

Private George Leslie Graham

Pte. George Leslie Graham, son of **William John Wesley Graham** and **Isabella Condie**, was born on 7 Jul 1892 in Beachburg, Renfrew, Ontario. His father, a harness maker, was born in Osceola and his mother was born in Beachburg. They lived in Westmeath Twp. George's mother's first husband Robert Eggleston, died two weeks before his half-sister Clara was born. He had 2 other sisters and 2 brothers, both of whom served in WWI. His cousin Olive was also adopted into their home when her mother died after childbirth. Olive's father & George's mother were siblings.¹

George Graham enlisted on 15 Sep 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec. He stated his occupation was surveyor. He was 21 years, 2 months and was described as 5' 6 1/2" tall, weighing 150 lbs, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.² He served with Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). During his service he was promoted to L/Cpl and then Cpl in



Not many residents of Renfrew county have given more liberally to the Empire and to the cause for which the Entente Allies are fighting than Mr. W. J. Graham of Beachburg, whose three stalwart sons are pictured herewith. The central figure, Sergt. Robert S. Graham of the 16th Canadian Scottish, who went over in the first contingent, has been twice wounded. He was home on sick leave last fall, but is now back again at the front. A week or so ago notification was received that Private W. S. Graham, of the 57th Canadian Grenadier Guards, had been wounded, with gunshot in the left leg. The other brother, Private Geo. L. Graham, of the Strathcona Horse, except for a few minor injuries, has escaped so far. He has been in the war since the beginning, and was recently recommended for a commission for bravery in charges at Vimy Ridge; taking part in the winning of the victories there, which will go down in history as among the greatest achievements of the war. On another page will be found some extracts from his letters describing the fighting.

Image 2: Graham boys service³

1915, however in Oct 1916 he reverted back to Private at his request.² A newspaper article in The Renfrew Mercury, dated May 11, 1917 talks about the three Graham brothers' service.³

The circumstances of death register states: *During an attack by his Regiment on Dec 1, 1917, he was severely wounded by enemy machine gun fire and as a result died the following day at No. 5 Casualty Clearing Station where he had been conveyed.*⁴

Pte. George Leslie died on 2 Dec 1917 in Cambrai, France aged 25, and was buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery at Tincourt-Boucly, Picardie, France.^{5,6}

BROTHER OF MRS. P. M. LYTTLE DIES AT FRONT

Mrs. P. M. Lyttle, 22 Queen street east, received word last evening that her brother, Private George L. Graham, of the Strathcona Horse, had died of wounds on December 2, after having served almost three years on the battlefields of France and Flanders. He was the son of Mr. W. J. Graham, of Beachburg, Ont. William S. Graham, a brother, is in a convalescent home in England, having been seriously wounded in the battle of Vimy Ridge. Another brother, Sergeant R. Graham, who was twice wounded and was for several months in England, has returned to France.

His sacrifice is also commemorated on the Beachburg¹¹ and Westmeath War Memorial.¹⁰

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Image 3: Death Notice⁷

Sources:

1. Bennett, Fay E., Faysgenealogy.com.
www.faysgenealogy.com : family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
2. "Personnel Records of the First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. Library and Archives Canada. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=426212>
3. "Three Beachburg Brothers are Wounded", newspaper clipping, The Renfrew Mercury, May 11, 1917 provided by Julie Truelove.
4. "Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. *Image 4: Westmeath War Memorial¹⁰*
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=84775> go to 293 of 938
5. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial: Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)." Database. Veterans Affairs Canada. www.veterans.gc.ca/eng. <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/255575?George%20Leslie%20Graham>
6. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission." Database. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/255575/GEORGE%20LESLIE%20GRAHAM/>
7. "Brother of Mrs. P. M. Lyttle Dies at Front", newspaper clipping, The Sault Star, Dec 12, 1917 p. 1
8. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=246&book=1&sort=pageAsc>
9. Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56572262/george-leslie-graham>
10. Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett
11. Photograph of The Beachburg War Memorial, photographed by Fay Bennett

