

Samuel Glanville



Samuel Glanville in uniform, 1916

As reported in the *Orono News* of April 12, 1917, Samuel Glanville was the first of the Orono boys to die in defense of the empire. He died March 1st, 1917 at the end of the battle of the Somme, at the age of 21.

Glanville claims to be a 'farmer's son' on his Attestation Papers signed on November 10, 1915 for the 136th Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Historian Helen Schmid says he was also a junior clerk at C.G. Armstrong's General Store in downtown Orono.

Samuel was the oldest of nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. S. George Glanville of Orono, and husband of Mary Glanville (nee Ball), his first cousin. The Glanvilles farmed on the southwest corner of Squair Road and the 5th Concession, part of what are now the Orono Crown Lands.

Glanville enlisted at the

of June, 1915. Schmidt has a post card he sent to his sister who was attending Normal School in Peterborough, dated June 17, 1916. Glanville writes to his sister: "You will be surprised to hear that I am living so near to you, but it is a fact to my sorrow for this is the most out of the way place on God's green earth. I was sent out here in charge of 12 men to aide in recruiting. I don't know how long to be here." The post card was of the town hall in Bethany, Ontario.

Glanville arrived in England on June 10, 1916. (The postcard in the previous paragraph is dated June 17, AFTER this date) Hospital records indicate that on August 6, 1916 he was admitted with bronchitis and discharged on August 10th. On March 12, 1917, he was reported missing. It was established that he died on March 1st, one of many missing in the fields of France, with an unknown grave.

Glanville's name appears with 11,000 fellow Canadian soldiers who were posted as "missing, presumed dead" in France, on the Vimy Memorial. His name is also engraved on the Orono Cenotaph, the Memorial Gates at the Orono Cemetery, and on a plaque in the Newcastle Community Centre. He is commemorated on Page 244 of the First World War Book of Remembrance kept in the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill.

There is a street named Samuel Glanville in the Concession Street and Apple Blossom Drive area of Bowmanville.