

WW I Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private Willis Howard

Willis HOWARD, son of **George HOWARD** and **Elizabeth WATCHORN**, was born on 4 Nov 1887 in Westmeath Twp., Ontario. His father was born in Carleton County and his mother in Lanark County. They farmed in Westmeath Twp. George Howard had been previously married to Jemima Bromley of Westmeath Twp. There were 3 known children from that marriage. Jemima died in 1880. He married Elizabeth Watchorn in 1882 and there were 4 known children to this marriage. Of the 7 children, Willis was the second youngest. His father died in 1899 when Willis was 11 years old. His mother married William Crawford in 1904. He died in 1928. Elizabeth then married Charles Price in 1936.¹

Willis Howard enlisted on 23 Aug 1915 at Edmonton, Alberta. He was 27 yrs., 8 mos., old and 5' 8 ½ " tall, weighing 158 lbs. He was described as having a fair complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. He listed his religion as Christian Scientist and his occupation was salesman. Pte. Howard transferred from 51st Battalion to the 66th Battalion on Sept 1, 1915. He sailed from Halifax on S.S.Olympic on April 20, 1916 and embarked for France with 8th Battalion on Jun 28, 1916.² Just over 2 months after setting foot in France, he was killed in action on 8 Sep 1916.^{2,3,4,5} The circumstances of casualty states:

"Killed in Action"

He was killed by enemy shell fire in 'Sugar Trench' between Mouquet Farm and Courcelette.³

There is no grave site. Pte. Willis Howard's name is memorialized on the Vimy Memorial^{4,5}. He is also remembered on the Beachburg and Westmeath War Memorials^{7,8}. His estate was left to his brother, Allan A. Howard, Bruce P.O., Alberta.²



Image 1: Westmeath War Memorial⁷



Image 2: Beachburg War Memorial⁸

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In Memory Of

Private

WILLIS HOWARD

Service Number: 101181

8th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 08 September 1916 Age 28

Son of the late George Howard and of Eliza Howard (now Mrs. Crawford), of Cobden, Ontario. Born at Westmeath, Ontario.

Remembered with Honour

VIMY MEMORIAL



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Image 3: CWCG Certificate⁵

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Sources:

1. Bennett, F. (2022). *Faysgenealogy.com*. www.faysgenealogy.com. family history database & images; 2001-present. Cobden, ON. (Original sources noted in database)
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3. "Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War." Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. Digital images. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/circumstances-death-registers/Pages/item.aspx?PageID=8397> go to 465 of 1226.
4. 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/1569445>
5. CWGC. "Private Willis Howard, War Casualty Details #101181, CWGC. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1569445/willis-howard/> Accessed Jan 12, 2023.
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7. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial*. Westmeath, Ontario. November 2022.
8. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Beachburg War Memorial*. Beachburg, Ontario. November 2022.
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