

George William Laver

Sergeant, 1/4th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Joined at Bath, September 1st, 1914. Served in India and Mesopotamia. Killed in action at Donjaitis Redust, March 8th, 1916. 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory Medals.



WHEN GEORGE WILLIAM LAVER was born in 1886 in Matlock, Derbyshire, his father, George, was 31 and his mother, Sarah, was 32. He had one brother, Walter, and two sisters, Ellen and Amy. By 1891 the family had moved to Bexley in Kent, where George stayed until he left school.

By 1901, when he was 15, George had moved to Wiltshire and was living and working for his uncle and aunt, Enoch and Sarah Duck, on Church Farm in Neston; he was still there in 1911 prior to enlisting in the Army in Bath in 1914, when he was 28. He joined the Somerset Light Infantry, then based in Bath, in September 1914.

War Records of Corsham records that he reached the rank of Sergeant and served in both India and Mesopotamia before he was killed in action on 8th March 1916 in Mesopotamia, at the age of 30. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial in Iraq, and is named on the Neston Memorial.

Alfred Lodge, who lived in Gastard prior to enlisting, was killed in the same action on the same day.