

THE ALLITHWAITE BOYS

THE 11 BOYS WHO WENT TO BATTLE IN WW1 AND NEVER RETURNED.



Pat Rowland 9 Nov 2014

The Allithwaite War Memorial at St. Mary's Church

68 men and boys from Allithwaite went to fight in France and Flanders, the Balkans and Mesopotamia in the years 1914 to 1918. This was out of a population of 523, a whole generation of

people were deeply affected by this war. 10 of those boys never returned to Allithwaite; they are buried overseas in the Commonwealth War Graves; one did return, injured and died of his wounds 20 months later.

Information was found in a variety of locations including newspaper reports, census records, army records, regimental websites, family and memorial websites, Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. Living relatives of the soldiers were contacted or contacted us and shared information and memories.

These are their stories:

Thomas Akister's story (Army number 200442)

The Akister family lived at Beckside, Allithwaite. Father Thomas from Lindale had married Annie Drinkall from Flookburgh in 1893 and they had settled in Allithwaite. Son Thomas, born in 1897, was the eldest son in the large family. His brothers and sisters were Mary (1894), Sarah (1897), Fred (1899), Rebecca (1901), Norman (1903), William (1905) and Robert (1907). Father Thomas was not in employment in the 1901 census and died, aged 43, in 1910. Thomas enlisted in 1915 in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment when he was 18 years old. He fought in France for two years but was killed in action on July 31st 1917 by which time he had been promoted to Lance Corporal. He was buried at Potijze Chateau Grounds Cemetery, Belgium in the part of the cemetery formed after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites and small burial grounds to the north-east. Thomas died on the opening phase of the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as 'Passchendaele' in the vicinity of Potijze in July 1917.

Alfred Huntress Arnold's story (Army number 244679)

Alfred was born in Halifax in 1892 the only son of Charles Coomber Arnold of Holme Leigh, Skircoal, Halifax, a Barrister in the Inner Temple and a wire manufacturer in Halifax and grandson of Sir Alfred Arnold, Member of Parliament for Halifax between 1895 and 1900. His connection to Allithwaite is that his parents had retired to live at Seabarrow on Kentsford Road, Kents Bank in 1902. In 1913 his father died and was buried at Allithwaite. Alfred was educated at Uppingham School, Rutland from May 1906. The 1911 census records that he was a gentlemen cadet at Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own) 2nd Battalion in February 1912 and received promotions in May 1913 and October 1915. He served in Malta and Albania before his regiment was deployed to France. He was a machine gun officer and at the battle for

Neuve Chappelle on 12 March 1915 he was seriously wounded in the shoulder and spine. He was evacuated to England and eventually his home became Lady Wimborne's Auxiliary Hospital at Templeton House, Roehampton, South London as he was paralysed. He died there on 30 December 1916, aged 24, twenty one months after being wounded and was buried at East Sheen Cemetery, Surrey.

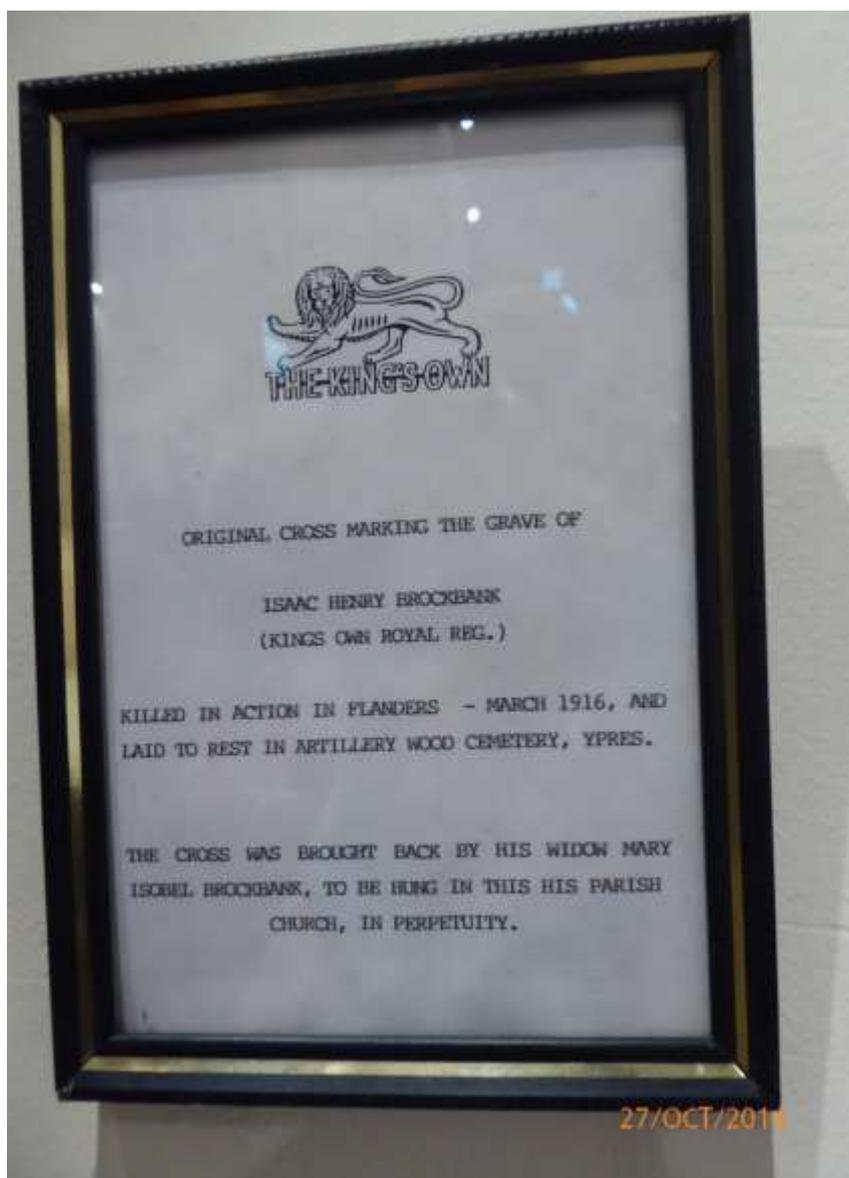
(Some information obtained from the Huntriss family website
<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/huntriss/FH%20Website/FH%20Website/ind137.html>
accessed 8 July 2014)

Isaac Brockbank's story (Army number 3/20384)

Isaac, born in Coniston in 1881, married Mary Isabel Knipe of Allithwaite in 1907 and in 1911 census they lived at Satterthwaite where Isaac was a farm labourer. Their son Jack was born in Satterthwaite in 1909 and daughter Ethel was born in 1912. On 13 August 1915, in Ulverston, he enlisted into the Kings Own (Royal Lancaster regiment) B Company , 8th Battalion. His occupation at home was "carter" and he was described as 5ft 5ins tall and of average build. The Regiment went to France in December 1915, and took part in the Battle at Ypres in March 1916, where Isaac was wounded. His wife was informed but then could not obtain any more information. Finally in May she received official notification that Isaac had been killed on 2 March. Isaac was 35 years old when he died and was eventually buried at Artillery Wood Cemetery, Belgium. He is also named on the Menin Gate. Mary visited the battlefield area in 1922 and brought back the Wooden Cross which had marked Isaac's original grave and subsequently it has been displayed in the Church. He was awarded a 1914-15 Star (after service in France) and War and Victory medals (1920). Mary and her young children lived at Almond Bank, Allithwaite.



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Frank Wood Chadwick's story (no service number recorded)

The 1911 census record John and Lucy Chadwick and their two children at 2 Kentsford Terrace, Kents Bank. They had moved from Salford when John retired as a cotton manufacturer. Their son Frank was born in Salford on 17 June 1892 and their daughter Mary was born in Eccles in 1895. John died aged 60 in 1915. Frank was training to be a surveyor and was employed by Hoggarth Brothers of Kendal when he enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Cold Stream Guards. However when he was killed in action on 29 September 1918 he was a Second Lieutenant in the RAF 59th Squadron. He was 26 years old and engaged to be married. He was shot down while flying as observer/gunner to Captain

Thomas Stuart Symonds DFC. He is buried at Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, France. A choral



memorial service was held at Allithwaite lead by the Rev J W Gilbertson. Frank is commemorated on a brass plaque in Allithwaite Church and is included on Allithwaite Church and Grange War Memorials.

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James Dickinson's story (Army number 35161)

James was the son of Mrs Dickinson of Yew Tree Farm, Allithwaite. This was probably Dorothy Dickinson (or Dickenson as recorded in the 1911 census), fisherwoman of Allithwaite. In 1911 she was a widow who had had 10 children and she lived next door to John and Ann Drinkall. John Dickinson of Allithwaite had married Dorothy Shaw of Flookburgh in 1879. John was a fisherman and he died, aged 53, in 1909. James was their youngest son, born in 1896. His brothers and sisters were Anne born in 1880, John 1882, Sarah 1883, Mary 1885, Elizabeth 1887, Frank 1890, Margaret 1892, Ethel 1898 and Nellie 1903. James enlisted in 1916 when he was a farm labourer at Barn Hey Farm, Allithwaite. He was killed in action on 18th April 1918 aged 22. He died in Salonika where for twelve months before his death he had been fighting. His remains were moved from a battlefield cemetery to Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece after the Armistice. A special, well attended church service was held at Allithwaite in May 1918 following the news of his death.

William Drinkall's story (Army number 22027)

William was born, in 1892, in Allithwaite, the son of John, a fisherman and Ann, who were both born in Flookburgh. John Drinkall had married Annie Dickinson in 1884. Census records list his brothers as Mark (1886), John (1889), Francis (1896), Richard (1900) and a sister Mary (1905) and the family

lived at Yew Tree Cottage in Allithwaite. The 1911 census contains the information that John and Ann had seven children and all were still alive. The 1901 and 1911 census record that father John was a mason's labourer. William was a boot maker, employed by Mr Vickers of Grange when he enlisted at Ulverston, in December 1915, into the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment 6th battalion. The Regiment was posted to Mesopotamia in February 1916 and William was killed in the Battle for Baghdad on 8 March 1917. Baghdad was entered and captured on 11 March 1917. William is commemorated on the Basra Memorial. Until 1997 the Basra Memorial was located on the main quay of the naval dockyard at Maqil, on the west bank of the Shatt-al-Arab River, about 8 kilometres north of Basra (now in southern Iraq between Kuwait and Iran). Because of the sensitivity of the site, the Memorial was moved by presidential decree. The Basra Memorial is now located 32 kilometres along the road to Nasiriyah, in the middle of what was a major battleground during the first Gulf War. William's brothers, John, Francis and Richard also fought in WW1 and they returned home.

Joseph Hibbert's story (Army number 34028)

Joseph, born in 1885, was the son of John and Mary Jane Hibbert of Atherton Road, Hindley Green, Wigan, one of six children. In 1911 census he was living with his wife, Sarah Ellen, whom he had married in 1909, and his eleven year old brother-in-law, Frank Hulme, at Tarn Cottage, Greenodd. He was a musician with the Ship's Orchestra, White Star Line, Liverpool. He enlisted in the Liverpool Regiment in 1915, giving his home address as Allithwaite. Later he was in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He survived two woundings before being killed by a shell on the night of April 19th 1918 aged 32. Capt. A.B. Bratton writing of the corporal's death, *"He had particularly distinguished himself during an attack the previous day. The men in his section had great faith in him. His death was instantaneous. His conduct during and after the attack was magnificent. He would have been strongly recommended for a decoration and promotion had he lived. He was with me a great part of the day of the attack, and I can assure you I feel his loss very deeply."* Joseph's name appears on both the Cartmel Priory and Allithwaite Church War Memorials. He has recently been added to the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

(With thanks to Howard Martin who researched this soldier for the Cartmel Memorial)

John Lambert's story (Army number SE/18844, G/92152, S/43598)

Born in Grange in 1888, he was the son of Lawrence and Mary Lambert. In 1891 the family lived at Kents Bank House where Lawrence was a coachman. In 1901 John was living with

his grandmother Mary and her son Robert Lambert (his father's brother), at Boarbank Farm, Allithwaite. Lawrence and Mary and their 3 children, Robert, Lawrence and Lena, were at 8 Hatton St Broughton, Salford where Lawrence was working as a domestic coachman. In 1911 John and his brother Lawrence were living with his stepmother and her children at 40 Burnley Road, Huncoat, Lancashire. John was an iron worker in a foundry and brother Lawrence was a warehouse boy in a cotton mill. John was initially a private in the Army Veterinary Corps, London Regiment, then the Seaforth Highlanders and died on 13 October 1918 and is buried at St Aubert British Cemetery, France. His record states that his wife F Lambert lived at 25 Carter St Accrington, Lancs. The Accrington War Memorial includes John Lambert and his biography states that he was in the 5th Seaforth Highlanders, formerly 92152 London Regiment. John's name is also on the Accrington Absent voters List 1918.

(This soldier's story was very illusive and nearly defeated us but was finally identified by Pat Casey who responded to a request for information in Grange Now.

(Accrington War Memorial Site <http://www.pals.org.uk/honour/> accessed 9 Sept 2014)

Joseph Edward Martin's story (Army number 1804)

Joseph was born in Flookburgh in 1894. He was the eldest son of John and Sarah Martin, who were living in Allithwaite when their son died. John of Flookburgh had married Sarah Bainbridge of Soulby, Westmorland in Kendal in 1890. John was a labourer and the family lived in many different places. Mary was born in 1891 in Kirkby Stephen; Sarah 1899 in Flookburgh; Annie 1901 in Lindale; Wilfred in 1905 in Cark and Edith in 1908 also in Cark (three other children had died by 1911 census). The 1911 census records Joseph as a cow boy employed by Thomas Henry Philips, at Farthings Hook Farm, Clarbeston Road, Henry's Moat, Pembrokeshire (north of Haverfordwest). He enlisted at Haverfordwest, in late 1914, into the 1st Battalion, Welsh Regiment, attached to the 84th Brigade, 28th Division. Joseph was wounded in Flanders, and evacuated to a French Hospital at Bailleul, where he died of his wounds on 29 August 1915, aged 21. He is buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France. He is recorded on the County Memorial at Haverford West as well as Allithwaite Church War Memorial.

(With thanks to Howard Martin who identified the soldier's records and to Steve John, compiler of the West Wales War Memorial Project, who has granted permission to quote from his site <http://www.wwwmp.co.uk/pembrokeshire/haverfordwest-ww1-memorial/> accessed 8 July 2014)

George Sedgwick's story (Army number 30115)

The Sedgwick family, William and Hannah and their six children, lived at Yew Tree Farm, Cart Lane, Grange-over-Sands. William had married Hannah Watson in 1887. George was their third child and youngest, living son born in 1893. His brothers and sisters were Richard (1888), William (1891), Hannah (Nancy) (1896), John (1903-1912) and Phyllis (1910). Father William was a labourer for the Council in the 1901 census and a farmer in the 1911 census. George had joined the Furness Railway Company and was a railway clerk at Grange Station. Though married I have not been able to verify the name of his wife. He joined the Kings Own (Royal Lancaster regiment) 8th (Service) Battalion, enlisting at Grange, and was a lance corporal leading a lewis gun section when he and his team were killed by a shell on 16 Jun 1917 aged 24. He is commemorated on the memorial at Arras Memorial, France. He is also remembered on the Furness Railway War Memorial at Barrow-in-Furness Station and Grange War Memorial in the Ornamental Gardens.

Robert Thompson's story (Army number 52135)

The Thompson family lived at Laburnum Cottage, Allithwaite. Father John, a stone mason and builder, from Brampton Grange, Westmorland had married Annie Dickinson of Allithwaite in 1898 and Robert, their eldest son, was born in 1899. Robert's brothers and sisters were Olive (1901), Florrie (1903), Percy (1905) and John (1908). He was described as an amicable, quiet lad, and for several years he was organ blower at Allithwaite Church. He was also a member of the Institute. Robert joined the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in October 1917 when he was 18 years old and was sent to France in April 1918. Many of his colleagues were killed and twice he was wounded but he returned to the battlefield where his battalion was merged with survivors from the Northampton Regiment. He received fatal wounds on the 8th August 1918. He was one of the last to be buried at Querrieu British Cemetery, France, which was used by some of the divisions which took part in the defence of Amiens against the German advance. Robert's parents found it difficult to accept and come to terms with the death of their son. They could not acknowledge it and only after their death did the other family members arrange for his name to be added to the Allithwaite Church War Memorial. It was added in 1999.



Allithwaite War memorial in April 1999 before Robert Thompson's name was added

Those who fought and returned are recorded in Allithwaite Church on the Allithwaite Roll of Honour
 1914-1918



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Presentation of the Allithwaite Boys at Allithwaite Church



Alan Jones 4 Nov 2014

A presentation to about 100 people was held in Allithwaite Church on the evening of 4 November when the men's stories were told alongside poetry from Allithwaite schoolchildren and accompanied by slides of the village in the early 20th century, the homes of the soldiers, a photograph of the local schoolchildren in 1903, photographs of battle grounds and military cemeteries. Music and poetry reminiscent of WW1 accompanied the talk which added poignancy to the presentation. It was videoed and photographed and a presentation pack will be produced later this year. The information researched was displayed around the church for a few days upto and including Remembrance Sunday. The display will be put up again in Grange library from 25 May to 25 June 2015. We plan to publish the information in a booklet.

Researched and written by Barbara Copeland, Mervyn and Carole Hull and Pat Rowland.

March 2014-Jan 2015