

## **GEORGE H SMITH**

George Henry Smith was born in 1882 in Partney. He was baptised in St Nicholas Church on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1882.

In 1891 he was living with his family at Partney Grange. His father John was an agricultural labourer. By 1901 his mother Lucy was widowed and working as a charwoman. George was working as a groom.

In 1909 George married Emma Perkins in Rhayader and by 1911 the couple were living at Ocherlone, Cwmdauddwr, Rhayader, Radnorshire (between Aberystwyth and Llandrindod Wells) with their two sons. George was now working as a coachman. A coach driver, or coachman might have worked privately for one employer such as a local landowner, or be available for general hire.

During the First World War George served as a Driver with the Army Service Corps. The unsung heroes of the British army in the Great War - the ASC, "Ally Sloper's Cavalry" - were the men who operated the transport. Soldiers cannot fight without food, equipment and ammunition. In the Great War, the vast majority of this tonnage, supplying a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from England. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the ASC performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won.

George's two brothers, Frederick Augustus Smith and Reginald Thomas Smith also served in the conflict.

George and Emma had two further children, Georgenia born in 1916 and Reginald born in 1921.