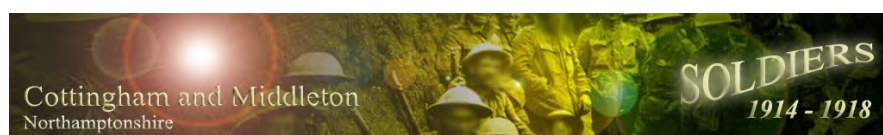


Cottingham and Middleton soldiers who served and returned

This folder contains information on Cottingham soldiers who served during the First World War and returned home.

They were either born in Cottingham, lived and/or worked in Cottingham at the time of their enlistment or Cottingham was the family home they returned to after the War.

Each piece provides details of the soldier's military service along with some background on them and their civilian life. The information has been sourced primarily from:



<http://cottinghamsoldiers.org.uk>

Roll of Honour

With additional information and images from www.cottinghamhistory.co.uk

Many local men died during the First World War. These stories relate to those who returned home, however few if any of them were the same men who left for war. Many returning servicemen had physical or mental scars that were to remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Hopefully, this information on the cross section of men, and a few women, who undertook military service during the War will assist in providing an insight into the impact this had on the local community.



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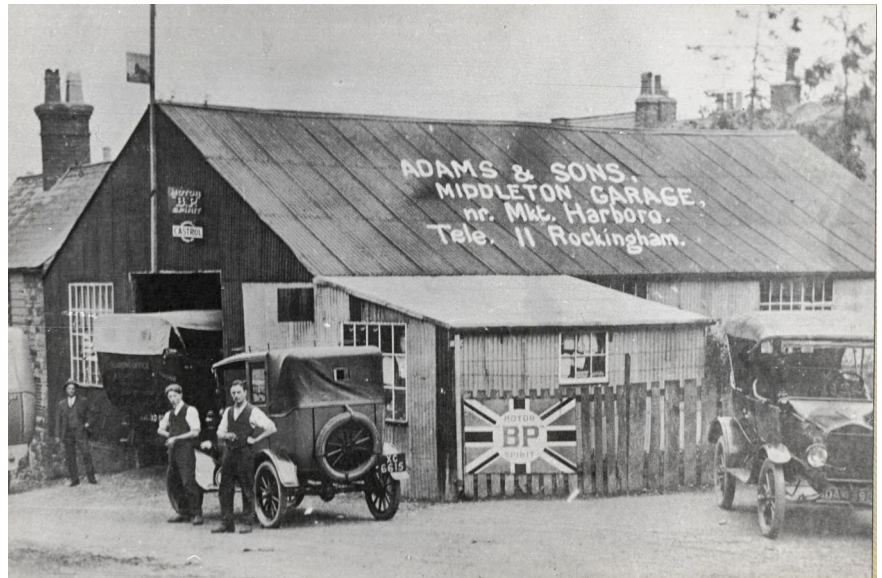
NAME	UNIT/REGIMENT
OLIVER, Albert	Royal Horse Artillery
PANTER, George William	<i>Currently to be verified</i>
PANTER, John Frederick	Royal Navy
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Reginald and William Eric Adams

The two sons of Alfred Adams, who together ran the garage on Middleton Hill. William was granted a temporary exemption when he was called up due to his value to the business. His wife was Mabel Adams who lived in the village to be 99 years old, passing away in 2005.

Alfred Adams of Horsham, Wiltshire and Mary Ann Adams of Towcester had two sons:

- **Reginald**, born in Towcester on 8th June 1895; and
- **William Eric**, born in Potterspury, South Northants on 2nd May 1897



In 1901, the family were living in Rosebery Avenue, Melton

Mowbray and Alfred was a domestic groom. By 1911 the family were living at The Stables, Stapleford Park, Melton Mowbray and now had a daughter Hilda May Adams.

In 1915, the family was living in Crown Cottage, Middleton and Alfred was running the garage and coach business on The Hill in Middleton, assisted by his sons.

Reginald Adams

Reginald attested on 22nd February 1916. He initially served in the **Royal Flying Corps** and was transferred over to the **Royal Air Force** on 1st April 1918 where he served as an Air Mechanic (24722). He was transferred to the RAF Reserve on 2nd March 1919.



He married Marjorie A. Higgott in Northampton in 1923 and, in 1939

Reginald, Marjorie and family were living in Market Harborough. Reginald was a motor engineer and garage proprietor and their son Alfred Adams (b.1923) trained as an electrical engineer.

Continued...

William Eric Adams (1897 to 1996)

When William was called up, his father applied for an exemption on his son's behalf (25th May 1916) arguing that his garage business would suffer as his older son Reginald was already serving with the Armed Forces. A Local Tribunal heard the case and a three-month exemption was granted on 19th June 1916. There is record that a further appeal was heard in September 1916 and a final two-month exemption granted.

William was mobilised for war service on 1st January 1917 and became a Private (M-281487) in the **Army Service Corps** on 2nd January 1917, working at the (MT) Res. Depot at Grove Park.

There is reference on William's file that he was posted to 881 Mechanical Transport Company, ASC on 24th March 1917 and that he embarked at Liverpool for Salonika on 22nd June 1917.

There is further reference to William embarking at Devonport on 9th October 1917, boarding HMT Port Lincoln bound for **German East Africa**. William arrived in Dar es Salaam (now in modern-day Tanzania) on 18th November 1917. He was posted to 648 MT Company, ASC.

Whilst in East Africa, William contracted malaria and was admitted to the 15th Stationary Hospital, Morogoro in 11th March 1918. He was a patient in various hospitals during the remainder of his service in Africa until finally being transported home on 13th December 1918 aboard the HMT Coconada.

He was posted to the 612 MT Company on 14th April 1919 and to the Army Reserve on 16th October 1919.

William and Mabel

In 1928 William married **Mabel Adams**, who worked as a cook and housekeeper for Captain George Lucas and his wife at Bury House. William and Mabel lived on The Hill, Middleton with their son Keith and together ran a coach business 'Bluebirds' from The Hill. They sold the business in 1955.

William was also a member of the Air Ministry Observer Corps.

William Eric Adams died in 1996 and Mabel died in Middleton in 2005 at the ripe old age of 99!



Mabel Adams, aged 99

Bartle Essex Aldwinckle (1879 to 1938)

Lived in the old Manor House before his widowed mother Mary moved to No.3 Corby Road to run the bakery in front of the house

Bartle Essex Aldwinckle was born in 1879 in Cottingham to Bartholomew Aldwinckle from Middleton and Mary Elizabeth Aldwinckle (nee Essex) of Desborough. Bartholomew and Mary were married on 10th July 1873 in London.

In 1881, Bartholomew and Mary were living in the **Manor House, High Street, Cottingham** with their children Mary, Ellen Elizabeth, Jessie Gray, Flora Annie and **Bartle Essex**. Also resident was Bartholomew's father William Aldwinckle. Bartholomew Aldwinckle was listed as a miller and farmer of 51 acres 'employing three men and a boy'.

Bartholomew died in Cottingham on 16th October 1890 and in 1891 his widow Mary was running the bakery at No.3 Corby Road, Cottingham where she lived with her children Ellen, Jessie, Flora and Bartle and Niece Mary Louisa Burditt.

In 1901, Bartle was boarding in Leicester at the home of Sarah Tomlin and was working as a grocer's assistant. He married Elizabeth Bradshaw on 25th April 1907 and the couple had a daughter Madge, born in Cottingham in 1908, and a son John William born in Rockingham in 1909. In 1911 Bartle and Elizabeth were living in East Bond Street, Leicester with their children John William and Madge. Bartle was employed as a butcher. The couple had at least three more children, James Henry (1912), Annie Elizabeth (1916) and Lillian Mary (1917) all born in Leicester.

The family were still living in East Bond Street in 1918. It is believed that Bartle's wife Elizabeth Aldwinckle died in Leicester in 1922. In 1926, Bartle remarried Ruth Matilda Brotheridge of Gloucestershire. During the remainder of the 1920s and into the 1930s Bartle and Ruth were living in Gaddesby Avenue, Leicester.

Bartle died in Leicester in 1938. Ruth Aldwinckle died in Leicester in 1968.

Military Service

Bartle Essex Aldwinckle served as a Guardsman (26477) in the 1st Battalion, **Grenadier Guards**. When he enlisted in Leicester he was living in East Bond Street and was employed as a butcher.

Bartle attested on 9th December 1915 and was mobilised on 29th August 1916. He joined the Guards in Caterham on 31st August 1916.

He was transferred to the 1st Battalion on 14th February 1917 the day he arrived in France as part of the Expeditionary Force. Bartle joined the battalion on the frontline on 12th March 1917 and was transferred to the Army Reserve on 12th February 1919.



Herbert Almond (born 1881)

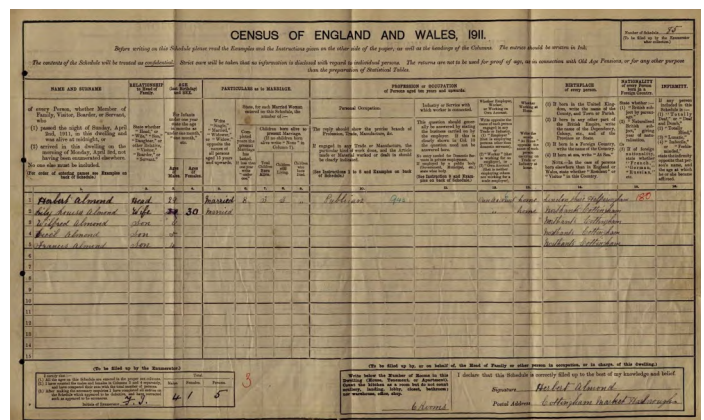
Landlord at The Royal George

Herbert Almond was born in 1881 in Helpringham, Lincolnshire. His father was Alfred Almond, his mother Lucy Ann Almond (nee Holmes). Alfred and Lucy were married in 1880. Alfred Almond was a draper & grocer.

Herbert's father Alfred Almond died on 19th October 1890. In 1891 his widow Lucy Almond was living in Helpringham with her children Elijah, Herbert, Arthur, Lilian, Wilfred, Osborn, Alfred and Harold. A domestic servant Ada Sharp was living with the family. In 1901 Lucy was still living with a number of her children in Helpringham and Herbert Almond was employed as a butcher.

Herbert Almond married Lily Louisa Aldwinckle of Cottingham on 6th August 1903. In 1911, he was the landlord of **The Royal George, Cottingham**. With Herbert and Lily were their children Wilfred Herbert (1904), Cecil Edward (1905) and Alfred Frank (1907). Another son John was born in December 1911.

Herbert Almond was still in Cottingham working as a publican when he attested for the Army in 1916. His mother Lucy Ann Almond (nee Holmes) died in 1935.



The form is a 1911 Census of England and Wales, Form No. 2A, for the household of Herbert Almond. It is headed 'CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911' and 'Form No. 2A'. The form is divided into several sections: 'PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD', 'PARTICULARS AS TO BIRTH', 'MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE', 'DECEASED', and 'REMARKS'. The household includes Herbert Almond (Head, 30, Married, 1881), Lily Louisa Aldwinckle (Wife, 28, Married, 1883), Wilfred Herbert Almond (Son, 6, Single, 1904), Cecil Edward Almond (Son, 5, Single, 1905), Alfred Frank Almond (Son, 4, Single, 1907), and John Almond (Son, 0, Single, 1911). The form also includes a section for 'REMARKS' where it is noted that Herbert Almond is the landlord of 'The Royal George, Cottingham'.

Military Service

Herbert Almond was to serve as a Sergeant (S/294813) in the **Army Service Corps**.

Herbert attested in Kettering on 5th June 1916. He was mobilised on 9th February 1917 joining in Bath the following day.

Herbert was stationed in the UK from 5th June 1916 to 19th March 1917. He sailed from Southampton on the SS Duchess of Argyle arriving in Le Havre on 21st March 1917.



Herbert's first tour of duty in France lasted from 21st March 1917 to 28th January 1918 when he returned to the United Kingdom. He returned to France on 13th February 1918 until 22nd April 1919. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 21st May 1919.

Harry Hutton Beecroft (1854 to 1972)

Son of Thomas Beecroft, head at the old Cottingham School

Harry Hutton Beecroft was born in Cottingham on 18th August 1894. His father was Thomas Beecroft of Nottinghamshire, his mother Annie Beecroft (nee Hutton) of Derbyshire. Thomas & Annie married in Bolsover on 19th November 1883.

In 1901 Thomas, Annie and their children Ida Mary (b. Rushton) and Harry Hutton were living in Middleton. Thomas Beecroft was head at Cottingham School, and Annie was also a teacher.



Harry's father Thomas Beecroft was head at Cottingham School

By 1911 Harry Beecroft was boarding with the Herbert family in Trafalgar Road, Handsworth. Harry was employed as a turner at an engineering works.

Harry Hutton Beecroft married Hilda Wingfield in Chesterfield in 1924.

In 1939 Harry & Hilda were living in Hunloke Avenue, Chesterfield. Harry was employed as a motor driver/mechanic for a bus company.

Harry Hutton Beecroft died in Chesterfield in 1972.

Military History



Northampton Mercury, 23rd June 1916

Beecroft, Pte. H.H. A.S.C.(M.T.)

Private Beecroft, the son of the schoolmaster at Cottingham, is seriously ill in the 23rd Stationary Hospital at Amara (Mesopotamia).

Harry Hutton Beecroft served as a Private (M2/131738) in the **Royal Army Service Corps**.

Harry Beecroft arrived in Egypt on 7th November 1915 and was to serve in the Middle East.

Charles Stephen Binley (1874 to 1958)

Served 'on' HMS Pembroke 1 in Chatham, an onshore 'stone ship' Naval Barracks afforded HMS status. Charles was invalided out of the Navy in 1919, possibly as a result of sclerosis linked to a Spanish Flu epidemic aboard the Pembroke which killed 240 people. He and his wife Elisabeth stayed in Chatham and both died there.

Corps	Royal Navy
Service No.	M9641, HMS Pembroke 1
Date/Place of entry	2 August 1914
Date of death	1958

Charles Stephen Binley was born in 1874, the youngest child of farm labourer Charles Binley and his wife Sarah Charlotte nee Wingell. There were numerous Binley families in Cottingham at this date, all descended from Thomas Binley born in Corby around 1802.

Binley/Bindley was not a common name in Northamptonshire in the 18th and 19th centuries. The 1777 Militia List shows Robert and George Binley, wheelwrights of Braybrooke, and Thomas Bindley of Desborough; the Desborough list does not include occupations but given the proximity Thomas is likely to be a relative. The name Bingley does not appear at all.

The Cottingham Binleys' progenitor was Thomas Binley, who was born in Great Bowden around 1708 and moved to Braybrooke. There is more information on the family background at www.craxfordfamily.co.uk provided by Janice Binley, a direct descendant. Janice has generously shared her research with me.

Thomas of Braybrooke's will shows he was a master carpenter. His six children included the above Robert and George and another son, John born in 1755. The children were baptised privately and some appear to have been at least four years old on the occasion, which suggests the family may have been members of the well-established Baptist chapel in Braybrooke. The chapel is across the road from the parish church and is still in use. There was certainly an active Nonconformist community in Great Bowden. The Victoria County History for Leicestershire patronisingly notes that 'In 1669 there were reported to be 200 Presbyterians of the better sort at Great Bowden.' At least two men there were licensed as Presbyterian teachers.

John Binley, Thomas's eldest son, moved from Braybrooke to Corby where he married Ann Dixon in 1789. His name does not appear in the 1777 Northamptonshire Militia list so he may have been living outside the county, and /or still be an apprentice. In any case, Militia lists did not include all males.

There were seven surviving children of the Binley-Dixon marriage, of whom five are known to have had descendants. The fifth child Thomas was born about 1802 and married Mary Reynolds of Cottingham in 1822. Thomas was described a carpenter and his wife was evidently a woman of stamina as the couple had fifteen children, all but three of whom reached adulthood. For the next twenty years Thomas was variously listed as a carpenter, joiner and wheelwright and according to the 1841 census was living on Cottingham High Street.

In the summer of that year his business was in difficulties. A newspaper report of 21st August 1841 carried the news that Thomas Binley, wheelwright, had assigned all his personal estate and effects to William Bradshaw of Corby, baker, and John Stiles of Market Harborough, grocer "in trust for the equal benefit of such of the creditors of the said Thomas Binley who shall execute the said indenture within three months of the date thereof." William Bradshaw may have been the father in law of Thomas's younger brother William, a Corby carpenter.

Whatever ensued - and such mishaps were commonplace for small businesses in the 19th century - Thomas continued to work as a wheelwright for the next 30 years living mainly on the High Street until 1871 when he is listed in **Blind Lane** with two of his unmarried daughters and a granddaughter; his wife Mary had died in 1865. Thomas himself died in 1877.

Continued...

Some of their children stayed in the village and some moved about. William Reynolds Binley, the eldest, was born in 1823 and remained single, which was probably for the best. As a young man William was a well-known face in court 'well known for his pugnacious disposition'. In 1845 he was before the Bench twice in less than two months for disturbing the peace at the Royal George, along with his brother Thomas, Joseph Panter, Henry West and Henry and John Ward. 'Among the most violent was William Binley as he threatened to knock his complainants brains out.'

Despite being the eldest son William didn't follow his father's trade. In 1851 he was still living with his parents and employed as a dealer. His whereabouts over the next 20 years are a mystery but in 1871 he was sharing a railway hut in a shantytown near Blea Moor in Cumbria, one of around 7,000 navvies constructing the Settle-Carlisle line for the Midland Railway Company. It was brutally hard work in one of the bleakest parts of the country. By no means all the incomers were single men; entire families were camped in huts, many in atrocious conditions. There was a smallpox epidemic which saw off at least 80 people in just one parish. The exact number of navvies who died following accidents or from disease is unknown but will have been high. William was nearly 50 when he worked there and died a few years later. He was buried in Cottingham.

Thomas and Mary's second son Thomas did become a wheelwright like his father. He married a Gretton girl in 1852 and they later moved to Finedon, where they had two children and several grandchildren. Some of the men were of an age to serve during the war but no identifiable records survive. Thomas died in 1898.

Thomas and Mary's second youngest son Albert, born in 1821, became a successful tradesman in London. For more information on him and his descendants see the pages for **Wilfred Philip Edward Binley** and **Albert Gear**.

The third son was Charles, born in 1827. He was first married to Cottingham girl Mary Ann West in November 1848 but she died four years later; their only child Rebecca died in 1865. Charles' second wife was Sarah Wingell of Barton Seagrave. Her sister Ann, eighteen years her senior, had married William Tilley in 1838. The Tilleys' grandchildren included **John Alfred** and **Henry Robinson Dunkley** who both died in the war; **George Tilley** and **Arthur Tilley**, sons of Mary Catherine's brother Alfred fought and survived.

Charles and Sarah Binley lived on the **High Street next to the Three Horseshoes Inn** where they raised six children. Their youngest son Charles Stephen was born in February 1875 and had moved to Kettering by 1891 where he lived with some cousins named Pollard and worked as a heel builder in the shoe trade. Charles Stephen married Elisabeth Bull in 1896 and by 1901 they had two daughters. He was now employed as a shoe pressman, and then in 1911 as the foreman of the boot factory.

Military record

On 2nd August 1914 he joined the Royal Navy where he served 'on' **Pembroke 1** throughout the war. He was **invalided out** on 19 November 1919. The **Pembroke 1** was a shore establishment accommodating naval personnel, not a ship at sea. Such 'stone ships' were given HMS status. The **Pembroke 1** naval barracks took its name from the old prison hulks at Chatham, and was situated next to the dockyard. HMS **Pembroke** has a Facebook page if you want to know more.

Charles Stephen's surviving naval record is sparse but shows he was an attendant, possibly senior attendant, on a hospital ward. He was five foot nine with brown hair and eyes, and the 'character and ability' column records both as 'very good.' The reason he was invalided out is horribly scrawled, but looks like something to do with sclerosis. There was an outbreak of Spanish Flu on the **Pembroke** from mid-1918 during which at least 240 men died, and there may be a medical link to some forms of sclerosis. In any case Charles Stephen survived. He stayed in Chatham where he and his wife died in 1958 and 1959 respectively.

Charles Stephen had an older brother George whose sons, **John Charles Binley** and **George William Binley** both served during the war. None of his four remaining siblings had any descendants known to have done so. He was also second cousin to **Percy** and **Sidney Binley**.

Three of the remaining children of wheelwright Thomas and Mary nee Reynolds married into families connecting them to serving soldiers. Their daughter Sarah married Joseph Tilley and therefore became great aunt to the Dunkley brothers. She and her husband Joseph had a son who died unmarried; they also gave a home to Joseph's sister Sarah who was described as an imbecile in the census and later died in Northampton Lunatic asylum.

Thomas and Mary's next daughter Mary married John Cursley, uncle of professional soldier **Tom Cursley** and great uncle of **Arthur Raymond Cursley** and **Charles Cursley** both of whom were killed in action.



High Street, Cottingham, early 1900s

John Charles and George William Binley

First and second sons of George and Elizabeth Binley (nee Bradshaw)

John Charles was born in 1896 and George William in February 1898 in **Blind Lane, Cottingham**, the first and second sons of farm worker George Binley and his wife Elizabeth Ann nee Bradshaw. Elizabeth Ann Bradshaw grew up in **Barrack Yard** off Blind Lane with her widowed grandfather. After the marriage, George and Elizabeth lived in Blind Lane for several years. They had three more children, Robert and Olive who both died in infancy, and Frederick born in 1908 after they had moved to Coldermeadow Lodge in Great Oakley parish.

John Charles Binley (1896 to 1982)

John enlisted in January 1918, despite having been partly crippled in a farm accident on Lord Brooke of Great Oakley's estate aged around 18. He was discharged after 18 months due to his deformed arms, legs and feet, and later successfully sued Lord Brooke for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Corps	Bedfordshire Regiment 12th Battalion, Labour Corps
Rank	Private
Service No.	59106
Date/Place of entry	1st January 1918, Northampton
Date of death	1982



John Charles became a farmworker like his father. In 1914 he was working for Lord Brooke of Great Oakley when he was seriously injured in an accident. A newspaper report said he was in charge of a watering cart when the horse pulling it bolted and ran over him, fracturing several ribs on his left side and perforating a lung. John Charles spent 26 weeks in hospital and came out with his arms and legs wasted. He later worked as a cellarman.

Astonishingly, despite being partly crippled, John Charles was enlisted into the army in Northampton on 1st January 1918 aged 22 years and 5 months. There is some documentation suggesting he may have enlisted earlier as a service record dated May 1916 contains a medical report saying his physical development was 'fair' and that some slight defects were 'not sufficient to cause rejection.' Only some service documents remain so it's unclear what happened next. He certainly joined up in January 1918 and was sent to the 12th (TW) battalion, Bedfordshire regiment. This battalion operated as a training and administration unit.

He was transferred to the Labour Corps on 6th March but discharged from the Bedfordshires on 4 September 1918. The medical record states he was rated C3, the lowest level of fitness, and was unfit for duty because of his deformed legs, arms and feet. He'd spent 18 months in the army and was discharged without any compensation as his injuries had neither arisen nor been made worse by his military service.

John Charles got married in 1919 and later lived in Corby.

There is a post script to his story. In 1940, 26 years after he was injured, John Charles sued Lord Brooke for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. At the time he was in Leicester Infirmary with osteoarthritis of the right hip, caused according to the doctors by the 1914 accident. A newspaper account on 28th June 1940 said Lord Brooke contested his claim but John Charles was victorious and was awarded his compensation. He died in 1982.

Continued...

George William Binley (1898 to 1978)

George enlisted in Kettering aged 17, giving his age as 19. He served in Mesopotamia (Iraq) during the War and re-enlisted in 1919 to serve there until 1922. He then moved to Australia where he married and had three children.

Corps	Royal Horse Artillery
Rank	Sergeant
Service No.	1025947, formerly 108397
Date/Place of entry	4th October 1915 Kettering
Date of death	1978



George William enlisted at Kettering on 4 October 1915, giving his age as 19 although in fact he was 17. At that stage of the war, 18 was the minimum age for enlistment unless you had previously joined the territorial force. On 12th January 1916 he joined the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA). Transfer documents give his rank as driver but there is no mention of which battery he was assigned to, or any further remarks. The RHA was responsible for light guns in support of the cavalry while the Royal Field Artillery dealt with heavier weapons. In 1914 each battery served one cavalry brigade. A battery comprised five officers, 200 men, six guns and 228 horses.

George William entered hospital in June of 1914; the record is difficult to read but it looks as if he was suffering from gripe, i.e. influenza. George recovered quickly and was hospitalised for only 12 days. Influenza was very common in the trenches and the deadly 1918 global pandemic known as Spanish Flu was in part inadvertently spread through military operations.

At some point in his career he was promoted to bombardier, the artillery equivalent to a corporal, and went to Mesopotamia. Other men from Cottingham and Middleton who served in Mesopotamia included **John Alfred Dunkley**, **Fred Jackson** who was in the RFA 14th Battery, and **Harry Beecroft**.

On 6th February 1919 George William's service with the RHA ended but he appears to have re-enlisted. His Royal Artillery Attestation documents state he was discharged on 31st March 1922 at Catterick, having served in Mesopotamia from 1917 including a stint in Baghdad. He held the rank of sergeant and his conduct was described as very good.

Four months later George William was on his way to Australia. On the 1st of August 1922 he embarked on an unassisted third class passage on the ship *Esperance Bay* from London to Sydney. He probably left Sydney quite quickly and headed 300 miles south west to the small but splendidly named town of Tumbarumba. He got married there on 30th May 1925 to Gwendoline Yates. Tumbarumba developed after gold was discovered in the area in the 1850s but agriculture and timber production were the dominant features in the local economy after 1930.

George and Gwendoline had children and moved to Sydney. They were on the electoral register for Parramatta in the northern suburbs of Sydney in 1930 and 1963. Parramatta was founded in 1788 and is the second oldest city in Australia. It was chosen by the British governor to be the site of a farm settlement to support the recently arrived First Fleet settlers, i.e. convicts, soldiers and civil servants. The sandy soils around Sydney were very poor and could not supply enough food. Nowadays it is one of the largest districts of Sydney and an important transport hub. George William died in 1978 aged 80.

Descendants of George William Binley

George and Gwendoline's son Edward married **Ann Beesworth** and therefore acquired interconnections to not just the Beesworths but to the Crane, Oliver and Booth families, all of whom had sons killed in action. Their 12th child Lewis, born in 1839 and also a wheelwright / carpenter, seems to have shared the bellicose tendencies of his eldest brother William during his youth and duly made an appearance in court a few times for the usual offences – drunk and disorderly at Shaw's House (a pub), brawling with neighbours Oliver (also a court regular) and Claypole.

Lewis had married Matilda Tansley in November 1862 and had five children. In 1881 he and his son Abraham, together with his younger brother Jeffrey and Jeffrey's son Lovel were working in the hamlet of Elmers End near Beckenham, then still a small Kent village. There was a lot of work for carpenters and joiners as houses were going up fast; the population of Beckenham shot up from 2,000 in 1850 to 26,000 in 1900. They were by no means the only men from Northamptonshire to be working there. The Binley males were listed in 1881 in Upper Elmers End road near the Rising Sun pub which they will doubtless have visited (it is still there but scheduled for demolition).

Continued...

In 1891 Lewis was back in Cottingham, in **Water Lane**, a couple of doors down from his brother Edward. He and Matilda were still there in 1901 when he was employed as an estate carpenter. He died in 1910, and Matilda in 1919. Their descendants include several servicemen: **Sidney George** and **Percy John Binley**, **John Frederick Panter**, **George William Panter**, **Wallace Edwin Panter**, and **Ernest Beeby**. Matilda's Tansley servicemen connections included men from the Claypole and Jackson families as well as several of the Tansley clan.

Matilda's younger sister Caroline Tansley married Lewis Binley's younger brother Jeffrey. Born in 1842, Jeffrey was a wheelwright and carpenter with business premises on Blind Lane from where he also sold beer. He and Caroline had seven children. The youngest daughter Laura married her relative David Tansley, and their youngest son Jeffrey married his cousin Amy Jackson of Middleton, who in the standard convoluted way was the daughter of John Jackson and Elisabeth nee Tansley, Matilda and Caroline's sister. Amy was sister of servicemen **David Jackson** and **Arthur Jackson**, and aunt to another, **Fred Jackson** (Fred was also my great uncle but let's ignore that as this is quite confusing enough already).

Other serving relatives

Other servicemen related to the Binley brothers are their uncle **Charles Stephen Binley** and second cousins **Sidney** and **Percy Binley** all of Cottingham, **John**, **George** and **Willis Panter** of Cottingham, **Ernest Beeby** and **Albert Gear** descended from Binleys of Cottingham; **Percy Augustine Binley**, **Wilfred**, **Bernard** and **George Frederick Binley**, and **William** and **Herbert Roddis** all descended from the Corby Binleys.

The Binley cousins in Corby also produced WW1 servicemen, including the only officer I have yet found for these pages. They are **William Augustine Roddis**, **Herbert James Henry Roddis**, **George Frederick Binley**, **Bernard Binley**, and **Percy Augustine Binley**. There may be others but records are inconclusive.

By the 1900s there were very few Binleys left in Corby. Thomas of Cottingham's nephew John was a blacksmith whose daughter Eleanor, born in 1875, was running a bricklaying business in Dag Lane, Corby in 1901. Head of the household, Eleanor was single (she later married) with two young sons and had her brother Alfred and uncle William, both blacksmiths, living with her. The deaths of her sons, Wilfred H.V. Binley and John Stanbury Binley, were recorded in Kettering district in 1918 and 1917 when they were in their late teens. Both would have been eligible for call up but there are no records – did they die following military service or were their deaths from natural causes?

I didn't research all the descendants of the Braybrooke family, but noticed that one of them was Alfred Binley of Leicester who was killed on 24 Sept 1918. He was a private in the 1/5 Battalion Leicestershire regiment as was John William Dolby Fisher, a nephew of Solomon Fisher of Cottingham, who was killed in action in 1917.

Sidney George Lewis and Percy George Binley

Fourth and sixth of 10 children born to Abraham and Mary Ann Binley (nee Langford)

Sidney George Binley was born in 1895 at Barnack and Percy John Binley was born on 28 June 1898. They were the fourth and sixth of 10 children born to Abraham Binley and his wife Mary Ann nee Langford, a shepherd's daughter from Southwick.

Abraham was a son of Lewis Binley and a grandson of Thomas Binley, the first of the family to settle in Cottingham. Unlike his father Lewis and elder brother John Lewis, who both worked as wheelwrights, Abraham was an ironstone labourer. Like them he had a brush with the law in his youth, appearing in court alongside John Bradshaw accused of assaulting a private in the Coldstream Guards. Such misdemeanours were of course commonplace. (By contrast, Abraham's brother John Lewis Binley was a seriously violent character, convicted of assault on several occasions including one in 1907 on his common-law wife, Carrie Townsin with whom he had five children. John had married Ada Bamford of Middleton in 1880 but she moved away to Leicester almost immediately. Family sources think he attacked her too, and may have done time in Bedford Gaol.)

At the time of enlisting, the family lived on **Rockingham Road** and later on **Water Lane**, close to the Rectory.

Sidney George Lewis Binley (1885 to 1979)

Sidney served throughout France in the Army Cyclist Corps, a unit that was principally employed in reconnaissance and communications but frequently took on other tasks such as trench digging and similar manual work.



Corps	Army Cyclist Corps
Rank	Private
Service No.	1161
Date/Place of entry	1915
Date of death	1979

In 1911, Sidney was a farmworker living with his parents and the youngest of five children. While his attestation record has not survived, his discharge papers have. They show he was a private in the Territorial Force 46th North Midland Divisional Cyclists Corps that landed at Le Havre on 28th February 1915.

The Army Cyclist Corps was formed late in 1914 but cycle units already existed, some of them created for the Territorial Force in 1908. Sidney George may have been serving in this capacity in the Leicestershire Regiment 5th (Territorial) Battalion but that is not yet proven.

Once the war began, each infantry division included a cyclist company. Cyclists were principally employed in reconnaissance and communications but frequently took on other tasks such as trench digging and similar manual work. They were fully armed and sometimes used as mobile firepower in support of the infantry. Cyclists were paid at the same rate as privates in the infantry regiments.

The War Diary of the 46th Division Cyclist Corps show how frequently those serving within it moved around. Between disembarking at Le Havre in February and the end of 1915 they operated over at least 22 towns and villages in the Ypres Salient / Pas de Calais. These included Merris near Armentieres, St Jans Cappel near Bailleul, Kemmel, Zillebeke – several men were injured here while laying cables - Bethune, Vermelles, and Calonne-sur-Lys. Almost every one of the 22 towns and villages has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery.

The Corps was also at the village of Le Paradis which was the site of a massacre in 1940 during the British retreat to Dunkirk. 99 soldiers of the Royal Norfolks who had lost touch with their regiment fought with the Waffen-SS there but had to surrender when they ran out of ammunition. They were immediately machine-gunned but two soldiers survived and were witnesses at the war crimes trial of the German commander who was executed in 1949.

Continued...

In late December 1915, the 46th Division marched south to Marseilles, embarking on the Beltana on the 5th January 1916 as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to Egypt. The ship put in briefly to Valletta harbour before continuing to Alexandria where the troops disembarked on the 12th. They pitched camp the following day at Shallufa 20 miles north of the militarised Suez Canal, a regular target for the Turkish army. On 31st January they transferred to Sidi Bishi camp. The Diary comments that repairs had to be made: 'training and adjustment to cycles to which considerable damage had been caused in transit.'

The whole episode proved pointless as the orders to go to Egypt were countermanded. On 4th February the 46th Division was back on the Alexandria quayside to embark for France on the transatlantic liner 'Minnewaska'. The ship put in to Marseilles on 9th February and the troops made their way back to the Pas de Calais.

The Division was billeted at Aubigny-en-Artois, a village some 15km north-west of Arras, when the decision was taken to form the XVIIIth Cyclists Battalion from the 46th, 25th and 51st Division Cycling Corps. Only four officers and 95 other ranks were deemed necessary for the new battalion.

Those not chosen were transferred to Surplus Personnel. Sidney George was among the latter. He was discharged at Nottingham on 6th May 1916 aged 22. His papers describe his character as 'very good...a clear, smart and efficient soldier'. What happened next is unclear. He was discharged to Cottingham presumably in good health as there is no mention of illness or disability on his discharge record. Was he recalled into a different regiment? Sidney George died in 1979 aged 84.

Percy John Binley (1898 to 1958)

Served aboard the HMS Achilles, which engaged in battle with the German ship SMS Leopard in 1917.

Corps	Royal Navy
Rank	Able Seaman
Service No.	J27416
Date/Place of entry	7 Sep 1913
Date of death	1958



HMS Achilles

Percy John Binley joined the navy as a ship's boy class II in September 1913, and spent his first year on training ships. Until the middle of July 1914 he was on **HMS Ganges** at the Royal Naval Training Establishment at Shotley, to the south of Ipswich. There followed a fortnight on HMS Crescent of the Queenstown Training Squadron where he was classified ships boy class 1. He joined **HMS Achilles** as an able seaman on 30th October 1914. His surviving records suggest he was on the Achilles throughout the war, transferring onto HMS Vernon on 16th December 1918.

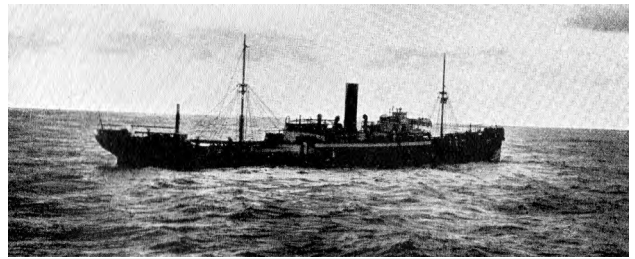
HMS Achilles was a recently built Warrior-class armoured cruiser, a member of the second cruiser squadron for most of the war. The ship did not take part in the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 as she was being refitted and spent the autumn with three other armoured cruisers on patrol in the North Sea, between the approaches to Pentland Firth and Hardangerfjord in Norway.

On 16th March 1917 HMS Achilles and the armed boarding steamer HMS Dundee sighted the German commerce raider Leopard several miles off the Faeroes. The Leopard was previously a British ship, the SS Yarrowdale, which had been captured the previous December. According to the official naval despatch she was carrying a heavy torpedo armament and intended to torpedo the British ships. The Leopard was overhauled at 2.00p.m. and obeyed an order to stop. She was ordered to steer west by south then stopped again to allow a party from the Dundee to examine her. At this point HMS Achilles was manoeuvring about 2.5 miles away.

The Dundee sent out a boarding party, one officer and five men. Their boat was alongside the Leopard when the two ships started to fire at one another. The Achilles began firing on the Leopard from a range of 5,300 yards. Fire broke out on the enemy ship, probably from a hit by the Dundee. The German raider fired a torpedo at the Achilles, but was then hit in the bows by one from the Achilles.

Continued...

By 4.20pm the Dundee had taken station astern of the Achilles. The Leopard was still on fire when the Dundee reported (probably incorrectly) seeing a submarine approaching her. Firing began again and within minutes the Leopard sank in flames and went down with all hands. Also dead were the Dundee's boarding party. Alphabetical order had decided the fate of the dead seamen, four of whom were named Anderson, and the fifth Birchall.



German commerce raider SMS Leopard

HMS Achilles became a training ship in 1918 and on 16th December of that year Percy John was sent to **HMS Vernon** and stayed until November 1919. HMS Vernon was a Royal Navy shore establishment – they were termed 'stone frigates'. The ship was chosen at the start of the war to carry out torpedo trials and to train new recruits. It remained operational until 1996.

Percy John moved on to another 'stone frigate' **HMS Victory** in November 1919. Nelson's flagship was in a desperate state of disrepair by then. A couple of years later the Save the Victory campaign would start, led by shipbuilder Sir James Caird.

For the next 18 months Percy John was back at sea on **HMS Caledon**, a C-class light cruiser built by Cammell Laird and launched on 25 November 1916. In August 1921 he transferred to HMS Curacao. The Curacao was the same class of light cruiser as the Caledon and was part of the First Light Cruiser Squadron of the Atlantic Fleet. (In 1935 Curacao was featured in the film 'Brown on Resolution'. In October 1942 to north of Ireland she was escorting the Queen Mary, which had 10,000 American troops aboard. The Queen Mary accidentally struck the Curacao at speed and she sank in six minutes. Less than a third of the Curacao's crew survived.)

From May to September 1922 Percy John was again ashore on HMS Vernon, then on Victory I until June 1925. For the next 12 months he was on **HMS Barham**, a Queen Elizabeth class battleship which had been the flagship of the Fifth Battle Squadron at the Battle of Jutland. In 1920 she was made flagship of the First Battle Squadron of the Atlantic Fleet before joining the Mediterranean Fleet in 1924. According to some sources she was sent to Lancashire during the 1926 general strike to land food supplies.

Percy John moved on to **HMS Malaya**, another Queen Elizabeth class battleship, on 15th September 1925 then briefly to her sister ship **HMS Warspite** in the following June. Warspite became the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet but by then Percy was on HMS Assistance (Crescent Moon), a repair ship. Between August 1926 and November 1928 he was on HMS Warspite. He transferred onto Victory I and left the navy on 28th November 1928.

Percy John Binley died in 1958.

Other serving relatives

Other Binley servicemen to whom the brothers were related are **Charles, George, and John Binley** of Cottingham, **John, George and Willis Panter** of Cottingham, **Albert Gear and Ernest Beeby** descended from Cottingham; **Wilfred, Bernard and George**

John William, Luther Essex and Percy Evans Bottrill

Samuel Evans Bottrill of Broughton and Mary Bottrill (nee Essex) of Rothwell married in 1875. They had three sons:

- John William Bottrill, born in Middleton on 8th November 1880 and baptised in Rothwell on 17th April 1881.
- Luther Essex Bottrill, born in Middleton on 29th March 1896
- Percy Evans Bottrill, born in Middleton in 1887

In the 1881 Census, Samuel and Mary were living in **High Street, Middleton** with John William and daughters Alice Emily and Mildred Agnes. Also resident was a baker's assistant Joseph Smith of Great Easton. In 1891 they were living in **Main Street, Middleton** with children Alice Emily, Mildred Agnes, John William, Elizabeth, Percy Evans and Arthur. Samuel was a baker and grocer. Samuel died on 24th July 1929 and his wife Mary died in 1941.

John William Bottrill (1880 to 1957)

In 1901 John William Bottrill was living in East Haddon with his aunt Emma Parker and family. Emma's husband Frank was a baker and John was assisting in the business. By 1911 he was living in Burton Overy, Leicestershire working as a baker's assistant to Annie Cook.

He married Ethel Mary Etty Buttress of Hallaton in Broughton on 12th February 1918 and the couple had a son, Frank Douglas Bottrill, born in Medbourne in 1918. In the 1925 Kelly's Directory, John William Bottrill was listed as a grocer in Medbourne.

John served as a Gunner (238070) in the **Royal Field Artillery**.

The Northampton Mercury of 8th June 1917 ran a story regarding a recent Northamptonshire Military Tribunal session. Three bakers from Broughton were called to appear (Walter Toseland, Charles Kerly & **John W. Bottrill**). Walter Toseland's appeal was dismissed. In the case of Charles Kerly & John Bottrill they were left to decide which was to join up; if no agreement was reached then they both would be mobilised for war service.
Story subject to verification



In 1939 John and Ethel were still living in Medbourne and John was a grazier. He died in Rushton on 19th April 1957.

Luther Essex Bottrill (1896 to 1979)

By 1911 Luther was boarding in **The School House, Market Harborough** and was a schoolboy at the Grammar School under Headmaster Francis Hammond.

Luther served as a Private (7118) in the 2nd Battalion, **East Surrey Regiment**, arriving in France to serve on the Western Front on 27th April 1915. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 15th May 1919.

He married Mabel Annie Plummer of Derbyshire in Burton on Trent in 1924 and was still living there in 1939, working as a butcher's assistant.

Luther Essex Bottrill of Stapenhill Road, Burton on Trent died on 5th March 1979. His wife died on 9th July 1989 in Derby.



Percy Evans Bottrill (1887 to 1928)

In 1911, Percy was living in Main Street assisting his father in his bakery business. When he enlisted in 1916, his home address was the Post Office, Middleton.

Percy Evans Bottrill was deemed to be enlisted on 2nd March 1916 and was called up for service on 2nd March 1917. He first served as a Private (48391, 78157) in The **Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)** and was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France from 12th March 1917 to 5th November 1918.

He later served as a Private (78157) in the 436 Agricultural Company, Labour Corps (Northampton) prior to his discharge from the Army on 11th July 1919, being no longer physically fit for war service.

Percy married Hilda Annie Clarke in Lutterworth in 1925 and died on 31st December 1928 in Wellingborough Road, Northampton. His wife Hilda died on 27th July 1942 in Kent.



John Thomas Bradshaw

Wounded in the face while serving in France

John Thomas Bradshaw was born in Cottingham in 1879 to John and Anne Elizabeth Bradshaw (nee Tansley). John and Annie married on 5th August 1878.

In 1881, John and Annie were living in the house on the corner of **Corby Road, Cottingham** (now Crossbank House) with their children John Thomas and Charles.

By 1891 they had moved to **Dag Lane (now School Lane)**. Both John Bradshaw and his son John Thomas were agricultural labourers. With John and Annie were their children John, Charles, Alfred, Thomas, Annie and James.



In 1901 the family were still in Cottingham although John Thomas Bradshaw was not present during the Census. John, Charles, Alfred and Thomas were all agricultural labourers.

John Thomas Bradshaw married Annie Stubbs in Cottesmore on 23rd May 1910. Annie Stubbs (nee Sharpe) had previously been married to Thomas Stubbs of Barrowden. Annie and Thomas had four children Thomas James, Harriett Annie, Sylvia Fanny and Ida Mary.

In 1911 John and Annie Bradshaw were living in Cottesmore with Annie's four children. Also lodging with the family was John's brother Thomas Henry Bradshaw. Both John and Thomas were employed as ironstone labourers. Annie's eldest child Thomas James Stubbs was a part-time grocer's errand boy.

Military History

John Thomas Bradshaw attested for the Army on 1st September 1914 in Oakham. He initially served as a Private (12275) in the **Leicestershire Regiment**. His longest posting was with the 7th Battalion (05.09.14 – 04.09.16).

John Thomas Bradshaw was wounded in the face in July 1916. He had been in France with the 7th Battalion since 29th July 1915. He was returned to the UK on 10th July 1916 and hospitalised.



He was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment on 4th September 1916. John then spent time with both the 14th and 82nd Training Reserve Battalions before being transferred to the 3rd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment on 5th December 1917.

On 1st March 1918 he was transferred to the Labour Corps (534676) where he remained until his demobilisation. His final posting was with 511 Company.

On 22nd March 1919 John Bradshaw was transferred to the Army Reserve.

Francis Dudley Chamberlain (1890 to 1935)

The Chamberlains were an affluent Cottingham family and business owners. Francis, a qualified and skilled surveyor, was discharged from the Army in 1917 suffering from kidney stones.

Francis Dudley Chamberlain was born in Cottingham on 7th July 1890 to Ernest Alfred Chamberlain of Cottingham and Katherine Sarah Chamberlain (nee Eames) of Great Oxendon. Ernest & Katherine were married in 1889.

In 1891 Ernest, Katherine and their son Francis Dudley were living in **Church Street, Cottingham**. Ernest Chamberlain was a baker.

In 1894 Francis was briefly enrolled at Great Oxendon School (23rd April – 4th June 1894) where he was visiting before returning to Cottingham. The school record indicates that he was readmitted on 4th March 1895 but gives no indication as to his length of stay on that occasion.

In 1901 Ernest, Katherine and their children Francis Dudley, Winifred, Percy John (b. 1893) & Neville George (b. 1896) were still resident in Cottingham.

In 1911 Francis [Frank] Chamberlain was a boarder in Wheat Street, Nuneaton. He was boarding with Arthur Arnold & family. Arthur was an engine driver for London & North West Railway. Francis was employed as an architect's pupil. In 1915 he was resident in Bond Street, Nuneaton. Prior to his enlistment Francis worked as a **surveyor for Northamptonshire County Council**.

On his discharge from the Army in June 1917 he resided in St. James Park Road, Northampton. He married Maud Ethel Walker in 1920 and died on 12th October 1935. In 1939 his widow Maud Chamberlain was still resident in Glasgow Street, Northampton with their children.

Francis Chamberlain's father died in 1925 and his mother in 1950.

Military Service

Francis Dudley Chamberlain served as a Sapper (3150, 526231) in the 2nd/3rd **East Anglian Royal Engineers**. He enlisted on 20th September 1915 in Northampton. His civilian occupation was surveyor.



Francis was to serve in the 489th Reserve Field Company, Royal Engineers. Unfortunately he suffered with bad health during his war service and was diagnosed with having stones in both kidneys. From 7th – 31st May 1916 Francis was a patient at Maidenhead Hospital before being transferred to The Duchess of Connaught, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, Buckinghamshire. Francis was in Taplow until 29th June 1916 recovering from the removal of his kidney stones.

Francis appeared before a Medical Board in June 1917 and was discharged from the Army on 29th June 1917 in Chatham being no longer physically fit for war service. His service record shows that his skills as a surveyor were praised by his officers.



Dennis Rowland and George Ernest Claypole

Dennis Rowland Claypole was born in Middleton in 1898 and his brother George Ernest on 4th January 1900 to Edward and Ada Sarah Claypole (nee Freestone). In 1901, the family was living in **Main Street, Middleton** and Edward was a fitter at the Cottingham clothing factory.

Ada Sarah died in 1904 and, in 1906, Edward remarried Sarah Elizabeth Gray of Wales.

Dennis Claypole (1915 to 1964)



In 1915, Dennis was resident in The Nook, Cottingham and was a farm labourer.

He attested on 10th December 1915 and was engaged in war work with the 52nd Squadron Reserve based in Market Harborough. He joined the Army in Northampton on 28th September 1916 and was initially posted as a Private

(27975) in the 3rd Battalion, **Northamptonshire Regiment** on 30th September 1916.



Dennis served as a Private (242412) in "A" Company, 2/6th Battalion, **South Staffordshire Regiment**. He was posted to the 2/6th Battalion on 25th October 1916 and served in France from 26th February 1917, landing in Le Havre. He was posted to the 8th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment on 23rd September 1917, then posted to the 7th Battalion on 1st May 1918. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 31st March 1919.



Dennis married Constance May Coles in 1921 and died in Rugby in 1964. His wife Constance died in 1976.

George Claypole (1918 to 1972)

When George attested on 17th April 1918 he was employed as an ironstone labourer.

George joined the Army in Northampton on 18th April 1918, initially serving as a Private (53777) in 1st Battalion, **Cambridgeshire Regiment**. On 21st November 1918 he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, **Suffolk Regiment**. On 28th July 1919 he was posted to "C" Company, 2nd Battalion.

He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 27th November 1919.



George married Caroline Lambert in 1924 and, in 1939, the couple were living in Drayton, Market Harborough. He died in 1972.

Stephen Tansley Claypole (1889 to 1963)

Stephen Tansley Claypole was born in Cottingham on 26th September 1889 to John and Mary Ann Claypole (nee Tansley) both of Cottingham. John married Mary on 18th January 1874.

John and Mary's first child William Claypole died in infancy in 1876. In 1891 John, Mary and their children John Henry, Arthur Thomas, Emily, William (b.1888) and Stephen Tansley were living in **Corby Road, Cottingham**. John was employed as an under gamekeeper. In 1901 the family were living on **Blind Lane, Cottingham**. John was now a farmer and his sons John Henry, Arthur and William were working with their father on the farm. By 1911 the family were living at **The Nook, Cottingham**. Only Stephen Tansley is registered at home with John and Mary during the census. Stephen was now working with his father.

At the time of Stephen's enlistment in the Army in 1913 the family were still living at The Nook.

Stephen's father John Claypole died in 1934. In 1939 Stephen Tansley Claypole was living at **Barrack Yard, Cottingham**. He was a general labourer. His mother widow Mary Ann Claypole was living with him. Stephen died in 1963.

Military Service

Stephen Tansley Claypole enlisted in Leicester on 19th May 1913. He initially served as a Private (1-9705) in the 1st Battalion, **Leicestershire Regiment**. He later served as a Private (201319) in the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

He embarked for France on 9th September 1914 landing on 12th September 1914 and serving in France until 5th December 1915. On 18th January 1916 He embarked from Devonport on the *HMT Megantic* for the Middle East to serve as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. He joined his unit in Sidi Bishr on 31st January 1916. He was in the Middle East until 30th October 1918 when he was posted to Salonika. He returned to the UK on 18th January 1919.

Stephen Tansley Claypole's service record indicates that he suffered from bad health throughout his years in the Army. It is recorded that he was in hospital in Ripon from 2nd August – 8th October 1919 suffering with malaria, which he obviously contracted whilst in Egypt.

It is believed that Private Stephen Tansley Claypole was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment on 17th March 1920. Stephen was transferred to the Army Reserve on 29th May 1920.

Stephen's younger brother William Claypole served in the 6th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. William was killed in Belgium on 15th November 1917.



When Stephen was abroad on active service at the end of 1914 he was presented with a Princess Mary Christmas Gift Box, that remains in the possession of the family to this day.



Stephen's medals which came back to the family in the past few years after Alan Craxford (Stephen's first cousin twice removed), spotted them for sale on Ebay!

Tom Cursley

A career soldier serving as a driver with the Royal Field Artillery, Tom was wounded in action and subsequently discharged from the army in Dec 1917

Tom Cursley was born in Cottingham in 1874 to Thomas Cursley of Middleton and Amelia Cursley (nee Atkins) of Braybrook. Thomas and Amelia married in 1865. In 1881 Thomas, Amelia and their children George, Henry, Clara, Tom and Arthur were living in **Water Lane, Cottingham**. Thomas Cursley was a domestic coachman.

Tom Cursley joined the Army on 26th October 1891 and served in the **Royal Field Artillery as a Driver** (87138). He had previously been employed as a groom.

On 22nd September 1893 he was transferred to the 31st Field Battery on his arrival for his first tour of duty in India and was briefly promoted to Acting Bombardier before reverting back to Driver in September 1897. On 1st October 1897 he was posted to the 24th Battery. He left India and arrived back in the UK on 5th October 1899. He was posted to the 97th Battery on 18th December 1899 and was promoted to Bombardier, then Corporal and eventually Sergeant on 1st February 1900. On 6th March 1900 Tom completed 12 years service. He was reduced to the rank of Driver on 11th March 1901 and on the 1901 Census, is boarding with Charles & Rebecca Capell and family in St. Mary's Road, Great Bowden, listed as a "Driver 97th Battery RFA".

Tom began his second tour in India on 6th March 1903 with the 1st Battery RFA, returning to the UK on 24th November 1906. He was discharged from the Army after 15 years service on 26th November 1906.

In 1911 Tom Cursley, Mary Elizabeth Bott and their daughter Linda were living in Mill Street, Melton Mowbray with Mary's mother Mary. Tom Cursley was again employed as a domestic groom. Tom and Mary had a son Thomas Edward born in 1911 and another son Samuel George in 1912. In the 1920s Tom Cursley and Mary Bott were still living in Mill Street, Melton Mowbray.

Tom Cursley's sister Clara died in 1910, his brother George died in 1911, brother Henry in 1918 and his mother Amelia died in 1920.

War Military History

Tom Cursley re-enlisted in Melton Mowbray with the Royal Field Artillery on 24th August 1914. and was again to serve as a Driver (90555). He was posted to the 1st Division and on 1st September 1914 was posted to the 3rd Reserve Battery.



He arrived in France on 15th September 1914 and was posted to the 46th Battery until 23rd July 1916 when he arrived back in the UK and was posted to the 5th Reserve Brigade. There is reference to Tom being wounded in action on 17th July 1916, probably resulting in his return to the UK, but exact details are currently unknown.

On the 20th December 1916 Tom was transferred to the Army Reserve. He was recalled for duty on 7th November 1917 but was discharged on 1st December 1917 deemed physically unfit for war service. Tom's Silver War Badge number was 274831.

Sidney Hatfield Evans

Born in London, Sidney served in Egypt and took part in the Gallipoli campaign. He returned to Cottingham after the War but left for Australia in 1928.

Sidney Hatfield Evans was born on 3rd June 1898 in Marylebone, London to Sidney Harold Evans and Emily Evans (nee Hatfield) from Pipewell. Sidney & Emily married on 5th August 1897 in Kensington & Chelsea.

In 1901 Sidney, Emily and their son Sidney Hatfield were living in London. Sidney Harold Evans was a police constable. Sidney's father Sidney Harold Hatfield died in 1906 and, in 1911, Sidney was living in **High Street, Cottingham** with his grandmother Sarah Hatfield and Aunt Fanny Hatfield.

When Sidney attested for the Army he was still living in Cottingham, working as a silk spinner. After the war, Sidney returned to Cottingham but on 2nd October 1928 Sidney Hatfield Evans (farmer) and his wife May Evans sailed on the *Moreton Bay* from London to Fremantle, Western Australia.

Military Service

Sidney Hatfield Evans attested in Kettering on 12th June 1916. Initially he was a Private (TR/9/10161) in the 27th Training Reserve Battalion. He was mobilised for war service on 30th January 1917 and served as a Private (45497) in the **Suffolk Regiment**. Initially he was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion on 1st May 1917.

Sidney was in a military hospital at Dovercourt (21st April - 4th May 1917) with measles.

On 19th July 1917 he sailed from Southampton arriving in **Alexandria, Egypt** on 4th August 1917 and was posted to the 1/5th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The 1/5th Battalion was formed in August 1914 in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. It was part of the Norfolk & Suffolk Brigade, East Anglian Division. In May 1915 it was renamed as the 153rd Brigade of the 54th (East Anglian) Division. In July 1915 the Battalion sailed from Liverpool to Gallipoli. After serving in the **Gallipoli campaign** the Battalion was evacuated in December 1915 and taken to Alexandria. The Battalion was to serve in Egypt and Palestine for the remainder of the war.

Sidney joined his battalion in the field on 21st August 1917. He was attached to a transport unit at Deir Sineid from 4th – 17th December 1917 before re-joining his battalion. He embarked in Alexandria on 8th October 1919 on the HMT Teutonic for the journey back to the UK, arriving at Devonport on 4th November 1919.

He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 30th December 1919.



Edward Harrison (1890 to 1986)

Ted served his full term of 5 years and 6 days in the Army, before returning to Cottingham



Edward (Ted) Harrison was born in Great Casterton, Lincolnshire on 6th November 1890 to John Richard Harrison and Mary Elizabeth Harrison (nee Osborne) both of Stamford. John & Mary married in 1881.

In 1891 the family was living in Great Casterton and John Harrison was a groom. In 1901 the family were living in Church Street, Farcet and John was a farm labourer. With John & Mary were their children Emma, Edward, Thomas, Annie, Mildred, George & Alfred.

When Ted enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment in 1911 he had been resident in Cottingham for over two years. He gave his next of kin as his father John Harrison, resident of Dingley. The 1911 Census has an Edward Harrison, a furnace worker, **lodging with John James Tilley and family in Cottingham.**

Ted married a local girl Lilian Emma Tansley in Cottingham on 15th June 1912 and the couple had a number of children. Their first child was John Harrison born in 1913 and their second son, born in 1916, was christened Verdun Cologne Harrison, reflecting Edward's wartime service; his son was colloquially known as "Jimmy".

In 1939 Ted, Lilian and family were living in Cottingham and Ted was a labourer at the ironstone works. Lilian died in 1939, Ted's father John Harrison died in 1945 and Ted himself died in Corby in 1986 aged 95.

Military Service

Edward Harrison enlisted in Uppingham on 10th March 1911 and was mobilised for war service on 5th August 1914 serving as a Private (1116) in the 1/5th Battalion, **Leicestershire Regiment**. "B" Company.

He served in the British Expeditionary Force arriving in France (Le Havre) on 28th February 1915 and returned to the UK on 8th March 1916.

Ted was discharged from the Army in Loughborough on 16th March 1916 having fulfilled his term of engagement (5 years 6 days) and returned to Cottingham.



John Ambrose Hartshorne

Served with the Royal Navy and Royal Naval Air Service

John Ambrose Hartshorne was born on 5th November 1876. Some documentation gives his birthplace as Weston by Welland; his enlistment papers give it as Middleton. His sister Annie Mary Hartshorne was born in Middleton.

John's mother was Mary Ann Hartshorne of Leicester.

In 1881 John Ambrose Hartshorne was staying with his uncle and aunt (Joseph & Mary Smith) at their home in Market Bosworth. John Smith was a master butcher.

In 1901 John's sister Annie Mary Hartshorne (b. Middleton) was employed as a domestic cook for John & Anne Oak of Knighton Drive, Leicester.

In 1911 widow Mary Ann Hartshorne was living in Lytton Road, Leicester with her daughter Annie Mary (sick nurse) and son John Ambrose (retired butcher).

When John enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1917 he gave his civilian occupation as Commission Agent, his next of kin as his mother Mary Ann Hartshorne of Lytton Road, Leicester and his birthplace as Middleton nr. Market Harborough.

In 1939 John Ambrose Hartshorne was still resident in Lytton Road, Leicester. He was employed as a Turf Accountant (bookmaker).

John Ambrose Hartshorne died on 16th December 1953 in The Royal Infirmary, Leicester.

Military Service

John enlisted in the **Royal Navy** on 5th December 1917. His service number was F42951.

John was to serve in the **Royal Naval Air Service** (RNAS).

On 1st April 1918 with the creation of the Royal Air Force, John was transferred into the new service. John served as a Private (242951). His classification was 'labourer'.

John Ambrose Hartshorne was transferred to the RAF Reserve on 27th June 1919. He was deemed discharged from the service on 30th April 1920.

John Herbert Haynes

The Haynes family moved to Burton on Trent before the War and John worked as a waggoner. John enlisted on several occasions from 1904 to 1919, when there is a record of a John H Haynes deserting from the Military Foot Police.

John Herbert Haynes was born in Cottingham in 1886 to John Haynes of Polebrook and Annie Maria Haynes (nee Chamberlain) of Cottingham. John and Annie married in 1883. In 1891 John and Annie were living in Mansfield and John was a journeyman baker. With John and Annie were their children John and Kathleen both born in Cottingham.

John's mother died in Birmingham in 1895 and, in 1897, his father remarried to widow Hannah Hoar in Warwickshire. By 1901 the family had moved to Burton-on-Trent and John Haynes was a coal deliverer. With John and Hannah were their children John Herbert, Florence, Olive and Kathleen.

On 1st February 1904 John attested for the Army in Burton-on-Trent and joined on 3rd February 1904 in Lichfield. He was to serve as a Private (8169) in the 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers. His service record indicates that he had previously been in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, North Staffordshire Reserves. He was transferred to the Army Reserves on 31st January 1907.

John married Ellen Violet Gretton of Burton-on-Trent on 4th February 1907 and, in 1911, the couple were living in John Street, Burton-on-Trent. John was a 'general carter'. His father and stepmother were living in Queen Street, Burton-on-Trent and John was a 'co-operative waggoner' working in the grocery trade. With John and Hannah were their children Olive, Kitty (Kathleen), Mary and Arthur.

John Herbert and Ellen had a daughter in 1912 Dorothy May Haynes. Unfortunately Dorothy died in 1927. The couple had a son Ronald Bert Haynes born in 1915. There is reference to a Ronald B. Haynes (b. 18.04.15) being resident in Jersey in 1940 during the German occupation of the Channel Islands.

War Military Service

John Herbert Haynes was mobilised in Wrexham on 5th August 1914 and he joined the 3rd Battalion, **Royal Welch Fusiliers**. On 11th September 1914 he left for France, joining the 2nd Battalion on his arrival. On 10th November 1914 he was transferred to the 1st Battalion. He returned to the UK on 14th June 1915 and was transferred back to the 3rd Battalion.



John's second tour in France commenced on 30th September 1915 where he re-joined the 1st Battalion. During the period 14th June – 5th September 1916, John was promoted to Acting Sergeant.

John's service record indicates that he suffered an injury to his arm and thigh on 2nd September 1916 and was transferred back to the UK on 7th September 1916. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 27th March 1917 but re-joined the 4th Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers on 5th May 1918. On 15th July 1918, he was transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). His new service number was 108085 and his service record gives his home address as Hyde, Cheshire and his civilian occupation railway labourer.

John served with the 3rd Training Battalion, RAMC in Blackpool but, on 6th November 1918, was discharged from the Army being no longer physically fit for war service.

There is reference to a John H. Haynes enlisting in the Military Foot Police in Chester on 23rd August 1919. His civilian occupation was postman. Unfortunately, this John H. Haynes deserted in Manchester on 5th September 1919. In John's service record there is more than one reference to John often being reluctant to return to duty and finding himself the wrong side of military regulations.

John Durban Hobbs

Son of Royal George landlord Andrew Hobbs

John Durban Hobbs was born in Cottingham on 5th November 1899. His father was Andrew Hobbs of Cottingham, his mother Sarah Bradshaw Hobbs from Little Harrowden. John and Sarah were married in 1897.

In 1901 Andrew and Sarah were living with their children Wallace Henry and John Durban in **Corby Road, Cottingham**.

In the 1906 Kelly's Directory, Andrew Hobbs is listed as publican of the **Royal George** public house and John is listed as a farmer.

In 1911 the family were living in the Manor House, Cottingham. Children Wallace, John, Dorothy and David were at school. Geraldine Jackson a schoolteacher was boarding with the family.

Military Service

John Durban Hobbs was deemed enlisted into the Army on 5th December 1917. He was mobilised on 7th May 1918. He served as a Private (186670) in the 12th (Reserve) Battalion, **Machine Gun Corps**. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 10th December 1919.



DIRECTOR.		NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. CRANFORD ST. ANDREW. 59	
<p>cleared at 8.30 a.m. & 5.30 p.m. week days only. Postal Orders are issued here, but not paid. Cottingham, 1 mile distant, is the nearest money order & telegraph office</p> <p>Schools.</p> <p>National (mixed), built in 1856, for 120 children; average</p>		<p>attendance, 84; Thomas Beecroft, master. There is a house for the master</p> <p>Infants', built in 1870, for 92 children; average attendance, 70; Miss Wilcox, mistress</p> <p>Carriers.—Thomas Claypole, to Market Harborough, Tues. & Sat.; to Kettering, Fri.; & Arthur Minn., to Kettering, Fri. & Market Harborough, Tues.</p>	
<p>COTTINGHAM.</p> <p>Gutteridge Mrs</p> <p>Langston Rev. Earle Augustus M.A. (rector)</p> <p>Mansel Colonel C. Grenville, Bury ho</p> <p>Pery Miss, White house</p> <p>COMMERCIAL.</p> <p>Aldwinckle Mary Eliza. (Mrs.), baker</p> <p>Atkins George, miller (wind)</p> <p>Bindley Geoffrey, carpenter & grocer</p> <p>Bradshaw Alfred, farmer</p> <p>Bradshaw Mary (Mrs.), farmer</p> <p>Buswell Alfred H. Crown inn p.m</p> <p>Chamberlain Ernest Alfred, baker</p> <p>Chamberlain Jn. Hy. gro. Post office</p> <p>Cooper Elijah, hairdresser</p> <p>Cross William, gardener</p> <p>Domus Henry, shopkeeper</p> <p>Gutteridge Mary (Miss), draper</p> <p>Hobbs Andrew, Royal George p.m</p> <p>Hobbs John, farmer</p> <p>Ingram Jesse, tailor & assistant over-seer</p> <p>Jarman Charles, chimney sweeper</p>		<p>Oddfellows' Hall (Thomas Henry Blissett, sec)</p> <p>Patrick John, Spread Eagle p.m</p> <p>Peach Charles, butcher</p> <p>Reading Room (Thos. Beecroft, sec)</p> <p>Reynolds Betsey (Mrs.), & Son, frms</p> <p>Simpson Christopher, mason</p> <p>Simpson Francis, market gardener</p> <p>Simpson John, mason</p> <p>Spriggs John, farmer</p> <p>Sturman John, shoe maker</p> <p>Tulley James, Three Horeshoes p.m</p> <p>Wallis & Linnell, clothing m.m.mfrs</p> <p>MIDDLETON.</p> <p>Adeock Harold</p> <p>Addison Jeremiah</p> <p>Burgess Henry J.P.</p> <p>Grenyer Rev. Charles (Congregational)</p> <p>Hatfield Mrs</p> <p>Jones Miss</p> <p>COMMERCIAL.</p> <p>Adeock Harold, surgeon, & medical officer, Corby dist. Kettering union</p> <p>Aldwinckle William, farmer & grazier</p> <p>Bayes George, Red Lion p.m</p> <p>Berry Charles, farmer & grazier</p> <p>Bottrill Samuel, shopkeeper, baker & Post office</p> <p>Briggs Robert, shopkeeper</p> <p>Burgess Henry J.P. farmer & grazier</p> <p>Buswell Elizabeth (Miss), gro. & drpr</p> <p>Carter Joseph Dixie, Woolpack p.m. & farmer</p> <p>Claypole John, farmer</p> <p>Curtis Tom, shoe maker</p> <p>Dexter Charles, rope maker & farmer</p> <p>Dexter Henry, farmer</p> <p>Dunkley John, carpenter</p> <p>Gibbons George, carpenter</p> <p>Horspool Mary (Mrs.), shopkeeper</p> <p>Johnson Arthur, painter & plumber</p> <p>Loake Henry, farmer, Jackdaw farm</p> <p>Shrive Fredk, farmer, Hill House frm</p> <p>Swingler Samuel, blacksmith</p> <p>Swingler Thomas, carpenter</p> <p>West Alfred, boot & shoe maker</p> <p>West Job, farmer, Middleton lodge</p>	

Extract from 1903 Kelly's Directory showing John Hobbs as a farmer and his father Andrew Hobbs as publican at The Royal George

Edward Samuel Horsley (1874 to 1941)

Lived in Corby Road, Dag (School) Lane and Desborough

Edward Samuel Horsley was born in Cottingham on 2nd March 1874 to Samuel Horsley of Medbourne and Mary Horsley (nee Bull) of Cottingham. Samuel and Mary married in 1856.

In 1881 Samuel and Mary were living in **Corby Road, Cottingham** with their children Valentine, Louisa, Albert, Edward, Elizabeth and Ada. Samuel and his son Valentine were agricultural labourers. Samuel and Mary had four other children pre-dating Valentine - Alice, Emma, Esther and Mary Ann.

Edward's mother Mary Horsley died in 1885 and, in 1886, Samuel remarried Frances Foster. By 1891 the family had moved to **Dag Lane (now School Lane)**. With Samuel and Fanny were children Albert, Edward, Elizabeth, Ada and Edith. Samuel and Edward were both agricultural labourers, Albert was a mason's labourer whilst Elizabeth Horsley was a sewing machinist.

Edward's brother Valentine Horsley died in 1891 and his brother Albert Horsley married Ellen Coles in 1896.

Edward married Sarah Jane Chapman of Wilbarston in 1894 and, in 1901, the couple were living in Factory Road, Desborough with their children Sylvia May and Mary Elizabeth (twins) and youngest daughter Dorothy Ivy. Edward Horsley was an ironstone labourer.

By 1911 the family had moved to Station Road, Desborough. With Edward and Sarah were their children May, Lizzie, Ivy, Edward Kenneth, Phyllis Vera and Florrie. May Horsley was a machinist.

In 1939 Edward and Sarah were still living in Station Road and Edward was a builder's labourer. Edward died in 1941.

Military Service

Edward Samuel Horsley (M16224) served in the Royal Navy.

He first joined for service on 22nd October 1915 and left on 29th July 1919.

There is no record of Edward serving at sea except possibly in coastal defence.

Arthur Bates Inchley

Born in Middleton, Arthur later moved to Chipping Norton

Arthur Bates Inchley was born in Middleton on 18th September 1892 to George Bates Inchley from Horninghold and Sarah Inchley (nee Arnold). George and Sarah had married in 1878.

In 1901 George, Sarah and their children Grace, Jemima, Arthur, Ethel, Edith, Linda and Frederick were living in **School Hill, Middleton**. George Inchley was a cowman on a farm”

Arthur’s older brother Alfred William Inchley had already left home by 1901. In the 1911 Census Arthur Inchley was a visitor in Uppingham at the home of Thomas & Rose Smith and was a butcher’s assistant”

According to Electoral Rolls, Arthur was in Burrough in 1930 and Twyford in 1931.

In 1933, he married Margaret M. Prior in Chipping Norton and in 1939 the couple were still living in Oxfordshire with Arthur working as a farm carter”

He died in June 1975 in Chipping Norton.

Military Service

Arthur Bates Inchley served as a Gunner (35256, 1406622) in the **Royal Garrison Artillery**.

Arthur attested in Leicester on 25th May 1911. He was embodied on 11th November 1911. His civilian occupation was butcher.

Arthur’s service record has not survived. His period of service ended on 3rd June 1921. He was deemed discharged on 24th May 1923.

His home address was given as Fitzgerald Avenue, Barnes.

Arthur’s older brother Alfred William Inchley served as a Private (16871) in the 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment during the war. Alfred was killed in action on 28th October 1915.

John Henry Jarvis

Lived in Blind Lane and Chamberlains' Yard, Cottingham

John Henry Jarvis was born in Cottingham on 11th March 1885 to William Alfred Jarvis and Sarah Ann Jarvis (nee Foster) both from Cottingham. William and Sarah were married on 29th December 1881.

In 1891 William and Sarah were living in Cottingham with their children William Frederick, John Henry and Annie. William was a general labourer. In 1901 the family were living in **Blind Lane, Cottingham**. William and his two sons William Frederick and John Henry were all working as agricultural labourers. Annie Jarvis was working as a machinist in a clothing factory.

John married Edith Hannah Craythorne in Great Easton on 18th June 1907 and the couple had three children Gladys (1908), Reginald (1910) and David (1911) before the war.

In the 1911 Census the family were living in Alexandra Street, Kettering. John Henry Jarvis was a domestic gardener. When John Henry Jarvis attested in 1915; he was employed as a roadman by the County Council.

In 1939 John and Edith were living in Chamberlain's Yard, Kettering and John was a general labourer.

Military Service

John Henry Jarvis attested on 2nd December 1915 and was mobilised for active service on 31st May 1916. He served as a Private (30127), initially with the **Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)**. He was in the 29th Battalion from 2nd June 1916, then the 33rd Battalion from 31st March 1917.

On 28th April 1917 he was transferred to the **Labour Corps** (162755) and served in the 6th Labour Battalion.

He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 27th February 1919.



John James Kemshead (1887 to 1965)

Son of George Kemshead, innkeeper at The Three Horseshoes Inn. John married in Peterborough and later moved to Canada.

John James Kemshead was born in Cottingham in 1887 to George Kemshead of Wollaston and Mary Elizabeth Kemshead (nee Tilley) of Cottingham.

In 1891, his father George was innkeeper at the **Three Horseshoes Inn, Cottingham**. With George and Mary were their children George Albert (b. Bedfordshire), Rebecca and John James. By 1901 George was still an innkeeper, his son George Albert was working as a mason's labourer and John James was working on a farm.



High Street around 1911 with the Three Horseshoes pub sign in the distance

In 1911 the Kemshead family had moved to Easton on the Hill. George was working as a baker and shopkeeper assisted by wife Mary and daughter Ethel May, and John was working as an agricultural labourer.

John married Elizabeth Phillips in the Peterborough district in 1914 and, in 1919, John, Elizabeth and daughter Very May emigrated to **Canada** to join his parents and brother George Albert, who had already emigrated there. John's occupation at the time was an ironstone worker.

John died in Canada in 1965.

Military Service

John James Kemshead was to serve as a Private (255604) in the 2/1st Leicestershire Yeomanry. He enlisted on 10th February 1915 and was stationed in the UK throughout the war. At some point he was promoted to Acting Lance-Corporal.

He was discharged from the Army on 22nd January 1919. His Silver Badge No. was B104238.

His brother, George Albert Kemshead, served in the 111th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force from January 1916. George died in Canada in 1958.

Henry William and Frederick Albert and Lines

2nd and 3rd sons of Owen, a gardener at The Rectory, and Mary Lines (nee Scott)

Farm labourer Owen Lines of Chipping Norton and his wife Mary (nee Scott) of Handsworth, Staffordshire married on 29 August 1880. They moved around Northamptonshire in the 1890s before coming to **High Street, Cottingham** from Hallaton between 1898 and 1901, when Owen got a job as **gardener at The Rectory**.

Henry William (born Autumn 1886 near Banbury) was their fourth child and second son, and Frederick Albert (born 1892 in Cold Ashby) their sixth child and third son.

Henry William Lines (1886 to 1937)

Henry enlisted with the Leicestershires in 1904 and first served in France during the War, earning a Mark of Distinction to the 1914 Star Medal (Mons Star). He was then transferred to the Northamptonshires and served out the rest of the War in Egypt.

Corps	Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Regiments
Rank	Sergeant
Service No.	201308, formerly 7346
Date/Place of Entry	1st August 1914
Date of Death	1937



In 1901, Henry was working for a baker in Rothwell, along with George Thomas Jarvis of Cottingham. George went on to establish his own bakery there but Henry enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment on 24 May 1904 in Leicester, aged 18 years and seven months.

His army service record states he was then working in Birmingham as a bricklayer's labourer. It also gives his height as 5'5" and weight as 137 pounds (on transfer it said he was 5'7", which is either a testament to army food or more likely careless measuring). A few months later on 15 October, he joined the 2nd Battalion.

On 24 January 1906, he was pronounced fit for service in India but he transferred into 1st Battalion on 25 March, gaining a Good Conduct badge en route. He returned to the 2nd on 16 October that year and embarked for India, where he served in Belgaum (now Belagavi) in the state of Karnataka near the border with Goa and Maharashtra. He was then sent to Poona (now Pune) in Maharashtra and Bellary in 1910.

Belagavi is an ancient city in the foothills of the beautiful Western Ghats, some 500 kilometres from Bangalore. Its climate is generally pleasantly cool throughout the year, though monsoon rains from June through September can be unrelenting. There was a heavy British military presence there before the War, and it is a major base for the Indian army now.

Life in Belagavi as a common soldier in peacetime could be good, certainly better than in pre-WW1 Britain. Barracks were normally spacious with opportunities for sport and social activities, and some privates even had an Indian servant. The Hindustani word 'cushy' entered the English language in the early 1900s. Pune is on the semi-arid Deccan plateau, the second biggest city in the state of Maharashtra after Mumbai. At the turn of the century it saw a lot of political agitation. It was Britain's largest military cantonment during the Raj. Bellary in Karnataka state was the seventh largest town in Madras Presidency, and one of the chief military stations in southern India, garrisoned by British and native Indian troops.

During his time in India Henry committed a few minor misdemeanours, like just about every other soldier – 'using insubordinate language' (Belagavi), 'making an improper reply' and 'using obscene language' (Pune) 'being out of bounds and improperly dressed' (Bellary) and more interestingly 'taking two pairs of khaki trousers from another soldier without permission' in November 1911 (also at Bellary).

Continued...

In early October the 54th Division reached Haifa and was ordered to Beirut on 20 October. It moved through Acre, Ras es Naqura, Tyre and Sidon to reach Beirut at the end of the month. Turkey signed an Armistice on 31 October after which the 54th returned to Kantara in Egypt and then to Helmieh near Cairo. There was civil unrest in Cairo and before demobilisation got fully underway the 4th battalion were involved in suppressing riots.

Other local soldiers known to have served in India with the 2nd Leicestershires included **William James Tansley**, **David Tansley** (who had first joined a month before Henry and went to India a month before him) and **Sydney Thomas Tilley** from Cottingham, and **Arthur Towndrow** from Wilbarston.

Henry married Mabel Hannah Tansley in 1913. She was a daughter of George Tansley and Naomi nee Pridmore of Cottingham and related to several Tansley and Beadsworth servicemen. Her cousin **Samuel Ernest Tansley**, whose parents moved to London around 1901, died at Gallipoli in August 1915 while serving with the Royal Fusiliers. Her second cousin **William James Tansley** of Cottingham, like Henry a member of the 2nd Leicestershires, died at Neuve Chapelle on 13th March 1915, as did Arthur Towndrow's brother **Edwin (aka Edward) Towndrow**.

On 1st August 1914, now father of a baby daughter, Henry William rejoined his regiment, though this time he was assigned to the 1st Battalion. He embarked from Southampton for France where he arrived on 20 September. The 1st Battalion formed part of the 6th Division and came under fire immediately. It remained at the centre of the fighting throughout that autumn, though Henry was hospitalised with appendicitis from 31 October to 14 November. He was awarded the Mark of Distinction to the 1914 Star Medal along with other soldiers from the Division.

In March 1915 the 1st Battalion took part in an attack near Hoge which was intended to divert the enemy from the main attack at Neuve Chapelle. Henry however was back in hospital having been admitted on 28 February with ulcerated legs, returning to his battalion early in May. In late September 1916 he was again admitted, this time with multiple boils after which he was sent back to England to convalesce.

On 5th January 1917, he transferred into the 4th (Territorial) Battalion of the **Northamptonshire Regiment stationed in Egypt**. This battalion was part of the 54th (East Anglian) Division. It had earlier fought at Gallipoli from where its remaining 18 officers and 427 other ranks were sent to Alexandria just before Christmas 1916. They were briefly at Sidi Bishr before travelling on foot and by train to Hosh Isa in the western desert, returning to Sidi Bishr on 19 January. Just over a week later they were once again on the move, this time to Mena camp near Cairo where they stayed for two months.

Henry Lines was one of a complement of soldiers from the Leicestershire and Royal Warwickshire regiment, all of whom had seen active service in France and were sent out to make up the battalion's strength to 900. He embarked at Devonport for Egypt in January on HMT Megantic, a Canadian ocean liner briefly used as a troop ship in 1915 (*Dr Crippen was sent back from Canada on the Megantic before his trial for murder.*) Henry landed at Sidi Bishr and then went to Al Qantarash ash Sharqiyah (Kantara), the main supply depot for all British, Australian and New Zealand Sinai operations.

On 2 April the 54th Division moved to relieve the 42nd Division at Shallufa on Number One (Southern) Section of the Suez Canal defences. They spent the rest of the year at various posts of the Canal defences including Darb el Haj, Halfway House, and Kubri Railhead. Most of their time was spent improving defences but sometimes the division supplied men as part of columns moving into the hills towards Nekhyl, during which sporadic brushes with enemy posts took place.

The temperatures at the canal were as unbearable as you would expect – in May the regimental diary recorded 117 Fahrenheit in the shade and 122 in the tents though the highest temperature was 123 in the shade on 4 June. However substantial parties of men went in turn to Alexandria for a week's recuperation.

In autumn the 4th battalion Northamptonshires was one of several withdrawn from Suez to join T.E. Lawrence and the Arab forces near Mecca, but plans were changed and they returned to the Canal.

January 1917 was spent in training until the battalion left for Kantara on the 30th. Sixty men and one officer however remained at the advance base at Romani. The bulk of the battalion marched through the desert for twelve days before reaching Bela, south west of Gaza. Whether Henry was with them or still at Romani is not known but he was appointed unpaid lance corporal on 28 February.

In March he returned to Sidi Bishr, only rejoining his unit on 12 August. This presumably meant he took part in the Third Battle of Gaza which was fought from 27 October to 7 November, after which Gaza was captured, and the Battle of Jaffa on 21-22 December. Henry was promoted to sergeant at the end of the year.

Continued...

Active operations were halted during the winter months because heavy rain made supplying the troops extremely difficult. The battalion was at Mulebbis until March 1918 when it took part in an advance, largely unopposed, to the town of Mejdal Yarba in the western hills descending to the Jordan. Early in April it was in action in operations at Berukin. On 5 May Henry was again in hospital, but why and for how long is unknown.

In early October the 54th Division reached Haifa and was ordered to Beirut on 20 October. It moved through Acre, Ras es Naqura, Tyre and Sidon to reach Beirut at the end of the month. Turkey signed an Armistice on 31 October after which the 54th returned to Kantara in Egypt and then to Helmieh near Cairo. There was civil unrest in Cairo and before demobilisation got fully underway the 4th battalion were involved in suppressing riots.

Henry was demobilised on 8 February 1919. Army discharge documents then contained a form headed 'Particulars to character on discharge' and Henry got a Yes on Sobriety, Reliability, and (condescendingly) intelligence. He was further described as 'a particularly strong and active man' and had been 'Transport Corporal and Sergeant for a considerable time and had a thorough knowledge of horses and transport works.' Henry himself said his preferred occupation after discharge would be baker.

Henry and Mabel had four children. He died in 1937 aged 51 before the three youngest had reached their teens. Mabel died in 1977.

Frederick Albert Lines (1892 to 1965)

Fred's East Surrey battalion was one of the first to be sent to France in August 1914

Corps	East Surrey Regiment, 1st Battalion
Rank	17th (The Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers
Rank	Private
Service No.	L/11698, formerly GS/24136, 32500
Date/Place of entry	January 1914
Date of death	1965



Fred joined up in January 1914 and became a Private in the 1st battalion, East Surrey Regiment, which was one of the first to be sent to France that August. The battalion had been on duty in Dublin and landed at Le Havre on 15th August, part of the 14th Brigade in the 5th Division. Frederick therefore took part in the **Battle of Mons** and subsequent retreat, the **Battles of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois, the Marne, and the Aisne**. This last battle ended on 10 September and within weeks Fred transferred into a **cavalry regiment, the 17th (The Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers**.

His transfer may have been a result of the decision that autumn to replace a significant number of the 5th Division's units for soldiers from the newly arrived 32nd Division, a volunteer formation. The theory was that reinforcing the inexperienced newcomers with regular troops would strengthen the Division, even though many of the regulars, like Frederick, were themselves relatively recent recruits.

The 17th had been stationed in India as part of the 2nd (Sialkot) Cavalry Brigade of the 1st Indian Cavalry Division. It disembarked at Marseilles on 7 November 1914. Once arrived at the Western Front, despite being a cavalry regiment the 17th frequently found itself occupying the trenches alongside infantry troops. It would not be until the **Battle of Cambrai** late in 1917 – coincidentally the first time tanks were used on a large scale – that it was used in its traditional role. The 1st Indian Cavalry Division (renamed on 26 November 1916 as the 4th Cavalry Division) fought many engagements on the Western Front but had a principal role in the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line. After the Armistice was signed, the 17th Lancers joined the British Army of the Rhine in Cologne.



Frederick was discharged in 1919. In 1921 he married Ethel Faulkener and they had two daughters. He died in Wellingborough in 1965.

With thanks to Janice Binley of Cottingham for sharing her information on the Lines family, on which these accounts are partly based.

Serving relatives

Other than their brother **Owen George**, the only other members of his extended Lines family who can definitely be identified as servicemen are **Ernest Cowley**, son of his cousin Ernest Cowley (descended from Hannah Lines), and **Albert Bazeley, Edmond White Bazeley, Frank Walter Bazeley** and **Arthur Bazeley**, all second cousins on his grandmother Rhoda Lines nee Bazeley's side. On his mother's side was his cousin **William George Scott**.

Albert Oliver (1891)

Served as a gunner and driver with the Royal Field Artillery, seeing action in France, Greece and Egypt

Albert Oliver was born in Cottingham in 1891 to Solomon Oliver and Sarah Elizabeth Oliver (nee Beesworth). Solomon and Sarah had married in 1877. Solomon Oliver died in 1893.

In 1901 Sarah Oliver was living in Cottingham with her children George Beadsworth, Sarah, Ellen, Elizabeth, Harry and Albert. Sarah and Elizabeth were both machinists in a clothing factory. George was an estate labourer. Older brother Frederick Oliver had left home and joined the Army.

In 1911 Sarah was living with George, Harry and Albert. George was a groom, whilst Harry and Albert both worked as furnacemen.

Albert Oliver married May Archer in Chesterfield district on 19th September 1914. The couple had a daughter Eva born in August 1914.

Military Service

Albert Oliver enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment Special Reserve on 21st October 1908 when he was 17 years old and joined the regular Army on four occasions.

On 17th June 1909, he joined the **Northamptonshire Regiment**, giving his civilian occupation as groom. He served 198 days as a Private (9012) with the 2nd Battalion but was discharged on 31st December 1909 being deemed 'medically unfit for further service'.

On 23rd August 1914 he joined the **Royal Horse and Field Artillery** to serve as a Gunner (90215). He was at that time living near Chesterfield working as a general labourer. He was discharged after 54 days being deemed 'medically unfit'.

On 30th January 1915 he again joined the Royal Horse and Field Artillery in Glasgow. He was to serve as a Gunner then Driver (85015). His civilian occupation was given as furnaceman.

As a driver, Albert Oliver was to serve in three different theatres of the war. From May - September 1915 he was in France, from January - April 1916 in Egypt, from September 1916 - May 1918 in Salonika (Greece) and from September 1918 - early 1919 he was in France again.

Albert was transferred to the Army Reserve on 9th March 1919.

Albert's brother Frederick Oliver served as a Private in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment during the First World War. Frederick Oliver was killed in action on 25th April 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres.



George William, John Frederick and Wallace Edwin Panter

Sons of Frederick Panter, who ran the bakery at The Old Bakehouse on Corby Road

Frederick and Mary Elizabeth Panter (nee Binley), both of Cottingham married in 1883. George William was born on 22nd March 1894, John Frederick on 31st May 1887 and Wallace Edwin on 23rd July 1898. The couple also had two daughters, Elizabeth and Annie.

In 1901, Frederick Panter was a waggoner on a farm and John Frederick a clerk at the Wallis and Linnell clothing factory on Rockingham Road. In 1911 the family were living in **Corby Road, Cottingham where Frederick ran the bakery**, assisted by his wife Mary and son George William. Daughter Elizabeth was a machinist in the clothing factory where John Frederick continued in his role as a clerk. Also resident was a boarder, Frederick Chappell of Cottingham (journeyman plasterer) and Thomas Binley of Kettering (aged 3).

Mary Elizabeth Panter died in 1935 and Frederick Panter of The Bakehouse, Cottingham died on 5th September 1937.

George William 'Bill' Panter (1894 to 1944)

Gained temporary exemption from enlistment as he was essential to his father's bakery business and worked at the bakery after the War

Bill did serve during the First World War but the exact details of his war service are not currently known. On 31st October 1916 he appeared before the **Northamptonshire Military Tribunal** as an appeal against his call-up had been lodged on the basis that he was employed as a baker and his continued presence was stated to be 'essential to the business'. The outcome was a temporary exemption. A note states "man enlisted".

After the War, he worked for the family bakery on Corby Road, delivering bread. He was never the same after his War experiences, suffering from bouts of mental anguish. He is spoken of with affection by his family and those who knew him.

In 1939 he was living in **Water Lane, Cottingham** with his sister Elizabeth Chappell (nee Panter) and her husband Frederick Chappell (a plasterer). He died on 26th February 1944.

John Frederick Panter (1894 to 1944)

Able seaman, tailor and patrolmen at the Corby Steelworks

John Frederick Panter married Harriet Cannam in 1915 and the couple had two children Edwin (1916) & Gladys (1919).

He served as an Able Seaman (Bristol Z/5451) in the Royal Navy.

In 1937, he was employed as a tailor and in 1939, when living with Harriet and family in **Corby Road, Cottingham**, as a patrolman at Corby steelworks. His son Edwin was employed as an 'ironstone borer'. Also registered at the property was John Rodden a labourer at the steelworks.

John died in Kettering Hospital on 17th April 1953.

Wallace 'Wal' Edwin Panter (1898 to 1972)

Named his marital home in Sutton Bassett 'Glen Cross' after a ship he served on

During the War, Wal served as a Telegraphist (Bristol Z/5977) in the Royal Navy.

He married Ruby Jackson in 1935 and, in 1939, the couple were living in "Glen Cross", Sutton Bassett. Wallace Panter was a schoolteacher. Also resident was their daughter Elsa Panter (b.1937).

It is suggested that Wal named their home in the 1930s after a ship he served on *HMS Glencross*. *HMS Glencross* was an Auxiliary Paddle Minesweeper. The ship was built for the



John Frederick Panter (right) with his brother Wal



Philip Henry Rudkin

Was living in Middleton at his time of enlistment, but moved to Essex after the War, working for the Post Office

Philip Henry Rudkin was born in Harringworth on 27th February 1897 to Henry Rudkin of Harringworth and May Rudkin (nee Spinks) of Uppingham. Henry and May married in 1889.

Henry Rudkin had been married previously to Francis Elizabeth Crowson. They had married in 1862. Frances unfortunately died in 1876.

In 1901 Henry and May were living in Harringworth with their children Nora, Hilda Ann, Philip Henry and Abigail. Henry was a coal agent.

Philip's father Henry Rudkin died in 1908 and in 1911 his widow May Rudkin was still living in Harringworth with her children. Also resident was George Rudkin a relative of May's late husband. Philip Henry Rudkin was employed as a farm labourer.

May Rudkin remarried in 1913 to Robert Padley.

When Philip Henry Rudkin enlisted in 1915 he gave his home address as Middleton. He was employed in war work with 52 Squadron Remounts.

In 1920 Philip Henry Rudkin married Lilian M. Ridgwell in Orsett, Essex.

Also in 1920 Philip Rudkin was appointed to a position with the Post Office in Grays, Essex.

In 1939 Philip and Lilian were living in Rectory Road, Thurrock. Philip was employed as a Post Office Telephonist. Also resident was Amelia Ridgwell, May's mother.

Military Service

Philip Henry Rudkin attested on 10th December 1915 for the **Northamptonshire Regiment** and was transferred to the Army Reserve. Philip was mobilised for war service on 21st August 1916 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. He was to serve as a Private (27497).

Philip arrived in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force on 1st December 1916. The following day he was posted to the 2nd Battalion.

Philip served on the Western Front with the Northamptonshire Regiment until 14th October 1917. There is reference to him suffering a wound to his left thigh in October 1917 and he was transferred back to the UK.

He served briefly as a Private (642902) with the **Labour Corps** in 1918 and was transferred to **The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)** where he served as a Private (G/27988) from 23rd August 1919.



John Thomas Scott

Born in Cottingham, JT had moved to Leicester by 1901 to work in the boot and shoe trade. He served in Italy where he had a finger amputated after a cut turned septic.

John Thomas Scott was born in Cottingham to John Scott of Tadcaster, Yorkshire and Elizabeth Scott (nee Crane) of Cottingham. John Scott had been married previously to Mary Humphery (1851).

In 1881 John and Elizabeth were living in **Corby Road, Cottingham** with their children Minnie Crane, William Crane, Henry Crane, Alice Crane, Elizabeth Scott and John Thomas Scott. Elizabeth's mother Maria Crane was also resident. John Scott was a tailor. By 1891 John Scott was a foreman tailor in a factory. With John and Elizabeth were William, Henry, Elizabeth Scott and John Thomas Scott.

By 1901 John, Elizabeth and son John Thomas were living in Leicester. John Scott was still a tailor, whilst John Thomas was working in the boot trade. James Craxford of Cottingham was boarding with the family.

John Thomas' father died in 1901 and, in 1902, he married Mary Ann Johnson in Leicester. In 1911, John was a warehouseman in the boot trade, working for Messrs. Walker Kempson and Stevens Ltd. of Leicester and Higham Ferrers. The couple had five children – Reginald, Ernest, Harrington, Lily Annie Scott (1913) and Florence Scott (1916).

John Thomas' mother Elizabeth Scott (nee Crane) died in 1921.

In 1939 John Thomas, Mary and daughter Florence Armstrong (nee Scott) were living in Rodney Street, Leicester. John Thomas was still employed in the boot and shoe trade.

Military Service

John Thomas Scott enlisted on 9th May 1916 as a Private (39353) in the 1st Battalion, **South Staffordshire Regiment**. He was posted for duty in Wigston on 10th July 1917. Part of his service record has survived.

He served in Italy for 1 year 4 months. Whilst in Italy (2nd January 1919) he suffered an accident to his hand, a cut. It turned septic and he had to have his middle finger on his left hand amputated.

He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 17th April 1919. On discharge, his home address was Argyle Street, Leicester.

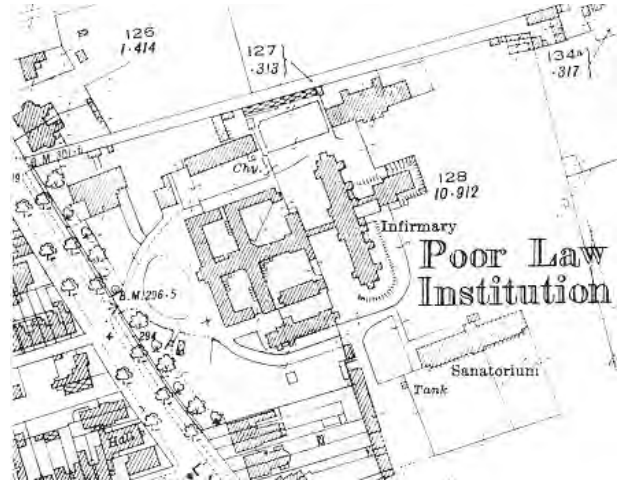


George Robert Stanyon

Born in Kettering Union Workhouse, George worked as a baker and served in the militia before the War, when he served in France with the Northamptonshire Regiment

George Robert Stanion was born in Kettering Union Workhouse abt. 1887 to Frances (Fanny) Stanyon of Middleton.

In 1881 Fanny was living in **The Townsend, Middleton** with her father John Stanyon, a retired agricultural labourer, and her children Edith, Sarah Ann and Thomas. In 1891 Fanny Stanyon was still living in The Townsend, Middleton with her two sons Thomas Henry and **George Robert**. Fanny was a washing and charwoman.



George's brother Thomas Henry Stanyon died in Middleton in 1891 aged 12 years and was buried on 1st January 1892.

In 1901 George is boarding in Wilbarston with the Veazey family. Joseph Veazey was a baker from Rutland, his wife Clara Veazey originally from Rothwell was the postmistress. With Clara were her three children Arthur James Marriott, Florence Marriott and Ethel Marriott. George Stanyon was employed as the errand boy. *Arthur James Marriott (b. Stanion) was to serve as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers in 1918.*

George Robert Stanyon married Elizabeth Sarah Yeomans (b. Braybrook) on 20th April 1908.

In 1911 George and Elizabeth were living with Elizabeth's mother Mary Yeomans in Desborough Road, Rothwell, with their two children Ada. The couple had another child Arthur George Stanyon in January 1915. John was employed as a baker.



In 1939, George's wife Sarah Elizabeth Stanyon was living in Spencer Street, Rothwell with her two sons Arthur (a motor mechanic) and John (a bus conductor). George's location is unclear from the 1939 Register location.

Military Service

George Stanyon served in the militia. He served as a Private (9066) in the 1st Volunteer Battalion, **Leicestershire Regiment** from 27th February 1905 to 9th January 1908.



From the 30th April 1908 to 29th April 1914 he served as a Private (690) in the 4th (Reserve) Battalion, **Northamptonshire Regiment**. When he attested in 1908 he was employed as a baker for Mr Jarvis of Rothwell and the family were living at Desborough Road.

During the First World War, George served as a Private (225103) in the 4th & 6th Battalions, Northamptonshire Regiment. He attested for the Army on 8th August 1914 when he was employed as a labourer with the Loddington Ironstone Company and the family were living in Market Street, Rothwell.

Continued...

From 8th August 1918 to 27th April 1918 he was serving with the 4th Battalion in the UK. He arrived in France on 28th April 1918 and was posted to the 6th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

On 18th September 1918 he suffered a shotgun wound to his right arm. Although not serious he was transferred back to the UK on 23rd September 1918 and spent a brief spell in the Edinburgh War Hospital. He was discharged from the Army on 29th May 1919.

Records show that Frances Stanyon (George's mother) married George Gibbons in 1899. George Gibbons was a carpenter. The Census of 1901 & 1911 show George and Frances living in School Hill, Middleton.

George Thomas and William Wilson Stokes

George Stokes of Oakham, a baker, married Elizabeth Stokes of Enderby and in 1881 the couple were living in **Church Street, Cottingham** with their children Harriett, **George Thomas (born 1879)** and **William Wilson (born 10th March 1881)**. By 1891 the family had moved to Main Road, Drayton and the couple also had another child, daughter Emma.

George Thomas Stokes

Worked on the railways, served in South Africa and Egypt

George Thomas was in the militia (4th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment), before joining the **Northamptonshire Regiment** on 5th October 1897 in Northampton. His civilian occupation at the time was listed as baker. On 7th January 1898 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion and served as a Private (5268).



George was posted to South Africa on 21st October 1899 and he fought in the South African War. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 28th February 1903, Corporal on 1st March 1903 and then Lance Sergeant on 18th March 1903. He returned to the UK on 27th May 1904, transferred to the Army Reserve on 5th October 1904 and was deemed discharged on 4th October 1909.

George Thomas Stokes had married Florence Roberts of Northampton in 1907. The couple had two daughters, Phyllis (1907) and Dorothy (1909), before George Thomas re-enlisted for a further 4 years on 22nd January 1910.

In 1911, the family was living in Ashley and George was a railway platelayer and, in 1913, a third daughter, Florence, was born in 1913. At the time of George's re-enlistment in 1915, the family were living in Medbourne and George was a railway signalman.

He was mobilised on 14th July 1915 as a Sapper (109081) with the Royal Engineers. On 15th July 1917 he was promoted to CSM, Sergeant Major (WR/290329) and was assigned to the Railway Operating Division. He left Southampton on 17th December 1917 bound for Alexandria as part of the **Egyptian Expeditionary Force**.

In October 1918 the family moved to **The School House, Ashley**. George was transferred to the Army Reserve on 27th March 1919.

Continued...

William Wilson Stokes (1881 to 1950)

Lived in Drayton and worked on the railways. William was promoted to Acting Corporal and then Sergeant during his War service.

By 1901, William was working as a farm labourer in Drayton.

On 10th September 1909, he married Elsie Harriet Beck in Birmingham and, in October 1911 while still living in Drayton the couple had a son, Harold Charles. William was now employed as a platelayer working for the L&NW Railway Company.

In 1939 William and Elsie were living in Market Harborough and William was still working on the railways.

He died on 8th January 1950 whilst in North Wales.

Military Service

William Wilson Stokes attested in Market Harborough on 3rd December 1915. He was a Sapper (149392) in the **Royal Engineers**. Initially he was in the Army Reserve but was mobilised on 4th January 1916.

William was posted to the Railway Troops Depot, Royal Engineers.

On 16th August 1916 he was appointed Acting Corporal and was promoted to Sergeant on 30th March 1917 with the Inland Water Transport Corps.

Sergeant William Wilson Stokes (WR/501802) was in France from 31st March 1917. He was eventually posted to No.1 Port Construction Company.

William was transferred to the Army Reserve on 4th April 1919.



Alfred and David Tansley

Two of eight children born to Benjamin and Caroline Tansley (nee Dolby) of Cottingham.
Four of the children sadly died before the War started. The two boys both married cousins.

Benjamin Tansley and Caroline Dolby, both of Cottingham, were married on 14th December 1866. In 1881, they were living with their five children Benjamin Jnr, Abdiel, **Alfred (born 1876)**, Harriet and **David (born 19th January 1879)** in **Corby Road, Cottingham**. Benjamin and son Benjamin Jnr were both agricultural labourers. The couple had three more sons John Henry (b.1882), Lovell (b.1885) and James (b.1888).

Alfred's mother Caroline Tansley died in 1888 and, in 1891, Benjamin was living in **Pinfold Bank, Cottingham** with children Alfred, David, John Henry, Lovell and James. Also resident was a lodger John Adkins. Benjamin and Alfred Tansley were agricultural labourers.

In 1901, Alfred had moved out but the rest of the family were living in **Dag Lane (now School Lane)**, Cottingham. Benjamin was employed as a hay trusser, David as an ironstone labourer and Lovell a labourer on a farm. A lodger John Bradshaw was also resident.

Sadly, brothers Abdiel and James both died in 1893. Harriet died in 1902 and Lovell was killed working in Rutland in early 1914, just before the start of the outbreak of War. Benjamin Tansley (father) died in 1906.

Alfred Tansley (1879 to 1926)

Alfred Tansley married his second cousin Alice Tansley in Cottingham on 24th September 1895. The couple had a son **James Henry Tansley** who was also to serve during the First World War in the Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment, along with two daughters, Elizabeth Alice (born 15th April 1896) and Harriet (born 21st June 1903). In 1901 and 1911, Alfred, Alice and the girls were living in **Pinfold Bank, Cottingham**. Alfred worked as an ironstone labourer and Alice as a machinist at the clothing factory.



Alfred first enlisted in the Army in September 1914 but was discharged on 15th December 1914 as being medically unfit. He enlisted again in September 1915 and initially served as a Private (20558) in the 8th Battalion, **Northamptonshire Regiment** (from 22nd September 1915).



On 1st September 1916 he was posted as a Private (IR/9/12256) to the 28th Training Reserve Battalion and on 30th September 1916 was posted as Private (G32102) to the 1st (Home Service) Garrison Battalion, **Middlesex Regiment**. From 2nd March 1917, Alfred served as a Private (32751) in the **Northamptonshire Regiment** before finally being posted (241066) to the 436th Agricultural Company, Labour Corps where he served until he was discharged to the Army Reserve on 23rd February 1919.

Continued...

David Tansley (1879 to 1950)

A professional soldier, David was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant and was honourably discharged in 1917, after being wounded in action

David Tansley married his first cousin Laura Emily Binley on 26th January 1915 in Cottingham. In 1939 David and Laura were living in **Blind Lane, Cottingham** and David was a blast furnace labourer. He died in 1950.

Military Service

David Tansley David was a professional soldier, joining the Army on 17th June 1904, when his civilian occupation was farm labourer.

He initially served as a Private (7367) in the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment and also served in the 3rd Battalion and 6th Battalion.

David served in the UK until 21st September 1906 when the 2nd Battalion arrived in India. During his time in India, David was promoted to **Corporal**. On 19th September 1914, the 2nd Battalion was mobilised for war and David arrived in France on 12th October 1914.

He was wounded in action on 2nd November 1914 and arrived back in the UK on 3rd December 1914. He was posted to the 3rd Battalion on 3rd February 1915 and was back in France from 17th November 1916. He was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** on 23rd December 1916.

Sergeant David Tansley arrived back in the UK on 14th March 1917 and was honourably discharged from the Army on 21st August 1917, being no longer physically fit for war service.

Sergeant Tansley was awarded the War Badge on 26 July 1917. This Badge was issued to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness during WW1.



David (right) with his younger brother Lovell, who was sadly killed just before the outbreak of War



Henry Peach Tansley

Born in Cottingham, Henry's family later moved to Kettering where he worked as a gas fitter. He later moved to Cannock, Staffordshire with this wife.

Henry Peach Tansley was born on 29th January 1899 in Cottingham to Benjamin Tansley Harriett Tansley (nee Vickers), both of Cottingham. Benjamin and Harriett had married in 1895.

In 1901 Benjamin and Harriett were living with their children Harriett Evelyn, Ethel and Henry in **Corby Road, Cottingham**. Benjamin was an ironstone labourer.

By 1911 the family had moved to Trafalgar Road, Kettering. Benjamin was working as a gas fitter & labourer at the Gas Works. With Benjamin and Harriett were their children Harriett Evelyn who was working in a shoe/boot factory) Ethel and Henry, who were both at school, and their youngest child Frederick who had been born in Kettering in 1907). Also resident were two boarders, a pianist from Manchester Albert Barlow and a fellow work colleague of Benjamin's, Billy Nicholson from Sydney, Australia.

Henry Peach Tansley married Hilda May Land (b.09/04/1894) in 1921. In 1923, the couple were living in Kingsley Avenue, Kettering and, in 1939 were living in Mount Street, Cannock, Staffordshire. Henry was employed at a colliery.

Henry Peach Tansley died on 5th September 1963 in Staffordshire.

Military Service

Although his service record has not survived, Henry Peach Tansley served as a Private (G/24451) in the 11th Battalion, **Royal Sussex Regiment** and as a Lance Corporal (G/31405) with **The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)**. *(to be verified)*



James Henry Tansley (1893 to 1986)

Cottingham born James worked on the railways near Rotherham, married in Wales, then came back to Corby to work in the steelworks. As Lance Corporal with the Yorkshire & Lancaster Regiment, James took part in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.

James Henry Tansley was born in Cottingham on 23rd July 1893 to Alfred and Alice Tansley both of Cottingham. Alfred and Alice were second cousins and, at the time of their marriage, Alfred was a labourer and Alice a factory worker. See **Alfred Tansley's** record for more information about the family.

At the time of the 1901 Census, James Henry Tansley was living with his grandfather James Tansley in **Pinfold Bank, on the corner of Blind Lane and Corby Road, Cottingham**. His grandfather James was a 'labourer on roads'.

In 1911 James Henry Tansley was employed as a railway porter near **Rotherham** and was boarding with George Kine (a brewery worker) and family. He joined the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in 1911 and was a member of the Wath on Dearne Branch, Yorkshire.



James Tansley pictured in Christmas 1917 when he was in the UK recovering from a wound sustained at Paschendaele

James married Eliza Roberts in Pontypridd, Wales on 26th December 1917 and, in 1939, the couple were living on the Drury's Estate, Corby, and James was employed as a labourer in the steel works.

His wife Eliza died in Cottingham in 1950 and James died in Corby on 1st August 1986. He was living in Wheatley Avenue, Corby.

Military Service

James Henry Tansley joined the **Yorkshire & Lancaster Regiment** on 21st August 1914 in Pontefract, Yorkshire. He initially served as a Private (10857) in the newly formed 6th (Service) Battalion. On his enlistment form his home address was Cottingham and his civilian occupation railway shunter.

James was appointed Lance Corporal on 27th November 1914 and, on 3rd July 1915, the sailed from Liverpool for **Gallipoli**, arriving at **Suvla Bay** on 6th August 1915. The battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915 and transported to Egypt but James had arrived back in the UK on 28th October 1915 before the evacuation.

On 6th April 1916 James was transferred to the 9th (Service) Battalion and, on his arrival in France 7th May 1916, he was promoted to Corporal. He arrived back in the UK on 8th July 1916.

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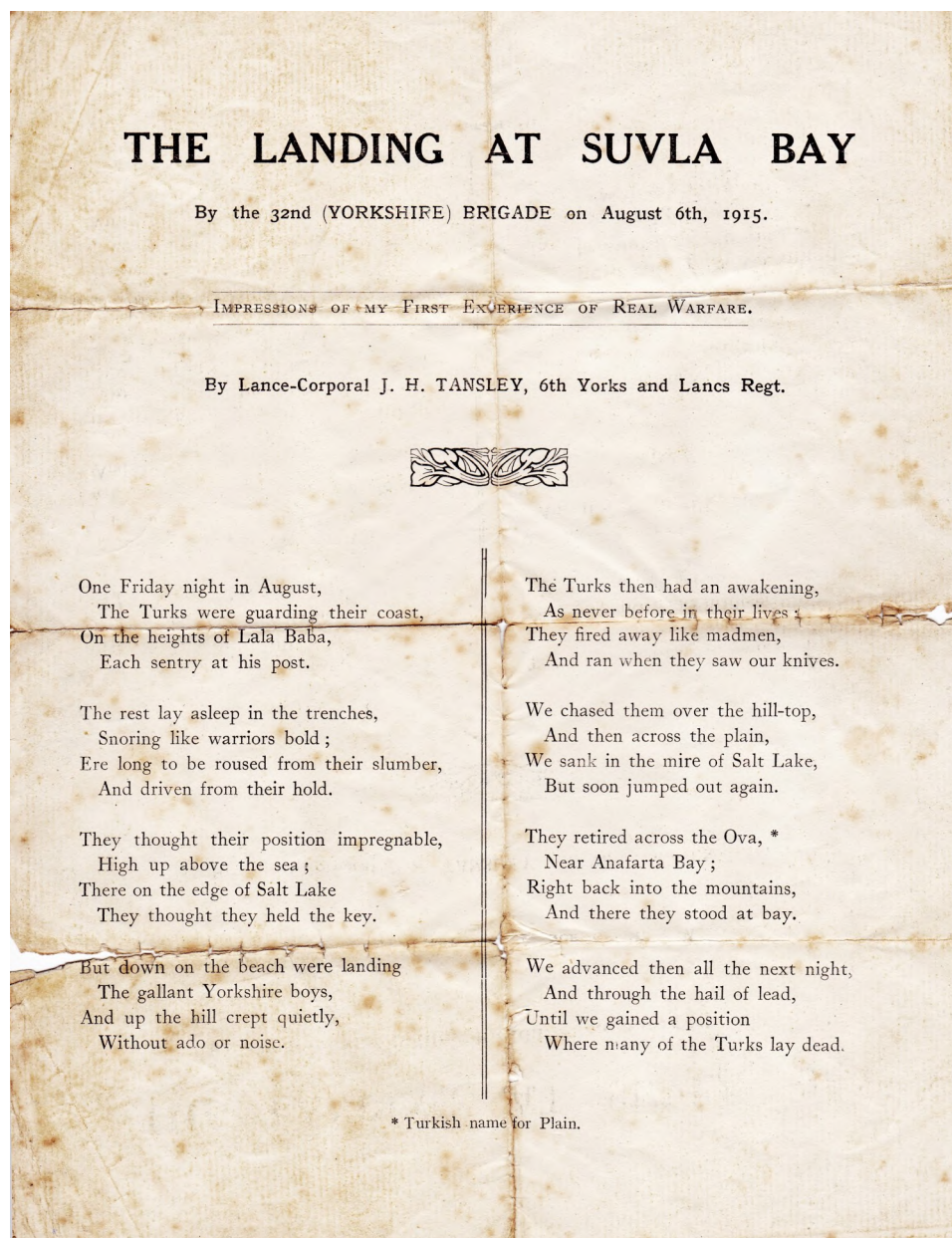
James was transferred to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion and on 23rd May 1917 was posted back to France. James may have served with the 10th (Service) Battalion at this stage; they had been in France since September 1915.

On 13th October 1917 James returned to the UK where he was to remain for the rest of the war. There is reference on his service record to him suffering a gunshot wound to his legs and knees. He was 'discharged surplus to military requirements' on 8th February 1919.

James Tansley's medal card refers to his service in the 6th, 9th & 10th Battalions, however there is reference in his record to his brief service in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion who were based in Tyne Garrison, United Kingdom from February 1916.

Suvla Bay

James' poem below refers to the landing of British troops in Suvla Bay, Gallipoli on 6 August 1915. The landing was intended to support a breakout from the Anzac sector but, despite facing light opposition, it was mismanaged from the outset. After a week of indecision and inactivity, the British commander at Suvla, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stopford was dismissed. His performance in command was one of the most incompetent feats of generalship of the First World War. (Source: Wikipedia)



Samuel George Tansley (1897 to 1958)

Samuel George Tansley was born in Cottingham in 1897 to Amos Tansley and Lucy Eliza Tansley (nee West), both of Cottingham.

In 1901 Amos and Lucy were living in **Water Lane, Cottingham** with their children William James, Mary, Lilian and Samuel George. Amos was an ironstone labourer.

Samuel's mother Lucy Tansley died in 1903 and, in 1904, Amos remarried to widow Elisabeth Waterfield.

In 1911, Amos, Elizabeth and their children Lilian, Samuel George and George Robert Waterfield were living in **School Lane, Cottingham**. Amos was a furnace labourer, Lillian worked at the clothing factory and Samuel George was employed on a farm with his step-brother George Robert Waterfield.

In 1939 Ada Tansley and two children were registered as living in Princess Street, Long Eaton. Samuel's whereabouts are currently unknown.

Samuel George Tansley died in Derbyshire in 1958.

Military Service

Samuel George Tansley served as a Private (9860, 5875121) in the **Northamptonshire Regiment** and served in France from 3rd December 1914.

Samuel's brother William James Tansley served as a Lance Corporal in the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. William was killed in action on 13th March 1915.



John James and (Sidney) Thomas Tilley

John James Tilley Snr and Clara Tilley (nee White) married on 25th November 1875. In 1881 the couple were living in **Church Street, Cottingham** with their children Mary Elizabeth, Harry William, Ernest Albert, Sarah Louisa and Sidney Thomas (**born 1889**). Their eldest son **John James (born 16th November 1876)**, was living with his grandmother Martha Tilley (b. Stanion) in **High Street, Cottingham** and John James Tilley Snr was an 'engine driver steam thrashing'.

In 1901 John Snr, Clara and family were living in **Corby Road, Cottingham** and had three more children Agnes, Francis Omar and Clara Edith May. John Snr. was employed as a farmer. By 1911 John Snr., Clara and family were living in **High Street, Cottingham**. John James Tilley Snr. died in 1938.

John James Tilley (1876 to 1959)

Moved to Grimsby and, during WW2, served as a firewatcher and received a Civil Defence Gallantry Award

John James Tilley moved to Grimsby where he married Alice Johnson in 1902. In 1911 they were living in Garibaldi Street, Grimsby with their two sons Alfred James (b.1903) and John Edward (b.1909). John James Tilley was employed as a fishing engineer"

During WW1, John served as an Engineer (119/ES) in the **Royal Naval Reserve**.

In 1939 John & Alice were living in Heneage Road, Grimsby. During the Second World War, John Tilley (aged 67), now a retired ship's engineer, served as a firewatcher in Grimsby and, on 13th June 1943, John together with fellow firewatchers was posted at Consolidated Fisheries Ltd., Auckland Road, Grimsby. There was a bombing raid by the Luftwaffe and several incendiary bombs were dropped on Consolidated Fisheries and surrounding buildings. John and his team tackled the blazes that arose and John was later commended by the Chief Constable of Grimsby for a Civil Defence Gallantry Award for his actions; this was awarded (Case No. 2095D). John died in Grimsby in 1959.

(Sidney) Thomas Tilley (1889)

A career soldier, served in India before the War and in Malta and Egypt during the War

Sidney Thomas Tilley enlisted in the Army about 1906 and served as a Private (7815) in the 2nd Battalion, **Leicestershire Regiment**. At the time of the 1911 Census, he was stationed in India with his Regiment.

During WW1, Thomas served as a Private (7815) with the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment in France from 12th October 1914 (Medal Record). He then served as a Private (37465) in the 1st Garrison Battalion, **Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment)**. The 1st Garrison Battalion was formed in Lichfield in July 1915, moving to Malta in October 1915 then on to Egypt where it remained for the duration of the war.

Thomas Tilley was later transferred again and served as a Private (37465) in the 12th (West Somerset Yeomanry) Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. The 12th Battalion was formed in Egypt on 4th January 1917 from members of the dismounted yeomanry regiment. The battalion left Egypt on 30th April 1918 arriving in Marseilles on 7th May 1918 and served on the Western Front. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 13th February 1919.



Continued...

In the Northampton Mercury of 21st December 1917, the death of John and Thomas Tilley's brother **Omar Tilley** was reported.

Northampton Mercury, 21st December 1917

Died of Wounds

Tilley, Sergt. Omar, Trench Mortar Battery, late Leicesters, of Cottingham, has died of wounds; previously wounded six times; was on his way to India when war broke out, and landed in France on Aug. 11 1914; his brother, Pte. Tom Tilley, is in Egypt, and has eleven years service in the army.

Benjamin Timson

Lived in Middleton and Ashley



Benjamin Timson was born on 12th August 1873 probably in Ashley (the 1891 Census has his birthplace as **Middleton** but Ashley is recorded in later documents). His father was John Timson Jnr. of Ashley, his mother Harriet Timson (nee Crane) of Middleton. John & Harriet were married in Ashley on 18th November 1861.

Benjamin attended Ashley School from 1877. In 1881 John, Harriet and their children James, Sarah, Benjamin, Eliza & Mary Ann were living in **Ashley**. John was an agricultural labourer. By 1891 widow Harriet and children Benjamin, Eliza, Ada & Alice were living in **Cottingham**. Benjamin Timson was employed as a groom.

Benjamin Timson married Mary Ann Gibson of Derby on 19th October 1895 in Burton-on-Trent. In 1901 they were living in Oak Street, Burton with their son George William Timson (b. 1898). Benjamin was employed in the brewery trade as a maltster. Also resident at the time of the Census was William Gibson the brother of Mary.

By 1911 the couple were living in Ashley with their children George William, Frances Emma and Elizabeth Alice (b. Ashley). Another daughter Emily Timson was born in December 1911. and Benjamin was employed as a cowman.

By the time Benjamin Timson enlisted in 1914 the family were living in **Middleton**. When Benjamin was discharged from the Army in 1919 the Timson family were living in **Stonton Wyville** where, according to the Electoral Register, they stayed throughout the 1920s and into the 1930s. In 1939 widower Benjamin Timson was living in East Langton with his daughter Elizabeth Foscett (nee Timson) and her husband Richard Foscett. Benjamin was still employed as a cowman.

Benjamin Timson died in Northampton in 1958.

Military Service

Benjamin Timson enlisted on 7th September 1914 in Kettering. He gave his birthplace as Ashley. His civilian occupation was shepherd and his next of kin was his wife Mary Ann Timson resident in Middleton.

Benjamin Timson was to serve as a Private (10954) in the **Northamptonshire Regiment**. He was posted to the 3rd Battalion on 8th September 1914 then later to the 7th Battalion. On 6th October 1914 he was appointed as Acting Lance Corporal. His service papers indicate he was discharged due to health reasons on 27th October 1914.



On 10th August 1915 he enlisted again in Market Harborough, giving his civilian occupation as labourer and his home address as Middleton. He was again to serve as a Private (20365) in the Northamptonshire Regiment. He reported to the Depot in Northampton on 12th August 1915 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion on 14th August 1915. He was posted to the 1st Battalion on his arrival in France on 16th March 1916 as a member of the British Expeditionary Force and joined his battalion in the field on 21st April 1916.

Benjamin was admitted to a field hospital due to a septic right leg on 3rd November 1916 and, on 10th October 1917, was transferred to serve as a Private (384940) in the **Labour Corps**.

On 9th March 1919 he was transferred to the Army Reserve.

Benjamin's son George William Timson served as a Private during the First World War. George initially was in the Northamptonshire Regiment but was later transferred to the Durham Light Infantry. George William Timson was killed in action on the Western Front on 1st November 1916.

George Lewis White

Lived in Middleton, East Carlton and Wilbartson



George Lewis White was born in Middleton on 8th December 1879. His father was Lewis Woodcock White of Middleton, his mother Emma Jane White (nee Bell) of Wilbarston. Lewis and Emma married in 1874.

In 1891 Lewis and Emma were living “near the Church”, East Carlton with their children Emily, George Lewis, Ernest Albert and Ada Gertrude. Lewis White was an agricultural labourer.

George’s brother Ernest Albert White died in 1899.

In 1901 Lewis, Emma and their children George, Ada and Arthur were living in **The Street, East Carlton**. Also resident was a boarder Lewis Food of Middleton who was employed as a shepherd, while his son George was a cattle stockman on a farm.

George married Clara Lawrence Daisy Baker of Solihull on 9th October 1909 in East Carlton and the couple moved to **Wilbarston**. George was a farm labourer. The couple had four children, all born in Wilbarston – George Arnold (born 1910), Lawrence Austin (1912), Gwendoline Ivy (1914) and Daisy Edris (1916).

In 1911 George’s parents Lewis and Emma were living with their two youngest children Ada and Arthur. Lewis was still a shepherd, whilst Arthur was a farm labourer.

George’s mother Emma died in 1918 and his brother Arthur married Hannah Earl Hill of Irthlingborough in 1919. Their sister Ada Gertrude died in 1927. George’s father Lewis, resident of Wilbarston Lodge, died on 31st December 1928. According to the probate record, his son George Lewis White was a furnaceman at the time.

In 1939 George and Clara were still living in Wilbarston and George was employed as a blast furnaceman. George died in 1960 and his wife Clara died in 1970.

Military Service

George Lewis White was deemed to have been enlisted on 24th June 1916 and first joined for duty in Northampton on 26th February 1917. He initially served as a Private (47505) with the 16th Battalion, **The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey Regiment)** from 28th February 1917 and arrived in France on 11th March 1917.



On 14th May 1917 he was posted to the 124th Labour Company to serve as a Private (74037).

He returned to France on 27th October 1918 but was back in the UK by 3rd November 1918. He was posted to the 682nd Agricultural Company on 3rd November 1918 and the 436th Agricultural Company on 8th March 1919. George was transferred to the Army Reserve in April 1919.

According to the Roll of Honour in East Carlton, George’s brother Arthur John White served in the Royal Artillery during the First World War. Exact details of his service record are currently