

Private Walter Pybus (Before 28th May 1887 – 4th April 1916)

and

Lance-Corporal Herbert Pybus (31st May 1893 – 27th March 1918)



Walter and Herbert Pybus were the only two sons of William Pybus and Annice (sometimes spelt Annis) Greenwood who were married on 26th November 1877 at the parish church, Birstall, William was a 24 year old "Stoker" from Cleckheaton whose father George was a Station Master. Annice was a 19 year old spinster also from Cleckheaton but no father was given on the West Yorkshire marriage details.

This is almost certainly because she was the illegitimate daughter of Hannah Greenwood. Hannah went on to marry a widower, John Smith, who was born at Norwood Green, WRY, on 2nd November 1869 in Dewsbury. In the 1871 census John & Hannah Smith had a daughter Annice Greenwood aged 12 and a son James Greenwood aged 4 living with them in North Brierly. By 1881 John Smith is a widower, "Butcher and Innkeeper" with daughter Annice Pybus, son in law William Pybus and son James Greenwood Smith living with him at the Salt Horn Inn, North Brierley. Hannah Smith (nee Greenwood) had died aged 41 years on 22nd September 1877 and was buried on 26th September 1877 at St Matthew's Churchyard in a grave owned by John Smith (Plot K1) This grave would later accommodate more family members.

William and Annice Pybus had had two daughters before the 1881 census and so before Walter and Herbert Pybus were born. Hannah Pybus was born on 18th May 1878 and baptised on 23rd June 1878 at St Mary's Luddenden. Father William was a Railway Stoker of Low Moor, Bradford. The baptism entry one above Hannah's is for James Smith Greenwood born Nov 7th 1867 son of Hannah. The name John which is either crossed out or smudged appears above the name "Hannah", in the parents' column, perhaps suggesting that John Smith was the father.

Sadly Hannah Pybus died on 13th June 1879 and was buried on 16th June 1879 at St Matthew's Churchyard in the grave owned by her (step) grandfather John Smith. Another daughter Jane Ellen Pybus was born on 19th May 1880 and baptised at Holy Trinity, Low Moor on 27th June 1880. Again her father's occupation was a Stoker and the address was "Salthorn" (the Inn where her parents & grandfather resided in 1881 although she does not appear on the census data – perhaps grandfather forgot her!) She died on 22nd March 1882 aged 1 year and 10 months and was buried on 24th March 1882 again in plot K1 at St Matthew's Churchyard although this time the West Yorkshire, Deaths and Burials lists the owner of the grave as her father William Pybus. John Smith had died on 8th May 1881 according to his probate record which reads:-

The Will of John Smith late of "Salthorn" Low Moor North Brierly in the Parish of Bradford in the County of York Innkeeper and Butcher who died 8 May 1881 at the "Salthorn" was proved at Wakefield by William Pybus of Oakenshaw in the parish of Birstal in the said County Engine Driver and Dan Firth Malster and Farmer and John Harpen Warehouseman both of Low Moor the Executors. Effects £412 5s.

John Smith was buried in the family plot, K1, at St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe.

On a happier note Walter Pybus, son of William and Anni(c)e, was baptised on 29th May 1887 at Oakenshaw cum Woodlands. He appeared on the 1891 census with his parents and Uncle James S Greenwood living at Cross Street, Oakenshaw, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire. His father was a "Railway Engine Driver".

Herbert Pybus was born on 31st May 1893 and baptised on 18th June 1893 at St Andrew's Oakenshaw. The parents, William and Anni(c)e lived at an address in Oakenshaw with father William's given occupation being "Engine Driver". Both these boys grew to adulthood and so appear with their parents in the 1901 and then 1911 censuses. In 1901 the family were still in a house in Cross St., Oakenshaw, Cleckheaton with father William continuing to drive railway locomotives. But father William appears to have suffered some sort of accident between 1901 and 1911 – see newspaper reports below. Because at the 1911 census he was a "Grocer" with Annice "Assisting in (the) business and 17 year old Herbert being a "Grocer's Son, Working in (the) Shop". The shop appears to have been a 9 roomed house at 292 Gibbet St., Halifax, WRY. Walter was a 23 year old "Silversmith (Stick Umbrella Mount)" working in an "Umbrella Factory".

On 25th November 1915 Walter Pybus married Ivy Tordoff. He was a "Jeweller", the son of William Pybus, a "Grocer". Twenty three year old Ivy's address was 3 Westbury Place – See her probate - where she lived with her parents & unmarried brothers at the time of the 1911 census. In 1911 she was a "Burnisher" for a "Jeweller" which was presumably how she and Walter met. Her father John, a mechanic, and Walter's brother, Herbert, were the witnesses to the marriage.

Not long after the wedding, in 1916, Walter enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps (service no. 24197) and was sent for training to Salisbury Plain where he died on 4th April 1916. This report appeared in the Halifax Courier on Saturday 8th April, 1916 page 8.

PTE. WALTER PYBUS

The death took place on Tuesday morning on Salisbury Plain of Pte. Walter Pybus Royal Flying Corps, whose home is 292, Gibbet-street. He had an attack of influenza, which developed into pneumonia, resulting fatally. He had only been with the Forces just over a month. There are many sad touches in the sudden bereavement. His father, well known as a grocer, has been an invalid a long time, and sympathy will be

widely extended to him in the death of his eldest son. Further, the young soldier was only married in Nov. and with his wife many will sympathise. Prior to enlistment he was employed as a jeweller by Messrs Chas. Horner, Ltd., Mile Cross Works. Both there and in private life he was held in the deepest respect. He was 28 years of age.

The body is being brought to Halifax for interment.

The problems for the family increased at the end of 1916 as explained in this article from the Halifax Courier Saturday, 9th December, 1916 page 11.

SINGLE MAN REFUSED FURTHER EXEMPTION

Herbert Pybus, aged 23, and single, in the employ of his father, grocer, provision dealer, and ale and porter merchant, asked for further exemption. Owing, he urged, to his father's infirmity, he had the entire management of the business. The Tribunal

refused further exemption. To enable arrangements, however, to be made for the carrying on of the business they directed that applicant was not to be called up before Jan 31 [1917].

And then the Halifax Courier had this report on Saturday, 13th April 1918:-

L.-CPL.H.PYBUS

News was received on Wednesday by Mr. and Mrs Pybus, 292, Gibbet-st., Halifax, that their younger son, L.-Cpl. Herbert Pybus, Grenadier Guards, had been killed in action. The chaplain has written stating that Herbert was killed whilst helping to repel an enemy attack, and was buried on the field of battle. This is the second son Mr. and Mrs.

Pybus have lost, their elder son dying of sickness whilst training on Salisbury Plain two years ago. L.-Cpl Pybus was 24 years of age and in civil life assisted his mother in their grocery business. He is on the roll of honour at Oakenshaw Church. The two boys were the only children of Mr. and Mrs. Pybus.

Lance Corporal Herbert Pybus (service number 29323) of the Grenadier Guards died on 27th March 1918. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France as well as the Roll of Honour at Oakenshaw Church.

His is the last entry on his (step) grandfather's grave, plot K1, along with his grandmother Hannah Smith, his (step) grandfather, John Smith, the two little sisters who he never knew and his brother Walter.



Father William Pybus died a year later aged 67 years on 4th May 1919 and was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe on 7th May 1919 in plot G14.

PYBUS William of 9 Arundel-street Halifax died 4 May 1919 at the Institute Gibbet-street Halifax Probate London 2 June to Annis Pybus widow. Effects £255 8s.

Mother Annice or Annis Pybus survived the death of her invalid husband, the loss of her two sons in WW1 and the infant deaths of her two little girls. She died aged 74 years on 23rd February 1933 and was buried on 27th February 1933 at St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe again in plot G14 so with her husband William). Her probate reads:-

PYBUS Annis of 3 Grove-street South Gibbet-street Halifax widow died 23 February 1933 Probate London 10 March to Fred Greenwood book-keeper. Effects £236 6s 6d.

Walter's young widow Ivy Pybus, nee Tordoff, does not seem to have remarried. She did have a son Lloyd John Pybus born on 17th February 1918. Her probate reads:-

PYBUS Ivy of 3 Westbury Place, West End, Halifax died 23rd October 1964 Administration York 13th January [1965] to Lloyd John Pybus chartered surveyor. £1116

Lloyd John Pybus died on Christmas Day 1989. His probate reads:-

PYBUS Lloyd John of The Ridge, 11 Maridon Rd Northowram Halifax died 25 December 1989 Probate Leeds 26 April [1990]. Not exceeding £100 000. Ref No 9051605347Q

D.M.Barker

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