

William Vincent Monk

Born 23rd January 1890

Died 28th October 1916 Age 26

Royal Berks Reg 2nd Bn. Pte 8791

Sucrerie Military Cemetery

William Vincent Monk was born at the Crown Inn, East Hanney, the seventh of 13 children of John Batten and Annie Monk.

John Batten Monk was the son of John Monk, a farmer/bailiff from Grove. Monks farm is on the northern edge of Grove. The Monks moved to West Hanney where John Batten was born in 1854. He married Annie Wheeler of West Hanney at Highworth in 1878.

The 1881 census, and parish records for the baptisms of their children up to 1885, list him as a West Hanney farmer. He then moved to East Hanney as publican of the Crown. William Vincent is on the 1891 census at the Crown. The family moved back to West Hanney in the mid 1890's. Records show that for the baptisms of the subsequent children John Batten is variously listed as West Hanney farmer, Collector of taxes, Assistant Overseer, and West Hanney Bailiff. On the 1901 census he is also listed as a haulier.

Although listed as William V on the 1891 and 1901 census, on his army records and on the memorial tablet William is Vincent or V. Monk. Three of Vincent's sisters died very young and a brother in 1911. His eldest brother, Frederick John, had enlisted and moved to Plymouth and was serving in South Africa and Mauritius at the time of the 1911 census.

The 1911 census showed Vincent had enlisted in the Royal Berks Reg 2nd Bn and was living in barracks in Reading. Another brother, Frank, and cousin Fred Kerry Monk also went to war (see group photos). His mother Annie died in 1912 and his father in 1934.