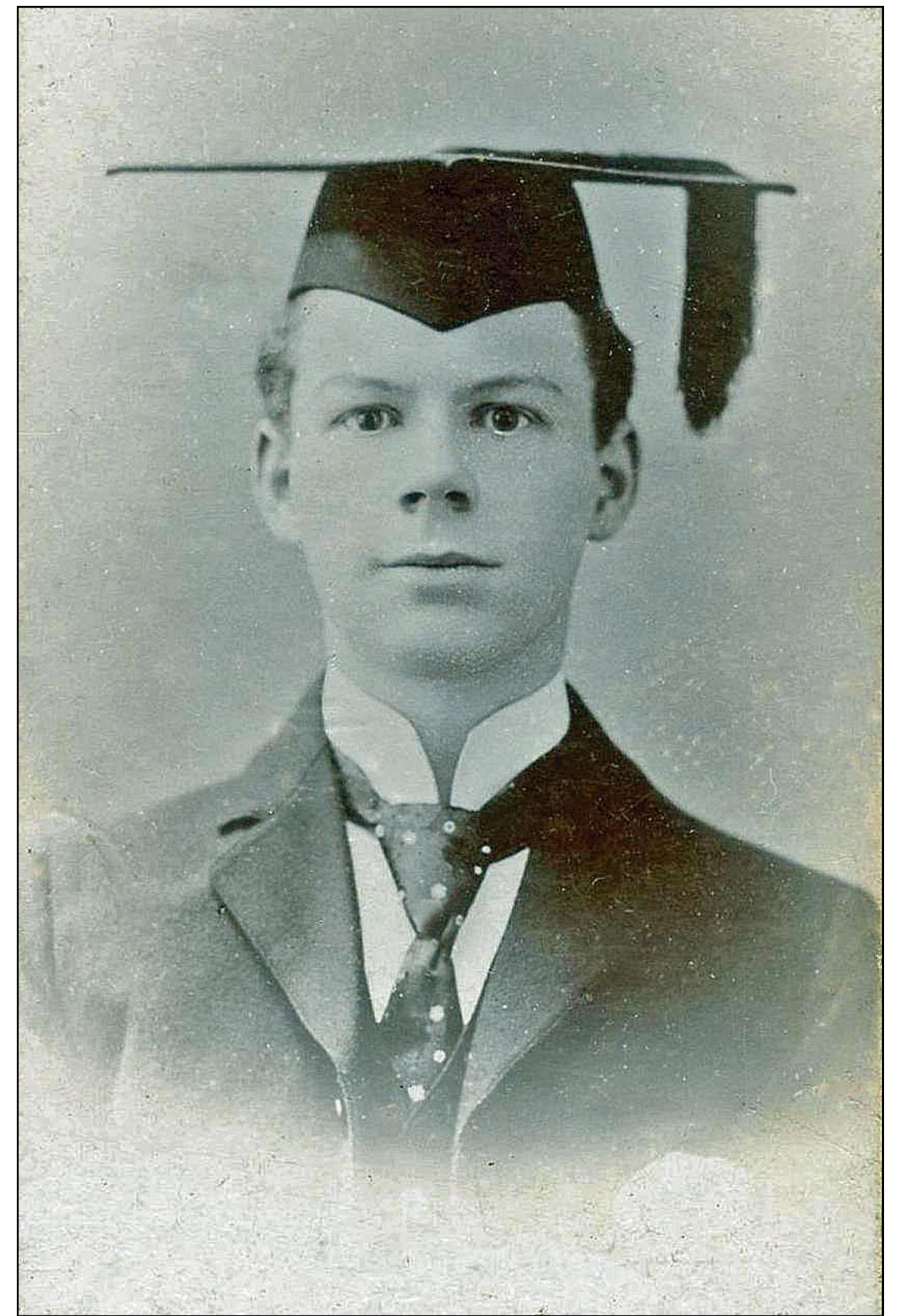


Benjamin Dooley Parkin

If there can be said to be a positive outcome to World War One, it may be that some people who survived the horrors of the war came back determined to improve the lives of ordinary people.



Benjamin with his father Samuel



Benjamin as a young teacher

- 1879 Benjamin Dooley Parkin was born into a Derbyshire mining family.
- 1900 Qualified as a teacher.
- 1911 Appointed Headmaster of Stonehouse Council School.
- 1914 Volunteered but was turned down on medical grounds.
- 1916 Rules were relaxed and he was sent for officer training.
- 1917 Sent to France and appointed Intelligence Officer.
- 1918 Promoted to Captain.
- 1919 Worked as an Education Officer in Germany.
- 1919 Captain Parkin returned to his post as Headmaster of Stonehouse Council School where he remained until 1939.
- Twelve years after WWI, Captain Parkin wrote a diary of his wartime experiences. This was deposited in the Imperial War Museum and Stonehouse History Group has a copy.



Captain Parkin: man of distinction



Captain Parkin, representing the British Legion, laying a wreath at a Memorial Service in Belgium after the Second World War.

Work with ex-servicemen

After being discharged from the Army, Captain Parkin joined the Comrades of the Great War.

He organised the setting up of the British Legion in Stonehouse and became its President.

He spoke up at Parish Council meetings for special treatment for ex-soldiers when allocating new houses and helped servicemen to claim war pensions. In 1946 he was awarded the OBE.

Chairman of the Council

In 1922 Parkin became Chairman of Stonehouse Parish Council. During his terms of office, the Lighting Act was adopted for the Parish and the new Church Hall was built in Elm Road. He was a guest of honour at the opening of the new Post Office in Queen's Road in 1933.

Parkin also took on many roles within the County. He was Chairman of the War Pensions Committee and a member of the Disablement Advisory Committee. He was on the committees for Education and Village Halls and Community Centres.

In 1943 he was appointed Justice of the Peace.



Captain B. D. Parkin, Chairman of the Parish Council, 1922, 1931-37, 1941-46

Chief Warden

"Captain B. D. Parkin J.P., the Head Warden of Stonehouse, but who will be remembered by the service generally, first as Deputy Chief Warden to Mr. Beale and then, during the past three years, as Chief Warden. No man did more to bring the Service to a high standard of efficiency and to hold it together during a difficult period of enemy inaction. He will be remembered for his clear and well thought-out Orders, and his many eloquent and elucidating addresses to Head Wardens."

(P.R.Symonds Co-Ordinating Officer to the Defence Committee in his book "Area Eight")



Effects

- Already a confident man, his wartime experience as an officer gave Benjamin Parkin the strength to lead others in many aspects of community life.
- With first-hand experience of war he stood up for soldiers of all classes.
- He used his experience in the Army to organise the WWII Defence for the Stonehouse and Stroud area.
- He worked tirelessly to benefit the citizens of Stonehouse and had a great influence on the improvement of the village.



Captain Parkin and his wife retired to Rose Cottage in Ruscombe where he spent his time creating a beautiful garden. He died in 1962.