

## Draft Notes for William Henry Smith in Freshford Great War Heroic Dead.paw

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**W Smith**, Pte. 1st. Canadian Infy. <sup>1</sup>

**William Smith**. <sup>2</sup>

Note: for further information regarding William Henry's parent see Charles Smith's notes.

1890 Birth of **William Henry Smith** registered Bath. <sup>3</sup>

1891 England Census shows John Smith mar. age 33 Quarryman Stone b. Freshford living at 1 Pipehouse, Freshford with wife Jane age 33 Laundress b. Calne, Wilts, and children Charles age 12 b. Freshford, Edith L age 7, Florence A age 4 all Scholars, and **William H** age 10mo. all b. Pipehouse, Somt. also Arthur Burt boarder single age 24. Blacksmith b. Berwick S Johns, Wilts. <sup>4</sup>

1901 England Census shows John Smith mar. age 43 Bath Stone Quarryman Below Ground (worker) b. Freshford, Somerset living at Pipehouse, Freshford with wife Phoebe age 43 Laundress (own accord) b. Calne, Wilts, and children Edith L s. age 17 Laundress (worker), Florence A age 14, **William H** age 10, Laura E age 8, Frederick J age 5 and Alice M age 3 all b. Freshford, Somerset. <sup>5</sup>

1911 England Census shows John Smith married. age 53 General Labourer (worker) b. Freshford, Somerset living at Pipehouse, Freshford (4 rooms) with wife Jane age 53 married (33 yrs 8 children b. alive, 2 who have died), Laundress (own accord, at home) b. Somerset, Freshford, and children Florence s. age 23 Laundress Assisting, **William** single age 20 General Labourer, Laura single age 18 Laundress Assisting, Frederick age 15 Farm Labourer and Alice age 13 all b. Freshford, Somerset. <sup>6</sup>

### *First World War*

Note: The 1st Canadian Division. This Division Orbat included 1st Bn, the Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario). On 1 August 1914 - three days before Britain declared war - the Governor-General of Canada offered help should war break out. On 7 August Lord Kitchener responded that the Canadians might form a Division. An Expeditionary Force soon began to assemble at Valcartier (Quebec). The Division sailed on 3 October 1914 and arrived in England eleven days later. Training re-commenced on Salisbury Plain and the Division embarked for St Nazaire in early February 1915. It arrived in the Hazebrouck-Strazeele area on 15 February and thereafter the Division fought in many of the major actions of the war. The first major campaign was The Battles of Ypres 1915 ("Second Ypres") 22 April - 25 May 1915. Ref: The Long, Long Trail - The British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918. The Long, Long Trail is owned, designed, built and written by Chris Baker.

<http://www.1914-1918.net/>

1914 Attestation Paper. No. 6384. Name: **William Henry Smith**; Born: Pipehouse, Freshford, Bath; Next-of-kin: Jno Smith of Pipehouse, Freshford, Bath; DoB: July 1- 1894; Trade: Policeman; Married: no. Declaration signed Sep 17 1914. Stamped 1st Battalion. Anotated 21st Regt. Windsor out Aug 1914.<sup>7</sup>

1915 **Smith, William Henry S**. No. 6384, died 22 Apr 1915 age 24, Regiment 1st Bn Canadian Infantry; Memorial Panel 10-26-28 Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. <sup>8</sup> Son of John and Phoebe Jane Smith of 1 Pipehouse, Freshford, Bath, England. <sup>9</sup>

1915 N0. 6384 Pte. **Smith William H** 1st Battn. Next-of-kin Mrs. J. Smith, Pipe House, Freshford, Nr. Bath, Eng. Date of death: 22/30.4.15 Killed in Action. Killed at St. Jeau (R.L. 26.7a.Vol.4). Place of burial No record of burial (OC 1n R.L.26-7a), Buried at St Jean <sup>10</sup> (R.L. 26.7a Vol.4). MENIN GATE MEMORIAL [stamped]. <sup>11, 12</sup> Note: The CWGC lists two soldiers named as Smith W buried

here, but both served with British regiments.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Plaque on Freshford Village war memorial sited on the village Tyning.

<sup>2</sup> Alan Dodge, *Freshford - History of a Somerset Village* (2000; reprint, Freshford Manor Bath Somerset: Freshford Publications, 2000)

<sup>3</sup> England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index: 1837-1983 for Bath for 1890 Jul-Aug-Sep Vol 1c Page 556.

<sup>4</sup> 1891 England Census RG12/1930 Bath, Twerton 146 Folio 146 Page 12 Schedule 69.

<sup>5</sup> 1901 England Census RG13/2335 Bath, Twerton 20 Folio 143 Page 7 Schedule 57.

<sup>6</sup> 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/14681 Bath, Twerton 18 Folio Schedule 74.

<sup>7</sup> Attestation Paper. Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force. Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918, Database.

<sup>8</sup> Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial is at Iaper (Ypres), Belgium. The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom who died in the Salient. The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick, was unveiled by Lord Plumer on 24 July 1927. Ref: Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org).

<sup>9</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details [www.cwgc.org/1596152](http://www.cwgc.org/1596152).

<sup>10</sup> St Jean also known as St. Jean-Les-Ypres, (now called Sint-Jan) ia a small village is on the outskirts of Ypres, lying to the north-east of the city on the N313. The White House Cemetery is located on the left-hand side of this road as it leads out of Ypres. The cemetery was started in April 1915, and used almost throughout the war until April 1918. Ref: <http://www.w1battlefields.co.uk/flanders/east.html>. There are now 1,163 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 322 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 16 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 28 casualties who were buried in other cemeteries, but whose graves could not be found on concentration. The cemetery also contains eight Second World War burials, all dating from May 1940. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield. Ref: Commonwealth War Graves Commission Index on line

<sup>11</sup> Canadian Death Registration File No. RL 25.s.50 Cas. Sheet No. 59.

<sup>12</sup> The help of Victoria Purcell of London, Ontario Canada is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>13</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission Index on line