

Codford St. Mary's Churchyard Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I

15670 PRIVATE

WILLIAM COOPER

CHESHIRE REGIMENT

27TH SEPTEMBER, 1914



William COOPER

William Cooper was born in 1894 at Mobberley, Cheshire. His birth was registered in the district in Altrincham in the June quarter, 1894.

The 1901 Census recorded William Cooper as a 7 year old living with his Grandmother at Newton Hall Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire. There were 4 relatives Of William's included in the Census – Esther Cooper (Head of household, aged 65, Widow), Mary Cooper (daughter of Esther, aged 36, Dressmaker, born Mobberley), Edna Cooper (daughter of Esther, aged 32, Dressmaker, born Mobberley) & William Cooper (Son of Esther, aged 30, Gardener, born Mobberley).

The 1911 Census recorded William Cooper as a 17 year old, living at Newton Hall Lane, Mobberley, Cheshire with Esther Cooper (aged 76) & her daughters – Mary (Dressmaker, aged 45) & Edna (dressmaker, aged 43). William was listed as a nephew of Esther Cooper (The 1901 Census had him listed as the grandson of Esther)

William Cooper enlisted with the Cheshire Regiment at Knutsford, Cheshire. He was given a Service number of 15670 & attached to 10th Battalion.

The 10th (Service) Battalion of Cheshire Regiment was formed at Chester on 10th September, 1914 as part of Kitchener's Third Army and came under orders of 75th Brigade in 25th Division. They moved to Codford St. Mary and by November 1914 were in billets in Bournemouth. They moved to Aldershot in May, 1915 & landed in France on 26th September, 1915.

Pte William Cooper died on 27th September, 1914. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. At the time of his death Pte William Cooper was attached to 10th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment. The CWGC does not have any further information regarding Pte William Cooper.

A death for William Cooper, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1914 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Pte William Cooper "had been training in Codford for about two weeks when he collapsed & died at a 9.30 church parade on 27th September, 1914. Witnesses called at the Inquest at Manor Farm Dairy said that he was a man of pretty robust health, but that he had complained of "a dizziness in the head" about 7.30 a.m. when he was on watch that morning. He had risen at 5 a.m. and before the parade he had gone into the village for a breakfast of bacon and eggs. As the soldiers got into line William Cooper suddenly fell backward, he was carried away and laid on the ground, it was thought he was suffering from apoplexy as he was moving in an agitated way. He died about seven minutes later. The Coroner determined that the cause of death was asphyxia suffocation due to an epileptic fit."

Pte William Cooper was buried in the Churchyard of St. Mary's, Codford. His headstone was erected by "The Officers and Men of His Battn. In Token of Their Sincere Regret."

The September edition of the local newspaper reported that a total of 73 Mobberley men had, by now, enlisted and that Thomas Rogers and William Cooper had been killed – the latter whilst training.



St Mary's Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire

Photo of Pte William Cooper's Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Codford. Pte William Cooper was buried next to Rifleman Neal McCourt who died 14th July, 1876. Both soldiers have headstones that were erected by the men of their Battalions.



(Photo by Romy Wyeth- 2012)

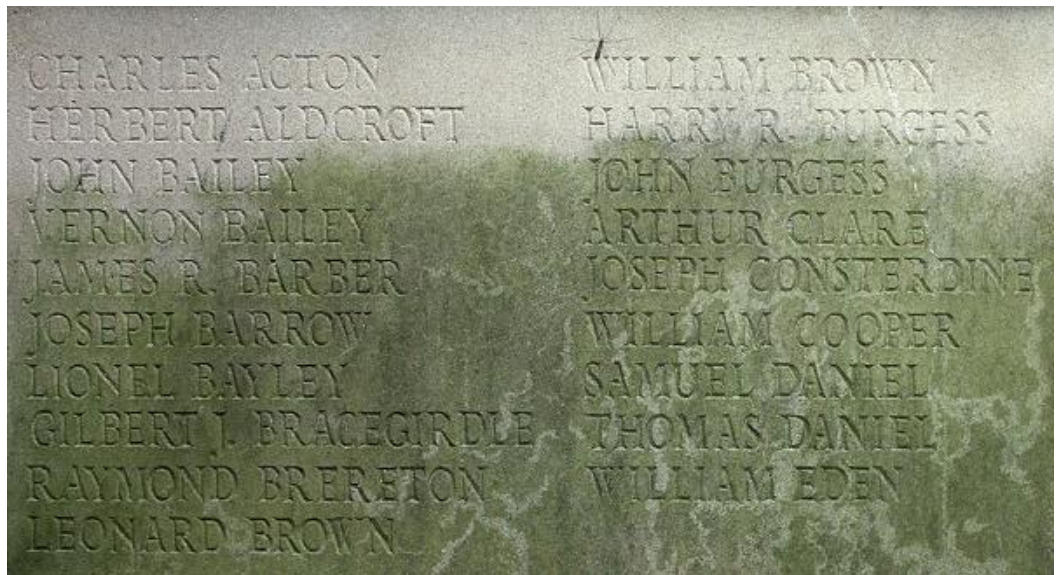
Pte William Cooper is named on the Roll of Honour inside St Wilfrid's Church, Mobberley, Cheshire & also on Brass Panel for WW1.



Pte William Cooper is also remembered on the War Memorial outside St. Wilfrid's Church, Mobberley, Cheshire.



(Photos with permission from [Carl Rogerson](#))



(With thanks to Romy Wyeth for information provided into the day of Pte Cooper's death & the Inquest held after – The Men of St Mary's & The Anzac War Graves by Romy Wyeth)