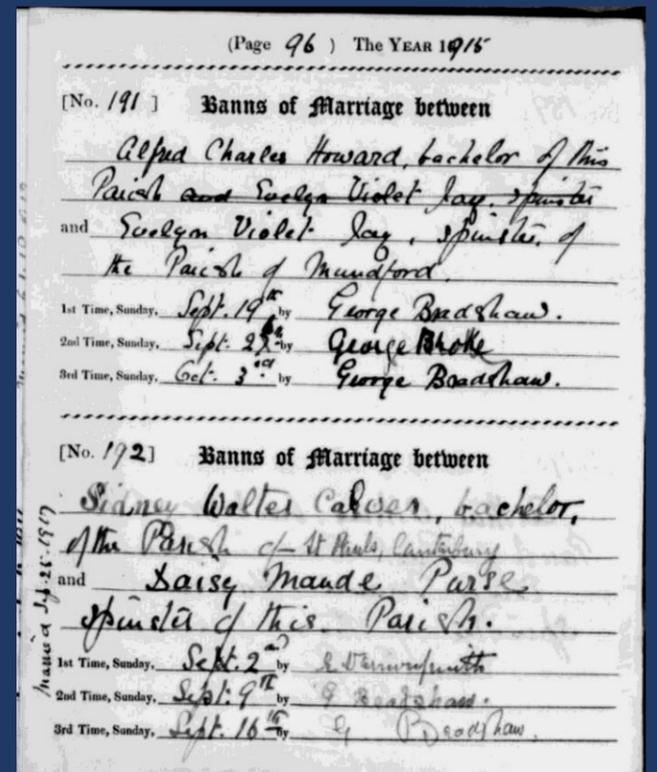


# Sidney Calver and Daisy Purse

Whilst many of the stories associated with the men who went to war are harrowing, occasionally, there is a

glimpse of something brighter. Sidney Calver was born in Costessey in Norfolk in 1891. His father was a publican, and in 1901 he ran the White Hart Inn in Swaffham, which is still open today. By 1911, Sidney was working at Tansor Court as a footman, and it seems that there he met his future wife, Daisy Purse, who was also from Norfolk and worked for the Mills family as a kitchen maid. The census enumerator recorded Sidney's name incorrectly as Carter, but it is undoubtedly the same man. Nothing is known of Sidney's war record, other than



Calver / Purse Wedding Banns, Cley, Norfolk 1917

that he enlisted with the Northants Yeomanry, and that he survived the war. It seems that in 1917 he returned to marry Daisy in Cley-next-the-Sea in Norfolk. After the war, the couple returned to Norfolk, where they were still in service, working at Hilborough Hall, the former home of the Duke of Wellington. Sidney died in Norfolk in 1975.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.													
NAME AND SURNAME		RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (Date of Birth)	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE			PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards			BIRTHPLACE of every Person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
1	John Taylor	Head	47	married	18	5	3	2	Major, Tansor Court, Norfolk	S. P. Hunt	0	Wolmas, Berke	310
2	Maud Helen	Wife	38	married	18	5	3	2	Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Leyton	715
3	Kilda Margaret	Daughter	15	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	420
4	Thomas Owen	Son	6	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
5	Frances Jay	Servant	30	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
6	Ellen Hoyle	Servant	41	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
7	Annice Biles	Servant	38	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
8	Annice Wood	Servant	45	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
9	Lucy Morris	Servant	39	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
10	Lucy Jackson	Servant	32	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
11	Daisy Purse	Servant	20	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
12	Bliss Brown	Servant	23	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
13	Agnes Taylor	Servant	23	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
14	Ellen Kingfield	Servant	15	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
15	Bella Bullen	Servant	20	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
16	George Crisp	Servant	25	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170
17	Sidney Calver	Servant	20	Single					Wife of Major Taylor	S. P. Hunt	0	Hilborough, Norfolk	170

1911 Census for Tansor Court

Francis Preston (known as Harold) was born in Tansor in c. 1877, and grew up at the Black Horse on Main Street. His father Josiah was both the publican, and also worked as a farmer. Harold attended school in the village until 1891. At the age of twenty-two, the census records his occupation as a journeyman carpenter. In 1901, he married Mary Jane Samworth, who in 1901 lived with her family in Longthorpe Tower, near Peterborough. The newlyweds set up home in Tansor, and soon after their marriage, a daughter – Katherine Mary – was

# Francis Harold Preston

born. Harold did not enlist for the war, and after conscription was introduced he applied for exemption on medical grounds. His first hearing, in October 1916 was adjourned pending a medical report. Once this was received, he was granted a temporary exemption until January 1917. At this time, he reapplied and was given a final temporary exemption until 14<sup>th</sup> February 1917. He enlisted soon afterwards, and was assigned to the Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment, where he served in England at one of the home depots – perhaps he was still undergoing training, or this might have been because of his delicate health. Francis Harold Preston died in Bury St Edmunds hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1917 of pneumonia. His death was reported in the Northampton Daily Echo on 21<sup>st</sup> April (below), and he is buried in Tansor churchyard. He is the only Tansor soldier to have his name engraved on both the Tansor and the Oundle war memorials.

15 months he has been in France. Two of his brothers are serving.

**DIED.**

**MACKNESS, PTE. R. W.,** Royal Irish-killing Fusiliers, a former member of the Rushden Silver Band, has died in Rouen Hospital of inflammation of the kidneys.

**PRESTON, PTE. HAROLD,** who was estate carpenter at Ashton until seven weeks ago, when he joined the Army, has died of pneumonia. He was 39 years old, and leaves a widow and one child.

**WOUNDED.**

**BURTON, PTE. G.,** R.A.M.C., the husband of Mrs. Burton, Countess-road, St. James', was wounded on April 9. He enlisted in August, 1915, and went to the front in January, 1916.

**CROSSMAN, PTE. A.,** M.G.C., whose parents live at 101, Overstone-road, Northampton, is in hospital in Norfolk, having been severely shaken and bruised. He is also suffering from blood poisoning.

Northampton Daily Echo, 21<sup>st</sup> April 1917