Frank Clayton





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 318906

Regiment: - Canadian Artillery Pool attd. 4th Canadian Division Mechanical Transport Company

Died of peritonitis: - 29th December 1918 aged 31 years

Cemetery: - Charleroi Communal Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium Q.13

Batley News, 10 Jan 1919 (classifieds). Batley Reporter, 17 Jan 1919 (photo). Dewsbury Reporter, 11 Jan 1919 (photo)

Family Details

Frank was born in Batley Carr in c.1887 the eldest child of Robert and Alice Clayton (nee Wilcock), who were married at Thornhill, St. Michael and All Saints on 22nd February 1887. Robert was a 27-year-old general dealer at the time of their marriage. Alice was born at the "Alma Beerhouse", Thornhill.

Emma Annie was born in 1888 followed by Minnie 1890, Henry 1894, Ellen 1895, Percy 1901, Gladys 1903, Ivy 1904, Ida 1906 and Norman 1907.

In 1901 the family was living at 2, Dale Street, Batley Carr and the census shows that Minnie had a diseased spinal problem.

The 1911 census shows that Alice had three more children who had died in infancy. Percy worked with his father selling glass, china and hardware in a van. Robert died on 27th August 1918 at Blackpool. His effects were £1,681.

On 6th April 1912 Frank married Ida Lister at St. Philip the Apostle Mission Church, Dewsbury.

The couple went to Ontario in 1912 where Frank became a farmer in Ontario but he decided to enlist and return to Europe in 1916 to fight for the old country. He called at home in Batley Carr before going to France.

Frank was intensively interested in art and painting. It was reported that he spent hundreds of hours sketching in black and white and also painting in colours, he painted in the officers' mess whilst in France.

Service Details

The 4th Canadian Division came to Europe in April 1916 and fought at the battles of Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras and Cambrai.

He returned home for a brief visit in October 1918 and was lucky that he was never injured during the fighting.

His mother received a letter from him around Christmas and he was well on Christmas Eve.

On Sunday 5th January Mrs. Clayton received two letters from the chaplain at 35th Clearing Station the first saying he had been admitted to hospital, the second saying he had passed away. On the following Wednesday she received official confirmation from the Canadian Record Office, Old Bailey, London of his

death saying he had died of peritonitis on December 29th 1918. His mother still lived at 2, Dale Street, Batley Carr.

His wife Ida married William Canton Wadsworth in Manchester on 6th October 1920 giving her address as Acacius, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury and her father's occupation as a gentleman. They later went to live at 79. Erdington Road, Blackpool.

Frank is remembered with Honour at Charleroi Communal Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium, Batley Carr Wesleyan Chapel and Batley War Memorial

Researched by members of
Batley History Group

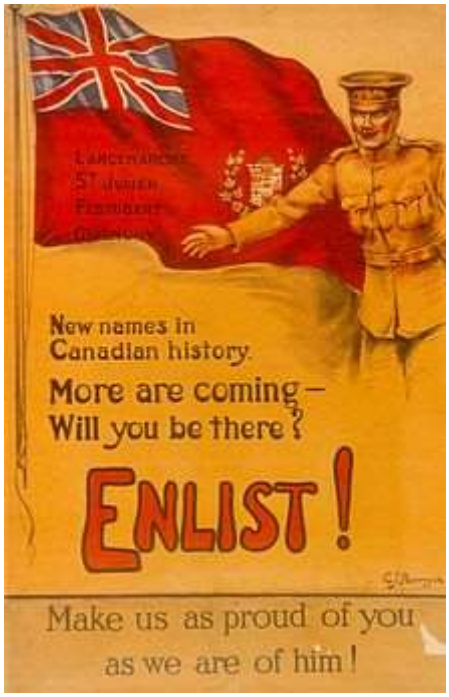



Photo courtesy of Batley Archives.