

## *Edward May*

Private, 4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted September 7th, 1914. Employed on home service in National Reserve; transferred to Labour Corps. Died in Corsham Red Cross Hospital, February, 1919.



**E**DWARD MAY WAS BORN in 1868 in Corsham. His father was Thomas May, a local man born in Corshamside (Neston) and a stone quarry labourer, and his mother was Ruth (née Jones) from Devizes. In 1871 the family were living in the Street in Atworth and Edward already had



*Edward May's gravestone in Neston Churchyard.*

two brothers, Henry and John, and two sisters, Emily and Eliza. They had moved closer to Corsham by 1881 and were living in Corshamside. There were now ten children: Annie, Charlotte, Alfred, Ellen and Samuel were the later additions. Edward had left home by 1891, and was probably already in the services – certainly his occupation was shown as ‘soldier’ in 1901, when he was lodging with his sister Annie in Corshamside, next to the Post Office.

In 1905 Edward married Jane Goddard from Devizes, and by 1911 they were living in Hudswell and had four children – Pearce, Ellen, Rose and George.

*War Records of Corsham* shows that as a Private in the 4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment Edward was on home service in the Labour Corps. Details surrounding his transfer to the Corsham Red Cross Hospital, where he died in February 1919, are not clear, but he is buried in Neston Churchyard.