

LANCE CORPORAL JOHN GOWER JONES (37963)

9TH BATTALION, ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

John Gower Jones was born in Llangyndeyrn, in Gwendraeth valley in Carmarthenshire, one of 6 children of Anne Stone and Llewelyn Goronwy Jones. His middle name, Gower, refers to the relationship with his great-uncle, John Gower, for many years Vicar of Trefriw. His paternal grandmother was the Reverend Gower's sister.

The family moved to Dyffryn Conwy some time before 1898 when John's brother Lewis Aneurin was born at Llanrhychwyn. By the time of the census in 1901, they were living at Gower Bridge House, Llanrwst, and John's father occupation was recorded as a Milk Manager – perhaps because of proximity to the railway goods yard.

John attended school in Llanrwst between 1905 and 1910.

By the time of the census in 1911, the family had moved to Maes yr Haf, Trefriw, and Llewellyn Jones's occupation is recorded as farmer. John is also working on the farm.

When John enlisted in Llanrwst on 12th December 1916, aged 23 years, 4 months, he was a student, probably living at Belmont in Llanddoged. (He is on the war memorial in Llanddoged church.) The North Wales Weekly News, 9 March 1916, records that John Gower Jones and David Jones, sons of Cllr. Llew Jones of Maenan Farm, had joined the 21st Battalion in Kinmel Park. On his enlistment forms he gives his home address as Maenan Hall.

He was wounded in an engagement at Ancre Heights – part of the Somme battlefield – and died of those wounds at the 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on fifth of November 1916 aged 25. The Somme Roll of Honour records that he fought in the Hessian and Regina Trenches. He is buried in Puchevillers British cemetery.

John is commemorated on the memorial in Llanddoged church where his address is given as Belmont but his parents were living at Maenan Hall Farm at the time of his death.

When John's Father died in 1943, he was living at Pant y Carw, Trefriw. His mother Annie was living at Arosfa, Trefriw, when she died in January 1951.

Sources:

1891 Wales Census

1901 Wales Census

1911 Wales Census

England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920

Commonwealth War Graves Commission; London, United Kingdom; The War Graves Of The British Empire, Puchevillers, Raincheval, Toutencourt, Herissart, Rubempre, Molliens-Au-Bois

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

Somme Roll of Honour



Army Reserve

Army Form B. 2512

ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

SHORT SERVICE.

For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.

Card No. 85/65

ATTESTATION OF

No. 57963 Name John Gower Jones Corps ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... John Gower Jones
2. What is your full Address? ... Maman Hall, Llanwrust
3. Are you a British Subject? ... Yes.
4. What is your Age? ... 23 Years 4 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Student
6. Are you Married? ... no.
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so,* which? ... no.
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... Yes.
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... Yes.
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... Yes. { Name R. Thomas Corps Recruiter }
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions, provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours, and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th October, 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, &c., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months? ... Yes.

I, John Gower Jones do hereby solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made,

John Gower Jones SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
R. Thomas Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, John Gower Jones swear by Almighty God 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 the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

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 Llanwrust on this 12th day of December 1915.

Signature of the Justice Charles Jones

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the ‡ 21st B. W. F.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 12/2/15 1915 . Major R. P. Jones Recruiting Officer, Approving Officer.
Place Witcham

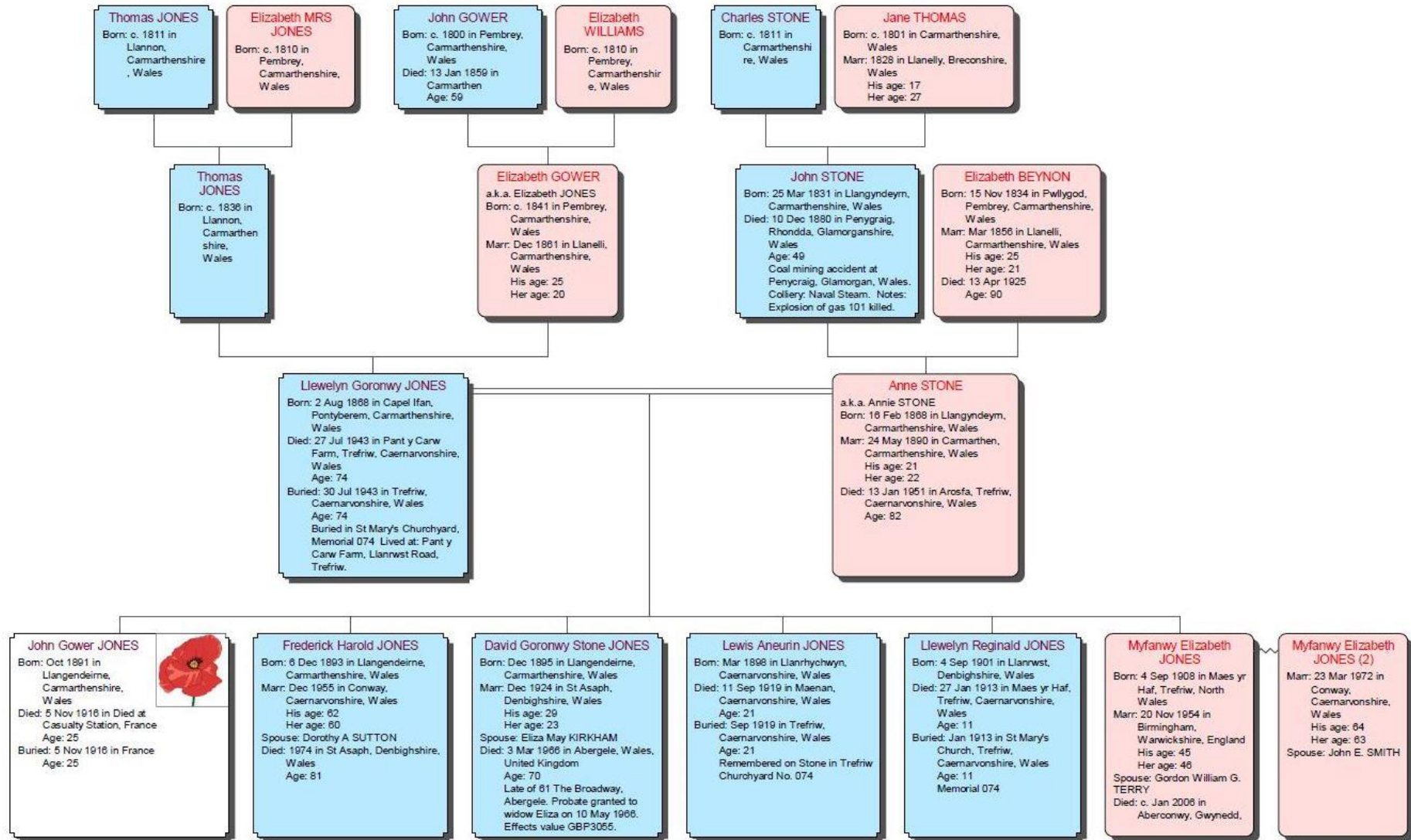
† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of re-enlisted in the (Regiment) _____ on the (Date) _____

John Gower Jones' Enlistment Papers



Maes yr Haf, former home of John Gower Jones



**Lance Corporal John Gower Jones
Family Tree**