



remembrance ni

Places and Remembrance - WW1 Cullybackey

The focus of remembrance naturally tends to highlight war memorials and particularly those in provincial towns. In the town lands which surround these towns memorials tend to be confined to local churches. Looking closer at a local community can reveal the depth



The Rev William H Hutchison

of commitment and cost which they have made.

Cullybackey, a County Antrim village, and the town lands around it (Craigs, Hillmount and Harperstown, a sub-section of Hillmount) highlight the type of commitment made in the First World War. This is a tiny rural area and the statistics of its fatalities are shocking.

Not only did the men from the small rural district enlist, the sons of those living elsewhere in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth did so, and their service was recorded.

Like many of their fellow Ulstermen, they served on the Somme, and some of them lived to recall their experiences. Most served with the 12th Royal Irish Rifles. Thanks to one local journalist in particular, Dessie Blackadder of the Ballymena Observer, their contemporary accounts can be recalled.

The local Presbyterian clergyman served two years as a despatch rider before commencing service as a chaplain. A son of the owners of the local linen mill was killed in service.

Presbyterian Minister who served as a Despatch Rider and then as Chaplain

Rev. William Holmes Hutchinson was Minister of the Cunningham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cullybackey.

Born in Dublin in 1882, Mr Hutchinson received his early education there. Moving to Belfast he had a business career for some years in the firm of Gregg and Phoenix . He experienced a call to be a minister and entered Queen's College, Belfast where he graduated with a B.A. in 1904.

He took his divinity course at Assembly's College, Belfast . Mr Hutchinson was licensed by the Belfast Presbytery on May 26, 1908 and was for some time assistant to Rev Dr Charles Davy in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church.

In 1910, he was ordained as minister of Cunningham Memorial Church , Cullybackey.

Rev. William Holmes Hutchinson, Royal Army Chaplains department, attached 1st Royal Irish Rifles and Minister of Cuningham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cullybackey.

“He volunteered early in the war serving as a despatch rider at the front for two years. In February of 1917 he accepted a chaplaincy and returned to active service”. (Ballymena Observer, September 27, 1918)

As a chaplain he was attached to 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was awarded the Military Cross. “Under heavy machine-gun and shell fire during the operations south of Dadizeele on October 2nd, 1918, he helped to evacuate and render first-aid to the wounded, with complete disregard for personal safety. He assisted to carry tow seriously-wounded men from the front line to the regimental aid post, a distance of about one kilometre. He returned to the front line and continued dressing the wounded under heavy fire. His gallantry and conspicuous conduct during the entire

Rev. William Holmes Hutchison, R. Army
Chapl. Dept., attd. 1st Bn. R. Irish Rf.

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The local newspaper reported that he was wounded on October 20th, 1918."He was gassed a few weeks ago and on recovery paid a visit home when he preached in the Cuningham pulpit." (Ballymena Observer, October 18, 1918).

At the conclusion of the war, Mr Hutchinson returned to Cullybackey, where he completed a ministry of 22 years, before accepting a call to Ballywillan (Portrush) in 1932. On July 20, 1938 Rev Hutchinson married Dr Isobel Alexander, eldest daughter of Mr & Mrs Robert Alexander, of Crossreagh House, Portrush. Dr Alexander had been an elder of Ballywillan Presbyterian Church for some years, and is described as having been a very witty person with beautiful red hair. Dr Alexander was Schools Medical Officer for North Antrim at the time of her marriage.

During the Second World War when servicemen came home on leave, the Rev and Mrs Hutchinson invited them to the manse for supper. Having served during the First World War, Rev Hutchinson would have been aware of the many problems which men had to face.

He died on August 24, 1953, aged 72 and after 44 years of ordained ministry.

C of I rector also awarded MC

Cullybackey is within the Church of Ireland Parish of Craigs. The Rector when the war commenced was The Rev. Horace Crawford Townsend. He was a clergy son and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. His parents were Rev Canon Horace Webb Townsend, The Rectory, Skibereen and Charlotte (nee Crawford). He was ordained in 1893. He came to Connor Diocese in 1894. He became senior curate-assistant in St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena. After several years of service in Ballymena he volunteered as a missionary and went for Ceylon, where he ministered for seven years. As a result of his health being impaired the Reverend Townsend returned home and was appointed rector of the Craigs Parish Church and was installed on 25th January 1904. He married Edith, daughter of the late Mr. Young of Kintullagh, Ballymena, who was a linen merchant.

The local historical society recorded that "During his thirteen years at the Craigs he won for himself the respect and esteem not only of his own congregation but of the entire residents of the district. While in Cullybackey he took a keen interest in the work of the local branch of the U.V.F. and was chaplain to the Ballymena District L.O.L."

The Ballymena Observer reported - "Rev. H. C. Townsend, MA, Rector of Craigs Parish Church, County Antrim, has been appointed as an army chaplain. The Rev. gentleman has been in charge of Craigs for upwards of 12 years."

He was appointed Chaplain Fourth Class in December 1915 and was on the Western Front from January 1916. Awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in January 1917, a year later Horace Townsend was mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig. He relinquished his commission on 13 March 1918. He died in 1940.

Director of Frazer and Haughton the local linen company

Lieutenant Thomas Greenwood Haughton of the 12th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles (Central Antrim Volunteers) was killed in action July 1st, 1916, near Thiepval, in the battle of the Somme. The final death toll for the 12th Rifles as a result of the first day's battle on the Somme was a truly appalling figure of 153 officers and men. Few in the battalion escaped without one kind of physical wound or another. It is doubtful if any escaped what we now know as post traumatic stress syndrome.

While the vast majority of casualties in the 12th Rifles were drawn from the rank and file, the percentage of officers killed and wounded was extreme.

Before the First World War broke out Tommy Haughton was commander of E. Company, U.V.F., in Cullybackey. When war was declared he at once offered his services and had

been at the front since October, 1915. Lieutenant Haughton was an able and enthusiastic officer and very popular with his brother officers and men.

He was killed in action on the 1st July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme whilst leading his men to attack German trenches during the advance of the Ulster Division. He was just one of many young subalterns who led their men into action that hot July morning.

Lt. Haughton had already sent several letters home to the next of kin of soldiers in his unit who had been killed or wounded in the months leading up to the Somme. Now it was his brother officers who had to tell young Haughton's relatives in Cullybackey of how he met his death..

One such letter was sent by Lt. Robbie Hanson, a Larne man also serving with the 12th Btn.

He wrote to Lt. Haughton's brother, Samuel:

Dear Sammy - I know Dempster Wilson has written to you about Tommy, but I just want to write a line and say how awfully sorry I am for you all. I have lost practically all my best friends, and can, perhaps, realise just a little what his own people are suffering.

Tommy died like a hero leading his men in a grand charge for the German lines. I think he would have liked that death best. His name will never be forgotten by his friends in the battalion.

I went up the night before last with the adjutant to try and find him but we couldn't get out, the shelling was too heavy. The adjutant and I both got hit but not badly.

If I can find out any more or get up there again I'll let you know.

Lt. Robbie Hanson, 12th Royal Irish Rifles

It was not the only letter received by Sam Haughton. Another had come from a Ballymena soldier, Rfn. Jack Anderson of Princes Street who himself was wounded in the attack.

Anderson, who had worked in Kane's Foundry in Harryville before the war, had been 'batman' to Lt. Haughton. On receipt of the letter, Sam Haughton felt moved to publish its contents in the 'Ballymena Observer'.

He told the editor:-

"I quote freely from a letter which has drawn a veil of comfort over the great sorrow of our loss, in the hope that those same words may help many another aching heart throughout this countryside.

My brother's servant, Rfn. Jack Anderson, has written home from a hospital, Lonaghan Lodge near Sheffield and gives a wonderful account of what took place.

He was in my brother's platoon which met such deadly machine gun fire. Rfn. Anderson actually reached the German lines but, as he puts it, so few of his comrades were left that he immediately missed my brother.

Regardless of the ruthless fire he went back into the open and after searching for some time, found his officer. Bending over his master to bandage his wounds, he himself was hit and I now realise intensely with what justice Tommy often said that Anderson was 'one of the best'.

Having done everything he could and realising that all need for human aid was passed, Rfn. Anderson thought of his own hurts.

No medals or words can repay in full such things and we can but hope that the inner knowledge of real self sacrifice brings with it an ample measure of recompense."

When news that he had been killed reached his native district, there were expression of deep regret from all in the area, and on the 16th July 1916 a memorial service in his memory was held in the Craigs Parish Church.

Whilst living at the family home in Hillmount, Lieutenant Haughton was a regular attender at Divine service in the Craigs Parish Church and was closely associated with the work of the parish, acting for a number of years as churchwarden.

Lieutenant Haughton was a director in the firm of Messrs. Frazer and Haughton, Hillmount, and such was the esteem in which he was held that the employees considered it but right and proper to erect a memorial in his memory. This was in the form of a brass mural tablet, along with a brass book rest presented by the Rev. H. C. Townsend, B.A., rector of Craigs Parish Church and dedicated by the Rev. W. H. A. Lee, M. A., on Sunday 6th May 1917.

The inscription reads:-“To the glory of God, and in memory of Thomas Greenwood Haughton, Lieutenant, 12th B. Royal Irish Rifles, who was killed in action July 1st, 1916, near Thiepval, in the battle of the Somme, France, aged 25 years. When killed he was leading his men in a most gallant manner towards the German trenches. This tablet is erected by the employees in Hillmount Bleach Green.”

Thomas Greenwood Haughton, was the son of Mr Thomas Haughton J. P., and Catherine Isabel Haughton, Hillmount. He was educated at Edgbaston Preparatory School, Birmingham, and St. Edmund's School, Oxford.

He was laid to rest in the Hamel Military Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel, Somme, France.

Headmaster returned to home roots after the war

Captain R J MacIvor, although born near Newtownstewart, County Tyrone, may be said to be a native of Cullybackey by reason of the fact that it was there that his family had its roots. After completing his training at Marlborough Street Training College, his first teaching appointment was in the Belmont district of Belfast, but the Great War intervened shortly afterwards and he applied for and was granted, after examination, a regular commission.

He was soon on active service in France, where he was wounded and after recovering was gazetted adjutant and posted to the 10th Ghurkas, then stationed in India. That was in 1917, and he remained in India until the Geddis axe was applied to a reduction of the Services, when he returned home after an absence of seven years.

In 1926, less than a year afterwards he was appointed principal of Carninney Public Elementary School on the outskirts of Ballymena and in 1928 he returned to his native heath as principal of the Buick Memorial Public Elementary School.

In his younger days Captain MacIvor was particularly fond of swimming and very adept at trick feats from the diving

board but in later years his principal recreation was golf, of which he was no mean exponent, having carried off some of the more important trophies in local club competitions and often in the face of formidable opposition.

Cullybackey's memories of the Somme

Dessie Blackadder writes - Nothing less than a massacre could have been expected if the Division to the north of the Ulstermen failed to take out the multiple machine gun nests at Beaumont Hamel. When that attack failed, the Rifles and Fusiliers were cut down like corn before a scythe.

Rifleman Ben Millar from Harperstown, Cullybackey, was one of those who had an extremely lucky escape on July 1.

In a letter to his father, Ben masks much of the horror of that day with what can only be termed a 'boys own' account of his battle experience.

Such letters are common. Most soldiers preferred to keep their own families and loved ones 'innocent' of the stark realities of the war.

He wrote:

"At 7.30 on the 1st July morning we were all standing in the trenches, waiting for the word of command. We got it, and in fine style we drove them back over the third and fourth line, but not without heavy losses - but the Hun's losses were heaviest of all.

"We held their fire for an hour or two but we had to retire as we couldn't get reinforcements up in time. It was then we got the cutting up. I got buried up twice; the second time I lost my senses, my nerves got ahead of me. Two chums pulled me out and brought me back to our own line."

With these matter of fact sentences, Ben Millar describes one of the greatest fears of any soldier of the Great War - being buried alive.

It seems that Rfn. Millar was amongst those who made it into the German trench system, bombing and bayoneting their way through the traverses of the fortifications. He states that, for him, the entire action lasted little more than 120 minutes in total. In fact the battalion war diary indicates that the attack was officially ended much earlier than that.

And his next statement pragmatically sums up why the entire attack was such a gross failure.

"We had to retire because we couldn't get reinforcements up in time." says Rfn. Millar.

Quite simply it was impossible to advance over open ground. To do so meant death.

And, as so often in battle, many casualties occurred when men had to leave the cover they had sought to 'fall back'. It could be argued that those who made their way back to the British lines despite wounds and trauma on July 1 were amongst the bravest of the brave.

While in the trenches they were at least sheltered from the hail of machine gun fire and shrapnel which swept the open ground. But going 'above ground' almost guaranteed a wound of some kind.

Millar was one of those who made the desperate bid to escape the counter-attacking Germans. During that dash, German artillery observers called down hundreds of shells in an attempt to cause maximum casualties to what their own accounts describe as the 'English troops'.

"I got buried up twice," says Millar. Can you imagine the sheer horror of being covered in stinking soil? And not just on one occasion. It is little wonder, as he admits, that Rfn. Millar lost his senses. Apart from the concussion of the blast, his reaction was probably a mental fail-safe to stop him from going entirely crazy.

As he states quite frankly: "My nerves got ahead of me."

Bobby Letters, another Cullybackey man, had an equally lucky escape on the morning of July 1.

From a modern stand-point, his account is an amazing insight into the character of the men who fought in the Great War.

We look back now on 'crosses, row on row' and ponder how men could stand up to such punishment be they British, Irish, German, Turk or any of the other nationalities which struggled for supremacy during the conflict.

In an article headlined 'His rifle smashed by a bullet', the Ballymena Observer recorded:

"I lived under a bombardment from the 24th June until the 3rd July when we were relieved. You will be glad to know that I and a chum captured 15 Germans ourselves - two in one of their own dug-outs. I brought them out at the point of the bayonet and ran them across 'no man's land' into our lines.

"When I was going across with them a German machine gun opened fire on us and a bullet from it struck my rifle and smashed it. I have the bullet as a souvenir and also a German cap and pipe and a small book which one of the prisoners gave to me. I will try and send them home soon as a memento of the 1st July."

Bobby Letters was a master of understatement. For home consumption, he has obviously played down the impact the battle had on all ranks of the 12th Royal Irish Rifles.

"I have to mourn for a few of my comrades," he states, as if only a handful of men had died.

Rifleman Bobby Letters received the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on 1st July.

The final death toll for the 12th Rifles as a result of the first day's battle on the Somme was a truly appalling figure of 153 officers and men. Few in the battalion escaped without one kind of physical wound or another. It is doubtful if any escaped what we now know as post traumatic stress syndrome.



List of the wounded from 1st day on Somme

Mr. Wilson Kirkpatrick, Craigs, Cullybackey, has been officially notified that his son **Rfn. Wilson Kirkpatrick, 12th Royal Irish Rifles (CAV)** has been killed in action. Rfn. Kirkpatrick, who resided with his parents, was an employee at Messrs. Frazer and Haughton's Hillmount Works. he joined the army a year ago and had been at the front for six months. (Later found to be a POW)

Rfn. J. Armstrong 12Btn. RIR (C.A.V) is wounded, He belongs to Hillmount, Cullybackey. He enlisted in October 1914 prior to which he was a tailor in Mr. Hepple's Wellington Street, Ballymena.

The father of **Rfn. James Duff, Royal Irish Rifles** (Ulster Division) who resides at Hillmount, Cullybackey, has received information that his son had been wounded in the right eye. Before joining the colours, Rfn. Duff was employed in the Hillmount Works and was a member of Hillmount UVF.

Rfn. Samuel Watt RIR (CAV) wounded, belongs to Harperstown, Cullybackey. He was formerly employed in the firm of Messrs. Frazer and Haughton, Hillmount, Cullybackey.

Rfn. Henry Watt, Royal Irish Rifles MG section, who is seriously wounded on the head, is the husband of Mrs. Watt, Hillmount Cullybackey. He was a member of the UVF and he is a brother of Rfn. Samuel Watt, who is also wounded (see above). he was an employee of Frazer and Haughton.

Rfn. David Rock and Rfn. Ben Millar, RIR (CAV) belonging to Harperstown, Cullybackey are both ill in hospital. They took part in the attack on July 1st.

News has been received by Mr. John Greenwood, Broughdone, Cullybackey, that his son **Pte. William Greenwood, Highland Light Infantry** has been wounded in action. Pte. Greenwood was formerly employed in the Maine Works, Cullybackey but was in Scotland at the outbreak of war where he enlisted.

Mr. James Johnston, Hillmount, Cullybackey has received information that his son, **Rfn. Hugh Johnston, Royal Irish Rifles (Ulster Division)** has been wounded in action. Before joining the colours he was an employee in the Hillmount Works and a member of the UVF and Dunminning LOL.

Roll of Honour

+BURBY (Busby) William

11 A&SH.Private. S/5140. KIA August 21, 1916. Born Craigs, Cullybackey. Thiepval Memorial, Somme. Cuningham Memorial Pres. Church WM.

+CARSON, John

315th Inf. Regt. US Army. Private. DOW 5/6 November , 1918. Killed Sedan, France. Lived Philadelphia. Third son of John and Margaret Carson, Craigs, Cullybackey.Meuse Argonne cemetery. Cuningham Memorial Pres. Church WM.

+COCHRANE, John Harvey

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Bn. Serjeant. 18891. Died 24/03/1918. Aged 33. Son of John Cochrane, of Craigdunn, Craigs, Co. Antrim; husband to Jeanie Cochrane, of 32, Harperstown, Cullybackey. Bro. of Thomas and Hugh (Canadian Forces). Pozieres Memorial, Panel 74 - 76

+COCHRANE, Thomas Hill

21 Btn. E.Ontario regt. Lce. Cpl. 5917. KIA November 11, 1915. Son of John and Margaret Cochrane, Craigs, Cullybackey. Brother of John above. Brother Hugh was Lt. in Canadian forces. Ridge Wood Military Cemetery, Belgium.

+GLASS, Robert

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Bn. Rifleman. 18998. Died 28/06/1918. Aged 29. Son of James and Eliza Glass, of Cullybackey. Aulnoye Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

+GREENWOOD, William

Highland Light Infantry. 12th Bn. Private. 19426. Died 31/07/1917. Aged 27. Born Ballymena. Son of John and Isabella Greenwood, of Cullybackey. Enlisted Coatbridge, lived Airdrie. Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Comm. Cullybackey UF Church.

+HARRIS, Hugh

11th R I Rifles. Rfn. 720. Died of wounds 9th August 1917. Born Ahoghill, enlisted Ballymena. Only son of Robert Harris of Craigs. Wieltje Farm Cem. Ypres. Cullybackey UF Church.

+HARBISON, J

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 2nd. Btn. Lance Corporal. 17891. Died 03/07/1916. Son of Robert Harbison, of Maine Street, Cullybackey. Connaught Cemetery, Thiepval, Somme, France

+HAUGHTON, Thomas Greenwood

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Bn. Lieutenant. Died 01/07/1916. Aged 25. Son of Thomas Wilfred and Catherine Isabel Haughton, of Hillmount, Cullybackey. Cullybackey. Hamel Military Cemetery, Somme. Memorial lectern in Craigs Parish Church

+KENNEDY, Alexander

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Bn. Rifleman. 3794. Died 08/08/1917. Aged 32. Son of James and Eliza Kennedy, of Cullybackey Rd., Ahoghill. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+KENNEDY, Arthur

Royal Irish Rifles, 12th Bn. Rifleman. 815. Died 16/08/1917. Aged 27. Son of James and Jane Kennedy, of Craigs, Cullybackey. Lived at Broughdone, Cullybackey. Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Cullybackey UF Church.

+KENNEDY Robert James

Royal Irish Rifles, 11th Bn. Rifleman. 630. Died 01/07/1916. Aged 28. Son of James and Jane Kennedy, Hillmount, Cullybackey. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Cullybackey UF Church

+KERR, Henry

58th Can. Inf. (Central Ontario). Pte. 452004. KIA 20th September 1916. Son of Henry Kerr, Craigs, Cullybackey. Courcelette British Cemetery, France. Cuningham Memorial, Pres. Church WM.

+KILPATRICK, Charles

1st Seaforth Highlanders. Private. 3/3667. Died 06/11/1917. Aged 25. Son of James and Susan Kilpatrick, of Dreen, Cullybackey. Basra Memorial, Iraq

+LAVERTY, Arthur

11th (S) Btn. HLI. Pte. 19470. KIA 25th September 1915. Born Ballymena, enlisted Coatbridge. Son of Alex Laverty, Hillmount, Cullybackey. Comm. Loos Memorial. Cuningham Memorial, Pres. Church WM.

+LAVERTY, Arthur Lcpl.

12th R I Rifles. 6840. KIA 13th October 1918. Born Craigs, enlisted Ballymena, lived Cullybackey. Dadizeele British Cemetery, Belgium.

+LAVERTY, Alexander Private

38th Canadian Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regt.) 410343. Died of wounds 22nd December 1916. Son of Arthur Laverty of Hillmount, Cullybackey. Buried St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen. Cuningham Memorial, Pres. Church WM.

+LOGAN, Joseph

Royal Irish Rifles. 8th Bn. Rifleman. 17/786. Died 05/04/1917. Aged 20. Son of James and Mary Logan, of

Station Rd., Cullybackey. Pond Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+LOWRY, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 14th Bn. **Rifleman**. 891. Died 16/08/1917. Aged 19. Son of Thomas Lowry, of Fenagh, Cullybackey. Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium . Panel 138 to 140 and 162 to 162A and 163A

+McANALLY, Hugh

Connaught Rangers. 6th Bn. **Lance Corporal**. 6/2795. Died 23/03/1916. Aged 34. Son of John and Margaret McAnally, of Cullybackey, Co. Antrim; husband of Sarah McAnally, of Railway St. Place, Ballymena. Portglenone (St Mary's) Roman Catholic burial ground

+McCARTNEY Robert

12th R I Rifles. Rfn. 6357. KIA 1st July 1916. Born USA, enlisted Ballymena. Lived Hillmount, Cullybackey. Thiepval Memorial. Cuningham Memorial, Pres. Church WM.

+McCOLLEN (McCollam?), Andrew

8th R I Rifles. Rfn. 655. MIA 1st July 1916 (date of death given as 2nd July). Born Craigs, enlisted Ballymena. Lived Main Street, Cullybackey. Thiepval Memorial. Cullybackey UF Church.

+McCORD, William

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 1st/8th Bn. Private. 3450. Died 13/11/1916. Aged 18. Son of Thomas McCord and Lizzie Adger (his wife), of 17, Newington Avenue, Larne.

Born at Cullybackey. Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France

+McFALL, James

Royal Irish Rifles. 16 Btn. Lance Corporal 682. Died 08/07/1916. Aged 20. Son of Mrs. Annie Moore, of Galgorm Parks, Cullybackey. Kensal Green (St Mary's) Roman Catholic Cemetery, London

+McGOWAN James

1/5th Seaforths. Pte. 4550. KIA 17th September 1916. Eldest son of James McGowan, Hillmount, Culybackey. Cite Bonjean Cem. Armentieres. Cuningham Mememorial and Cullybackey UF

+McILROY, John

Royal Scots Fusiliers. 6th Bn. Private. 11929. Died 26/09/1915. Aged 25. Son of Robert and Ann McIlroy, of Dunnygarron, Cullybackey. Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

+McMASTER, William

Royal Irish Rifles. 9th Bn. Rifleman. 939. Died 07/08/1917. Aged 20. Youngest son of William and Mary Jane McMaster, of Cullybackey, Co. Antrim. One of five sons all of whom served. Ypres (Menin) Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 40

+McWHIRTER (or Mewhirter), William

2 Cameronians. Pte. 8798. KIA 20/24 July 1916. Born Craigs, Cullybackey. Enlisted Hamilton, lived Motherwell.

Chambrin Churchyard Ext. Pas De Calais, France.
Cullybackey UF Church.

+MILLAR, Benjamin

Royal Irish Rifles.12Btn. Rifleman.18/627. Died 21/05/1918.
Aged 24. Son of Samuel and Alice J. Millar, of Harperstown,
Cullybackey. New Irish Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium. Cunningham Memorial, Pres. Church WM

+MONTGOMERY, Simpson

22nd Entrenching Bn., late 11th/13th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles.
Rifleman.112. Died 23/03/1918. Aged 25. Son of James and
Margaret Montgomery, of Galgorm Parks, Cullybackey.
Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 44 - 46

+RICE, William

10th R Innis. Fus. Pte. KIA 1st July 1916. Lived Craigs,
Cullybackey, enlisted Ballymena. Parents at 29 Glu Street,
Paisley. Connaught Cemetery, Somme

+SLOAN, Albert Edward

8th R Ir. Fus. (f. 2340 Connaught Rangers)/ CQMS. 21191.
KIA 5th September 1916. Service no. 21191. Born Craigs,
Co. Antrim, enlisted Belfast. Husband of Catherine Sloan,
Leeson Street, Falls Road, Belfast. Comm. Thiepval
Memorial

+SMYTH, James

12th R I Rifles. Cpl.19211. KIA 1st July 1916. Son of John
Smyth, Craigs. Lived Cullybackey. Thiepval Memorial

+STEVELEY, Ernest

Machine Gun Corps, 15th Btn. Private. 43963. Died 30/10/1918. Aged 21. Son of Hugh and Jane Steveley, of Station House, Cullybackey. Guignies Communal Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium

+WILSON, R

Canadian Infantry, 20th Bn. Private. 58104. Died 05/04/1916. Aged 35. Son of Samuel Wilson and Eliza Kennedy Wilson, of Main St., Cullybackey. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+WYLIE Alexander

2nd Manchester Regt. Pte. 41583. Died 18/11/1916. Aged 27. Husband of Annie, 17 Rope Street, Oldham. Son of Alex Wylie of Harperstown, Cullybackey. Thiépval Memorial

Acknowledgments

Ballymena Observer

Ballywillan Presbyterian Church

CWGC

Cullybackey Historical Society

Dessie Blackadder

Great War Forum

remembrance ni

The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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