

A photograph of St. James's Church in Accrington, showing a tall stone tower with a clock face and a main church building with arched windows, set in a grassy field under a cloudy sky.

# *St. James's Church, Church, Accrington*

*In remembrance of those who fell in  
The Great War and a  
Memorial to a Soldier of the Peninsular War*

# St. James's Church, Church, Accrington Lancashire



## *Memories of War*

One of the sad facts now existing throughout the United Kingdom is that few people now attend their local place of worship. They've stopped worshipping. Because of this, many of our great historic churches are deteriorating due to lack of funds to pay for maintenance and repairs. The church of St. James, Church, is just one of many in this condition and is likely to be sold and possibly demolished in the near future. How sad is this for a church that dates back some 1400 years. At the time of my visit I was unable to enter the church as everything was locked and boarded.

I walked around the exterior of this lovely old church and wandered amongst ancient overgrown graves finding one grave of a World War I sailor erected by the CWGC. He is now remembered in this document. Another grave remembers a soldier from the Peninsular War.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Imperial War Museum and the National Archives. Much of the information about these wartime heroes has been gleaned from their websites and the documents included in this tribute are their copyright©. I would also like to acknowledge the following websites for providing relevant information when needed:

<http://www.rafcommands.com/>

<http://www.historyofwar.org/>

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*Alan J Cook GCGI I.Eng MIET MISTC MABSW MSUT*

Military Graves and Memorials in  
St. James's Church Cemetery

The Great War  
1914 to 1918

# Fred Eastwood

ABLE SEAMAN FRED EASTWOOD

Service Number: RN J/69111

Regiment & Unit/Ship: HMS Bacchante

Date of Death: 14 February 1919 - Age 26 years old

Son of Mrs. Margaret Eastwood, of 78, Maden St., Church.



In Memory Of

Able Seaman

# F EASTWOOD

Service Number: J/69111

H.M.S. Bacchante, Royal Navy who died on 14 February 1919 Age 26

Son of Mrs. Margaret Eastwood, of 78, Maden St., Church.

UNTIL THE RESURRECTION MORN

Remembered with Honour

CHURCH (ST. JAMES) CHURCHYARD

North-East part, on North boundary.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

METHODIST.

WORSTHORNE WESLEYAN CHAPELYARD,  
WORSTHORNE-WITH-HURSTWOOD.

BODEN, Lce. Cpl. W., 15177. 3rd Bn. East Lancashire Regt. 7th March, 1917. Age 24. Husband of Esther Boden, of 9, Tennis St., Burnley. 19.

CANBY, Pte. H., 34948. 3rd Bn. East Lancashire Regt. 8th Aug., 1919. 59.

CHURCH URBAN DISTRICT.

CHURCH AND CLAYTON-LE-MOORS  
JOINT CEMETERY is on the hill between the two towns. It belongs to the Church and Clayton-le-Moors Joint Cemetery Board; it covers twelve acres, and contains 15 War Graves.

ASPDEN, Pte. James, 27394. Royal Army Medical Corps. Died of sickness 10th Dec., 1916. Age 37. Son of the late James and Elizabeth Rebecca Aspden; husband of the late Ellen Aspden, of 80, Whalley Rd., Clayton-le-Moors. C. C.E. 129.

BANCROFT, Pte. A., 203524. East Lancashire Regt. 23rd Oct., 1917. Age 32. Husband of Annie Aspinall (formerly Bancroft), of 9, Pearl St., Accrington. Born at Church. C. C.E. 248.

BARON, Nurse Margaret Alice. East Lancs. V.A.D. 22nd Oct., 1918. Age 28. Daughter of W. T. and Alice Baron. E. C.E. 107.

BROWN, Gnr. James Dollimore, L/81. "A" Bty. 158th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 15th May, 1915. Age 20. Son of Charles Anelay Brown and Annie Brown, of 243, Dill Hall Lane, Church. Born at Bolton. G. N.C. 133.

GEORGE, Lce. Cpl. J., P/8830. Military Foot Police, Military Police Corps. 2nd March, 1919. C. C.E. 575.

HEANEY, Pte. John Thomas, 55295. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). 28th Aug., 1920. Age 39. Husband of Alice Heaney, of 54, Dill Hall Lane, Church. F. C.E. 321.

HOLDEN, Ord. Sig. T., J/85519 (Dev.). R.N. H.M.S. "Scimitar." 3rd Dec., 1919. Age 18. Son of Caroline Holden, of 81, Hyndburn Rd., Church, and the late Thomas Holden. F. C.E. 160.

HORAN, Pte. T., 55399. 53rd Bn. Cheshire Regt. 4th Oct., 1918. Age 18. Son of Michael Horan, of 34, Grange Lane, Accrington. A. R.C. 267.

LAWS, Trimmer J., 7610/TS. R.N.R. H.M.S. "Pembroke." 27th Dec., 1919. H. N.C. 452.

MCNAUGHT, Pte. D. McM., 38861. 1st Garrison Bn. Highland Light Inf. 2nd Dec., 1917. H. N.C. 94.

PALMER, A.B. G. H., 863168. H.M.S. "Stoic." Mercantile Marine Reserve. 23rd Jan., 1917. Age 46. Son of Thomas Palmer; husband of Annie Palmer. A. R.C. 535.

RAMSBOTTOM, Pte. George, 100736. Royal Army Medical Corps. 26th Oct., 1918. Age 21. Son of Mrs. Nancy Ramsbottom, of 43, Fielding Terrace, Altham, Accrington. H. N.C. 75.

RIGG, Pte. William Curry, 11548. 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards. 5th Feb., 1920. Age 28. Husband of Marie Rigg, of 70, Sparth Rd., Clayton-le-Moors. D. C.E. 168.

THOMAS, Pte. George Rymill, 2689. The King's Liverpool Regt. 11th Dec., 1914. Age 19. Son of William Rymill Thomas and Maude Jeannette Thomas, of 5, Blacklion St., Brighton. Born at Coventry. D. C.E. 9.

WILKINSON, Pte. Thomas, 34083. 12th Bn. Royal Defence Corps. 29th Jan., 1921. C. C.E. 360.

CHURCH (ST. JAMES) CHURCHYARD is at Church Kirk, in the North-West corner of the town.

EASTWOOD, A.B. F., J/69111. R.N. H.M.S. "Bacchante." 14th Feb., 1919. Age 26. Son of Mrs. Margaret Eastwood, of 78, Maden St., Church. In North-East part, on North boundary.

CLAYTON-LE-MOORS URBAN DISTRICT.

CLAYTON-LE-MOORS (ST. MARY) ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCHYARD is on Burnley Old Road, leading to Altham and Padiham.

COSGROVE, Pte. Peter, 4947. Royal Defence Corps. Drowned 13th Dec., 1917. Age 22. Son of Patrick and Catherine Cosgrove, of 34, Canal St., Clayton-le-Moors. 147.

CROSBY, Bmdr. Edward Patrick, 728079. 210th Bty. 51st Bde. Royal Field Artillery. Died of accidental injuries 27th May, 1921. Age 25. Son of Francis and Mary Ann Crosby, of 1, Court, Oswald St., Clayton-le-Moors. 148.

No. of Contract 44/176 dated.....

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

SCHEDULE "A" PAGE 1.

Name and address of Firm.

NAME OF CEMETERY.

Genl. J. Stevens

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (A) OF HEADSTONE INSCRIPTIONS

CHURCH (ST. JAMES) CHYD. LANC.

Cemetery, Lincs.

to this report is attached

3744

Bumble

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (B) HEADSTONE TEXTS

To be stencilled at foot of headstone below ground level abbreviated thus:-

(those headstones to be inscribed with texts are underlined) and

TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design.)

STANCLIFFE

Badge Design No. and Layout No.	1st line	2nd line	3rd line	4th line	Centre of Stone	To be stencilled on foot of headstones below ground level.	
	Number and Rank	Initials, NAME and Honours.	Regiment	Date of Death	Age	Relig. Emb.	Plot - F No. Row - R of Grave- G Sto
				In any instance where the entry "NONE" appears in Col. 6. the Age will be omitted from the Headstone and the Date of Death centred laterally.			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1212/1A NAVY	<u>FRG 7</u> P. EASTWOOD	<u>ABLE SLAMAN, RN. J/69111</u>	<u>H.M.S. "BACCHANTE"</u>	<u>14TH FEBRUARY 1919</u>	<u>AGE 26</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>N. BOUNDARY</u> <u>3RD GRAVE</u> <u>EAST.</u>
Proof Checked. Final Check No. 1. Office Copy Prepared. Final Check No. 2.				<i>Stone repaired by Mr R. Baines of Ayrington see 27/F29/205/W</i>			

No. of Contract..... dated.....

IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

SCHEDULE "B" PAGE 1.

Name and address of Firm.

NAME OF CEMETERY.

.....

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT B HEADSTONE PERSONAL INSCRIPTIONS

CHURCH (ST. JAMES) CHYD. LANC.

.....

to be read in conjunction with  
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT A HEADSTONE MILITARY INSCRIPTIONS  
together with

LANCS.

.....

TWO STANDARD LAYOUTS (the layouts to be used are quoted on the badge design.)

Badge Design No. and Layout	Headstone No.	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	No. of letters in text.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1212/1B NAVY	1	<u>UNTIL THE RESURRECTION MORN</u>				
			(Mrs. P. Eastwood, 78 Maden Street, Church.)			
Proof Checked. Final Check No. 1. Office Copy Prepared. Final Check No. 2.			Name and address of Next of kin is shown in brackets and is not to appear on the headstones.			

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

189.1430

*Church Road*  
 Parish Church Churchyard  
 Report Number Crewe 248  
 Parish Church Hill, near Accrington. *Certified Correct and Complete*  
 Schedule Number 1  
 County Lancashire Signature *Emborghson* Category of Graves d.

Unit	Regtl. No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Number or letter of			Type of Memorial	Type of Grave	Remarks
					Plot	Row	Grave			
H H	J 39111	Eastwood	A B, Frederick	14-2-19	adjoins the North boundary wall and the third grave or 30 ft. from the East boundary wall			M.W. & Fr. grass mound attended to by relatives	Pr. <i>Emborghson</i>	D/ Royal Naval Hosp. Gillingham. Has 76 Maden Street Church.
certified that no plot is required. <i>Emborghson.</i>										



Military Graves and Memorials in  
St. James's Church Cemetery

The Peninsular War  
1807 to 1814

# Thomas Pollard

Regiment & Unit/Ship: Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards during the Peninsular War

Date of Death: 21st of December 1859.

Husband of Sally Pollard



## TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE THOMAS POLLARD

Pensioner of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, enlisted in 1803, and returned in 1814 and was through the whole of the Peninsular War under the command of his excellency the Duke of Wellington. Born March 24th 1786 and died on 21st of December 1859.

Also, SALLY, wife of Thomas Pollard, who died Dec 3rd 1858, aged 74 years.

Also of SARAH, their Daughter who died Feb 21st 1833 Aged 7 years.

Also of MARGARET the Wife of THOMAS their son who died April 29th 1866 Aged 48 years.

*see photograph of the grave on the previous page.*

### **Anne Grimshaw is researching Thomas Pollard, a soldier who fought in the Peninsular War (1808-14).**

For the past eight years Anne has been looking for Pollard's journal - extracts of which were published in the Accrington Observer in 1941. The journal gives a fascinating glimpse into the life of an 'ordinary' man in the Napoleonic period. But the journal has gone missing and she's asking for your help in finding it.

Anne explains: "*I found Thomas Pollard when I discovered he was the brother-in-law of a possible ancestor of mine, John Grimshaw, who was also in the 2nd Foot Guards (Coldstream Guards). JG fought with TP in the Peninsular War. TP has since become a project in himself!*"

Thomas Pollard was born in Simonstone near Burnley. His army discharge papers describe him as 5 feet 7 inches tall with dark hair, grey eyes, a fresh complexion and a labourer by trade. He enlisted in 1803 in the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and underwent a period of training in England as part of the defence of Britain during the Napoleonic Wars. He was sent on the abortive Bremen Expedition in October 1805 in which he never encountered the enemy. In 1807 he was sent on the Copenhagen Expedition, a naval expedition, backed-up by troops, to prevent the Danish fleet falling to the French.

During the Peninsular War (1808-14) he was sent to Spain and took part in actions at Talavera, Barrosa, Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Fuentes d'Onoro and Salamanca, Vitoria, Nivelle and Nive. He was wounded in the hand and discharged from the army in September 1814 with a pension of 9d a day. He was 27 years old.

The following year he married John Grimshaw's sister, Sally, and they had two sons and a daughter. The family lived on Henry Street in Church.

Anne hopes the journal will provide more insight into the life of a possible relative.

In 1848 he was awarded the Military General Service Medal: "The medal was not granted

until 1848 as it had to be applied for. TP's medal would have had nine bars - one for each action. Nine was very rare indeed," says Anne. The journal and medal could be together, as they are both missing.

Thomas Pollard's pension of 9d a day was stopped in 1819 when he refused to join a Veterans' Battalion. It was finally reinstated after appeal in 1851 when he was 65 years old, but not back-dated.

Thomas Pollard died on 21 December 1859 of chronic bronchitis and was buried in St James' churchyard, Church Kirk, with his wife Sally who had died the previous year. His journal was bequeathed to Church Urban District Council by his grandson (also Thomas Pollard) formerly headmaster of Church Kirk school, who died in 1941.

A front-page article in the Accrington Observer on 14 October 1941 tells of the journal and gives extracts, and it's this journal that Anne is keen to trace: "*The journal and medal were to be displayed at the Gatty Park Museum, Church. Neither Gatty Park Museum nor Church UDC now exists due to local government reorganisation in 1974. Accrington Local Studies Department have been extremely helpful but, sadly, can throw no light on the whereabouts of the journal and medal.*" Anne hopes the journal will provide more insight into the life of a possible relative, as she has many unanswered questions.

His grave is in St James' churchyard, Church and Anne says: "*It is very fancy for a man who, according to the 19th century censuses, was a labourer after his soldiering days were over*" "*You can see from this why I am particularly interested to read his version of events as well as details of his life before he was a soldier when he was a coal miner, labourer and sailor,*" says Anne. "*I have been searching for these items for the past eight years but with no luck.*"

If you know the whereabouts of Thomas Pollard's journal, email the BBC Lancashire website, and we'll pass your details on to Anne.

UPDATE 16 November 2009:

Carol Charville emailed in to say she is the present owner of Thomas Pollard's Military General Service medal. Her father bought the medal at an auction sometime in the middle of the 1970s and she became the owner after her father's death in 1993. He lived very near Church and was successful in quite a bids for old military medals.

UPDATE 16 December 2009:

Anne met Carol, who showed her the medal - "*A big thrill after searching for it for eight years or so,*" says Anne. It had belonged to Carol's father and Carol now wanted to sell the medal. The medal has now been purchased by the Coldstream Guards Association for their regimental medal collection at Wellington Barracks, London.

According to the Coldstream Guards Association medal expert, the ribbon was incorrect: it had the ribbon from a Waterloo Medal although when and by whom it was changed is not known. The medal now has its correct ribbon and a permanent new home with the regiment.

However, Carol knew nothing of Thomas Pollard's diary so it would seem the medal and diary became separated many years ago. So, the search is still on for the diary...

Courtesy of URL: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/lancashire/hi/people\\_and\\_places/history/newsid\\_8241000/8241654.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/lancashire/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_8241000/8241654.stm)

This document is incomplete.

This is because there is insufficient information to be able to trace the records of some of the local personnel lost in the two World Wars and other wars. This is particularly the case with many of the names on the various war memorials.

If you can provide me with further details, such as their service number, or any other personal information, I would be most grateful.

Please contact me at the following email address:

[enquiries@mylancashire.org](mailto:enquiries@mylancashire.org)

