



John Alexander Adams

1880 - 1916

John was born in Dewsbury on 27th February 1880 and baptised at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury on 6th June that same year. His father was also John Adams, a coach builder born in Coleraine, County Londonderry, Ireland around 1843 and died in 1919. His mother was Ann (née Wood) born in Wigan in 1844 and died in 1924. They were married in Wigan in 1865.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in 1867, Catherine Amelia, born in 1869, Henry (Harry), born in 1871, David, born in 1873 and died in 1873, Ann Elizabeth, born in 1874, Margaret, born in 1876, Robert, born in 1878 and Harriet Ellen, born in 1883 and died in 1883.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Wakefield Road, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 3, Back Barber Street, Eightlands, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 12, Union Street, Dewsbury. In 1911 John is living with them, his status is recorded as married.

John was educated at Dewsbury Parish School and attended the Sunday school and was associated with the Parish Church Football Team. He worked as a card maker and in 1911 as a window cleaner. He was married to Carrie Goddard (born in Germany in 1885 and died in the USA in 1977) in St. Luke's Church, Holbeck, Leeds on 17th August 1907; they had a son, Eric, born in 1907 and died in 1910. The marriage must have broken down, as Carrie emigrated to Canada with her father and two brothers, arriving on 23rd December 1910. She was remarried at Windsor, Ontario, Canada on 23rd January 1917 to an Englishman, Arthur Crowther (born in Hunslet in 1882 and died in 1920) they had a daughter Ethel, born in 1919. They moved across the river to live in Detroit, Michigan, USA. Carrie died there aged 92.

He served as Private 1047 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, as a Territorial he was called up at the outbreak of war and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He died on 15th November 1916 from cardiac arrest following a bout of acute pneumonia. His regiment was not serving in the front line at the time. He was buried in St. Amand British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

St. Amand is a village in the southern part of the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, 17 kilometres east of Doullens. The British Cemetery was begun in April 1916, and used by fighting units and Field Ambulances until August 1918 (though in 1917 it was practically closed) particularly by the 37th and the 56th (London) Divisions. There are now over 200, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified.

John is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished St. Philips Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

J Adams

1047, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 16 November 1916

Husband of C. Adams, of 47, Union St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

St. Amand British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.