LIEUT. WILLIAM GRAY RAWLINSON

DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY

1890 - 15.3.1915

Maire Matthews USA
WILLIAM GRAY RAWLINSON:
1890 – 1915

The birth certificate of William Gray Rawlinson shows that he was born at Duddon Hall, Millom, Bootle Cumbria, on the 2nd, April 1890. Duddon Hall was a considerably large estate indicating that the family were very wealthy. He was the only child of William Millers Rawlinson and Rosetta Ellen Rawlinson (formerly, Rigge).

Duddon Hall

His father, William Millers Rawlinson: 1863 – 1897, inherited Duddon Hall, near Millom from his father, Major William Sawrey Rawlinson (1835 – 1875) on his death (aged 40) and lived there until his own death in 1897, (aged 33).

William Millers Rawlinson was educated through the public school system finally graduating from Cambridge University. However, subsequent census records show no meaningful employment other than that of ‘man of own means’.
He married Rosetta Ellen Rigge, also from a well connected family in June, 1889 at St. George, Hanover Street, London and their son, William Gray, was born the following year.

In 1903, six years after the death of her husband, Rosetta married George Rathbone, a musician and composer. They married in St. Pancras, London (Parish Register). According to the ‘red books’, they lived in Grange, initially at Fellside Cottage and later moving to Yewbarrow, (the address given in the will of her son). Finally they located to to Aynsone House in Field Broughton.

Census Records show that that from an early age William Gray Rawlinson attended various prestigious boarding schools, i.e. Lockyers Park, Hertfordshire, Shrewsbury and Sandhurst Military College where he served time overseas before the outbreak of the First World War. Records indicate that he spent some time in Mauritius and South Africa at this time.

Sandhurst Military College

At the outbreak of the war he was serving in Hong Kong but his regiment returned to the UK to refit before being sent to the front where he was constantly in the trenches. He was killed in the Battle of St. Eloi.

The following record shows William Gray Rawlinson was awarded the 1914 - 15 Star for his bravery.

**UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 for W G Rawlinson**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Index</th>
<th>Source Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: W G Rawlinson</td>
<td>Record URI: <a href="http://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-bin/ssel2?index=index1&amp;db=woServiceMedalAwardRolls&amp;ind=55971021">http://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-bin/ssel2?index=index1&amp;db=woServiceMedalAwardRolls&amp;ind=55971021</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Year: 1914-1915</td>
<td>Source Citation: The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey, England, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls; Class: WO 329; Piece Number: 2949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medal Awarded: 1914-15 Star</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regiment or Corps: Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lieut. William Gray Rawlinson, 2nd Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, killed at St. Eloi, was born on April the 2nd, 1890. He was the only son of the late William Millers Rawlinson, of Duddon Hall, Broughton-in-Furness, and of Mrs. George Rathbone, of Eyewall, Grange; his maternal grandmother being the late Mrs. Riggs, of Wood Broughton. He was educated at Lockers Park, Shrewsbury, and Sandhurst. He received his commission in 1910 and was promoted in 1912. On receiving his commission he joined his regiment in South Africa, where he remained for about three years. During this period he spent a short leave on an adventurous big game shooting expedition in the wilds of the Zambesi, and brought home many interesting trophies. At the outbreak of the war he was with his regiment at Hong Kong, China, and did good work in the defence of the Island during the anxious days preceding the bombardment of Tsingtau. The regiment was then ordered home to re-fit, and after a few weeks in camp at Winchester proceeded to the front a little before Christmas. Since then he was constantly in the trenches, when he seems to have had a strenuous time, never forgetting, however, to write home the most cheerful letters two or three times a week. It is believed that he fell leading his men in the terrible battle of St. Eloi on March the 15th. "Eye-witness," in his notice of this fierce fighting, says: "Of the gallantry of the regimental officers throughout it is unnecessary to speak." Those who knew Lieut. Rawlinson must feel how true these words are in regard to him. He came of a fighting stock that knew no fear. As long ago as 1643 Capt. William Rawlinson, of Graythwaite, raised in Furness a troop of volunteers consisting of 70 horse, which he maintained without charge to the state and kept in readiness for service in the war between King and Parliament. His grandfather was Major Rawlinson, of the 12th Lancers, and of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, who fought through the Crimean campaign, and he was in the famous charge at Balaklava. Col. Rawlinson, of the 3rd Dragoons, was Lieut. Rawlinson's great uncle. Major Rawlinson of Broughton Bank, who died about 18 months ago as a result of the South African War, was also in the 2nd Duke of Cornwall's, the same regiment as his nephew. He served in that war with distinction, was mentioned in dispatches, and received the Queen's medal with five clasps. Lieut. Rawlinson was a fine shot, a clever polo player, and a keen motorist. He endeared himself to rich and poor, by his kind and genial nature; and although mourned by a large circle of friends, his full and splendid life here, though cut short so soon, will no doubt be an inspiration and encouragement to those he has left behind.
There was no body and as such his death is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial - Panel 20, Ypres, Belgium.

Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium

Locally his death is featured on the garden memorial in Grange Over Sands

MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO LOCAL MEN WHO DIED 1914-18 WAR GARDENS; GRANGE OVER SANDS
ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
FIELD BROUGHTON

Stained glass window dedicated by his mother
Rosette Ellen Rathborne

In Loving Memory of William
Ramsden of Dudley near Cumberland
Wool Broughton in this Parish
Light Infantry who fell while
This window is dedicated

"Cælo tum in Consequamur Omnium cum Beata"
Ancestral Chart

William Gray Rawlinson

William Millers Rawlinson

Elizabeth Mary Brooke

Henry Fletcher Rigge

Rosella Ellen Rigge

Rosella Margaret

John Job Rawlinson

- Chart No. ___________
- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 27.3.1798 - 1844
- place: Graithwaite Hall, Hawkeshead
- m. 8.2.1831
- Mary Romney

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 20.5.1835
- place: Graithwaite Hall, Hawkeshead
- m. 1862
- St. George, London

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 20.4.1863
- place: Duddon Hall, Milom
- m. 1889
- St. George, London

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 20.3.1847
- place: Wood Broughton
- Car Elmet

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 2.4.1890
- place: Duddon Hall, Milom
- m. 14.3.1915
- St. Eloi, France

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 1800
- place: Ulverston
- d. 2.9.1951
- Reg. Ulverston

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 1823
- place: Car Elmet
- d. 1903
- place: Ulverston

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 1849
- place: Ulverston
- d. 1877
- place: Ulverston

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 1810
- place: Ulverston

- CONT. ON CHART ________
- b 1859
- place: Ulverston

- Unmarried