

Correspondence re plaque Johnson family

Although the next of kin of all soldiers who died in the first world war received a [bronze plaque and scroll](#) in recognition of their sacrifice, Ernest's record is one of only two we have that record the award to the families of the Bingham fallen. In Ernest's case, who was to receive the plaque and scroll became closely related to his father's failing health.

Relatives had to submit a form to claim the plaque and scroll. (See image 1). This was addressed to his mother, Rosa, whom he had named as his next of kin on enlistment, although his father was still alive.

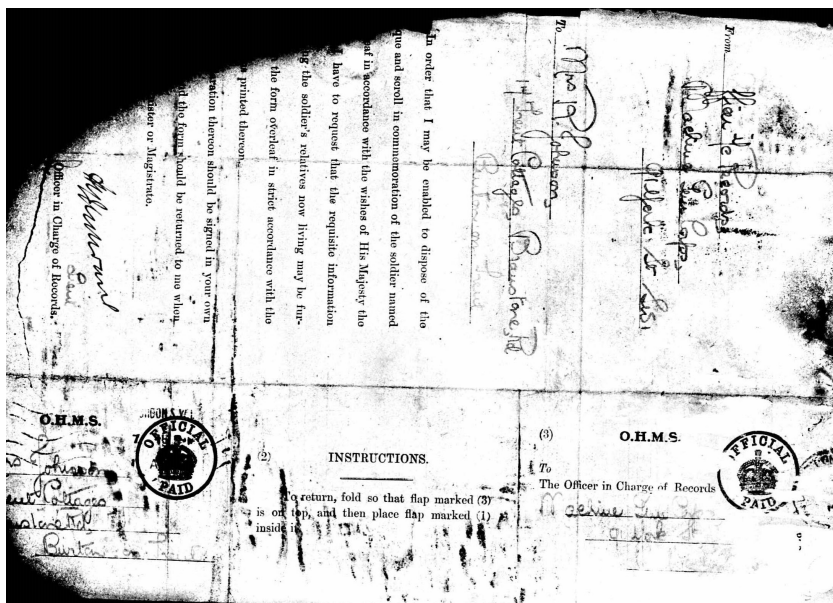
Needless to say, there was a form on which to record the names of parents and all full blood or half-blood siblings. This had to be agreed by one of them. William is named as his father together with three brothers and four sisters. Addresses are given but they are faint. Only Ada was in Bingham. Ernest's brother Simeon, now the eldest of the siblings, signed but unfortunately the date has been burned away. He lived at Anglesey Road, Burton on Trent. (See image 2)

The form was endorsed "Enquire when time comes to establish if still alive and ask for ..."

There followed an exchange of correspondence between Simeon and the army about the state of his father's health. This was initiated by the army (see image 3) in May 1919. On the relative's form, Simeon had said his father was "in poor health". Simeon replied (images 4 and 5) in a poignant letter of which half has been burned away, using words like "helpless" and "paralysis". On page 2 he says his father could just about sign his name should this be required. He closes "believe me sirs, your obedient ..., Simeon Johnson".

William recovered sufficiently to acknowledge receipt of the plaque in November 1920 (image 6).

Image 1



Scroll down for further images

Army Form W. 5080.

Regime MACHINE GUN CORPS deceased

To be filled in by
Officer in Charge of
Records.

STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...		
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...	<i>Enquire when time comes</i>	<i>if will advise each for</i>
Father of the Soldier ...	<i>William Johnson</i>	
Mother of the Soldier ...	<i>Head,</i>	
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ...	<i>Johnson 48 Johnson 36 Johnson 24</i> 108 Army Rd. Benton on Trent 11 South View near Hinkley Works 133 Colson St. B.F.F. ...
	Half blood ...	
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ...	<i>Miss Blagg 41 Miss Johnson 20 Miss White 23</i> 2 East St. ... 17 ... 10 ... 15 ...
	Half blood ...	

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given

	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier ...		
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of living in the degrees enquired for.

Relationship to the Soldier Brother
Address in full 108 Army Rd. Benton on Trent

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by Benton on Trent in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and

this 4 day of ...

Image 3

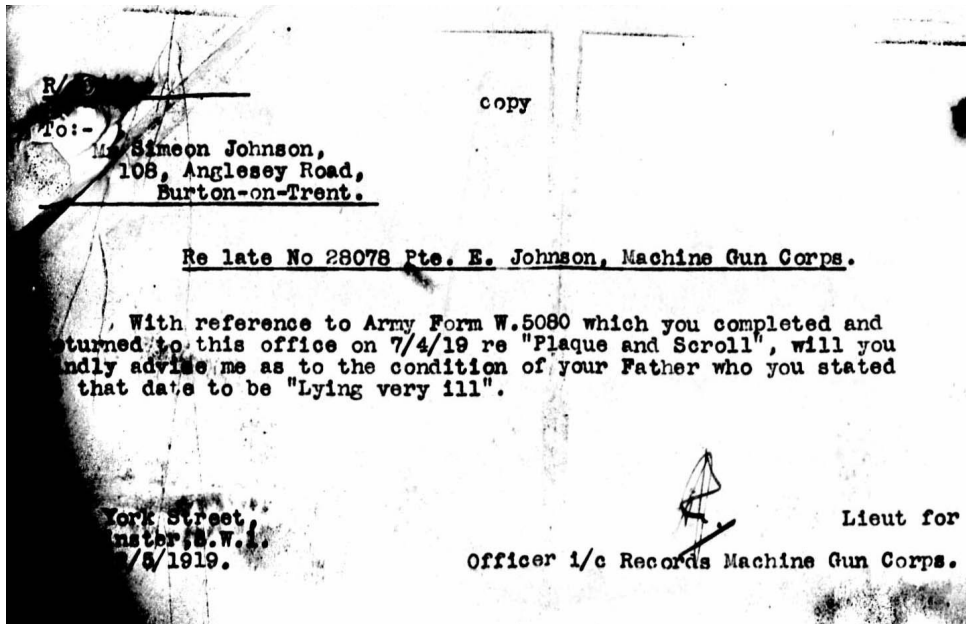


Image 4

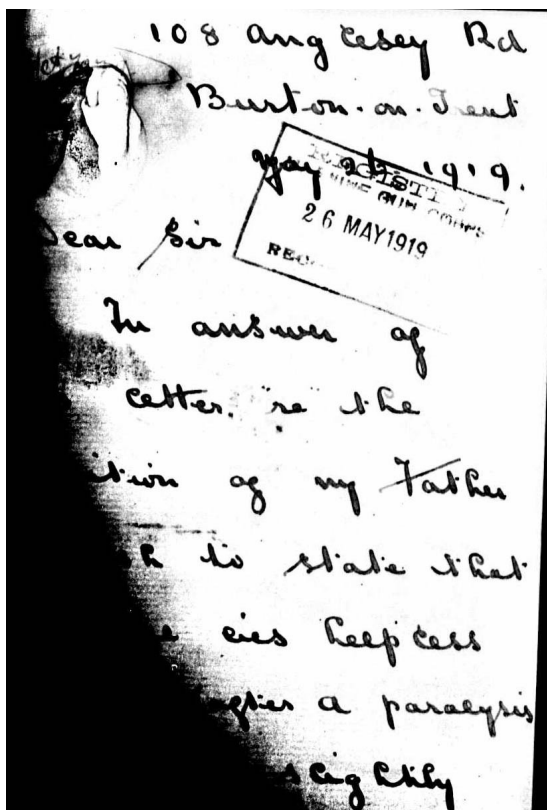


Image 5

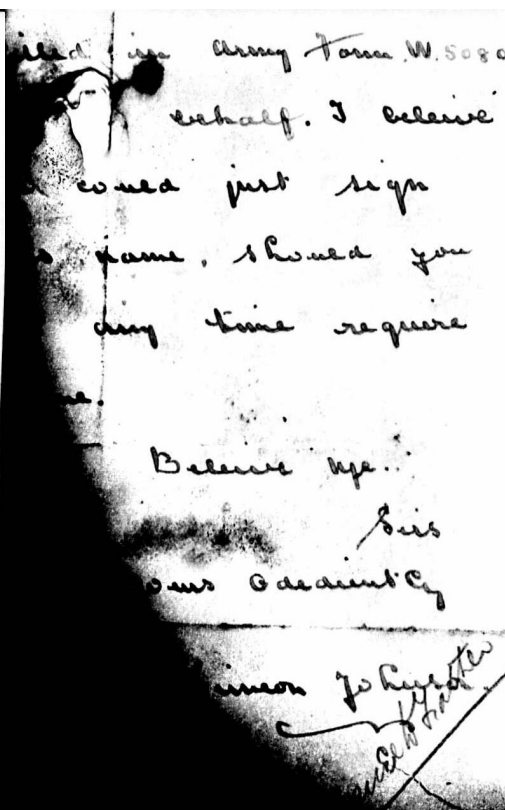


Image 6

