

# William Henry Marshall

William Henry was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1881 at 5 Steele Street Bolton to George and Margaret Marshall, the second son and seventh child of ten.

At the time of the census in 1891 the family had moved to 1 Steele Street and to 41 Nobo Street by 1901. In 1911 the family home was still 41 Nobo Street but by then quite a few of the children had moved away leaving only Margaret, the mother, Mary Anne and Cicely her daughters and Robert her son. Her 15 year old grandson George was living in the house when the census was taken.

William, a 31 year old bachelor, married Edith Taylor a, 24 year old spinster, of 27 Sutcliffe Street Bolton on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1912. William's occupation being given as coachman and Edith's as a Cotton Weaver. The marriage was witnessed by William's brother George and George's wife Agnes.

William died on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1920 at Bolton Royal Infirmary of Perforated Gastric Ulcer and Pericarditis. He was living at that time at 26 Raby Street Bolton. His wife Edith died on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1946 at Bolton Royal Infirmary of Mesenteric Thrombosis. She was living at that time at 17 Raby Street Bolton.

The first child of the family was a daughter named Alice.

Alice was born at 27 Sutcliffe Street Bolton to Edith Taylor a cotton weaver on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1909. This was nearly 3 years before William and Edith got married. The name of the father is not given on the birth certificate. Alice, a 21 year old spinster, who worked as a cotton doubler married Matthew Duckworth a 22year old bachelor on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1930 at Holy Infants Astley Bridge. Alice gave the name of her father on her marriage certificate as being William Marshall. So either William was the father and for some reason didn't want his name on the birth certificate or he adopted Alice.

Alice had four children Bernard, Madeline, Patricia and Peter.

Alice died on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1994.

The second child of the family was a daughter named Ellen.

Ellen was born on the second December 1912 at 26 Raby Street Bolton.

This was 5 months after William and Edith got married. It would appear that either Edith was 4 months pregnant when she got married or she gave birth prematurely. As Edith gave birth at home, 26 Raby Street, I assume that she must have been pregnant when they got married. This time the father's name is given as William.

Ellen died on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1935 in Townleys Hospital Farnworth of Disseminated Sclerosis. She was a spinster and had been a card tester in a cotton mill. Although William had died by the time Ellen's death his occupation on the death certificate is given as Motor Lorry Driver.

The third child was Robert, my father, who was born at 26 Raby Street on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1915.

He married Margaret Holland on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1941 at St Joseph's Church Halliwell Bolton.

Robert died on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1987 at 126 Arnold Street Bolton from Liver Metastasis and primary carcinoma rectum. My mother died on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1999 at The Royal Bolton Hospital of Pneumonia and Ischaemic Heart Disease.

There were two children to the marriage myself Gerard born on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1942 and my brother Paul born on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1944. I live in Bristol and Paul lives in Exmouth.

I am divorced and have one daughter, Helen. Helen is married to David but unfortunately they have no children.

My brother Paul is married to Pat and they have two children Sarah who is married to Matt and they have a daughter, Lillian and Stephen who whilst not married has two children from a long term relationship, Molly and Freddie.

The fourth child was Mary who was born at 26 Raby Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1919.

Mary, a 21 year old spinster, married William O'Connor at Holy Infants Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1939.

They had two children Kathleen and Josephine. The family emigrated to Canada in the late 50's

The fifth child was Florence.

Florence was born at 26 Raby Street on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1920.

Florence, a 22 year old spinster, married Walter Pitfield on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1942 at Holy Infants Church and they had one son Frederick.

Florence died at 137 Moss Bank Way on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1972 of Carcinoma of the ovary.

This is all I have been able to find out about William's family. Unfortunately there is no one left to ask.

Things I would love to find out are:

1. Where was William when the census was taken in 1911? I have not been able to identify him. He wasn't at home but he gave his home address 12 months later when he got married.
2. Where did he serve in the First World War? I have searched all the records that exist but have been unable to find him. I even put the search in the hands of a professional researcher but he came up empty. During the Second World War a store house was bombed and 60% of the records lost. Williams was one of the 60%. Without his number or regiment I can move no further. Believe it or not there were over 400 William or William Henry's who fought in the First World War. I will check on the Absent Voters list when I next come to Bolton perhaps that will give me some clues.

3. How did Edith survive? When William died she was 32 years old with 5 children under the age of 10 the youngest being Florence at two months.

I have never seen a photograph of my grandfather or my grandmother.

I was 2 years old when my grandmother died and my grandfather died some twenty years before I was born.