

No 26 April 2017

1. 48391 Private William Wych Middleton 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. In 1911 Willie who was born in Bradwell in 1898 was at school and living in Church Street with father Joseph Allen and mother Ethel Harriet. Joseph was listed as a white lead worker. A brief note indicates that Willie left the army in 1917 when he received the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal but not the 1914/15 Star, suggesting he enlisted in 1916 or later. He married Eveline (or Evelyn) Thorp in Sheffield in 1921. He died in Sheffield in 1963.
2. 408109 Private George Middleton 2nd Battalion Alexandra, Princess of Wales', Own Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) George was born 3rd November 1898. In 1911 he was living in Rock Cottage on the Hills with parents George and Ann. (George's son Roy is still living in the same cottage.) That year George received from the Derbyshire Education Committee a Labour certificate for half-time exemption from school for over 12 year olds. The document was signed by Allen Bradwell. On 19th October 1916 he had enlisted although he wasn't yet 18 years of age (the minimum age for joining up). He was on active service from 24th March 1917 and posted missing 21st September 1918. His time as a prisoner of war in Germany is recounted on pp228-9 in After Seth although due to the misreading of a post card George sent as dating from 1916 (it was actually dated 1918) it was suggested there that he spent longer as a prisoner than was the case. He was repatriated as a Prisoner of War 23rd December 1918. George married Edith Annie Hawksworth of Baslow in 1928. George died on New Year's Day 1965.

Private Samuel Archibald Adams Canadian Armed Forces. Archie was one of several members of the Canadian, New Zealand and Australian armed forces that chose to spend their leave in Bradwell from whence they had earlier emigrated. A 5 year old Archie was shown as living with his parents Ebenezer and Ann Adams on the Hills in 1901. The family had left Bradwell for Canada in about 1910. Before he enlisted with the Canadians Archie had been employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Perhaps Archie had recently been fighting in the Battle of Vimy Ridge fought in April 1917 when it is said that Canada came of age as a Nation (with terrible loss of life). It seems that Archie came safely through the war because his name is included in the Canadian Census of 1921 as are those of his fath