

# WW1: Honouring Those Who Volunteered in December, 1916

In December 1916, three community members volunteered to serve: George Brant, Stafford Claus, and James Albert Bannister.

## **GEORGE BRANT**

**Regimental Number: 636211 & 246784**

We believe George was the son of Lizzie Brant and Thomas Brant.

According to his baptismal record, George Brant was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 1893, but he reported his date of birth as the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 1898, on his attestation paper.

He originally volunteered on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 1916, in Deseronto, for the 155<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion. But about May, 1916, he deserted. He was turned over to “civil authorities” and was sentenced to 9 months in prison.

George volunteered again on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 1916, at Kingston, Ontario, for the 207<sup>th</sup> Ottawa-Carleton Overseas Battalion.

According to his military personnel file, he was a farmer before the war with no prior military experience.

George arrived in England on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 1917. He had been transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion. In November, 1917, he was transferred to the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

In June, 1918, George was sentenced to 7 days Field Punishment No. 1 for being “Drunk in Billets”.

He was wounded in late September, 1918, with a gunshot wound to his left leg. He was hospitalized in October, 1918, and was later sent to the No. 10 Convalescence Depot. Then he was sent to a Rest Camp. The wound healed completely without disability. George rejoined his unit in the Field later that same month.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 1918, he was granted 2 weeks leave in the U.K. He returned to England in February, 1919, and left for Canada on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 1919.

He was discharged on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1919, in Ottawa, Ontario.

George Brant married Mabel Doreen on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1919 [AO].

George and Mable had several children:

Percy born 1920

Nora born & died 1922

Thomas born & died 1923

Daisy born 1925

Frances born 1928

Delbert born & died 1930

Harold born & died 1931

Edith born 1935

Sarah born 1939

George Brant died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 1961. He was buried on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, and he has a headstone at Christ Church Cemetery.

Most of the information here is taken from his military personnel file [LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1019 - 48]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records. Photo courtesy of Leo Hayes.



NOTE: We have conflicting information about the parents of George Brant and are trying to confirm their identity. If you recognize him as part of your family, please let us know if you have any information to share.

## **STAFFORD CLAUS**

**Regimental Number: 1027582**

Stafford was the son of Arthur & Margaret Ellen (Maracle) Claus.

He was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 1901, according to his baptismal. When he volunteered, on his attestation paper, Stafford reported his date of birth as the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 1898.

He volunteered on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 1916, in Picton, Ontario for the 235<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Stafford was discharged on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, 1917, for being "Under age".

It was reported that his conduct and character while in the Service had been good. His medical report stated that he was "Under age but in excellent health and is a good soldier".

Stafford was enfranchised with his parents in 1921.

Stafford Claus married Ada Violet Maracle on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 1925 [CR]. They had several children:

Marian Lorraine	born 1924
Vernon Leslie	born 1926
Stafford Laverne	born 1928
Gordon John	born & died 1930
Margaret Lillian	born & died 1931
Shirley May	born 1932
Victor Le Roy	born 1934
Ivan Wesley	born 1935
Donald	born 1937
Janet Elaine	born & died 1939
Robert Mitchell	born 1940
Grace	born 1941
Carrol Marlene	born 1944 died 1945



Stafford Claus died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 1971. He was buried in the Deseronto Cemetery.

Most of the information here is taken from his military personnel file [LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1775 - 22]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records. Photo courtesy of Steven Lindsay.

**JAMES ALBERT BANNISTER**  
**Regimental Number: 1027583**

James was the son of Alexander & Mary Louise (Smart) Bannister.

He was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 1902, according to his baptismal; but, he reported his date of birth as the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 1898, on his attestation paper.

James volunteered on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 1916, in Belleville, Ontario, for the 235<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

According to his military personnel file, he was a labourer before the war with no military experience.

James arrived in Liverpool, England on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1917. He was hospitalized with "Parotiditis" on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 1917, and suffered from mumps in June, 1917. He continued to suffer multiple illnesses. He was discharged from hospital on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 1917.

He was sent back to Canada on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 1917. His records state that he was discharged on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 1917, for making a mistake on his age of enlistment and that he was actually under 17 years of age.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, 1918, James Albert Bannister, despite being discharged as underage, was declared a “Deserter” and reported to be absent without leave since the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 1917.

James Albert Bannister married Jennie Louis Mills 27<sup>th</sup> April 1935 [*Picton Parish Church Record*]. We have no other information for James.

Most of the information here has been taken from 2 military personnel files for James A. Bannister [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 413 - 23 & Box 413 - 25*]. These files have been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

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**MBQ Research would also like to take the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the late Valerie Brant. Valerie was the source of the 1916 document which was the inspiration for the event held in September, commemorating the Installation of Chiefs on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 1916. Thank you to Valerie for sharing that piece of history so that it can be kept alive in the community.**