

W Bryan

W Bryan appears not on the War Memorial, but on the Roll of Honour in St Mary's Church, Amersham, so that it is possible that he survived the war.

Only one W Bryan of the right age to have served in WW1 can be found in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses of Amersham and he is **William Henniker Bryan**, the son of Frank Bryan who served Amersham in a number of different capacities, being at various times School Attendance Officer, Relieving Officer, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and Inspector of Nuisances. Frank Bryan had married Ellen Edith Henniker in 1879 in the Registration District of Sheppey.

In 1901 the family was living in Union Street [now Whielden Street], and William, the oldest boy, was a carpenter's apprentice aged 17. By 1911 he had his own household in London Road, Amersham, having married Mary Alice Chappell in 1906 in Camberwell. They had two sons, William George (4) and Frank (3) plus a daughter, Amy Rachel, aged 1. William Henniker Bryan had finished his apprenticeship and was employed as a carpenter.

Two of his three younger brothers certainly served, but did not appear on the Roll of Honour: Aubrey Colin (1888-1943) was Private 89562 serving with the RAMC in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force while Henry Esmond Colvil (1887-1966) was with the Royal Horse Artillery as Private 126563.¹ There is a Medal Card Index entry also for Frank Richard Bryan, Private 29167 in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry who later transferred to the Labour Corps, no 414591, which probably refers to the other brother who in later life was a plumber living in Collingbourne Kingston, Wiltshire.

William Henniker Bryan would have been aged about 30 on the outbreak of war and he died on 3 January 1952 aged 68 at Water Works Cottages, London Road, Amersham.

Although he is clearly a strong possibility for the W Bryan of the Roll of Honour, it has not been possible to link him to any military record. There are over 20 Medal Index Cards for William H Bryan and dozens more for W Bryan. Without knowing what unit he served in, if he did, it is impossible to pick out the right one and no service record for him seems to have survived.

¹ Details are from *the Absent Voters List* for Amersham in 1918.