

Walter Cannings

As we move to commemorating those mentioned on the WWI memorial at Nursling, we move from chronological to alphabetical order and start with Private Walter Cannings. He was the son of Daniel and Joan Cannings (the latter predeceased him). Daniel was from Winterbourne Earls in Wiltshire, and Joan from Newton Tony. Walter was born at Bagsbury Farm, Clatford, near Andover. (Bagsbury is an alternative spelling for Balksbury, the Iron Age Hillfort near the town – there was a Bagsbury Farm Road in Upper Clatford in the 1930's but it doesn't seem to be there now.)

In 1901, Walter was living with his family in New Street, Andover, where Daniel was a carter, possibly on New Street Farm. By 1911 the family was at Dines Farm, Hatherden, where Daniel was a labourer and Walter a milker. (Daniel wasn't at home the night of the census, being in Andover Cottage Hospital.) By the time of Walter's death, Daniel was living in Upton. He died in January 1948, while living at 2 Nursling Street, and left all his effects to Percy Cannings, who was Walter's older brother.

Walter Cannings served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and 15th Battery, Hampshire Regiment. He'd enlisted under age and served in France from 1915. He was killed in action on the 19th September 1917, aged 20, in the same battle (3rd Ypres) as Sergeant William Emmett (who we'll hear about in a few months). Walter has no known grave, but is commemorated on the Tyne Cott Memorial.

Ann Laird - Rownhams March 2014