



William Parsons
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 5231

Born: July 4, 1898

Place of Birth: Shearstown

Parents: William and Sara Ann Parsons

William enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in May 1918. At that time, he was 20 years old, stood 5' 3 ½ "tall, weighed 126 lbs and had blue eyes. He gave his trade or calling as fisherman and his faith as Church of England.

His official service record indicates that he served for 1 year 77 days or 442 days in all. Record entries are short, comprised of:

1. Embarked St. John's to Halifax on board the S.S. Columbella 22 July 1918
2. To Newfoundland for demobilization on 24th of June 1919

3. Arrived Newfoundland 1st of July 1919
4. Demobilized on 4th of August 1919

William enlisted in May and prior to being shipped to Halifax in July, Married a young lady by the name of Sara Ann, just like his mother's name. He should have gotten permission to marry from a senior officer, now being a soldier but he did not and claimed later that he did not know he had to.

Well, he did ask the army's permission, after the fact and after producing the appropriate documents, including a letter signed by E. Andrews, rector of the Coley's Point Methodist Church confirming the marriage, he was granted permission to marry. William was now a married man.

William spent some time overseas, as confirmed by his presence at Hazeley Camp, Winchester, England in early 1919.

He returned to Newfoundland in July 1919 and was officially discharged that same month according to discharge Certificate No. 3501.

Back home, William is found in the 1921 Newfoundland census records as being single and living at home with his parents. He is now 24. The entry just beneath his shows Sara as a daughter of William's parents, single, aged 18 and thus a sister to him. However, William had married a girl Sara in June 1918. It would seem that the census entry is in error and the 18-year-old Sara is in fact William's wife not his sister and a daughter in law not a daughter to his parents. Rather confusing, since his parents are (William & Sarah) and now young William has taken a bride with the same name as his mother!

Since William and Sara do not show in any other census records or other official Newfoundland documentation, it is safe to assume that they moved elsewhere to build a life for themselves.

A possible answer comes in the form of a 1940 United States Federal Census entry showing a William and Sara Parsons of Newfoundland living in Kings, New York. William age 41 is listed as a “general helper” but is in construction as a dock builder. Sara, age 31 (believe to be in error, should read 37 or 38) is a stay-at-home housewife.

They are renting a house at \$34/month. There are no children but Sara’s sister, Mary Mullins from Corner Brook, Newfoundland is living with them and working as a waitress.

This information provided is accurate and is a best guess scenario and seems to fit given what is known about William. It is presented here, not absolute fact but as a logical potential possibility in this case.

There is no further information available at this time but will be added once found