

Sidney James Dunsden

Baptised 25th April 1890

Died 22nd September 1914 Age 24

Royal Navy HMS Hogue Stoker 1st class SS/109428

Chatham Naval Memorial

Sidney James Dunsden was the only son of William James Dunsden, a West Hanney labourer, and Harriet Ann Mace from East Hanney. The Dunsdens and the Maces were two long established Hanney families; parish records go back to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century respectively. Many of Sidney's ancestors had been sawyers in West Hanney.

William was 23 when he married in 1887 but Harriet was 38 – Sidney's elder sister died when she was three. The 1891 census shows William, Harriet and Sidney living in West Hanney with William as a general labourer.

William died within the next few years as Harriet is shown in the Parish Register as remarrying in 1898 as a widow. The 1901 census lists Sidney, now 11, as living with his mother and step father Joseph Higgs – probably in Ebbs Lane.

No records can be found of when Sidney joined the Navy, but in the 1911 census he is shown as a stoker on HMS Wear. However at the time of the census he was on the fever-ward of an isolation hospital at Penryn, Cornwall. He must have made a good recovery to have been serving again in 1914.

He was the first of the men from Hanney to die in the war.