

From the Archive: The Missing Men

During our research into the First World War, the Archive Group have come across 10 men with Killearn connections who were killed during World War I and two in World War II, who are not listed on the War Memorial.

The Kerr brothers were featured in *Courier* (Spring 2016.) Their great-niece has joined us for the last two Remembrance Sundays.

Andrew McAllister was featured in the Summer 2017 edition of the *Courier*.

The McEwan brothers are remembered on the family memorial in the cemetery and on the Kilmaronock War Memorial. Their father moved around the Killearn/Drymen area before settling at Pirnie Hall, Croftamie, as a gardener. George and William were born in Killearn (in 1892 and 1895 respectively) and both emigrated to Australia. George left in 1910 and worked in Broken Hill as a labourer, while William departed in 1912 and worked on coastal steamers. Both enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces. George was reported missing in action on 25 April 1915 at Gallipoli. William was wounded twice at Gallipoli and was then sent to the Western Front. On 30 July 1916, he received severe shell wounds and died the next day.

Robert John Moffat was the son of an English missionary and a Glaswegian mother. He was born in Killearn in 1891, but his younger brothers were born in Spain and England, and the family were in Edinburgh by 1901. He served in the Cameron Highlanders from 1910 to 1913, but was living with his family in Manitoba and working as a monotype operator, when he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in April 1916. He was married before he embarked at Halifax that October. He was killed on 10 April 1917.

James McKinnon was born in 1888 at Carbeth, Killearn, although by 1901 the family was living in Renfrew, where his father worked in the shipyards. James was serving with the army in India in 1911. He was killed on 4 June 1915 in the Dardanelles while serving with the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

John McNee was born in Killearn in 1894 to a father from Aberfoyle and a mother from Saltcoats. By 1901, he was living in Beith with his widowed mother. John was wounded fighting in the Dardanelles with the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He died on 16 August 1915 and is buried in Malta.

Robert Stewart was born in Killearn in 1892, where his father was employed as a coachman. He initially enlisted in Scottish Horse, but was transferred to 6th Dragoon Guards. He was killed in France on 26 March 1918.

Thomas Sinclair is recorded as being resident in Killearn at his death on 22 March 1918. He was born in Whifflet in 1893 and lived in Bonhill in 1901. He served with the Cameron Highlanders.

Robert Hunter Roxburgh served with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve during World War II. He died on 7 December 1942 and is remembered on the family memorial in the cemetery.

Hugh Wylie Rennie was a Major with the Highland Light Infantry who died on 8 February 1946, aged 55. He is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Killearn Cemetery. He was a career soldier who served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in World War I and returned to serve in World War II. He is remembered on the Drymen War Memorial, and his wife came from Killearn.

We feel that these men should be remembered and are considering erecting a plaque in the grounds of the War Memorial or in the church.

We would be grateful for any comments on our proposals. Please contact any member of the Archive Group.



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