

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte & Vimy Ridge

The military personnel files from WW1 reveal many connections between Vimy Ridge and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. So far, we have found 15 men connected in different ways to Vimy in these records.

Sometimes the files say that a serviceman was present at, or killed at, the Battle of Vimy Ridge itself (9th to 12th of April, 1917). Others were wounded in that area before and after the Battle itself. Some are named at the Vimy Memorial because they were killed in action and their bodies were never found.

Below is a list of volunteers connected to Vimy Ridge:

Alexander Bardy Regimental No. 636416

Served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles and was with his unit on the attack at Vimy Ridge.

Frank Bardy Regimental No. 426204

Served with the 27th Battalion (Winnipeg) and was killed in action at Vimy Ridge on the 10th of April, 1917. He is named in the Vimy War Memorial, Pas de Calais.

Cornelius "Con" Barnhart Regimental No. 7711

Served with the 2nd Battalion and was wounded at Vimy Ridge on the 9th of April, 1917.

Isaac Barnhart (who served as Isaac McDonald) Regimental No. 754640

Served with the 52nd Battalion. He suffered a concussion and permanent hearing loss at Vimy Ridge in March, 1917.

Hugh Brant Regimental No. 636364

Served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was wounded at Vimy on the 1st of June, 1917.

Richard Brant Regimental No. 636550

Served with the 2nd Battalion. He was killed in action on the 3rd of May, 1917. He is named on the Vimy War Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

William Brant (who served as William Sero) Regimental No. 636594

Served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge in June, 1917.

Cecil Earnest Crawford Regimental No. 636586

Served with the 21st Battalion. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge on the 12th of April, 1917.

George Mark Maracle (who served as George Mark Hill) Regimental No. 649015

Served with the 1st Battalion. He was killed in action in the "trenches in vicinity of Bois De La Ville", part of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on the 12th of April, 1917. He is named on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Philip Maracle Regimental No. 219361

Served with the 44th Battalion. He was wounded in the field on the 10th of May, 1917, in the “trenches west of La Coulotte”. He was later reported missing, and later still, presumed dead. He is named on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Wheeler Maracle Regimental No. 220513

Served with the 50th Battalion. He was reported missing and believed killed in “attack north of Souchez” on the 3rd of February, 1917. He is named at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. He may have died in action that was part of the preparation for the attack on Vimy Ridge that was executed in April, 1917.

Norman Albert Miller Regimental No. 220322

Served with the 38th Battalion. He was wounded on the 28th of June, 1917, at Vimy Ridge.

William Pinn Regimental No. 637077

Served with the 2nd Battalion. He was killed in action on the 3rd of May, 1917, during the “attack at Fresnoy”. He is named at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Harold Smart Regimental No. 412306

Served with the 25th Battalion. He was killed in action on the 29th of September, 1916, possibly as part of the Battle of the Somme. He is named on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Joseph Laheed Smart Regimental No. 700618

Served with Manitoba Depot. He was wounded in Vimy Village on the 14th of April, 1917.

In March, 1917 only one community member who volunteered to serve in WW1:

JACOB BERNHART

Regimental No. 210075

Jacob was the son of David & Susan (Bey) Barnhart.

According to his baptismal record, he was born on the 1st of January, 1878, but, he on his attestation paper he said his birthday was the 17th of January 1877.

Jacob volunteered on the 20th of March, 1917, in Vancouver, B.C., for the Forestry Company.

From his military personnel file we learn that at the time of sign up, he was living at 132 Mile House, Caribou Rd, Caribou, BC. He was a woodsman and he had no previous military experience.

He left Halifax on the 11th of August, 1917, and arrived in Liverpool, England, on the 23rd of August, 1917. He was immediately transferred to the Railway Construction Company of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Jacob was hospitalized in September, 1917, with "Pharyngitis" (infection of the back of the throat). He was discharged from the hospital on the 5th of December, 1917.

On the 20th of December, 1917, he was transferred to the 1st Battalion of the Canadian Railway Troops. He joined his unit nine days later.

On the 14th of January, 1918, Jacob was admitted to the No. 4 Casualty Clearing Station in France. He died on nephritis (inflammation of the kidneys also known as Bright's Disease) on the 15th of January, 1918, in Belgium. He was buried at the British Cemetery Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium. At the time of his death Jacob held the rank of Sapper. He was eligible for the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Before the war, Jacob married a woman called Nellie May. The British Columbia, Canada, Marriage Index, indicates that a Jacob Bernhart married Nellie Meyers or Nellie Hayley on the 20th of June, 1914. We do not know for certain if they had any children, but there might have been a daughter named Norma. Documents indicate that Norma moved to Washington State in the USA.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 680 - 26*]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.