



James (Jim) Barnes

Born on 3 November 1898 in Brigus, to parents William Thomas and Sarah Barnes.

James enlisted in The Royal Newfoundland Regiment on September 9th, 1918. He was 19 at the time and listed his “trade or calling” on the enlistment paper as fisherman.

At this time, he is living in Coleys Point (Bay Roberts) with his mother Sarah Barnes. There is no mention of his father on the papers filled out by James.

Being near the end of the war, James was not sent overseas but was assigned what was termed “Special duties” on the island.

Specifically, he was tasked to this duty in Mount Pearl (19 – 9 – 1918) and then Cape Race (15 – 10 – 1918). This assignment is noted in the notation from Daily Order of Nov 15, 1918. This special duty is not described but I speculate it had to do with conscription efforts.

James’s length of service in the Regiment was short lived since he was demobilized in January 1919.

Documentation re. James Barnes shows him being provided with a Travel Warrant (No. R325) to travel back home to Coleys Point.

His official Discharge Certificate No. 544 is included in the preserved information available on file at the Rooms.

It appears James returned to fishing following his discharge.

James lived to be in his nineties. He died in 1984 and is buried in the new St. Matthew’s Anglican Cemetery, Bay Roberts.

On a personal note, I knew Mr. Barnes (as I called him) quite well. He lived just across the road from my childhood home and was a good friend to my parents and visa versa.

Mr. Barnes told a story of how he came to know and eventually marry his wife, Carrie. He was working in the shipbuilding yards in New York, when his best friend introduced him to his then girlfriend, Carrie. For Jim, it was love at first sight, but she was his best friend’s girl and he said nothing. His friend and Carrie married and for years, still friends, they would all spend time together. Still Jim gave no indication of his feelings, after all, Carrie was married to his friend.

As time went by, Carrie’s husband became ill and died. Only then did Jim tell Carrie how he felt and that he had waited patiently to tell her so. After a number of years, Jim must have persisted because, even though late in years, they were married and moved to Bay Roberts to the home he had built on Water Street.

I remember him as a gentle man who loved to work with his hands, on things like handmade boats, chess board pieces and grandfather clocks. I do know that my parents cherished their friendship.