

FAMILY SPEAKING

In 2007 my grandfather passed on to my father and me two scrolls that had sat for 90 years, rolled up in a drawer in his house. These scrolls were sent to our family in Scotland after the First World War.

Two of my relatives died in that war and their sacrifice is recorded on these scrolls. Despite their fragile condition, they are a link to my past and a reminder of lives lost and futures that were never to be.

William M. Kelly died March 15, 1915 in France on the Bethune Front; he fought in the trenches alongside his brother - my great grandfather, who somehow managed to survive the war. He is buried in Chocques Military Cemetery, France.



Chocques, France



Dugald James Bannerman died April 22, 1916 in Iraq, (an area then known as Mesopotamia); one of the missing, his name is on the Basra Memorial.

When I read on the scrolls that my relatives are so far from their homeland, it concerns me. However, they lie where they fought, buried with their comrades – this does them justice, their names are immortalised on stone and, in a sense this gives them a physical presence.

Luckily, somebody in my family kept the scrolls and through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website I have been able to find out more about my relatives who died. One day I would like to visit the cemeteries where they lie.

‘Their sacrifice was for the generations that came after them’ – this statement has significance for me as **I carry their names in my name.**

Jasper. Bannerman. I. Kelly



THEY ARE NOT MISSING
-THEY ARE HERE