

SPARKS, Jim

James Sparks was born in early 1886 in Upottery. He was the son of Sarah Sparks (born in Upottery in 1851).

In 1891 James, aged 5, was living at Monkton Down, nr Honiton, with his widowed mother Sarah (40) who was a charwoman, and his elder brother William (16) who was working as a carter and a lodger Robert Gillard aged 82 (widower born in Yarcombe in 1809)

In 1901 James, aged 14, was living and working as a servant in the household of Thomas Batten (52) and Eliza Batten (44), and Harry Potter (32).

In 1911 James, aged 25, was working as a farm carter and living at Treblehayes Farm, Furley, with George Gollop (66) and Martha Gollop (69) and their son George Reginald (30). Also in the household, working as a cowman, was George Henry Long (16) who was killed in action on 8 August 1917.

In the winter of 1911 James married Ellen Jane Gigg in Axminster. Ellen was born on 17 September 1889 in Membury, the daughter of Henry Gigg (49 in 1911) and Flora Gigg (42 in 1911) and in 1911 was living at the Meeting House, Membury (sister of Charles Gigg who also served). Ellen died in early 1974 in the Honiton registration district, aged 84. There are 2 records of the death of a James Sparks - summer 1968 (birth date about 1886) in the registration district of Exeter aged 82 – spring 1962 (birth date about 1888) in the registration district of Honiton aged 74.