

William Breakspear

Born 24th November 1888
Died 1st May 1918 Age 29
Royal Berks Reg 'A' Co. 2nd Bn.
Pte. 11726
Etretat Churchyard Extension

Frank Breakspear

Born 12th April 1895
Died 7th May 1917 Age 22
Queen's own (Royal West Kent Reg)
8th Bn Pte c|5424
West Hanney Churchyard

The Breakspears had been East Hanney labourers until 1847 / 1848. When William and Frank's grandparents, Joseph and Keziah had moved the family to West Hanney between the births of their two eldest daughters.

Their son Thomas (born 1856) married Mary Ann Akers, probably in Brize Norton, as she was born there. She already had a young daughter. They had eleven further children, all born and baptized in West Hanney. Three of the boys died very young. William was their sixth child and Frank their ninth.

In the 1891 census Thomas was an agricultural labourer and William was two years old. By 1901 Thomas described himself as a farm carter and William was a plough boy at 12, Frank was 6 a year old. In 1911, Thomas and Mary, now 54 and 53 respectively, only have William (22) and Frank (15) and their two youngest boys – twins of 10 – at home. William was a farm labourer and Frank and his father were both listed as 'horseman on farm'.

William and Frank's eldest brother Henry enlisted on 1st September 1914, but was discharged 28 days later on 15th October as being unlikely to be an efficient soldier – this was due to a medical problem.

William was posted to France on 17th December 1915.

The parish records show Frank died at a military hospital in Eastbourne, after being held for 12 months as a wounded P.O.W. in Germany. He was buried on 11th May 1917 in West Hanney Churchyard.