

Rolls of Honour from Edinburgh Insurance Companies

Edinburgh Life Assurance Company

Second Lieutenant Robert Adam Ingles, Royal Scots, was younger the son of the Reverend Robert Ingles, a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, and Sarah Ingles, of The Free Church Manse, Newtown St. Boswells, Roxburghshire. He was born in Melrose, was employed by the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company, and died on 21 March, 1918, age 23. Surviving siblings were Ann, George and Marion. In the 1901 Census, the household also had a Domestic Servant.

Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation Limited

Private Walter Dickson Kirkhope, Royal Scots, was the fourth son of William Kirkhope, a Warehouseman, and Helen Lawrie Kirkhope, of 13 Fountainhall Road, Edinburgh. He was born in Edinburgh, was employed in the Edinburgh office of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation Limited, and died on 12, April 1917, age 25. Surviving siblings were Harry, Helen, John, Alexander, Christina and Ann.

Northern Assurance Company Limited



Lance Corporal Alexander Robertson Forsyth, Royal Scots, was the third son of Alexander Forsyth, a Traveller, and Jane Forsyth, of 88 Blackford Avenue, Edinburgh. Surviving siblings were John, David, William and Margaret. He was married to Jean Easton Forsyth, of 189 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh. He worked in the Edinburgh branch of the Northern Assurance Company Limited and died on 22 March, 1918, age 30, when he went missing whilst in charge of a Lewis Gun Team.

North British and Mercantile Insurance Company

Captain Wallace Alexander Gemmell, Royal Army Service Corps, was the only son of Andrew Thomas MacMillan Gemmell, a Solicitor, and Caroline Elizabeth Houstoun Gemmell, of Hawthorn Bank House, Haddington. He was born in Haddington and joined the Edinburgh Head Office of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company in 1912. He died at Balah Camp, Egypt on 29 March, 1916, age 39, after an accident while on active service. Post Magazine wrote "his genial disposition endeared him to all who came in contact with him". Surviving sister was Alice.

Private John Victor Irving, Royal Scots, was the only son of John Irving, a Stationer, and Jemima Irving, of 5 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh. He worked in the Edinburgh Head Office of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and died on 13 July, 1915, age 27. Surviving sisters were Mary, Jessie, Margaret, Elizabeth and Nora

Private Thomas Rose, Royal Scots, was the elder son of Lewis Rose, a Librarian, and Hughina Rose, of 41 Haddington Place, Edinburgh. He worked in the Edinburgh Head Office of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and died on 12 July, 1915, age 19. Surviving siblings were Anna Johan and John.

Private James Hodge Speedie, Cameron Highlanders, was the younger son of John Speedie, a Grain Merchant, and Janet Speedie, of 3 Polwarth Gardens, Edinburgh. In 1910, he began his employment in the Edinburgh Head Office of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, was a well-known amateur member of Heart of Midlothian Football Club and was killed in the Battle of Loos on 25 September, 1915, age 22. His brother, Second Lieutenant John G Speedie, MM (France), Royal Scots, was born in Liberton and worked at the Juniper Green branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland. He died on 14 June, 1917, age 25. Surviving siblings were James and Margaret.

Second Lieutenant John Morley Stewart, Royal Scots, was the younger son of James K Stewart, an Inspector in the Burgh Engineer's Office, and Mary Stewart, of 34 Spottiswoode Road, Edinburgh. In 1908, he began his employment in the Edinburgh Head Office of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and died on 21 August, 1918, age 25, at the Battle of Courcelles. Surviving siblings were Robert, Elizabeth, Euphemia and Mary.

Second Lieutenant David Aymery Stuart, Cameron Highlanders, was the younger son of Alexander Stuart, Advocate General Superintendent, and Margaret Haig Stuart, of Lochrin House, Edinburgh. He was born in Edinburgh and worked in the Edinburgh Head Office of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company. On 29 October, 1916, age 21, he was killed in an aeroplane accident near Corstorphine, Midlothian. Described as a "well-known all round athlete", his death was "much regretted by his colleagues, with whom he was deservedly popular". Surviving brother was Alexander. In the 1901 Census, the household also had a Governess and two Domestic Servants.

Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited

Private James Walker McLean, Royal Scots, was the son of Alexander McLean, a Blacksmith, and Margaret McLean, of 12 Dundas Street, Bonnyrigg. He was employed as a Clerk in the Edinburgh office of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited and died on 1 July, 1916, age 24. He was described as a "popular and useful servant of the society".

Gunner William Phillip, Royal Field Artillery, was the elder son of Thomas Phillip, a Bread Baker, and Helen Horn Phillip, of 6 Deanhaugh Street, Edinburgh. He was employed at the Edinburgh branch of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited for 11 years with a reputation for high character. Enlisting in 1916 having previously been rejected on medical grounds, he was killed instantaneously by a shell on 29 September, 1918, age 27. Surviving siblings were Alexander and Helen.

Private Reginald John Robinson, Royal Scots was the younger son of Henry Robinson, a Government Clerk, and Bridget Robinson, of 2 Shandon Road, Edinburgh. He was employed in the Edinburgh branch of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited and died on 26 April, 1915, age 21. Surviving siblings were Harriet, Kate, Henry and Bridget. In the 1901 Census, the household also had a General Servant.

Captain George Shearer, MC, York and Lancaster Regiment, was the eldest son of George Shearer, a Commercial Clerk, and Helen Shearer, of 304 Morningside Road, Edinburgh. He was employed as Chief Clerk in the Edinburgh branch of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited and was killed by machine gun fire on 24 August, 1918, age 29, while consolidating a position which had been captured. Surviving siblings were Kate, Elizabeth, Allan, and Lorn.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Limited

Private Robert Straton Wilson, Suffolk Regiment, was the son of Harry Cowan Wilson, a Chief Superintending Brewer, and Lilian Wilson, of 9 Merchiston Place, Edinburgh. He was employed in the Edinburgh branch of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Limited and died on 26 September, 1917, age 22. Surviving brother was Robert's twin, James. In the 1901 Census, the household also had a Domestic Servant.

Railway Passengers Assurance Company

Lance Sergeant Edward Downs Dempster, Royal Scots, was the youngest son of James Dempster, a Joiner, and Mary Downs Dempster, of 2 Shandon Crescent, Edinburgh. In 1907, he began his career with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and in 1910, he was appointed as an Inspector in the Edinburgh branch of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company. He saw service in Egypt and Turkey, and died in France on 15 July, 1917, age 26. The insurance press said his "bright and happy temperament made him a favourite among his colleagues by whom he will be much missed". Surviving siblings were James, Mary, Janet, John and Isabella.

Scottish Metropolitan Life Assurance Company

Second Lieutenant Thomas Russell Currer, Royal Scots Fusiliers, was the son of Henry Wallace Currer, an Assistant Superintendent with the General Post Office, and Margaret Currer, of 7 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh. He was employed by the Scottish Metropolitan Life Assurance Company and died on 26 September, 1917, age 24.

Second Lieutenant Andrew John Fernie, Royal Scots, was the elder son of Alexander Fernie, a Newspaper Reporter, and Emma Fernie, of 65 McDonald Road, Edinburgh. He was employed by the Scottish Metropolitan Life Assurance Company and died on 12 October, 1917, age 20. Surviving younger brother was James.

Scottish Union and National Insurance Company

Private John Creighton Halliday, Royal Scots, was the younger son of James Halliday, a Bookstall Clerk, and Violet Lamb Halliday, of 13 Comely Bank Terrace, Edinburgh. He was employed in the Head Office of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company and died on 31 July, 1918, age 24. Surviving older brother was James Morrison.

Union Assurance Society Limited

Private Arthur Forbes, Royal Scots, was the younger son of Arthur Forbes, a Boot Maker, and Mary, Forbes, of 36 Braid Crescent, Edinburgh. In 1911, he joined the Edinburgh branch of the Union Assurance Society Limited. Enlisting in October, 1914, he was originally posted as missing and later presumed killed in action on 1 July, 1916, age 21. Surviving siblings were Margaret, Alexander, Agnes and Mary.

Private John Grainger Noble, MM, Royal Scots, was the youngest son of Chancellor Noble, a Cab Driver, and Jane Auld Noble, of 52 Marchmont Road, Edinburgh. In 1912, he joined the Edinburgh branch of the Union Assurance Society Limited. He was awarded the Military Medal in 1918 while in Palestine and was killed in the taking of Mont Kemmel, France on 27 August, 1918, age 22. Surviving siblings were Mary, Chancellor, William, Isabella, Agnes and Elizabeth.

Yorkshire Insurance Company Limited

Second Lieutenant Archibald Wright Henderson, Machine Gun Corps, was the fifth son of William Henderson, a Joiner, and Agnes Henderson, of 7 South Oxford Street, Edinburgh. He worked in the Edinburgh branch of the Yorkshire Insurance Company Limited and died on 30 December, 1917, age 23. Surviving siblings were William, Elizabeth, Andrew, James, Francis, Helen and George.

Private Michael Lawson Hogg, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was the younger son of Charles Byron Hogg, a Solicitor, and Jessie Hogg, of 7 Picardy Place, Edinburgh, he worked in the Edinburgh branch of the Yorkshire Insurance Company Limited and died on 23 April, 1917, aged 33. Surviving siblings were Charles and Jessie. In the 1901 Census, the household also had Mrs Hogg's mother, Marion Lawson, Mr Hogg's niece and a Domestic Servant. Private Hogg was married to Mary Routledge Hogg, of 26 Orchard Drive, Craigmyle, Edinburgh.

(With thanks to Anna Stone and the Aviva Group Archive)