

**In Memory of
Private JESSE PRESTON
5731, 2nd Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment
Born in Faringdon who died, age 36, on 27 May 1918
Husband of Cecilia M. Preston,
of 10, Parchment St., Chichester.
Remembered with honour
Faringdon and Little Coxwell War Memorials
JONCHERY-SUR-VESLE BRITISH CEMETERY**



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Jonchery-sur-Vesle is a village and commune in the Department of the Marne, about 16 km west of Reims.

Jonchery-sur-Vesle British Cemetery was made after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the battlefields and other cemeteries, including:- Ecueil Farm Military Cemetery, where 13 British soldiers were buried in July, 1918, with 31 French and 25 Italian.

Tramery French Military Cemetery, where four British soldiers were buried in May, 1918.

Treslon Churchyard and French Extension, where two British soldiers and one man of the Friends' Ambulance Unit were buried.

There are now over 350, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over two-thirds are unidentified and special memorials are erected to five soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves

could not be found. The cemetery covers an area of 1,376 square metres and is enclosed by a low flint rubble wall.

Killed in the Battle of the Aisne. He was born on 13 September 1918 at Little Coxwell; he was the youngest son of John and Jane Preston. Within the family he was, of course, known as Jessie. His baptism was at St. Mary's Church, Little Coxwell on 23 October 1881. Jesse was among the earliest volunteers in August 1914, he enlisted in the Royal Berkshire regiment. Jesse was killed in action in France in 1918. He married at Chichester, Sussex, his wife (Cecilia) coming from that town, consequently Jesse is also commemorated on the war memorial at Chichester, the only soldier from the Royal Berkshire Regiment whose name appears there. (Ann Preston, Highworth, 2008)

Jesse Preston served from the start of the war in 1914 until he was killed in the action of the Battle of the Aisne on the 27th May 1918; he was 36 years old. Jessie, as he was known within my family, was born, schooled, lived and worked at Little Coxwell.

Jessie was born on the 13th September 1881; he was my grandfather's youngest brother. Jessie's father, John Preston, worked as a carter for the Little Coxwell House Estate.

Jessie also worked on the same estate as a groom; in fact he was the third generation to have worked there as his grandmother Harriet was employed on the estate by Jonathan Belcher in 1845.

Jessie served with the Royal Berkshire Regiment; he had previously served with the regiment at the time of the Boer War. Initially Jessie was buried at Berry-au-Bac, where a wooden cross marked his grave, subsequently reburied at Jonchery-sur-Vesle British Cemetery, France.

Jessie was married with a daughter and a son.

Ann Preston. Faringdon Folly. November 2018