

From Yorkshire To Lancashire and Places In-Between

This article came about when I read a book about Casualties of WWI from around the Calne area of Wiltshire.

One of the Casualties listed in this book was Henry William Adam.

Henry William Adam (right) was born in The Vicarage, Chirton, Wiltshire on 16th June 1896 and was educated at St. Bees Theological College in Cumbria where he was studying to follow his father into church ministry.



World War One saw Henry join the Royal Naval Air Service. In a Caudron biplane, similar to that shown on the left, Henry qualified as a Pilot on the 20th November 1916 at the Royal Naval Air Station at Vendome, France. Henry was later transferred to the Royal Air Force.



On 4th July 1918 Lieutenant Henry Adam was flying his seaplane off the deck of H.M.S. Glorious when he was involved in an accident, the plane crashing into the sea resulting in serious injury to Henry. The observer flying with Henry at the time

was able to keep Henry afloat until a rescue boat was able to ferry them to a hospital ship. Sadly Henry died not long after arriving aboard the ship of his injuries. He was just 22 years of age and was unmarried.

Henry's body was returned to his parents Rev. Henry Thompson and Emily Adam of 14 Stanley Road, Lytham, Lancashire for burial in the churchyard at St. Cuthbert's in Lytham (right).



Henry's grave is marked by a simple stone cross on a square block and plinth. At the base of the cross the "Dead Man's Penny" Memorial Plaque issued to his parents by the War Office has been embedded into the stonework.



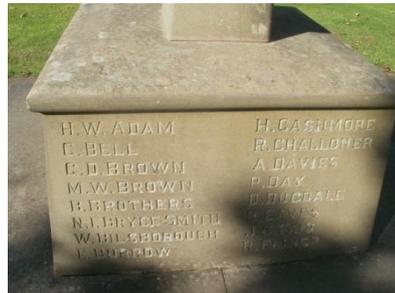
The inscription on the stone block of the grave marker reads:-

Pray for the Soul
Of
Lieut. Henry William Adam, RNAS
Who Gave his Life for his
Country on H.M.S. Glorious
July 4th 1918
Born June 16th 1896

'Lord All Pitying Jesu Blest
Grant Him Thine Eternal Rest'



Henry's name is also inscribed on the War Memorial situated in the grounds of the parish hall next door to the church.



Henry William Adam was the second son of the Rev. Henry Thompson and Emily Adam.

Henry Thompson Adam was born in Halifax, Yorkshire on 1st June 1853 and was baptised in the parish church on 30th June 1853 the son of Thomas and Sarah Ann Adam (nee Mellor) who were married in Manchester in 1846. By 1861 Henry's father Thomas (age 61) had moved the family (wife Sarah Ann (48), daughter Sybil (13) son Thomas W. (11) and 7 year old Henry to lodgings in West Beach, Lytham, Lancashire where he is recorded as being an Attorney and Solicitor.

According to the 1871 Census the whole family were still living in Lytham at 26 West Beach, Thomas having retired from his position as Attorney and Solicitor. Thomas William is recorded as an undergraduate of Oxford University (he went on to take Holy Orders) and Henry Thompson is recorded as a scholar. Thomas died in Lytham on the 4th June 1872.

Henry Thompson Adam was ordained to Holy Orders as Priest at the Cathedral Church in Norwich by the Lord Bishop of Norwich this event being reported in the Bury & Norwich Post on 1st January 1878.

The Western Gazette reports on 23rd January 1880 that the Bishop of Salisbury had licensed the Rev. Henry Thompson Adam, BA, to the Curacy of Calne, Wilts.

In the 1881 Census for Calne, Henry Thompson is recorded as having lodgings in Church Street, Calne. His sister Sybil is recorded as being resident with him.

1891 finds Henry Thompson as resident of Kerry Crescent, New Road, Calne and recorded as Clerk in Holy Orders. He is recorded as having a wife Emily (28), a son Thomas Walter aged 2 and 2 daughters Sybil Margaret aged 1 and 4 month old Ethel Mary all having been born in Calne.



Ten years later in 1901 Henry Thompson had moved on to become vicar of Christchurch in Whitehaven, Cumbria and resident at 5, Front Corkickle, Whitehaven. The incumbent of Christchurch Rev. T. S. Cunningham had been suffering ill health and unable to take such an active part in parochial work as he would have wished so in 1898 he exchanged livings with Henry and Henry was instituted as Vicar of Christchurch in February 1899. The Adam family had increased considerably by 1901 including sons Thomas Walter (12) and Henry William (4) and daughters Sybil Margaret (11), Ethel Mary (10), Annie Kathleen (7), Cecily (6) and year old Rosalind May (Rosally).



← The church of Christchurch closed as a place of worship

In 1911 the family are listed as being resident at the Vicarage of Christchurch, Whitehaven. By this time Henry and Emily had been married for 23 years having married in Kensington, London in 1887. The children had been joined by sister Alice Marjorie born in Whitehaven in 1902. Thomas Walter had now left home.

Henry Thompson Adam died in Lytham, Lancashire on 15th November 1928. At the time of his death he was living at Ferndene, 14 Stanley Road, Lytham. His will was proved in the Probate Registry of London on 16th January 1929 and probate was granted to his widow Emily. He left an estate to the value of £1755 15s. 2d. (2013 equivalent being £94,356.74).

Henry Thompson was buried in the same grave as his heroic son in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, Lytham.

Other Family Members

Emily Adam (Nee Baily/Bailey) was born in Calne in 1862/1863 the daughter of John and Georgina Bailey. Her father was a woolstapler. It would appear that Emily died in 1955 in the Basford area of Nottinghamshire aged 93. There is no record of a will having been submitted for probate purposes. Emily too is buried alongside her husband and son in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, Lytham, Lancashire.

Thomas Walter Adam was born in Calne, Wiltshire in the September Quarter of 1888. In 1911 he was employed as a mining engineer in Swinton, Lancashire. Thomas married Philippine Daria Pomme de Mirimonde in 1944 in Barnsley, Yorkshire. Thomas died on 4th April 1964 aged 75 at 6, The Crescent, Filey, Yorkshire. Thomas's will was proved at York on the 23rd June 1964 and granted to Barclays Bank and his wife Philippine Daria Adam. His estate amounted to £14737. It seems unlikely that there were issue within this marriage. Philippine was born 7th February 1899 and died in Scarborough in 1978.

Sybil Margaret Adam was born in Calne, Wiltshire in the December Quarter of 1899. According to the 1911 Census she was working as a house governess at Cheltenham Ladies College. At this stage in my research I am unable to trace a marriage for Sybil neither can I find a death for her.

Ethel Mary Adam was born on 29th November 1890 in Calne, Wiltshire. Ethel remained a spinster all her life and died in the December Quarter of 1983 in the Nottingham area. There does not seem to be a record of probate.

Ann Kathleen Adam was born in Chirton, Wiltshire in 1893 and was often called Annie. Once again no marriage nor death has been found or confirmed.

Cecily Dorothy Adam was also born in Chirton, Wiltshire. The memorial Inscription on her shared grave with her father, mother and brother Henry William states she was the 4th daughter and that she was born on 19th January 1895 and died on June 15th 1920, her death being registered in the Birmingham, Warwickshire registration district. There seems to be no record of probate. Cecily did not marry.

Rosalind May (Rosally) Adam was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland in 1899 although the only death recorded states a date of birth as 21st May 1900. The death occurred in the Huntingdon Registration District in the March quarter of 1976. (This information is speculative since no marriage seems to have taken place).

Alice Marjorie Adam was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland, her birth being registered in the December Quarter of 1902. No further information can be found for Alice.

Deduction

Whilst visiting St. Cuthbert's church during my research I would like to express my grateful thanks to the assistance given me by the Reverend Philip Biggs, Priest in Charge who gave up some of his precious time to assist me in locating the grave of the Adam family. I made a promise to the Reverend that I would attempt to trace any living descendants of the Adam family since the memorial stone is not one placed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

As is relatively clear from the information found it would appear that sadly there are no direct descendants remaining.