



Peter William Slade is a Professor Emeritus in Chemistry from the University of the Fraser Valley, whose major hobby is History, with particular interests in the War of 1812 and the First World War. A member of the Abbotsford branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, he served in a number of executive capacities. He was responsible for starting a candlelight vigil commemoration for Vimy Ridge Day, which has become an annual event in his home town of Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Previously employed in the chemical and photographic industries, Peter authored manuals and research publications. Since changing career to college/university chemical education, he has published laboratory manuals and research papers in chemistry and chemical education. He has been a chemical journal editor and has been webmaster for a university chemistry site, a local church and, currently, the Royal Canadian Legion in Abbotsford.

In recent research he has identified soldiers from Abbotsford who lost their lives in the First World War, but who were not listed on the Cenotaph. The profiles of these soldiers are described in this book.

Photo: Sheila Ann Slade



Headstone for Private Osmond Kidwell of Abbotsford at Chester Farm Military Cemetery, 5 km south east of Ypres, Belgium. Private Kidwell was serving with the 7th Battalion (B.C.). He was killed by a miniature mine explosion whilst in his dugout May 5, 1916.

At the foot of the headstone are crosses placed in April 2017 for Osmond and for Sergeant William Arnold Fergusson of Abbotsford, also of the 7th Battalion, whose body was not recovered after he was killed in action, rescuing a wounded colleague, at the Battle of Festubert.

Osmond and William were team-mates for Mt. Lehman F.C. in 1914, so it was felt fitting to unite them again.



Mt. Lehman F.C. back line: Coghlan, Fergusson, Kidwell

ABBOTSFORD'S FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS FROM WWI

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During the Great War, the minister of Abbotsford Presbyterian Church produced an Honour Roll in early 1916. It named the local men who had enlisted in the Canadian Forces and identified those who had been killed.

This first Honour Roll was published in the weekly Abbotsford Post newspaper on March 31, 1916, and became a regular feature on page 3. This list was updated periodically.

It was noted in 2014 that some names of soldiers listed as killed on this Honour Roll, and in another newspaper from 1919, were not listed on the cenotaph in Thunderbird Square in Abbotsford.

This led to a research project to verify that these soldiers were indeed from the Abbotsford area and should have their names on the Abbotsford cenotaph.

This book features the stories of nineteen of these soldiers who had been overlooked or "forgotten" and includes their photos where available, and photos of their gravesites and headstones.