

# CAIRNS, WILLIAM FARREN

## EARLY LIFE

**Dec 19, 1895**

Born in Eversley, Ontario to James and Minetta (Farren) Cairns.

**1901 Census**

Age 5

Lived in King, Ontario with James Cairns (head of house – father, age 50), Eldon Cairns (brother, age 9), Jean Cairns (sister, age 7) and Ellen Andrews (second-cousin, age 29) also lived with them.

**1911 Census**

Age 15

Lived in King, Ontario with James Cairns (head of house – father, age 61) house and Jean Cairns (sister, age 17).

**Sep 1, 1916**

Attested to the Canadian Mounted Rifles (CMR) Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force

**Attestation  
Paper**

## MILITARY SERVICE

- **Number:** 225909
- **Present address:** King, Ontario
- **Next of kin given:** Jean Cairns (Sister) in King, Ontario
- **Trade or calling:** Plumber
- **Married:** No
- **Previous military experience:** No
- **Religion:** Presbyterian
- **Physical attributes:**
  - **Age:** 20 years, 8 months
  - **Height:** 5'8 "
  - **Complexion:** Dark
  - **Eyes:** Brown
  - **Hair:** Brown
  - **Distinctive marks:** Several moles on face, one small mole below left nipple, 6 warts on back of right hand

**Oct 25, 1916**

Age 20

Left Canada through Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Oct 31, 1916**

Age 20

Arrived in Liverpool, England on the RMS Mauretania.

**Nov 3, 1916**

Age 20

Transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Training Brigade.

**Feb 14, 1917**

Age 21

Transferred to the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

**Nov 6, 1917**

Age 21

Gunshot wound in the chest at Passchendaele.

**Mar 19, 1918**

Age 22

Deemed to be poorly nourished.

**Mar 15, 1919**

Age 23

Diagnosed with a nasal obstruction, his septum deviated to the right. This caused considerable puss in each nasal cavity.

**Mar 28, 1919**

Age 23

Private William Cairns was discharged because he was deemed medically unfit for service. He had a gunshot wound in his chest and right shoulder.

**AFTER THE WAR**

**Jan 15, 1927**

Age 33

Travelled with his sister Jean Cairns, and W. Gellatly to California, United States to visit his brother Eldon Cairns. They entered through Port Huron, Michigan. William Cairn's occupation listed on the Border Crossing Form was carpenter.

**Apr 25, 1971**

Age 75

William died in King, Ontario.

**MENTIONED IN EARL CAMPBELL'S LETTERS HOME**

*Letters Home: Messages from the Trenches*

**Mar 13, 1919**

**MENTIONED IN ALICE FERGUSON'S REMINISCENCES OF EVERSLEY**

*Honour Roll 1914-1918*

REMINISCENCES OF EVERSLEY, ONTARIO, King Township  
by Alice A. Ferguson (1950)

On the walls of St Andrews Presbyterian Church at Eversley hang two Honour Rolls of the boys who took part in both Wars.. How well I remember we would meet every week to fill boxes of food and things for these boys, sew them up in cotton and send them off. Rev Robert Brydon was minister at this time with dear old Dr. Carmichael assisting. He had retired after 50 years of service to the Tawse Manse House next to the Church. For 50 years he had lived at Strange, in the house that the congregation had built for him when he came to St Andrews Church in 1860 as the assisting minister to Rev John Tawse whose health was failing.

The Sunday School was flourishing and the Young People's Society and the Church Services were well attended every Sunday. All members of the families would attend divine worship, sometimes two pews were allotted to one family.

1914-1918 Roll of Honour

Pte Harper F. Wells	Pte Henry S Ferguson
Pte Alex McDonald	Pte Fred Hope
Lieu Jas. T Jenkins	Pte Leonard Ferguson
Pte Melville Mitchell	Pte Leslie Hope
Corp T Harry Bovair	Pte Harvey Gellatly
Pte Septimus Ball	Pte J. Pearson Wells
Pte Norman Lloyd	Pte Cecil L. Wells
Pte Roger Gellatly	Pte Lorne Mitchell
Lieu Walter S Jenkins	Pte Arwood Cairns
Lieu Roy Wells	Pte Lindsey Ferguson
Pte Wm Cairns	Pte Arthur Bovair
Pte Alfred Hurst	