

WIGAN CRICKET CLUB WAR MEMORIAL

On the 30th June 1920, the then Mayor, Councillor James Walkden, unveiled in the old club pavilion a memorial to the heroes of the Great War, who were connected with Wigan Cricket Club.

As time has past, memories of these soldiers has gradually faded.

Last year, 2018, the memorial was refurbished with Brighter Borough Funding from Councillors George Davies, Lol Hunt and Michael McLoughlin.

Through our on-going history project we have provided a photo and brief description of the, life and death, of each of our old members.

Hopefully we have rekindled our memories and understanding of the ultimate sacrifice of the old members of Wigan Cricket Club.

To fully complete the project we would welcome a photo of 2nd Lieutenant Thomas O'Donahue, would anyone have a photo?



LIEUTENANT CYRIL AINSCOUGH



Manchester Regiment 5th Battalion
Lived at Fairhurst Hall, Parbold
Educated at Ampleforth College, Yorkshire
Worked for H&R Ainscough, millers, of Burscough
Top order batsman for both Wigan & Ormskirk CC
Wounded on 3 separate occasions
Killed in action - 7th August 1915 - Age 22
Only returned to the Dardanelles from Alexandria
10 days before his death.
Buried at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM ARMSTRONG



Canadian Expeditionary Force/ Canadian Infantry 78th
Battalion (Manitoba Regiment)
Son of John & Jane Armstrong
Parents Lived at Gidlow Lane
Previously worked at William Deacon's Bank before
moving to Canada.
Keen sportsman for Wigan CC & football for Wigan
Grammar School Old Boys.
Killed in action - 8th August 1918 - Age 37
His widow, Norah, and child were awaiting his return to
Canada, after which it was intended they would again
make their home in England
Buried at Caix British Cemetery

CAPTAIN FREDERICK STAWELL BRYAN



Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge Own)
15th Batt, att 21st Batt
Lived at Bell House, Hall Lane, Hindley.
Educated at Dover College.
Solicitor in practice with his father, Bryan & Bryan.
Solid middle order batsman for Wigan CC, also
member of Hindley Golf Club.
In May 1917 awarded the Military Cross.
Killed in action - 23rd November 1917 - Age 34.
Double bereavement for his father, his only son
and his wife, died within days of each other.
Buried at Cambrai Memorial, Louverval.

2nd Lieutenant Alfred Lord Clarke



Lancashire Fusiliers, 3rd Batt, att 2/6th Batt
Lived at "Stoneleigh" Swinley Road, Wigan
Son of Alfred & Sarah
Killed in action - 27th March 1918 - Age 20, 2nd Battle of
The Somme
Buried at Poziere Memorial, Somme

Captain William GE Johnson



Manchester Regiment 5th Batt

Lived with his mother at "Rokeby" Ellesmere Park, Eccles.
2nd son of the late Mr A E Johnson JP, CC of Bickershaw Hall, Bickershaw, mining engineer, and managing director of the Abram Coal Company.

Educated at Park Gate School and Haileybury College.

Atitced to Peace and Ellis, well known Wigan solicitors.

Killed in action - 13th October 1917, Age 24.

Served with the 5th Batt from the start of hostilities, went through the Dardanelles campaign, along with a younger brother, he was wounded on the Gallipoli Peninsula in June 1915.

His two brothers, Henry (King's Royal Rifles) and Pieter (Royal Flying Corps) were also killed in action.

Buried at Zuydcoote Military Cemetery, France.

2nd Lieutenant John "Jack" Laithwaite



Manchester Regiment 20th Battalion

Lived at De Trafford House in Ince

Educated at Hindley & Abram Grammar School & Denstone College

Wicketkeeper Batsman

Worked for the Wigan Coal & Iron Co. (Mining Dept)

Killed in action - 22nd February 1916 - Age 22

"Within the last fortnight he had leave from the trenches and spent some time with his parents"

Buried at Meaulte Military Cemetery (Somme)

2nd Lieutenant Thomas O'Donahue



Manchester Regiment 2/9th Batt
Lived at Poplars, Wigan Lane, Wigan
2nd son of Alderman James O'Donahue, JP
Educated at Wigan Grammar School & Manchester University.
Joined the Manchester University Officer Training and gained his commission
Killed in action - 20th April 1917 - Age 19.
At the time of Thomas' death his brother Jack, a lieutenant was in hospital in Malta.
Buried at Gorre British & Indian Cemetery, Bethune, Pas de Calais

SGT JOHN WILLIAM ROOCROFT



Royal Army Medical Corps, 46th Field Ambulance
Son of John and Mary, husband of Sarah
Lived at 5 Swinley Lane
Killed in action - 24 July 1918 - Age 33.
Buried at Vauxbuin French National Cemetery

CAPTAIN FREDERICK SEDDON BROWN



Manchester Regiment 5th Batt

Lived at Mere Oaks, Boars Head, Wigan

Educated at Bowden College, near Manchester

Partner at Messrs Reynolds & Gibson, Cotton Merchants of Manchester & Liverpool

Useful bowler and sound batsman for WCC.

Killed in action - 26th May 1915, Age 31 - Dardanelles

Buried at the Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Gallipoli

Brothers, 2nd Lieutenant Colin Brown, 5th Batt,

Lieutenant-Colonel Brown, 5th Batt also serving in the Dardanelles at the time of Frederick's death.

His sister Evelyn Brown was commandant of the Red Cross Hospital, The Beeches, Standish.