

# Willie Davies

Dane Bank, Holmes Chapel

## Returned

Willie Davies



Willie's pre-war Home



### His Story

Willie, the eldest child of Willie Davies (Senior) and Miriam was born 30 September 1895. He had a brother (Arthur) and 2 sisters and they all lived at Dane Bank where Willie's father farmed and ran a threshing machine business.

Willie Junior was better known locally as Billy or Bill. He lived in Holmes Chapel all his life and attended Cranage School and then Sandbach Boys School. As he got older he and his brother helped their father with the farming and threshing machine business.

After the war, Billy married Elizabeth (Bet) Mason who he had met when in Somerford Hospital. They had two daughters, Sylvia Mary (1922 – 1998) and Dorothy (1923 – 2010). The family lived at 14 Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel and then, later at a new semi detached house, West Brook, now number 86, Chester Road.

Meanwhile, Billy and Arthur continued their business as threshing machine proprietors. After the First War, Billy did not enjoy good health. In 1955, just before he was 60, he suffered a stroke. He made a reasonable recovery but was not strong enough to continue working and the business was wound down and the equipment sold. Until he died on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1962 Billy spent the rest of his days looking after his garden and hens.

### His War Record

Billy enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in June 1916. He went to the trenches on the Somme but he was not there for very long before he was gassed and invalided back home in a serious condition. He was taken to the military hospital which had been opened at Somerford Hall between Holmes Chapel and Congleton. He was reported "discharged from hospital" in September 1918 but appears to have returned and to have still been there in December 1918 but "slowly improving".

In the fullness of time his sight was restored and did not give him problems in later life. However, the gas did a lot of damage and he did not enjoy very good health after the war. He was a big man and physically strong. He had to be to do his work. However he had constant problems with his digestion and general internal problems.

When he was in the hospital at Somerford Hall he met his future wife, Bet Mason, who was a nurse there. She was 7 years older than him and her fiancé had been killed in action. They fell in love and were married after the war in 1921.