

William John BLACK

Born Q2, 1888, Bovey Tracey Died 11 November 1919 at Worcester Military Hospital
Corporal Service No. 34500 Worcestershire Regiment, 6th Bn

William John Black was born in Bovey Tracey and appears first (age 3) on the census for 1891 living with his mother, Susan A Black, and grandparents, Samuel and Ann Loveys, at 9 Brunswick Place, Dawlish with a sister, Polly, 6.

William's great grandparents were John Black (1795-1890) and Elizabeth Black (1791-) who lived at 'Trumpetor' (?), Ilsington, near Newton Abbot, in 1841 with three children, Charlotte, 19, John *, 15, and Jane, 8.

John Black * (1826-1885) married Dinah Loveys (1833-1897) in 1852 (GRO ref Oct-Dec, N.A., vol 5b, p 237).

Dinah was born in the village of Knighton, Hennock , to John and Elizabeth Loveys and the census of 1841 shows that John Loveys (1796-) was a claycutter and that they had three children, Samuel, 15, an agricultural labourer, John, 10 and Dinah, 7. (*Knighton is now known as Chudleigh Knighton and it lies on clay beds to the south east of Bovey Tracey.*)

John and Dinah Black were living in Knighton, Hennock in 1861 with four children and John's widowed mother. The children were:

Samuel Loveys Black, son 8 scholar, born Hennock,

John Loveys Black, son 7 " "

(GRO ref Birth 1854, Apr-June, N.A., Vol 5b, p 123)

William Loveys Black, son 4 " "

James Loveys Black, son, 3 mo " "

John Loveys Black married his cousin Susan Ann Loveys in 1884 (GRO ref Apr-June, N.A., vol 5b, p 279).

Susan Ann Loveys was born in Dawlish in 1857 (GRO ref 1857 July-Sept, Newton Abbot, vol 5b, p 99) to Samuel and Ann Loveys. Samuel Loveys (1823- 1897) was the elder son of John and Elizabeth Loveys and brother to Dinah. He was a railway policeman in 1861 when Samuel and Susan lived at Plympton St Mary, and had been born in Hennock. Ann was born ca 1828 in Spreyton. They had moved to Dawlish ca 1865 and in 1871 were living at 4 Town Tree Hill with a son and five daughters. In 1881 they were living at 9 Brunswick Place. He died at 14 Brunswick Place in 1897.

John Loveys Black and Susan Ann Black had a son **William John Black** in 1888 (GRO ref 1888 May-June, Newton Abbot, vol 5b, p116). The 1891 census for 9 Brunswick Place, Dawlish does not show the father but the mother Susan A Black is shown as married, living with her parents and **William** is a scholar. In the following ten years the father appears to have died and the 1911 census also shows that Susan Ann Black was a widow living with her youngest child, Polly, at 7 East Street, Newton Abbot. The common name of John Black offers a number of registered deaths in the period 1888-1901. He may have sought work elsewhere and died outside Devon. Susan Ann Black died in 1938, aged 81. (GRO ref 1938, June, N.A., vol 5b, p 206).

By 1911 **William** had moved to London and was a Drapers Assistant and boarding at 60 Grove Road, St John's Wood.

William enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment, Territorials on 3 May 1909 at Plymouth at the age of 21, when he was working as a Draper's assistant in 14 Cornwall Street, Plymouth. He signed on for four years with a service number of 1920. He had his first annual training camp at Tavistock from 31 July to 7 August 1909, and was transferred to the 5th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, on 1 November 1909, most probably when he went to work in London. He attended a training camp at Lewes, Sussex from 30 July to 6 August 1910, but was transferred again to the 9th, County of London Regiment on 5 April 1911. He attended their camp from 6 to 20 August 1911 and again from 3 to 10 August 1912, and was given a discharge with time expired on 24 March 1914.

There are no service records from WW1, but the Medal Roll Index Card shows that he was first attached to the 2nd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, and later to the 6th Battalion. The 2nd Battalion was a regular army battalion that was based at Aldershot at the outbreak of war and then landed at Boulogne on the 9 September 1914. Their campaign during the war took them across the Western Front. It seems likely that **William Black** was wounded at some point and transferred to the 6th Battalion which was stationed first at Worcester, then Plymouth and Harwich where they stayed until the end of the war. There would have been a training role for soldiers returning from France. **William** was promoted to Acting Corporal.

Corporal William J Black died at Worcester Military Hospital on the anniversary of the Armistice. (GRO ref 1919 Dec, Pershore, Worcs, vol 6c, p 185). He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

He does not appear on the Devon Roll of Honour for Dawlish, quite possibly because he had moved away to London and his mother to Newton Abbot.

Dawlish War memorial does not carry his name but his grave is in Dawlish Cemetery, grave 2559. He is shown on Newton Abbot 1914-1918 Memorial as "W.J.Black - 34500 Corporal William James Black of the 6th Battalion, the Worcestershire Regiment. Son of Susan Ann Black of Courtney Street, Newton Abbot and the late James Black. Born in Newton Abbot in the June Quarter of 1894. Died 11 November 1919 aged 31." (*note some errors of date of birth and second Christian name -ed*)

Commonwealth War Graves entry: BLACK, WILLIAM JOHN Corporal 34500
11/11/1919 Age: 31 Worcestershire Regiment, 6th Bn.
Grave Ref: 2559. [Dawlish Cemetery](#)
Only son of Mrs. S. A. Black, of 26, Courtney St., Newton Abbot, and the late J. L. Black.

Last known address: 60 Grove Road, St John's Wood, London NW

Next of kin: Susan A Black, mother at 7 East Street, Newton Abbot

References:

Free BMD refs

Forces War Records

CWGC

Refs from subscription websites:

Census returns; WW1 Army Pensions Records; WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards