

William Robert James Chapman

William Robert James Chapman was born to James and Eliza Chapman on 22nd September 1899 in Little Bromley, Ardleigh, Suffolk.



It is believed that Willie joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, and during WW1 he was gassed whilst at he was away at war.

He married Emily Mary Clark in July 1921 at Foulness, Essex. William and Emily had four children, Fredrick William (Bill) born (1920), Thyra (1923), Betty (1925) and Robert (Bob) born in (1928).

The family lived at Sandy lane in Aveley and Willie worked for the vellacott family on their farm.

The family moved to Ship Lane, Aveley and then again into a new build at 20, Stifford Road, Aveley.

The family were quite poor and Emily took in laundry to help make ends meet. The children would often have to collect a form from the Aveley Village Hall in order for them to get food.

Sadly, Willie died in his sleep at the age of 41 from Tuberculosis. He is buried in the Aveley Churchyard.

Emily's youngest son Bob continued living in the family home in Stifford Road with Emily, who sadly died in 1953 aged 59 in Tilbury Hospital.

Story provided by Willie's eldest daughter, Thyra Snashall, now aged 94.



The photo of Willie was taken whilst he was living at 20 Stifford Road, Aveley, not long before he died aged 41 in 1940.