

The Family of Samuel Hardaker (1889-1922)

J Brian Hardaker

Version of May 2017

Samuel was the son of John Lee Hardaker and his first wife and cousin Sarah Jane Hardaker. The latter died in giving birth to Samuel. John Lee Hardaker remarried and had two further sons, Richard, known as Dick, and John Bertram, known as Jack. As a young man, Samuel left England and went to Canada. Partly for this reason, we know rather little about him.

Here is what Mary Hardaker, née Dent, Samuel's daughter-in-law, wrote in about 1978 in answer to questions from Edith Hardaker about Samuel's family:

Jack [John Leonard Hardaker] is the last person to ask about family, he knows not a thing, and is not like me, remembering my younger life. In fact, he never even knew his father, and never knew that his father's mother had died when he [Samuel] was born till he read your letter. And all the years I have been to Northampton, Jack's mother [Rosa] never spoke of her husband. I remember seeing a photo of him in soldier's uniform when I first went in 1936, but have never seen it since. All Jack knows is that his [father's] name was Samuel, and that he died when Jack was 5 or 6, so that makes it 1920 or 1921. He knows he is buried in ~~Thrapstone~~ DENFORD churchyard [Crossing out in the original]. No, we have no photos at all. He doesn't know when or where his parents were married. I remember Jack's mother telling me she met him in Canada (I don't know what he was doing there) and that he had come back at the outbreak of the 1914 war, and his [Jack's] mother worked her passage back, so if they married in Canada before they sailed, or in England, I don't know, and Jack has no idea, so I will answer what I can. No. 1. No idea of dates of birth and death of father. No. 2. No idea of date of marriage or where. No. 3. Mother's name, Rosa, maiden name Jacobs. No. 4. Mother's date of birth 24 August 1888 and death March 6th 1973. No. 5. Jack's date of birth, September 5 1915, my date of birth October 18 [NB] 1914, my maiden name, Hilda Mary Dent. Our date of marriage, October 31st 1940. No. 6. Maureen's date of birth, November 2nd, 1943, married July 14th 1972, her husband Brian Potter, and Louise has just the one name, born March 19th 1978. P.S. Jack is John Leonard, Jack says his father's records could be registered at Thrapston, Northamptonshire. Jack always says he has no roots, that's why we move about so much, but of course, he was all those months in hospital as a young boy, then so many years living in Leeds with his grandparents, then he moved to Hull to work when he was only 18, so really he didn't start his roots until the war finished, and we started our lives together, and I could write a book about that. [End of extract.]

Samuel was still with the family in Idle in the 1911 Census, aged 21, but we believe that he arrived in Quebec City, Canada on 23 June 1911 when he would have been about 22. It is clear that he joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons in September 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War. Below is a copy of his Attestation Paper. He reported that he was married and that his next of kin was Mrs S Hardaker, obviously his wife, recorded in the custom of the day as Mrs Samuel Hardaker. He gave his occupation as 'Surveyor'. His answer to question 10 shows that he had already served for two years in the Royal Canadian Dragoons, presumably having left and then re-joined because of the war. So for most of the time he had been in Canada he had been in the Army, perhaps working as a military surveyor.

Samuel and Rosa were married after publication of banns on August 6th, 1914 at St Jean Methodist Church, St. Jean, Quebec, only a few weeks before he volunteered to go back into the army.

SLP 25 1914

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 220

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio 1/1

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

*Samuel Hardaker
27 St. Andrew St.
Birmingham, England*

- ANSWERS:
1. What is your name? *Samuel Hardaker*
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Idle, Bradford, Yorks. Eng.*
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Mrs. S. Hardaker*
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *27 St. Andrew St. Birmingham*
 5. What is the date of your birth? *17 Oct. 1889*
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Surveyor*
 7. Are you married? *No*
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *No*
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *2 years R. G. Dragoon*
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *No*
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *No*
- S. Hardaker* (Signature of Man).
A. Morrison (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Samuel Hardaker*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *22 Sept* 1914. *S. Hardaker* (Signature of Recruit).
A. Morrison (Signature of Witness).

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Samuel Hardaker*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *24th Sept* 1914. *S. Hardaker* (Signature of Recruit).
G. L. Bell (Signature of Witness).

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Walsley* this *24th* day of *Sept* 1914.

C. J. Macintosh (Signature of Magistrate).

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
C. J. Macintosh (Approving Officer).

The Royal Canadian Dragoons, in which regiment Samuel served, originated on 21 December 1883 in Quebec City as the Cavalry School Corps. They were redesignated on 14 May 1892 as the Canadian Dragoons and amalgamated with the Canadian Mounted Rifle Corps on 27 June 1892, only to be redesignated as The Royal Canadian Dragoons on 24 May 1893.

On 6 August 1914, the very day Samuel and Rosa were married, the regiment was placed on active service for instructional and camp administration duties. On 14 September 1914 the regiment mobilized as part of Seely's Detachment (really the Canadian Cavalry Brigade) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and embarked for England on 3 October 1914, Samuel presumably with it. On 5 May 1915 they disembarked in France, where they fought dismounted in an infantry role as part of the 1st Canadian Division. On 24 January 1916, the regiment was remounted and resumed their cavalry role as part of the 1st Canadian Cavalry Brigade, with whom they continued to fight in France and Flanders until the end of the war. The overseas regiment was disbanded on 6 November 1920.



Sam Hardaker

In the Nominal Roll of the Dragoon for 1915, Samuel is listed as a corporal in A Squadron, again with Mrs S Hardaker as next of kin, she with the address c/o Mr. A. Le Tassier [hard to read], 580 Dorchester St., Montreal. In a later record which I now cannot find she was living with Sam's parents in Idle, Yorkshire.

It may be possible to find out more about Samuel's part in the Great War on line via the Canadian Great War Project, including the War Diaries, but I have yet to follow these opportunities up at all fully. See also <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Documents/cavalry.pdf>.

After the war it seems Samuel returned to England. He died in 1922 and was buried in churchyard of Holy Trinity, Denford, near Thrapston. There is a family story that when the grave was dug it was found that it was already used so his father would not let Sam be buried in it and they had to dig another one.



Holy Trinity Denford

Rosa Jacobs

I am confident that I found Rosa in the 1901 Census, aged 12, born Winwick, Northamptonshire, daughter of John and Charlotte Jacobs, living at Denford, Northamptonshire, Thrapston Registration District. Census Piece 1453, ED 1, folio 12, p. 16, household 100.

The census record is hard to read but I think the household, located in the parish of Denford cum Ringstead, comprised:

- John Jacobs, head, married, 41, farm milkman, a worker, born Hunts, place illegible, perhaps Old Weston.
- Charlotte, wife, married, 38, born, Huntingdon
- Rosa, daughter, 12, born Winwick, Northants
- Fred, son, 7, born Keystone, Northants
- John, son, 2, born Little Cabhook [?], Hunts.

I am confident that this is the right Rosa because we know that Samuel was buried at Denford, probably in the churchyard of Holy Trinity.

Rosa might have been baptised at St Michael and All Saints, Winwick, although I have yet to find such a record. It seems likely that her birth was registered at Oundle in Northamptonshire in the 4th quarter of 1888, v. 3b, p.205.

I am not sure when or why Rosa went to Canada but know that she returned to England after the start of the First World War. According to her daughter-in-law, as recorded above, she returned to England by working her passage. She arrived in Liverpool on 21 November 1917 aboard the *Scandinavian*, having left from Montreal, and went to live with the family in Idle, as confirmed by the photo of her with her husband and his brothers, probably taken about 1915.

Rosa died on 6 March 1973 at Northampton after more than 50 years widow.



St Michael and All Angels, Winwick



Dick, Jack and Sam with Rosa

Descendants

Sam and Rosa had two children after the war:

- John Leonard Hardaker (1915-1987), known as Jackie in the family and called Jack by his wife.
- Mary Frances Jane Hardaker (1919-1979), known as Jinny in the family.

John Leonard married Hilda Mary Dent in 1940 at Hull, and they had one daughter, Maureen, who married Brian Potter in 1972 and they also had one daughter Louise born in 1978. John died at Ipswich in 1987, registered in November, aged 72. Hilda Mary lived on till 2001, also dying at Ipswich.

Mary Frances Jane Hardaker remained a mystery till I found her mentioned on the Horsfall Family Tree on Ancestry, very well documented. We had her forenames in the wrong order, which may be why we could not find her in the records. She married Jack Charles Westley (1920-2001) at Northampton in September 1948. She died on 28 October 1979 again at Northampton, leaving a will listed in the Calendars of Probate:

WESTLEY, Mary Frances Jane of 55 Longland Rd Northampton
died 28 October 1979 Administration Birmingham
3 January £2745 800300060A

The website gives no mention of any children, but that may be because they are still alive.

I was sad to discover that so many these various cousins of mine, none of whom I recall ever meeting, are now dead. It would be good if I could locate a living descendant of Sam's, ideally someone with an interest in family history.



Jackie and Jinny with mother
Rosa