



George Henry Baker **Private 19064, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment**

George Henry Baker was born in Steeple Langford in 1893, his birth was registered in the June Quarter of that year in the Wilton Registration District. He was the son of Henry Keeping and Matilda Jane Baker (nee Jackson). He was baptised on the 29th May 1893 in All Saints Parish Church, Steeple Langford. His father is recorded as being an innkeeper but the 1895 Kellys Directory for Steeple Langford records him as being a beer retailer.

George's Father died aged 34, his death is registered in the December Quarter of 1898 in the Tisbury Registration District.

The 1901 Census at 2 Tucking Mill Square, West Tisbury records the family as:
Matilda Baker, Head, 33, Living on own means, born in Southampton, Hampshire; George, Son, 8, Scholar, born in Langford; Fred, Son, 6, Scholar, born in Langford; Bertram, Son, 4, Scholar, born in Chilmark; Dorothy, Daughter, 3, born in Chilmark; Stella, Daughter, Infant of 7 months, born in Tisbury.

It would appear that Stella is a half sister to George Henry and the other children listed above.

Matilda Jane Baker remarried in the September Quarter of 1903, the marriage being recorded in the Salisbury Registration District. Her new husband was James Henry Cull.

In the parish register for Ansty on the 12th March 1905, baptisms of Matilda's children are recorded these included Dorothy Annie, Frederick Howard and Bertram Seymour Baker, whose father is named as Henry Keeping Baker. Stella Alvera Baker is also baptised on the same day but her father is unnamed. Also baptised at the same time is Rita Florence Cull whose father is named as Henry James Cull, a labourer.

Matilda Jane Cull formerly Baker died in January 1911 and was buried in the parish churchyard of St. James, Ansty.

The census of 1911 at Pond Head, Ansty lists the family as follows:
James Cull, Head, Widower, Cowman on farm, 35, born in Donhead St. Mary; Denis, Son, 5, born in Ansty; Reita, Daughter, 7, born in Ansty; Brenda, Daughter, 3, born in Ansty; George Baker, Son, 18,

Cowman and General Farmer, born in Langford ; Fred Baker, Son, 16, Cowman and General Farmer, born in Langford; Bertram Baker, Son, 14, born in Ridge; Dorothy Baker, Daughter, 13, born in Ridge; Stella Baker, Daughter, 10, Scholar, born in West Tisbury

It is not known when George Henry Baker enlisted for active service but we do know he enlisted in Devizes and that at the time of his enlistment he was a resident of Swallowcliffe.

George died of wounds on the 11th November 1916. He was 23 years old. He had probably been wounded during the heavy fighting on the Somme around the 18th October 1916 and would have been sent to a hospital near Rouen.



George Henry Baker is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France The grave location is at plot number O. I. P. 5.



He is commemorated on the St. James Memorial Plaque, Ansty alongside brother Bertram Seymour who also gave his life for his country. Also listed on the Plaque is brother Frederick Howard Baker who served in and survived the conflict.

He is also named in the Ansty section of the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book held at Salisbury Cathedral.