

The James Counter Norsworthy Family

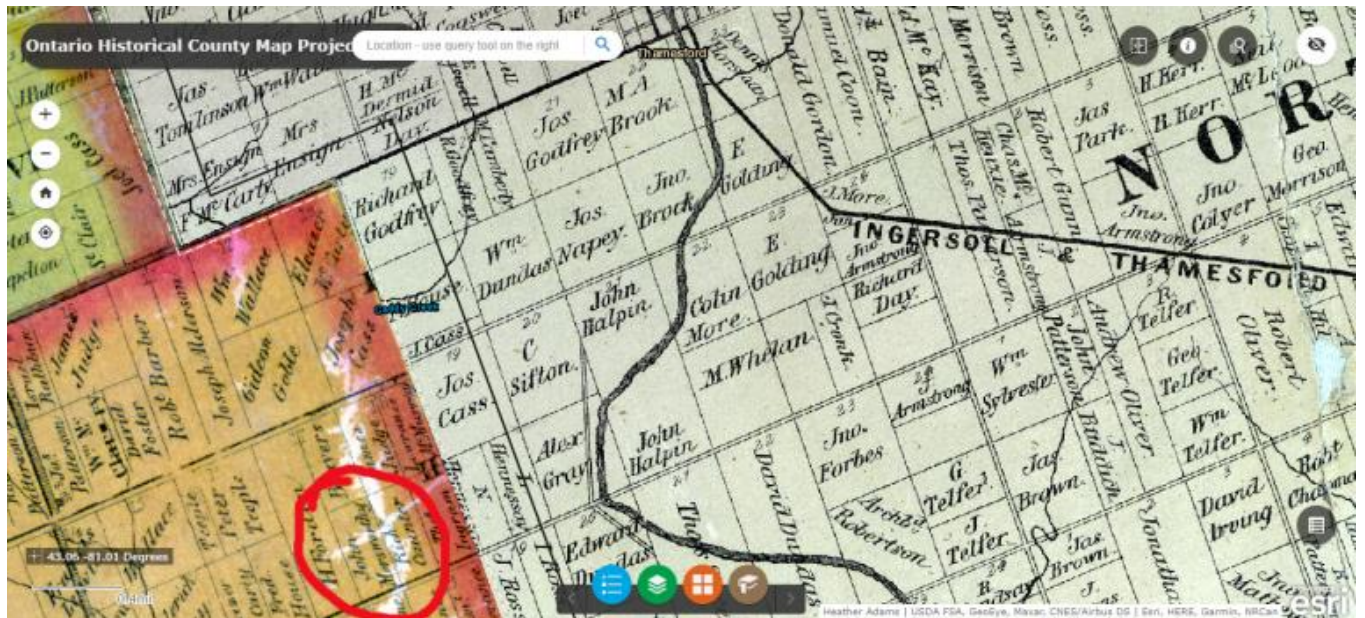
James Counter Norsworthy 1846-1936



James Caunter Norsworthy

James Counter Norsworthy, emigrated to Middlesex County in 1852 at the age of 6, together with his parents, John & Mary Norsworthy. The Norsworthy clan originated from Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon, England.

James was one of eleven children eventually born to John & Mary; who upon their arrival in North Dorchester Township, purchased a farm in the Thamesford area.



above, Historical County Map of Oxford County, Published by Tremaine, 1857

In 1868, at age 22, James moved to Ingersoll and, in partnership with Elias C. Harris, established an insurance agency. In 1873 he bought Harris's half of the business, and in 1877 he erected the Norsworthy Building at 17 King Street West.

Norsworthy Buildings.

Tuesday morning Mr. Norsworthy had the rough boards taken down from the front of his new building, displaying to view one of the handsomest fronts of English plate glass to be seen in the country. In the centre of the building there is a magnificent vestibule or porch, (from which the hall leads up stairs,) with large, deep windows on either side, having two plates on each the full depth of the window, the size of the plate being 4 feet 11 inches by 11 feet 8 inches deep. For architectural design and beauty of finish it far eclipses all other buildings of the kind in town. Mr. Norsworthy is truly entitled to the thanks of every citizen of Ingersoll for the spirit and enterprise he has shown in adding such a structure to the adornment of our town. In the west side the Molson's Bank has opened their new branch office. The east side will be occupied by Mr. Norsworthy as his office. The second flat is also handsomely finished off for offices, and has two first-class fire-proof vaults. We understand that Mr. J. C. Hegler has taken the west side of this flat as his office. The third flat is finished and seated for a public hall, and will seat nearly three hundred persons comfortably, being well heated and lighted, and so centrally located that it will be an excellent hall to hold lectures, concerts or any entertainments when so large a place as the Town Hall would not be required. We wish Mr. Norsworthy every success with the enterprise, and trust it will prove a profitable investment.

above, from the Ingersoll Chronicle, 4 January, 1877



above, 17 King Street West, Ingersoll

J. O. NORSWORTHY,

GENERAL

Banking & Loan Agent

KING STREET, INGERSOLL.

Transacts a General Banking, Loan and Insurance Business.

ISSUE OF MARRIAGE LICENSES.

I beg to announce to parties wishing to borrow upon Mortgage Security either to pay off present encumbrance, to purchase additional property or to improve present holdings, that I am authorized by my principals to offer loans for the present at the following low rates of Interest, viz.: For loans of \$500 upwards at (5½ to 6 per cent.) five and a half to six per cent. per annum, according to the terms of repayment required by the borrower. Now is the time for parties wanting loans to make their applications. (The mortgage can be made and the money paid over at any time that it is required.) These exceptional low rates are not likely to be kept open any great length of time.

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J. C. NORSWORTHY

BANKER AND BROKER,

INSURANCE & LOAN AGENT.

King Street, Ingersoll,

TRANSACTS a General Banking
Exchange, Loan and Insurance Business. Money
to Loan on Farm and Improved Town Property.

WHITE STAR, NATIONAL

AND

STATE LINE STEAMSHIPS.

First Cabin, Second Cabin and Steerage, at Lowest
Rates, to and from

LIVERPOOL,
GLASGOW,
LONDONDERRY,
BELFAST

LONDON,
PARIS,
QUEENSTOWN,
DUBLIN,

And to all principal points.

J. C. NORSWORTHY, Agent.

Ingersoll, July 31st, 1879.

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J. C. NORSWORTHY,

Banker & Broker,

INSURANCE & LOAN AGENT,

King Street, Ingersoll,

TRANSACTS a General Banking
Exchange, Loan and Insurance Business.

DRAPTS on New York and United
States Currency, Gold, Silver and all current
papers bought and sold at best rates. Orders for the
purchase or sale of Stocks, Bonds and other securities
on Commission promptly attended to.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED FROM
Twenty Dollars upwards; invested in Government
and other first-class securities. Interest allowed at 5
and 6 per cent.

MONEY LOANED ON THE SE-
curity of Improved farm property at the low-
est rates of interest. Municipal and School Section
Debentures purchased.

ROYAL FIRE AND LIFE IN-
surance Company of England.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE
Company of London, England. Established 1802.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSUR-
ance Company of England, 19 and 29 Cornhill,
London.

The above RELIABLE AND OLD Established Com-
panies are prepared to receive applications for Insur-
ance on all classes of Property on most favorable
terms.

Three Years' Policies Issued on Dwell-
ing and Farm Buildings and
Contents

AT MOST ADVANTAGEOUS RATES.

ALL LOSSES SETTLED PROMPTLY.

J. C. NORSWORTHY,

Insurance Agent.

Ingersoll, Feb. 27, 1878.

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J. C. NORSWORTHY'S

GENERAL

Fire Insurance Agency

Representing the following Companies:

CANADA AGRICULTURAL INS. CO'Y,
OF MONTREAL.

NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF MONTREAL.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY
OF LIVERPOOL & LONDON.

IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

COMMERCIAL UNION INSURANCE CO.,
OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS
INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF HAMILTON, ONT.

TRAVELLERS LIFE & ACCIDENT INS. CO.
OF HARTFORD.

Office, AGUR'S BANK, Thames street,
INGERSOLL.

March 1, 1876.

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Norsworthy Hall

CAPABLE of seating 300 is now completed and furnished; will be let for

Lectures, Concerts, Assemblies,

ETC., AT REASONABLE RATES.

The Hall is Central and is well Lighted and Heated.
Apply to

J. C. NORSWORTHY.

Ingersoll, Feb. 28, 1877.

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above, J. C. Norsworthy, Banker & Broker, advertising from the Ingersoll Chronicle 1877-1888

On 26 April 1878, James married Mary Jane Cuthbert (1853-1891) of West Oxford Township



MARRIED.
NORSWORTHY—CUTHBERT— At Croft Hyrne, West
Oxford, by the Rev. John McIwen, on the 25th ult.,
JAMES COUNTER NORSWORTHY, Esq., to MRS: MARY
JANE CUTHBERT.

Owned by Mary Jane's father, Alexander Cuthbert, was a house situated at 250 King Street East. Built in the 1850s by Nathaniel Whiting, a noted Ingersoll pioneer – this home became part of her dowry.

James apparently loved the home and spent much time and money on the improvement of both house and grounds, considered then one of the most attractive in Ingersoll.

James & Mary Jane christened their home 'Norleigh'.



[Norleigh at 250 King Street East](#)

Reportedly James kept a carpenter employed for an entire year working on the house, and a noted artist and wood carver, Frank Leake, produced its elaborately designed fireplace mantles. Together, in the comfort of this house with its running water gravity-fed by overhead cisterns, James and Mary Jane would raise four sons and one daughter before her tragic and sudden death at the age of 38 in February of 1891. It was reported that she had been nursing her daughter through a malignant bout of diphtheria and while seven-year-old Helen survived, her mother contracted the illness and died.

Children of James & Mary Jane:

Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy 1879-1915

Stanley Counter Norsworthy 1881-1966

Helen Alice Norsworthy 1884-1970

Alfred James Norsworthy 1887-1917

John Weldon Norsworthy 1890-1975

With the death of their mother, they went out of town to private schools, Eddie to Upper Canada College, Toronto, and Stanley, after a year as a bank clerk in Ingersoll, to Ridley College in St. Catharines. The two older boys had attended the Ingersoll Central School, Eddie (1886-1890) and Stanley (1889-1890). Their father may also have chosen private schools to fit his boys for financial

careers outside of the town. Alfred, Weldon, and Helen logged some years in the local Ingersoll school during the years 1896-1898. Then Weldon went off to Ridley and Nellie to Havergal College in Toronto. Where Alfred was educated is not mentioned.

In 1890 James sold his insurance business in Ingersoll to David G. Cuthbertson (1864-1945) to become a chief inspector with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company: "He travelled much, over the length and breadth of Canada, and acquired a wide and sympathetic knowledge of the Dominion, its history, people and business conditions."

In May, 1895, James married Jane Elizabeth (Jennie) Taylor (1860-1951), relict of James T. McDonald (1846-1893), a ship captain in Sarnia. With his second marriage, James changed the family religious affiliation from Presbyterian to Anglican.

In 1905 James retired to 'Norleigh' in Ingersoll. There he remained through to his death in 1936.

ESTEEMED RESIDENT PASSES AWAY

James C. Norsworthy Died Suddenly At His Home Here Wednesday, November 4th.

Death on Wednesday morning, November 4th, removed an outstanding Ingersoll resident in the person of James Counter Norsworthy, King street east. Deceased had been up and had breakfast as usual in the morning, and death followed suddenly about 9.45 o'clock.

Although in poor health for the past 13 years, Mr. Norsworthy had not been confined to his bed steadily. Despite his great age and his illness, he had maintained his faculties to the end.

Deceased who was in his 91st year, was born in Devonshire, England, but left for Canada on his sixth birthday, coming with his people to the Thamesford area where his father took up land. As a young man he entered the insurance business, coming to Ingersoll to make his home about 60 years ago. For many years he was an inspector for the North British Mercantile Insurance Co., remaining with that firm until superannuated. He had travelled considerably, and was a lover of sculpture and art.

The pride of his later years had been the most brilliant record of his four sons during the Great War. They made a valiant name for themselves, two having made the supreme sacrifice. Their names are written high in the list of Canadian soldiers in the world struggle, the Victoria Cross being among the cherished reminders which came of their services.

A home-loving man, Mr. Norsworthy had given much time and money to the improvement of his beautiful home and grounds on King street east, one of the most attractive of Ingersoll properties.

For these reasons, he had not been one to seek public office, although many years ago he served for a time on the Ingersoll Board of Education. He had always taken a deep interest, however, in the affairs of his community and of the world at large.

A plainly-spoken man, and one who at all times indicated the full courage of his convictions, deceased was never doubted as to his stand or viewpoint on any public question. A great reader, and a student of world affairs, especially as they centered about the events leading up to, dur-

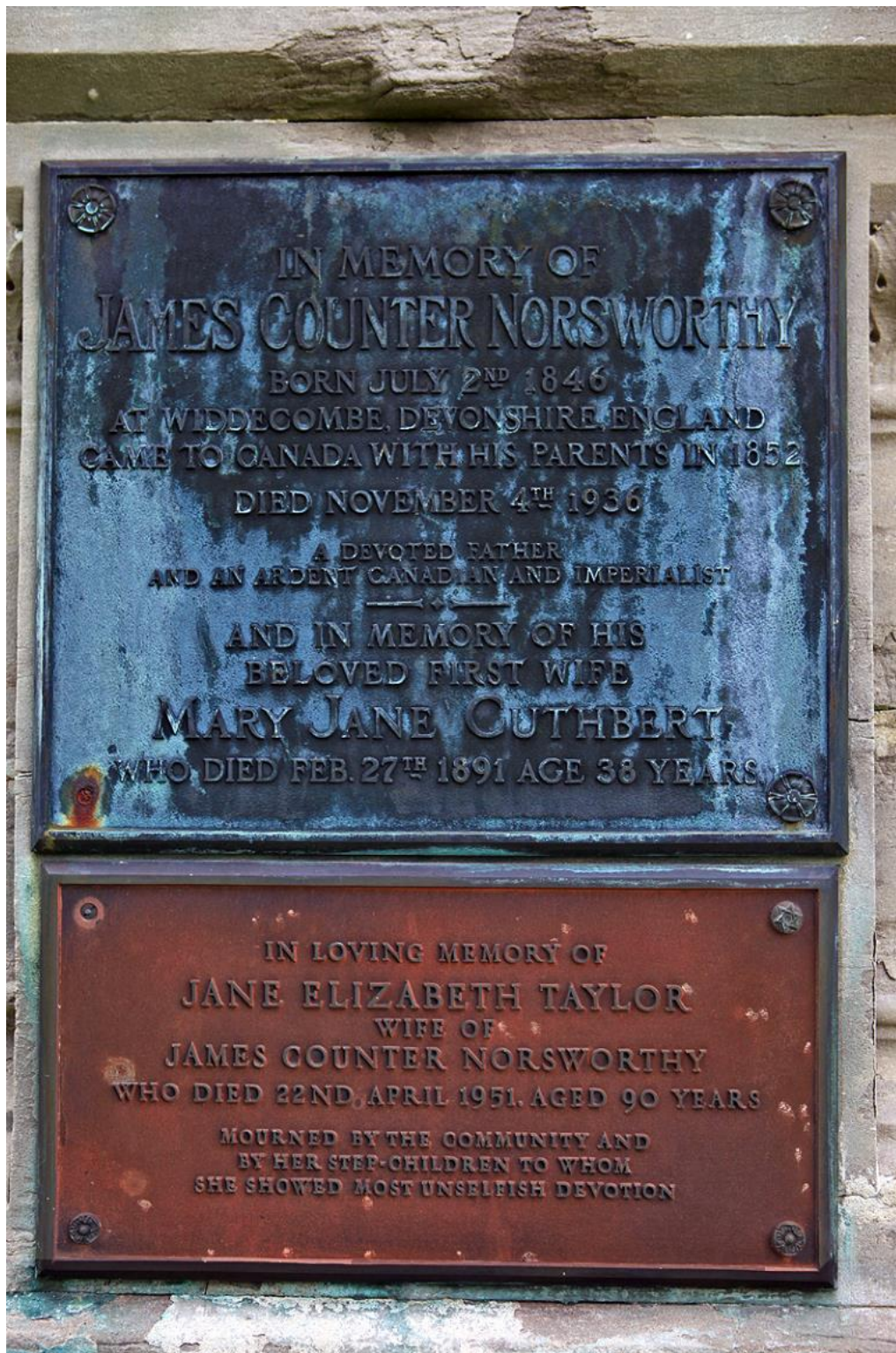
Mr. Norsworthy was married twice, his first wife being Mary Jane Cuthbert, who passed away some 47 years ago. Some 41 years ago he married Mrs. John T. MacDonald of Sarnia, who survives him. He is also survived by the following sons and daughter by his first marriage: Lt.-Col. S. C. and Lieut. J. W. Norsworthy, Montreal; and Miss Helen A. Norsworthy. Two sons, Major Edward C. and Adjutant Alfred J., gave their lives overseas.

The funeral was held from the family residence, "Norleigh," King street east, on Saturday afternoon, where a short private service was conducted at 2 o'clock to St. James' Anglican church for public service at 2.30 o'clock. The service at the church was very largely attended and was in charge of Capt., the Rev. C. K. Masters, rector of St. James' church. Members of the choir were in attendance. Although it was asked that flowers be omitted, there were many very beautiful floral pieces in evidence testifying to the high esteem in which deceased was held.

The pall bearers were: Messrs. Alex Yule, James S. Cuthbert, Senator Donald Sutherland; W. W. Thompson, Montreal; G. C. Dewar and G. F. Pearson, Toronto. Interment was made in the Ingersoll Rural cemetery.

Relatives were present from St. Thomas, London, Sarnia, Trenton, Forest, Toronto, Galt, Hamilton and Windsor. Others from a distance included Lieut.-Col. W. H. Clark-Kennedy, V. C., Montreal; Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Toronto; William C. Noxon, Toronto; T. R. Richardson, Galt; W. T. A. MacFayden, Toronto; George I. Evans, Hamilton; W. James and J. H. Matson, London; J. R. Beaton, Waterloo; Harold P. Ferrier, Watford; W. H. Dawson, Tillsonburg; M. H. Johnston, Woodstock, and L. P. Thompson, Cobourg.

above, James C. Norsworthy's obituary from the Ingersoll Tribune, 12 November 1936



above, James's memorial plaque on the Norsworthy monument, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery, as well as that of his wives, Mary Jane Cuthbert & Jane Elizabeth Taylor.

The Norsworthy Children

In March, 1909, James wrote a brief sketch of his family, which then consisted of: Edward Cuthbert, Stanley Counter, Helen Alice, Alfred James, and John Weldon. The four sons are now residing in the city of Montreal, Canada, Edward as manager at Montreal of the Dominion Securities Corporation, Stanley C. as clerk on the staff of the Bank of Montreal, Alfred J. on the staff of the Molson's Bank of Canada, John W. as clerk on the staff of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, all unmarried." In 1909 Edward was 30, Stanley 28, Alfred 22, and Weldon, 19. Their business careers were flourishing, but they were primed for the Great War, their theatre for sacrifice and glory.



above, four Norsworthy sons photographed in Highlander uniforms of the Black Watch.

Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy 1879-1915



MAJOR EDWARD CUTHBERT NORWORTHY.
19th Battalion; Killed at St. Julien, Apr.
22nd, 1915; Son of J. C. Norworthy,
Ingersoll.

Edward was born 29 May 1879 in Ingersoll, Ontario. After public school in Ingersoll, he went to Upper Canada College eventually becoming a broker in the business world. He never married.

With the advent of the war, he signed his attestation papers on 23 September 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. *Major*
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- ANSWERS
1. What is your name? *Edward Leithbert Rossworth*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Ingersoll Ontario*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Father James C. Rossworth*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Ingersoll Ont*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *29 Mar 1879*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Bookbinder*
 7. Are you married? *No*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *No have been already*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *Yes 5th RptC*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *Canadian Militia Only*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE REGIMENT

E. C. Rossworth (Signature of Man).
Richard Richardson (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Edward C. Rossworth*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

E. C. Rossworth (Signature of Recruit)
Date *Sept 23* 1914. *Richard Richardson* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Edward C. Rossworth*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

E. C. Rossworth (Signature of Recruit)
Date *Sept 23* 1914. *Richard Richardson* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act. The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Valcartier* this *23rd* day of *Sept* 1914.

John Loomis (Signature of Justice)
I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
John Loomis (Approving Officer)

His last letter to his father was written in the trenches of Ypres on 9th of April and in it he said some things worth remembering:

Our men consider themselves quite the Germans' equal but they don't despise them. Our men are splendid and simply improve every day. I don't think if I am spared that I would ever be satisfied with the Militia again. The real article of trained men is so different. If there is another war I don't say I would not be in it, as there is something that holds one. You get used to men being hit and forget all about the danger; war is not what I thought it would be at all.

NAME <i>Norsworthy, Edward Cuthbert</i>		H. Q. FILE No. <i>269-3</i>
RANK AND CORPS <i>Major, 13th Battalion</i>		REG'TL. NO. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CABLE		NO. <i>430</i>
NO.	DATE	
<i>6317</i>	<i>25/4/15</i>	<i>Killed in Action.</i>
<i>269-3</i>		
<i>H-2.269-3</i>	<i>17/2/16</i>	<i>Date of death. Apr. 25th. 1915.</i>
<i>Auth Letter.</i>		<i>Correct date of death 22-4-15.</i>
<i>O/L. Rec. 23-10-16</i>		
L. L. Job 83225 -M. & D. 5842.		M. F. W. 42-50m 7-15. H. Q. 1772-39-893.

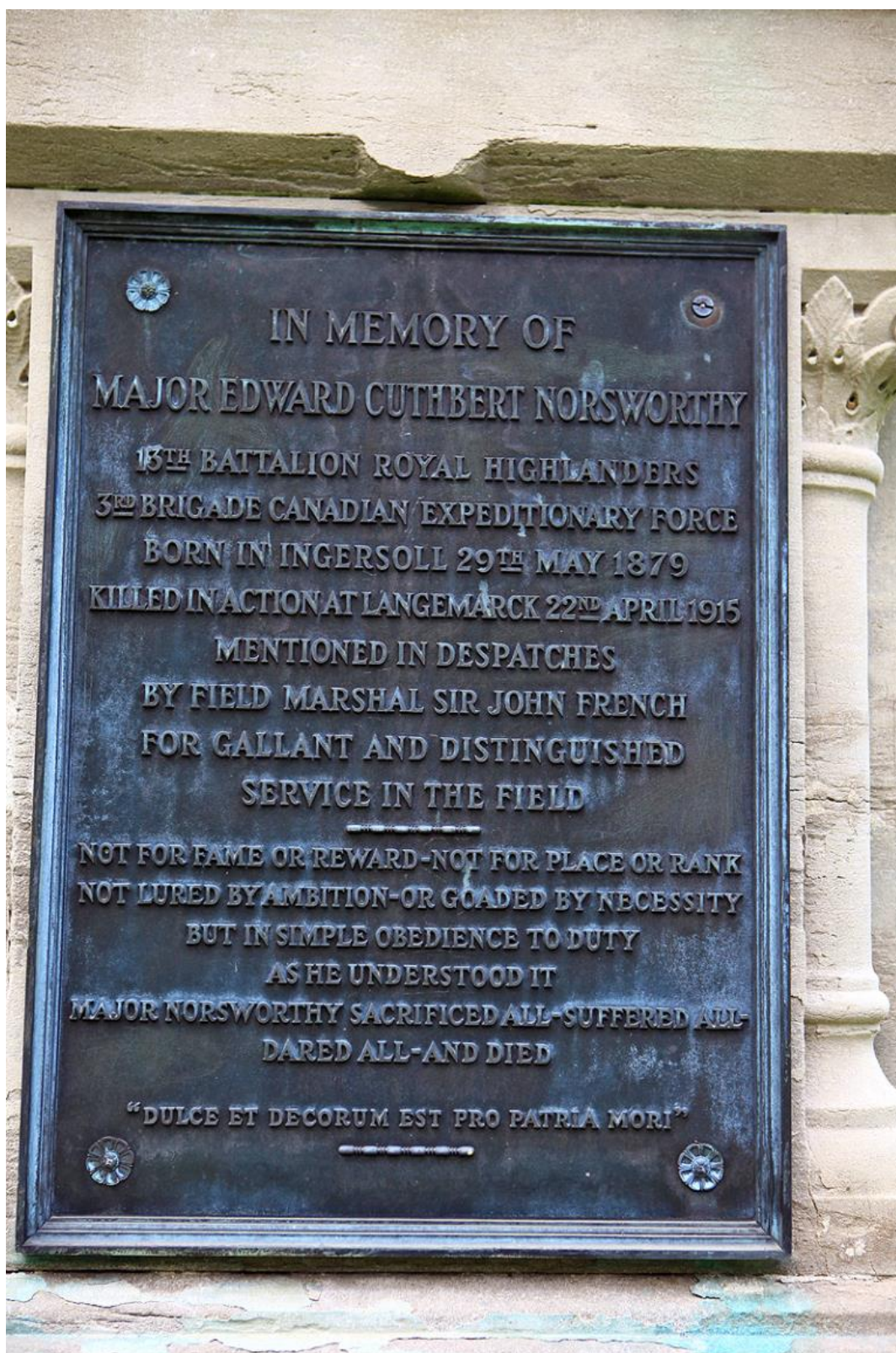
Major Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy died at Langemark, the Second Battle of Ypres, on 22 April 1915.

Various histories of the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada affiliated with the Black Watch refer to how well admired and respected Edward was by all the men under his command – both fellow officers and infantrymen. (He was Second in Command of his regiment.) The Second Battle of Ypres was the first time that Canadians had been engaged in active battle since the war began. The few eye witnesses who survived the opening night of the battle, when Germans unleashed poisonous gas for the first time, described Edward as a man who led by example. Even though wounded by a bullet to the neck, he continued to inspire his men to hold the line, with the words “All of Canada is watching” – an indication that he knew the efforts of the Canadian troops would be known and debated, whatever the result. That night, April 22nd, 1915, Edward Norsworthy succumbed to his wounds and along with him, many other men who were described as the cream of Canadian society.

Through Edward's fellow Masonic brethren in Montreal, a bust of Edward was created by noted bronze sculptor Hamilton Thomas Carlton Plantagenet MacCarthy. Edward had been initiated into Masonry at St. Paul's Lodge in Montreal and records indicate that they coordinated the creation and erection of the bust through the two Masonic lodges in Ingersoll. Three years to the day after Edward was killed in action, his life-like effigy was unveiled to the public, under the auspices of the

Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The bust of Edward, atop the family monument at Ingersoll Cemetery, looks toward the south east and his boyhood home, 'Norleigh'.





above, Edward's memorial plaque on the Norsworthy monument, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

Seven years later, on 10 February 1922, his father received a letter informing him that, “during exhumation work in Flanders a grave has been discovered containing the remains of a Major of the Royal Highlanders of Canada.” Based on evidence they believed it to be the body of his son. He was subsequently buried at Tyne Cot, Flanders, Belgium.

text above from: [The Family of John Norsworthy and Mary Caunter](#) by Anne Brooks

Stanley Counter Norsworthy 1881-1966



Stanley was born on 13 December 1881 in Ingersoll. After leaving Ridley College at the age of sixteen, he entered the service of the Bank of Montreal on 1 August 1898, and was first stationed at London, Ontario. From there he went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to St. John's, Newfoundland, and then to the accountant's department in the Montreal Branch.

He spent two years at a branch in London, England and then to the Mexico City Branch where he was a manager for four years.

It was during this time he returned to Canada to enlist for overseas service.

He signed his attestation papers on 3 June 1915 in Montreal, Quebec at the age of 33.

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. *Capt*
Folio. *2*

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your name?..... *Stanley Counte Horsworthy*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... *Ingersoll, Oxford County, Ontario*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... *James C. Horsworthy*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... *Ingersoll Ont*
5. What is the date of your birth?..... *13th Dec 1881*
6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... *Banker*
7. Are you married?..... *no*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... *yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... *yes*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.. *4 yrs 5th Royal Highlanders*
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... *yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *yes*

Stanley Horsworthy (Signature of Man).
G. Hiddle (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *S. Horsworthy*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the *Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force*, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

S. Horsworthy (Signature of Recruit)
 Date: *9th June* 1915 *G. Hiddle* (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *S. Horsworthy*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

S. Horsworthy (Signature of Recruit)
 Date: *9th June* 1915 *G. Hiddle* (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

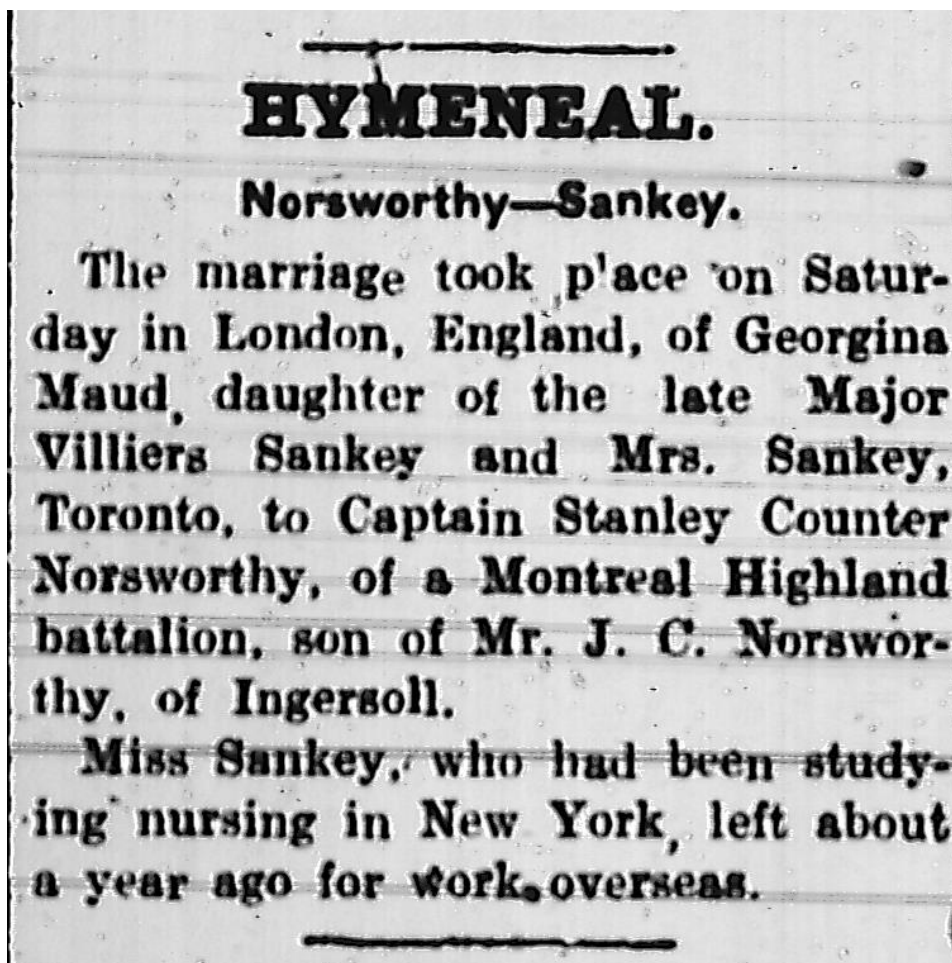
The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
 The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
 I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Montreal* this *JUN 9* day of *1915*.

Quattrocchi (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

W. H. Hiddle (Approving Officer)

He married Georgina Maud Sankey, daughter of Villiers and Ann Sankey in London, England on 26 July 1916. Their children were Edward Cuthbert Villiers, born in 1917 and presumably named in honor of his brother, Beatrice Mary, and Hugh Hoyles.



above, from the Ingersoll Chronicle, 27 July 1916, marriage notice of Stanley Norsworthy

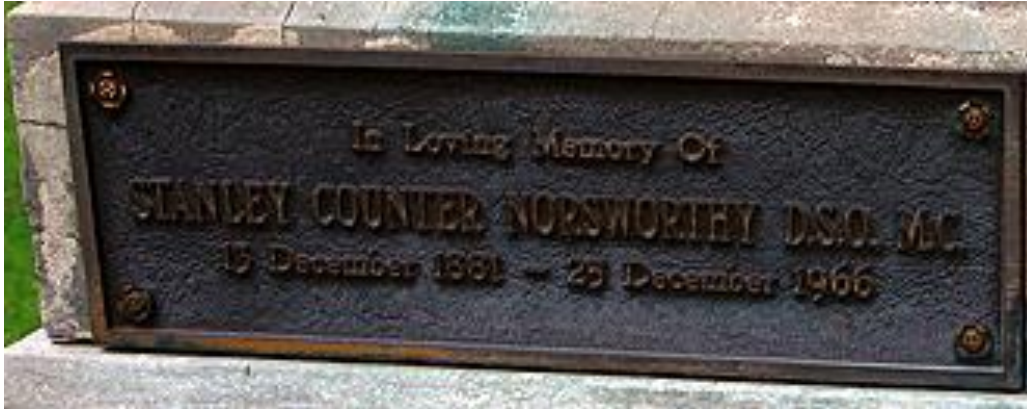
In the Battle of the Somme, Stanley was second in command of his battalion and at Courcellette, on September 16th was wounded and spent two months in hospital. He was awarded the Military Cross, for conspicuous gallantry in action. He took personal supervision of the operations in the front line, displayed great courage and initiative. Later, though wounded, he remained at duty. He set a fine example of coolness and devotion to duty throughout". He returned to France on January 2, 1917 as Acting Commander of the Battalion during the winter of 1917 and through the Battle of Vimy Ridge – for which latter action he was granted the D.S.O. On November 22, 1917, Major Norsworthy was invested at Buckingham Palace, by His Majesty the King.

Toronto Globe, 19 October, 1928

Upon his return from overseas, he was appointed Inspector of the Foreign Department at the head office and later as Third Agent at New York. In December, 1921 when the Merchants Bank of Canada was acquired, Mr. Norsworthy returned to Montreal to act temporarily as Assistant General

Manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada. In 1922 he was appointed District Superintendent of the Ontario District, with headquarters in Toronto.

Stanley died on 25 December 1966, and is buried at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.



above, Stanley's memorial plaque on the Norsworthy monument, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

text above from: [The Family of John Norsworthy and Mary Caunter](#) by Anne Brooks

Helen Alice Norsworthy 1884-1970

Helen, the only daughter in the family, was born on 4 May 1884. She was educated at the public school and Collegiate Institute in Ingersoll and spent two years at Havergal College, Toronto. She then took up nursing as a profession, was trained at the Western Hospital, Montreal, where she proved a bright student and earnest worker and graduated in due course.



above, Graduation photo from nursing school in 1905.

Associated with other friends she pursued her work so energetically and, especially in connection with some serious typhoid cases that her health broke down and she had to return home. The anxieties of the war period and the absence at the Front of so many members of the family circle prevented the complete recovery which had been hoped for.

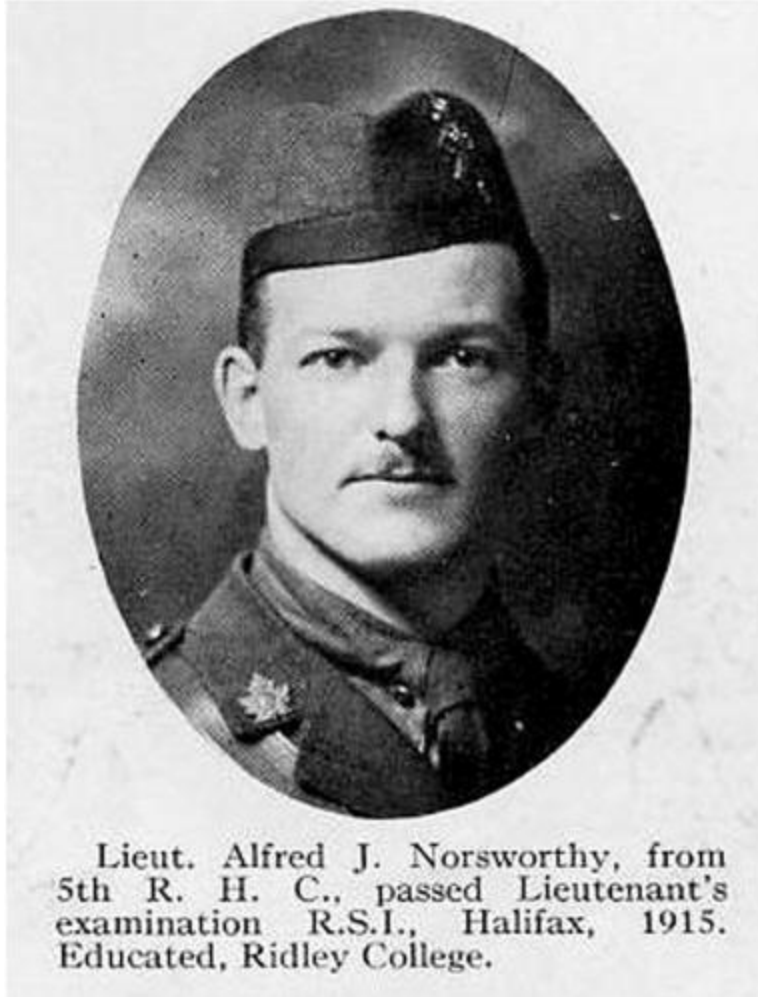
Helen died 25 June 1970 and is buried at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.



above, Helen's memorial plaque on the Norsworthy monument, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

text above from: [The Family of John Norsworthy and Mary Caunter](#) by Anne Brooks

Alfred James Norsworthy 1887-1917



Lieut. Alfred J. Norsworthy, from
5th R. H. C., passed Lieutenant's
examination R.S.I., Halifax, 1915.
Educated, Ridley College.

Alfred was born on 3 May 1887 in Ingersoll. He was educated at Ingersoll and at Ridley College and served for five years following 1905 in the Molsons Bank. In 1910 he went to the New York office of the British-American Tobacco Company and had risen to a position of importance when he was sent to Costa Rica, Central America, as manager of the sales department in that Republic, and was there when the call of war came.

He signed his attestation paper on 30 October 1915 in Montreal, Quebec.

ORIGINAL

13rd (Overseas) Bn, Royal Highlanders of Canada, C.E.F.
Unit

Rank Lieut Name Norworthy, A. J.

OFFICERS' DECLARATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY OFFICER.

(ANSWERS.)

- 1. (a) What is your Surname? *Norworthy*
- (b) What are your Christian Names? *Alfred James*
- 2. (a) Where were you born? (State place and country) *Ingersoll Ox. Co. Ont.*
- (b) What is your present address? *290 Stanley St. Montreal*
- 3. What is the date of your birth? *May 3rd 1897*
- 4. What is (a) the name of your next-of-kin? *J. B. Norworthy*
- (b) the address of your next-of-kin? *Ingersoll Ont.*
- (c) the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father*
- 5. What is your profession or occupation? *Sales Manager*
- 6. What is your religion? *Church of England*
- 7. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*
- 8. To what Unit of the Active Militia do you belong? *5th R. H. of C.*
- 9. State particulars of any former Military Service *No former*
- 10. Are you willing to serve in the
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

The undersigned hereby declares that the above answers made by him to the above questions are true.

A. J. Norworthy
(Signature of Officer.)

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Officer in accordance with the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him* *fit* for the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Date *October 30th* 191*5*

Place *Montreal*

L. S. Foster, Capt. RMC
Medical Officer.

* Insert here "fit" or "unfit"
M. F. W. 51.
10m. 9-1A.
H. Q. 1773-30-017.

His letters home were characteristic of the pride and affection which the brothers felt for each other. Upon hearing of his brother Edward's death prior to enlisting, he wrote:

"It is awful to think of, but again, we are here for a few years only and all must go. What a glorious ending to a life that was lived as a man could hope to live. He lived a life that made all his friends justly proud of his acquaintances and died the death of a soldier fighting for his country and for the right".

FORM R. 149.
7106-250m-7/2/17.

Name **NORSWORTHY** Rank **Lieut.** *Reg. No. 9.N. 192.*
Unit **Alfred James**
73rd. Bn.
Next of Kin **Canada** *A.F.B. 104-92.*

Date	Movement	Place	Casualty	List No.	Notified N/K O.	W.O. List
29.3.17.	Rep. from base.	KILLED IN ACTION	640	M1051	3-4	

Alfred died on 29 March 1917, and was buried in the Barlin Communal Extension Cemetery, Barlin, France.

ANOTHER SON WAS KILLED IN ACTION

**SAD NEWS RECEIVED BY MR. J.
C. NORSWORTHY—LIEUT. A. J.
(FRED) NORSWORTHY KILLED
BY EXPLOSIVE SHELL,**

The sad news that another son had been killed in action was received by Mr. J. C. Norsworthy on Tuesday afternoon. He was informed by a cablegram that his son, Lieut. A. J. (Fred) Norsworthy, adjutant of a Montreal Highland Battalion, had been instantly killed.

The particulars given were that an explosive shell pierced the orderly room and he was killed instantly. The deceased was a brother of the late Major Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy of Montreal, who was killed when the Canadians made such a gallant stand at Langemarck. He gave up a lucrative position in Costa Rica that he might return to Canada and enlist with the Battalion in Montreal. He had been at the front since July last.

above, from the Ingersoll Chronicle, 5 April 1917, obituary of Alfred Norsworthy.



above, Alfred's memorial plaque on the Norsworthy monument, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

text above from: [The Family of John Norsworthy and Mary Caunter](#) by Anne Brooks

John Weldon Norsworthy 1890-1975

John was born on 13 March 1890 in Ingersoll. He married Marjorie Wilson Goldie and they had one known daughter, Mary Joan.

John signed his attestation papers on 29 May 1916 in Montreal, Quebec.



No. 6 (MCGILL) O. S. BATTERY
SIEGE ARTILLERY. C. E. F.

ORIGINAL

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 1261200
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS.)

- 1. What is your surname? *Horaworth*
- 1a. What are your Christian names? *John Weldon*
- 1b. What is your present address? *290 Stanley St*
- 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Ingersoll Ont Canada*
- 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *J. Horaworth*
- 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Ingersoll Ont. Canada*
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Father*
- 5. What is the date of your birth? *Mich 13, 1890*
- 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Bank Clerk*
- 7. Are you married? *no*
- 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *yes*
- 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *yes, 5th Royal Highland Mtl*
- 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state particulars of former Service. *yes 5th Mtl 3 yrs
Qualified Mnt. Infantry*
- 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *yes*
- 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *yes*

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Weldon Horaworth*, solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *May 20* 191*6* *J. Horaworth* (Signature of Recruit)
C. McLeod, Lieut (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Weldon Horaworth*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *May 29th* 191*6* *J. Horaworth* (Signature of Recruit)
C. McLeod, Lieut (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act. The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Montreal* this *29th* day of *May* 191*6*

C. McLeod, J.P. (Signature of Justice)

He was in the same battalion with his brother, Alfred. He served with him, worked with him, helped to bury him and was wounded shortly afterwards in the historic Vimy charge. After partial recovery from his wound, John returned to Canada in July 1917. In September, the restless young soldier, unable to go to the Front, was allowed to accept work as Training Officer for United States troops at Union College, Schenectady, New York, and remained there until February 1919; he was then attached to the British and Canadian Recruiting Mission stationed at Providence, Rhode Island, and later at New Haven, Connecticut.

John died 7 January 1975, and is buried with his wife at Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.



above, John Weldon's memorial plaque on the Norsworthy monument, Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

text above from: [The Family of John Norsworthy and Mary Caunter](#) by Anne Brooks

100 YEARS LATER: MEMORIALIZATION



A hundred years after Edward Cuthbert Norsworthy's monument was officially unveiled, the Town of Ingersoll and Masons rededicated his tomb at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery.

The Sunday afternoon ceremony took place 100 years to the day after the initial unveiling of the bust and exactly 103 years after his death at the Second Battle of Ypres.

The event was part of the Oxford Remembers Oxford's Own project that's been ongoing since 2014 to commemorate the 100 years since the First World War.

"This year is the culmination of four years (of Oxford County's remembrance) and it ties in nicely to the travelling exhibit looking at the men who came back from war and those who were killed were commiserated by their communities," Ingersoll Museum curator Scott Gillies said before the re-dedication, noting the anniversary falling on a weekend made it good timing to hold.

Gillies said they contacted dignitaries with the Masons to speak on the anniversary, with Deputy Grand Master David J. Cameron reading the same address from 100 years ago given by the then Grand Master. Several Masons were on hand as well as locals for a crowd of about 100 people.

Norsworthy was born in 1879 and was the oldest son of Ingersoll businessman J. C. Norsworthy. He attended school in Ingersoll and Toronto's Upper Canada College then finally McGill University in Montreal before joining the family business as a banker and insurance broker in Montreal.

When the First World War broke out, he joined the 13th Battalion of the Royal Highlanders of Canada – the Black Watch Regiment – Sept. 23, 1914, and was appointed the battalion's second-in-command at the rank of Major. Norsworthy led about 100 men of two platoons on April 22, 1915, against a force of German infantry during the first use of poisonous gas at the Second Battle of Ypres. He was killed in action the same day in the area of Langemarck, about 10 kilometres north of Ypres in northwestern Belgium.

The battle continued for more than a month and led to roughly 60,000 British and Commonwealth Forces, including about 6,500 Canadian casualties – more than 2,000 of which were killed in action – 22,000 French casualties and about 35,000 German casualties in what ultimately served as an allied victory.

The plaque on his grave marks he was mentioned in despatches by Field Marshal Sir John French “for gallant and distinguished service in the field.” The plaque continues with, “Not for fame or reward – not for place or for rank – nor lured by ambition – or goaded by necessity but in simple obedience to duty as he understood it.

Major Norsworthy sacrificed all – suffered all – dared all – and died.”

Acknowledgements to: Anne Brooks, author of [The Family of John Norsworthy and Mary Caunter](#); as well as to George Emery, historian; Scott Gillies, curator, [Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum](#) and to Janice Ferguson developed a lifelong interest in Norsworthy family history after living with her parents at ‘Norleigh’ when the house contained the original furnishings as well as many Norsworthy papers and memorabilia; they provided the words and inspiration behind the creation of this tribute to the James Norsworthy family of Ingersoll.