

John was born in Batley in 1869. His true birth name was *John Canavan*. His mother was Mary Canavan (nee Haney) born in Galway, Ireland around 1850 and died in 1891. She was married in 1866 to a *Michael Canovan* but nothing more has been discovered about him.

They also had a daughter; Bridget, born in Batley in 1867 (surname recorded as Kanavan).

The family have not been found on the 1871 Census, but in 1881 Mary and her children are living at Ward's Hill, Batley; Bridget is recorded as *Bessie Canavan*. Also living with them is Margaret Martin recorded as mother-in-law, aged 50.

John served 10 days in Wakefield prison in April 1889 for being drunk and riotous. He has not been found on the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census under either of the surnames he used. Bridget Canavan was married in 1891 to a James Broderick; she is named as John's sister and the legatee of his Soldiers Effects.

John worked as a Labourer and upon enlistment in 1915 he gave his address as 3, Bolton Yard, Castle Hall, Stalybridge, Cheshire; he stated that he had previously served in the Manchester Territorials for nearly 8 years, having attested in 1892.

He enlisted in Ashton-under-Lyne on 3rd October 1915 serving as Private 30163 in the Manchester Regiment; his age was given as 41 years and 5 months. He was discharged due to ill health on 18th November 1915 and died from chronic bronchial catarrh and heart failure in the Military Hospital at Ashton-under-Lyne on 25th November 1915; he was buried in Ashton-under-Lyne (Hurst) Cemetery, Lancashire. John did not qualify for any medal awards as he did not serve overseas or in a war zone.

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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church.



