



WATSON, ERNEST TOWNLEY



Ancestry

EARLY LIFE

Nov 11, 1892

Born in Kettleby, Ontario to Thomas Levi and Louisa (Foster) Watson. He was the younger brother of *W.M. Watson*.

1901 Census

Age 9

Lived in King, Ontario with Thomas Watson (head of house – father, age 36), Louisa Watson (mother, age 35), Maurice Watson (brother, age 10) and Olive Watson (sister, age 7).

MILITARY SERVICE

Sep 24, 1914

Attested to the 22nd Saskatchewan Light Horse Camp, Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force

**Attestation
Paper**

- **Number:** 15315
- **Present address:** Kettleby, Ontario
- **Next of kin given:** T.L. Watson (Father) in Kettleby, Ontario
- **Trade or calling:** Farmer
- **Married:** No
- **Previous military experience:** No
- **Religion:** Church of England
- **Physical attributes:**
 - **Age:** 22 years
 - **Height:** 5'7 ½"
 - **Complexion:** Fair
 - **Eyes:** Grey
 - **Hair:** Fair

Mar 30, 1918

Age 25

Private Ernest Townley was killed in action. His unit was Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). He is buried in *Moreuil Communal Cemetery*, in Somme, France.

MENTIONED IN THE HISTORY OF CHIRST CHURCH, KETTLEBY

page 16.

GUILD LIST OF BOYS OVERSEAS FROM KETTLEBY AREA.

Edward S. Williams ..Wounded.	S. Brown.....Killed.
S. J. Archibald.	G. Proctor.
W. M. Watson.....Wounded.	H. Proctor.
E. J. Watson.....Killed.	J. T. Jenkins.
L. Robb. ✓	Geo. Howitt.
Carl Grainger.	Harry Mount. ✓
L. Waldoek. ✓	James Allen.
A. Burdette.	Geo. Jefferson.
D. Powell.	C. McKinley.
Rev. J. E. Gibson.	A. McKinley.
G. Anning.	Harold Cook.
A. Holmes.....Prisoner.	W. Woods.
Folten Fox.	E. Hutchins.
M. L. C. Mitchell.	

MENTIONED IN KETTLEBY TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

Women's Institute - Kettleby: Miscellaneous pg. 5



KETTLEBY BOYS PLAYING HOCKEY BACK OF THE STORE: - Ira Clubine, William Proctor, Harvey Burling, Howard Proctor, Charles Davis, Fred Stephenson, George Stephenson, James Murray, Edward West, Merten Robinson, Thos. Burling, Rankin Hughey, James Ree, Wm. Ramsden, Fred Chappell, Pres. Dutcher, Townley Watson, Frank Paxton, Gerschom Proctor, Harold Murray, Lorne Stephenson and Lorne Bogart.

MENTIONED IN ALWAYS A STRATHCONA

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British Isles and others to places on the Continent. Some went to Brussels, some to Paris, while others visited historical sites. On March 5, sight-seeing trips to Vimy and other First World War battlefields began, while a special party of officers and warrant officers visited Moreuil. They were unable to find the exact copse which was the Regiment's "Moreuil Wood," but they did discover a cemetery containing six Strathcona graves. One grave was marked "15153 E. T. Watson," and the others "Unknown Canadians Lord Strathcona Horse." Colonel McAvity wrote to Captain G.H. Nettleton, the Officer Commanding the Regimental wing in Winnipeg giving the details, and received this reply:

With reference to the cemetery (Moreuil Cemetery—Allied Extension) and the graves of 15153 E. T. Watson and five unknown Strathcona's: I have checked E. T. Watson through Part II orders and find that he was reported as killed in the 1918 March show, but the number given in your letter is not quite correct as it should be 15315. I think I can throw a little light on the five unknown lads. I distinctly remember in June 1918, some half dozen of our people getting permission to ride over to the Moreuil district. I did not accompany this party but talked to them on their return. They found five or six of our men still lying where they had fallen, the Hun having made no effort to bury them. Identification discs (there was only one disc used in the last war) had been removed as had all personal possessions. The bodies were so decomposed that recognition was impossible, although I remember that the party felt certain of the identity of one man (possibly Watson) owing to some dental work. The party buried these lads and left markers, so it seems highly probable these were the graves you located.

PHOTOS

Ernest Townley Watson



Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Memorial Plaque for Ernest Townley Watson



Canadian Virtual War Memorial

IN THE NEWS

Aurora War Memorial

The Aurora Banner

Friday, March 20, 1925

Aurora War Memorial	Township of King.
<p>The names given below are those of the fallen men of Aurora, King and Whitchurch, as ascertained up to the present time by the War Memorial Committee.</p>	<p>Brown, Sherman Brown, Harold Clift, Russell Doyle, Max Doyle, Wilfred Ferguson, John Ferguson, Leonard Green, Percy Green, Roland Harper, Roy Howard, George Little, Telford McMaster, Thos. Merchant, Wallace Marshall, Aubrey Barker, Russell Routledge, John Stewart, Harry Stocks, Roy Watson, Townley Woodroof, Chas.</p>
<p>Will every reader of the Banner in Aurora, King and Whitchurch, please look carefully over the list and draw attention to any error in initials or spelling of name, or omission of any name, communicating with the Editor of the Banner or with J. G. McDonald, Secretary of the War Memorial Association, without delay.</p>	
<p>The Whitchurch list is an official list that has been checked over and pronounced correct; but it is included in above so that any typographical error, if any, may be noticed and corrected.</p>	
<p>Although some of the names on these lists may and do appear on some local memorials, it will not be too much honour to these men that their names should also appear on this larger memorial— which from its location, its great size and architecture, will be visited by thousands of motorists and visitors aside from the people of Aurora, King and Whitchurch.</p>	