

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



THOMAS WRIGHT CARSON

DUKE OF WELLINGTON REGIMENT

KILLED IN ACTION 27TH DECEMBER 1915

BORN IN 1884 AT SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, THE SON OF
WILLIAM AND FANNY CARSON (NEE BAIRSTOW)

Carson Family History

- **Thomas Wright Carson** was born on the 29th November 1884 at Sunnyside, Sutton-in-Craven. His father William Carson was a Reverend and former Vicar of Gillington, Bradford and had recently passed away in the Jul/Aug/Sep quarter of 1884.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT				KEIGHLEY			
1885	BIRTH in the Sub-district of Keighley			in the	County of York		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered
Twenty-ninth November 1884 Sunnyside Sutton Mill RSD	Thomas Wright	Boy	William Carson (deceased)	Fanny Carson formerly Bainston	Vicar of Gillington	Fanny Carson Mother Sunnyside Sutton Mill Sutton	Ninth January 1885

Certified copy of Birth Certificate for Thomas Wright Carson
(source: General Register Office)

Twenty-ninth November 1884 Sunnyside Sutton Mill Sutton RSD	Thomas Wright
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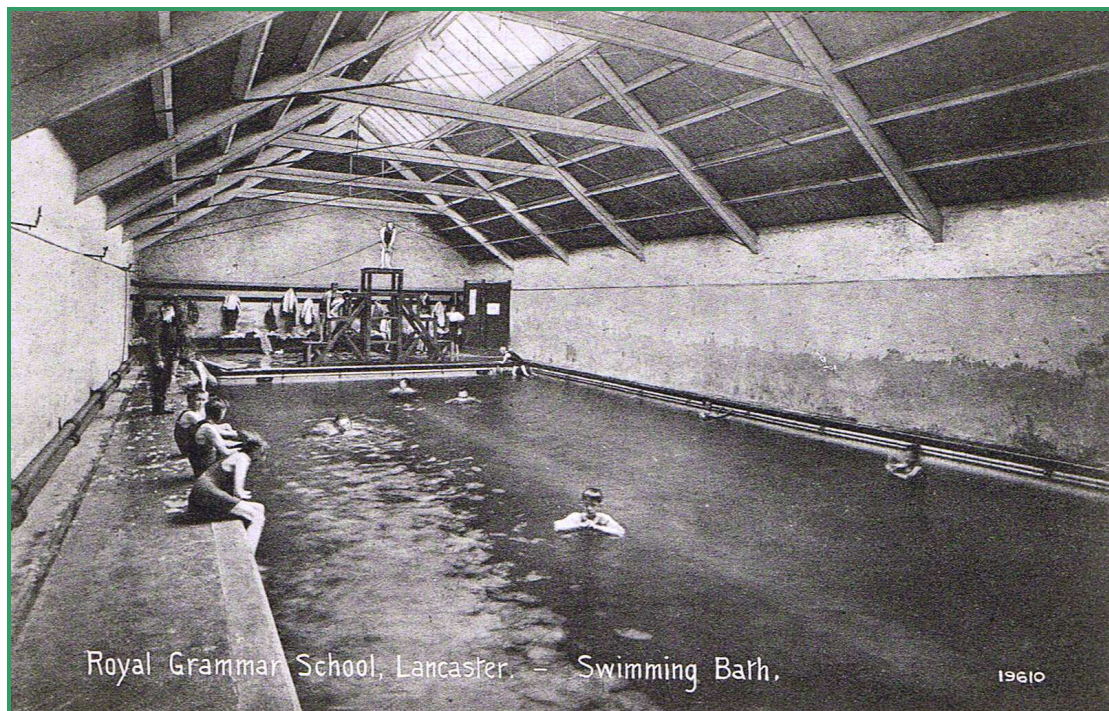


Sunnyside Villas (building on the left), Sutton-in-Craven
(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

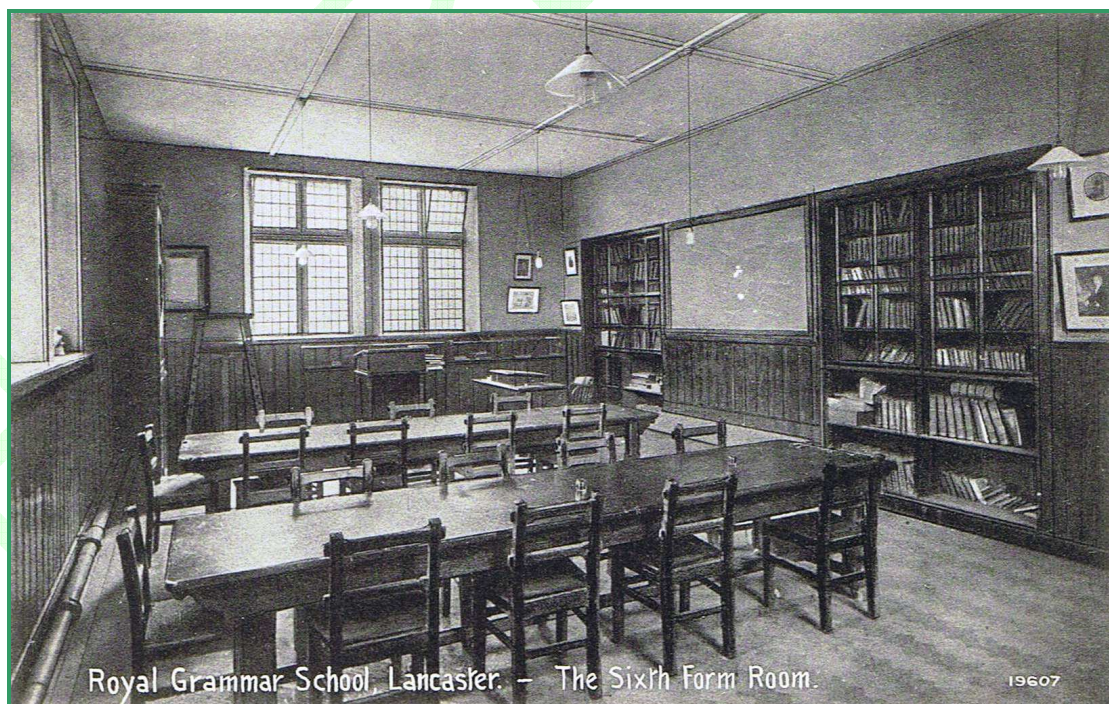
- **1891 census** shows Fanny Carson (nee Bairstow) widowed with her 2 children and a servant now living at 146, Duke St, North Meols, Southport, Lancashire as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Fanny (Head)	41	Living on own means	Steeton, Yorkshire	1850 - 1921
William Bairstow (son)	9		Lytham, Lancashire	1882 - 1970
Thomas Wright (son)	6		Sutton-in-Craven	1884 - 1915
Martha Kent (servant)	18	General servant	Burton on Trent, Staffs	1873

- **1901 census** shows Thomas Wright Carson aged 16 years boarding & studying at the Royal Grammar School, East Rd, Lancaster.



Royal Grammar School, Lancaster
(source: Andrew Monkhouse postcard collection)



Royal Grammar School, Lancaster
(source: Andrew Monkhouse postcard collection)

- **1911 census** shows Thomas Wright Carson aged 26 years, single & living alone at Caronia, New Rd, Llanelly in Wales. He was employed as a Solicitor.

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Thomas Wright (Head)	26	Solicitor	Sutton-in-Craven	1884



Llanelly
(source: original postcard postmarked 1910)

World War 1

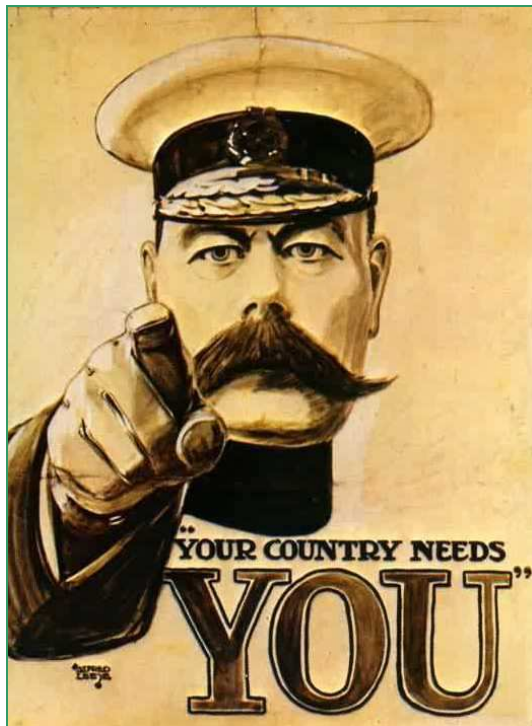


It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

August 4th 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



British volunteer recruits, August 1914
These men would form Kitchener's New Army

Prior to enlistment, Thomas Wright Carson was a solicitor practising with a firm of solicitors in Llanelly on the west coast of Wales.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Thomas relinquished his appointment with the law firm and enlisted into the 2/6th battalion (Duke of Wellington) West Riding Regiment in September 1914.

He was commissioned with the rank of 2/Lieutenant on the 6th October 1914 and entered the Theatre of War in France on the 3rd November 1915.

3460		THE LONDON GAZETTE, 9 APRIL, 1915.	
to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 10th April, 1915.		rary), and to command, with pay and allowances of a Major. Dated 10th April, 1915.	
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.		<i>6th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment;</i>	
<i>1st Lancashire.</i>		Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert C. Woodcock,	
Alexander George Payne to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 10th April, 1915.		from the Territorial Force Reserve, to be	
Cadet Algernon Horace Flint, from the London University Contingent, Senior Division, Officers Training Corps, to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 13th February, 1915.		Lieutenant-Colonel (temporary), and to command, with pay and allowances as a Major. Dated 10th April, 1915.	
<i>Lancashire and Cheshire.</i>		<i>6th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment);</i> the undermentioned to be Second Lieutenants. Dated 6th October, 1914:—	
Cuthbert Joseph Ellison to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 13th February, 1915.		James Rice Walker.	
		Thomas Wright Carson.	

(source: *The London Gazette*)

His brother William Bairstow Carson was also commissioned with the rank of Captain and served in the West Riding Regiment during the Great War.

Some of the Officers of the 2/6th West Riding Regiment

2/6th DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT.



LEFT TO RIGHT. Back Row, standing.—Capt. G. H. Ermen (deceased), 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) N. Geldard, D.S.O., M.C., 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) L. Jaques, 2nd Lieut. W. Woodhead, Lieut. N. Clapham, 2nd Lieut. W. K. Law, 2nd Lieut. G. L. Lupton, Lieut. (now Capt.) G. Broughton, 2nd Lieut. G. R. Armstrong, Lieut. (A/Capt.) C. D. Bennett (K.), Capt. C. P. Charlesworth.
Sitting.—Capt. N. C. Prince (K.), Capt. (A/Lt.-Col.) N. A. England, D.S.O., Major W. Cloughton (deceased), Major (A/Lt.-Col.) J. Mackillop, Col. R. E. Williamson, V.D. (C.O.), Major E. Dewhurst, Capt. Birbeck (Adj.), Capt. J. Groves.
Front row.—2nd Lieut. J. R. Walker, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) R. C. Barrett, 2nd Lieut. C. G. C. Kilner, Lieut. and Quarter-Master M. J. McDermott, 2nd Lieut. (now Capt.) G. C. Foulds.

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

Just over a month after arriving in France on the 3rd November 1915, 2/Lieutenant Thomas Wright Carson was transferred to the 1/6th battalion (Duke of Wellington) West Riding Regiment around mid-December 1915.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
CARSON	16 th S. Div Regt	2 nd Lieut	
TW	(TF)	2 nd Lieut	
Thomas Wright	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY			Died 24.12.15
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in	France		
Date of entry therein	3.11.15		
24.8.22			EF/9/1706 N.W/9/1386/4 K.1380. N.W/6/24909

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Thomas Wright Carson (source: National Archives)



WW1 Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment) Cap Badge

The Western Front

The Western Front was the name applied to the fighting zone in France & Flanders, where the British, Commonwealth, 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.



No Man's land, WW1

In the first week of January 1916, the mother of 2/Lieutenant Thomas Wright Carson received information from an official report that her son was **Missing in Action** in France. He had been in France less than 8 weeks.



Article Date: 07 January 1916

LIEUT. CARSON REPORTED MISSING

News has been received that Lieut. T.W. Carson, son of the late Rev. W. Carson, and Mrs. Carson, of Salisbury Street, Skipton, is missing from his regiment.

Lieut. Carson is in the 6th West Riding (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment, and the following is the official intimation that was received by Mrs. Carson on Friday last:- "Regret to inform you that Lieut. T.W. Carson is missing. This does not necessarily mean that he is killed or wounded."

Prior to the war, Lieut. Carson was a solicitor practising in South Wales. He is a brother of Capt. Carson, also of the 6th West Riding Regiment, in which he stated that he had not written earlier because he hoped that by waiting he would be able to give some definite information. He was sorry that he could not.

On Monday night Lieut. Carson went out on patrol, and when about half way between the enemy and the British lines a 'flash' went up from the enemy, and they had to lay down. When the 'flash' went out the two bombers got up, but Lieut. Carson had disappeared. They telephoned to the Colonel, who went out himself to look for him. Patrols were also sent out, but nothing could be found of him. No shots were fired on either side, and it is thought that the officer had been taken prisoner. Two German soldiers were captured, but unfortunately they died before they could be questioned.

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



British trench casualties, WW1

Four months later however, official information was received by Captain William Bairstow Carson confirming that his brother 2/Lieut Carson was reported to have been **Killed in Action** on the 27th December 1915.

He was 31 years of age



Article Date: 19 May 1916

SKIPTON OFFICER'S FATE - LIEUT. CARSON REPORTED KILLED

Second Lieut. T. W. Carson, 1/6th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, younger son of Mrs. Carson, Salisbury Street, Skipton, who has been missing since December 28th, is now reported killed. The information came from the Inquiry Branch at Geneva of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fund Association. The letter, dated May 7th, 1916, being in the following terms:-

"Dear Sir, - We are grieved to be the bearers of sad news to you regarding your brother, Second-Lieut. T. W. Carson, 1/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. The following communication has been received from Countess E. Blucher von Wahlstatt in Berlin:- "As I see on your last list of inquiries for missing officers the name of Lieut. Carson missing near Ypres, December 28th, I write to tell you that a German officer who came on leave to Berlin in January told me that a few days before he and some of his men had found the body of a young English officer, who could only have been dead a few hours when found, had papers on him with the name Carson. They buried him with military honours and marked his grave. It was somewhere near Ypres, and was at the end of December, 1915. I am sorry not to have better news to tell the family, but if I can be of any aid in getting any more details for them I will try and find out though the same officer?" We have at once informed the Countess Blucher that your brother's photograph will appear on our sheet No. 14 in a few days, and asked her to ascertain at the Succession Office of the German Ministry of War what had become of the papers that were found on Lieut. Carson. We notice in the Army list quite a number of officers of the name of Carson, and are, therefore, looking anxiously forward to the identification of the buried officer, either by means of the photograph, or, what would be much better, by the papers found on him. We shall in any case not fail to keep you informed of the progress of the inquiry. We have called the attention of Countess Blucher to the fact that your brother wore glasses."

This letter was received by Capt. W. B. Carson, 6th West Ridings, who is at present home from Clipstone Camp on sick leave. It will be remembered that Lieut. Carson was reported to have gone out (at his own request) on patrol on the night of the 27th December, accompanied by two bombers. A flare was put up by the enemy and the party had to lie down. When the flare had burnt out Lieut. Carson could not be seen and efforts to find him proved unsuccessful. No shouting was heard and the conclusion arrived at was that he had been made a prisoner. Many attempts have since been made to ascertain the officer's whereabouts, but until last week end no information was forthcoming. Lieut. Carson joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in September 1914, relinquishing an appointment with a firm of solicitors in North Wales. He went to France on November 1st, 1915, and for a time was attached to an entrenching battalion before joining the 1/6th Battalion a fortnight prior to being reported missing.

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

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant

Thomas Wright Carson

6th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 27 December 1915 Age 31

Son of the late Rev. William Carson, sometime Vicar of Gillington, Bradford, and Mrs. Carson, of Salisbury St., Skipton, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Sanctuary Wood Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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

SANCTUARY WOOD CEMETERY

The Sanctuary Wood Cemetery commemorates 1,989 Commonwealth servicemen of the Great War including 2/Lieutenant Thomas Wright Carson. 1,353 of the burials are unidentified.



Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Belgium
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)



Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Belgium

2/Lieutenant Thomas Wright Carson is also remembered on the Skipton war memorial.



Skipton war memorial

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



Skipton war memorial

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

2/Lieutenant Thomas Wright Carson was posthumously awarded the
1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse
(source: Andrew Monkhouse war medal collection)



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (1914/15 star unnamed original)
(source: Andrew Monkhouse war medal collection)

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: Andrew Monkhouse war medal collection)

Lest we Forget

CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



2nd Lieut. Carson.

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

2ND LIEUT. T. W. CARSON, 1/6th Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, younger son of Mrs. Carson, Salisbury Street, Skipton, who was reported missing since December, 28th, 1915, was afterwards officially presumed killed. Lieut. Carson joined the 2/6th Duke of Wellington's Regiment in September, 1914, relinquishing an appointment with a firm of solicitors in North Wales. He went to France on November 1st, 1915, and for a time was attached to an Entrenching Battn. He had only joined the 1/6th Battn. about a fortnight prior to being reported missing. He was 31 years of age and educated at Lancaster Grammar School and the Merchant Tailors' School, Liverpool. He was prominently identified with the Boy Scout movement.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* original 1919 volume 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 2013)