

LYONSHALL'S HEROES of WW1 – Sister Agnes Coomby ARRC, QAIMNS.

Agnes Coomby was born at “**Stores Row**”, Lyonshall in **October 1883** and was Baptised at the church of St Michael and all Angels on the 10th of that month. Her father was **PC Henry Coomby** of The Herefordshire Constabulary who was born at Whitbourne near Leominster in **1885** and lived at **Lyonshall**. He had married **Elizabeth Watkins** of Kington [b.1852]. Her mother was **Annie Watkins** [1827] of Kington who is recorded as a “Grocer” in Lyonshall in **1895** in ‘Kelly’s Directory for Herefordshire’. Elizabeth’s father **John Watkins** was a “Carpenter” and “**Parish Clerk**” of **Lyonshall** in **1863** [The Post Office Directory], Her Uncle **James Watkins** “Farmed” at “**The Tan House**”.



Lyonshall Village [1840] showing The 'Tan House' & 'Stores Row'.

Agnes trained as a Nurse in Hereford and by **1901** she was working at The Eye & Ear Hospital in Eign Street in The City as a “**Nurse/Domestic**” aged 18. On the outbreak of The First World War in **1914** she volunteered for duty with **Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service** at the same time as her brother William Henry Coomby, who worked for The Great Western Railway in Kington and Cardiff, enlisted into The Royal Horse Artillery.



On the **21st June 1918** ‘Sister’ **Agnes Coomby** was Gazetted as a recipient of The **Royal Red Cross Medal** for “**Distinguished Service**” In England and on The Western Front. She died in **1964**.



Agnes brother William Henry (*Harry*) survived the war but her First Cousin, Lance Sgt Louis Coomby (b. Lugwardine 1890) of The Bedfordshire Regiment, was ‘Killed in Action’ in France in 1916.