

JOHNSON FAMILY OF THE FAIN



Geordie Johnson, Fain



Lowrie Johnson

George Johnson, Seaman, R.N.R., H.M. Armed Liner *Caledonian Castle*. Grunifirth, North Nesting.



HUGH MORRISON JOHNSON,

Hugh Morrison Johnson, Seaman, *SS Lodaner*. Son of George and Martha Johnson, Grunifirth. Drowned on April 14th 1918, aged 30. *SS Lodaner*, built by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd., Newcastle in 1905 and owned at the time of her loss by Munson Steamship Company was an American cargo vessel of 3291 tons, chartered by the British. The British Government subchartered the *Lodaner* to Sota and Anzar. On a voyage from Salta Caballo bound for Glasgow, she proceeded to Brest to take up a convoy as far as Land's End. She was with the convoy from Brest for Penzance on the night of April 14-15, 1918. When she left the convoy is not clear. The statement in the record is that she "was never heard of again after sailing". Sunk by the German submarine *UB-73 (Karl Neureuther)*, southeast from the South Arklow lightvessel 52° 37'345N 5° 56 574E. 32 persons were lost.

Laurence Johnson, Seaman Gunner, R.N.R., *HMS Drake*. Grunifirth, North Nesting. Torpedoed off the Irish coast, October 1917. *HMS Drake* was a 14,150 ton armoured cruiser—the lead ship of her class. She was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-79*, killing 18 crewmen, knocking out her steering and flooding three compartments; thereby causing her to sink later in the afternoon. Initially it was feared that Laurence was lost when *HMS Drake* went down; it was several days before the family heard that he had actually survived. See the Hughson family of Laxfirth's sheet for more detail on the ship and her loss.

Their parents were George Johnson and Martha Morrison. They had four sisters (one died at birth) and another five brothers, although one died aged one. George was married before and had four sons with his first wife, Grizel Leask, all of them died at under 25 years old (two from TB and one as an infant), then Grizel died aged 34.