

Private John Bennington

John Bennington was born in 1895 in Milldale. He was baptised in St Peter's church Alstonefield on 4 August 1895, the only child of Alice Bennington. As no father is recorded on the baptism record it is assumed that his father was unknown. He was raised by his grandparents, John and Hannah Bennington.



John Bennington with his grandfather, John Murrell Bennington, 1900 (1)

In 1901, John was living with his widowed grandfather, John Bennington and his Aunt, Annie Bennington.

3	John Bennington	Mad	Mad	72	General Palmer	Do	24	Alstonefield
	Annie Do	Daughter	S	32	Thompson			Wendling
	John Do	Grandson	S	5				Staff Mill Dale
								Do Do

(2)

After his grandfather died in 1901, John went to live with his mother at Woolley Moor, near Alfreton, where she had been occupied as a servant in the census of that year.

In 1911, John had moved back to the Alstonefield area, where he was recorded in the census as a servant on a farm on Wetton. He was living with William and Hannah Highton (his mother's sister)

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Inhabitants 488
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (Last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	Industry or Service with which writer is connected.	Whether Employed or not.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.			
William Highton	Head	74	Married 12	—	Farmer & Mason	100	100	100	100	Staffordshire, Wetton	English		
Hannah Highton	Wife	47	Married 12	—						Staffordshire, Wetton	English		
John Bennington	Nephew	15	Single	—	Servant	7	7	7	7	Staffordshire, Wetton	English		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Garden, Terrace, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count sanitary, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature William Highton
Postal Address Wetton Ashbourne

4 Rooms

(3)

Shortly after the outbreak of the War, John enlisted, in Derby to the 1st Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) No 14009.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
<u>BENNINGTON</u>	<u>Notts & Derby</u>	<u>Pte</u>	<u>14009</u>
<u>John</u>			

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	F/103 B5	807	
BRITISH	— do —	—	
15 STAR	F/11 B2	809	
Theatre of War first served in (1)			
Date of entry therein	<u>27-12-14</u>		
Date of entry therein	<u>27-12-14</u>		

His medal card confirms that John was awarded the 15 Star, Victory Medal and British War medal, all for campaign services.

(4)

John was involved in the attack on Contalmaison village which started on 8 July 1916. Unfortunately, he was severely wounded and taken to the military hospital in Etaples, but died there of his wounds on 11 August 1916. He is buried at the Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

A memorial service was held at St Peter's church, Alstonefield, which was reported in the Ashbourne News on 15 September 1915.

(5)

Memorial Service.—On Sunday last, a memorial service for the late Private John Bennington was held during the evening service at the parish church, Alstonefield. Portions from the burial service were taken instead of the usual prayers, and the hymns "Peace, perfect peace," "Fight the good fight," and "On the Resurrection morning" were sung. The Rev. A. E. Brown (vicar) conducted the service, and preached a most comforting and helpful sermon. A large congregation assembled to do honour to the memory of the fallen soldier, and joined feelingly in the service. Private John Bennington was a native of Mill Dale, and he enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters amongst the first recruits after the outbreak of war. He was severely wounded early this summer, and succumbed to his injuries at the beginning of August, being in his twenty-first year. The greatest sympathy is felt with his relatives and friends.

In Memoriam.

BENNINGTON—In loving memory of Private John Bennington, of Mill Dale, 1st Notts. and Derby Regiment, who died from wounds August 11th, 1916.

A loved one gone, but not forgotten,
 As it dawns another year;
 In our lonely hours of thinking,
 Thoughts of him are always near.
 To freedom's cause his life he gave,
 And dared the battle purpose sure;
 A hero, write upon his grave:
 "He died that England might endure."
 —Mill Dale, Alstonefield, Ashbourne.
 Sadly missed by his Aunt Annie and Frances.

John was remembered by his family via The Ashbourne News in August 1918, 2 years after his death.

(6)

Source of information

1. Photograph ©natgould.org
2. Census 1901 © Ancestry.co.uk
3. Census 1911 © Ancestry.co.uk
4. Medal Record Card ©Ancestry.co.uk
5. Newspaper extract © Ashbourne News 5 September 1915
6. Newspaper extract © Ashbourne News 14 August 1918