

Private James Smallwood (25th March 1885 – 1st August 1917)



James Smallwood was born on 25th March 1885, the second son of Jonathan Smallwood, who farmed at Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme, and his wife formerly Frances Sucksmith. Through his mother he was a relative of the Sucksmith brothers Private Aaron Sucksmith (1889 – 1916), Private Walter Sucksmith (1890 – 1916), Private James Sucksmith (1894 – 1949) and Private Leonard Sucksmith (1898 – 1920).

The same day he was baptised, 10th June 1885, James and Esther Sucksmith of Yew Tree Farm baptised a daughter Elizabeth also at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Frances Smallwood née Sucksmith and James Sucksmith were brother and sister, two of the children of Elizabeth Sucksmith (1808 – 1873). Through this link Private James Smallwood was therefore a first cousin once removed of the Sucksmith brothers.

Father Jonathan Smallwood was born in Sutton on Derwent where his father was an Agricultural Labourer. James too was a farm labourer in the 1861 and 1871 censuses latterly in Hipperholme cum Brighouse when he lived with some sisters at "Rose Cottage". On 4th February 1874 he married "Fanny" Sucksmith of Hipperholme in Halifax. No father was given as her mother Elizabeth Sucksmith was a spinster.

In the next six years Jonathan and Frances had four children, all were baptised at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe; Elizabeth on 6th June 1875, Margaret on 4th June 1876, Annie on 2nd June 1878 and Thomas, born 30 July 1880, on 5th June 1881. All appear on the 1881 census when their father Jonathan was a farmer of 20 acres employing one man, but it does not say where exactly the family lived in Hipperholme cum Brighouse.

It does on the 1891 census the family were at Roydlands Farm and father Jonathan was a "Farmer & Cab Proprietor". Frances had had five more children; Mary on 15th July 1882 baptised 1st October 1882, James on 25th March 1885 baptised on 19th June 1885, then twins Edith and William sometime early in 1888 before their baptism on 25th July 1888 and finally John

Stanley on 11th July 1890 baptised 28th September but the girl twin, Edith, had died. She was 13 months old and was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard on 25th March 1889 in plot J12.

Eldest daughter Elizabeth Smallwood married a 30-year-old butcher, Thomas Booth Wright, on 16th August 1900 at St Matthew's Church. He was the son of a deceased "Sailmaker", Matthew Ward Wright, from West Hartlepool. Father Jonathan Smallwood was just a "Cab Proprietor". Perhaps there was not room for "Farmer" as well but both occupations were recorded on the 1901 census. On that night all the family apart from Elizabeth and husband Thomas Wright - they went back to West Hartlepool and had a 7-year-old daughter, Margaret Smallwood Wright - were at home, Roydlands Farm again. Sixteen-year-old James Smallwood was a "Stable Boy", 20-year-old Thomas was a "Driver" – presumably for his father's cab business - and 13-year-old William a "Butcher's Boy". The girls Margaret and Annie were "Dressmakers".

James Smallwood was a witness at three family weddings before the 1911 census. Sister Annie married a 27-year-old "Traveller" James Eastwood on 11th September 1906 at Halifax parish church. The Eastwood family including 3-year-old daughter, Fanny, were living at 21 Lydgate, Northowram in 1911 when he was a farmer. St Matthew's Church was the setting for brother William's wedding on 11th September 1910. William was a 22-year-old joiner when he married Emily Schofield from the Travellers Inn, Hipperholme. Emily was 24 years of age and her father Frederick William Schofield was an "Engine Tenter". They had a tiny baby girl, Mary, with them at the 1911 census when their address was No 9 Gaythorn Terrace, Hipperholme. The family were back at St Matthew's Church on 27th November 1910 for sister Mary's marriage to a "Steeple chase Jockey" from "Edenthorpe Hall, Doncaster". This was 28-year-old William Henry Smallwood whose father, Henry John Smallwood had been a "Farmer" – a distant relation perhaps? William Henry Smallwood was a "Steeplechase Jockey" for a Major S.A. Smith at Edenthorpe Hall in 1911. They had no family by then but a daughter, Frances, was born later that year.

By the time of the 1911 census only elder sister Maggie was at home, Roydlands Farm, with her parents and three brothers. Their father Jonathan was still farming and running a cab business for which Thomas, a "Carrier" and John (Stanley) "At home farming & driving" no doubt drove. James Smallwood's occupation was recorded as "At home farming".

James Smallwood was on witness duty again on 11th September 1911. This was when sister, Margaret, married a 34-year-old "Gold Miner" – presumably a Coal Miner? - Henry Green at St. Matthew's Church. He was from Lower Place Farm, Southowram and his father was recorded as being a "Colliery Manager". Margaret Green and her siblings then suffered three bereavements in quick succession.

Mother Frances Smallwood née Sucksmith died on 13th August 1915 and was buried on 17th August at St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe in plot J12 owned by her husband Jonathan Smallwood.

In the meantime, on the 28th July 1916 the *Brighouse Echo* reported:--

A DISALLOWED CASE

The following claim was disallowed: -- James Smallwood,
farmer and carting agent, Wakefield Road, Hipperholme

Then the *Halifax Courier* had these two Death Announcements:--

GREEN :-- On August 5th, 1916, at Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme, Henry, the beloved husband of Maggie Green, in his 40th year. Interred on Tuesday August 8th, at Lightcliffe Church.

SMALLWOOD – On Sept, 2nd, 1916, Jonathan Smallwood, at Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme, aged 73 years. Interred at Lightcliffe Church on Tuesday 5th September.

Henry Green was buried in plot K12 and Jonathan Smallwood in plot J12 alongside his wife. Jonathan Smallwood's probate reads:-

SMALLWOOD Jonathan of Roydlands Farm Hipperholme Yorkshire died 2 September 1916
Probate London 14 October to Maggie Green widow. Effects £365

Brother James Smallwood was probably conscripted to the 2nd battalion Grenadier Guards in the summer of 1916 just before his father died. His death would be the next bereavement sister Margaret Green and family suffered as reported in the *Brighouse Echo* on Friday August 24th 1917.

PTE J. SMALLWOOD

An intimation has been received from the Grenadier Guards Office, that Private James Smallwood, aged 32, the second son of the late Mr. and Mrs Jonathan Smallwood, of Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme, has been killed in action on August 1st whilst serving in France. He was in the Grenadier Guards but before

enlisting worked on his parents' farm. It is about twelve months since Pte. Smallwood enlisted, and he went to France in February last. He was a single man, and also carried on a business as a cab proprietor being well known throughout the district. His name appears on the roll of honour at Lightcliffe Church, he being connected with that place of worship and also Coley Church.

The next day, Saturday 25th August 1917, the *Halifax Courier* had this report and death announcement :-

KILLED IN ACTION

PRIVATE JAMES SMALLWOOD

Mrs Green, Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme, has received information of the death of her brother, Pte James Smallwood (26387), Grenadier Guards, who was killed in action on Aug 1. Pte. Smallwood, who occupied Roydlands Farm, was very well known in the Hipperholme district. He enlisted about 12 months ago and went to France in Feb. of this year. He was much respected by the members of Coley and Lightcliffe churches.

DEATHS

DIED IN THE COUNTRY'S SERVICES

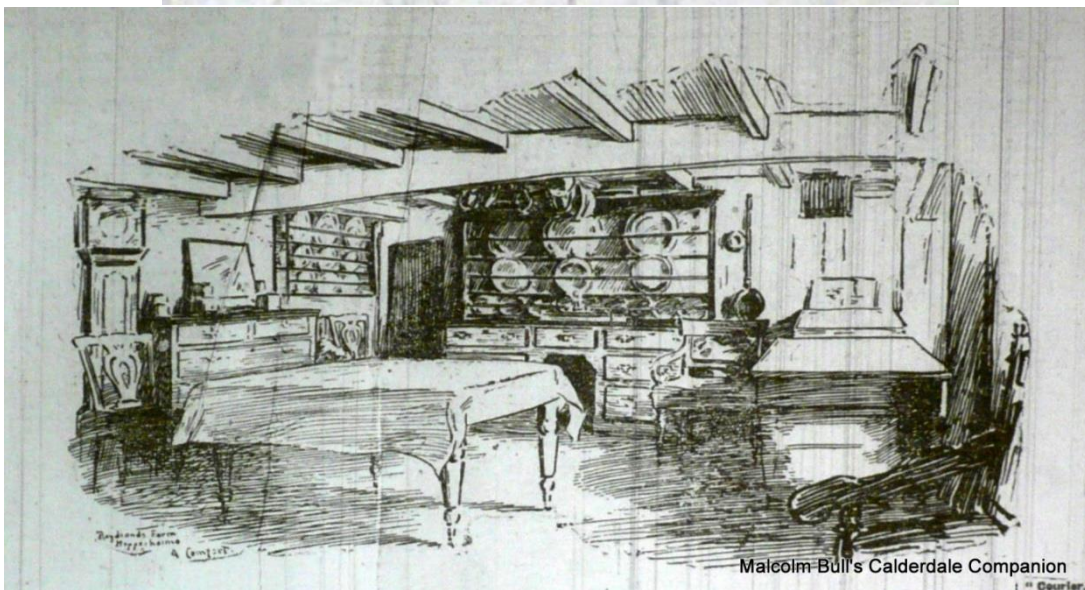
SMALLWOOD. – Killed in action on Aug.1, 1917 in his 32nd year, Pte James Smallwood, Grenadier Guards, second son of the late Jonathan Smallwood, of Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme.

Private James Smallwood was buried at the Artillery Wood Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium pictured below but also remembered on his parents' headstone in Lightcliffe.



Both the brothers Thomas and John Stanley Smallwood would also have been eligible for conscription in 1916 especially as they were bachelors, but they may have been exempt after their father died because they were farming Roydlands Farm. This 1920 article - courtesy of Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion - from the *Halifax Weekly Courier* and sketch by Arthur Comfort tells you more about the farm.

ROYDLANDS FARM, Hipperholme, of which an interesting kitchen-interior is here shown, originally formed part of the Shibden Hall Estate, and was sold to the late Mr. Jonathan Smallwood about 30 years ago. The Smallwood family have occupied the house from generation to generation for nearly 200 years, and the present owners and occupiers are Mr. J. S. Smallwood and his sister, Mrs. Green. The antique oak furnishings, in excellent preservation, have been handed down the generations, and certain articles have occasionally been lent out for exhibition. A few years ago a corner cupboard was sold to the Crossley family for 80 guineas, and has since changed hands at a much higher figure. Two hundred years ago, the kitchen doubtless presented an aspect similar to that shown in Mr. Comfort's sketch to-day. Everything appears in harmony with the age of the building and with the old-time rafters of the low ceiling. The plate-racks contain many fine examples of old ware, but of varying ages. On the right of the large dresser, an old warming pan is shown. Another hangs on the left, but is not visible in the sketch. The grandfather's clock, in remarkable condition, has a beautiful face, and is inscribed with the name "Thomas Lister, Luddenden."



Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion

Years later the surviving sisters and brothers remembered their brother on the anniversary of his death placing this in the Halifax Courier for 29th July 1939

ROLL OF HONOUR: 1914 – 1918

“THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE”

SMALLWOOD – In loving memory of Pte James Smallwood 2nd Batt Grenadier Guards killed in action July 31 1917.
A token of love and remembrance.
From his sisters and brothers, Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme.

Sister Margaret Green nee Smallwood died aged eighty on 17th August 1956 and was buried alongside her long-deceased husband, Henry Green, on 20th August 1956 in plot K12 of St Matthew's Churchyard near her parents in plot J12.



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY DEAR HUSBAND HENRY GREEN
WHO DIED AT ROYDLANDS FARM HIPPERHOLME
ON AUG 3RD 1916 IN HIS 38TH YEAR**

“AT REST”

**ALSO OF MARGARET (MAGGIE) WIFE OF THE ABOVE
DIED AUG. 17TH 1956, AGED 80 YEARS**

GREEN Maggie of Roydlands Hipperholme near Halifax widow died 17 August 1956 at The General Hospital Halifax Probate Wakefield November [1957] to John Eastwood solicitor, Effects £1225 8s

John Eastwood was a nephew, the son of sister Annie Smallwood who had married dairy farmer James Eastwood. The Eastwoods lived at Newlands Farm, Northowram.

Seventy-year-old John Stanley Smallwood passed away on 27th December 1960 and was buried with his parents and little sister in plot J12 of Lightcliffe cemetery on 30th December 1960. There was no room to add his name to the memorial inscription on the headstone and no inscription has been found on the side kerbs. His sister and brother in law's almost identical headstone can be seen directly behind it in the image below.



No probate record has been found for John Stanley Smallwood, but other probate records give some indication as to what happened to other members of his family either.

Sister Mary Smallwood and her husband William Henry Smallwood, ex-jockey and North-country racehorse trainer ran the Kings Head Hotel, Swinton, near Rotherham. Their probates read:-

SMALLWOOD Mary of Kingshead Hotel Swinton near Rotherham Yorkshire (wife of William Henry Smallwood) died 23 September 1937 Administration London 21 October to the said William Henry Smallwood licensed victualler. Effects £265 11s 1d

SMALLWOOD William Henry of the Kings Head Hotel Swinton near Rotherham Yorkshire died 23 March 1952 Probate London 22 May to Charles Wilkinson chemist. Effects £4255 7s 2d

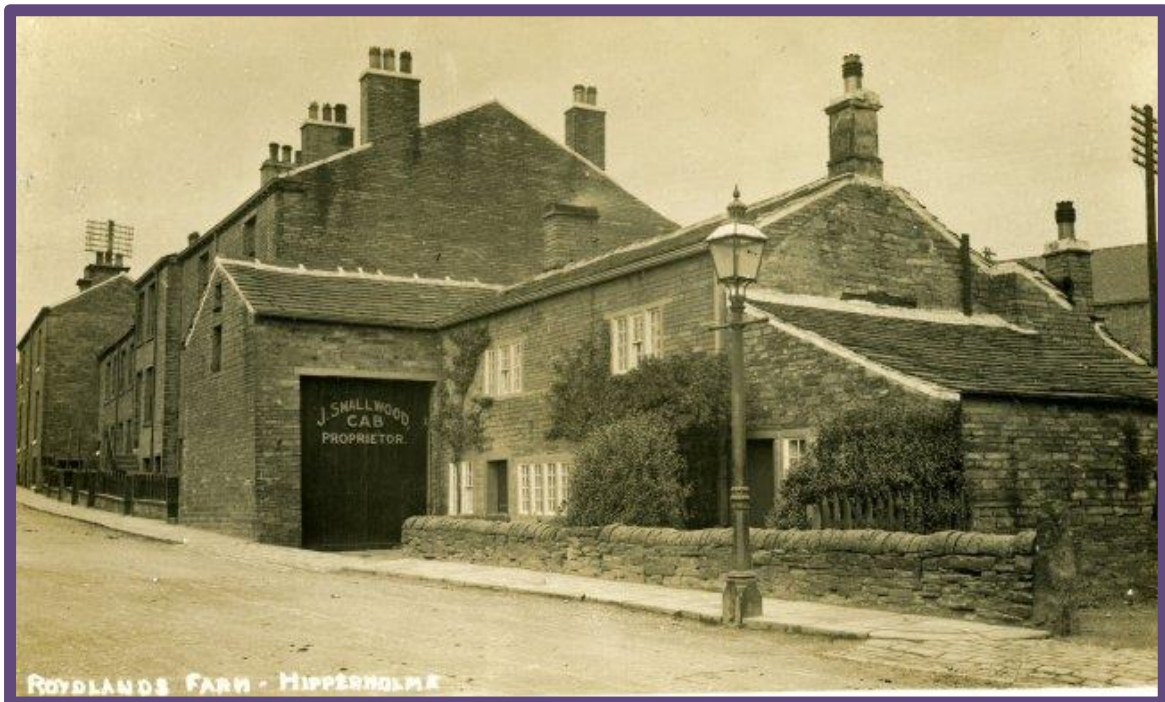
Brother William Smallwood was a joiner and funeral director. His name frequently appears in death announcements and obituaries as the undertaker. His wife, Emily née Schofield, was almost certainly the Emily Smallwood who died aged 79 years in the Calder district Q1 1966. Two years later widower William Smallwood died on 20th February 1968. He was eighty years old and he has a probate record.

SMALLWOOD William of 77 Green La Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire died 20 February 1968 Probate Wakefield 3 April. £2702

A few weeks later, his eighty-seven-year-old brother Thomas died on 13th March 1968. As for William and Emily Smallwood, no burial or cremation record has been found for Thomas. But there is another probate record which confirms that Thomas Smallwood was still living at Roydlands Farm.

SMALLWOOD Thomas of Roydlands Farm Wakefield Rd Hipperholme Halifax died 13 March 1968 Administration Wakefield 5 March. £713

What happened to Roydlands Farm, Wakefield Road, Hipperholme after that?



For more information about this Hipperholme farm read

William Hardcastle of Roydlands Farm

Elizabeth Sucksmith of Roydlands Farm

D.M.Barker
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