

The Gargunnock Fallen The Great War 1914-1918

(from Gargunnock, Parish, Village and Guest House by Ian McCallum)

Corporal John McNeill, was born in 1897 in Gargunnock. The son of Dougal and Jessie McNeill of the Gardens, Gargunnock. John was serving with 11th Battalion The Royal Scots, when he was killed in action near Ypres, Belgium, on the 12 October 1917, aged 20. He is buried in the military cemetery at Poelcappell, 10km north east of Belgium.

Private John More, was born in 1898 in Gargunnock. The son of John and Minnie More of Burnside, Gargunnock. John enlisted in Falkirk and was serving with the 13th Battalion The Royal Scots, when he was killed in action near Loos on 11th May 1916, aged 18. He is buried at Duds Corner Military Cemetery, near Loos, France.

Private Robert Clark was born in Gargunnock in 1889. The son of George and Annie Clark of Bridge Haugh, Stirling. Robert enlisted in Dunblane and was serving with the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, when he died of wounds in a British field hospital in St Omar, on 27th May 1916, aged 27. He is buried at Longuenesse Military Cemetery, near St Omar, Pas de Calais, France.

Private Andrew Law, born in 1895 in Gargunnock. The son of George and Isabella Law of the Station House, Westfield, Linlithgow. Andrew was serving with the 9th Battalion The Black Watch and was killed in action at the battle of Loos, on Saturday 25th September 1915, aged 20. He is buried at Philosophe in the British Military Cemetery, near Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France.

Lance Corporal John Craik was born in 1894 in Gargunnock. The son of James and Margaret Craik of Gargunnock. John enlisted in August 1915 and was serving with the 11th Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, when he was killed in action on 23rd April 1917, near Arras, aged 23. John was a gamekeeper in Gartshore prior to the outbreak of war, and was a renowned marksman. At the time of his death, he had two brothers still serving with the army in France. He is buried at the Arras Memorial at Pas de Calais, France. Six months later the Craik family lost a second son.

Private Robert Craik, was born in Gargunnock in 1886. He was serving with the 1/7th Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, when he was killed on the 14th October 1917. Robert was hit on the back by shrapnel from an exploding shell, during a heavy enemy bombardment. He was 31years of age and before

the war he was employed with his father in the family basket making business in Gargunnock. He is buried in Guemappe British Cemetery, Wancourt, Pas de Calais.

Private Robert Watson Tait, resident of Gargunnock he was born in 1889. The son of John and Elizabeth Tait of Waterside House, Callander, Perthshire. Robert was serving with 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) when he was killed in action on Tuesday 29 August 1916, on the Somme, aged 27. He has no known grave, his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial.

Sergeant William Baker, resident of Gargunnock, he was serving with the 11th Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, when he died of wounds on Thursday 2nd August 1917.

The son of Edward Gustavus and Francis Baker of Glasgow, William was aged 38 when he succumbed to his wounds in No 23 Casualty Clearing Station, in Belgium. Sergeant Baker was an ex regular soldier who had served 18 years with the colours, having first joined as a 14 year old boy. He fought in the South African campaign and held the Queen's medal with four bars and the King's medal with two bars.

Sergeant Baker's father was also a regular soldier serving as a Quarter Master Sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. William Baker left a young son orphaned having lost his wife the previous year. Sergeant Baker is buried at the Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Leper, Belgium.

Private James Don was born at Meiklewood, son of Mr John Don, butler at Meiklewood and Mrs Margaret Don. James was killed in action on the 11th September 1916, aged 24. James was serving with the 1/7th Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He is buried in Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, France.

Almost exactly one year later this family lost a second son. **Private Alexander Don**, died of wounds on Saturday 15 September 1917, aged 29. Alexander was serving with the 16th Bn The Royal Scots.

A watchmaker in civilian life, he had only recently returned to the front line, having been previously invalided home with trench foot. He is buried in Tincourt Cemetery, Somme, France. This family sent four sons to the front, James, William, Connal and Alexander.