

John Gwyne Kerle ANNING

Born Dawlish Q3,1893

Died, 25 September 1915, aged 22

Private 10762

8th (Service) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

John Gwyne Kerswell Anning was the only son of John Kerswell Anning (1845 – 1921) and Elizabeth Luscombe Cuming Kerle (Anning) (1856- 1942). They also had two daughters, Elizabeth Rossiter Kerle Anning (1882 – 1964) and Annette Adeline Anning (1892 -).

The Anning family had long been residents of Starcross and gravestones are to be found in the churchyard.

JGK Anning's grandfather was John Anning (1813-1858), a master mariner who had married Susannah Carnell Southwood (1824-1908) in 1843. By the 1851 census they had a son John Kerswell Anning (father of JGKA) and two daughters, Elizabeth (1847-1862) and Mary (1850-). Ten years later, living at 37 Strand, Starcross, the mother was a widow and her daughter Elizabeth is described as an invalid. There were two more daughters, Emelyn Florence (1856-1885) and Florence Fanny (1858-). The father died in 1858.

John Kerswell Anning had, at age 16, become a Woolen Draper's Apprentice, working for William Geachsias and living at 8 Bystock Terrace, St David's, Exeter. In 1881 the mother, Susannah, had moved to 31 Strand, Starcross with John Kerswell Anning, now a Woolen Mercer, and Emelyn Florence Anning who was unmarried.

A year later, in 1882, John K Anning married Elizabeth Luscombe Cuming Kerle.

John and Elizabeth had a young family and in 1901 they lived at The Club, Marine Parade where the husband is shown as a Lodging House Keeper. The family comprised:

John Kerswell Anning, 56, Elizabeth J C Anning, wife, 45, Elizabeth Rossiter Kerle Anning, 18 (mother's help/domestic) Annette Adeline Anning, 8 and **John G K Anning, 7.**

In 1911 their address was 'Beachcroft', Marine Parade and **J G K Anning** was an Engineer's Apprentice. Annette Adeline Anning was at that time 18 and living with her unmarried aunt, Florence Fanny Anning at Woodbury View, Starcross, as her companion. Florence was the beneficiary on her mother's death in 1908 and Probate shows that she left £2,861.

After the deaths of both parents Elizabeth R K Anning continued to occupy 'Beachcroft' as is shown in Probate Records of her death on 6 November 1964.

John Gwyne Kerswell Anning enlisted with the Devonshire Regiment in Exeter and the following newspaper report suggests that it may have followed a local recruiting drive – John Anning (10762) John Dew (10728), Albert John Hooper (10723).

The 8th (service) Battalion was the first of the battalions formed from volunteers to form Kitchener's New Army. Recruiting was so successful that a 9th (Service) Battalion was also formed.

Anning was one of eight Dawlish men who were killed on the first day of the Battle of Loos involving the Devonshire Regiment.

The Dawlish Gazette, *SATURDAY, OCTOBER, 23rd, 1915*

We deeply regret to hear that official notice has been received of the deaths of two more of the gallant Dawlish contingent of the 8th Devons, viz, Pte. John Anning, only son of Mr and Mrs Anning, of Beechcroft, Marine Parade, and Pte. Ernest Martin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Martin, of Helena Place. The keen sympathies of all go out to the parents and other near relatives.

Pte. Anning enlisted in September, 1914, when the recruiting meeting was held at Dawlish. He was 22 years of age. His father received the following letter:—

“with reference to your inquiry for Pte. John Anning, No. ‘10762,’ A Company, 8th Devons Regiment. I very much regret that he was killed in the recent heavy fighting on Sept. 25th. He was reported by one of his comrades to have died advancing on the enemy’s trenches. Please accept and convey my greatest sympathy to all relatives and friends. It is some consolation for you to know that he died an Englishman’s death — C. D. Roberts, Capt., 8th Devonshire Regt.” France.

Among the announcements in that paper:

Deaths

ANNING.—Killed in action in France, Sept. 25th, Pte. John Anning, 8th Devon Regiment, “Buller’s Own,” only and dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs John Kerswell Anning, of “Beachcroft,” Dawlish, aged 22.

“He gave his life for his country”

The *Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of Friday 29 October 1915* carried this news under the Dawlish heading:

“News has been received that Private J. Anning has been killed in action. He was the only son of Mr J. Kerswell Anning, and nephew of Miss F. Anning (Starcross), and grandson of the late Captain J. Anning, master mariner and ship owner. The family for centuries have been tenant yeomen of the Earls of Devon. Private Anning came home from Manchester for his holiday in August, 1914, and was among the first to enlist in his county regiment, joining Buller's Own.” ...“About a year before war broke out he left home for the North of England, where he was apprenticed as a brass-worker.”

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

ANNING, JOHN KERLE Private 10762 died 25/9/1915 Age 22, Devonshire Regiment, Panel 35 to 37, Loos Memorial. Only son of John and Elizabeth Anning, of "Beachcroft", Marine Parade, Dawlish, Devon.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: ANNING J. PTE DEVON REGT

Devon Roll of Honour?: YES, but date and location of death not shown

Devon Heritage site info:

10762 Private John Gwyne K Anning of the Devonshire Regiment, the 8th (service) Battalion. Son of John and Elizabeth Anning of the Marine Parade, Dawlish. Born in Dawlish in the September Quarter of 1893. Died 25 September 1915 aged 22.

Dawlish World War One Project

Loos Memorial is at Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos by the D943 Route de Bethune, north west of LENS. Address 62750 Loos-en-Gohelle. It records 20,620 casualties.

References:

Starcross churchyard

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Newspaper extracts from the Dawlish Gazette collection in care of Dawlish Museum

Refs via subscription sites:

Census records

National Newspaper Archive

Ancestry site/ Morrison and Hill family Trees.

NAMES \ ANNING J G K rbv REV 20/08/15