

## Ramsgreave's War Dead

As far as we know, Ramsgreave has lost twelve residents through conflict. Seven residents died during the First World War and five during the Second World War. What follows is what we know about them. If you are a relative or local historian and would like to provide more information then we would love to hear from you. If you know of any other Ramsgreave residents who died in either of the world wars or other conflict, then we would like to hear about them.

### First World War casualties

#### ASHTON, Harry

Sergeant Harry Ashton, of the Scottish Rifles, has fallen in action at Salonica, an official intimation to that effect being received by Mrs. A. Ashton, his mother, who resides in Ramsgreave-road, Wilpshire. Sergeant Ashton, who was an only son, joined the Army in September, 1914, when he was 17 years of age, and had seen a great deal of service on the Western Front and



Sergeant Harry Ashton.

in the East. He had been twice to France, and had been twice wounded. About a year ago he was drafted to Salonica. Sergeant Ashton, who was connected with Wilpshire Wesleyan Church, was held in high esteem by all who knew him, and much sympathy is felt for his widowed mother and sister. (Photo. by F. Sharples, Blackburn).

Harry Ashton was born in 1897 in Levenshulme, Manchester although his mother Alice (nee Garlick) was from Wilpshire, her (step)father was Thomas Roscoe who lived at Sharples Farm in Wilpshire, he had a younger sister also called Alice. His father William died in 1909. By 1911 Alice and Harry were living on **Ramsgreave Road** and she may have been employed at nearby Ramsgreave Laundry, the younger Alice was living with Joseph Roscoe at Sharples Farm. The same census record shows that before the war Harry worked as an 'Insurance Office Boy'. He attended Wilpshire Methodist Church.

Harry joined the 11th Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) S/No. 13827 in September 1914 when he was 17. He served on the Western Front twice, being wounded both times. He was then sent to Greece. In an attack on 8 May 1917 during the Salonika campaign, Harry missed his battalion's departure into action. As a result Ashton was executed for desertion. He was buried in

Karasouli Military Cemetery. He was 20 years old. After his death his photo was featured in the local newspaper, his mother was not told of the circumstances around his death. (From 'Shot at Dawn' by Julian Putkowski, p.229, including photo.)

Many of the 306 soldiers executed by their own side during WW1 were likely to be suffering from 'shell shock' as a result of trauma, we would now call this Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In 2006 all the soldiers executed for desertion were pardoned and are commemorated at the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas, Staffordshire. Sometimes their names were even left off local war memorials, this was not the case for Harry Ashton. His name is also on the memorials at Salesbury Memorial Hall, Wilpshire Methodist, and St Peters Church.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/622832/harry-ashton/>

## ELLISON, James

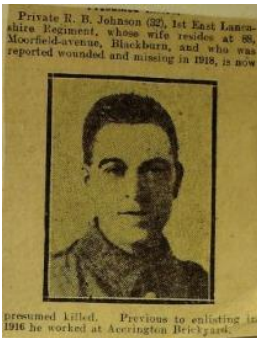
James Ellison was born in 1887 and lived at **Broadhead Farm**. He was the son of James and Mary Ellison, they were all farmers. He had younger siblings Annie and Joseph. His mother died young after having seven children. James worked at both Shore Farm and Broadhead Farm.

James joined the East Lancashire Regiment as a Private in B Company, 8th Battalion. 22091. He died on 11th April 1917, aged 30, and is commemorated at the Tank Cemetery at Geumappe in Northern France.

His name is on the memorial at Salesbury Memorial Hall, St Peter's Salesbury, St Mary's in Mellor and St Barnabas in Blackburn.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/560707/james-ellison/>

## JOHNSON, Richard Batty



Richard Johnson was born in 1886 in Ulverston. He was the son of William and Agnes Batty Johnson and the wife of Clara Johnson, they lived at **88 Moorfield Avenue**. He worked at Accrington Brickyard.

Richard joined the East Lancashire Regiment (the Accrington Pals) as a Private in the 1st Battalion. He died on 21st March 1918, aged 31, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial in northern France.

His name is on the memorial at Salesbury Memorial Hall and St Peter's Salesbury.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1574584/richard-batty-johnson/>

## KENYON, Arthur

Arthur Kenyon was born in 1899 and lived at **Ivy Cottage** on Barker Lane. He was the son of Emily and Joseph Kenyon who worked as a chemist wash house man. He had five siblings. He was still at school in 1911.

He joined up as a Private in the Manchester Regiment (12th Battalion). He died on 10th October 1918 aged 19, less than one month before the armistice, and is buried in the Grevillers British Cemetery in Northern France.

His name is on the memorial in St Mary's Church, Mellor.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/290467/arthur-kenyon/>

## MOORE, Henry



Henry Moore was born in Yorkshire in 1896 but the family later moved to **Ramsgreave Hall farm**. He was the son of Lillie and James Moore who were farm labourers. He had six younger siblings. In 1939 his father (now widowed) and three of his sisters (Mary, Edith and Florence) had moved to **62 Moorfield Avenue**. The three sisters were all cotton weavers.

He joined up as a Stoker in the Royal Navy H.M.S. Defence. He died on 31st May 1916 aged 20. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

His name is on the memorial at Salesbury Memorial Hall and St Peter's Salesbury.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2866773/henry-moore/>

## ORMEROD, Richard



Richard Ormerod was born in 1893 and lived at **5 Paris**, the son of Richard and his wife Eliza (who were both cotton weavers), he had an older sister called Mary. His mother died and his father remarried in 1901. Richard worked as an insurance clerk and in 1911 lived with his father, stepmother, grandmother and elder sister. He was the grandson of George Ormerod, a farmer and coal dealer and his wife Ellen. The widowed Ellen also lived at Paris.

He joined the East Lancashire Regiment (the Accrington Pals) as a Corporal in the 11th Battalion. Richard served in Egypt for some months before being sent to France in 1916. He died on 1st July 1916 on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He was aged 23 and is buried at Euston Road Cemetery in Northern France.

War record: 15th September 1914; k.i.a. 1st/2nd July 1916 (23); bd. Euston Road Cem., Colincamps.

His name is on the memorials at Salesbury Memorial Hall, St Peter's Salesbury and St Gabriel's Church, Brownhill.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/525112/richard-ormerod/>

## NIGHTINGALE, Frederick



Frederick Nightingale was born in 1881 and lived at **81 Moorfield Avenue**. He was originally from Tockholes. He was married to Elizabeth Dugdale Johnson and they had three children: James, Gladys and Reginald. He attended Wilpshire Methodist Church and worked as a taper at Oozebooth Mill in Blackburn.

He joined up as a Private in 20th Battalion Manchester Regiment S/No. 40236. He was killed in action on the 5th May 1917 aged 36. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France. He had five brothers on active service in the army.

His name is on the memorial at Salesbury Memorial Hall, St Peter's Salesbury, Wilpshire Methodist and St Barnabas, Blackburn.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/779610/fred-nightingale/>

## Second World War casualties

### CROFT, James Bracewell



James Croft was born in 1923 and lived at **East Lee (17), Paris** and was the only child of William Edgar (the headmaster of Salesbury Primary School, died 1963, aged 73) and his wife Hagar (nee Bracewell, died 1989, aged 95). He trained as a pilot in Canada.

He was a sergeant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 172 squadron. He died on 12th June 1943. His body was never recovered and his name is listed on the the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede among 20,000 men and women of the air forces, who died in the Second World War who have no known graves. He is commemorated on the memorials at St Peter's, Salesbury and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School where he was once a pupil.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/231511/james-bracewell-croft/>

## HASLER, Arnold Earnshaw

Arnold Hasler was born in 1917 and lived at **17 Ramsgreave Road**. He was the son of Joseph (a cotton weaver, died 1961 aged 81) and Elizabeth Hasler (nee Earnshaw who died in 1938). His parents were both from Mellor.

Arnold joined the Royal Armoured Corps, 12th Royal Lancers as a Trooper. He died on 28th February 1945 at the age of 28, he was buried in the Ravenna Ward Cemetery in Italy. He is commemorated on the Lancashire Evening Telegraph war memorial at it's offices in Blackburn which implies he must have been employed there.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2222952/arnold-earnshaw-hasler/>

## KENYON, Wilfred Owen



Wilfred Kenyon, or Fred as he seems to have been known, was born in 1925 but we cannot find out where exactly he lived in Ramsgreave. He was the son of Norman and Maud Kenyon who describes herself as being from Ramsgreave. Norman died in 1936 so Maud was a widow when she moved to Ramsgreave. We know Maud lived in Blackburn in Cecil Street in 1939 and in Napier Street in 1945. We cannot locate where she lived in Ramsgreave but think it was either between 1939 and 1945 or between 1945-1950 when we know she remarried and moved away. However she is not on the electoral roll for Ramsgreave between 1945-1950. The

connection with Ramsgreave is a mystery but as she put it on Wilfred's war memorial inscription we have included him on our memorial.

Wilfred attended Blakey Moor school and worked at Phillips factory as a clerk and then at Tattersall's food merchants in Blackburn.

He joined the Royal Airforce Volunteer Reserve, 576 Sqdn as a sergeant. He died on 27th August 1944 at the age of 19. His final flight was a mission to lay mines in Danzig Bay. He took off with a crew of 7 from Elsham Woods in Lincolnshire on 26th August 1944, the aircraft and crew were lost without trace. His name is listed on the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede among 20,000 men and women of the air forces, who died in the Second World War who have no known graves.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1802646/wilfred-owen-kenyon/>



## SERGEANT, James

James Sergeant was born in 1914, the son of George and Agnes Sergeant. He lived at **32 Moorfield Avenue** with his wife, Dorothy.

He was a Corporal in the Royal Army Service Corp, 107 Tank Brigade Company. He died on 5th May 1943 in Tunisia and was buried at the Medjez-el-bab War Cemetery. He is commemorated on the memorial at St Gabriel's church, Brownhill.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2813237/james-sergeant/>

## HAMPSHIRE Frank



Frank Hampshire lived at **41 Ramsgreave Road** with his wife Annie (nee Ramsbottom). He served in the Royal Artillery Field Regiment 135 (Hertfordshire Yeomanry). He died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Thailand on 16th September 1943, he was 27 years old. He is buried at Chungkai War Cemetery in Thailand. Prior to the war he worked as a boot repair and sales company at 22 Harwood Street in Blackburn.

He was the only son of Robert and Annie (nee Livesey) Hampshire. They lived on Sunnyside Avenue in Wilpshire, Robert joined the army aged 23 in 1916. Frank's wife Annie remarried in 1951 to Harry Stockdale.

He is commemorated on the memorial at Salesbury Memorial Hall. (Frank is not listed on our memorial plaque as we only learned about him after it had been installed. He will be added when it is renewed.

## Sources

Census data from [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk)

Commonwealth War Graves <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Royal Air Force Commands and RAF Museum archives  
<http://www.rafcommands.com/>

Imperial War Museum War Memorials Register <https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials>

Thanks to: local historian John Theakstone for permission to include information from his book 'Ramsgreave in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries' 2011; local historian Philip Crompton for his research into the Parish war dead; military historian Julian Putkowski for his information about Harry Ashton and the historians of RAF 576 Squadron.