John Watkinson

We are going to take a look at his life.
NAME: John Watkinson.

D.O.B : 13th February 1880.

School: Wesleyan School, Liverpool Road.

Parents: Thomas and Ellen.

Part time job: Pupil teacher.

Married to: Elizabeth Roberts.

Children: Fred Roberts and Mildred Watkinson.
John spent a year in the army and was fit for the war. He had a great chance of surviving. Before that he was a part time pupil teacher. He worked for the GPO after leaving the army first time.

He was married to Elizabeth Roberts of Northop Hall. Soon after he had two beautiful children, Fred and Mildred.
How he got in to the war
The Military Cross awarded
‘For Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to Duty’

Medals
John Watkinson was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery.

Citation from the London Gazette 16th September 1918

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during two days of severe fighting. Owing to heavy officer casualties in the battalion he volunteered to take command of a company and with the greatest courage and determination led them into action. His company was involved in very bitter fighting around a position, and it was only due to his coolness, utter disregard of personal danger and the capable way in which he kept his men together that the garrison of the position was not completely cut off. By rallying his men at a very critical moment and fighting a rearguard action, he covered their retreat in the most able manner.
John Watkinson died on 10th December 1918 in No 14 hospital in France. On the afternoon of 14th August 1918 on duty, he had been riding to the Ration Dump when his horse tumbled and fell on top of him. His injuries were recorded as severe.

The incident was an accident and no-one was to blame.
Eleven WWI soldiers names are on our Northop Hall War Memorial.

1. John Watkinson
2. Will Davies
3. Joseph E Dodd
4. Frank Hodkinson
5. Ben Jones
6. Thomas Lathon
7. Fred Powell
8. Jonathon Roberts
9. Edgar M. Stevenson
10. Samuel V. Williams
11. Thomas Willcock
Thank you
for your
loyalty and support for John Watkinson
and we shall not forget our village
soldiers.