



Private Maxwell Reeves (Regiment Number 2277) lies buried in St. Matthew's Anglican Church Cemetery in the community of St. Lawrence.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Maxwell Reeves likely presented himself for medical examination* on March 18 of 1916 at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury*** in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland. It was a procedure which would pronounce him as being...*Fit for Foreign Service.*

(continued)

**This is not confirmed among his papers; however, several of the fellow recruits from the area had undergone a preliminary examination in the community of Burin before having proceeded to St. John's and such may have the case of Maxwell Reeves..*

***The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.*

It was on the day of that presumed medical assessment, March 18, and at the same venue, that Maxwell Reeves was now to be enlisted. He was engaged...*for the duration of the war**...at the daily private soldier's rate of a single dollar to which was to be appended a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance.

**At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the 'Duration' at the time of their original enlistment.*

Only a further few hours were then to go by – although a second source cites the delay to continue until March 18, five days following enlistment - before there came to pass, again at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same thirteenth day of March he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Maxwell Reeves became...*a soldier of the King.*

Following his enlistment it is likely that Private Reeves reported...*to duty*...to be quartered in the temporary barracks apparently established since 1915 in the St. John's curling rink and the Prince's Skating Rink in the eastern end of the city.

(Right: *This photograph of the Prince's Rink in St. John's with military personnel, apparently attired in uniforms of Great War vintage and here on parade is from the 'Ice Hockey Wiki' web-site.*)



Private Reeves, Number 2277, was not to serve in the Newfoundland Regiment either overseas service in the United Kingdom or on *active service* in Europe; he was, in fact, to be a soldier of the Regiment based in the capital city for only sixty-three days. At some date unrecorded in his documents, he was admitted into the St. John's General Hospital, there to be diagnosed as having contracted meningitis.

The second son of John Robert Reeves, fisherman, and of Sarah Reeves (née *Smith**) of St. Lawrence* in the District of Burin, he was likely brother to Lilian-Butler, to James (known as *Jim*), to Clifford-Norman, to Margaret, to Helen, to Norman and to Catherine.

**The couple was married in the community of St. Lawrence on November 19 of 1894.*

Private Reeves was reported as having...*died of sickness...in hospital in the capital city on May 19 of 1916. (Excerpt from report: *Father was notified and was here when soldier died. Body was forwarded to St. Lawrence at his request.*)*

Maxwell Reeves had enlisted at the *declared* age of eighteen years and nine months. Thus far the exact date of his birth has proved to be elusive – his headstone cites his age as eighteen at the time of his death.

**Residing in Little St. Lawrence according to a 1904 Business Directory but in Great St. Lawrence in the 1921 Census*

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to *criceadam@yahoo.ca*. Last updated – January 30, 2023.