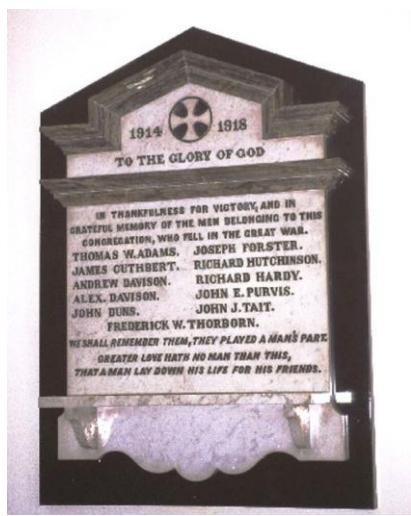


St James Church, Alnwick Stories



Alex Davison was a private in the 1st/4th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. He was born in Alnwick in 1894. He was the son of George and Isabella Davison (Coulter). His father was born in Alnwick, and his mother was born in Warkworth.



In 1901 Alex was living with his parents, brothers Samuel, Ralph, Andrew and George and sisters Margaret, Jane, Dorothy and Ann at Stoney Hills, Alnwick. His father was a farmer and Andrew worked on the farm.

His father died in 1904.

In 1911 Alex was living with his mother, his aunt Jane Coulter, his brothers Ralph, Andrew and George and sisters Margaret, Dorothy and Annie at Hope House, Alnwick. His mother was a cow keeper, and Andrew was a platelayer on the railway.

He enlisted in Alnwick in the York and Lancaster Regiment on 29th November 1915 and was working as a ploughman at the time. He was posted to France on 7th July 1917 and was transferred to the 1st/4th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. In April 1918, the 1st/4th (Hallamshire) Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment (part of 148th Brigade, 49th Division) was heavily involved in defensive actions during the German Spring Offensive. They experienced intense fighting around Neuve Eglise (Nieuwkerke) in Belgium, particularly between April 10th and 15th, with a major rearguard action on

April 11th and further attacks on April 13-15th. Alex died of wounds 19th April 1918 in 54 General Hospital, Aubergue and is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

His brother Andrew was killed on 15th June 1915 and is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

Andrew Davison was a private in the 1st/7th Battalion Northumberland Regiment. He was born in 1885 in Alnwick. He was the son of George and Isabella Davison (Coulter). His father was born in Alnwick, and his mother was born in Warkworth.

In 1901 Andrew was living with his parents, brothers Samuel, Ralph, Alexander and George and sisters Margaret, Jane, Dorothy and Ann at Stoney Hills, Alnwick. His father was a farmer and Andrew worked on the farm.

His father died in 1904.

In 1911 Andrew was living with his mother, his aunt Jane Coulter, his brothers Ralph, Alexander and George and sisters Margaret, Dorothy and Annie at Hope House, Alnwick. His mother was a cow keeper, and Andrew was a platelayer on the railway.

During World War One Andrew enlisted in the 7th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. The battalion sailed from Folkestone aboard the S.S Invicta on 20th April 1915 and arrived at Boulogne. At the end of April, they saw action near Wieltje before heading to Poperinghe in early May. After a period of rest, they moved on to Reggersberg at the end of May.

On 15th June 1915, the 1st/7th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers were heavily involved in the Second Battles of Ypres and were experiencing high casualties, with multiple casualties noted on the Menin Gate Memorial during this period. Andrew was killed on 15th June 1915 near Hooze and is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

His brother Alex died of wounds 19th April 1918 in 54 General Hospital, Aubergue and is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

Frederick William Thorborn was a private in the 2nd Garrison Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (transferred to 64th Company Labour Corps). He was born in Newtown, Northumberland in 1882 and was baptised on 27th April 1881 in Alnwick. He was the son of Margaret Thorborn. His mother was born in Abberwick, Northumberland.

In 1891 Frederick was living with his mother, his grandparents Luke and Mary Thorborn and brother Luke at Woodman's Cottage, Abberwick.

In 1901 Frederick was living with his mother and brother Luke in Abberwick.

In 1911 Frederick was living with his mother at Humble Heugh, Alnwick. He was an under gamekeeper.

He married Marjorie Gibson of Fenwick Steads, Belford, Northumberland on 11th July 1913

He enlisted in the 4th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment on 13th June 1916 and was transferred to the 2nd Garrison Battalion Yorkshire Regiment on 2nd September 1916. He joined the Labour Corps on 22nd May 1917 and was posted to the Western Front on 20th June 1917. On 7th September 1917, the 64th Company of the Labour Corps was active on the Western Front, having been formed earlier in 1917 from formerly infantry-based labour units. They were heavily engaged in support tasks behind the lines, including repairing roads, railway construction, clearing debris, and handling ammunition. This work could be dangerous, and it did indeed lead to Frederick losing his life on 7th September 1917. He is buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery.

James Cuthbert was a private in the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment. He was born in Wooler, Northumberland in 1881. He was the son of James and Alice Cuthbert (Tait). His father was born in Acklington, Northumberland and his mother was born in Kirknewton, Northumberland.

In 1901 James was living with his parents, brother David and sisters Jane and Alice at Newham Hall, Northumberland. Both James and his father were working on a farm.

In 1911 James was living in East Whitby, Ontario, Canada and was working as a labourer.

His father died in 1913.

James enlisted in the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment in Alnwick, Northumberland.

On 20th April 1918, the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, was in the Loos sector near Givenchy, France, fighting as part of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. The battalion participated in a targeted attack to regain high ground northwest of Givenchy, specifically near the Red Dragon Crater, while supporting the 55th Division during the German spring offensive. James was killed in action on 20th April 1918 and is remembered on the Loos Memorial. His mother was living at Hawdon Grange, Alnwick, Northumberland.

John Duns was a private in the 14th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was born in 1895 in Alnwick, Northumberland. He was the son of James and Elizabeth Duns (young), of Bailiffgate, Alnwick, Northumberland. Both his parents were born in Northumberland.

In 1911 John was living with his parents and sisters Elizabeth and Lily at 18 Bailiffgate, Alnwick. His father was a fishing rod builder and John was an ironmonger's apprentice.

John enlisted on 31st August 1914 in Darlington in the 11th Reserve Cavalry Regiment. At the time he was working as an asylum attendant. On the 30th November 1914 he transferred to the 14th Battalion Durham Light Infantry which had been formed in Newcastle in September 1914 and was sent to France on 8th October 1915. By the end of November the battalion were defending Potije and endured a gas attack near Wieltje. John was killed in action on 21st April 1916 and is buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

John James Tait was a private in the 1st/7th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He was born in Rock, Alnwick, Northumberland in 1893. He was the son of George and Jane Tait. His mother was born in Hagg Carham, Northumberland.

His father died in 1898.

In 1901 John was living with his mother, his brothers Thomas, Andrew, George and William and sister Mary at Rock, Alnwick.

In 1911 John was living with his mother, his brothers Thomas, Andrew and William and sister Phillis at Rock, Alnwick. John was a ploughman on a farm.

John (known as Jock) was a prominent member of the rifle and cricket clubs in Rock.

John E Purvis was a private in the 1st/8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was born in 1885. He was the son of John and Eleanor Purvis.

He married Ethel Orde Rennison in April 1909 in Alnwick.

On 26th April 1915, the 1st/8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry (DLI) suffered devastating casualties during their first major action at the Second Battle of Ypres (Battle of St. Julien), having landed in France just days prior on April 17-19. As part of the 151st Brigade, 50th (Northumbrian) Division,

they faced heavy shelling and gas, with reports suggesting over 500 casualties among officers and men during this period.

John enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers and was posted to the 7th Battalion at the beginning of the First World War. On 15th September 1916, the 1st/7th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, part of the 149th Brigade, played a significant role in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. They attacked and took the central section of Hook Trench and pushed toward the Starfish Line. The battalion suffered heavy casualties, including many missing and killed. John was one of those killed on 15th September 1916. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Joseph Forster was a private in the 22nd (Service) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He was born on 21st January 1879 in Alnwick; Northumberland and he was baptised on 21st February 1879 in Alnwick. He was the son of Joseph and Mary Ann Forster (Common). His father was a gardener, and both his parents were born in Alnwick.

He was educated at the County Council School, Alnwick.

In January 1906 Joseph married Martha Annie Mills at St James Presbyterian Church Alnwick. They had three children: Mary (born 2nd August 1906); Grace (born 8th September 1908); and Isabella (born 16th October 1910).

Joseph's mother died in 1899, and his father died in 1914.

In 1911 Joseph and his wife Martha and their three daughters Mary, Grace and Isabella were living at Abbey Lands, Alnwick. Joseph was working as a plumber's labourer.

Joseph enlisted at Alnwick, Northumberland, having volunteered for active service & joined the 7th Northumberland Fusiliers, on 13th August 1915. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France & Flanders and was wounded during operations on the Somme (15th September 1916), & invalided home. He returned to France in May 1917, when he transferred to the 22nd Battalion of his Regiment. He was taken prisoner near Bullecourt, 21st March 1918, and died, a prisoner of war, at Le Quesnoy, on 15th September 1918, following a cardiac arrest. He is buried in Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery.

Richard Hardy was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Engineers (3rd Indian Army Signal Company).



He was born in 1893 in Bamburgh, Northumberland. He was the son of Thomas and Catherine Hardy. His father was born in Ancroft, Northumberland and his mother was born in Chatton, Northumberland.

In 1911 Richard was living with his parents, brother William and sister Mary Ann at Rugley Farm, Alnwick. His father was a farm labourer, and Richard was a horseman on a farm.

Richard enlisted in the Royal Engineers in Alnwick in January 1915 as a driver. On 24th January 1916 he was appointed Lance Corporal and on 21st December 1916 he embarked for Mesopotamia. Richard would die of heatstroke at No.23 British Stationary hospital on 16th July 1917, having initially been suspected of having malaria, in Mesopotamia and is buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery Part I.

Richard Keay Hutchinson was a Lance Corporal in the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He was born in Alnwick, Northumberland. He was the son of John Hutchinson

On 26th September 1917, 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers fought in Belgium during the Battle of Polygon Wood, part of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Operating under the 9th Brigade, 3rd Division, the battalion faced heavy fighting advancing near Zonnebeke. Richard was killed in action on 26th September 1917 and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

His father was living at 637 Alexandra Parade, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

Thomas William Adams was a private in the 6th Battalion Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. He was born in Glanton, Northumberland in October 1894. He was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Adams. His father was born in Ireland, and his mother was born in Northumberland.

In 1901 Thomas was living with his parents and brothers Richard and George at Howick Street, Alnwick. His father was a shepherd.

In 1911 Thomas was living with his parents and brothers Richard and George at Gills Lane, Alnwick. His father was a fireman in gardens and Thomas was a baker's apprentice.

He enlisted in Aldershot in the R.A.S.C (S/4/093864) but was transferred to the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. On 10th July 1915 the 6th Battalion landed in Boulogne, France. In September 1915 they took part in the Battle of Loos

On 9th September 1917, the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders recorded salvage operations recovering 60 Livens projectors (chemical/mortar projection hardware) during a relatively quiet operational phase on the Western Front. Thomas died of wounds on 9th September 1917 and is buried in Level Crossing Cemetery, FamPoux. It is possible he was wounded during the Third Battle of Ypres.