



William Baker

1882 - 1971

William Baker was born in 1882, the son of Thomas and Susan Baker of Cutcombe. He married Ellie Florence Hayes Hawkins and they had three children Clifford, Kenneth and Marjorie. His grandson Ian, son of Kenneth, currently lives in Minehead.



Kenneth Baker
William's son

Ian Baker
William's grandson



Prior to enlisting, William was a stone mason working for the Acland Estate and the local builders, Steers of Winsford.

Pictured above in the uniform of the Devonshire Regiment, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers (Sapper 325033) who during the war years were responsible for maintaining the railways, roads, water supplies, bridges, transport, telephones and wireless. They also had responsibility for the building of front line fortifications and for developing responses for chemical and underground warfare and maintaining guns and other weapons.

William returned to Somerset after the war and died at home in Cutcombe in June 1971.

"I remember being told that after the war grandmother Baker was burning some peat she'd dug from Winsford Hill. The peat contained live ammunition, from troop training, which exploded taking the cooking pot with it. She was very badly injured! "

Ian Baker.



Winsford 1914
