

Victor Bunce

Born 29th June 1891

Died 26th September 1915

Queens Own (RWKR) 8th Bn Pte c|5423

Loos Memorial

The Bunce family had all been West Hanney labourers, but in 1843, when Victor Bunce's grandfather James married Ann Giles, he put his occupation as mason. Their son Sam, Victor's father, was also a mason and sexton of the Parish (he looked after the churchyard and dug the graves). Sam's grandfather Robert was also the Parish Clerk as well as a labourer.

Sam Bunce married Emma Munday in 1889 when they were 33 and 27 respectively. Emma was born at East Woodhay, Hampshire, but in the 1881 census she was a cook at Malden Rectory in Northumberland, and then worked in Durrington, Wilts, before marrying Sam. Her younger sister Eliza had been a servant in West Hanney, and, three years previously, had married Sam's younger brother Frank. They went on to keep the Castle Inn in Wantage.

Sam and Emma had six children, one of whom died at 5 months old. Victor was their second child. Sam died in 1904 when he was 48. In the 1911 census Emma is head of the household with her eldest son, William Frank, a bricklayer / labourer, and Victor is an agricultural labourer. William married in 1914 and records show he had taken over the job of parish sexton.

Victor enlisted in 1915.