

Private John Sankey

Army Service Corps S2/SR/03438

Reservoir Cottage, Batch Valley, All Stretton



Reservoir Cottage, Batch Valley

John Sankey was born in Paddock Cottage, All Stretton on 3rd August 1873, the youngest of eight children.

His parents were Richard Sankey and Margaret Sankey (born Grainger) who were married in 1857 in Kenley, Shropshire.

For the first part of their married life Richard was described as a Farmer of 222 acres at Broomcroft Farm, Kenley. Richard had lived and worked on the farm most of his life, which was run by Richard's grandmother.

However when John was born, they had left the farm and were living in All Stretton, with Richard Sankey described as a General Labourer.

In 1881 the family were living at The Hough near Ragdon, at the rear of the Ragleth Hill.

In 1891 John Sankey was living as a servant in Newton, Craven Arms. However, his occupation was described as a butcher. The head of the household was described as a Farmer and Butcher.

In 1900 John Sankey at the age of 27 years was married to Annie Jarrett in Walsall.

Although they were married in Walsall, Annie was a local woman and had been born in Pole Cottage on the Long Mynd in 1881. Annie Jarrett's parents were Samuel Jarrett and Sarah (birth name Jones) they both spent their early lives in the Wentnor area. Later living at Ratlinghope.

In 1901 John Sankey and Ann were both living in Walsall and John was working as a Builders Labourer.

They returned to All Stretton in about 1905 and were living in Bridge Cottage, All Stretton, where they had their first two children Edith and Martha. This was the home of John Sankeys mother Margaret who lived in Bridge Cottage until her death in 1916, aged 84 years old.



Date stone, Reservoir Cottage

John Sankey must have gained experience of building in Walsall as he built Reservoir Cottage, Batch Valley, All Stretton and completed it in 1907.

In 1911 John and Annie are found living in Reservoir Cottage, Batch Valley with three daughters Edith, Martha and Florrie. Also living in the cottage were Samuel Jarrett, the father of Ann. Samuel spent the last years of his life living with John Sankey and Ann (his daughter) at Reservoir Cottage, he died in 1922 aged 83 years old.

In spite of being 41 years of age John joined the A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) possibly as part of Kitchener's second army in 1915. He received the Victory Medal and the British Medal. His regiment number indicates he was involved in the supply section of the A.S.C. and his civilian skills would have been utilised.

John and Annie had eight children in total (as did John's parents) with further children including Mary, Robert, Alfred, George and Harold. Robert and Alfred were born during the First World War.

After the eldest daughter Edith was married to Ernest Beasley in 1926 John and Annie moved out of Reservoir Cottage and possibly to Laburnham Cottage, All Stretton.

In 1939 John is found working as a builders labourer away from home in Aberystwyth with his son Harold as a trainee bricklayer. In All Stretton Annie is living in Laburnham Cottage with her daughter Florence and son Alfred.

Annie died on 28th May 1953 while living in Laburnham Cottage aged 72 years old. John died the following year on 6th January 1954 whilst living in Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton aged 80 years old.