleton and Mrs Middleton, of High Street, whose six sons have served in the forces."



Middleton's Shop, High Street, Sileby in 1935



Café 19, High Street, Sileby 2018

Horace Middleton
(Private)
Leicestershire Regiment 20276



Born: 8th February 1895 at Sileby, Leicestershire
Died: 17th March 1917

Buried at Amara War Cemetery, Amarah, Iraq (Plot IV, Row C, Grave 13)

Commemorated at:

- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
- St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

Horace Middleton was the elder brother of Alfred Rastall Middleton and was born at Sileby on the 8th February 1895. His parents John Thomas and Ada baptised him at Sileby Parish Church on the 28th April 1895. He lived with his parents and eleven brothers at their house and shop situated on High Street. When aged 6 he was admitted to Leicester General Infirmary, now Leicester Royal Infirmary, but for what reason is unknown. Horace grew to help in all sides of the family businesses, assisting in the hardware shop and with painting and decorating jobs.

Although Horace's service record no longer exists, it is known that he enlisted at Leicester in June 1915. He joined the Leicestershire Regiment and became attached to the 2nd Battalion. His battalion had served in France but was transferred to the Mesopotamian Front in Iraq during the winter of 1915/16. It was here that Horace was critically injured in the push to capture Baghdad in March 1917. He died of his wounds probably at one of the hospitals in Amara on the 17th March. He was 22 years old and unmarried.

Leslie John Moir
(Lance Corporal)
Leicestershire Yeomanry 1732

Born: 1894 at Leicester

Died: 13th May 1915

Commemorated at:

- Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium (Panel 5)
- St James the Greater Parish Church, Leicester
- Loughborough Grammar School War Memorial
- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

Leslie John Moir was born at Leicester in 1894, the son of boot manufacturer John William Moir and Alice his wife. His father John had been a successful boot merchant in Leicester and had set up home at Charnwood House, Barrow Road, Sileby in the late 1890s. By 1906 Moir had opened his own boot factory at Ratcliffe Road, Sileby and was also listed as a leather merchant. Leslie was an only child until 28th April 1907 when twin sisters Dorothea Hamilton and Kathleen Bonyngé were born. He was educated at Loughborough Grammar School and by 1911 he was assisting his father in his boot manufacturing business.

Leslie's war service record has not survived. He enlisted at Leicester soon after the outbreak of the war, probably into the Leicestershire Yeomanry. He disembarked in France as Trooper L. J. Moir on the 2nd November 1914. By the end of January 1915 Leslie had been promoted to Lance Corporal and was reported on home leave for a few days on the 29th January. Lance Corporal Moir was soon back at the front, but fell at the Battle of Frezenberg Ridge, Ypres on or around the 13th May 1915. He was initially reported as one of 39 missing but later he was confirmed killed in action. He was one of four ex-Loughborough Grammar school members to die in the same action that day. He was 21 years of age and unmarried.

On the 21st May 1915 the Loughborough Echo recalls Sileby's part in the Leicestershire Yeomanry's campaign,

"The whole topic of conversation in this village has been the gallant work of the Leicestershire Yeomanry and the misfortune that has overtaken them. Although only three men are with this regiment from this village... Pte. J. W. Newton, reported wounded, Pte. Moir missing and Shoeing-smith Hudson, of whom no news has been received."



Charnwood House, Barrow Road, Sileby

Ernest Edwin Newby

(Private)

Leicestershire Regiment 24942

Machine Gun Corps 53232



Born: June 1892 at Sileby, Leicestershire

Died: 2nd October 1916**Commemorated at:**

- Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, Somme, France (Pier and Face 5 C and 12 C)
 - Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby
 - Working Men's Club, Sileby

Ernest Edwin Newby was born at Sileby in June 1892. He was the youngest child of William and Annie Newby who lived at 174 Barrow Road along with his elder sister Eliza who was two years his senior. William also worked as a shoe riveter from home. By 1911 two of Ernest's cousins George Sharpe and Lucy Stirk were also recorded living with the Newbys. At this time Ernest's listed occupation was as a machinist in the shoe trade. In 1915 Ernest was working at the shoe factory of Wilkes Brothers on Brewin Street, Leicester.

Ernest enlisted at Leicester on the 7th December 1915. He measured 5 foot 3½ inches in height and only weighed 113 pounds. (8 stone, 51.25 kg). On the 8th February 1916 he was mobilised into the Leicestershire Regiment, joining up with the 3rd Battalion at Patrington, Yorkshire three days later. He was on Home Service with the regiment but this was only to last until 13th August 1916 when he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. Ernest disembarked at Boulogne on the 13th September and was later attached to the 167th Company of the Corps in the field on the 29th of that month. He was killed in action three days later on the 2nd October 1916 near Lesbœufs during the Battle of the Somme. He was 24 and unmarried.

The December 1916 edition of Sileby Parish Church magazine published the following statement,
“Private Ernest Newby, aged 24, was killed in action on October 2nd. Ernest was one of Mr Skelton’s old scholars: of a quiet, courteous, yet happy disposition he was popular with all who knew him.”



174 Barrow Road, Sileby

Harry Alfred Newton

(Private)

Leicestershire Regiment 4239

Leicestershire Regiment 6862

Leicestershire Regiment 242370

Born: 1896 at Burton Overy, Leicestershire

Died: 14th December 1917

Buried at Cambrin Military Cemetery, Cambrin, Pas de Calais, France
(Plot I, Row M, Grave 18)

Commemorated at:

- St Andrews Parish Church, Burton Overy, Leicestershire
 - Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby
 - Methodist Church, King Street, Sileby
 - Working Men's Club, Sileby

Harry Alfred Newton was the son of William Newton, a groom and Elizabeth his wife. He was born in Burton Overy, Leicestershire in 1896 and lived there with his elder siblings; Sarah E., James W. and George L. At the 1901 census the family are shown living next to Harry's grandmother Rachel and uncle Tom. Tragedy struck when his father William died later in 1901. Harry's widowed mother Elizabeth then married Thomas Smith, a widower at Burton Overy on the 24th December 1906. At 61 years of age Thomas was 17 years her elder. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Sileby, Thomas's home village. In 1911 Harry is shown living with his stepfather and mother at 20 Cemetery Road, Sileby. Here Harry lived with several step siblings and a lodger, Charles Sydney Payne, a professional pianist. Harry's occupation was recorded as a clicker in the shoe trade. In 1915 the family had moved to 35 The Banks.

Harry Newton's service record shows that he enlisted at Loughborough on the 14th May 1915. This was for four years in the Territorial force, in this case with the 3rd/5th Leicestershire Regiment. It is not known when Harry was fully mobilised, although he was admitted to a military hospital at Bagthorpe, Nottinghamshire in March 1916 to have treatment upon his tonsils and adenoids. He disembarked in France with his unit on the 3rd October 1916 and was in the field by the 23rd. He sustained minor gunshot wounds to the hips and buttocks on the 5th February 1917 and he was returned to duty within a day or so. On the 21st June he was suffering from the effects of being gassed and was admitted to the 56th General Hospital at Etaples on the 24th June. He spent a month recovering before returning to front line duty with his unit on the 4th August 1917. He was granted leave from the 19th to 29th August. He was killed in action on the 14th December 1917 whilst serving with the 1st/5th Battalion. He was 23 years of age and unmarried.



35 The Banks, Sileby (white cottage top middle with 2 chimneys)



35 The Banks, Sileby (in 2011)

Edward Perkins
(Company Sergeant Major)
Leicestershire Regiment 8751



Born: 1890 at Sileby, Leicestershire
Died: 18th July 1916

Buried at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France (Plot A, Row 30, Grave 17)

Commemorated at:

- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
- St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

Edward Perkins was born at Sileby in 1890 and was baptised at the Parish Church there on the 30th November 1890. He was the eldest son of five children (Edward, Frederick, Harry, Phyllis and Rachel) born to George Perkins, a boot factory foreman, and his wife Edith. The family lived at 136 Barrow Road.

Edward enlisted at Leicester with the Leicestershire Regiment on the 11th June 1909. He was 18 years of age, 5 foot 10½ inches in height, with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. He signed up for 7 years with the colours and 5 in reserve. After an initial spell on 'Home Service' and training with the 1st Battalion, he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion on the 25th September 1909. On the 7th October 1910 the battalion started on a 2 month voyage to India where they would be stationed until 19th September 1914. The 1911 census shows Edward in barracks at Fort St George, Madras with the rest of his unit. He did well with the regiment and was promoted several times: Lance Corporal on 7th October 1911 and Corporal on the 11th November 1913. At the outbreak of war the 2nd Battalion was reassigned to France and they disembarked there on the 12th October 1914. He was admitted to hospital on the 21st November and although the nature of his condition was not given it was acute enough to have him evacuated to a hospital ship. He was on 'Home Service' from 24th December 1914 to the 28th July 1915.

On the 5th February 1915 Edward was posted to the 3rd Battalion where he was promoted to Sergeant on the 10th February. He was transferred to the 7th (Service) Battalion on the 22nd May 1915 and it disembarked to fight in France on the 29th July 1915. The battalion promoted him again, this time to Colour Sergeant Major on 5th August 1915. In the midst of all Edward's military activities he married his Sileby sweetheart Eliza Ann Hull at Fareham, Hampshire on the 4th April 1915.

Edward continued his service with the 7th Battalion until he was critically wounded at Bazentin Ridge on the 14th July 1916. He had been showered with shrapnel from a shell burst which had caused him to lose his right leg. He did not recover and died at the 12th General Hospital, Rouen on the 18th July 1916. He was 25 years of age and left a widow. His sole daughter Dorothy Eliza was born the day after his death on the 19th July 1916.



26 Seagrave Road, Sileby. Home of the Hull family, Edward's in-laws

Alfred Frederick Perry
 (Second Lieutenant)
 Royal Air Force 110736



Born: 5th December 1899 at Sileby, Leicestershire
 Died: 28th October 1918

Commemorated at:

- Arras Flying Services Memorial, Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France (Stone E.4)
 - Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby
 - Methodist Church, King Street, Sileby
- Sileby Cemetery, Sileby, Leicestershire (Unconsecrated section, Plot B, Grave 164)

Alfred Frederick Perry was the son of Ernest and Sarah Ann Perry and was born at Sileby on the 5th December 1899. He was one of at least 8 children born to them. Ernest worked as a cement tester at Ellis's works in Barrow. The family lived at 16 Swan Street for the duration of Alfred's life. When Alfred left school he found employment as a hosiery apprentice at Driver's factory on Barrow Road from September 1915 until November 1917.

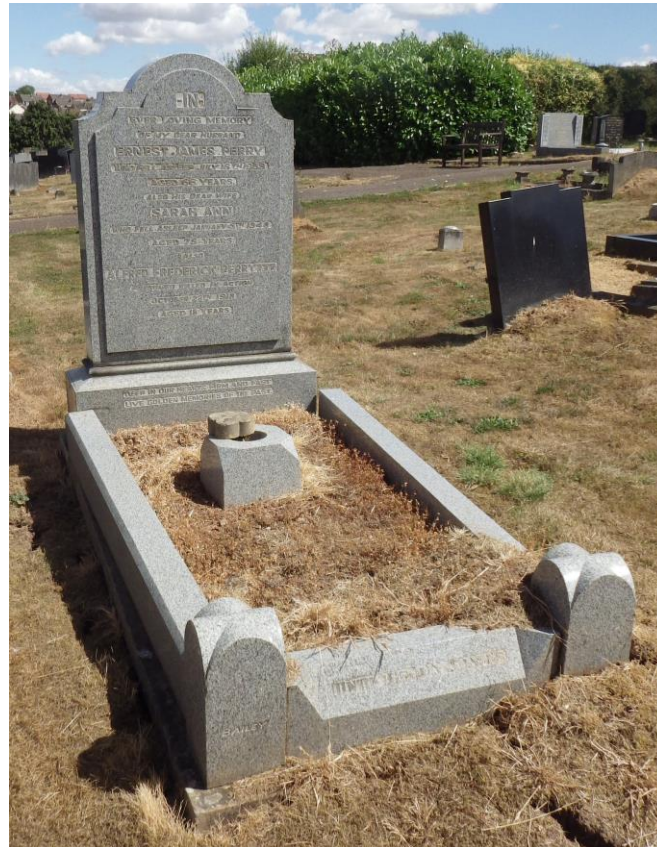
Alfred enlisted with the Royal Flying Corps on the 10th December 1917. He was 5 foot 6½ inches tall and his fitness was rated A1. Initially Alfred trained as an Air Cadet. From the 29th June 1918 he attended the RAF's Number 1 School of Aerial Gunnery at Hythe, Kent, as an Observer. On the 3rd August he started a temporary commission to 2nd Lieutenant as an Observation Officer. He joined his unit in the field in France on the 11th August 1918. As part of 'N' Flight he took off on a mission in a Bristol F.2b Fighter aircraft (serial D7919) on the 27th October. His pilot was Lieutenant John Brown, a Canadian. They never returned and were reported missing. Eventually they were both pronounced killed in action, which was presumed to have been on the 28th October.



Bristol F.2B Fighter two seat reconnaissance biplane © IWM (Q 67629)



16 Swan Street, Sileby



Alfred Perry : Family grave at Sileby Cemetery



Close up of Alfred Perry's gravestone inscription

George Phillips
(Private)
Leicestershire Regiment 1982
Leicestershire Regiment 240344



Born: 1893 at Sileby, Leicestershire
Died: 31st October 1918

Buried at Sileby Cemetery, Sileby, Leicestershire
(Unconsecrated Section, Plot C, Grave 33)

Commemorated at:

- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
- St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

George Phillips was born in 1893 at Sileby, the son of (and one of ten children born to) Thomas and Mary (Polly) Phillips. The family lived on Swan Street and had only been in the village since 1891 having just migrated from Birmingham. His father Thomas was a shoe hand. By 1900 they moved to Barrow upon Soar and were living in a house next to the Baptist chapel on Industry Street. However, they had moved back to Sileby around 1905, occupying a house at 44 Cemetery Road. George followed his father into the shoe trade and was listed as a shoe hand in 1914.

George enlisted to four years in the Territorial Force at Mountsorrel on the 4th August 1914. He was about 5 foot 10 inches tall with dark brown hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. He joined the 5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment and was on Home Service and training until the 28th February 1915 when he disembarked in France with his company. Little more is heard of his service until he was reported wounded on the 25th May 1917. The medical report shows George had sustained gunshot wounds to his wrist and also below his right knee. Although the injuries were categorized as slight at the time, they were severe enough to have him brought home to Whalley Hospital in Lancashire for 90 days. A further two periods of hospitalisation occurred in September 1917 (at Ripon, Yorkshire) and in late October/November 1917 (in Louth, Lincolnshire).

A later medical examination assessed his total disability at 60%. His wrist bones had been displaced and necrosis had set in. In January 1918 a medical board pronounced him unfit for a further six months, but he was later given a full discharge being declared physically unfit for duty from the 7th March 1918. However, George was not to survive the year out. He was buried at Sileby cemetery on the 4th November 1918.

Sileby's Parish Church magazine of December 1918 solves the mystery for the reason of his premature death,

"The late Private George Phillips (1/5 Leicesters) who was discharged from service after being gassed in action, and died last month from the effects, was given a military funeral on the 6th inst., (it should say 4th) the coffin being borne to the grave by discharged soldiers of deceased's old regiment. The family have a proud military record, all its male members enlisting."



44 Cemetery Road, Sileby



George Phillips : Gravestone in Sileby Cemetery

Ernest Porter
(Private)
Leicestershire Regiment 2211

Born: 15th October 1889 at Sileby, Leicestershire

Died: 6th March 1915

Buried at Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Ploegsteert, Belgium
(Plot I, Row H, Grave 9)

Commemorated at:

- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
 - St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby
 - Working Men's Club, Sileby

Ernest Porter was born at Sileby on the 15th October 1889 and baptised at the Parish Church there on the 30th March 1890. He was one of 14 children born to William Porter, a glove and framework knitter, and Mary his wife. For a number of years the family occupied a house near the Bellringer's Arms on Brook Street before moving to a property on Cossington Road around 1911. At the 1911 census Ernest is shown still at home with his parents and his occupation is noted as a shoe finisher. He married Martha Freer in 1912 and they set up home together at 68 Barrow Road. They had two children; Lois, born in 1913 and Ernest, born in 1914.

Ernest had enlisted into the Territorial Force for the duration of the war at Mountsorrel on the 31st August 1914. His attestation papers record that he was 5 foot 6 inches in height with a 36 inch chest measurement. At enlistment he joined the 5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment and was on Home Service until the 27th February 1915. He disembarked in France on the 28th February but was killed in action just over a week later at Le Bizet, Belgium on the 6th March.

The Leicester Chronicle of the 20th March 1915 provides more information regarding Ernest and his death,

“Information has been received at Sileby that Pte. E. Porter, of the 5th Territorial Battalion, Leicestershire Regt., has recently been killed in action, a bullet passing through his throat. Private Porter was well known among Loughborough and District League footballers, he having played at outside left, first for Sileby Red Cross, and later for Sileby Victoria and Mountsorrel United.”



68 Barrow Road, Sileby (the white house with the white door open)

Harold Preston
(Corporal)
Leicestershire Yeomanry 3361
Machine Gun Corps 60388

Born: 14th October 1891 at Sileby, Leicestershire

Died: 4th May 1918

Buried at Sileby Cemetery, Sileby, Leicestershire
(Consecrated Section, Plot A, Grave 28)

Commemorated at:

- Sileby War Memorial, Memorial Park, Sileby
- St Mary's Parish Church, Sileby

Harold Preston was born at Sileby on the 14th October 1891, the son of Job and Mary Ann Preston. Job worked at Ellis's Cement works having had various roles there including lime burning. For many years the family lived at 5 Cossington Road. Job and Mary Ann had 10 children born to them although 4 had subsequently died. His mother Mary Ann died aged 52 in 1909 and the 1911 census shows Harold living with his widowed father and his two sisters Ethel May and Evelyn. Perhaps as a result of their mother's death, Harold and Ethel May (known to the family as May) were baptised as adults at Sileby Parish Church on the 1st March 1911. At this time Harold was working as a 'slugger' in the shoe trade. He operated a machine attaching heels to the mail body of the shoe or boot.

Harold's war record shows tenacity and perseverance in the face of great adversity. He enlisted with the Leicestershire Yeomanry on the 15th May 1915 and disembarked in France on the 21st November 1915. On the 19th July 1916 he was gassed whilst fighting at Ypres and was invalided home for recuperation. On returning he was appointed a machine gun instructor, but later volunteered for active service again; he returned to France with the Machine Gun Corps on the 15th December 1916. He fought in the German Spring Offensive of 1918 and was critically wounded on the 5th April 1918. He was shot in the leg by a machine gun bullet whilst returning from a volunteer mission to take rations to the front line. As a result he had his left leg amputated and was returned home. On the 4th May Harold died of his wounds at No. 21 Southern General Hospital (now Dudley Road Hospital) in Birmingham. He was aged 27 and unmarried.

His funeral was reported in the Melton Times on the 10th May 1918,
"Amid scenes of universal sympathy and regret the body of Corporal Harold Preston was laid to rest with military honours (at Sileby) on Wednesday afternoon... The whole of the factories in the village ceased work, and a crowd of fully 2,000 paid their last respects at the graveside. The Vicar (Rev. F. L. Burrow) conducted the funeral rites at the Parish Church and at the cemetery. The immediate mourners were deceased's brothers and sisters, and other relatives. The floral tributes were numerous, and, in

addition to those from the family, included tokens from the workpeople at most of the local factories. The grave was lined with ivy and white narcissi.”

Sileby Parish Church magazine of June 1918 added,
“A firing party, under Corpl. Knighton, attended from Wigston, the “Last Post” being sounded by Bugler Stevens. Members of the local Volunteer Regiment acted as bearers.”

Perhaps the most telling tribute was that of Harold’s commanding officer who wrote
“We miss him so much in the section, as he was so wonderfully liked by all. He and I got on very well together, and I had hopes of making him a Sergeant before long, as he was such a good man on the gun. I only wish I had a few more like him.”



5 Cossington Road, Sileby



Harold Preston : Gravestone in Sileby Cemetery