

Wellington County Museum and Archives
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Genealogy and photographs of the Bacon family, Harriston, ca.1910-1986.

James Harold Bacon (1893-1918) was the son of Abraham Bacon (1866-1925) and his wife Margaret (nee Stockton, 1871-1948). They farmed the homestead at Lot 40, Con.8 (to 1906), and at Lot 16, Con.9 (1894-1909), Minto Twp. They raised a family of twelve.

A next-door neighbour, on Lot 41, was James' cousin, Samuel Stockton (1896-1982). James wrote to him occasionally beginning 1908, and more frequently after he (James) enlisted, just short of 22 years old. James joined the 71st Battalion at London Ont., 14 Sept. 1915.

He began writing letters home to his mother, immediately, and a year later to Gladys Martin (1896-1985), also of Minto Twp. She was the daughter of Charles Martin (1870-1968) and Agnes (nee Bishop, 1869-1925). It is clear from their letters (and a note from Gladys' parents) that Gladys and Jim were informally engaged. But after his death, Gladys married Colin Blyth (1884-1963) of Guelph Twp. in 1922.

James trained in London, Ont., and after less than 3 months, was shipped to the 36th Battalion, West Sandling Camp, Kent, England, from where his first letter is dated 3 Dec. 1915. He was attached to the Machine Gun Base, 3rd Canadian Training Brigade. At the beginning of June 1916, he transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent.

At the end of July 1916, he wrote from "somewhere in France", where he was attached to the 4th Canadian Machine Gun Company. In May 1917, he wrote from Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour, Scotland, where he was recovering from a bad case of diarrhoea.

By the end of the month he was back at the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, Crowborough, Sussex, moving later to No.1 Company, Seaford, Sussex, then to No.5 Company. At the beginning of April 1918, he was writing again from France.

James Harold Bacon died from wounds, 16 May 1918, and was buried in Wailly Orchard Cemetery, Pas de Calais, 6 km. South-west of Arras, France.

REGISTER OF BIRTHS.

Anna Gertrude Bacon born Aug 1st 1891
James Harold Bacon born Nov 24th 1893
Vera Lillian Bacon born Jan 11th 1896
Isabella Bacon born Dec 31st 1897
Mabel Violet Bacon born Sept 17th 1899
Edith Victoria Bacon born July 21st 1901
Samuel Henry Clark Bacon born Dec 5th 1903
John Thomas Bacon born Jan 13th 1905
Martha Mildred Bacon born Dec 18th 1906
Joseph William Bacon born Nov 22nd 1909
Margaret Alice Bacon born Nov 2nd 1911
Harold Richard Bacon born June 4th 1919

ph 30600: Register of births, children of Abraham Bacon and his wife Margaret (nee Stockton). Starts Anna Gertrude Bacon, 1891; twelfth and last entry is Harold Richard Bacon 1919.



ph 30601: James Harold Bacon, Nov. 29, 1893 - May 16, 1918. [Wearing "first long suit", ca.1910.



ph 30602: James Bacon, portrait in uniform. Photo: Evans Studio, London, Ontario, ca.1915.



ph 30603: Copy print. James Bacon in uniform, standing, arms at sides, painted backdrop, ca.1915.



ph 30604: Copy print. James Bacon in uniform, standing, arms behind back, ca.1915.



ph 30605: Gladys I. Martin, portrait. Photo: R.B. Kennedy, Guelph, ca.1915.



ph 30606: Copy print, Margaret (Stockton) Bacon, born May 6, 1871 - died Sept. 11, 1948. picture taken for James Harold Bacon, overseas, summer of 1917.

[The following three prints removed from envelope postmarked 10 Oct. 1917].



ph 30607: Low tide, Seaford [Sussex, England], 1917.



ph 30608: James Harold Bacon, low tide among the rocks, Seaford [Sussex, England], 1917.



ph 30609: [James Harold Bacon] "That little barefoot boy", low tide, [Seaford, Sussex, England], 1917.



ph 30612: Colour prints, large and small, collage of buttons, military insignia and medals, portraits of Gladys Martin and James Bacon. Photo: Bogner, Welland, 1986[?].