

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



FRANCIS JOHN KAY

DUKE OF WELLINGTON REGIMENT

DIED OF INJURIES 23^{R D} APRIL 1918

BORN IN 1893 AT SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, THE SON OF
WILLIAM AND MARY KAY

Kay Family History

- **1891 census** shows William, his wife Mary (nee Tilford) and their 8 children living at Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
William Golding (Head)	43	Farmer	Blackburn, Lancashire	1848 - 1932
Mary (wife)	40		Wetherby, Yorkshire	1850 - 1904
Emily	19	Worsted weaver	Cononley	1872 - 1956
Alice	16	Worsted weaver	Skipton	1874 - 1950
George	14	Worsted Tube Piler	Skipton	1876 - 1929
Annie	13	Cotton winder	Skipton	1878 - 1973
Joseph William	7	Scholar	Colne, Lancashire	1883 - 1942
Mary Elizabeth	5	Scholar	Colne, Lancashire	1885 - 1895
Eva	1		Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1889 - 1977
Rachel Golding	2 months		Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1891 - 1958



Lane Ends c1895, Sutton-in-Craven
(source: original photograph provided by Joan Tindale)

- **1901 census** shows William, his wife Mary and their 5 children now living at 6, William Street, Colne, Lancashire as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
William Golding (Head)	53	Jam Carter	Blackburn, Lancashire	1848 - 1932
Mary (wife)	50		Wetherby, Yorkshire	1850 - 1904
Alice	26	Cotton weaver	Skipton	1874 - 1950
Joseph William	17	Dry salter's assistant	Colne, Lancashire	1883 - 1942
Eva	11		Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1889 - 1977
Rachel Golding	10		Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1891 - 1958
Francis John	8		Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1893 - 1918



The Kay family, circa 1904
(source: original photograph provided by Joyce Wiltshire)

Kay family members as follows:

1. Emily Kay (daughter) 19th Feb 1872 – 17th May 1956
2. Arthur Tilford Kay (son) 25th July 1869 – 24th May 1924
3. Annie Kay (daughter) 3rd Feb 1878 - 1973
4. Joseph William Kay (son) July 1883 – Dec 1942
5. Alice Kay (daughter) 22nd Aug 1874 – 1950
6. George Kay (son) 16th April 1876 – 20th June 1929
7. Eva Kay (daughter) 9th May 1889 – March 1977
8. Rachel Kay (daughter) 20th Jan 1891 – 8th March 1958
9. William Golding Kay (father) 1847 – 9th June 1932
10. Mary Kay (mother) 19th Nov 1850 – 1st Oct 1904
11. Francis John Kay (son) Jan 1893 – 23rd April 1918

- **1911 census** shows Francis John Kay living and working as a ‘servant’ with his older sister Eva and her husband Frank Shuttleworth on their farm at High Fold, Lothersdale as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Frank Norman Shuttleworth (Head)	25	Farmer, own farm	Lothersdale	1886 - 1953
Eva Shuttleworth (wife) nee Kay	22		Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1889 - 1977
Hilda Shuttleworth	1		Lothersdale	1909 - 1991
Edwin Arnold Shuttleworth	1 month		Lothersdale	1911 - 1988
Francis John Kay (servant)	18	Farm worker	Lane Ends, Sutton-in-Craven	1893 - 1918



Footbridge and woods, Lothersdale

World War 1



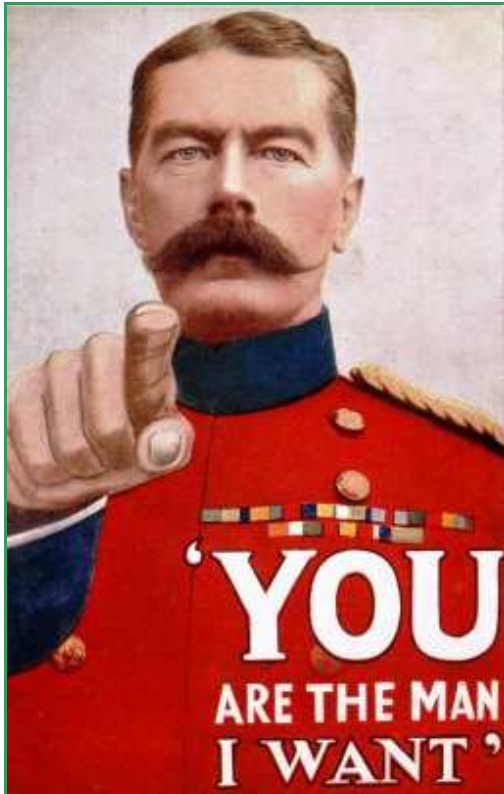
It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

August 4th 1914

Britain declares war on Germany

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee
London, 1916



British volunteers, 1914 (Kitchener's new army)

Prior to enlistment, Francis was employed as a stonebreaker by Messrs. P. William Spencer at Raygill Limestone Quarries, Lothersdale.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Francis John Kay responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 1/6th battalion (Duke of Wellington) West Riding Regiment in September 1914.

His regimental number was 265750 and his rank was Private.

The West Riding Regiment raised 24 battalions during WW1 including the 1/6th (Territorial Force) battalion at Skipton on the 4th August 1914.



Article Date: 02 October 1914

LOTHERSDALE - RECRUITS FOR THE TERRITORIALS

There was quite a flutter of excitement in the village when last Tuesday evening six Lothersdale young men left the village by motor car for Skipton, to volunteer their services in the 6th Battalion Reserve Duke of Wellington's West Riding Territorials. They left amid the cheers and good wishes of the villagers. They were passed by the doctor and accepted the following day. Their names are F. Kay, S. Conyers, H. Wilkinson, D. Wilson, G.E. Riddiough, and A.A. Riddiough.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Pte Francis John Kay (centre)
(source: image provided by Joyce Wiltshire)



Pte Francis John Kay
(source: www.cpgw.org.uk)

OFFICERS SERVING IN THE 1/6TH BATTALION WEST RIDING REGIMENT INCLUDED

Lieut-Colonel C.M. Bateman

Capt A.B. Clarkson

Capt N.B.Chaffers

All Directors of T & M Bairstow's Mill, Sutton-in-Craven



LIEUT.-COL. C. M. BATEMAN, D.S.O., T.D.



Capt. Horsfall.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* original 1919 volume owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

Capt C.F. Horsfall

Director of Hayfield Mill at Glusburn, son of Sir John & Lady Horsfall



WW1 West Riding Regiment Cap Badge

Officers of 1/6th West Riding Regiment group photo

1/6th DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT.



LEFT TO RIGHT. Back Row, standing—2nd Lieut. V. E. W. Greaves, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) N. Geldard, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut. (now Capt.) S. H. Clough, M.C.
 SECOND ROW. Standing—Major E. G. Whittaker, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) L. Jaques, 2nd Lieut. T. S. Whitaker (K.), 2nd Lieut. E. J. C. Supple (K.), Lieut. H. Knowles (K.),
 Capt. M. Wright, 2nd Lieut. (Capt.) C. F. Horsfall (K.), Capt. (now Major) T. K. Wright, M.B.E., 2nd Lieut. P. F. Stuck, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. M.
 Robinson, Lieut. A. E. K. Slingsby (K.), Lieut. (now Capt.) C. H. Petty.
 Sitting—Capt. (now Major) N. B. Chaffers, M.C., Lieut. (now Capt.) H. Dixon, Capt. (now Major) A. B. Clarkson, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. S. F. Marriner (Adj.), Lieut.-Col.
 Birbeck (C.O.), Major C. P. Cass, Lieut. (now Capt.) and Qt.-Master J. Churchman, D.C.M., Capt. K. Nicholson, Major (now Lieut.-Col.) C. M. Bateman, D.S.O., T.D.
 Front Row—2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. C. Barrett, 2nd Lieut. T. Brayshaw, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) F. L. Smith, M.C., 2nd Lieut. (A/Capt.) K. Ogston (K.), 2nd Lieut.
 (A/Capt.) G. B. Buxton, M.C., 2nd Lieut. T. Taylor.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
K A Y		W. RID R.	PTE	265750
Francis J.				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	0/2/101 B22	3091		
BRITISH	do	do		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				
K. 1800				

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Francis John Kay (source: *The National Archives*)

The Western Front

The Western Front was the name applied to the fighting zone in France & Flanders, where the British, Commonwealth, French, Belgian and later American armies faced that of Germany.

It was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as **No Man's land**. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.

From the moment the German army moved into Luxemburg on 2nd August 1914 to the Armistice on 11th November 1918, the fighting on the Western Front in France & Flanders never stopped.

Just as there were quiet periods, there were also the most intense, savage, huge-scale battles the world has ever known.



German storm troopers running through the barbed wire entanglement, WW1



A view of the battlefield during attack, WW1



Article Date: 30 November 1917

LOTHERSDALE

Private Francis Kay arrived home on Thursday week on fourteen days' leave from the Front. Private Kay, who was one of the first batch of Volunteers to leave the village at the outbreak of hostilities, has been at the Front about 2½ years. This is his second furlough since he left England.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

However, it was the Russian Revolution in 1917 that finally changed the nature of the deadlock and war of attrition in the west. Once the fighting had halted in the east, it allowed the Germans to transfer many Divisions to the Western Front. They knew that time was running out, for the United States of America had entered the war on the Allied side and it was only a matter of time before vast untapped reserves of manpower swung the balance in the favour of the Allies.

By November 1918, their exhausted efforts forced the Germans to call for an Armistice.

Having been in France since June 1915, Pte Francis John Kay received a fatal injury sustained in the line of duty. This was caused as a consequence of inadvertently coming into contact with a live electrical wire which caused his tragic end.

Francis subsequently **Died of Injuries** on the 23rd April 1918.

He was 25 years of age



Article Date: 17 May 1918

CRAVEN AND THE WAR

Former Lothersdale Soldier Killed

We sincerely regret the death in France of Pte. Francis John Kay, of the West Riding Regiment, formerly of Lothersdale, at the age of 25 years, to which we briefly referred in our last week's issue. It transpires from a letter received from his relatives from one of his comrades, that whilst on a short respite behind the firing line, volunteers were invited for the laying of some electric wires, Pte. Kay, along with others, offering themselves for the task. Through some misfortune he (Pte. Kay) inadvertently came into contact with a 'live' wire, which caused his tragic end. Deceased, who enlisted on the outbreak of hostilities, along with four other Lothersdale lads - the first five volunteers from this village - was drafted into France in June, 1915, where, although he had been in several engagements, had hitherto escaped without a scratch. Previous to the war he was employed as a stone-breaker by Messrs. P.W. Spencer at Raygill Limestone Quarries, Lothersdale, and was well-known and respected by all who knew him. Of a very genial disposition, he was a member of the Bethel Chapel choir, a member of the Village Club, and a keen contestant in all the village sports. His death is keenly felt by all in the village, and their sympathy is with his father, who resides in Skipton, and his sisters, four of whom reside in Lothersdale. A service in memory of the above and Pte. Smith - who was killed in France the week before Pte. Kay, a report of whose death was published in these columns two weeks ago - will be held on Whit-Sunday in the Bethel Chapel.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

In Memory of

Private

Francis John Kay

265750, 1st/6th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 23 April 1918 Age 25

Son of William Golding Kay and Mary Kay, of Lothersdale, Cononley, Keighley.

Remembered with Honour

Poperinghe New Military Cemetery



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

POPERINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY



Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

The Poperinghe New Military Cemetery contains 677 Commonwealth burials of the First World War including that of Pte Francis John Kay and 271 French war graves. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald

Francis is also remembered on the Lothersdale and Skipton war memorials.

His name was not recorded on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial, or the St Thomas' Church Roll of Honour listing the Great War 'Fallen' of Sutton-in-Craven.



Article Date: 24 May 1918

KAY - The sisters and fiancée of Pte. F.J. Kay wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy in their sad bereavement.

*We miss him, fair flower, from our own fireside,
Cut down in the midst of his bloom;
Thy sweet smile and mirth abides with us still,
Though he dwells with his mother above.*

- From his Sisters and Alice, Lothersdale.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Alice Gill – girlfriend of Pte Francis John Kay
(source: image provided by Joyce Wiltshire)



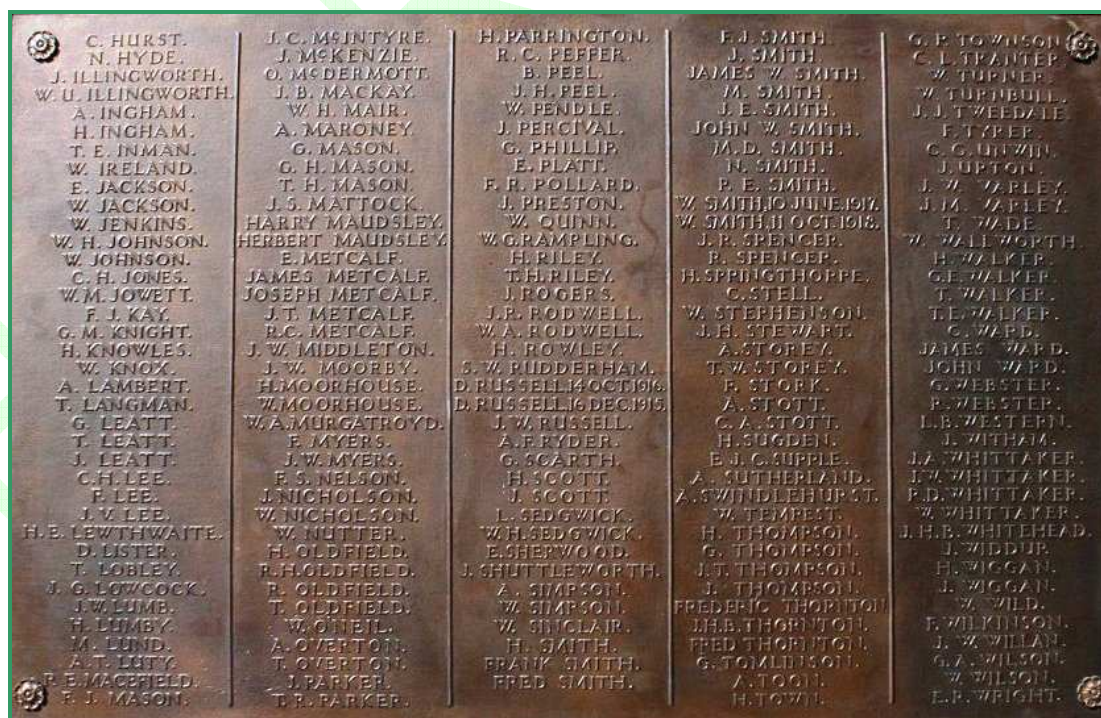
Lothersdale war memorial
(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Lothersdale war memorial
(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Skipton war memorial
(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)



Skipton war memorial
(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* www.cpgw.org.uk)

Pte Francis John Kay was posthumously awarded the
British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original pair of WW1 medals (source: Andrew Monkhouse war medal collection)

A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny
(source: **Andrew Monkhouse war medal collection**)

Lest we Forget

CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



PRIVATE JOHN KAY, Duke of Well.'s Regt., son of Mr. & Mrs. William Kay, 59, Gargrave Road, Skipton, killed in action 23rd April, 1918. Aged 25 years.

Source left: photo provided by Joyce Wiltshire

Source right: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

Original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse

FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2013)