

Charles Henry BLACKMORE

Born: Dawlish, 22 July 1890
Private 827055

Died 29 August, 1917, aged 27
47th Battalion, Canadian Infantry

Charles Henry Blackmore was the great grandson of John and Elizabeth Blackmore. John Blackmore (1791-1864?) was born in Barnstaple and married Elizabeth Perkins (1796-1875?), born in Kingsteignton, on 28 June 1818 at Chudleigh. They had two sons, James Blackmore and John Perkins Blackmore (1821-1901), both born in Chudleigh.

James Blackmore (1819-1905) married Elizabeth Leare (1819-1886) in Chudleigh Parish Church on 25th June 1843 and they lived at 75 Clifford Street, Chudleigh. James was a sawyer and carpenter. They had a large family:

Mary Jane	1843-	
James	1844-1849	
John	1846-1849	
Walter	1847-1918	married Emma Quantick and they were parents to Reginald Charles Blackmore 1890- 1917 (q.v.)
Clara Ann	1849- 1944	
Joseph	1851- 1915	married Mary Jane Pike (1859-1927)

His occupation was Woodman and the family lived in Mamhead. They had a son, Andrew (1886-1918), and in the 1911 census Andrew Blackmore was living in Ashcombe and was an Asylum Attendant at the Devon County Lunatic Asylum, Exminster. His name is engraved on the Ashcombe memorial, as this would have been his residence at the time of his enlistment. His name is also inscribed on the Mamhead memorial inside St Thomas Church, a memorial plaque inside Exminster Hospital, and another inside Exminster Church. He was killed in Syria on 21 November 1918.

James Henry	1852-1853	
John Albert	1854-	
Charles H	1856-1939	
Alice	1858-	
Thomas Leare	1860-1932	
Elizabeth Ellen	1862-	
Andrew	1864-1946	married Clara Kate Dawe (1863-1932) who was born in Dawlish.

The sons Walter and Andrew Blackmore were both carpenters. Each married and had a son who is remembered on Dawlish War Memorial. These were cousins: **Charles Henry Blackmore** and Reginald Charles Blackmore (k.i.a. 22/9/17) who died only days apart.

Andrew Blackmore married Clara Dawe in the September quarter 1888 (N.A., vol 5b, p 194).

Clara Kate Dawe was the sister of Bessie Dawe, the wife of Henry John Hill (1867-1921). Bessie and Henry John Hill were the parents of James Henry Hill (q.v.) who was killed on April 10th, 1917 and of Russell Hill (q.v.) who died in 1920, also remembered on Dawlish

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War Memorial. A further son, Frances Edward Hill (1894-1970) served in the War and survived.

In 1891, Andrew and Clara Blackmore were living at 1 Helena Place, Dawlish with Elsie Minnie (1888-), and **Charles H**, 8 months.

In 1901 they were at 2 Hatcher Street, with two more children, Gwendoline Rose, (1892-1967) and Gladys M (1896-1927).

In 1911, Andrew and Clara were living at the School House, Old Town Street, with their daughters Elsie Minnie, a domestic housemaid, and Gwendoline Rose a milliner's apprentice. Andrew was then a carpenter and joiner, and Clara was Caretaker of C C Schools.

Charles Henry Blackmore was boarding at 3 Exeter Road, CREDITON in 1911 and he is shown as an Assistant Schoolmaster, employed by Devon County Council. He was 20.

It appears that he trained as a teacher at St Luke's College, Exeter, which had been a teacher training college since 1839. His Canadian military record shows previous military experience as 'St Lukes College, Company 4th Devons'. This indicates that he joined the 4th Devons when he was undergoing teacher training.

It is stated that he sailed from Bristol aboard the Royal George on 14th June 1911 and emigrated to Canada and was followed by his sister Gladys in 1913. *(Family information has been supplied by the grand-daughter of Gladys in Canada -ed)*

On the outbreak of War men enlisted to join new regiments from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and other parts of the British Empire. **Charles** was deemed to be too short at 5' and $\frac{3}{4}$ " for the initial enlistments in Canada. He had been working as a book-keeper and 'Teacher Public School'.

Charles was living at 410 Sherbrook Street, New Westminster when he was able to enlist with the Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force in Vancouver on October 27th, 1916, following the formation of 'Bantam Regiments' for which he was then deemed eligible.

New Westminster is a historically important city in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia, and is a member municipality of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.



As the oldest city in western Canada, New Westminster has a long and rich history. In 1859, the Royal Engineers arrived from England to establish the first capital of the new colony of British Columbia.

The chosen site was selected both for its beauty and strategic location on the Fraser River.

Enlistment papers show that **Charles** joined the 143rd (British Columbia Bantams) Battalion. This battalion went overseas but was broken up and the men sent to either of two Reserve Battalions or the Canadian Railway Troops.

The 47th Battalion recruited in New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria.

The **Battle of Hill 70** was a battle of World War I between the Canadian Corps and five divisions of the German 6th Army. The battle took place along the Western Front on the outskirts of Lens in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France between 15 and 25 August 1917. The objectives of the assault were to inflict casualties and to draw German troops away from the 3rd Battle of Ypres, rather than to capture territory. The Canadian Corps executed an operation designed to first occupy the high ground at Hill 70 quickly and then establish defensive positions, from which combined small-arms and artillery fire, some of which used the technique of predicted fire for the first time, could be used to repel German counter-attacks and inflict as many casualties as possible. A later attempt by the Canadian Corps to extend its position into the city of Lens itself failed. Both sides suffered high casualties and Lens remained under German control. In both the German and the Canadian assessments of the battle it succeeded in its attrition objective.

The battle consisted of extensive use of poison gas by both sides, including the newly introduced German Yellow Cross shell containing the blistering agent sulphur mustard. Ultimately, the goals of the Canadian Corps were only partially accomplished. The Canadians were successful in preventing German formations from transferring local men and equipment to aid in defensive operations in the Ypres Salient but failed to draw in troops from other areas. (ex-Wikipedia)

Charles Henry Blackmore is listed as having died of wounds and it is reasonable to assume that he was involved in some manner in the Battle of Hill 70 and died soon afterwards.

The Vimy memorial to Canadian dead in the Pas de Calais is about 8km NE of Arras. 4 Divisions of the Canadian Corps captured Vimy Ridge on the 9th April 1917.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: BLACKMORE, CHARLES HENRY Private 827055
29/08/1917 Canadian Infantry, 47th Bn. [Vimy Memorial](#)

He is shown on the Devon Roll of Honour and the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: BLACKMORE C.H. PTE. 47TH CAN.

Devon Heritage site info:

827055 Charles Henry Blackmore of the 47th Battalion (Quebec Regiment), the Canadian Infantry. Son of Andrew and Kate Blackmore of Dawlish. Born in Dawlish 22nd July 1890. Died 29 August 1917 aged 27.

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Last known address: 410 Sherbrooke Street, New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada

Chas Blackmore is listed on the New Westminster War Memorial, British Columbia.

Next of kin: Clara Blackmore, mother, Lytton House, Regent Street, Dawlish

References:

Free Birth, Marriage, death refs

CWGC

Attestation paper, Canada

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/>

<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com> – Great War forum

Battle of Hill 70 – Wikipedia

Private correspondence with descendant

Refs via subscription websites:

Census data

Family trees – Ancestry

Gregson/Blackmore (compiled by a great neice)

Blackmore - Bond