

RICHARD MEANLEY ANSON (1892-1916)

A Victim of World War One who had Stonnall Connections



Richard Meanley Anson, wearing the uniform of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, British Columbia Regiment, in 1915 or 1916.

This part of our family story is about the short life of Richard Meanley Anson (1892-1916), a Rushall boy who became one of the millions to lose his life all too prematurely in World War One; but it begins in the Walsall suburb of Pleck, just a few yards from where the M6 runs today, and across the road from where the old Walsall football stadium Fellows Park once stood. Here, at 1 Hough Place, was the tiny house of Dorothy Nellie James (1889-1985), who was the oldest living relative that we knew on our father's side when I was a youngster in the 1950s and 60s. She was the youngest of the nine children of Charles and Sarah James; Sarah Asenath Anson (née James), Richard Meanley Anson's mother, was the oldest of the nine.



Charles and Sarah James with their family in Vicarage Road, Walsall, early 1894. I believe Richard Meanley Anson is the baby on the right: his mother Sarah Asenath Anson (née James) is holding him, with his father Richard Anson standing behind. It was quite normal at this time to dress baby boys in girls' clothes. At Charles James's feet is Dorothy James, his youngest child, aged 5.

We knew Dorothy James as 'Big Aunt Doll', to distinguish her from 'Little Aunt Doll', our mother's diminutive elder sister. Dorothy was a retired teacher, a stern upright spinster, and a devout Christian like her father Charles – he worked as a colliery carpenter and was originally from Minsterley in Shropshire, moving to Walsall for work in the mid-nineteenth century, probably at the Park Lime Pits, with the family living in Lichfield Road, Rushall, for some years before moving to Vicarage Walk, Walsall. At quite a young age Dorothy changed her religious affiliations from Church of England to Baptist, influenced partly by her sister-in-law Daisy and partly by the close proximity of the Baptist Church to the house in Vicarage Walk.

We visited Dorothy regularly in her later years in Hough Place, mainly out of family loyalty rather than enjoyment, as the conversation centred largely around health problems - hers - with occasional sorties into religion. We paid less attention than perhaps we should have done, but now I recall that three men also featured in her conversation from time to time.

First, of course, there was her own father whom she always described as 'a wonderful man'. Then there was my father, Richard Anson Burton, the son of Garnet and Edna Burton – Edna was Richard Meanley Anson's younger sister and therefore Dorothy's niece, though the two were more like sisters because of the small age difference. In Dorothy's eyes, and much to our amusement, our father could do no wrong. We were able to use this to our advantage, to make sure our visits to Hough Place were never too drawn out. We promised, or rather threatened, our father that if he couldn't think of an excuse to leave after an hour or so, we would eventually tell Aunt Doll a grim secret: many years earlier, before getting the bus home to Stonnall from Queen Mary's School he would sometimes call to see her in Vicarage Walk. She would then cook dinner for him and leave him in the room, with his dinner, his homework – and the dog. She perhaps wondered, when our father eventually left for home,

why the dog appeared so pleased with itself! Luckily for our father, she was never to learn the truth.

The final man in Dorothy's conversation was Richard Meanley Anson himself, the subject of this piece, whom she referred to as 'Dickie', and who, being just 3 years younger than her, was more like a younger brother than a nephew. 'He would have made a wonderful minister,' I remember her saying once. It was only much later that I learned that Richard Anson had actually taken the first steps to becoming a reaper of souls in preference to crops. Dorothy had clearly hoped that he would replace her father as the religious figurehead in the family. But that was not to be, and a few years after his death in 1916, the religious mantle, together with Richard's name, was passed on to my father, whose early life in Stonnall centred largely around church activities; and from my father it eventually passed to me, particularly when I decided to study for a degree in theology.

Sadly, however, Dorothy's aspirations for me, too, were not fulfilled, theology and religion not being synonymous, though at least she was pleased for me to make my career in teaching, as she herself had done.

Interestingly, I never remember Dorothy speaking about her eldest sister Sarah Asenath, Richard and Edna's mother. I wonder if this was because Sarah was much more independent – when she was 25 she married into the Anson family of Rushall, and for much of her married life she helped to run the Daw End Farm in Rushall as both a farm and – heaven forbid! – as the Manor Arms public house where canal travellers could stop for refreshment.



Sarah Asenath Anson feeds the chickens at Daw End Farm, Rushall, c.1900.

When Sarah and Richard Anson had their first child, a son, on 4th October 1892 at Daw End Farm, he was given his father's name Richard followed by his grandmother's maiden name Meanley. In his early years the young Richard probably went to Daw End Primary School, with his brothers and sisters, Edna, Eric and Bernard, and worshipped at St Michael's Parish Church, Rushall. At home he was generally known as Dick or Dickie, not Richard.

The Ansons had lived and farmed in Rushall for several generations, and life must have been quite comfortable for them because, according to the 1911 census, the family lived in a nine-roomed house, together with a servant Annie Harper who was about the same age as Richard. In that census return Richard, at the age of 18, is described as a farmer, working for his father; and (according to his later military registration papers) he was 5ft 8½in. tall, with brown hair and blue eyes.

As a youngster he had a passion for religion and poetry, and judging by the books he received from his mother as birthday presents he was certainly encouraged in these pursuits. Tellingly, perhaps, most of the poetry books which have been handed down to us are inscribed 'from Mother', seldom including his father.

In early 1914, at the age of 21, Richard decided to emigrate to Canada; we can only speculate on the reasons for this, and whether it was a long-held aspiration or a spur-of-the-moment decision. There is a suggestion, though, handed down through the generations, that against the family's wishes Richard wished to enter the Christian ministry. No doubt he was expected, as the eldest son, to one day take over control of the farm in Rushall from his father; so he might well have gone to Canada ostensibly to gain farming experience there, but with the real intention of training as a minister away from family pressures. Whatever his reasons for going to Canada, however, he could never have foreseen that this decision was to cost him his life within 3 years.

Richard left Avonmouth, Bristol, aboard the SS Royal George on 17th June 1914, bound for Quebec & Montreal. Probably before he reached his destination the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, one of the main events leading up to the outbreak of World War One less than 2 months later, had taken place.

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P.M. 21.

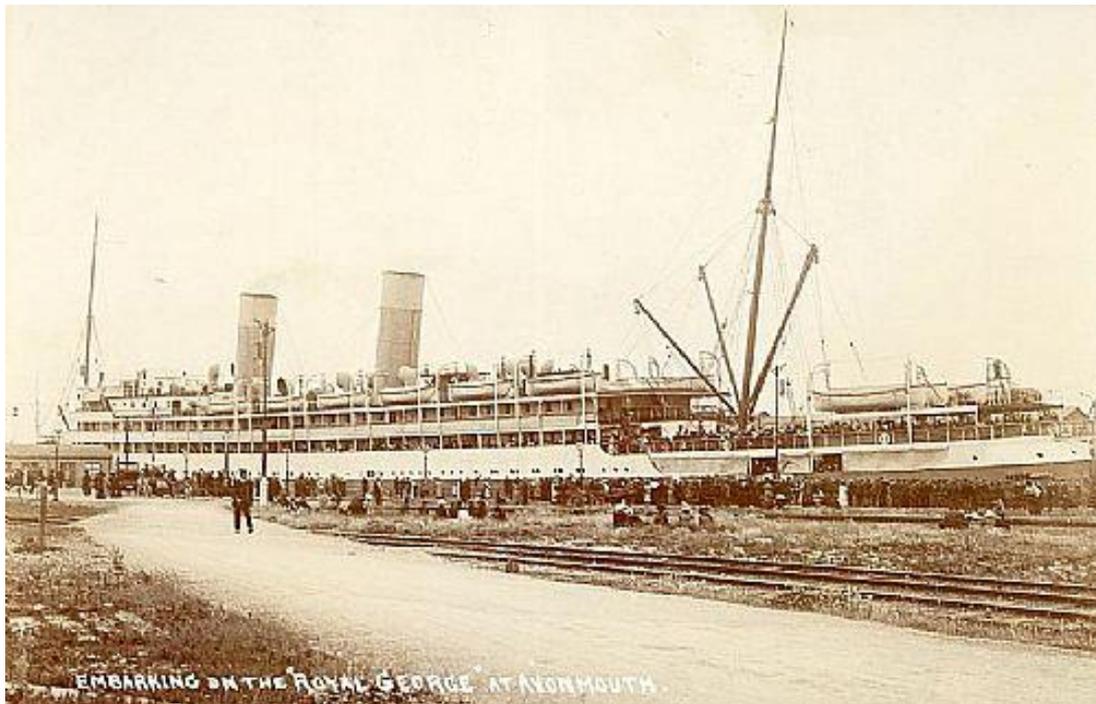
Name of Ship *Royal George* 18 Date of Departure *June 17th 1914.*

Steamship Line *Royal Line.* Where bound *Quebec & Montreal*

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF **BRITISH** PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF *Bristol*

(1) Contract Ticket Number.	(2) NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	(3) CLASSES (Whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd).	(4) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.	(5) Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers. In the case of First Class Passengers this column need not be filled up.	(6) AGE OF PASSENGERS. Except for First Class Passengers state the age but not sex.						(7) Country of last Permanent Residence.†					(8) Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.†
					Adults of 12 years and upwards.	Children between 1 and 12.	Infants.	Whites.	Scots.	Ireland.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.				
<i>2182</i>	<i>Emily Wakeman</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Montreal</i>	<i>Wife</i>											<i>Canada</i>	
<i>9641</i>	<i>Henry Whittaker</i>			<i>Farmer</i>	<i>58</i>											
	<i>Emma</i>			<i>Wife</i>	<i>58</i>											
	<i>Margaret Canadine</i>			<i>Wife</i>		<i>28</i>										
	<i>Donald</i>			<i>Child</i>		<i>4</i>										
<i>10530</i>	<i>Lillian Stander</i>			<i>Wife</i>		<i>33</i>										
	<i>Frederick</i>			<i>Child</i>		<i>8</i>										
	<i>Audrey</i>					<i>3</i>										
<i>11264</i>	<i>Agnes Russell</i>			<i>Wife</i>		<i>30</i>										
	<i>Janet</i>			<i>Infant.</i>				<i>1/2</i>								
<i>12064</i>	<i>Kate Palmer</i>			<i>on visit</i>		<i>32</i>									<i>England</i>	
<i>12065</i>	<i>Richard Anson</i>			<i>Farmer</i>	<i>21</i>										<i>Canada</i>	
<i>12169</i>	<i>Samuel Vinton</i>			<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>26</i>											
<i>12294</i>	<i>Orinah Baird</i>			<i>book</i>		<i>24</i>										
<i>12295</i>	<i>Margaret Edwards</i>					<i>23</i>										
<i>13050</i>	<i>Therence Grant</i>			<i>Nurse</i>		<i>28</i>										

The SS Royal George's Embarkation List for Canada, 17th June 1914, with Richard Anson's profession listed as a farmer.



The SS Royal George at Avonmouth.

I have not yet been able to discover anything about Richard's early days in Canada, but less than a year after his arrival we know that he was in Victoria, the capital of British Columbia on Vancouver Island. Here, after one month's service with the RVF (Royal Volunteer Force), he voluntarily enlisted with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, British Columbia Regiment, on 9th April 1915, and agreed to be sent to the European battlefront with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces.

Luckily his enlistment papers have survived in the Canadian records and provide us with samples of his handwriting as well as other information. Interestingly, he now described himself as a theological student not a farmer, so it is possible that he was already studying at a college of theology in British Columbia.

Richard returned to Europe at some stage in 1915 or early 1916, but presumably he travelled aboard a troopship, and there seems to be no individual record of his voyage. He was posted to the battle front and sadly lost his life at the Battle of the Somme on 18th September 1916, one of more than 24,000 Canadian casualties at the battle. The exact circumstances surrounding his death are not known. Some of the Canadian forces had been given the task of securing the town of Courcellette: the offensive began on 15th September, and was completed by 11th November, whereupon the 4th Canadian Division rejoined the Canadian Corps at Vimy Ridge. From their heroics during this period of fighting the Canadian units earned themselves a reputation as a formidable assault force, invaluable to the war efforts.

Discharged

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. *A 30943*

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

1. What is your name?..... *Richard Alexander Hanson*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... *Rushall Stafford England*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... *Mrs. R. Hanson*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... *Rushall Stafford England*
 5. What is the date of your birth?..... *14th October 1892*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... *Theological student*
 7. Are you married?..... *No*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... *Yes*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... *88th R.V.F.*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... *Yes*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... *Yes*
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... *Yes*
- (Signature of Man).
R. M. Hanson (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Richard Alexander Hanson*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

..... (Signature of Recruit)
R. M. Hanson
Date *9-4-1915* 1915. (Signature of Witness)
R. M. Hanson

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Richard Alexander Hanson*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

..... (Signature of Recruit)
R. M. Hanson
Date *9-4-1915* 1915. (Signature of Witness)
R. M. Hanson

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Victoria B.C.* this *9th* day of *March* 1915.

..... (Signature of Justice)
J. H. J. J. J.
I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
B. B. B. B. B. (Approving Officer)

M. F. W. 23.
180 M.-12-14.
H. Q. 1773-3-241

A30943.

Description of Richard Mauley Tuom on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 22 years 6 months.
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Height 5 ft. 8 1/2 ins.

Chest measurement: Girth when fully expanded 40 ins.
 Range of expansion 4 ins.

Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue

Hair Brown

Religious denominations: Church of England C of E
 Presbyterian
 Wesleyan
 Baptist or Congregationalist
 Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated.)
 Roman Catholic
 Jewish

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him* fit for the Canadian Over-Sea Imperial Force.

Date 9-4-1915

Place Victoria BC

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

J. Biggart, M.D.
Geo. A. King, Capt. C.B.M.C.
 Medical Officer
John Mullooly

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Richard Mauley Tuom having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

[Signature] (Signature of Officer)

Date 9-4-15

Richard Meanley Anson was buried at Puchevillers British Cemetery, a few miles from Amiens in Northern France. The records held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission state that he was 24, although in fact he died one month short of his 24th birthday. My wife and I visited the cemetery to pay our respects on 24th June 2015, perhaps the first visitors that Richard had had in the 99 years since he died.



24th June 2015: Desmond Burton visits his great-uncle at Puchevillers British Cemetery in northern France.



Richard's gravestone is in the left centre of this picture, with other Canadian soldiers; a photograph of him can just be made out, affixed to the top of the stone.

**In Memory of
Private RICHARD MEANLEY ANSON**

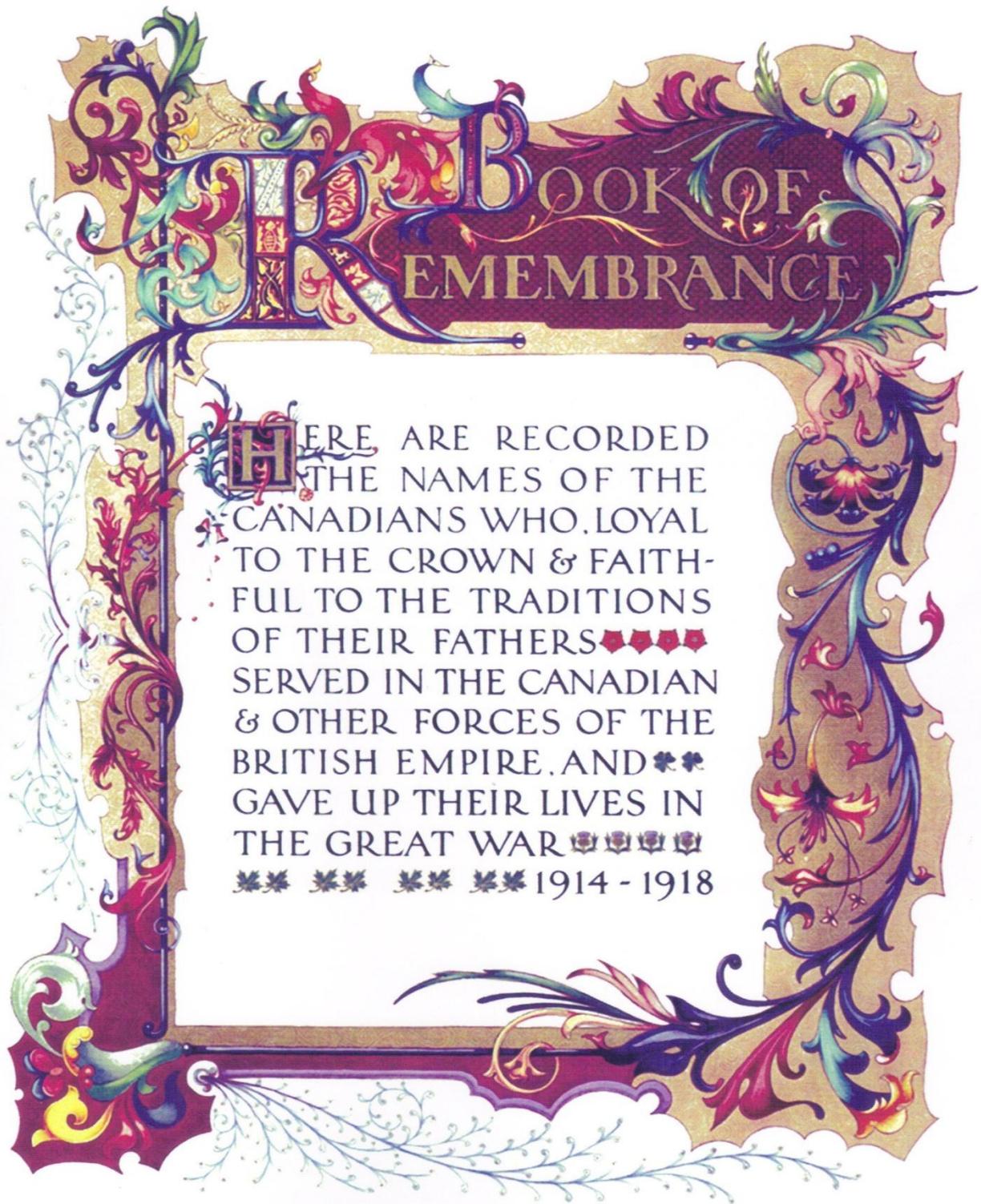
**107069, 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion
who died age 24
on 18 September 1916
Son of Richard and Sarah Asenath Anson, of Daw End Farm, Rushall, England.
Remembered with honour
PUCHEVILLERS BRITISH CEMETERY**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

I have also now located the Canadian World War I Book of Remembrance, and obtained a copy of the page where Richard's name is listed, unfortunately with a small spelling mistake in his middle name. The accompanying letter states the date on which the page can be

viewed in Canada's Parliament building. It is pleasing to know that Richard's sacrifice will never be forgotten in the land which he had hoped to call his home.





Pte.	Anderson, John.	8 th Bn.	CER	Pte.	Antill, Wallace.	75 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, John Everett.	21 st Bn.		Pte.	Antonenko, Michael.	4 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, John Joseph.	31 st Bn.		L/Cpl.	Aplin, Frederick George.	10 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, John Mac.	8 th Bn.		Capt.	Appelbe, Ernest Francis.	198 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Oliver Norman.	8 th Bn.		Pte.	Appleby, Herbert.	7 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Oscar.	14 th Bn.		Pte.	Appleby, Hugh Leonard.	117 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Robert.	21 st Bn.		Pte.	Applegate, Harold Charles.	25 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Robert.	4 th Bn.		Pte.	Appleton, Arthur Ernest.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Robert.	42 nd Bn.		L/Cpl.	Appleton, William Charles.	75 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Robert Narvon.	25 th Bn.		Pte.	Appleyard, Samuel.	29 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Samuel.	14 th Bn.		2/Cpl.	Apps, William John.	4 th Fld. Coy.
Pte.	Anderson, Samuel.	1 st Bn.		Pte.	Arbeau, Arthur.	26 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Telford.	78 th Bn.		Pte.	Arbic, Edward.	1 st Bn.
Sgt.	Anderson, Thomas.	25 th Bn.		Pte.	Arbon, George.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, Thomas Ramsey.	14 th Bn.		Lieut.	Arbuckle, John Farafée.	31 st Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, William.	13 th Bn.		Pte.	Arcand, Ernest.	22 nd Bn.
L/Cpl.	Anderson, William.	16 th Bn.		Lieut.	Archbald, Frederick F.	60 th Bn.
Sgt.	Anderson, William C.	25 th Bn.		Pte.	Archer, Edward William.	2 nd Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, William Carson.	24 th Bn.		Pte.	Archer, George Erskine.	4 th C.M.R.
Pte.	Anderson, William James.	14 th Bn.		Pte.	Archer, John.	5 th Bn.
Pte.	Anderson, William Joseph.	3 rd Bn.		Pte.	Archer, Samuel.	8 th Bn.
Gnr.	André, George Edward Arnold.	7 th Bde. C.F.A.		Pte.	Archibald, Albert.	3 rd Bn.
Pte.	Andrew, John.	2 nd C.M.R.		Pte.	Archibald, Isaac Baird.	12 th M.G. Coy.
Pte.	Andrew, Oswald Adam.	14 th Bn.		Pte.	Archibell, James H.	155 th Bn.
Pte.	Andrew, Rupert Carr.	72 nd Bn.		L/Cpl.	Arding, John.	75 th Bn.
Pte.	Andrews, Edwin Frederick.	43 rd Bn.		Sgt.	Arding, Victor Alvdus; M.M.	75 th Bn.
Sgt.	Andrews, Ernest Edward.	27 th Bn.		Pte.	Arenburg, Murray Benjamin.	112 th Bn.
Pte.	Andrews, George.	21 st Bn.		Sgt.	Arqo, David William.	50 th Bn.
Cpl.	Andrews, George.	60 th Bn.		Pte.	Arque, James R.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Andrews, Gerhardt Heintzmann.	60 th Bn.		Pte.	Ariss, William.	162 nd Bn.
Pte.	Andrews, Harry.	7 th Bn.		Pte.	Armburg, Lincoln Abraham.	9 th M.G. Coy.
Pte.	Andrews, Morgan.	4 th Bn.		Sgt.	Armitage, Arthur E.	25 th Bn.
Pte.	Andrews, Riede.	24 th Bn.		Cpl.	Armitage, Harold.	8 th Bn.
Pte.	Andrews, Sidney Basil.	60 th Bn.		Pte.	Armitage, Leonard.	52 nd Bn.
Pte.	Andrievsky, Peter.	60 th Bn.		Sgt.	Armitage, Stanley.	2 nd C.M.R.
Pte.	Anqel, Manly Roy.	4 th C.M.R.		Cpl.	Armour, Charles John.	2 nd Pmr. Bn.
Pte.	Anqell, Albert.	14 th Bn.		Cpl.	Armour, John Rice.	42 nd Bn.
Pte.	Anqell, Herbert Stewart.	42 nd Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Alexander William.	31 st Bn.
Pte.	Anqlin, John Crawford.	P.P.C.L.I.		Pte.	Armstrong, Andrew.	10 th Bn.
Pte.	Anqove, Samuel Edward.	2 nd Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Charles James.	P.P.C.L.I.
Pte.	Anqus, Alexander.	16 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Charles Morris.	78 th Bn.
Pte.	Anqus, Alfred Middleton.	17 th Res. Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Edward.	58 th Bn.
Pte.	Anqus, James.	29 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Elijah Arthur.	R.C.R.
Pte.	Anqus, John.	38 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Emerson.	20 th Bn.
Pte.	Anqus, Leslie Muir.	49 th Bn.		Cpl.	Armstrong, Francis R.	26 th Bn.
Pte.	Ankers, Edward.	14 th Bn.		C.S.M.	Armstrong, George.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Annan, Robert.	P.P.C.L.I.		Pte.	Armstrong, George.	2 nd C.M.R.
Pte.	Annardale, Lewis Wood.	28 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, George Harvey.	31 st Bn.
Pte.	Annardale, Thomas S.	29 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, James Francis Paul.	4 th Fld. Amb.
Pte.	Annesley, Robert.	42 nd Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, James Harvey.	135 th Bn.
Pte.	Annett, John.	5 th C.M.R.		Pte.	Armstrong, John Alexander.	1 st Bn.
Pte.	Annette, Harry.	19 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Noble James Henry.	14 th Bn.
Pte.	Annis, Lawrence F.	42 nd Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Osborne James.	5 th Bn.
Pte.	Annon, John Francis.	13 th Bn.		Lieut.	Armstrong, Paul L.	73 rd Bn.
Gnr.	Ansell, Raymond Clark.	3 rd Bde. C.F.A.		Cpl.	Armstrong, Percival.	P.P.C.L.I.
Major	Ansley, Alfred James.	15 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Russell.	13 th Bn.
Pte.	Ansley, Bert.	5 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Sidney Herbert.	19 th Bn.
Pte.	Anson, Richard Meanly.	2 nd C.M.R.		Sgt.	Armstrong, Thomas.	28 th Bn.
Pte.	Anstiss, George.	27 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, Victor Albert.	29 th Bn.
Pte.	Anterieux, Henri.	14 th Bn.		L/Cpl.	Armstrong, William.	50 th Bn.
Pte.	Anthony, William Austin.	25 th Bn.		Pte.	Armstrong, William Ernest.	2 nd Bn.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE SERGENT-AT-ARMS
BUREAU DU SERGENT D'ARMES

May 28th, 2014

*Mr Desmond Richard Burton
103 Penlon
Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5NE
Great Britain*

Dear Mr Burton:

On behalf of the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Andrew Scheer, I am pleased to enclose a copy of page 47 from the Book of Remembrance of the First World War.

Inscribed on this page is the name of Private Richard Meanly Anson, 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. A grateful nation recognizes his sacrifice every year on February 8th and 9th, when this page is displayed for public viewing in the Memorial Chamber of the Parliament of Canada.

In the same sense of gratitude, this page is sent to you with the sincere hope it will remain a source of pride for your family.

Yours sincerely,

I. Tremblay

Although Richard himself had no personal connection with Stonnall, his name and his memory certainly lived on in the village after his death. All of his three younger siblings later came to live in or very near Stonnall. In 1919 his sister Edna married Garnet Burton, and they lived at Lower Farm until Edna's death in 1945 (Garnet's brother Arthur was a friend and neighbour of Richard in Rushall, and also fought at the Battle of the Somme, before being wounded and safely evacuated back to England – this happened in the same week in September 1916 that Richard was killed). Richard's brother Eric was a tenant at Wordsley House with his wife and two young daughters for several years before and during World War Two. Bernard, the youngest of the four, lived for many years at Whitacre Farm with his wife and two sons, the elder of whom was christened Richard Meanley. Finally, of

course, Edna and Garnet Burton gave their only son the forenames Richard and Anson as a tribute to the brother Edna had lost.

Postscript:

While searching for information about Richard Meanley Anson, who was my great-uncle, I came across a website posting, printed below, from a Paul Heath, who was also interested in Richard's life. Unfortunately the posting was made way back in 2002, and the email address is no longer operative. If Paul Heath, or anyone else who has information about Richard, happens to read this, I would be very keen to hear from them through the Stonnall History website or Facebook page.

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-----Original Message-----
From: Paul Heath < paul@heathws.freemove.co.uk >
To: STAFFORDSHIRE-L@rootsweb.com < STAFFORDSHIRE-L@rootsweb.com >
Date: 24 July 2002 20:27
Subject: [STS] ANSON Daw End Rushall

> Hi List,
>
> Has anyone any connection with the ANSON family who lived at Daw End Farm
(1881 Census) and ran the Manor Arms Public House.
> 1881 census shows:
> John ANSON 48 Head Farmer of 103 acres
> Mary ANSON Wife 48
> Constance A A ANSON 24
> Mary Ambrose ANSON 20
> Richard ANSON 17 Ann ANSON Mother 75
>
> Richard Meanley ANSON son of Richard above joined the Canadian Mounted
Rifles and was killed in France in WW1 in September, 1916. I have a
photograph of him taken in his uniform at a photographer's in Walsall
probably not long before his death. My question is what was he doing living
in Canada? Did he emigrate? His parents were still living at Daw End Farm
at the time of his death. On the CWGC site it shows his mother to be a
Sarah Asenath Anson.
>
> Any help appreciated.
>
> Thanks in advance.
> paul@heathws.freemove.co.uk
>
>
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