Sydney Alfred Archer

Private, Royal Wilts Yeomanry. Enlisted at Chippenham, September, 1914. Engaged on Home Service. Died in Hospital at Richmond Barracks, Dublin, October, 1918. Buried in Corsham Cemetery. South African Medal.

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SYDNEY ARCHER WAS born in 1871. His birth was registered in Chippenham and his parents were Alfred and Maria, who were living in Chapel Knapp Cottages in Gastard. His father was a freestone quarryman. By 1881, when Sydney was ten years old, they were living at Byde Mill near Thingley and Alfred was working as a farm labourer. The family included brothers Henry, Daniel and Oliver and sisters Rose and Annie.

Sydney had moved away by 1891 and was most likely serving with the British Army. *War Records of Corsham* recognises that he was awarded a South African Service Medal. His parents and family were then living at Chapel Knapp again and Alfred was working for the Great Western Railway.

Sydney married Martha Hayward in 1898, and in 1901 they were living in Easton in Corsham with their son Alfred. Sydney was working as a quarryman.

By 1911, the family, which now also included a daughter, Blanche, had moved to Wales, and Sydney was working as a coal miner hewer like his cousin Albert Archer, who is also commemorated in *War Records of Corsham*.

Sydney would have been 43 years old when he enlisted in Chippenham in 1914. At this time his wife and children

were back in Corsham, living on the High Street. Sydney served with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and died on 15th October 1918 in Richmond Barracks in Dublin. His body was returned home and he is buried in Corsham Cemetery.

His mother Maria was living in No 3 Hungerford Almshouses in 1911 – previously she had lived on the High Street in Corsham. The 1911 census records that she had eight children.

*Sydney Archer's gravestone
in Ladbrook Lane Cemetery, Corsham.*