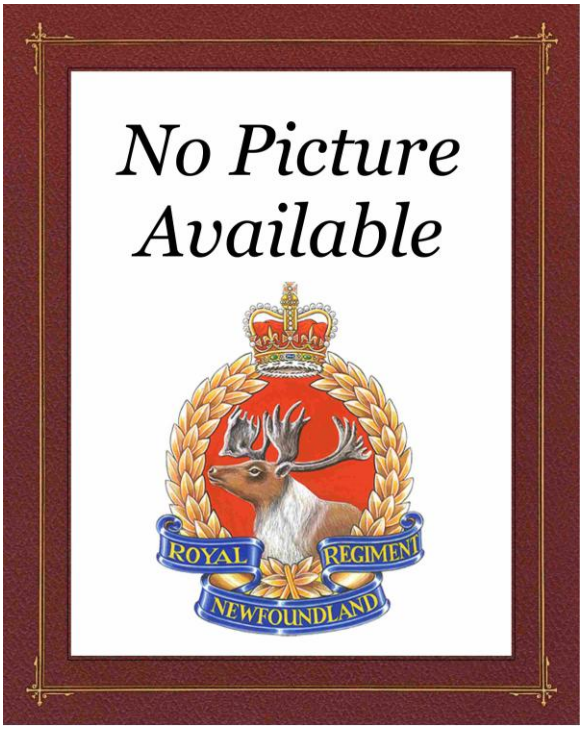


John Frederick Dawe
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental Service No. 5488

Born: 08 August 1896

Died: 31 December 1961

Place of Birth: Coley's Point, Bay Roberts

Parents: Robert and Rebecca Dawe

John enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at base St. John's on the 24 May 1918. His documentation described him as 21 years old, 5 feet 3 ½ inches tall, weighing 143 lbs, with black hair and brown eyes and a teacher by occupation.

His service record covers a 14-month period, one year and 69 days to be precise.

The following entries are taken directly from his official service papers:

1. Embarked St. John's on the S.S. Columbella for Halifax, Canada on the 22 July 1918



HMS COLUMBELLA – November 1914 to May 1916, September 1917 to October 1918, Northern Patrol (10th Cruiser Squadron), North Atlantic convoys

2. Promoted to Lance Corporal on the 21 November 1918
3. Back to Newfoundland for demobilization on 24 June 1919
4. Arrived Newfoundland the 01 July 1919
5. Demobilized on the 03August 1919 according to discharged certificate No. 3478

The 1921 census records Johns' parents Robert and Rebecca living at Coley's Point with two sons, Harvey, and Albert. There is no mention/record of John.

Following the War, John did not return to his former occupation as was his noted intention in his service record. He went to work with the Anglo-Newfoundland Company (the AND Company) at Grand Falls in 1920.

He married Anne Cater of Grand Falls, and they had two children, Robert, and Marguerite. He worked extensively with the railway system over the years (see his obituary below for details). John passed away in December 1961 of a heart attack.

He is buried in the Anglican Cemetery at Grand Falls (also know as the Union Street Cemetery).

OBITUARY

From The Grand Falls Advertiser 11 January 1961

JOHN FREDERICK DAWE

Grand Falls — Mr. John Frederick Dawe passed away suddenly, while visiting the home of his friend, Mr. James Parsons, 2 Junction Road, Grand Falls, shortly before midnight, Dec. 31, 1961, at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Dawe was born at Coley's Point, Bay Roberts, on August 8th, 1896, and received his early education at the C. of E. School of that community, after which he attended, in 1915 and 1916, the C. of E. Normal School at St. John's, under the late Dr. Arthur Barnes, Principal.

In September 1916, Mr. Dawe had a brief school teaching experience at Seldom, from which town he volunteered for service in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in May 1917, and proceeded overseas shortly thereafter. On his return from overseas in 1919, Mr. Dawe was occupied with his family's fishing business for a brief period, and came to Grand Falls the following year, where he started working for the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited on Mar. 1, 1920.

During his service with the AND Co. he worked in the General Engineering Department, assisting in surveying many of the Company's timber limits, the Exploits River Watershed and power potential, associated with the late Mr. R. M. B. Philip, Mr. H. S. Windler and the late Mr. Guy Harvey. Mr. Dawe also assisted in the engineering for construction of the Buchans Railway and supervised the wood handling and power development construction at Bishop's Falls in 1935. In 1938 he was transferred to the Botwood Railway, now the Grand Falls Central Railway, and has faithfully served this organization in the capacity of Assistant Roadmaster, Roadmaster and Consultant, up to the time of his decease.

Always very interested and proficient in sports, Mr. Dawe played hockey in his younger days and finally managed the CLB team at Grand Falls in 1935. He was an ardent golfer and curler, and, although his activities have been somewhat curtailed during the past few years, he continued his interest and devotion to these sports and to the organizations responsible for promoting them.

Left to mourn are his wife, the former Anne Cater of Grand Falls, his son Robert, daughter Marguerite (Mrs. Fred Row of Arnprior, Ont.), one grandson, Robert Dawe Jr., two brothers, Harvey of Grand Falls, Albert of Coley's Point, Bay Roberts, and one sister Mildred Lillian, widow of the late George Bishop of St. John's.

Interment took place at the Anglican cemetery, Grand Falls, on Jan. 2nd, 1962, after funeral service at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, the Rev. R. S. Sheppard and the Rev. A. E. Wareham officiating.

— CONTRIBUTED