

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

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**W Taylor**, Gnr. Canadian F.A. <sup>1</sup>

**William Taylor**, d. 14 Feb 1916 age 22 Bailleul, France. <sup>2</sup>

The records for **William Taylor** before his arrival in Freshford have not been identified. Note that there is doubt over the year he was born. In the 1911 England Census his age was given as 18yrs i.e. born abt. 1893. This broadly agrees with his age given as 22yrs at the time of his death in Feb 1916, and is comparable with the 22yrs he gave when he emigrated to Canada Jun 1913. However, his Canadian Attestation stated he was born 31 Oct 1889 which he signed for.

1911 Census shows **William Taylor** single age 18 Cowman-on-Farm b. Liverpool boarding at Park Corner, Freshford, Nr Bath (6 rooms) with James Mundy married age 63 Jobbing Gardener b. Freshford, Somerset, his wife Ellen Mundy age 62 Laundress b. Freshford, son Alfred Mundy age 31 single Jobbing Gardener b. Freshford, and 4 other boarders all local to the area. <sup>3</sup>

### *Possible arrival in Canada*

1913 **William Taylor** arrived Quebec in Jun 1913 on the Laurentic. Age 22, single, intends to permanently reside in Canada, can read & write, English, destination Hamilton, Ontario, previous occupation farming, intended occupation farming, religion Church of England. <sup>4</sup> Note: This is the only record found which fits with William's profile and timescale. However, he appears to have arrived with \$600 in cash, which seems a lot.

### *First World War*

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. <sup>5</sup> **William Taylor's** death did not coincide with any major battle, coming between the Ypres offensive of 1915 and the Somme battles of 1916. He may have died in a skirmish, or as the result of an accident.

1915 Unit [illegible] Regimental Number: 85436. **William Taylor** b. Liverpool, England; Next-of-kin: Step-Father James Mundy <sup>6</sup> of 6 Lansdown Rd. Bath, England; Date of birth: 31 Oct 1889; Trade: Labourer; Married: no; Willing to be vaccinated: yes; Belong to active milita: no; Ever served in military force: no. Declaration signed. Oath on attestation taken. <sup>7, 8</sup>

1916 **Taylor, William**, Gunner, S. No. 85436 d. 24 Feb 1916 age 22, Regiment: Canadian Field Artillery, 1st Div. Ammunition Col.; Grave: II.C.170, Bailleul Communal Extension, Nord. <sup>9</sup> Foster son of J Mundy of 13 Caroline Buildings, Pulteney Rd. Bath, England. <sup>10, 11</sup> The Canadian death registration also notes: 24.2.16 Killed in action; Next-of-kin Mr Jas Mundy [address as above]. <sup>12</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 1911 England & Wales Census RG14/14675 Bath, Twerton 12 Schedule 64.

<sup>4</sup> National Archives of Canada, Canada Passenger Lists, 1881-1922, index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/>) Affiliate Film Number: T-4797, Digital Folder Number: 004544699, Image Number: 00388.

<sup>5</sup> 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/> 1st Canadian Division.

<sup>6</sup> This description of James Mundy as his “step father” is probably indicative of a strong relationship having developed with the old man during William’s time in his house, rather than an actual legal situation. The 1911 census merely referred to him as a boarder.

<sup>7</sup> Attestation Paper. Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force. Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918, Database. dated 7 Feb 1915.

<sup>8</sup> The help of Victoria Purcell of London, Ontario Canada is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>9</sup> Bailleul is a large town in France, near the Belgian border, 14.5 Kms south-west of Ieper (Ypres) and on the main road from St. Omer to Lille. Bailleul was occupied on 14 October 1914 by the 19th Brigade and the 4th Division. It became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre, with the 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 11th, 53rd, 1st Canadian and 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Stations quartered in it for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made at the east end of the communal cemetery and in April 1915, when the space available had been filled, the extension was opened on the east side of the cemetery. BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. Both the Commonwealth plot in the communal cemetery and the extension were designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

<sup>10</sup> Commonwealth War Graves Commission Casualty Details [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) 201839.

<sup>11</sup> Canadian Death Registration Cas. Sheet No. A200.

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