

## **JAMES WALKER, Private S/40928, 6th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders**

JAMES WALKER, Private S/40928, 6th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, is named on [WW1 Panel 8](#) of the Larkhall War Memorial. He formerly served as Private 6516 2/2 Battalion, Lovat Scouts, and as Private S/26640, 7th Battalion Cameron Highlanders.

On 8th March, 1872, his parents Robert Walker, age 22, a Free Stone Quarrier, married Mary Banks, a spinster age 17, both of Stonehouse, at Stonehouse.

His paternal grandparents were William Walker, a General Labourer, and Elizabeth Steel. His maternal grandparents were Andrew Banks, a Handloom Weaver, and Mary Hamilton.

William Walker was born on 10th March, 1872, at Lawrie Street, Stonehouse.

Mary Hamilton Walker was born on 24th March, 1873, at Lawrie Street, Stonehouse.

Elizabeth Steel Walker was born on 29th December, 1874, at Camnethan Street, Stonehouse.

Andrew Banks Walker (1) was born on 30th November, 1876, at Camnethan Street, Stonehouse.

Isabella Jack Walker (1) was born on 26th June, 1879, at 8 Boghall Street, Stonehouse.

Andrew Banks Walker (1) died on 23rd November, 1879, age 3, at 8 Boghall Street, Stonehouse.

The 1881 STONEHOUSE Census was taken on 4th April, 1881.

The family are listed at 8 Boghall Street, Stonehouse, as follows:

Robert Walker, age 31, Head, Free Stone Quarrier, b Damhead, Ayrshire

Mary Walker, age 26, Wife, b Stonehouse.

William Walker, age 9, Son, Scholar, b Stonehouse.

Elizabeth Walker, age 6, Daughter, Scholar, b Stonehouse.

Isabella Walker (1), age 1, Daughter, b Stonehouse.

Mary Hamilton Walker, age 8, Scholar, was resident with her maternal grandparents (Andrew and Mary Banks) at 5 Townhead Street, Stonehouse.

Margaret Whyte Walker was born on 14th October, 1882, at 24 Townhead Street, Stonehouse.

Robert Walker was born on 26th May, 1885, at 24 Townhead Street, Stonehouse.

Isabella Walker (1) died on 22nd June, 1885, age 6, at Stonehouse.

I cannot find a death record for Isabella Walker (1).

Annie Hunter Banks Walker was born on 5th March, 1887, at 23 King Street, Stonehouse.

Isabella Jack Walker (2) was born on 21st January, 1890, at 4 Hill Road, Stonehouse.

The 1891 STONEHOUSE Census was taken on 6th April, 1891.

The family are listed at Hill Road, Stonehouse, as follows:

Robert Walker, age 41, Head, Quarrier, b Mauchline, Ayrshire  
Mary Walker, age 36, Wife, b Stonehouse.  
William Walker, age 19, Son, Tailor, b Stonehouse.  
Mary Walker, age 18, Daughter, Silk Weaver, b Stonehouse.  
Elizabeth Walker, age 16, Daughter, Silk Weaver, b Stonehouse.  
Maggie Walker, age 8, Daughter, Scholar, b Stonehouse.  
Robert Walker, age 5, Son, Scholar, b Stonehouse.  
Annie Walker, age 4, Daughter, b Stonehouse.  
Bella Walker (2), age 1, Daughter, b Stonehouse.

Andrew Banks Walker (2) was born on 12th June, 1891, at 4 Hill Road, Stonehouse.  
JAMES STEEL WALKER was born on 7th December, 1893, at Hill Road, Stonehouse.

On 31st December, 1894, William Walker, age 22, a Journeyman Tailor of Hill Road, Stonehouse, married Marion Murray, age 33, a Widow and Dressmaker of Queen Street, Stonehouse, at Stonehouse.

Their marriage produced a daughter Mary Banks Walker who was born on 21st April, 1895, at 2 Queen Street, Stonehouse.

Jessie Forrest Walker was born on 1st August, 1897, at Hill Road, Stonehouse.  
Jessie Walker died 16 days later on 17th August, 1897, at Hill Road, Stonehouse.  
The cause of death was Ulceration of Umbilicus and Peritonitis.

The 1901 STONEHOUSE Census was taken on 31st March, 1901.  
The family are listed at 4 Hill Road, Stonehouse, as follows:  
Robert Walker, age 50, Head, Quarryman, b Mauchline, Ayrshire  
Mary Walker, age 45, Wife, b Stonehouse.  
Mary Walker, age 28, Daughter, Silk Weaver, b Stonehouse.  
Robert Walker, age 15, Son, Labourer, b Stonehouse.  
Annie Walker, age 14, Daughter, Silk Weaver, b Stonehouse.  
Bella Walker (2), age 11, Daughter, Scholar, b Stonehouse.  
Andrew Walker, age 9, Son, Scholar, b Stonehouse.  
JAMES WALKER, age 7, Son, Scholar, b Stonehouse.

On 20th September, 1904, his mother Mary Banks or Walker, age 50, died at Hill Road, Stonehouse.

The cause of death was heart disease which she had suffered for 2 years.

On 21st September, 1906, Mary H. Walker, age 33, a Housekeeper and Spinster of Hill Road, Stonehouse, married John Cook, age 26, a Coal Miner and Bachelor of Miller Street, Larkhall, at Stonehouse.

Their marriage produced a son John Cook who was born on 1st June, 1910, at 51 Raploch Road, Larkhall.

The 1911 LARKHALL Census was taken on 2nd April, 1911.  
The family are listed at 51 Raploch Road, Larkhall, as follows:  
John Cook, age 31, Head, Coal Miner, b Larkhall.

Mary Cook, age 36, Wife, b Stonehouse.  
John Cook, age 10 months, Son, b Stonehouse.  
Robert Walker, age 60, Widower, Labourer, b Mauchline, Ayrshire.  
JAMES WALKER, age 17, Boarder, Labourer, b Stonehouse.

His father Robert Walker, age 60, died on 6th May, 1911, at 51 Raploch Road, Larkhall. The cause of death was Chronic Bronchitis and Cardiac Congestion.

Several pages of the Service Record of JAMES WALKER have survived. These show that JAMES WALKER enlisted at Glasgow with the Lovat Scouts as Private 6516 on 23rd February, 1916. His address was 10 Hill Street, Larkhall. He was transferred to the 7th Cameron Highlanders on 12th December, 1916, and re-numbered as S/26640. He was transferred again to the 1/6th Gordon Highlanders on 19th March, 1917, and re-numbered as S/40928. He joined the Battalion on 26th March, 1917.

He listed his family as:

Father - None (indicating that his father was dead).

Mother - None (indicating that his mother was dead).

Brothers:

William Walker, age 46, Wellbrae, Stonehouse.

Robert Walker, age 33, 10 Hill Street, Larkhall.

Andrew Walker, age 27, c/o 88 Budhill Avenue, Shettleston.

Sisters:

Mary Walker or Cook, age 45, 10 Hill Street, Larkhall.

Elizzie Walker or Aitken, age 44, Stepend, Kilmacolm.

Maggie Walker or Muirhead, age 36, 2 Lorne Lane, North Berwick.

Annie Walker or Chaplin, age 31, 631 Dalmarnock Road, Glasgow.

Isabella Walker or Ford, age 29, Percy Street, Larkhall.

On 9th April, 1917, JAMES WALKER was reported as 'Missing'. His status was updated to Killed-In-Action on 9th April, 1917. He was 23 years of age.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) entry for JAMES WALKER shows that he is buried at ROCLINCOURT VALLEY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. There are 465 identified casualties buried at ROCLINCOURT VALLEY CEMETERY. His family requested that his Headstone be inscribed "Loved By Everyone Who Knew Him".

JAMES WALKER is commemorated at The Scottish National War Memorial (SNWM) in Edinburgh Castle.

The entry in Soldiers Died in the Great War (SDGW) shows that JAMES WALKER was born in Stonehouse and enlisted in Glasgow.

The Medal Rolls Index Card (MIC) for JAMES WALKER shows that he was awarded The Victory Medal and The British War Medal. The MIC is undated, which indicates that he went to France after 1915.

The "Soldier's Effects" record shows that his Outstanding Pay of £2/9/5 was distributed as follows:

Sister Mary H. Cook	- £-/16/6
Brother William	- £-/4/9
Brother Robert	- £-/4/9
Sister Mrs Elizabeth Aitken	- £-/4/9
Sister Maggie Walker	- £-/4/8
Sister Mrs Annie Chaplain	- £-/4/8
Sister Mrs Isabella Ford	- £-/4/8.

A War Gratuity of £4/-/- was distributed as follows:

Sister Mary H. Cook	- £3/12/5.
Brother Andrew (address unknown)	- £-/12/3.

Walter Smith sent me a clipping taken from The Hamilton Advertiser dated 12th May, 1917. It reads:

"LARKHALL AND THE WAR - <snip>

Mrs Cook, 10 Hill Street, has been officially notified that her brother, Private James Walker, Lovat Scouts, attached Gordon Highlanders, was killed in action in France on the 9th April. He enlisted on 23rd February, 1916, and went to France on the 17th December. Private Walker was 23 years of age, and previous to enlisting he was employed in the Larkhall Coperative Society, Montgomery Street. Mrs Cook has another brother serving in France in the A. & S. H. - <snip>".

[Note: 'A. & S. H.' is the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders]

The family headstone in St Ninian's Kirkyard, Stonehouse, is inscribed:

"In Loving Memory Of  
ROBERT WALKER  
Died 6th May 1911  
Aged 60 years  
Also of his wife

MARY BANKS

Died 20th Sept 1904

Aged 50 years

Also their son ANDREW

Died 23rd Nov 1879

Aged 3 years

Also ISABELLA their daughter

Died 22nd June 1885

Aged 6 years

Also JESSIE who died in infancy

Also JAMES their youngest son

Who was Killed in Action

In France 9th April 1917

Aged 23 years".

Lest We Forget!