



(Photo Courtesy of Great, Great, Great Niece Kelsey Fifield)

Sebastian Parsons
Canadian Engineers
Canadian Expeditionary Force
Regimental No. 2012111
WW I

Born: 26 March 1898

Died: 04 July 1957

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: Samuel and Fannie Parsons

Sebastian enlisted in the war effort late in September 1918. At the time, he was living and working in Toronto. The picture of Sebastian provided in his enlistment documents is as follows:

- He was 21 years old
- Single
- 5' 7 ³/₄ "

- Had brown hair and blue eyes
- Was 154 lbs
- Had a tattoo on his left forearm
- A bridgebuilder by trade
- Enlisted on 09 Sep 1918

Sebastian's military service would last just one year, all of which he spent in Canada. He did not go overseas.

Assigned the rank of sapper in the Canadian Engineers, Sebastian's service records contain these entries:

1. Transferred to station at Ottawa: 19 – 09 – 1918
2. To No. 6 Signal Co. CEF Siberia, Ottawa: 13 – 2 – 1918
3. Transferred to D2 (District 2) for demobilization: 03 – 01 – 1919
4. TOS (taken on strength) No. 2 DD (District Depot) 28 – 02 – 1919
5. Discharged SOS (struck off strength) No. 2 DD: 24 – 03 – 1919

Once out of the service, Sebastian returned home to Newfoundland and appears in the 1921 Newfoundland general census living at home in Coley's Point with his parents and sister Helen. His father is 68 and mother 66.

In August 1918, Sebastain made application to become a naturalized American citizen. At the time he had been living and working in Chelsea, Massachusetts for almost two years. The application shows he is single and 20 years old.

There is a second application of citizenship, this time in July 1928. Sebastain is listed as living in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This application includes his wife Leah (nee Baggs). They were married in 1925.

Back in Newfoundland, Sebastian (37) shows up in the next census round of 1935,

still in Coley's Point. His wife, Leah (nee) Baggs is 38. His mother Fannie (80) now a widow, having lost her husband in 1926, is living with them.

By 1945, it's just Sebastian (47) and Leah (48) and they are still in Coley's Point. Sebastian is self-employed (as a carpenter most likely). No children are listed.

Sebastian died in July 1957 of heart failure at age 59. He is buried in the St. John the Evangelist Anglican Cemetery at Coley's Point, Newfoundland. Leah passed away in 1981 and is buried next to Sebastian.