

***Grange U3A Family and Social History
Group Project on the Grange WW1 War Memorial***



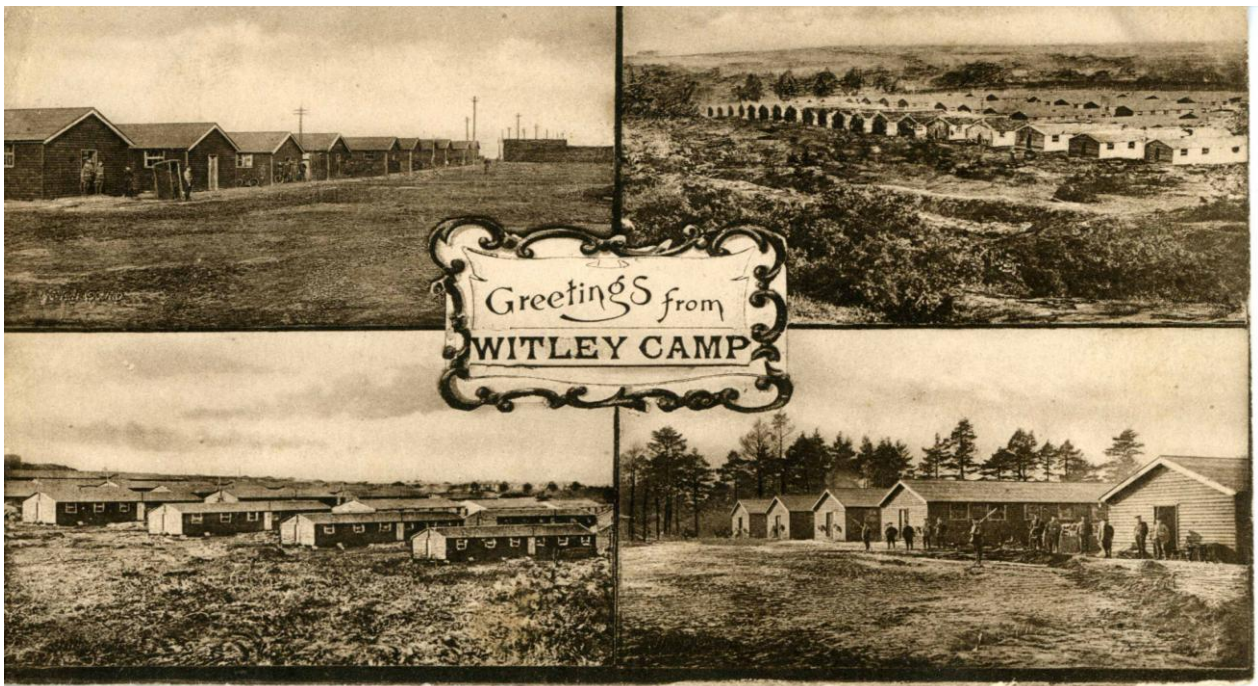
John Lord Duxbury

***A short biography in commemoration of
John Lord Duxbury 1890 – 1916***

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This biography is not strictly of someone who was a war casualty. I felt that as there was a precedence on the memorial, this man should be recognised for his commitment to Britain and Canada, and a life cut short by an accident. He might well have been killed, as so many others were in the War, but he wasn't, it was chance.

John Lord Duxbury was born at 74 Fleet Street, Nelson, Lancashire; the son of John Duxbury and Mary Martha Lord of Hey Fold, Foulridge, Colne.



Witley Military Training Camp, Godalming, Surrey

Although John had been born in Colne, Lancashire in 1890 his family had moved around. By 1911 the family were living at a poultry farm at West End, Long Preston Yorkshire. John Lord (named after his mother) worked on the farm with his father and his two sisters were "Draper's assistants".

On the 3rd May 1911 John Lord arrived in Montreal, Canada, on board the SS "Dominion" from Liverpool. From the ships documentation he had already decided where to live and work. This was Breachin in Ontario. From his attestation papers he said he was a baker, hence the mention of a "small business" in Breachin in the inquest into his death.*

Duplicate

No. *745352*

Folio.

ATTESTATION PAPER.
116th OVERSEAS BATTALION C.E.F.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname?..... Duxbury.
- 1a. What are your Christian names?..... John Lord.
- 1b. What is your present address?..... Brechin, Ont. Canada.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... Nelson, Lanchashire, England.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... Mary Martha Duxbury.
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... Grange Over Sands Lanchashire, Eng.
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?..... Mother.
5. What is the date of your birth?..... April 4th. 1890.
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... Barber.
7. Are you married?..... No.
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?..... Yes.
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... No.
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... No.
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 } Yes.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, John Lord Duxbury., do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they 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.

Date November 16th. 191 5
J. L. Duxbury (Signature of Recruit)
W. W. Blockman (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, John Lord Duxbury., 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.

Date November 16th. 191 5
J. L. Duxbury (Signature of Recruit)
W. W. Blockman (Signature of Witness)

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 Beaverton, Ont. this 11th. day of March 191 6

J. J. [Signature] (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 22.
800M. - 4-16
H. Q. 1972-22-244

Attestation Papers for John Lord Duxbury with the 116th Overseas Battalion .C.E.F.

John then took the brave and almost impetuous step, in selling up his business and joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.). Whatever his motivation was and it must have been the same as Thomas Burrow who also joined the C.E.F., he enlisted with the 116th Overseas Battalion.

The 116th Battalion was officially formed in October 1915 with Major, later Lieutenant- Colonel S.S. Sharpe. The Headquarters was established at Uxbridge (Ontario) with four companies. John Lord was in “B” Company of Beaverton. The Company was commanded by Major F.H. Moody.

Much effort was made by Lt.-Col. Sharpe in raising funds from the local communities. The local County Council voted \$5000 to the 116th with \$2000 to be spent on band instruments and \$3000 for recruiting. The speed of recruiting was so good that by May 1916 the Battalion was 1145 strong.

On the 23rd May 1916 the Battalion sailed from Halifax to England aboard the H.M.T. “Olympic”.**



RMS Olympic painted in dazzle colours 1917.

(The ship was painted grey in 1916) Painting by Arthur Lismer of Canadian troops returning.

The Battalion probably arrived at Liverpool as other Canadian battalions did and headed for the Witney Training Camp near Godalming in Surrey.

** The nomenclature was changed to “Hired Military Transport” (H.M.T.), for the duration of the war for troop transport.

John Lord would have been put through basic training in arms and fitness building ready for their embarkation to France which was to happen in October 1916.

John had probably finished his initial training, and as his parents were living in England at Grange over Sands, was granted six days leave to see them and his sisters whom he had not seen since emigrating. Sadly John never went back to his unit as the following report appeared in the Westmorland Gazette on his death on 24th August 1916. The inquest took place at the Arnside Station the following week.

DANGEROUS BATHING
Coroner to Ask Grange to Erect a
Warning Notice

The father of the soldier who was drowned at Grange told the Coroner at the inquest at Arnside on Thursday how he himself while bathing at the same place twenty-five years ago nearly lost his life. The soldier, Corpl. John Lord Duxbury; went to bathe at Blawith Point, opposite Holme Island, on Thursday of last week. His clothes were picked up on the shore the same evening, but nothing more was seen of Corpl. Duxbury until his body was washed up on the tide on Tuesday just before noon. The discovery of the uniform caused a sensation. Corpl. Duxbury was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Duxbury, of the Cafe Royal, Grange. He left home between ten and eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, and later in the day a lady found his clothes on the rocks close to Holme Island. A search was made, but without result. The body was seen by some workers engaged on the Kent Viaduct, Arnside, on Tuesday, and after being recovered it was identified by Corpl. Duxbury's sister, Mrs Evelyn Marshall, of Grange. Corpl. Duxbury emigrated to Canada some six years ago, before his parents came to live in Grange. He had a small business at Breckin, Ontario and sold up to enlist in the Overseas Contingent. He was on a six days visit to his parents.

The inquest heard that John had come home on leave from his training camp in Kent.

When John's body was recovered at Arnside he was wearing a bathing costume. This indicated that he was swimming for pleasure not to "put himself away" as he was in "good spirits and perfectly happy".

John's father went on to answer questions about the spot where John went swimming. He was asked about the fact that the spot was a dangerous place which he agreed with having nearly drowned there himself twenty-five years ago. John senior was asked if he was a native of Grange to which he replied he

was not. He and his wife had been in Grange for four to five years and used to visit Grange for holidays when son John was a boy. The coroner asked John's father if his son would know the place to which the answer was "probably not". Another police witness stated that a boy was drowned at the same place two years before.

John Duxbury senior went on to describe how he had been informed by a local fisherman, Mr Burrows, if it had not been for fishermen being present two or three days before his son entered the water, another person would have drowned. They managed to catch him as he was going down for the fourth time.

The local policeman for Milnethorpe confirmed that there were no injuries or bruises nor signs of cramp.

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NUMBER **745352** RANK **Cpl.** NAME **DUXBURY, J.L.** *John Duxbury (Father)*
 UNIT **116th Batt.** NEXT-OF-KIN **M^{rs} Mary M. Duxbury,** *Cape Royal, Kent Bank Road*
 FILE NO. R.L. **25. D. 862** *Grange-over-Sands, Lancs. Grange-over-Sands, Lancs.*
D.G.R. & E. Ref. *Key Fold, Lancs. Faulridge nr. Coln. Lancs. Eng.*

REGISTER SENT NOV 19 1936

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
24. 8. 16 19-16. <i>(Correct date.)</i>	Found Drowned at Arnside Westmoreland. <i>on August 29th 1916. Verdict of jury "accidentally drowned whilst bathing on August 24th. Authority on R.L. 25. D. 862.</i>	No. 12.
DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
31. 8. 16.	<i>Grange-over-Sands Cemetery, Lancs.</i> Authority on R.L. 25. D. 862.	Grave No: 1032. Class B. <i>Burial Report by G. L. & M., C.E.F.</i> <i>Grange-over-Sands Cemetery, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs.</i> Grave No: 1032. Class B. <i>Cross erected.</i> Authority on R.L. 25. D. 862.

Canadian report on the death of John Lord Duxbury c1936

The rest of the inquest was taken up with discussion about warning signs which needed to be put up to warn bathers of the risks in that area. The Coroner was asked to make representations to Grange council. A local minister Mr J T R Fowles said there had been several drownings in the last eighteen years at this spot. "Two currents meet at this spot and create a whirlpool".

The Coroner came to the conclusion that in the absence of any injuries that a verdict "that he was accidentally drowned" should be recorded.

John Lord Duxbury is buried in Grange cemetery and has a small simple CWGC white headstone.



John Lord Duxbury 116th Bn. Canadian Infantry died 24th August 1916.

Author: David Clapp