



# EDMONDSON

## William Hugh

Service No: 2653

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: William Hugh Edmondson

Service number: 2653

Date of enlistment: 22/05/1916

Age at Enlistment: 43 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5ft 7½ inches

Weight: 143 lbs.

Chest measurement: 34 – 36 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: John Edmondson

Mother: Mary Swan/Swann

Siblings: Mary, Esther, John, Alfred

Married: 1. Minnie Caroline Modra, 2. Margaret Munn Wedd nee Campbell

Children: Elsie May, Dorothy Minnie, Ivy Eva

## Family History

William's parents, John Edmondson and Mary Swann, married in 1869 at Strathalbyn in South Australia. Mary's father (who farmed near Strathalbyn) was originally from Clackmannan in Scotland and had once been a Custom's House Officer in Adelaide. William was born in 1870 and a daughter, Mary, followed in 1873.

In 1875, six years after their marriage, William's father sold off the stock and contents of his farm and moved the family to Victoria where they remained for around ten years. A daughter (Esther) was born in 1879, followed by John (in 1882) and Alfred (in 1884).

In 1885, the family returned to South Australia and settled in the Gawler district. Five years later, illness, and farming hardships, led to John taking an overdose of laudanum. Despite this, he continued to breed, exhibit and sell prize-winning cattle throughout the 1890s and was known to be buying cattle from Victoria to import into South Australia.

By 1903, the family had moved back to Victoria. Mary died there in 1918. John died in 1920 in South Australia.

## Life Story

William was born in 1870 at Bulls Creek in South Australia. He married Minnie Caroline Modra in the Barossa in 1895, and the couple had two children, Elsie May and Dorothy Minnie.

By 1899, the family were living in the York area and, in 1903, the family were known to be living at "Fair View," near York, where William was a farmer. In 1905, he advertised 131 acres of cleared land and 126 acres of fallow land for sale within a mile of the York Railway Station.

Two more daughters were born to the couple: Ivy, who died in 1906 at the age of three days and Eva L., who was born in 1909.

William was a member of the York branch of the United Ancient Order of Druids and the York Rifle Club.

Around 1910, William was in partnership with Alexander Robert McKenzie on a property named "Flowerdale," twenty-five miles south-east of Quairading. The partnership was dissolved before William's enlistment in April 1916, when he gave his address as "Flowerdale" via Quairading and his occupation as ex-farmer.

Being over the enlistment age-limit of forty-five, William claimed to be only forty-three years and six months of age. He also listed a year's service with the Old Volunteers in Fremantle around 1898 and gave his wife's address as York.

At the end of October 1916, William embarked from Fremantle on board the *Port Melbourne*. On arrival in England, he was marched in to the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Training Battalion at Codford.

After a period in hospital with the mumps in March 1917, William was examined by the Medical Board and classified as C1 – unfit for overseas duty.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1917, he was returned to Australia on board HT *Port Lyttleton* for discharge due to “senility and rheumatism” and being overage.

William was finally discharged on the 27<sup>th</sup> December. His name was placed on the York Methodist Honour Board and the York Honour Roll at the York Town Hall.

Minnie, his wife, died at Queens Park, aged 45, just 3 months after his return from England and, in 1920, William married again to Margaret Munn Wedd (nee Campbell) a widow with six children.

From 1922 to 1929, he was listed as a farmer at “Dimondale, “near Bullsbrook.

Between 1930 and 1936, the family lived in Bassendean but, in 1937, they moved to Kalgoorlie where William tried his hand at mining.

By 1958, they were living in North Perth. William died on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1959, aged eighty-seven. He was buried at Karrakatta cemetery.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organizations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

## References

National Archives of Australia. 2018. *Discovering Anzacs*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au>. [Accessed 3 January 2018].

Department of Justice. 2018. *Searching Western Australian Online Indexes*. [ONLINE] Available at: [http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/\\_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx](http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx). [Accessed 3 January 2018].

National Library of Australia. 2018. *Trove*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> [Accessed 3 January 2018].