



**Private George Seymour (Regimental Number 6172) is buried in the Salvation Army Cemetery on Blackmarsh Road in St. John's.**

**His occupation prior to enlistment recorded as that of a fisherman, George Seymour presented himself for medical examination in the town of Botwood on September 18, 1918. It was a procedure which would find him...*Sound and Fit for Military Service.***

**(continued)**

Five days following that medical assessment - and having during that period travelled from there to St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland - on September 23, and now at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury\** on Harvey Road, George Seymour 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.

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

*\*\*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 before there came to pass, while still at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same twenty-third day of September\* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, George Seymour became...*a soldier of the King.*

*\*It had been two months prior to this that the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription had come into effect. From May 11 through to the end of the Great War, the Department of Militia was to call a total of 1,470 men into active service. No evidence found among his documents suggests that George Seymour was or was not one of those to be conscripted.*

Many of the recruits during this period are recorded as having been granted several days of a final furlough before departure for *overseas service*. Private Seymour, Number 6172, however, was not to be one of those to receive these several days of leave, and he was likely to have spent the week following attestation in St. John's where he would have been undergoing training.

Private Seymour thus remained in quarters in St. John's\*\*, these for many of the new recruits in the *Prince's Skating Rink* in the eastern end of the city – although there is a suggestion that he, Private Seymour, was for a short period at 8, Monroe Street in 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, on parade is from the Ice Hockey Wiki web-site. There appears to be no further information a propos.)*



On September 30, Private Seymour was ordered to Petty Harbour on...*special duty*. Having returned from there on September 11, eleven days later, he was, nine day later again, taken to the *Barracks Hospital* in St. John's on October 20 and from there, on the next day, was admitted into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases*, having by then been diagnosed as suffering from influenza.

The son of Frederick Seymour, lumberman, and of Elizabeth Seymour (née *Critch*\*) to whom he left all his possessions – by the time of his enlistment she had married widower Giles Budgell (on October 16, 1911) also a lumberman - of Dominion Point, later called *Peter's Arm*, later again - and still today – *Peterview*, he was brother to Theresa-Daisy, to Maud and to John-Temple, and step-brother to Titus, John, William and to Dora – to whom he was to bequeath his money.

*\*The couple had married in the parish of Exploits on December 30 of 1889.*

Private Seymour was reported as having...*died of sickness...of pneumonia following 'flu...-* in hospital in St. John's at twenty minutes past five on the morning of October 27, 1918.

He was buried in St. John's on the same day, by order of the health authorities.

George Seymour had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-five years. Thus far the exact date of his birth has proved to be elusive.

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](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – January 30, 2023.