

## John Williamson (North Staffordshire Regiment)

1876—1918: age at death 42



John was the son of John and Ellen Elizabeth Williamson and was born in Dronfield in 1876. In the 1911 census he is recorded as working as the sub-postmaster at Kelham and unmarried.

The Williamson family had been associated with the Kelham Post Office for some time. John Williamson senior was postmaster at the time of the 1881 census, Miss Mary A Williamson in 1891 and Miss Sarah Williamson in 1901, so the family must have been well known in the area.

In 1911 John was living next to the 'Post Office' along with his nephew, Donald Rupert Sidall who was also a postman. Donald was born in 1892 at Thurgoland, Yorkshire. John enlisted at Newark in Autumn 1915 following a local recruitment drive and served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment).

He was killed on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 and his death was reported in the May 1918 edition of *The Plough*. The article states

that he was killed in action when his regiment, faced by about ten divisions of Germans, held their line to the last. John, known as Jack, had been home on leave at the beginning of March and had told how he had been 'over the top six times without receiving a scratch, but he was much affected by the loss of so many of his pals'. He left his effects to his nephew Donald Siddall.

He is buried at Bancourt British Cemetery, France.

