

WILLIAM J B PIPER

William James Barchard Piper was born in Clapham, London in 1887. In 1891 he was living at 11 Harris Place, Clapham with his family, including his mother and father, grandmother, 3 uncles and an aunt.

His grandmother was Charlotte Barchard nee Armstrong. She was born in Partney in 1839, married William Barchard in Wandsworth, London in 1857 and was the aunt of Henry Armstrong who is also recorded on the Partney memorial.

By 1901 the extended family had moved to 41 Clapham Park Road, London. They now included William's brother Albert Sidney Barchard Piper who also served in the First World War.

In 1911 William's uncle Sidney Barchard was working as a servant for George & Ellen Bailey, bakers of Partney. On the night of the 1911 Census, Sunday 2nd April, his mother Alice Piper was visiting Partney. The rest of the family are shown living at 43 Old Town, Clapham, London where William was working as a house painter.

William served in the Army Service Corps during the First World War. The unsung heroes of the British army in the Great War - the ASC, "Ally Sloper's Cavalry" - were the men who operated the transport. Soldiers cannot fight without food, equipment and ammunition. In the Great War, the vast majority of this tonnage, supplying a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from England. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the ASC performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won.

William died on 12th December 1916 aged 29. He was buried in Partney cemetery on 16th December 1916.