

JOHN HENRY MARSHALL

A double tragedy

John Henry Marshall was a farm labourer who came to Ettington following his marriage to Alice Mumford in 1885. They had three sons, William born 1887, Henry in 1893 and John in 1895. The 1901 census record shows them all at their home, a 3-roomed cottage in The Square.

By 1911 they had moved from there to another small cottage near the White Horse but only John Henry and his youngest son were at home when the census was recorded. A few months earlier, on 15th August 1910, they had suffered a sad bereavement when the middle son Henry, aged 17, was tragically killed on the railway track at the Goldicote lime works.

This is the report in the Leamington Courier on the following Friday:



Leamington Spa Courier 19th August 1910

After his death Henry's friends had a simple cross erected, pictured below, to mark the grave in Ettington churchyard, with an attached brass plate inscribed:

“Jesu mercy. In memory of Henry Marshall died August 15th 1910 aged 17years. Set up by his school friends”.



Memorial cross to Henry Marshall

As if this terrible loss was not enough to suffer, John Henry was dealt another tragic blow with the loss of his youngest son John, killed in action in France on 30th April 1916, while serving with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the Battle of St. Julien. He was 20 years old.

The 1911 census indicates that John Henry Marshall was still married. We have found no record of his wife then or later. His eldest son William was not at home either. The 1933 electoral roll for Ettington contains the names John Henry Marshall, William Henry Marshall and Alice Maude Marshall. The Stratford marriage register index shows a marriage in 1922 between William H Marshall and Alice M Bearley. So we think that John Henry and his eldest son remained in the village for many years after the war. The deaths index records the death of John H Marshall in the first quarter of 1933 at the age of 72.

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