

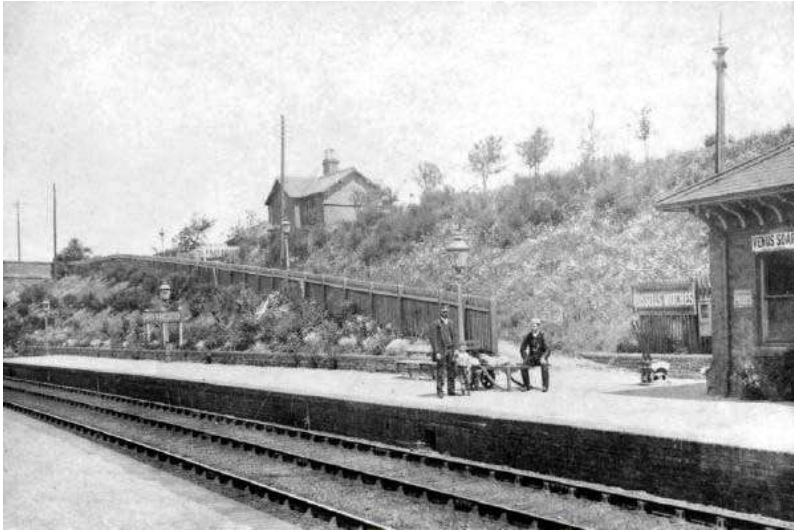
Sydney Tuft PAYNE

13th December 1892 – 12th March 1918

Sydney was the son of Andrew John Payne, the Stationmaster here in Upper Broughton, and his wife Emily. Apart from Sydney they had nine other children: Percy (born 1890), Emily (1891) Reginald (1895), Harold (1897), Cecil (1898), Gladys (1900), Phyllis (1901), Leslie (1903) and Hubert (1895). They all lived in the Station House (pictured right). Andrew had started his working life on the railways as a Carriage Washer in Skipton

Sydney was born and baptised in Calverley in Yorkshire where his father was a signalman. In 1894 the family moved to Upper Broughton when Andrew Payne became the Station Master.

Sydney followed in his father's footsteps and in January 1907 when he was 14 he was taken on by the Midland Railway as an Assistant Porter at Upper Broughton - initially for training. A month later in February 1907 he was appointed to a permanent post of Assistant Porter, Upper Broughton (station platform is pictured here), earning 6/- per week.



He died of wounds on March 12th 1918 in France. He is buried at Wimereux on the coast, close to Boulogne, he was possibly injured in action and on his way back to England. He was 25. The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Wimereux is unusual in that all the grave stones are flat on the ground because the soil is very sandy. He is buried very close to John McCrea the Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier who wrote the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.
'In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row.....'

Sydney is commemorated on his parent's grave close the door of the Church in Upper Broughton and also on the Midland Railway Company's War memorial in Midland Road, Derby.



In 1914 Sydney transferred to Matlock where he was a Summer Station Porter, he lodged with Ann and Arthur Tombs at Spa Villas, Bakewell Road, Matlock. Arthur also worked on the railway as a Vanman. The following year, in February 1915 Sydney joined the Cromford Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, that same year he became a Porter at Hassop and then a Porter at Skipton. This was his last posting before he enlisted at Normanton in Yorkshire in the 7th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.





Opening of the Midland Railway War Memorial in 1921. Sydney's name is inscribed on it.

Sydney was one of nine children. I can find no evidence of any of them having any children, has the family died out? Who might have inherited Sydney's war memorabilia? I know that his elder brother Percy and his wife Ethel went to farm at Gorse Farm near Belvoir, this subsequently became the centre of operations for the Belvoir Fruit Farm business. By 1939 four of Sydney's siblings were unmarried and living at Dexter's Close, but none of them had any children. Any

further information about the Payne family would be very welcome.

The family grave in Upper Broughton churchyard commemorates Sydney, his parents and his brother Reginald, it is close to the church door and next to the path.

