

George was born in Newcastle-On-Tyne in April 1884. His father, James was miner at Tanfield, Durham. On 24th Jan 1902 he joined the 3rd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, regimental number 4549, where he served full time until 1904 when he was transferred to the Reserve and was discharged on 23rd Jan 1913. On 20th October 1907 he married Lucilla Rickard at Wingate parish Church and they had a daughter, Violet, born in 1908. At the time of his marriage John, like his father, had become a coal miner.

In 1913 he left by himself the UK aboard the OSTERLEY arriving in Fremantle on 24th June 1913.

On 14th August 1914 he joined the Machine Gun Section of the AN&MEF, stating that he was a miner and gave his wife at 23 Mill Bank Terrace, Station Town, Durham as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

It is unclear what happened to Lucilla, as on 17th August 1921 he married Emma Selena Blewitt. Emma divorced John in 1938 on the grounds of desertion. In 1940 he married Lily May Browne at Kurri Kurri, in the heart of the Hunter Valley coal area.

John is remembered at the North East War Memorial Project (<http://www.newmp.org.uk>) which records more detail of his life in the UK before coming to Australia.

John died in Kurri Kurri in 1960 and is buried at the Kurri Kurri General Cemetery