



John Ferguson **1881 – 1917**

John was born in Waterfoot, Lancashire on 2nd April 1881. His father was William Ferguson, a woollen block printer, born in Kilmarnock, Scotland in 1856 and died in 1925. His mother was Agnes (nee Logan) born in Grahamstown, Scotland around 1859 and died in 1885. They were married on 8th December 1878 at St. James's Church, Waterfoot.

Their other children were; Agnes, born in 1879 and died in 1879, Bertha, born in 1883 and George, born in 1885 and died in 1885.

In 1881 the family lived at Victoria Street, Waterfoot.

William was remarried in 1886 to Alice Clare (born in Farnworth near Bolton in 1861 and died in 1898); they had two daughters, Ellen, born in Newchurch, Lancashire in 1888 and Annie, born in Newchurch in 1891 and died in 1891.

He was remarried again in 1899 to Judith Ann Shutt (born in Rawtenstall, Lancashire in 1860 and died in 1933); they had a daughter, May Victoria, born in Newchurch in 1900.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census records the family lived at 8, Wales Terrace, Newchurch. In 1911 William, Judith and May were living at 2, Thornfield, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

John was married on July 29th 1905 at Holy Trinity Church, Tunstead, Lancashire to Jane Ashworth (born Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire in 1879 and died in 1954). They had no children. In 1911 they lived at 36, Brandwood Road, Stacksteads, Lancashire; his occupation was a Slipper Maker. Jane later moved to 83, Chatterton Road, Stubbins, Ramsbottom, Lancashire where she was still living in 1939, recorded as incapacitated.

He served as Private 50291 in the 27th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was killed in action during the Battle of Arras on 28th April 1917, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

John is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Library and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now relocated to Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

There is no evidence of John ever having lived in the Dewsbury area but as his father, stepmother and half-sister lived in Savile Town and attended St. Mary's Church, they must have submitted his name for inclusion on the Cenotaph and Roll of Honour when they were inaugurated in 1923/24. On his Pension Record Card, Jane's address is given as 2, Thornfield, Savile Town so it is possible that she stayed with John's family for at a time, prior to moving back to Lancashire.

In Memory of

Private

John Ferguson

50291, 27th (Tyneside Irish) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 28 April 1917 Age 36

Son of the late William and Agnes Ferguson; husband of Jane Ferguson, of 83, Chatterton Rd., Stubbins, Ramsbottom, Manchester.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

