

## Milton Klock (1896 - 1918)

John Milton Klock was a member of St John the Evangelist Anglican Church who was KIA (Killed in Action) during The Great War (WWI). His name is on the WWI Roll located in the Warrior's Chapel.

## Family History

The Klock family has deep roots in the Ottawa area. John Milton Klock was born the son of Robert Henry Klock (1859 - 1925) and Margaret Kate Thompson (1872 - 1950) on 23 Apr 1896 in Shawville, Pontiac, Quebec. Milton's father was a Family Doctor who was well-known and deeply loved in the community.



Milton's mother, Margaret, was born in Campbell's Bay, Quebec. She went to Miss Harmon's School on Elgin Street in the building where Harmon's Steakhouse is today, in the same city block of Elgin Street as Grace Church, now St John the Evangelist Church. A picture in the album associated with this article shows Miss Harmon's School with Grace Church in the background.

Further back, the Klock family's roots include an association with Christ Church of Aylmer, Quebec (not the first association noted in these short

historical vignettes). Milton's family ties back to the earliest settlers in the region to Robert Klock (1791 - 1849), who was born in Ireland, emigrated to the US, and then later came to this region to work for Philemon Wright. Robert was Milton's Great-grandfather. Robert married Elizabeth Bell, whose family lent their name to Bells Corners.

## Personal History

John Milton Klock was raised in Shawville but enlisted in Ottawa, where he resided and was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. Given that his mother, as a young woman, had attended school on the same city block as Grace Church and that the family was Anglican and in the Aylmer Region, the association with St. John's was to be expected. Milton had a younger brother, William, who entered the military shortly after Milton, and it appears likely they may have roomed together in Ottawa as William worked in Ottawa as well.

Milton's military records indicate that his father was opposed to his joining the Military when he was enlisting. In a summary of his medical examination prepared at his time of enlistment, presumably from John Milton himself:

*"The father of the gunner was very much opposed to his son's enlistment, but was very deceitful about it. When people were around, for sake of appearance, he would suggest that his boy should enlist. At other times, when alone, he would oppose it."*

There is little history readily available of Milton's life before his enlistment. His family background suggests that he was well-educated. At 19, he was employed by the Department of Public Works as a clerk, indicating he was well-educated.

Despite his father's objections, Milton joined the military on November 8, 1915. Milton lived in Ottawa, while his family lived in Shawville, Quebec. Milton listed his father as his next of kin rather than his mother, which doesn't necessarily mean anything, but it is interesting given his reported "conflict" with his father. It was common for unmarried young men to list their mothers more often than not, yet despite this disagreement, he still listed his father.

Following his enlistment, Milton was assigned for training in Kingston. He was rapidly deployed to England in December 1915 for additional training in Folkstone and then sent to France in March 1916. He was a Gunner in the 32nd Battery. He spent the next two and ½ years fighting in France without relief. He survived Vimy Ridge despite the high casualty rates for Canadians in that engagement. However, his good fortune ran out on October 4, 1918, when he was wounded in combat in France near the coast. His wound was deemed serious, and he was taken to a Military Hospital in Etaples, France. From there, some communication was sent back to his family on October 9th that he was expected to recover. His situation worsened, declining, and he died on October 15, 1918. He was buried at the Military Cemetery Etaples, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

While John Milton Klock's association with St John the Evangelist Church was likely a short time as his roots were deeper in Shawville, his inclusion on the memorial wall in the Warrior's Chapel indicates that he was accepted and cared about in the Parish.

Researched and written by Barton Breen