

MY FAMILY and WW1

My great grandmother Sarah Jane Collier (1869-1948) nee Wooll, had three brothers in the army. It appears as if the Northumberland Fusiliers was the regiment the family joined or so the family folk-lore says.

I know of two of these brothers.

Robert Wooll (1877-1948) served in the Boer War and may have been in WW1, but it his brother **George Wooll** (1875-1915) that I know more about, he had been with his brother at Omdurman (1898) and was in South Africa fighting the Boers. Even at that early stage he was being encouraged to be an officer, something he tried to avoid.

The next I know of him is that in 1915 he has become an officer. He probably had little choice with the losses the army had taken. He was a First Lieutenant in The Northumberland Fusiliers and embarked for Gallipoli. He never even got as far as the beach and he is mentioned on the war memorial in Beverley. I am fortunate enough to have photographs of both of these great-great uncles.

My great grandfather, **Francis Coates Collier**, was also a WW1 soldier but I know little about him, his son my grandfather, **Frank Collier** (1896-1959) was a 'Hammerman' in the Ordinance Corps and was discharged in 1918 having been wounded in the right shoulder.

So much for my father's family all of who came from Beverley, as for my mothers ... who all came from Hull ... her father **George Bailey** (1896-1970) had been on sailing ships since he was 11 years old and he joined the Royal Navy. I know little of his service but believe he was invalided out.

My mother's grandfather, **Thomas Coe-Allenby**, (1870-1950) was a cavalryman and had been fighting guerrillas in the Boer War. He also served in WW1. Alongside is his 1903 wedding photo which shows him in his cavalryman's uniform. He spent all his life working with horses.

All of those mentioned above are heroes to me, great heroes in fact. But this was not the only war that my family fought in, in fact some family members fought in a war that changed the world more than WW1 - and was the American Civil War.....



JOHN COLLIER