

## **Lieutenant George Henry Hamilton**

**Regimental number: –**

**13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Canadian Highlanders), Canadian Infantry**

**born: 27 October 1888 - died: 29 September 1918**

Lieutenant George Henry Hamilton was born on 27 October 1888<sup>1</sup> in Bury, Quebec, Canada.<sup>2</sup> He was the son of Andrew and Mary Ann Hamilton and was baptised on 26 May 1889 in the English Church in Cranbourne, Quebec.<sup>3</sup> His father, Andrew, was born on 27 February 1826<sup>4</sup> in Ireland.<sup>5</sup> His mother, Mary Ann, the former Mary Ann Barthe,<sup>6</sup> was born in about 1851 in New Brunswick.<sup>7</sup> When Mary Ann and Andrew married on 16 February 1886 in the Methodist Church in Bury, they were widow and widower respectively.<sup>8</sup> Andrew had been married to Jane Matson, possibly in Ireland, and they probably had three children: William Henry (born in about 1848),<sup>9</sup> Andrew (born in about 1849)<sup>10</sup> and Hannah (born in about 1851).<sup>11</sup> Mary Ann had previously been married to a Mr Forbes, which whom she had at least one child – a daughter, Janes Forbes (born in about 1876).<sup>12</sup> Together, Mary Ann and Andrew had at least three children: William Frederick (born on 9 November 1886),<sup>13</sup> George and Helen Jane (born on 4 October 1891).<sup>14</sup> Andrew was a farmer, who came to Canada in about 1846.<sup>15</sup>

Until at least 1911, the George and his family were as living in Bury, where George's father continued farming.<sup>16</sup> His father died on 24 September 1913 and was buried in St Paul's Cemetery in Bury and Lingwick, Québec.<sup>17</sup> After the Great War, his mother was still in Bury, but living with George's brother, William, his wife, Margaret and son, Howard.<sup>18</sup>

On 1 October 1914, George married Julia Permillia Clark in the Church of England in Bury.<sup>19</sup> Julia was a minor. They had a son, Wallace Raymond, born on 18 March the following year.<sup>20</sup>

George enlisted in the 117<sup>th</sup> (Eastern Townships) Battalion on 4 January 1916 in Sherbrooke, Quebec at the age of 27.<sup>21</sup> He was 5' 10" tall and a farmer. He had previously served in the "B" Squadron of the 7<sup>th</sup> Hussars. At some point he transferred to the 20<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion. Members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion reinforced, among other battalions, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion<sup>22</sup> and George was serving with this Battalion when he died in 1918.

His military career was interrupted by a number of hospitalisations. He was in hospital until the day before he sailed for England in September 1916, suffering from a reaction to vaccinations. He sailed from Halifax on the Empress of Britain on 14 September 1916. In February 1917, he was admitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern General Hospital in Brighton with lumbago. There followed other illnesses that required hospitalisation between February and August 1917 – neuritis, myalgia, bladder problems and dyspepsia. On 28 August 1917, the Medical Board in Shoreham determined that George was unfit for service because of lumbago and debility gastritis, caused by "service and army rations."<sup>23</sup> He was prescribed one month's convalescence. By the end of September, George indicated that he was fully recovered and the doctors concurred. Sadly, a year later, George was fatally wounded.

At the end of September 1918, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was on the Front in France.<sup>24</sup> On 27 September, the Battalion moved forward to the east side outskirts of Cagnicourt. It was possibly during this operation that George was wounded.

During operations near Sains-les-Marquoin, he was shot through the stomach by a machine gun bullet at about 10.30 o'clock on the morning of September 27<sup>th</sup>,

1918. His wounds were dressed and he was carried out and evacuated to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he succumbed two days later.

Indeed, he was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to his abdomen.<sup>25</sup> He died two days later<sup>26</sup> and was buried the next day later in Duisans' British Military Cemetery (Grave 94, Plot 7, Row A) with the Canadian chaplain W. Fisher presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.<sup>27</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.<sup>28</sup> A total of 75 patients died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS in September 1918.

George had made a will in favour of his wife in October 1916.<sup>29</sup> After the war, his wife and son continued to live in Bury.<sup>30</sup> In the 1921 Canadian census, they are shown as living next door to George's brother, William, and his family on Mill Street. However, Canada/United States border crossing records, show Julia and Wallace moving to the US, through the port of Jackman, Maine, in April 1921.<sup>31</sup> Julia was a domestic.

On 29 August 1925, Julia remarried, marrying John Hanson Jr. in Greenville, Maine.<sup>32</sup> John was a carpenter, born in Maine in about 1897.<sup>33</sup> Julia and John had a daughter, Celia, born in about 1937.<sup>34</sup> George's son, Wallace, married Marion between 1930 and 1940<sup>35</sup> and then Lois (nee Jacks) in about 1967.<sup>36</sup> They continued to live in Maine until Wallace died in 2004.

© BIFHSGO, 2016

---

<sup>1</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 March 2016), entry for George Henry Hamilton, Event: Baptism

<sup>2</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 – CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>; accessed 13 March 2016) entry for George Henry Hamilton, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3980 – 37, Item Number: 441742. His army service file indicates that he was born in 1889, making him a year younger when he enlisted.

<sup>3</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," entry for George Henry Hamilton

<sup>4</sup> "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for George Hamilton, Province: Quebec, District: Compton, District Number: 150, Sub-District: Bury, Sub-District Number: B-3

<sup>5</sup> "1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Andrew Hamilton, Province: Canada East (Quebec), District: Dorchester County, District Number: 7, Sub-district: Cranbourne, Sub-District Number: 99

<sup>6</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 March 2016), entry for Mary Ann Forbes, Event: Marriage

<sup>7</sup> "1891 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for George Hamilton, Province: Quebec, District Number: 149, District: Compton, Subdistrict: Bury

<sup>8</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," entry for Mary Ann Forbes, Event: Marriage

<sup>9</sup> "1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia," entry for Andrew Hamilton

<sup>10</sup> "1861 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 October 2016), entry for Andrew Hamilton, Film Number: C-1277-1278, Page Number: 15

<sup>11</sup> "1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia," entry for Andrew Hamilton

<sup>12</sup> "1891 Census of Canada," entry for George Hamilton

- 
- <sup>13</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 March 2016), entry for William Frederick Hamilton, Event: Baptism
- <sup>14</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 March 2016), entry for Helen Jane Hamilton, Event: Baptism
- <sup>15</sup> "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for George Hamilton, Province: Quebec, District: Compton, District Number: 150, Sub-District: Bury, Sub-District Number: B-3
- <sup>16</sup> "1891 Census of Canada," entry for George Hamilton; "1901 Census of Canada," entry for George Hamilton; "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for George Hamilton, Province: Quebec, District: Compton, District Number: 155, Sub-District: 2- Bury, Sub-District Number: 2
- <sup>17</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 March 2016), entry for Andrew Hamilton, Event: Burial
- <sup>18</sup> "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Julia Hamilton, Province or Territory: Quebec, District: Compton, District Number: 162, Sub-District: Bury, Sub-District Number: 2, City, Town or Village: Bury
- <sup>19</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for George Henry Hamilton, Event: Marriage
- <sup>20</sup> "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 March 2016), entry for Wallace Raymond Hamilton, Event: Baptism
- <sup>21</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 - CEF," entry for George Henry Hamilton. Unless otherwise stated, all information about his military career comes from this source.
- <sup>22</sup> "Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group - "The Matrix Project"," (<http://www.cefresearch.ca/matrix/Utilities/reserves/index.html>; accessed 13 March 2016)
- <sup>23</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 - CEF," entry for George Henry Hamilton
- <sup>24</sup> "War diaries - 13th Canadian Infantry Battalion," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>; accessed 13 March 2016), 1918/07/18-1919/04/20. File number: 385. Copied container number: T-10716, Finding aid number: 9-52
- <sup>25</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 691
- <sup>26</sup> According to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS chaplains' journal, he died on 28 September 1918; whereas most other records record his date of death as 29 September. ("Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 12 March 2016), entry for Hamilton, George Henry; "Canadian Virtual War Memorial," *Veterans Affairs Canada* (<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/>; accessed 13 March 2016), entry for George Henry Hamilton)
- <sup>27</sup> "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 7 October 2015)
- <sup>28</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G); accessed 17 June 2015)
- <sup>29</sup> "Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 - CEF," entry for George Henry Hamilton
- <sup>30</sup> "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Julia Hamilton, Province or Territory: Quebec, District: Compton, District Number: 162, Sub-District: Bury (Township and Village), Sub-District Number: 2, City, Town or Village: Bury
- <sup>31</sup> "U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Wallace Hamilton, Record Type: Manifests, Line Number: 10
- <sup>32</sup> "Maine, Marriage Index, 1892-1985," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Julia P Hamilton
- <sup>33</sup> "1930 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Wallace R. Hamilton
- <sup>34</sup> "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Julia Hanson

---

<sup>35</sup> "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 March 2016), entry for Wallace R. Hamilton

<sup>36</sup> "Obituaries, BDN Maine" (<http://bangordailynews.com/2008/09/25/obituaries/wallace-r-hamilton/>; accessed 13 March 2014), entry for Wallace R. Hamilton