

Fauldhouse and the Tribunals

John Meek (18) of Blackfaulds, a baker with the Crofthead Co-operative Society was appealed for by his employers: 'they baked 50 sacks of flour per week. The staff consisted of 3 men, 2 lads, and 2 women. It was impossible to get bakers just now.' But because he was young and fit, John Meek was sent off to the army. He died of wounds in France on 4 April 1918, aged nineteen.
West Lothian Courier 2 Feb 1917



John Meek

'The Military applied for withdrawal of exemption certificate held by Thomas Sommerville (33), Bellona Terrace, Fauldhouse, colliery cashier with United Collieries, Ltd., at Greenrigg Colliery He was a Class A man [fully fit]. Mr Anderson said this was a case where a substitute could be got. Mr Gardiner appeared for the Company. He said that the Company had when and where possible released every man in their offices for the Army. There was a daily output of 500 tons of coal, and a wage bill of over £1,000. His only help were two boys – 16 and 14 years. ... It was agreed to sustain the Military appeal, and exemption certificate was withdrawn.'

'Mr John Williamson, Sheephousehill, Fauldhouse, claimed on behalf of Thomas Williamson (19) grocer with Crofthead Co-operative Society Ltd. He had first been classified C3 [least fit category - fit only for home service], and then on re-examination advanced to Class C1. Mr Williamson stated that he had four sons serving, and in the present case, had it not been that the man called was delicate, he would not have put forward any claim. What he feared was that in his present state of health, the lad, if taken by the military, might have a serious break-down of health. The tribunal agreed to have man examined by Appeal Medical Board.'

Thomas Steele (26), Rowanden, Fauldhouse, joiner and undertaker, was claimed for by William Steele. Mr Steele said this was his only man left out of eight prior to the war. He had two sons fighting as soldiers. Conditional exemption was granted. George Barrie, married, Burnside Terrace, Fauldhouse, manager, Benhar Branch, Crofthead Co-operative Society, Ltd., asked for exemption on domestic grounds. The appeal was dismissed.
West Lothian Courier 20 Jul 1917

'At the district Tribunal, six months' exemption was granted to Alexander Drysdale, 36 years of age, licensed grocer and provision merchant. He had one brother killed, and another serving.

William Butler, 26 years and in Grade I. who resides at Longridge, claimed in respect that he was the sole support of his widowed mother and six dependents It was shown that there were four brothers all working, and no contributions had been made to the Army. The appeal was dismissed.'

Midlothian Advertiser 5 July 1918

'Robert Dickson Currie (48), B2, married, manager Volunteer Arms, Fauldhouse, was claimed for by his employer.... The man also claimed on domestic grounds. The man had been manager for 11 years. The man at present, in addition to acting as manager, worked a full shift every day in the mines. Six months' exemption was granted, conditional on man continuing his work as a miner.

'Peter Savage (45), compulsory officer, Grade 1, B1, married, claimed on business and

domestic grounds. He had done 22 years' service, first with the H.L.I., and then with the Royal Scots. He had been through the South African War. He was compulsory officer [school attendance officer] in Fauldhouse, served with the Volunteers, and worked at the week-ends in the pits. During the school vacation he was full time at the pits. His school duties kept him sully employed five days per week.

The Chairman – Here is another man who has done his duty to his country.

Mr Allan – He has done well, and is doing well.

Six months' exemption was agreed to.

West Lothian Courier 23 August 1918