

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



THOMAS HACKSTON

DUKE OF WELLINGTON REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1918

BORN IN 1889 AT SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, THE SON OF  
WILLIAM AND SARAH HACKSTON, TWIN BROTHER OF  
WILLIAM AND HUSBAND OF ELSIE HACKSTON (NEE  
DICKINSON)

# Hackston Family History

- **1891 census** shows William, his wife Sarah and their 2 twin children living at 28, Back Roman Rd, Broughton, near Salford, Lancashire as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
William (Head)	40	Warehouseman	Manchester, Lancashire	1850 - 1902
Sarah Ann (wife)	40		Bradford, Yorkshire	1850 - 1919
Thomas (twin)	2		Bradford, Yorkshire	1889 - 1918
William (twin)	2		Bradford, Yorkshire	1889



Lower Broughton, part of Broughton near Salford

- 1901 census** shows William, his wife Sarah and their 3 children now living at 14, Back Roman Rd, Broughton, near Salford, Lancashire as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
William (Head)	50	Maker up, cotton goods	Manchester, Lancashire	1850 - 1902
Sarah Ann (wife)	50		Glusburn	1850 - 1919
Isabel Elizabeth	14		Sutton-in-Craven	1886 - 1942
Thomas (twin)	12		Sutton-in-Craven	1889 - 1918
William (twin)	12		Sutton-in-Craven	1889



Broughton Lane, Broughton near Salford

- 1911 census** shows Sarah now widowed and that of her 3 children born alive, all 3 were still living. It also shows the Hackston family now living at 25, Gordon St, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Sarah Ann (widow)	60		Sutton-in-Craven	1850 - 1919
Isabel Elizabeth	24	Confectioner	Sutton-in-Craven	1886 - 1942
Thomas (twin)	22	Designer worsted coatings	Sutton-in-Craven	1889 - 1918
William (twin)	22	Weaving overlooker worsted	Sutton-in-Craven	1889



Gordon Street, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

### Notes:

- The 1891 census shows the Hackston family, minus 4 year old Isabel, living at number 28, Back Roman Rd, Broughton. Whereas the 1901 census shows the Hackston family now living seven doors away at number 14, Back Roman Rd, Broughton.
- 4 year old Isabel Elizabeth Hackston was staying with her Grandmother Isabel Clough at 57, Victoria St, Sutton-in-Craven on the night of the census (5th April 1891). Isabel Clough was 65 years of age, widowed and living with her 4 single daughters; Jane 37 yrs, Grace 28 yrs, Edith 25 yrs and Mary 20yrs.
- Sarah is shown as being born in **Bradford** on the 1891 census, **Glusburn** on the 1901 census and then **Sutton-in-Craven** on the 1911 census!
- Her twin sons Thomas & William are shown as being born in **Bradford** on the 1891 census and then **Sutton-in-Craven** on the 1901 census.

## World War 1





It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

**August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914**

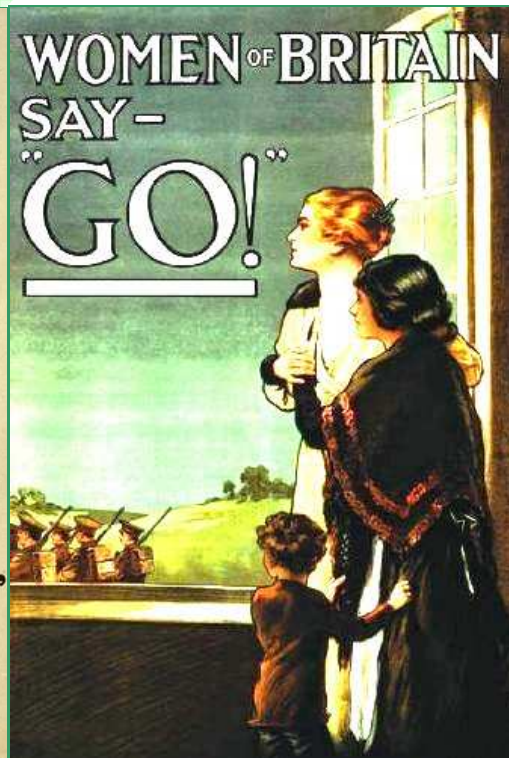
## **Britain declares war on Germany**

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

## **The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"**



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914



Parliamentary Recruiting Committee  
London 1915 (May)



Rifle drill, Manningham Park, 1914 (Kitchener's New Army)  
(source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Thomas Hackston worked in the designing office at T. & M. Bairstow's Mill, Sutton-in-Craven as a Designer in worsted coatings.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Thomas Hackston together with his twin brother William responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 1/6th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) in October 1914.

They were given consecutive regimental numbers, 2708 for Thomas and 2709 for William and they both commenced with the rank of Private.

A couple of years later they were each issued with a second regimental number, once again consecutive, 265701 for Thomas and 265702 for William.

The West Riding Regiment raised 24 battalions during WW1 including the 1/6th (Territorial Force) battalion at Skipton on the 4th August 1914.



# OFFICERS SERVING IN THE 1/6<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION WEST RIDING REGIMENT INCLUDED

Lieut-Colonel C.M. Bateman

Capt A.B. Clarkson

Capt N.B. Chaffers

**All Directors of T & M Bairstow's Mill, Sutton-in-Craven**

Also Capt C.F. Horsfall of Hayfield Mill, son of Sir John & Lady Horsfall



LIEUT.-COL. C. M. BATEMAN, D.S.O., T.D.



Capt. Horsfall.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)





WW1 West Riding Regiment Cap Badge

### Officers of 1/6th West Riding Regiment group photo

1/6th DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT.



LEFT TO RIGHT. Back Row, standing—2nd Lieut. V. E. W. Greaves, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) N. Geldard, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut. (now Capt.) S. H. Clough, M.C.  
 SECOND ROW. Standing—Major E. G. Whittaker, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) L. Jaques, 2nd Lieut. T. S. Whitaker (K.), 2nd Lieut. E. J. C. Supple (K.), Lieut. H. Knowles (K.),  
 Capt. M. Wright, 2nd Lieut. (Capt.) C. F. Horsfall (K.), Capt. (now Major) T. K. Wright, M.B.E., 2nd Lieut. P. F. Stuck, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. M.  
 Robinson, Lieut. A. E. K. Slingsby (K.), Lieut. (now Capt.) C. H. Petty.  
 Sitting.—Capt. (now Major) N. B. Chaffers, M.C., Lieut. (now Capt.) H. Dixon, Capt. (now Major) A. B. Clarkson, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. S. F. Marriner (Adj.), Lieut.-Col.  
 Birbeck (C.O.), Major C. P. Cass, Lieut. (now Capt.) and Qt.-Master J. Churchman, D.C.M., Capt. K. Nicholson, Major (now Lieut.-Col.) C. M. Bateman, D.S.O., T.D.  
 Front Row—2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. C. Barrett, 2nd Lieut. T. Brayshaw, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) F. L. Smith, M.C., 2nd Lieut. (A/Capt.) K. Ogston (K.), 2nd Lieut.  
 (A/Capt.) G. B. Buxton, M.C., 2nd Lieut. T. Taylor.



At the beginning of June 1915, Thomas and his fiancée Miss Elsie Dickinson were married at St Thomas's Church, Sutton-in-Craven, less than 4 weeks before he and his brother William entered the theatre of war in France.

The wedding was reported in the Craven Herald newspaper on 11th June 1915 as follows:



Article Date: 11 June 1915

#### SUTTON - 'Khaki' Wedding

At St. Thomas Church on Saturday afternoon a 'khaki' wedding was solemnized by the Rev. A. Armstrong, curate-in-charge. The parties were Pte. Thomas Hackston, of the 6th Duke of Wellington's Regiment, now stationed at Thoresby Park and twin son of Mrs. Hackston, Gordon Street, Sutton-in-Craven, and Miss Elsie Dickinson, only daughter of Mrs. Dickinson, of Springfield Lodge, Sutton-in-Craven. The bride was attended by Miss Isabel Hackston, sister of the bridegroom, and Miss Ethel Summerskill, niece of the bride, and was given away by her brother, Mr. Thomas P. Dickinson. In the absence of Private Wm. Hackston, twin brother, who is also serving in the same regiment, Mr. Edward J. Parker, cousin of the bridegroom, acted as 'best man.'

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))

Twin brother's Thomas and William Hackston both entered the Theatre of War on the 29th June 1915 when the 1/6th battalion West Riding Regiment landed at Boulogne in France

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Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
HACKSTON <del>HICKTON</del>	W. Rid. R.	Pte.	2708
Thomas	X ———	———	265701
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	X 0/2/101 622	3087	Kin A. 30-4-18.
BRITISH	——— 06	———	(265701)
15. STAR	0/2/3B.	224	C.R.N. 472 4 24.9.10 2620/100 Re-muster 1/14/5/A. 92. 1020. amb. 2620/100
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France.		
Date of entry therein	29-6-15		
			2620/adr K. 1380.

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Tom Hackston (source: *The National Archives*)

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Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
HACKSTON	W. Rid R.	Pte	2709
William	X ———	———	265702
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	X 0/2/101 622	3087	Disemb 10-2-19
BRITISH	——— B6	———	
15. STAR	0/2/3	179	
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	29-6-15		
			K. 1380.

MEDAL INDEX CARD for William Hackston (source: *The National Archives*)



# The Western Front

The Western Front was the name applied to the fighting zone in France & Flanders, where the British, French, Belgian and later American armies faced that of Germany.

It was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as 'No Man's land'. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.

From the moment the German army moved into Luxemburg on the 2nd August 1914 to the Armistice on the 11th November 1918, the fighting on the Western Front in France & Flanders never stopped.

Just as there were quiet periods, there were also the most intense, savage, huge-scale battles the world has ever known.



British trenches, WW1

Thomas and his twin brother William served their King and Country side by side. They were together the whole time their battalion was in France, except for a short period when Thomas was hospitalised in England suffering from gas poisoning.

After almost 3 years on the battlefields of France & Flanders, Pte Thomas Hackston was **Killed in Action** on the 30th April 1918. He was killed instantaneously when an artillery shell landed in his trench

**He was 29 years of age**



German artillery bombardment, WW1



Article Date: 17 May 1918

#### SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN - Tribute to Private T. Hackston

Captain T. Coulthurst, in a letter to Mrs. Tom Hackston, of Springfield Lodge, Sutton, says:- "I think you will have heard the very sad news and know by now that your husband has laid down his life for his country. I know this is a very terrible blow to you, and I am

indeed sorry for you. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Your husband was killed instantaneously; a shell burst in the trench where he was, and a large piece passed right through his body. We all mourn his death; he was always such a splendid soldier, and a great favourite with all his comrades. It is hard for us to lose such splendid men when we need them so badly."

A memorial service to Private Hackston was held in St. Thomas's Church, Sutton, on Sunday evening, when the vicar (Rev. A. R. Light) made a very moving and sympathetic reference to his loss and mentioned that he had been closely associated with the work at St. Thomas' Church and Sunday School.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))



## Casualty Details

**Name:** HACKSTON, THOMAS

**Initials:** T

**Nationality:** United Kingdom

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment/Service:** Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

**Unit Text:** 1st/6th Bn.

**Age:** 29

**Date of Death:** 30/04/1918

**Service No:** 265701

**Additional information:** Husband of Elsie Hackston, of Springfield Lodge, Crosshills, Keighley, Yorks.

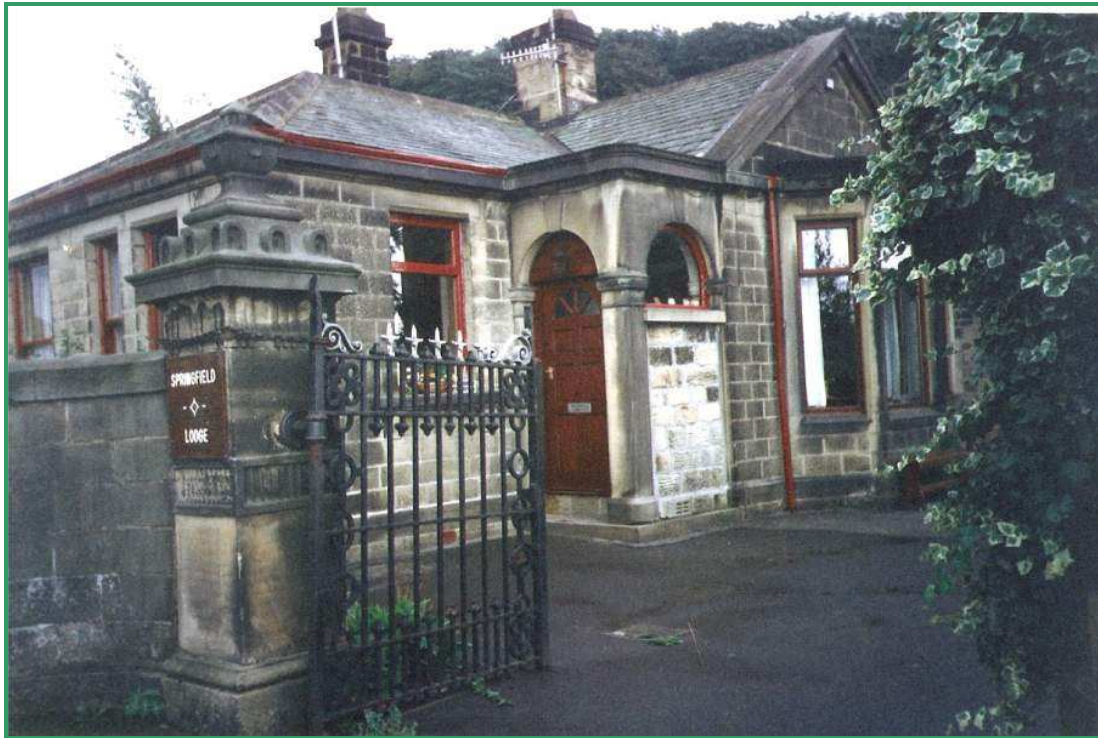
**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Panel 82 to 85 and 162A.

**Memorial:** TYNE COT MEMORIAL

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))





Springfield Lodge (source: photo supplied by Kevin McVay)

## TYNE COT MEMORIAL

The Tyne Cot Memorial is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders. It bears the names of 34,935 officers and men, including Pte Thomas Hackston, whose graves are not known.

It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

Pte Thomas Hackston is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial, the Eastburn memorial and on the tomb-stone bearing the name of his parents and sister in the burial ground of St Thomas' Church.



Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium  
 (source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))



Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium





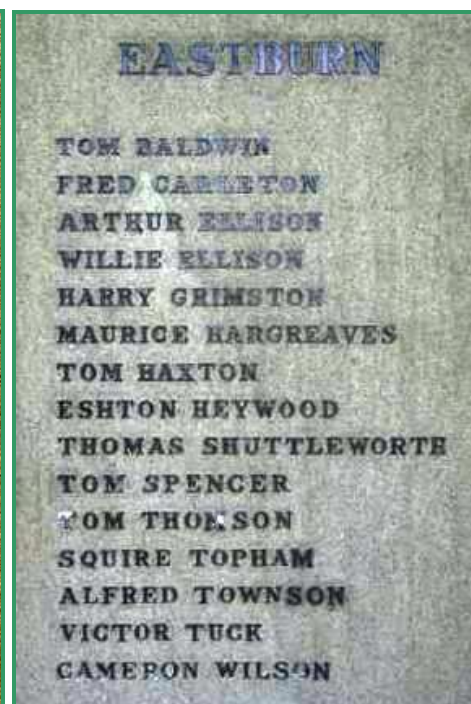
Sutton war memorial  
(source: Photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)



Eastburn (with Steeton) war memorial  
(source: original postcard owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



Sutton-in-Craven war memorial  
(source: image taken by Paul Wilkinson)



Eastburn war memorial  
(Hackston misspelt Haxton)  
(source: [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))





Tomb-stone in St Thomas' Church burial ground  
(source: photo taken by Josie Walsh)

Thomas Hackston's twin brother William survived the remaining 5 months of WW1 and was discharged from the army on the 10th February 1919.

4 months later in June 1919, William together with his sister, mother and Thomas's widow Elsie, presented a red chalice veil and burse to St Thomas' Church in memory of Thomas Hackston



St Thomas' Church, Sutton-in-Craven  
(source: original postcard owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



Article Date: 13 June 1919

### SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN - In Memory of a Soldier

The widow of Pte. Thomas Hackston, along with his mother, sister and brother (Mr. W. Hackston) are presenting to St. Thomas's Church Sutton, a red chalice veil and burse which is being worked by the Warham Guild (London), in memory of Pte. Hackston. In thanking the donors, the Vicar (Rev. A. R. Light) in the 'Parish Record' says it is touchingly appropriate that the red veil and burse, which will be used on all festivals for martyrs, as well as at Whitsuntide, is in memory of one who laid down his life that others might live.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))



Pte Thomas Hackston was posthumously awarded the  
1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)  
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

## Lest we Forget

### CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



PRIVATE THOMAS HACKSTON, Duke of Well.'s Regt., son of Mrs. Hackston, Sutton, died May, 1918.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

(original 1919 copy owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



# FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE  
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS  
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE  
MORNING*

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

**LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943**



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)