

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society  
Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw  
Wythop

## THEY LIE IN FOREIGN FIELDS:

remembering the men from Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton,  
Loweswater, Mosser, and Wythop who lost their lives in World War One



Walter Head and Sheila Gordon

**WHEN YOU GO HOME  
TELL THEM OF US AND SAY  
FOR YOUR TOMORROW  
WE GAVE OUR TODAY**

## FOREWORD

I started this project as a tribute to my uncle, Thomas Head, who died in WW1, but it gradually evolved into a joint venture with my sister, Sheila, as the project expanded to include all the men from the church parishes of Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater, Mosser and Wythop who lost their lives in World War One and are recorded on the war memorials of the above parishes.

It has been a long process, as most of the service records from WW1 were destroyed in London during the blitz of WW2. No compatriots of the men are still alive, and many families have moved out of the area.

Small fragments of information have been collected and put together using the sources listed on page 39. We have also been in contact with various military museums.

We would like to thank Harold Pretty in Canada, Gabor Toth in New Zealand, Wade Johnston in the goldfields of Australia and Jennifer Leak in South Africa for their assistance.

We would normally verify each fact from a second source but due to the scarcity of documents some details are quoted from a single source. While we are confident that all details are correct, if there are any corrections or additional information then please contact Walter Head, Hopebeck House, Brackenthwaite, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9UD. Email; walterhead@hotmail.co.uk

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**Walter Head**

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October 2018

# **They Lie in Foreign Fields:** remembering the men from Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater, Mosser and Wythop who lost their lives in World War One

**by**

**Walter Head and Sheila Gordon**

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**Bernard Gamble**



**Robert Moffat**



**Thomas Head**



**Thomas Vivian Robinson**



**Percy Dickson Robinson**

## GEORGE ARMSTRONG

**George Armstrong** was born on 27 January 1890 at Wythop and was baptised in St Margaret's Church, Wythop, on 16 March 1890.

George was the son of William Armstrong and Mary Armstrong, née Wilson. William was born at Gt. Salkeld in 1858 and Mary was born at Westnewton in 1863. William and Mary married at Isel on 5 June 1879. George was one of seventeen children; John 1880, Thomas William 1881, Jane 1883, Mary Ethel 1885, William 1886, Matthew 1888, George 1890, Joseph 1891, Richardson 1892, Ethel 1894, Lilian 1894, Grace 1896, Annie 1897, Margaret 1898, Fred 1899, Edward 1901 and Ronald 1902. Father William was a signalman at Bassenthwaite Lake station.

George attended Embleton and Wythop Voluntary School from 1902 having been previously educated at Setmurthy. After leaving school, George worked as a general farm servant and at one time was employed by John Jackson at Waterloo Farm, Cockermonth, after which he joined the Cumberland and Westmorland Police.

George enlisted at Keswick and joined the Border Regiment, as Private 3332. He later transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers joining the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion as Private 51506. The low number probably means that he enlisted in 1916. On 1 May 1918 the regiment sailed from Alexandria for

Marseilles and landed there on 7 May. The 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers were involved in the capture of Vieux, Pas de Calais in August 1918. The 24<sup>th</sup> battalion saw action in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> battles of Gaza and the capture of Beersheba They travelled by train to the western front and were involved in the action of Tieggham.

George was killed in action in the Boulogne area of France on Monday 9 September 1918, aged 28, and is buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France; grave reference 111.C.47. The Terlincthun Cemetery contains 4,378 graves of servicemen from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars and is located on the outskirts of Boulogne. Rest camps were established at Terlincthun in 1914 and the area housed numerous hospitals and other medical establishments.

George was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was unmarried and his family received the bronze Memorial Plaque which was sent to the next of kin of each soldier killed. His father William was paid £6–4–10 on 26 November 1918 and a war gratuity of £3–0–0 paid on 6 December 1919.

George Armstrong is recorded on the war memorial at St Margaret's Church, Wythop, Keswick War Memorial, the Police War Memorial at Carleton Hall, Penrith, and the Roll of Honour for Embleton and Wythop.

## WALTER BARTLE

**Walter Bartle** was born at Palace How, Blindbothel on 12 July 1896 and baptised in St Philip's Church, Mosser, on 13 September 1896.

Walter was the son of George Bartle and Mary Bartle, née Cook. George was born at Laxton, Nottinghamshire in 1853 and Mary was born in 1860 at the Beehive, Deanscales. George, who was a gamekeeper, and Mary married on 2 May 1882 in St Oswald's Church, Dean. Walter was one of six children; George Henry 1883, Fred 1884, Martha Dora 1886, Mary 1887, John 1892 and Walter 1896.

After leaving school Walter followed his father to become a gamekeeper. He was 5ft 8ins tall, weighed 137lbs, had a 35in chest with 6/6 vision in both eyes.

On 6 December 1915 Walter, aged 19 years 4 months enlisted at Cockermouth joining D Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 3410. He was mobilised on 22 January 1916 but didn't leave for France until 14 May 1916. He returned to England in September 1916 and was granted a furlough for ten days. At the end of his furlough, Walter returned to France and on 16 September 1916 Walter received a gunshot wound in the left thigh and was included on the daily casualty list of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. This probably occurred during the battle of the Somme in which the Border Regiment suffered heavy casualties. This meant that Walter was entitled to wear a wound stripe on the left sleeve of his jacket. The wound stripe was a 2in strip of gold Russia braid and was awarded to soldiers wounded, gassed or shell shocked after 4 August 1914. Walter recovered from his injuries and sailed from Folkestone on 9 March 1917 for Boulogne and re-joined his

battalion at the front on 10 March 1917. On 28 March 1917 Walter transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment and was allocated service number 241205.

Walter was killed in action on Thursday 16 August 1917 on the first day of the battle of Langemarck, part of the Ypres offensive. He was 21 years old. He was buried near the battlefield but in February 1922 his body was exhumed and re-interred in the Cement House Cemetery in grave reference X1X.A.8. The cemetery is located in the town of Langmarck, just north of Ieper, (the current, Flemish name for the French Ypres) in the West-Vlaanderen region of Belgium, and contains 1,187 graves.

Walter was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was unmarried and the family also received the bronze Memorial Plaque which was sent to the next of kin of each soldier killed.

Walter's mother received a payment of £4-1-9 on 26 September 1918 and she also received a further payment of £6-10-0 on 13 November 1918. Walter's father had died in 1911.

Walter Bartle is recorded on the war memorial at St Philip's Church, Mosser, located near Eaglesfield, the Roll of Honour in Christ Church, Cockermouth, and on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School.

Walter's older brother George Henry Bartle also joined the Border Regiment and died of his wounds in Rouen Military Hospital on 14 April 1918, age 36. He left a widow, Margaret, whom he had married in 1904. His name is on the Cockermouth War Memorial.

## JOSEPH BECK

**Joseph Beck** was born at Loweswater on 22 October 1890 and baptised on 23 November 1890 in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater.

Joseph was the son of Joseph Beck and Margaret Beck, née Hayton. Joseph Snr. was born at Loweswater in 1848 and Margaret was born in 1852 also at Loweswater. Joseph Snr. and Mary married at Loweswater on 17 December 1887. Joseph Snr. was the village blacksmith. Joseph was the only son in a family of four; Esther 1889, Joseph 1890, Mary Jane 1892 and Isabella 1895.

Joseph was educated at Loweswater School from August 1895 until December 1904 when he left to take up employment as a blacksmith. Joseph enlisted at Cockermouth, joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Yeomanry Regiment, as Private 56490. The low number probably means that he enlisted in early 1917. Joseph later transferred to the Household Cavalry Battalion and Cavalry of the Line. The cavalry was known to other branches of the army as 'donkey wallopers'. On the western front they rarely had the chance to act as a mounted mobile force and were often used as infantry. In Egypt and Palestine, however, they

were the mainstay and battle winners.

Joseph, aged 26, was killed in action on Thursday 30 August 1917 while entrenched in front of a strong Turkish position along the Gaza to Beersheba road, while preparing for the battle of Beersheba, the 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Gaza. Joseph is buried in Beersheba War Cemetery; grave reference O.29. The Beersheba cemetery is located to the south west of Beersheba town in Israel and contains 1,241 burials, of which 67 are unidentified.

Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. The family returned the Victory Medal to the War Office on 19 October 1933, with the instruction that the medal be disposed of. Joseph was unmarried and the family also received the bronze Memorial Plaque awarded to the family of each soldier killed.

On 31 January 1918 his father, Joseph, was paid £8-17-1. He also received a war gratuity payment of £13-0-0, paid on 6 December 1919.

Joseph is listed on the replacement war memorial lectern in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater. The original war memorial lectern, in the shape of a brass eagle, was stolen from the church in 1997.



## THOMAS CECIL BECK

**Thomas Cecil Beck** was born on 24 March 1899 at Workington and baptised in St John's Church, Workington, on 27 April 1899.

Thomas Cecil was the son of William Beck and Margaret Jane Beck, née Bell. William was born at Wreay near Wigton in 1857 and Margaret Jane was born in Durham City in 1860. William and Margaret Jane married in the Auckland area of Durham in 1878. William was an insurance salesman with the Prudential and they later lived at Wythop View, Embleton. Thomas Cecil was one of four children; Jane 1881, William 1886, Robert 1891 and Thomas Cecil 1899.

Thomas Cecil was 5ft 6ins tall with a 33in chest and a fair complexion. He was employed as a clerk at Workington Town Hall and lived at Wythop View, Embleton, when he enlisted at Cocker-mouth on 30 January 1917, aged 17 years 10 months. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, as Private 17372. He was originally in the reserves before transferring to the Prince of Wales North Staffordshire Regiment on 30 March 1918, where he was allocated Service Number 59973 and finally Number 42091.

He was home on leave in July 1917 and again in January 1918, after which he returned to his regiment, the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment, for the battles of Bapaume, Bailleul and Kemmel Ridge. The regiment sailed from Folkestone on 28 March 1918, bound for the front at Étaples

and the battle of Hazebrouck, which took place from 12-15 April 1918.

Thomas Cecil was reported missing, killed in action, on 15 April 1918, on the first day of that action, aged 19. Thomas Cecil has no known grave and his name is inscribed on the Ploegsteert Memorial; panel 8. The memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension which is located to the south of Ieper (the current Flemish name for the French Ypres) town in the Hainaut region of Belgium. The Ploegsteert Memorial records the names of 11,041 servicemen of the UK and South African forces who have no known grave. The sounding of the last post takes place at the memorial, at 1900 hours on the first Friday of each month.

Thomas Cecil was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was unmarried and his next of kin received the bronze Memorial Plaque awarded to the family of each soldier killed.

His father William received a payment of £7-17-7 on 30 June 1919 which also included a war gratuity of £5-0-0.

Thomas Cecil Beck is listed on the war memorial at St Cuthbert's Church, Embleton, the Embleton Wesleyan Chapel Roll of Honour now stored at the Museum of Military Life at Carlisle, and on the Roll of Honour for Embleton and Wythop.

William Beck, the older brother of Thomas Cecil, also joined the forces and served on submarines. He survived the war.

## JOHN BENSON

**John Benson** was born on 21 April 1882 at Rogerscale and baptised in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, on 25 June 1882.

John was the son of Isaac Benson and Ann Benson née Laidlow. Isaac was born in 1852 at High Lorton and Ann was born at Hayton in 1856. Isaac and Ann married on 5 November 1876 at Crosscannonby and lived at Smithy Fold, High Lorton. John was one of a family of ten children; Mary Isabella 1877, William 1878, Betsy 1880, Sarah Ann 1881, John 1882, Jane 1883, Thomas 1885, Isaac 1886, Herbert 1893 and Hilda 1898.

John was educated at Lorton School and started there on 7 October 1885. In 1901, at the age of 19, John was working as a horseman at Haltwhistle and boarding with the Liddell family. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1907, John married Annie Hewitson Porteous, the 30 year old widow of Robert Porteous, and took over responsibility of her seven children. Annie went on to have two more children with her new husband, John. On 9 February 1912 John, Annie and all the children sailed from Liverpool on board the *Empress of Ireland* for a new life in Canada and arrived at St John, Newfoundland, on 17 February 1912. They settled at Bampton near Toronto, where John secured employment as the manager of a large farm.

On 27 January 1916, John, who was 5ft 10ins tall with blue eyes, blond hair with a fair complexion and aged 33 years 9 months, enlisted as a private in the Canadian Infantry, Central Ontario Regiment of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, as Private 679024. He was originally drafted into the 169<sup>th</sup> Battalion but on 28 November 1916 John transferred to the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He landed in England with the Canadian forces on 28 October 1916 and after a short

leave with his parents, left for France on 29 November 1916.

The 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion took part in a lot of heavy fighting, especially during the battle for Vimy Ridge, a heavily fortified seven kilometre ridge, where the Canadians suffered heavy casualties. John was wounded by gunshot in the right knee on 10 April 1917 and, after a short period in No 14 General Hospital at Wimereux in France, was transferred back to England to Berrington War Hospital in Shrewsbury where he arrived on 20 April 1917. Initially his condition improved but in early May he deteriorated and his mother received a telegram to say that he was dangerously ill. His wound had a lot of poison, he had a large abscess on his back and gangrene had set in. He died on Tuesday 22 May 1917 from the wounds received in action. John's married sister, who lived in London, was with him when he died. The coffin containing his body was delivered by rail to Cockermouth, and then transferred to the family home in Lorton. On Friday 25 May 1917, khaki-uniformed bearers carried his coffin to the funeral service and John was laid to rest in the north east section of the churchyard at Lorton. He was the only soldier whose body was returned to Lorton for burial.

John was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. The bronze plaque awarded to the family of each man killed was sent to his widow Annie.

John Benson is recorded on the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

John's widow, Annie, moved to the United States and took American citizenship in 1929. His younger brother, Isaac, had joined the colours on 22 May 1916, exactly 1 year to the day before the death of John and he survived the war.

## WILLIAM ERNEST CROOKS

**William Ernest Crooks** was born on 24 October 1878 at Great Ayton and baptised in St Martin's Church at Stokesley, Yorkshire, on 20 December 1878.

William Ernest was the son of William Crooks and Elizabeth Crooks, née Dawson. William Snr. was born in 1854 at Mount Sorrel, Leicestershire and Elizabeth was born at Pickering, Yorkshire in 1857. William Snr. and Elizabeth married at Stokesley in 1877. William was a set maker and the family lived at The Riggs, Bassenthwaite. William Ernest was one of thirteen children; Elizabeth Ann 1878, William Ernest 1878, Hannah Mary 1881, Francis Edwin 1883, Charles Henry 1885, Charlotte Ann 1887, Daniel Dawson 1890, Margaret 1893, Elsie 1895, Violet 1898, George 1901, plus two other children who died at birth.

William Ernest was a quarry worker at Embleton Quarry when he enlisted at Keswick in December 1915, as Private 23441 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment. On 10 September 1916 William Ernest received treatment in the 1<sup>st</sup> field ambulance rest station for a sprained left ankle.

In 1918, the front line was a short distance east of the village of Hedauville in France. On Tuesday 7

May 1918 William Ernest was in action in the Somme region when he received gunshot wounds to his back, chest, right shoulder and face. He was taken to the base hospital but died later that day from the wounds received in action. He was aged 39 and had been in the army for 2 years 6 months at the time of his death, having spent 17 months in the field. William Ernest is buried in Hedauville Communal Cemetery Extension in the Somme region of France, in grave reference D.1. Hedauville Cemetery is located approximately 5 km north west of Albert and contains 178 First World War burials.

William Ernest Crooks was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was unmarried and his family received the bronze Memorial Plaque sent to the next of kin of all soldiers who died.

William's father William received a payment of £17-19-6 on 3 September 1918 and a war gratuity payment of £11-0-0 on 27 November 1919.

William Ernest Crooks is listed on the war memorial at St Margaret's Church, Wythop, the war memorial at St Mary's Church, Threlkeld, and on the Roll of Honour for Embleton and Wythop.

## SKELTON ELAND

**Skelton Eland** was born in Lorton on 29 October 1895 and baptised in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, on 8 December 1895.

Skelton was the son of John Eland and Mary Jane Eland, née Head. John was born in 1856 at Lorton and Mary Jane was born at Brigham in 1856. They married at Lorton on 13 April 1881. Skelton was one of nine children; George Oswald 1881, Mary Elizabeth 1882, John 1885, Joseph Henry 1886, Martha 1887, Sarah Ann 1888, Jessie 1890, Skelton 1895 and Arthur 1900.

Skelton gave his occupation as joiner when he enlisted at Cockermouth on 1 September 1914, aged 18 years 11 months. He was posted on 16 September 1914. He initially joined the Dragoons, as Private 6787, but on 15 June 1915 he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, as Private 16680. Skelton was 5ft 8ins tall, weighed 136lbs, with brown hair, 6/6 vision in both blue eyes and a fair complexion, with a 34in chest measurement.

Skelton took part in the early fighting in the Dardanelles. In October 1915 he suffered severe diarrhoea and received treatment in the Dardanelles and also at a Greek Hospital. After he recovered, he re-joined the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment and served abroad from 28 August 1915 until the 11 December 1915, when he was invalided back to England with severe dysentery. He was treated on the hospital ship *Carisbrook Castle*, which had been converted to a hospital ship in 1914. When he recovered he left for France again on 4 April 1916 and joined the battalion on 21 April 1916. On 1 July 1916 the regiment was taking part in the Somme offensive, engaged in action to liberate Serre, which was close to Albert. The War Diaries of the 2nd



**Skelton Eland**

Battalion for 1 July 1916 record that the troops gathered at 0200 hrs to prepare for the attack, they had a breakfast of tea, plus vegetable and meat rations at 0530 hrs and advanced at 0855 hrs. Skelton was killed in action on the outskirts of Serre on Sunday 1 July 1916.

Skelton is buried in the Serre Road No 2 Cemetery; grave reference 11.B.14. The cemetery contains 2,193 graves of servicemen.

Skelton, who was unmarried, was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal. His personal effects and bronze Memorial Plaque were sent to his mother, who was living with a married daughter in Cockermouth.

His mother Mary Jane received £0-3-6 back pay and a payment of £4-12-0 on 31 October 1919. She also received a war gratuity payment of £8-0-0.

Skelton is commemorated on the Cockermouth War Memorial and also on the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, and the Roll of Honour in Christ Church, Cockermouth.

## BERNARD GAMBLE

photograph on page 5

**Bernard Gamble** was born in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1878 at Mirfield, Yorkshire.

Bernard was the son of John Gamble and Mary Anne Gamble, née Chambers. John was born in Cottesmore, Rutland, in 1850 and Mary Anne was born at Hull in 1856. John and Mary married at Skirlaugh, Yorkshire, in 1875. John was vicar at Loweswater from 1887 to 1915. Bernard was one of a family of ten children; John Leonard 1877, Bernard 1878, Ethel Mary 1879, Charlotte Elizabeth 1881, Sarah Margaret 1882, Winifred 1884, Arnold Chambers 1885, Percy 1887, Stanley 1888 and Harold Chambers 1890.

Bernard completed the last three years of his education at St Bees School, leaving in 1894, to become a pre-war professional soldier, and enlisted at Cockermonth in 1894/95. He was originally in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, as Private 6787, but he later joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, with Service Number 9288. In the 1911 census he is listed as a musician with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, living at Maida Barracks, Area 8, Stanhope Lines in Aldershot. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1909, Bernard married Lilian Fossey in the Bedford registration district. Lilian later lived at 2 Austins Lane, Ampthill, in Bedfordshire.

Bernard held the rank of sergeant when the regiment went to France, as part of the British Expeditionary Force, and landed there on 16 August 1914. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordshire Regiment was part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, which fought with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division at the Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat. Bernard also took part in the Action of Elouges, the Battle of Le

Cateau, the Affair of Crépy-en-Valois during August, the Battles of the Marne and the Aisne during September, the Battle of La Bassée during October and finally the Battle of Ypres which took place from 19 October to 22 November 1914. Bernard rose through the ranks to be company sergeant major, when the regiment was in the front line.

Bernard was severely wounded on 10 December 1914 and died on Sunday 13 December 1914 from the wounds received in battle. He was age 36. Bernard is buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Nord; grave reference A.26. The cemetery is located in France, near to the border with Belgium, and contains 610 commonwealth burials. An extension was added to the cemetery in 1915 and now contains 4,403 burials of Commonwealth soldiers from WW1.

Bernard was awarded the 1914 Star with the dated Mons Clasp, the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Bernard left a widow, Lilian, and two children; Donald aged 4 and Bernard R who was one month old. Lilian received a payment of £14-16-6 on 10 September 1918 and a £12-0-0 war gratuity paid on 9 August 1919. Lilian also received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to each family of the war dead.

Bernard is remembered on the Roll of Honour at St Bees School and the replacement war memorial lectern in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater. The original war memorial lectern, in the shape of a brass eagle, was stolen from the church in 1997.

Bernard's brother, Percy, also was killed in the war while another brother, Stanley, served and survived.

## PERCY GAMBLE

**Percy Gamble** was born on 22 January 1887 at Gill Grove, Egremont, and baptised on 17 February 1887 at St Mary's & St Margaret's Church, Egremont, where his father, John, was curate.

Percy was the son of John Gamble and Mary Anne Gamble, née Chambers. John was born in Cottesmore, Rutland, in 1850 and Mary Anne was born in Hull in 1856. John and Mary married at Skirlaugh, Yorkshire, in 1875. John was vicar at Loweswater from 1887 to 1915. Percy was one of a family of ten children; John Leonard 1877, Bernard 1878, Ethel May 1879, Charlotte Elizabeth 1881, Sarah Margaret 1882, Winifred 1884, Arnold Chambers 1885, Percy 1887, Stanley 1888 and Harold 1890. Percy married Edith Oddy in St John the Evangelist Church at Baildon, Yorkshire.

Percy was educated at Loweswater School from November 1896 until March 1902. Percy was employed as a lithographic artist prior to enlisting at Bradford in 1916. He initially joined the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, as Private 3247, but later transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 28060.

Percy, who was a renowned crack shot, embarked for France with the

regiment just before Christmas 1916. In March 1917 the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment were working on the railway network at Coigneux, France. The terrible weather and working conditions contributed to Percy being taken ill and when it became serious, he was admitted to the Casualty Clearing Station for treatment but he developed pneumonia and died on Monday 5 March 1917. Percy is buried in Varennes Military Cemetery in France; grave reference 1.1.75. The cemetery contains 1,219 burials from WW1.

Percy was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Percy's widow, Edith, received £3-1-6 on 25 April 1917 and a war gratuity of £3-0-0 on 12 January 1920. She also received the bronze Memorial Plaque, sent to all next of kin of soldiers killed. Edith remarried in 1928 but there were no children from either marriage.

Percy is remembered on the replacement war memorial lectern in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater. The original war memorial lectern, in the shape of a brass eagle, was stolen from the church in 1997.

Percy's brother, Bernard, was also killed in the war while another brother, Stanley, served and survived.

## THOMAS HEAD

photograph on page 5

**Thomas Head** was born at Forest Hill, Bowscar, near Penrith, on 30 December 1887 and was baptised on 12 February 1888 in St Andrew's Church, Penrith.

Thomas was the son of Thomas Head and Jane Head, née Nanson. Thomas was born in 1859 at Renwick and Jane was born at Matterdale in 1863. Thomas and Jane married at Matterdale on 16 November 1882. Thomas was one of fourteen children; Annie Mary 1883, Bridget 1884, William 1886, Thomas 1887, John 1889, Jane 1891, Ada 1893, Elizabeth 1895, Joseph 1896, Walter 1898, Fred 1899, Herbert 1903 and Mabel 1905. A daughter Mabel died at birth in 1904.

Thomas was employed as a farm servant prior to enlisting at Keswick in December 1914, aged 27. He was originally put in the reserves and then joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 18737. He spent time training at Southend until July 1915 when he sailed with his regiment on the Troopship *Royal Edward*. They sailed from Avonmouth on 28 July 1915 with 1,367 officers and men, to reinforce the troops who had landed in the Dardanelles in April 1915. The *Royal Edward* reached Alexandria on 10 August 1915 and left port the following day for the harbour at Moudros, on the island of Lemnos. At 0915 hrs on 13 August 1915, when 6 miles west of Kandelus, the *Royal Edward* was struck, without warning, by a torpedo from the German submarine UB-17, commanded by Oberleutnant zur See Heino von Heimburg. The torpedo struck the stern of the ship, which sank within six minutes, with the loss of 864 troops, according to the admiralty casualty list. Thomas Head was one of the 59 men from the Border Regiment who

were lost. The huge loss of life was partly due to the fact that the *Royal Edward* had just completed a boat drill and all the soldiers were below decks, stowing their equipment and also to the extreme listing and rapid sinking of the vessel. The *Royal Edward* was the first troopship sunk during the war. Naval warships and vessels, such as troopships, are not awarded war grave status but remain the property of the Royal Navy, who ensure that all relevant steps are taken to secure these sites and request that they are left undisturbed. Thus the remains of Thomas lie within or close to the wreck of the *Royal Edward*.

As Thomas, aged 28, was lost at sea, he has no recognised grave. His name is on the Helles Memorial; panel 120 – 125, on the Gallipoli Peninsular, one of the 20,935 names listed. The inscription reads as follows:- To the glory of God / and in reverent memory of these / eight hundred and sixty one / officers and men of the forces / of the United Kingdom drowned in / the Royal Edward transport / which was torpedoed on the / 13<sup>th</sup> August 1915 / all of whom have / no other grave than the sea / " he discovereth things out / of darkness and bringeth out to / light the shadow of death" (The number 861 is slightly different than the original casualty list of 864.)

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As Thomas was unmarried, the medals were sent to his family, along with the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the family of each soldier killed.

Thomas is remembered on the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

Four other brothers of Thomas also served and survived the war; William, Joseph, Walter and Fred.

## JOHN EDWARD LONG

**John Edward Long** was born at Loweswater in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1889. No baptism details have been found at the time of printing.

John Edward was the son of Thomas Long and Ann Jane Long, née Moore. Thomas was born in 1849 at Eaglesfield and Ann Jane was born at Lorton in 1853. Thomas and Ann Jane married at Brigham in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1873. John Edward was one of nine children; Mary A 1876, Francis F 1877, Sarah M 1880, Dora Jane 1882, Matilda 1883, Elizabeth 1885, Josephine 1887, John Edward 1889 and Martha 1898.

John Edward, was 6ft tall, weighed 178lbs with a 38in chest, 6/6 vision in both blue eyes, brown hair, with a fresh complexion and was employed as a farm servant, when he enlisted at Penrith on 12 September 1914, aged 25 years 2 months. He was one of the first from the village to enlist and joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 14375. He gained rapid promotion and was appointed lance corporal on 18 March 1916 and acting corporal on 10 June 1916. He achieved the rank of lance sergeant on 24 October 1916. The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion sailed from Southampton on 3 September 1915 to join the British Expeditionary Force in France and landed at Le Havre on 4 September 1915. On 30 October 1915 the Battalion sailed from Marseille for

Salonika and saw action there. In November 1915 John Edward was wounded and taken to the hospital ship *Morea* on 5 January 1916 and invalided home to England on 2 February 1916 from Malta. On 19 September 1916 when he had recovered, he joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment (The Lonsdale Battalion). The 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed at Boulogne on 23 November 1916 and were involved in the Somme offensive.

John Edward was killed in action on Sunday 18 November 1916 during the Battle of Ancre, which included the capture of Beaumont Hamel. This was the last day of the Battle of the Somme as the Somme offensive was called off due to snow as winter set in. He is buried in Waggon Road Cemetery at Beaumont-Hamel; grave reference A.11. The cemetery contains 195 graves of which 46 are from the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment.

John Edward was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was unmarried and his next of kin received the bronze Memorial Plaque, awarded to each soldier killed, along with his effects.

John Edward is commemorated on the war memorial at St Philip's Church, Mosser, located at Eaglesfield and on the Roll of Honour for Blindboethel, Eaglesfield and Mosser which is currently at Eaglesfield Paddle School.



## HENRY BELL MOFFAT

**Henry Bell Moffat** was born on 30 October 1893 at Gilcruix and baptised at Dearham in St Mungo's Church, on 12 November 1893.

Henry Bell was the son of John Moffat and Jane Moffat, née Stainton. John was born at Dearham in 1863 and Jane was born in 1862 at Greysouthen. John and Jane married in 1882, with the marriage registered at Cockermouth. Henry Bell was one of seven children; William James 1884, Mary Jane 1886, John 1889, Henry Bell 1893, Fletcher 1897, Robert 1903 and Stanley Taylor 1907.

In May 1913, aged 20 years, Henry Bell Moffat embarked to Canada as a steerage passenger on the SS *Teutonic*, bound for Quebec, with a final destination of Saskatchewan, where he hoped to farm. Although he was a Wesleyan, he is recorded as a Methodist on his Canadian papers.

In 1916 Henry Bell was employed as a labourer living at 577 Hochelaga in Moose Jaw. On 7 January 1916, aged 23 years 3 months, Henry Bell enlisted in the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry, Saskatchewan Regiment, as Private 781738. His age was recorded on his enlistment papers as 22 years 4 months, and his name was recorded as Harry. He was 5ft 9½ins tall, weighed 142lbs, with a dark complexion, blue eyes, black hair and a 36in chest. He sailed for England with his regiment and then went to France. The Canadian troops took over

the front line at Vimy Ridge during the winter of 1916. On 20 March 1917, a heavy bombardment began, which continued for several days before the Canadians attacked Vimy Ridge on Easter Day, 9 April 1917. The Canadians suffered heavy casualties during the offensive. In early May 1917 Henry Bell received a gunshot wound to the leg, face and arm, and was given anti-tetanus serum at Aubigny Casualty Clearing Station, before re-joining his regiment.

Henry Bell Moffat was killed in action on Tuesday 15 May 1917, after 1 year 4 months service, and 5 months in the field, aged 23. His record shows that he had been wounded on a previous occasion. Henry Bell is buried in Étapes Military Cemetery; grave reference XV111.N.5. The cemetery is located near Boulogne and contains 11,517 burials.

Henry Bell Moffat was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He was unmarried and his mother Jane, as next of kin, who was living at Springfield Farm, Eaglesfield, received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the family of each soldier killed.

Henry Bell Moffat is on the war memorial at St Philip's Church, Mosser, located near Eaglesfield and on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser which is currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School.

## ROBERT MOFFAT

photograph on page 5

**Robert Moffat** was born on 1 March 1895 at Lorton and baptised in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, on 31 March 1895.

Robert was the son of Elizabeth Moffat, who lived in the Post Office at High Lorton. She was unmarried at the time and the father's name is not recorded. Elizabeth was born in Lorton on 30 August 1874 and baptised in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, on 11 September 1874.

Robert was 5ft 6ins tall, weighed 124lbs with a 34in chest, brown eyes, brown hair and a sallow complexion. Robert was employed as a clerk at Mitchells Auction in Cockermouth when, at the age of 19 years 5 months, he enlisted as a Kitchener Volunteer at Cockermouth on 19 August 1914, being one of the first from Lorton to enlist. He initially joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 11351. Robert embarked with the regiment for Gallipoli in August 1915 where he was wounded and admitted to the 35<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance in the Dardanelles on 19 August 1915. He was invalided home to England from the port of Mudros in September 1915. When recovered he transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment and embarked with them on 24 March 1916 for France and was deployed to the front on 9 April 1916. Robert was killed in action on 1 July 1916 during the battle for Albert, as part of the Somme offensive. He was 21 years old. Robert has no known grave and his name is included on the Thiepval Memorial at the Somme on Pier and Face 6A & 7C. The Thiepval Memorial lists the names of 72,343 men who died in the Somme sector and have no known grave.

The following is an extract from the War Diaries of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment for 1 July 1916.

**Front Line 0730hrs.** The Battalion, less 10% who were held in reserve, advanced south of Beaumont Hamel, their objective being Beaumont Redoubt. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion South Wales Borderers, whose objective was the first two German lines, were wiped out by machine gun fire in our own wire. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion then went over the top from our support lines and over the front line. The bridge over our front trenches having been ranged by the German machine gunners the day previously we met with heavy losses while crossing these bridges and passing through lanes cut in our wire. The men were absolutely magnificent and formed up as ordered outside our wire, made a right incline and advanced into no man's land at a slow walk also as ordered. The advance continued until only little groups of half a dozen men were left here and there, and finding that no reinforcements were in sight took cover in shell holes or wherever they could.

**Front Line 0800hrs.** The advance was brought entirely to a standstill.

Of the 23 officers and 809 other ranks who took part in the attack, 20 officers were killed or wounded, 64 other ranks were killed, 144 missing and 411 wounded.

Robert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As Robert was unmarried, his mother, Elizabeth, received the bronze Memorial Plaque given to relatives of the soldiers killed.

Robert's name is on the war memorial inside St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

## EDWARD MOSSOP

**Edward Mossop** was born on 11 September 1893 at Low Hall, Blindbothel, and baptised in St Philip's Church, Mosser, on 22 October 1893.

Edward Mossop was the son of Watson Mossop and Rebecca Mossop, née Nelson. Watson was born at Arlecdon in 1863 and Rebecca was born in 1862, also at Arlecdon. Watson and Rebecca married in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1891, with the marriage registered at Cockermonth. Edward was one of five children; William James 1892, Edward 1893, Clement 1895, and twins Nelson and Mary Elizabeth 1898.

Edward gave his occupation as farmer when he enlisted at Challenor House, Cockermonth, on 15 November 1915. He was 22 years 2 months old and 5ft 10ins tall, he weighed 120lbs and had a 39in chest when he enlisted. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers, as Private 36911, at Wrexham on 22 November 1915. On 25 November 1915, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion became part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Division. Edward was recorded as being of good character but was punished by losing two days' pay for being 17hrs 45 minutes late back from

leave on 20 January 1916. He was posted to France with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 26 April 1916.

Edward was killed in action on Thursday 20 July 1916, during very fierce fighting, while taking part in the attack on High Wood, part of the Somme offensive. Edward is buried in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery at Longueval in grave reference 1V.F.3. The cemetery contains 1,777 graves from WW1.

Edward was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As Edward was unmarried, his next of kin received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the family of each soldier killed in the conflict.

Edward's mother, Rebecca, received a payment of £2-14-5 on 30 October 1916 and a war gratuity payment of £3-0-0 on 19 September 1919.

Edward Mossop is on the war memorial at St Philip's Church, Mosser, located near Eaglesfield and his name is on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser, currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School.

Memorials in St Cuthbert's, Lorton, and St Margaret's, Wythop.





**Memorial at St Philip's,  
Parish of Mosser.**

(Eaglesfield, Blindbothel  
and Mosser)

- W. Bartle
- J. E. Long
- E. Mossop
- H. B. Moffat
- W. B. Porter
- H. Robinson
- W. Routledge
- F. W. Storr

**Memorial which was in  
St Bartholomew's, Loweswater.**

(probable names)

- J. Beck
- B. Gamble
- P. Gamble
- E. Norman
- P. D. Robinson
- T. V. Robinson
- D. Vickers\*



**Memorial at  
St Cuthbert's, Embleton.**

- T. C. Beck
- A. E. Watson
- R. Watson

\* also remembered on the  
Buttermere Roll of Honour  
in St James' Buttermere

## JOHN TOWERS MOUNSEY

**John Towers Mounsey** was born at Tallantire in 1894 and baptised in St Bridget's Church, Bridekirk, on 15 April 1894.

John Towers was the son of Archibald Ritson Mounsey and Mary Elizabeth Mounsey, née Towers. Archibald was born in 1867 at Holm Farm, Lorton, and Mary was born at Lorton in 1870. Archibald and Sarah married in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, on 23 December 1891. John Towers was one of eight children; Ruth Mary 1893, John Towers 1894, Jane Bragg 1895, Josephine 1897, Robert 1899, Annie Ritson 1899, Sarah Elizabeth 1900 and Annie Ritson 1903.

John Towers Mounsey was a coal miner by trade, but was also a Sunday school teacher, and when home on leave, he returned to his class to teach. John Towers was 5ft 9ins tall, weighed 142lbs, had 6/6 vision in both eyes and a 36in chest. He enlisted at Workington on 18 November 1914, as a Kitchener Volunteer. He was 20 years and 306 days old. John Towers joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 17492. Initially classed as a territorial, he transferred to the regular army on 6 January 1915. On 10 July 1915, he was reported for creating a disturbance after lights out and was confined to barracks for 5 days.

He was appointed lance corporal on 15 April 1916, and on 28 April 1916 he embarked at Folkestone on board the SS *Victoria* with his regiment to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. They reached Étaples on 29 April 1916 and advanced into the field on 9 May 1916. He was wounded on 17 June 1916, which made him eligible to wear the wound stripe on the left sleeve of his jacket. The wound stripe was a 2in strip of gold Russia braid and was awarded to soldiers wounded, gassed or shell shocked after 4 August 1914.



On 1 July 1916, the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment was involved in the Somme offensive and was part of the advance on Leipzig Redoubt from their position in Authuille Wood. The battalion suffered heavy casualties and during the fighting lost 516 men of the 800 who took part, most killed in no man's land. John Towers was killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged 22 years.

John Towers Mounsey is buried in the Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, in the Somme region; grave reference 1.D.14. The cemetery contains 1,542 Commonwealth burials, 816 of which are unidentified.

John Towers Mounsey was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. As he was unmarried, his personal effects were returned to his mother, Mary Elizabeth, together with the bronze Memorial Plaque sent to each family of soldiers killed.

His name is recorded on the war memorial inside St Cuthbert's Church at Lorton, the Roll of Honour in Clifton Methodist Chapel and at Little Clifton.

## JOHN NEEDHAM

**John Needham** was born in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1890 at Pilgrim Street, Workington. No baptism details have been found at the time of going to press.

John Needham was the son of Henry Needham and Pamela M Needham, née Croggin. Henry was born on 4 August 1854 at Little Norton, North Derbyshire, and Pamela was born in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1855 in Sheffield. Henry and Pamela married in Sheffield in 1875. John was one of nine children; Clara E 1876, Annie E 1877, Ernest A 1879, Alice J 1881, Sarah 1883, Mary 1885, Joseph 1886, Henry 1888 and John 1890. By 1904 the family lived at Brown House, Whinfell, Lorton.

John Needham enlisted at Workington in 1909, aged 18, joining the Territorial Force, as Private 9717, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Border Regiment. In the 1911 census, John is recorded as single, aged 20, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Border Regiment at Martinique Barracks, Farnborough. John later transferred to the Regular Army and saw service with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in India. He was also involved in the fighting in the Dardanelles, where he was injured and invalided out of the fighting areas. He was home at Lorton on leave in April 1916, then returned to France with his regiment, by which time he had achieved the rank of lance corporal. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was involved in the Somme offensive and was the lead battalion in the battle of Albert.

John Needham was killed in action on Sunday 1 July 1916, aged 26. John has no known grave and his name is listed on the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme region of France; pier and face



**John Needham**

6A and 7C. The War Diaries of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Border Regiment record that on 1 July 1916, of the other ranks (non-commissioned officers and men), they lost 79 men killed, 240 wounded and 4 missing. Ten men died later from wounds received in battle. The Thiepval Memorial lists the names of 72,343 men who died in the Somme sector and have no known grave.

John Needham was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

As John was unmarried, his mother, Pamela, received a payment of £7-12-6 on 11 October 1916 and a war gratuity payment of £10-0-0 on 1 September 1919. She also received the bronze Memorial Plaque awarded to the next of kin of soldiers killed.

John Needham is recorded on the war memorial inside St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, and on the war memorial at Workington.

## EMANUEL NORMAN

**Emanuel Norman** was born on 16 November 1894 at Corn How, Loweswater, and baptised in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater, on 20 January 1895.

Emanuel was the son of William Norman and Mary Norman, née Graham. William was born at Brackenthwaite in 1861 and Mary was born in 1863 at Ullock. William and Mary married on 20 October 1883, at Moresby. Emanuel was one of eight children; Jane Elizabeth 1885, John William 1887, Samuel 1889, Charles 1892, Emanuel 1894, Thomas Dobinson 1895, Mary Hannah 1898 and William 1900.

Emanuel was educated at Loweswater School from April 1899 until December 1908, when he left to be an apprentice joiner. In July 1907, he was one of two children awarded a Three Year Star for three years of perfect attendance. Emanuel was employed as a joiner living at Jenkin Hill, Loweswater, and was working on the altar in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater, when he signed enlistment papers on 7 February 1916, aged 21 years 2 months. The papers were marked "joined on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1916". Emanuel was 5ft 9in tall, weighed 133lbs, had 6/6 vision in both eyes, and a 36in chest. He joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 23998, but he later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment. On 2 July 1916, the regiment embarked for France, and reached Étaples on 4 July 1916. They proceeded to the front, and joined the front line on 14 July 1916. During August he was treated for tonsillitis and on 25 August 1916 he was punished with 7 days confined to barracks for arriving late at the training ground. He re-joined his battalion on 29 August 1916, and in October 1916 Emanuel was involved with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in the final



**Emanuel Norman**

offensive of the Somme campaign at the Battle of Transloy Ridges, which was initially launched in pouring rain on 18 October 1916.

Emanuel was severely wounded by a shell to the head and back, and died on the battlefield on 21 October 1916. He was 22 years old. Emanuel has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial; panel and face 6A and 7C. The Thiepval Memorial lists the names of 72,343 men who died in the Somme sector and have no known grave.

Emanuel Norman was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Emanuel's mother, Mary, received a payment of £5-2-10 on 26 January 1917 and £3-0-0 war gratuity on 10 November 1919. As Emanuel was unmarried, his mother also received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of soldiers killed.

The name Emanuel Norman is engraved on the replacement war memorial lectern in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater. The original war memorial lectern, in the shape of a brass eagle, was stolen from the church in 1997.



## ALFRED ERNEST PEARSON

**Alfred Ernest Pearson** was born on 17 February 1880 at Lorton and baptised on 21 March 1880 in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

Alfred Ernest was the son of Robert Pearson and Sarah Pearson, née Wigham. Robert was born in Cumberland in 1848 and Sarah was born at Rannerdale, Brackenthwaite, early in 1851. Robert and Sarah married in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, on 6 June 1874, both recorded as of full age. Alfred was one of eight children; John 1875, William Henry 1876, Wilson 1878, Alfred Ernest 1880, Mary Jane 1881, Annie Louise 1883, Thompson 1887 and Edmund 1890.

Alfred was educated at Lorton School and started there in July 1885. After leaving school Alfred worked as a farm servant/ploughman before joining the police. Alfred married Mary Jane Davidson at Carlisle during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1909, and was a police officer when he enlisted at Penrith, joining the 3<sup>rd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, as Private 3004. The low service number indicated that he enlisted at the start of the war. Alfred was also a member of the Skiddaw Lodge of Freemasons. He was recognised as a good shot with a rifle and rose through the ranks to be lance corporal and had a clean service record. He was wounded in spring 1916. His condition deteriorated and he died on Thursday 2 March 1916, at Curragh Camp in Ireland, from the wounds he received in action. He was 36 years old. Alfred's body was transported back to his home, at 50



**Alfred Ernest Pearson**

Howe Street, Carlisle. He was buried in Dalston Road Cemetery, Carlisle, in the war graves plot; grave reference 11.M.2. His unit was unable to send a firing party to the funeral, as they were in isolation at the time, due to an outbreak of measles. However, a firing party was assembled and they fired a three-shot volley at his graveside.

Alfred Ernest Pearson was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Alfred Ernest left his widow, Mary Jane, a five year old son, Sidney, and a two year old son, Robert. Mary Jane received the bronze Memorial Plaque awarded to the next of kin of all soldiers killed.

The name of Alfred Ernest Pearson is on the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, and on the Carlisle City Police War Memorial.

## WILLIAM BALLANTYNE PORTER

**William Ballantyne Porter** was born during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1887 at Workington and baptised on 21 February 1888 in St John's Church, Workington.

William was the son of John Porter and Mary Ann Porter, née Norman. John was born in 1850 at Lamplugh and Mary Ann was born in Eaglesfield in 1855. John and Mary Ann married in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1878. Mary Ann died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1891 and John remarried Mary's younger sister, Hannah, in 1893. Hannah was born in 1857 at Eaglesfield. William was one of two children born to John and Mary Ann; John Norman 1880 and William Ballantyne 1887.

William Ballantyne was employed as a farm servant when he enlisted on 19 May 1916, joining the 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 3670. He later transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, with service number 27998. In November 1916, the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion was involved in the Battle of Ancre, which started at

0610 hrs in snow, which later turned to sleet. On Saturday 18 November 1916 William Ballantyne was killed in action. It was the last day of the Somme offensive, which was called off later in the day due to snow. William is buried in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery at Longueval in grave reference XX11.C.6. The cemetery contains 5,573 burials, 3,798 of which are unidentified.

William Ballantyne Porter was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As William was unmarried, his personal effects were returned to his widowed step-mother, Hannah, who also received the bronze Memorial Plaque, sent to the next of kin of each soldier killed. On 19 July 1918, Hannah received a payment of £3-3-8 and a further payment of £3-0-0 on 18 October 1919.

William is recorded on the war memorial at St Philip's Church, Mosser, located at Eaglesfield and on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser which is currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School.

## HENRY (HARRY) ROBINSON

**Henry Robinson** was born at Greysouthen in 1897 and baptised on 7 June 1897 in St Bridget's Church at Brigham.

Henry was the son of William Robinson and Sarah Robinson, née Stephenson. William was born in 1872 at Greysouthen and Sarah was also born at Greysouthen in 1872. William and Sarah married on 6 August 1892 at St Bridget's Church, Brigham. Henry was one of three children; Tom Stephenson 1893, Henry 1897 and Joseph William 1900.

Henry was employed as a farm servant before he enlisted at Cockermouth, joining the Border Regiment, as Private 39604. He later transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, as Private 51416. The 7<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment, was formed on 16 March 1914, and came under the orders of the 50<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 17<sup>th</sup> Northern Division. The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed at Boulogne on 14 July 1915 and fought in France. In September

1918, he was involved with his regiment in the Battle of Épehy. Henry was killed in action during the battle on Wednesday 18 September 1918. He was 21 years old. Henry has no known grave and his name is included on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial; reference panel 4. The memorial records the names of 9,846 soldiers who died in WW1.

Henry was awarded the British War Medal and Victory medal and his father, William, received the bronze Memorial Plaque given to the family of each soldier killed.

The name of Henry Robinson is on three war memorials; at St Philip's Church, Mosser, which is located at Eaglesfield, at St Bridget's Church, Brigham, and Christ Church, Broughton. He is listed on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser, which is currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School.

An older brother, Tom Stephenson Robinson, was also killed in the war.

## PERCY DICKSON ROBINSON

photograph on page 5

**Percy Dickson Robinson** was born in Krugersdorp, Gauteng Province in the Transvaal region of South Africa, on 26 November 1893 and is recorded as a colonial resident, ie a British citizen by parentage.

Percy Dickson was the son of Thomas Robinson and Elizabeth Robinson, née Green. Thomas was born at Greenlands, Cockermouth, in 1844 and Elizabeth was born in Liverpool in 1862. They were living in South Africa when Percy was born. Percy was one of two children; Percy Dickson 1893 and Thomas Vivian 1896. The family were aware of the unrest in the Transvaal and Thomas and Elizabeth and the two boys sailed from Cape Town on 2 June 1899 aboard the *Briton* to return to England, just prior to the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War. Thomas and Elizabeth married on 28 January 1901 at St Mary's Church, Birkenhead, one year after the death of Elizabeth's first husband James Crossett. They initially lived in Distington, but by the time of the 1911 census the family were living at The Grange, Loweswater.

Percy was educated at a private school near Southport, Loweswater School, St Bees School, and Nelson School in Wigton. After leaving school, Percy farmed at Bramley, Mosser, which the family owned. Percy joined the Royal Flying Corp and trained on bi-planes at the Grahame White School at Hendon and on the 16 July 1914 gained his RAC Certificate No 843. He joined the 57<sup>th</sup> Squadron after its formation in June 1915 and rose through the ranks, being promoted to flying officer on 24 June 1915. By 30 July 1917, he was described as captain and flight commander. In March 1918, he is recorded as temporary captain in the army. Described as an intrepid pilot, he was awarded the Military Cross for his daring work against the enemy and tackling a number of

enemy planes single handed. The citation reads as follows: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. While on a photographic reconnaissance he was attacked by ten enemy aeroplanes. He handled his machine with such skill that his observer shot down two enemy machines and dispersed the remainder. Though his machine was very badly damaged and almost unmanageable he continued to take photographs and finally brought his machine back safely. He has taken part in a large number of photographic reconnaissance flights and over seventy bombing raids and has shown the greatest courage and determination on all occasions."

On 28 March, Percy and his observer, Lieutenant John Quintin Frederick Walker took off in their plane, serial number A7674, for a bombing mission over enemy territory. They failed to return and were finally reported killed in action on 31 March 1918. Percy was aged 24. No bodies were recovered and Percy Dickson Robinson is listed on the Arras Flying Service Memorial, located in the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery in Arras. The memorial contains almost 1,000 names of airmen who lost their lives on the Western Front and have no known grave.

Percy was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal in addition to the Military Cross.

Percy Dickson Robinson is listed on the war memorial at Distington, and was probably on the original Loweswater war memorial lectern, in the shape of a brass eagle, which was stolen from the Church in 1997. He is not on the replacement war memorial lectern. Percy is listed on the Roll of Honour for Nelson School and at St Bees School. There is a stained-glass window in his honour in Distington Church.

## THOMAS VIVIAN ROBINSON

photograph on page 5

**Thomas Vivian Robinson** was born on 23 July 1896 at Krugersdorp, Gauteng Province in the Transvaal region of South Africa and is described as a colonial resident, ie a British citizen by parentage.

Thomas Vivian Robinson was the son of Thomas Robinson and Elizabeth Robinson, née Green. Thomas was born in 1844 at Greenlands, Cockermouth, and Elizabeth was born at Liverpool in 1862. Thomas Vivian was one of two brothers; Percy Dickson 1893 and Thomas Vivian 1896. Thomas and Elizabeth were living in South Africa when Thomas Vivian was born, but were aware of the unrest in the Transvaal. The family sailed from Cape Town on 2 June 1899 aboard the *Briton* to return to England just prior to the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War. Thomas and Elizabeth married on 28 January 1901 at St Mary's Church, Birkenhead, one year after the death of Elizabeth's first husband, James Crossett. They initially lived at Distington but by the time of the 1911 census the family were all living at The Grange, Loweswater.

Like his brother Percy, Thomas was educated at a private school near Southport, then for a short period at Loweswater School and completed his education at Nelson School in Wigton. Thomas Vivian Robinson took up farming and married Sarah Gertrude Illingworth in 1915 and farmed at Waterend Farm, Loweswater. In late 1917 Thomas Vivian sold all his stock and on 16 January 1918 he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corp (RFC) and was allocated service number 117641. Around this time he joined the Skiddaw Lodge of Freemasons. He completed his training and transferred to the Royal Air Force (RAF) as an observer with the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant and embarked for France in

1918 with No 20 Squadron. On the morning of Thursday 4 July 1918, Thomas wrote a letter home saying that he had returned safely from an engagement with the Huns. Two British planes had been lost, while the Germans lost five planes. Later that day he climbed on board his aircraft with his pilot, 23 year old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Allen James McAllister, to carry out manoeuvrability tests and to test their guns on the firing range. While carrying out a steep vertical climb, the aircraft engine stalled and the plane nose-dived to the ground. The pilot was killed. Thomas was pulled from the wreckage alive, but died later from his injuries in the ambulance en route to hospital. The two men were buried alongside each other in Longuenesse (St Omer) Cemetery; Thomas in grave reference V.C.45. The cemetery contains 3,397 graves of which 2,874 are commonwealth burials from WW1.

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Thomas Vivian left behind a widow, Sarah Gertrude, who lived at Laurel Bank, Embleton, and an eighteen month old son, Thomas Anthony. Sarah received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the family of all men killed in the war.

Thomas Vivian Robinson is listed on the Distington War Memorial and was probably on the original brass Loweswater war memorial lectern, in the shape of an eagle, in St Bartholomew's Church, which was stolen from in 1997. There is a new memorial lectern in the church but Thomas is not listed.

Percy Dickson Robinson, the older brother, was killed in the war in March 1918. There is a stained glass window in their honour in Distington Church.

## WILSON ROTHERY

**Wilson Rothery** was born in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1895 at Hayton near Wigton and baptised on 17 November 1895.

Wilson was the son of Joe Hartley Rothery and Mary Wilson Rothery née Jenkinson. Joe Hartley was born at Bassenthwaite in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1864 and Mary Wilson was born at Greysouthen in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1857. Joe Hartley and Mary Wilson married on 14 January 1892 in St Paul's Church, Seaton. Later, in 1901, they farmed at Shatton Hall, Lorton. Wilson was one of three children; Nora 1893, Gunson 1894 and Wilson 1895.

After leaving school Wilson was an ironmonger's apprentice with Mr A.W. Hodgson at Cockermouth. He enlisted at Cockermouth two months after war was declared, in 1914. He joined the Queen's Bays Cavalry (the Dragoon Guards) and then transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), as Private 18827. He completed his training in Scotland before embarking for France with the regiment. Within a short time the regiment was transferred to Salonika in Greece. In November 1916 Wilson had inflammation of connective tissue in the neck and in November 1917 he was diagnosed with the same complaint in the left hand and

transferred to an ambulance train for treatment. In Salonika, the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion were involved in several battles, including the Battle of Dorjan, which took place over several months. The excessive heat of the summer caused a cessation of the offensive, apart from the exchange of artillery fire.

Wilson was taken ill while in Salonika and died of pneumonia on Wednesday 17 July 1918, aged 23. He is buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston in central Macedonia, Greece; grave reference A.71. The cemetery contains 703 burials from WW1.

Wilson was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. As Wilson was unmarried, the bronze Memorial Plaque, which was given to the next of kin of all soldiers who died in the conflict, was sent to his parents. His father, Joe, was paid £30-12-10 on 19 December 1918 and received a war gratuity payment of £18-10-0 on 23 September 1919.

The name of Wilson Rothery is inscribed on the war memorial at St Margaret's Church, Wythop, the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, and is on the Roll of Honour for Embleton and Wythop.

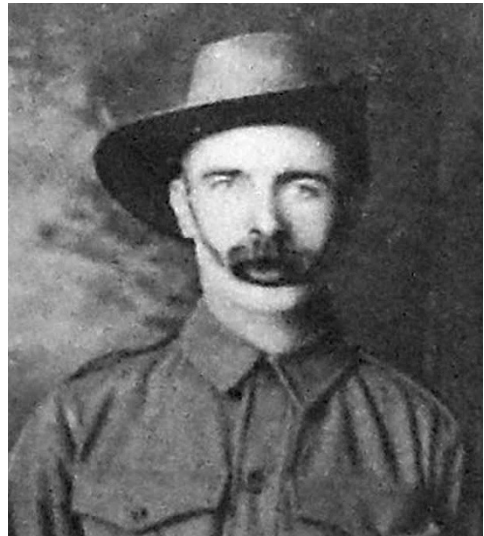
## WILLIAM ROUTLEDGE

**William Routledge** was born in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1873 at Seaton and baptised on 2 November 1873 at St Peter's Church, Camerton.

William Routledge was the son of James Routledge and Isabella Routledge, née Grimshaw. James was born at Distington in 1840 and Isabella was born at Hensingham in 1843. James and Isabella married in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1871, with the marriage registered at Whitehaven. William was one of a family of four; William 1873, James 1875, Joseph 1877, and Annie Douglas 1879.

In February 1901 William, aged 27, emigrated to Australia, sailing from Liverpool on board the *Runic*. He arrived at Sydney, New South Wales on 25 February 1901. William worked his passage and he is included on the crew list for unassisted passengers as a crew member, occupation greaser. He settled in the Kurnalpi goldfields in Western Australia and made a visit home in 1913.

William who was 5ft 5ins tall with a fair complexion, hazel eyes and grey hair, enlisted at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia, on 12 January 1916, aged 42 years 3 months. He joined the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry, as Private 4287. The battalion saw action at Gallipoli before going to Egypt. In March 1916 the battalion sailed from Egypt to France and took part in the first major action of the Somme offensive. William was killed in action on the Somme on Saturday 1 July 1916, aged 42 years 8 months. William is buried in Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension; grave reference 1.D.18. The Cemetery



**William Routledge**

contains 256 burials from WW1.

William was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As he was unmarried, his personal effects were returned to his widowed mother, Isabella, who was living at Eaglesfield. She also received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of all soldiers who were killed.

William Routledge is on the war memorials at Seaton, St Philip's Church, Mosser, situated at Eaglesfield, and St Peter's Church, Camerton. He is listed on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser which is currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School.

Of the 290,000 Australian servicemen who served in WW1, approximately 46,000 were either killed or died from wounds received.

## FREDERICK WILLIAM STORR

**Frederick William Storr** was born on 27 March 1891 at Graythwaite, Mosser. No baptism details have been found so far.

Frederick William was the son of George Martin Storr and Hannah Storr, née Elliot. George Martin was born in 1849 at Castle Howard, Yorkshire, and Hannah was born at Bolton le Moor in Yorkshire in 1852. George and Hannah married on 27 May 1872 in All Saints Church, Cockermouth. Frederick William was one of fourteen children; George 1873, Mary Elizabeth 1875, Ann 1876, Henry 1877, Martin 1878, James 1879, Edward 1881, Robert Alfred 1883, Hannah 1883, John 1885, Charles 1887, Fanny Louise 1889, Frederick William 1891 and Florence Evelyn 1893.

Along with his siblings, Frederick was educated at Dean National School. He started there on 19 April 1897, when the family were living at Deanscales. He left in 1900, when the family moved to High Hollins, Brackenthwaite, after which Frederick attended Loweswater School. When he left in April 1905 to take up employment as a farm worker, the school log book recorded that he had been "a very diligent boy". In 1911 Frederick William was employed as a farm servant, working for William Allason Peile at Whinfell Hall. On 16 May 1913 Frederick William emigrated to Canada from Liverpool on board the *Empress of Ireland*. He arrived in Quebec on 23 May 1913 en route to Saskatchewan.

Frederick William was 5ft 7ins tall, weighing 132lbs, with a 36in chest, and had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. He enlisted in the Canadian Infantry at Saskatoon on 22 February 1916. He joined the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, as Private 474055, aged 24. He was living at Elstow, Saskatchewan, and was employed as a labourer when he enlisted. Frederick

embarked from Canada with his regiment on 20 June 1916, and arrived in England on 29 June 1916. He proceeded to France on 10 August 1916.

Frederick William Storr was killed in action on 13 February 1917, during the Battle of Arras. He was 25 years old. He has no known grave, and his name is on the Vimy Memorial in France. The memorial lists 11,242 names of men from the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed in France who have no known grave. Many of these men were killed in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Following the Battle of Vimy Ridge where the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion suffered very high casualties, the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion became known as the Suicide Battalion. Two members of the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, both from Moose Jaw, made two memorial crosses using oak salvaged from a nearby chateau and erected them on the battlefield. These crosses stood there for six years until the Canadian Government replaced them with a permanent memorial. The two original crosses were moved to St Aidan's Church at Moose Jaw. During renovations they were moved to Moose Jaw Armoury, which is now their permanent home.

Frederick William was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Each soldier made a will on enlisting and Frederick, who was unmarried, left all his possession to his brother Robert. His family received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of each soldier killed.

Frederick's name is on the war memorial at St Philip's Church, Mosser, located at Eaglesfield, and on the Roll of Honour for Blindbothel, Eaglesfield and Mosser which is currently in Eaglesfield Paddle School. Frederick is also listed on the Elstow War Memorial in Saskatchewan, Canada.



## JOHN JAMES SWANSTON

**John James Swanston** was born on 26 April 1886 at Kirkgate in Cockermouth and baptised on 23 May 1886 in All Saints Church, Cockermouth.

John James was the son of George Swanston and Mary Swanston, née Ramage. George was born in 1851 in the Stow/Haddington area of Scotland and Mary was born at North Berwick in 1850. George married twice. He married his first wife, Williamina Frazer, in 1872 at Stow. Williamina died in 1877 and George married his second wife, Mary, on 19 April 1879. John James was one of nine children, including step-children; Mary Ann Ramage 1871, William 1873, Alexander Fraser 1874, Robert Ramage 1875, George 1879, Matthew Ramage 1881, Mary Orniston 1882, John James 1886 and Mark 1887.

In 1901 John James was on a boot-making course in the County Industrial School. He enlisted at Workington in 1914 as a territorial, joining the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment, as Private 2246. He was stationed at Otterburn before going to France with his regiment when it was mobilised on 26 October 1914. The war diaries of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion record that on 24 May 1915, there was a gas attack on the troops while in the trenches at Ypres.

John James was killed in action on Wednesday 26 May 1915 during the

attack on Bellewaarde Ridge. John James has no known grave and his name is engraved on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial at Ieper (the current, Flemish name for the French Ypres), West-Vlaanderen, on panel 35. The memorial records 54,616 names of soldiers with no known grave. John James was the first from Lorton to enlist when Mr Oglethorpe made his appeal in the Yew Tree Hall for men to join him in the army. He was the first soldier from the village to lay down his life.

John James was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As he was unmarried, his family were sent the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of all soldiers killed. He named his next of kin as Mary Elizabeth Pearson, and she received a payment of £5-12-9 on 9 October 1918 and a war gratuity payment of £3-0-0 on 7 July 1919.

Two brothers of John James, George and Matthew, also served and both survived. Brother George was regimental quarter master sergeant in the same regiment as John James.

John James Swanston is remembered on the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton, and on the Cockermouth War Memorial. He is also listed on the Roll of Honour at All Saints Church Cockermouth and in Christ Church Cockermouth.

## ALLISON WHITE TOWERS

**Allison White Towers** was born in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1894 at Miller Place, Brackenthwaite, and baptised on 2 December 1894 in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

Allison White Towers was the son of John Towers and his first wife Mary Towers, née Turner. John was born in 1858 at Lorton and Mary was born at Torpenhow in 1861. John and Mary married on 21 January 1892, with the marriage registered at Workington. John's second wife, Dorothy Ann Turner was born at Torpenhow in 1865 and they married on 10 October 1914. Allison White was one of five children; John White 1893, Allison White 1894, Ernest White 1897, Mary Wilson 1902 and Dorothy Turner 1903.

Allison White started his education at Lorton School on 10 April 1899 and won a Cumberland County Council Scholarship to continue his education at Keswick. He gained an Associate in Arts degree at Oxford University and joined the London Joint Stock Bank and served at both Penrith and Cockermouth. He was a member of the Institute of Bankers and spoke fluent French.

Allison White Towers enlisted at Penrith in October 1914, and joined the 18<sup>th</sup> Division Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line, as Private 2457. In July 1915, he went to France with his regiment and was employed as an interpreter alongside the French in the front line. The use of barbed wire as a means of defence resulted in most mounted regiments being employed on foot and when Allison moved to the front line, he left behind his horse, Toby.

Allison White was killed on the night of 2 October 1916, when he was



**Allison White Towers**

with a party of men erecting barbed wire in front of their trench near Leventie. He was struck by a bullet in the groin and died that night. He was 22 years old. He was buried the following day in St Vaast Military Cemetery at Richebourg L'Avoue in grave reference 11.X.5. There are 796 Commonwealth burials in the cemetery.

Allison White was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. As he was unmarried, the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of each soldier killed, was sent to his father, John.

The name of Allison White Towers is on the war memorial inside St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

His brother, John White Towers also served and was awarded the Military Medal. He survived and after the war, he later emigrated to Australia.

## DAVID VICKERS

**David Vickers** was born at Beck House in Brackenthwaite on 30 June 1894, and was baptised at St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater, on 12 August 1894.

David was the son of Joseph Vickers and Eliza Jane Vickers, née Carlisle. Joseph was born in 1860 at Thornthwaite and Eliza Jane was born at Dunmurry, Co Antrim, in August 1869. Joseph and Eliza Jane married on 14 November 1892, with the marriage registered at Cockermouth. Eliza Jane had been married previously in Ireland, and reverted to her original surname after being widowed. David was one of nine children; David 1894, Gilbert Glenthorne 1897, Agnes Irene 1899, John 1902, Leonora May 1904, William 1906, James Kendall 1909, Elsie Margaret 1911 and Harry 1915.

David was educated at Loweswater School from April 1899 until March 1908. David enlisted at Ulverston in 1914 and joined the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, as Private 200690. The 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion was mobilised in August 1914, landed in France in May 1915 and spent the entire campaign in France and Belgium. In July 1917, David was a

lance sergeant with the regiment, taking part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. On 31 July 1917, the battalion was involved in the attack on Wieltje and David was killed in action when he was hit in the head, while digging in at the most advanced position near Ypres. He died immediately. His superiors described him as an excellent shot who displayed coolness and courage under intense machine gun and rifle fire. David was 23 years old. He is buried in Dochy Farm New British Cemetery in grave reference V.D.20. The cemetery contains 486 graves.

David Vickers was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. As David was unmarried, his personal effects and bronze Memorial Plaque were sent to his father, Joseph. Joseph and Eliza Jane received a payment of £2-3-0 on 5 February 1918, and a final payment of £13-0-0 on 4 December 1919.

David Vickers is on the war memorial in St James' Church, Buttermere, and on the replacement war memorial lectern in St Bartholomew's Church, Loweswater. The original brass war memorial lectern, in the shape of an eagle, was stolen from the Church in 1997.

## WILLIAM (WILLIE) WALKER

**William Walker** was born on 24 April 1890 at Green Bank, Wythburn, and baptised on 25 May 1890 in St John's Church, Wythburn.

William was the son of John Walker and Annie Walker, née Hinde. John was born at Wythburn in 1862 and Annie was also born at Wythburn in 1859. John and Annie married in 1882 at St John's Church, Wythburn. The family farmed at Bank Farm then Picket How before moving into Lorton Hall Lodge. William was one of five children; Maggie 1882, Robert 1886, Annie 1887 and twins William and Mary 1890.

William was educated at Loweswater School from April 1896 until May 1902. In 1911 William was employed as an assistant grocer, working for George Pattinson at Holmrook, Millom, where he was boarding. William enlisted at Carlisle in 1914, initially joining the Border Regiment, as Private 3748, before transferring at a later date to the Machine Gun Corp Infantry, as Private 148420. In spring 1916, William went to France with his regiment and was promoted to the rank of corporal.

William was killed in action on Monday 2 September 1918 during the battle of Bapaume, which took place

from 31 August to 3 September 1918. The dug-out that he was in with his gun crew received a direct hit from a shell and William was struck in the head and died instantly. He had been in France for two and a half years and was 28 years old. His commanding officer wrote that William was an excellent NCO with a cheerful disposition. William is buried in Combles Communal Cemetery Extension in grave reference 11.O4. The cemetery now contains 535 graves from WW1.

William was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. The medals were returned by the family with instructions for them to be disposed of. William was unmarried and his personal effects and bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of all soldiers killed, were sent to his parents. A payment of £25-5-6 was made to his mother, Annie, on 28 April 1919, which included a war gratuity payment of £15.

A memorial service for William was held at Lorton on Sunday 22 September 1918.

William (Willie) Walker is named on the war memorial in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton.

## ALFRED EDMUND WATSON

**Alfred Edmund Watson** was born at Underskiddaw on 19 March 1891 and baptised in Crosthwaite Parish Church on 31 May 1891.

Alfred Edmund was the son of Robinson Watson and Jane Watson, née Dowthwaite. Robinson was born in 1866 at Bromfield and Jane was born at Watermillock in 1866. Robinson and Jane married in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1889, with the marriage registered at Penrith. The family were living at Stanley Hall, Embleton, when Alfred started attending Embleton and Wythop Voluntary School in 1896. Alfred was the eldest of seven children; Alfred Edmund 1891, John William 1893, Edith Mary 1896, Robinson 1898, Joseph 1901, Bertha Jane 1904 and Isabella 1906.

Alfred Edmund was educated at the Embleton & Wythop Voluntary School and after leaving school, was employed in agriculture, in the Threlkeld and St John's area. He was a keen sportsman. On 29 March 1914, Alfred Edmund sailed from Liverpool on board the *Empress of Britain* for Canada, heading for Quebec. He gave his occupation as farmer when he enlisted at Portage la Prairie in Manitoba, on 19 April 1915, age 24 years 1 month. He joined the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (New Brunswick Regiment), as Private

622444. He was 5ft 6ins tall with a fair complexion, auburn hair, blue eyes and a 35in chest. Alfred saw action in France with his regiment and made a visit home in October 1915, before returning to France. Later, while in action, he received severe wounds and was returned to England for treatment. Unfortunately, he developed pneumonia and died from this and the injuries received in battle on Thursday 9 December 1915, in hospital in Petersfield. He was 24 years old. Alfred Edmund was returned home for burial and is buried in the Western part of St Cuthbert's Church Graveyard at Embleton.

Alfred Edmund was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. As he was unmarried, his parents, as next of kin, received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given for each soldier killed in the conflict.

The name of Alfred Edmund Watson is on the war memorial at St Cuthbert's Church, Embleton, and on the Roll of Honour for Embleton and Wythop. He is also on the Roll of Honour from Embleton Wesleyan Chapel, currently housed in the Museum of Military Life at Carlisle.

Two brothers of Alfred also served in the war. John William survived but Robinson was killed.

## ROBINSON WATSON

**Robinson Watson** was born on 30 November 1898 at Sunny Bank, Embleton, and baptised on 5 December 1898 in St Cuthbert's Church, Embleton.

Robinson was the son of Robinson Watson and Jane Watson, née Dowthwaite. Robinson Snr. was born in 1866 at Bromfield and Jane was born at Watermillock in 1866. Robinson Snr. and Jane married in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1889, with the marriage registered at Penrith. The family were living at Rake Foot, Embleton, in 1904. Robinson Jnr. was one of seven children; Alfred Edmund 1891, John William 1893, Edith Mary 1896, Robinson 1898, Joseph 1901, Bertha Jane 1904 and Isabella 1906.

Robinson attended Embleton and Wythop Voluntary School from 1904 until 1913, when he left to take up employment at Bassenthwaite Lake Station, where he worked prior to enlisting at Cockermouth, in March 1917. He initially joined the Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry, as Private 5242, and later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment, as Private 57108, serving as a signaller. He was home on leave in September 1917, then left for France with his regiment in spring 1918. On 22 March 1918 the Germans started the Battle for St Quentin by launching the largest artillery bombardment of the war, firing 3.5 million shells along a front of 40 miles. They followed this with a rapid advance against the outnumbered British forces. Robinson had only been in the firing line for two hours when he was taken prisoner and was transported to Friedrichsfield POW camp in Germany. Friedrichsfield was

considered one of the better POW camps but food was in short supply. In captivity, Robinson suffered from the strain of being a prisoner, and the shortage and poor quality of food and fatigue did not help his condition. The camp suffered from an outbreak of influenza in 1918 and Robinson was treated in hospital and died on Saturday 8 June 1918 in Union Hospital Catholic Infirmary, Hos Bomig, aged 19. Robinson is buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery in grave reference 111.C.26. He was originally buried in Friedrichsfield Prisoner of War Cemetery, but his body was exhumed and moved to Cologne after hostilities ceased. The Cologne Cemetery contains 2,596 burials of WW1 servicemen.

Robinson was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As he was unmarried, his family also received the bronze Memorial Plaque, given to the next of kin of soldiers killed. His father Robinson received a payment of £9-7-6 on 26 February 1919 and a war gratuity payment of £5-0-0 on 25 November 1919. An additional payment of £0-2-7 was also made.

Robinson's name is on the war memorial at St Cuthbert's Church, Embleton. He is listed on the Embleton Wesleyan Chapel Roll of Honour, which is now in the Museum of Military Life at Carlisle, and the Roll of Honour for Embleton and Wythop. His name is also on the Cockermouth, Keswick & Penrith Railway Memorial in Keswick.

Two brothers of Robinson also served in the war. John William survived but Alfred Edmund was also killed.

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