

George Blackmore

Born Clyst St Lawrence, 1899
Private No 133841

Died 4th October 1918, France, Aged 19
Machine Gun Corps, 32nd Battalion (infantry)

The Blackmore name is well represented in Devon. Lorna Doone was set on Exmoor by R D Blackmore and there are 21 of that name in the South Devon telephone directory. **George Blackmore's** family come from the area north of Honiton in the Blackdown Hills.

His great grandfather, also George (1803-1870), was born in Clayhydton and married to Sarah (nee Pike)(1803-1879), born in Broadhembury. In 1851 they lived at Barretts, Clyst Hydon, with six daughters and two sons, all born in Clyst Hydon. He worked the land as a labourer. Their youngest son was also George (1848-).

George, head of family, died in 1870 (GRO ref Oct-Dec, St Thomas, vol 5b, p 45) aged 67.

Sarah was a widow by the time of the 1871 census and she is described as a pauper, as was her eldest daughter, also Sarah (1832-1887), while her son George, 23, was a labourer and they had living with them Sydney Blackmore, 4, a grand child; Sydney Blackmore (1866-1941)(GRO Birth ref St Thomas, Oct-Dec 1866, vol 5b, p53 will identify his parents)

Sarah died in 1879 (GRO ref Oct-Dec, St Thomas, vol 5b, p 35) aged 76 and by the following census, two years later, the daughter Sarah was 48 and head of household to Sidney, 14, her nephew. She was shown as a needlewoman and Sidney was an agricultural labourer.

Sidney Blackmore married Isabella Kellow (1869-1930) in 1888 (GRO ref Oct-Dec, St Thomas, vol 5b, p 71). Isabella was the daughter of James Webber Kellow (1843-1876), a railway labourer, and Maria (nee James)(1842-) and was living in Broadclyst with her step-father and mother.

The Blackmore's went to live at Clyst St Lawrence, another small agricultural community near Clyst Hydon, and by 1891 had their first child, Sidney James Blackmore in 1890. (He went on to become a wheelwright and was granted Probate on his father's death on 7 November 1941 at Tiverton Infirmary. Sidney was buried at Starcross.). By 1901 the family had grown and were living at Eveleigh's Cottage, Clyst St Lawrence with their children:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Sidney James | 1890- |
| Lily May | 1895- |
| George } | twins 1899-1918 |
| Violet } | 1899- |

They went to have five more children including:

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| William | 1901- |
| John | 1901- |
| Rosie | 1903- |
| Henry C | 1906- |
| one unknown | |

All were born in Clyst St Lawrence, but by 1911 one child had died. **George** was born in 1899 (GRO ref Apr-Jun, St Thomas, vol 5b, p 41).

At some point after this, Sidney and Isabella moved to Shutterton Cottages, nr Cofton, and **George** took up work with Mrs Dodge, a market gardener at Cofton. It seems quite likely that this was Mrs Ann Dodge as Walter, her husband, had died in 1916. They were the parents of Arthur George Dodge (q.v.). The Memorial at Cofton St Mary carries his name.

Dawlish World War One Project

It is not known when **George Blackmore** enlisted and whether this was because he was conscripted. By this stage of the war men were being drafted even though they appeared to be in essential occupations at home. We have only the evidence of press reports that " Private **George Blackmore**, Machine Gun Corps, son of Mr and Mrs Blackmore, of Starcross, and formerly of Clyst St Lawrence, was killed by a shell in France at the age of 18. He went across only about a month ago."

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Cofton War memorial inscription: George Blackmore, Machine Gun Corps, Oct 4th, 1918

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

Private BLACKMORE, GEORGE Service Number 133841

Died 04/10/1918 Aged 18

32nd Bn. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Son of Sidney and Isabella Blackmore, of Shutterton Cottages, Starcross, Devon.

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 10

This Memorial bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from 8 August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. They belonged to the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing. The Memorial consists of a screen wall in three parts. The middle part of the screen wall is concave and carries stone panels on which names are carved. It is 26 feet high flanked by pylons 70 feet high. The Stone of Remembrance stands exactly between the pylons and behind it, in the middle of the screen, is a group in relief representing St George and the Dragon. The flanking parts of the screen wall are also curved and carry stone panels carved with names. Each of them forms the back of a roofed colonnade; and at the far end of each is a small building. The memorial was designed by J.R. Truelove, with sculpture by Ernest Gillick. It was unveiled by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Shaw on 4 August 1930.

Last known address: Clyst St Lawrence, nr Whimble.

Next of kin: father, Sidney to whom the Death Grant of £5. 15s. 1d. Was paid and the War Gratuity of £6. 0s. 0d.

References:

Free Births, marriages, Deaths refs

refs via subscription websites:

Census data

UK, Soldiers who died in the Great War

Medal Rolls index cards

Family trees (ancestry.com) Kellow and Dunn

UK, Register of Soldiers' Effects