

Name, Rank & Regiment of Soldier:

Hickman, John Thomas

**Private,
44th Canadians No: 292452
(Manitoba – later (1918) New
Brunswick Regiment)**



Above: 44th Canadians collar pin image by kind permission Flying Tiger Antiques, Arizona, USA

Date of birth	Date KIA	Age
1889	10 th Aug. 1918	28

Background: **John Thomas Hickman**

John Thomas Hickman was born in 1889¹ to Thomas Dolphin Hickman and Martha Hickman (née Vickers). He was their 3rd child.

In 1891 the family lived in Old Brickyard Cottages on Whitemoor Lane, near Brough. Thomas Dolphin was an agricultural labourer. The children were William (6), Fanny Elizabeth (4) and **John Thomas** (2)².

In 1901 their address is as above. By now William has left home to work on John Clever's farm in Brough & additional children of Thomas and Martha are given as Katherine Rebecca (born 1892) and Samuel Dolphin (1900 - 1988).

On 27th April 1907 (or 1906 according to Ancestry.co.uk) **John Thomas Hickman**, then 16, emigrated to Canada on S.S Siberian to St John, Halifax where he became a farmer. He probably emigrated either with his brother William (1884-1968) or shortly afterwards.

¹ Some sources give 1891 – however, this is when he was baptised.

² According to 1891 Census – this would give John's date of birth as 1889

3. Lord/Griffiths Family tree Ancestry.co.uk

On 7th June 1907 John's father, mother, sister Katherine and brother Samuel followed.

The Hickmans settled in Souris, Manitoba. Later they moved to 'Swan River', Manitoba. Thomas and Martha are both buried here (Martha in 1943, Thomas in 1945).

William Hickman also settled in Souris and married Mary Leverton (1901-1970), also a native of Brough (her family emigrated in 1912³) in 1917, when she was 16 and he was 32. During 'the drought years' they moved to Swan River in 1934 and it looks as if Thomas and Martha followed. It is unknown what happened to Katherine.



Above: photo of Brickyard Cottages, Brough in 2015. See also George Clayton's profile, KIA May 1918, who lived here after the Hickmans. The property consisted of three cottages in an 'L' shape.



Above: Postcard of Souris, Manitoba, 1908. Souris was a relatively new settlement at the time. Source: Bill Hillman's Manitoba Archive XXXI

³ According to Bruce Thompson Family Tree on Ancestry.co.uk containing written notes Ancestry 2017 (used with permissions)

Military History: Pte. John T. Hickman

Address on Enlistment: Boissevain, Manitoba, Canada

Date Enlisted: September 26th 1916

Description: 5'3" Height. Chest = 37 ins. Had the first joint of his third finger on left hand missing. John Hickman was single and a farmer by occupation.

Canadian Involvement in WW1

The first Canadian contingent of 33,000 volunteers reached England soon after the outbreak of war in 1914 and was in Flanders by early 1915. Their baptism of fire came at the second battle of Ypres, in May 1915. By 1916 the Canadians had formed four divisions, with a fifth formed in late 1917 that was ultimately broken up to provide reinforcements.

The Canadians that served in the First World War were not professional soldiers⁴. They were young men from the cities, towns and farms. They came from all over Canada. Many of the men volunteered, some induced by emotional ties to England, some for the adventure. Others came because their country asked them. In the end, Prime Minister Borden divided the country by invoking Conscription in 1917.

On June 27th, 1918 a Canadian Hospital ship Llandovery Castle, was sunk by a German U-Boat. Life boats were pursued and sunk. 234 were killed, including 14 nursing sisters. 24 survived. This attack proved a rallying cry for the Canadian troops for the rest of the war.

Action in August 1918 when Pte Hickman was killed

The Battle of Amiens (code named "Llandovery Castle") took place on 8 August, *'the Black Day of the German Army'* - Canadian and Australian troops, plus 600 tanks, shattered the German forces and reached the Hindenburg Line 8 - 11 August 1918.

On 10th August 1918, the 44th & 46th Battalions and the 10th Brigade Canadians fought a battle at Fouquescourt near Amiens. The village changed hand three times in the day.

Pte. John Thomas Hickman is buried in Rosières Communal Cemetery Extension. Plot III F 28.

His headstone, dedicated by his parents, reads 'God be with you till we meet again.'
He is also remembered on the South Collingham Parishioners' Plaque and Roll of Honour in St John the Baptist Church.

⁴ However, some did have military training, such as Fred East, who had served with the local militia in Newark for 7 years before emigrating to Canada. See Fred East's profile (killed in action Oct 8th 1916).

Private John Thomas Hickman (continued)

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES. (EXHUMATIONS AND RE-BURIALS)

Burial Return 66E. L. C. 3.8

Name of Cemetery of Re-burial ROSIERES COMM-CEMTEXTEN

Plot	Row	Grave	Approximate Map reference where body found	as cross found on grave	a) Particulars on cross found on grave b) Particulars found on body	Means of identification
3	F	20	66E.L.11.B.8-9	Yes	25206 PG VAN. F.W. 47 CANDS NIL	12.8.18 NIL
3	F	21	" "	Yes	218726 PTE MARTIN. H. R. 47 CANDS NIL	11.8.18 NIL
3	F	22	" "	Yes	2356032 PTE RUSSELL. P.L. 47 CANDS NIL	11.8.18 NIL
3	F	23	66E.L.5.B.5-5	Yes	220081. PTE. SHEPHERD. C. 50 th CANDS NIL	10.8.18 NIL
3	F	24	" "	Yes	CAPT RILEY. J. S. TANK CORPS NIL	10.8.18 CLOTHING
3	F	25	" "	Yes	CAPT. TWEED. T.M. 50 th CANDS NIL	10.8.18 CLOTHING
3	F	26	66E.E5. D. 5-5	Yes	Unknown British Officer. NIL	PORTIONS OF OFFICERS CLOTH
3	F	27	66E.L.11.A.5.2	No	Unknown British Officer German NIL	Found in open under 1/2 Cand.
3	F	28	" "	No	PTE HICKMAN. J.T. 44 CANDS Portions of Pay Book with name	Found in open PAY BOOK
3	F	29	66E.L.11.A.8.4	Yes	PTE LANCASTER. C.V. 44 CANDS NIL	10.8.18 NIL
3	F	30	" "	Yes	Unknown British Soldier NIL	CLOTHING
3	F	31	66E.L.10.C.4.8	Yes	33545. PTE. CLELLAND. H. 15. H.L. 1. 15.3.17. NIL	NIL
3	F	32	62.D.17.d.9.3	Yes	200928 L/CPL NEWTON. J. 3 BN LIGHT TANK CD NIL	8.8.18 NIL

Handwritten notes:
 - "CANCELLLED" stamp
 - "INITIALED" stamp
 - "G.R. SQUAD, 35, Rosieres-en-Santerre. T57, 9110119"
 - "Nancy 4.10.19."
 - "Profand 5th Lt a/c Camp 35-16"
 - "66E.D. (Tus D)"
 - "66E.L.11.A.8.4" (written vertically)

Above: Private John Thomas Hickman's burial return grave details from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website with permissions. Hickman's entry, fifth from the bottom, reads: 'Portions of paybook with name' – the evidence used to identify his body.

Sources:

CWGC website <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/314423/>

Canadian Great War Project website: <http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/index.asp>

Census Returns

Ancestry.co.uk

Hillman Manitoba Archive: <http://www.hillmanweb.com/brandon/39.html>

With thanks to Charlie Stothard for his initial research in 2014 and Bruce Thompson for additional information about the Hickman family 2017.



