

Joseph Anderson Aitchison
790237, 47th Bn., Canadian Infantry [Western Ontario Division]



Joseph was born on the 5th of October 1886 in Burnmouth. He was the son of Alexander Aitchison and Isabella Anderson. The photograph to the left is of Joseph's father. The family lived at number 1 Partanhall.

Joseph immigrated to Canada. When he was 26 he married Elizabeth [Bessie] Black on the 23 of July 1915 at the Knox Manse, New Westminster, British Columbia. Bessie was born in Eyemouth, the daughter of Ninian [Neen] Black and Margaret Rae. At the time of his marriage Joseph was serving with the Canadian Army in the 104th Regiment, the Westminster Regiment which had been formed in 1910, but had previously been a fisherman.

The couple lived at Sapperton which is part of New Westminster & was founded by the Canadian Engineers, hence the name Sapperton. A lot of Berwickshire folk came to the greater Vancouver area at the turn of the century. Fishing was going strong & there were dozens of canneries along the coast of British Columbia.

Joseph served in the 47th Bn. Canadian Infantry [Western Ontario Regiment] during World War 1. He died in France less than two months before Armistice day. He was 31. His grave is in St Server Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

By the time Joseph died his mother had been dead for more than a year and Alexander, his father, had erected a memorial stone in Ayton Cemetery. Joseph is also commemorated on this headstone: - Joseph Aitchison who died of wounds at no. 3 Station Hospital Rouen, France 17/9/1918 aged 31. Joseph's name is also on Ayton War Memorial.

Joseph's widow, Elizabeth [Bessie], remarried on the 1/12/1919 at St Andrews Manse in New Westminster. Her new husband was George Simpson, a fisherman, who was living in Sapperton but who was originally from Eyemouth. Elizabeth Simpson died on the 21 Feb 1974 at Madeira Park, British Columbia.

Joseph's name is on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site and one can also order a copy of his entry in the Canadian Book of Remembrance from that site.

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