# WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

## **Private James Dickson**

**Pte. James Dickson**, son of **William Dickson** and **Elizabeth Ann Davidson**, was born on September 27, 1892 in Pembroke Twp., Ontario. William and Elizabeth Ann were both born in Westmeath Twp., and farmed there until about the time of the birth of James at which time they were living in Stafford Twp. James was the 9<sup>th</sup> of at least 10 children with 5 living sisters and 1 living brother.<sup>1</sup>

James enlisted on Nov 22, 1915 at Pembroke, Ontario. He listed his occupation as farmer. He was 23 years, 3 months old. He was described as 5' 10" tall, weighing 150 lbs., and had a dark complexion, brown eyes, and black hair. Pte. James Dickson arrived in England on May 4, 1916 served with the 87th Battalion, Canadian Grenadier Guards.<sup>2</sup> The battalion received training from an officer and four drill sergeants from the British Grenadier Guards during their stay in England.<sup>3</sup> They embarked for France on August 11, 1916 with a total strength of 1,090 all ranks.<sup>2,3</sup>

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Image 1: Pte. James Dickson<sup>4</sup>

In the Battle of Somme, on November 18, 1916, the 87th Battalion was assigned to capture a section of Desire Trench, as well as its support systems. The attack was launched from Regina Trench which they had secured. The attack succeeded well beyond expectations<sup>3</sup> however Pte. James Dickson died that day. The Circumstances of Death Register stated:

"Previously reported missing, believed killed, now for official purposes presumed to have died" attack on Desire Trench, Courcelette" 5

Pte. James Dickson was killed in action however his body was never recovered. His sacrifice is commemorated at the Vimy Memorial, Vimy Ridge, Pas de Calais, France. He is also honored on the Greenwood Methodist Church Memorial Tablet.

#### UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL TABLET

"Greater love hath no mar lay down his life for his friends." With this thought in view the Methodist Church at Greenwood was packed on Sunday evening, Sept. 19th, when a Memorial Service was held to the Memory of five heroes who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. A beautiful Memorial Tablet had been erected in the Church and on Sunday evening reverence was paid to the sacred memory of these five heroes. With Rev. Chas. B. McLauchlan as chairman the evening service opened with the singing of the National Anthem. This was followed by devotional exercises. Mrs. Seabrook rendered a beautiful solo aud an eloquent address was delivered by Rev. E. D. Mitchell of Cobden. A quartette preceeded addresses by Col. Irving and Sen. White. These were listened to with intense interest. Col. Mackie performed the ceremouy of unveiling the tablet on which were inscribed the names:

James Paterson, Somme 1916.
S. James Paterson, Somme, 1917. W. A. Ferrier, Hill 60, 1918.
Frank Sutton, Cambrai, 1918.
While the congregation stood in reverence the bugler sounded "Last Post." It was a most impressive ceremony and will long be remembered by the Greenwood Community by the great sacrifice they had made in the Great War.

Image 2: Memorial Tablet Unveiling<sup>7</sup>

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