

## KILBY, Thomas Wheatley

Service Number 181204

Rank Private  
Canadian Pioneers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

Born December 29, 1887 or 1886, Yokohama, Japan  
Died March 27, 1917, Neuville-St. Vaast, France

Occupation Rancher  
Marital Status Single

Thomas Wheatley Kilby's journey to Parksville took a different path from most young men of European descent. He was born and grew up in Yokohama, Japan, where his father, Edward Flint Kilby, ran a trade and insurance agency. Edward was probably his stepfather, as Thomas and his brothers had the last name Wheatley. According to Meiji Portraits, in 1904, he was listed as working for Cornes & Co in the silk department. The 1914 BC Directory lists him as a rancher in Parksville. He had a brother in Duncan and his attestation papers list a possible cousin in Parksville.

In 1915, Thomas Kilby enlisted with the 11<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles, giving his date of birth as December 29, 1886. He then changed his name and in 1916 signed new attestation papers as Thomas Wheatly giving his date of birth as December 29, 1887. There are various crossings out of his name in his military records. Finally, he signed a statement saying that his true name was Thomas Wheatley Kilby.

After arriving in Liverpool in 1916, he transferred to the Canadian Pioneers for training. He was sent to France in January 1917 to fight with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

Thomas Wheatley Kilby was killed in action at Neuville-St Vaast. He is buried at Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Sources: Photo: Parksville Museum & Archives  
Personnel Records of the First World War, Library and Archives Canada  
Books of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada  
Circumstances of Death Registers, Library and Archives Canada  
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library  
Cefrg.ca – blog/Masumi-mitsui-mm  
Meiji-portraits.de  
Imperial War Museums.org. UK

