

## WILLIAM STRATFOLD READ

Born on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1889 at Church Farm, Saunderton, England

Killed in action on August 21<sup>st</sup> 1915 at Gallipoli, Turkey

*Commemorated on the War Memorial in the graveyard of St Mary and St Nicholas church, Saunderton, Buckinghamshire.*



William was born to Stratfold Read and Sarah Louisa Read née Ives on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1889. He was the first of their three children, and was christened at St Mary and St Nicholas church on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1889.

His father was the farmer at Church Farm, Saunderton (*right*), having been farming there since before 1881, with his aunt, Anne Stratfold Read (despite taking an apprenticeship in ironmongery in Aylesbury during the 1870s), and, upon her death on September 20<sup>th</sup> 1884, he had taken over the farm completely.



<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Shortly afterwards, Stratfold Read married Sarah Louisa Ives at St Mary and St Nicholas on November 27<sup>th</sup> 1884. Sarah Ives had been living on Alscot Lodge Farm in Princes Risborough with her brother and widowed mother, farming the land, before she married Stratfold, and at the time of the April 1881 census, she is listed as a farm hand.



At the time of the April 1891 census, William was listed as an infant living with his parents at Church Farm, Saunderton (incidentally the site of a Roman villa, *left*), and by the March 1901 census he was listed as a scholar living there with his parents. The April 1911 census records that he was still living with his parents, but now listed his occupation as Estate Agent; this may mean that he was a land agent for an estate owned by local landowners and was responsible for the use of the land by tenant farmers, and for collecting rents.

William's enlistment records were destroyed by fire during the Second World War but the following facts are known: he enlisted in High Wycombe with his younger brother Arthur probably on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1915 and was a private in the Household Cavalry Regiment; his battalion was the Royal Bucks Hussars, who raised three Regiments during the First World War; William joined the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, which saw service and action in Gallipoli when they landed at Suvla Bay (*right*) in August 1915.



The battalion was involved in the attack on Chocolate Hill (*left*) on August 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> 1915 and sustained 107 casualties. William was killed in this action at the age of 26 on August 21<sup>st</sup>. He is buried in Plot III, Row B, Grave 14 of the Green Hill Cemetery in Şehitlik, Çannakkale (Troy) in Turkey. He was posthumously awarded the three campaign medals: the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

William's estate was to the value of £566.11.6d, and was left to his father. His younger brother, Arthur remained with the Royal Bucks Hussars and was to be killed near Jerusalem on November 15<sup>th</sup> 1917, and he is also commemorated on the war memorial at St Nicholas' church.

*The Read family also have their own family grave commemorating Stratfold, Sarah Louise, William and Arthur. Sarah Louise died on September 4<sup>th</sup> 1929 at 76 years of age; she was still living at Church Farm. Stratfold and Sarah Louise's only daughter, Hilda Mary, was born in 1891 at Church Farm and married Gerald Edward Bond in 1923; they had no children, and died within a month of each other in April 1949. Stratfold Read died on April 13<sup>th</sup> 1951 at 96 years of age; he was still living at Church Farm.*

Gary Knight 31 March 2014