

## **Kay Latimer pays tribute to her Aunt, Agnes Thomson**

### **” The Ties that Bind us” or “Keeping in Touch”**

Agnes Thomson at 15, with little education and already “keeping house” for her widowed Father and 3 older brothers in 1914, had no concept of War. All she understood was her 18 year old sweetheart “Tam” (Thomas Brown Morrison) was enlisting and she knew not what lay ahead.

The need to feel connected must have been uppermost & vital to her very existence as:

#### **“Lovingly, As Aye, Agnes”**

became the hallmark of her daily letters to the front for the next 4 years. In the intervening ones a story of “faith”

As a teenager in the 50's I was familiar with the now weekly airmails from Philadelphia, USA to my Uncle Willie. I came to love reading these and their author, as my dearest aunt by marriage, her kindness during the lean years after the war and well into her nineties as a regular correspondent and visitor from “over the pond”

As , her undying love for her Tam meant getting all her chores done, to cross the breath of Hamilton every day for the rest of the war to support my Grandparents, my Mother, 2 sisters and disabled brother, Willie, her dearest friend, especially in 1915 when the worse news came with a telegram

#### **“Missing - Presumed Dead”**

Never did the Faith of that Family Fail while for 18 months my Mother, the youngest, stood at the Town Hall every evening. while the Lists of the “Dead in Action” were posted

Imagine their relief with the Red Cross letter saying Tam was alive; a POW with one limb missing and 9months later shocked to walk past a “skeleton” on a stretcher, but still, Tam was home

Married after a lengthy recovery they raised 4 children and emigrated to America. But for Aunt Aggie, her place in the Morrison family was special; she was a true “sister” to them. all her life.

“Three things remain: Faith, Hope and Love; but the greatest of these is LOVE”

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Ch13 v 13

As her niece, after she died, I adopted her signature: “As Aye, Kay”

7<sup>th</sup> November 2018

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