

Private Edward Schofield (20th February 1881 – 9th July 1916)



Pte. E. S. Schofield
West Riding Regt.,
Hoyle's Buildings,
Bailey Hall Bank,
Halifax. Died from
wounds, July 9.

The Halifax Courier had this report from Saturday 22nd July 1916

PTE E SCHOFIELD

Mrs Edward Schofield, residing at Hoyle's buildings, Bailey Hall Bank, Halifax, has received the following letter, from No.26, General Hospital, France, dated July 10 :--
"Your husband, Pte Schofield, of the -----, West Riding Regiment (T.F.) was admitted into this hospital with a very severe wound on leg. I am so sorry to have to tell you that 'gas gangrene' (the awful poison we dread) set in, and, though the leg was taken off, and everything we could do was done, we could not save his life. I cannot say how sorry I am for you and his mother. He will be buried here, in a very nice little cemetery for our officers, men and sisters, who die here. He died yesterday at 5 in the evening. I hope you will be able to find some comfort in knowing he died for his King and country, the noblest death a man can die. Please accept my sympathies for you in your great trouble." Yours sincerely
M.B.Nicholson (sister).

Private Edward Schofield was 35 years of age and the only son of Mr. and Mrs.Schofield of Kirk-lane, Hipperholme, and was very highly esteemed. He found employment at Messrs. Brooke's moulding shed where he was an old and valued servant, formerly he served in the Halifax Territorial Forces and enlisted on June 1 last year, leaving England the latter part of March last. He was educated at Lightcliffe National Schools under the headmasterships of Messrs Cooke and Markham successively. Ten years ago he married and left Hipperholme to reside in Halifax. He leaves a wife and five children, the eldest about 9 years of age, and the youngest 4 months. At Hipperholme sincere sympathy is extended to his parents and wife. The former are very old inhabitants and greatly respected by all who know them.

The name of Private Edward Schofield appears in St Matthew's Churchyard on the memorial inscription on the gravestone – which is currently laid flat – for plot K40.



Just why Private Edward Schofield was remembered on this memorial inscription and the interrelationships between the individuals needs explaining.

Joseph Hey from Northowram married Mary Hall of Hipperholme on 11th March 1843 in Halifax. He was a “Dyer” and his father, Jonas Hey, was a “Farmer”. Mary’s father John Hall was a “Wool Comber” and she was a “Servant”. They each made their mark on the marriage certificate. Daughter Sarah Ann was baptised on 3rd December 1843 in Halifax, then Alfred was baptised on 12th October 1845 so although the parish register gives the date of birth as 30th October it might mean 30th September 1845 – the birth was registered Q4 1845. Sadly infant Alfred, named on the inscription, only lived a year being buried in St Matthew’s Churchyard on 25th October 1846 in plot K40. By the time of the 1851 census Joseph was an “Overlooker” living with Mary and the two children Sarah Ann and Edwin (Edward) at 5 Squires Cottages, Northowram. Daughter Martha Hey just missed census night being born on the 9th April 1851 in Northowram. She was baptised a year later on 4th April 1852 at Halifax when her father Joseph was described as a “Labourer”. Another son William Hey must have been born sometime around 1852 and died young as noted on the inscription but no record of either a birth/baptism or a death/burial has been found. A year after Martha was born Joseph Hey, the first name in the inscription above, died on 14th May 1853. He was interred on 22nd May 1853 in St Matthew’s Churchyard, Lightcliffe in plot K40.

Widow Mary Hey nee Hall then married 35 year old George Brocklehurst on 5th May 1856 in Halifax; he was a Silk Dresser – from subsequent census data as the marriage certificate is difficult to read after “Silk” - from Hipperholme son of Charles Brocklehurst. The 1861 census recorded that George Brocklehurst was born in “Buckton [sic], Staffordshire. He, his wife and his three Hey step children Sarah Ann who was a “Silk Reeler”, Edward who was a “Silk Spinny” and 10 year old Martha who was also a “Silk Spinny” lived at Lane Ends(?), Hipperholme cum Brighthouse.

The Brocklehurst / Hey family minus Sarah Ann were still in Lane Ends Green, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse in 1871. This time George’s birthplace was given as Congleton, Cheshire. He was still a “Silk Dresser” and Martha Hey – wrongly transcribed as Brocklehurst – was still spinning silk but Edward had become a Stone Mason. On 1st November 1880 29 year old Martha Hey married 26 year old Harry Schofield Taylor in Halifax. He was a “Delver” from Wathgate, Hipperholme with no father. Martha was from Lane Ends Green and her father was recorded as “Joseph Hey” a “Farmer”.

Harry and Martha used the surname “Taylor” in the 1881 census when they were living at “Lane End”, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse. They had a one month old son Edward Taylor – later Private Edward Schofield – with them. Harry Taylor was a “Stone Delver”. The registration of this little chap’s birth used the name Edward Schofield Taylor; he was born on 20th February 1881. But when he was baptised in Halifax on 20th November 1881 he was simply called Edward Taylor son of “Schofield & Martha” Taylor of Hipperholme; father a “Delver”.

George Brocklehurst, Martha's step-father and so young Edward's step-grandfather died on 28th June 1884 and was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard on 1st July 1884 in plot K40 ie alongside his wife Mary's first husband, Joseph Hey, and their infant sons. So by the time of the 1891 census Edward's maternal grandmother Mary Brocklehurst was living with him and his parents – then using the surname Schofield - in (the Lee Building?), Kirk Lane, Hipperholme. Father Harry Schofield was a 36 year old "Stone Delver". Alongside 10 year old Edward's name it says "Worsted Spinner" but this most probably should have been written on the line above referring to his 39 year old mother, Martha Schofield, or - less likely - on the line below for his 67 year old grandmother. Grandmother Mary Brocklehurst passed was buried on 21st October 1893 in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe. Despite what the inscription above says this was her burial date and no death date was given in the parish register. This left just Edward and his Schofield parents at home in Lane Ends Green, Hipperholme on census night 1901. Edward was a "Stone Labourer" whilst father Harry was a "Pond Scavenger"

Edward Schofield married Frances Varnham on the 25th August 1906 at the parish church in Halifax. He was then a 25 year old "Labourer" living at Cobden Place, Hipperholme. The 21 year old bride was from Brierley Hill, Northowram and her father William Henry Varnham was also a "Labourer". Eldest child William Henry arrived in 26th December 1906 and was baptised in Halifax on 27th January 1907 when his parents' address was 6 Howarth's Buildings, Pineberry Hill Halifax. He was followed by Mary in 1908 and then Mabel on 13th February 1909. The family were living in 2 rooms at 6 Howarth Building on 2nd April 1911 although son William was also recorded as being with his Schofield grandparents at 8 Kirk Lane, Hipperholme. 30 year old Edward was an "Artificial Stone Maker" and 56 year old Harry was a "Labourer", an "Urban Council Worker".

Frances had three more children before Edward died from wounds. Harry was born on 19th June 1912, Jack in late 1914 although he died shortly afterwards early in 1915 and finally Nellie arrived early in 1916. So Nellie was the fifth child mentioned in the Halifax Courier article aged just 4 months.

As the opening newspaper article explained Private Edward Schofield was wounded in early July 1916 at the first Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Albert which took place between 1st and 13th July 1916. He died from his wounds on 9th July 1916 and was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

Private Edward Schofield was remembered on a grave in France.

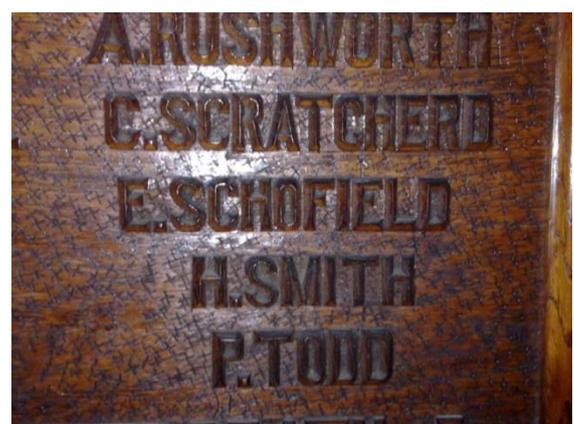
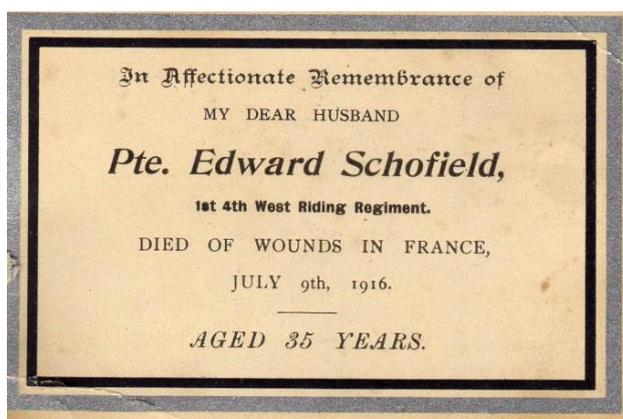
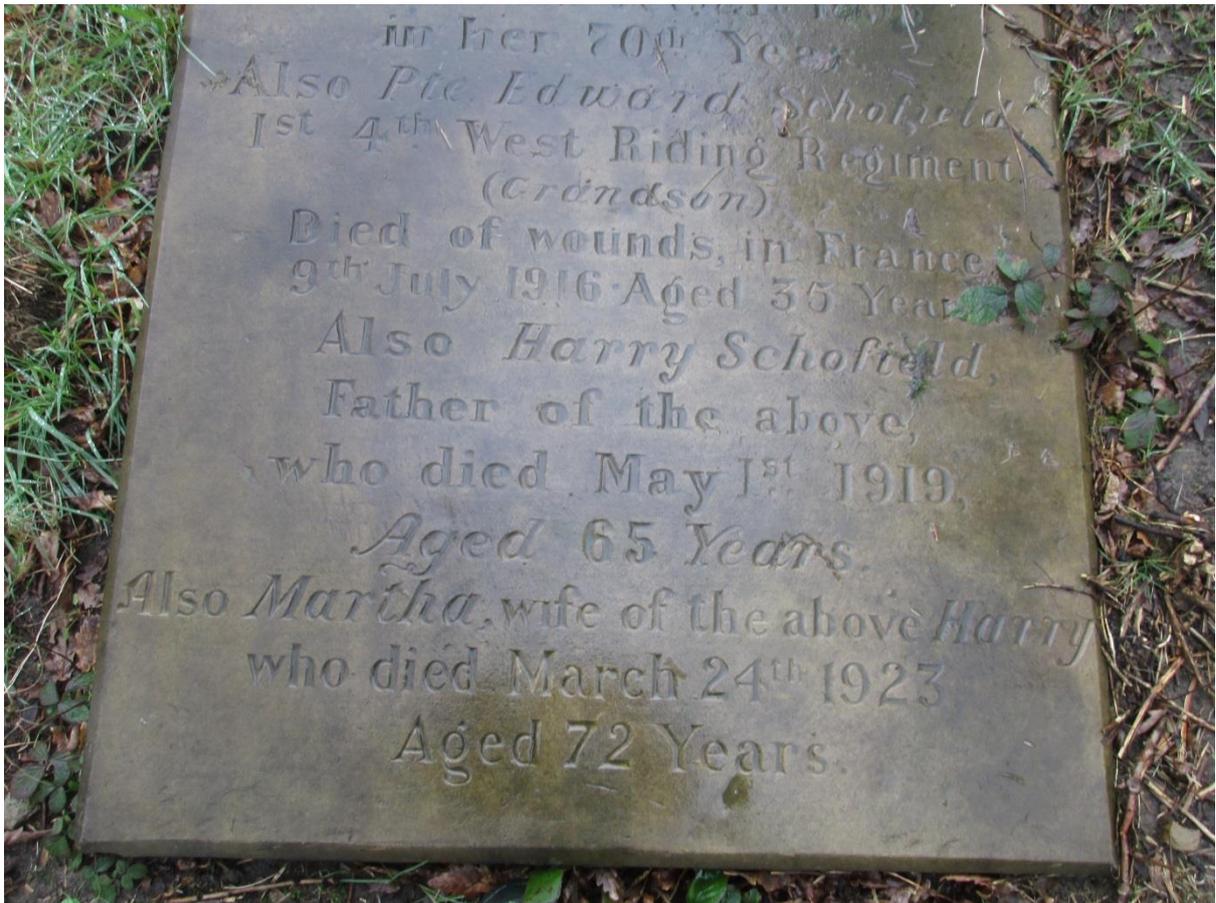
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Casualty Details

Name: SCHOFIELD
Initials: E
Nationality: United Kingdom
Rank: Private
Regiment/Service: Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
Unit Text: 1st/4th Bn.
Age: 35
Date of Death: 09/07/1916
Service No: 4042
Additional information: Husband of Frances Schofield, of I, Hoyle's Buildings, Bailey Hall Bank, Halifax.
Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead
Grave/Memorial Reference: II. A. 71.
Cemetery: ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY



He was also remembered back in Yorkshire on his grandparents' grave, by his wife and on the regimental roll of honour in Halifax Minster.



Here is his British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Card.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
SCHOFIELD		W. Rid. R	Pte	4/4042
Edward				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	0/2/101 B/2	107	D. of W 9-7-16	
BRITISH		..		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380.

Edward Schofield never seems to have used the surname Taylor after the 1881 census. Did he change his name by deed pole? But Taylor was the surname on his parents' death certificates and in the St Matthew's Church burial register. The 65 year old Harry S Taylor who died Q2 1919 in the Halifax district was the Harry Schofield Taylor in the Lightcliffe parish register who died on 1st May 1919 and was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard on 3rd May 1919 in plot K39 ie next to the Hey/Brocklehurst grave. Similarly the 72 year old Martha S Taylor who died Q1 1923 in the Halifax district was his wife, Martha Schofield (Taylor) who died on 24th March 1923 and was buried in plot K40 in St Matthew's Churchyard on 27th March 1923 ie with her father Joseph Hey, mother Mary Brocklehurst and her baby brothers, Alfred and William. Although Martha's parish burial record, like Harry's, used the surname Taylor it was absent from the inscription on the family grave, K40.

Private Edward Schofield's widow Frances Schofield married Richard Siddall in 1929 and died in 1957. Eldest son William Henry Schofield died in 1994. The other surviving son Harry died on 25th January 1980. Eldest daughter Mary Schofield married Arthur Wrigglesworth on 6th August 1932 and died in 1960. Mabel married Allan Bottomley Jagger in 1945 and died on 14th February 1986. Daughter Nellie probably died in 2002.

D.M.Barker
November 2015