

ANGLO - AMERICAN ISHAM ANCESTRY ASSOCIATION



FAR LEFT
John Isham in the
Dragoon Guards

LEFT & BELOW
John Isham at Rugby



LIEUT. JOHN VERE ISHAM - 1895 - 1916

John Isham hailed from one of Northamptonshire's oldest families. At least seven of his ancestors had been at Rugby before him, the eldest being Gregory Isham (born in 1600), who is the first recorded Rugbeian to go to Oxbridge. John's father was Sir Vere Isham, 11th Baronet of Lampport Hall in Northamptonshire, and his mother Millicent was the sister of W.W. Vaughan (Head Master of Rugby, 1921-31).

When the War broke out in August 1914, John volunteered at once. Whilst training he wrote often to his parents, and two letters from the first few months of the War are worth quoting. The first: 'Some lucky seniors are off to the front on October 14th. I wish I was, I simply long to get there. I know you understand the feeling; it will be very cold in Berlin at Xmas, however!' In contrast the second letter, written just a few weeks later, shows that the grim news from the Front was already being heard at home: 'We are losing a tremendous lot of officers. It is dreadful but we shall

In the summer of 1916 John became ill after a routine typhoid inoculation. He was sent to a military hospital in northern France where he died from blood poisoning on 3rd June, aged 20. Either the vaccine was at fault, or an infected needle had been used. The great unknown is whether John would otherwise have survived the War. The Battle of the Somme broke out 33 days later, and the War was to last another 30 months: one in every five of the junior officers like John died in the War.

John was buried in France. He is commemorated on the war memorial in the village churchyard at Lampport, alongside nine others from the Lampport estate. The names include that of John Howard, son of the head gardener at Lampport and John Isham's great childhood friend.



**Lieut. JOHN VERE ISHAM,
on active service in the Dragoon Guards aged 20
died in France during the Great War on 3 June 1916
and he was buried at Etaples.**