

SIMON COLLINS

8217 Private Simon Collins, Cambridgeshire (1st T.F.) Regt

There's a sad parallel story running behind Wilfred's, involving his cousin Simon. Simon Collins was the youngest son of Wilf's uncle Charles, a gamekeeper working on the Grange Estate. Simon was older than Wilf, born in 1882; his mother had died when he was two. He'd worked at various jobs, one of them a Pottery Carter lodging, with his older brother William, in Weston super Mare.

By 1911 he was back in BSM living with the family and working as a labourer. Later that year he married Annie Brownsell of Chardstock, and they had a daughter, Lucy, in Nov 1912 – she was baptized at BSM in Feb 1913. By 1916 they were living in Combe Street in Chard, and during that year Simon was called up. At the end of September was he sent to the Cambridgeshire Regt, a Territorial Forces unit, based in Cambridge. He travelled there with other recruits from Taunton.

What went wrong, and what his state of mind must have been we don't know. His fellow recruits realised he was miserable and withdrawn and tried to support him, but the next morning he cut his throat. So no plaudits or hero's welcome for Simon, no featuring on the Memorial Board in BSM Church or the Roll of Honour in the School log book.

At the inquest and in the Army's records it looks as if everyone behaved decently – there are some rather naïve but certainly well-meaning comments from his superior officer. The Army record skirts round the difficult problem of suicide (then illegal) by mentioning temporary insanity, and his daughter was given a pension till she was 16. He is buried in Cambridge City Cemetery beneath the normal military headstone.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

42 [Page 15]

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Ecclesiastical District of			
Chelmsford					Chelmsford				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (or not)	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	RANK, PROFESSION, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb
			John Fiske	Head	Man	36	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Fiske	Wife	Woman	2		Chelmsford	
			John Fiske	Child	Child	2		Chelmsford	
54	Ap. Wood	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
118	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
116	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
114	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
113	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
110	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
109	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
107	do	1	John Collins	Head	Man	34	Labourer	Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
			John Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
Total of Houses...			Total of Males and Females...			114			

9. 4

Eng—Sheet D.

1861 CENSUS CHARLES COLLINS

40 [Page 13]

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or [Improvement Commissioners] of	Ecclesiastical District of		
Chelmsford					Chelmsford				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (or not)	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	RANK, PROFESSION, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb
58	Ap. Wood	1	George Collins	Head	Man	34	Grocer	Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
59	do	1	George Collins	Head	Man	34	Grocer	Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
60	do	1	George Collins	Head	Man	34	Grocer	Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
61	do	1	George Collins	Head	Man	34	Grocer	Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Wife	Woman	34		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
			George Collins	Child	Child	3		Chelmsford	
Total of Houses...			Total of Males and Females...			113			

Eng—Sheet D.

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

1871 CENSUS CHARLES COLLINS

1901 CENSUS1901 CENSUS

Page 92.						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Buckland S. Mary</u> in the County of <u>Somersetshire</u> in the Year 18 <u>84</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Christian.	Surname.					
1884. June 2 ^d	Walter	Charles	Collins	Buckland S. Mary	Leaper	C. Potham.
No. 729.		Penelope				
June 2 ^d	Simon	Charles	Collins	Buckland S. Mary	Leaper	C. Potham.
No. 730.		Penelope				
June 24 th	Ray Neil	Ray Mary Ann	Baxter	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	A. H. L. Vincent. R. A. P. H. Vincent.
No. 731.						
July 3 rd	David	Edi	Evans	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 732.		Elizabeth				
July 5 th	Lara	James	Dicks	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 733.		Jane				
July 16 th	David	Richard	Hooper	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 734.		Elizabeth Jane				
July 16 th	Harry	Henry	Goodland	Otford	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 735.		Isabella				
Aug 1 st	Thomas	Charles	Leaper	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 736.	John	Elizabeth				

SMON COLLNS

Page 93.						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Buckland S. Mary</u> in the County of <u>Somersetshire</u> in the Year 18 <u>84</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Christian.	Surname.					
1884. Aug 1 st	Robert	John	Symes	Buckland S. Mary	Schoolmaster	C. Potham.
No. 737.	Edmund	Amelia				
Aug 1 st	John	Henry	Hill	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 738.	Robert	Robert				
Oct 1 st	Eva	Samuel	Buttle	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 739.		Edith				
Oct 5 th	Walter	Henry	Yard	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 740.		Jessie				
Oct 5 th	Arthur	William	Hake	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 741.	Edward	Susan				
Oct 5 th	Jessie	James	Doane	Yarcombe	Farmer	C. Potham.
No. 742.	Laura	Emek				
Nov 2 nd	Elizabeth	Frank	Croomfield	Buckland S. Mary	Labourer	C. Potham.
No. 743.		Susan				
Dec 1 st	Benjamin	Benjamin	Brice	Buckland S. Mary	Farmer	C. Potham.
No. 744.	Arthur	Arthur				

Page 52						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of _____ in the County of _____ in the year One thousand eight hundred and _____						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1872 March 31 st No. 409	Elizabet	James & Mary Ann	Coles	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 April 28 th No. 410	William	Henry & Elizabeth	Pym	Buckland 8 th May	Farmer	A. P. Pott ✓
1872 April 28 th No. 411	Henry	Henry & Elizabeth	Pym	Buckland 8 th May	Farmer	A. P. Pott ✓
1872 May 5 th No. 412	William Robert	Fred & Edith Margaret	Bolberg	Buckland 8 th May	Farmer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 May 5 th No. 413	Phyllis Elizabeth	Edwin William & Ellen	Meadley	Buckland 8 th May	Farmer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 May 5 th No. 414	Vera Elizabeth	George & Laura Elsie	White	Buckland 8 th May	Farmer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 May 5 th No. 415	William Robert	Thomas & Ida Alice	Evans	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 June 22 nd No. 416	Sarah Edith	George & Edith	Channing	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
Page 53						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of _____ in the County of _____ in the year One thousand eight hundred and _____						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1872 June 22 nd No. 417	Sylvia Jessie	George & Edith	Channing	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 Sept 19 th No. 418	Richard John	Richard & Mary	Waller	Grange Buckland 8 th May	Gentleman	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1872 Dec 1 st No. 419	Robert John	William Henry & Alice Corbue	Graham	Buckland 8 th May	Postman	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1873 Jan 5 th No. 420	Mary Elizabeth	Fred & Jessie	Mathews	Buckland 8 th May	Road Contractor	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1873 Feb. 2 nd No. 421	Lucy	Simon & Annie	Collins	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1873 Apr. 6 th No. 422	George	Harry & Fanny	Pike	Buckland 8 th May	Farmer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1873 June 1 st No. 423	Dorothy Louisa	James & Louisa	Hooper	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓
1873 July 6 th No. 424	Mildred Alice	Charles & Alice	Dicks	Buckland 8 th May	Labourer	Arthur P. Lance ✓

LUCY COLLINS

DISTRICT NEWS.

DONYATT.

DONYATT MAN'S SAD END.—The Cambridge Borough Coroner (Mr H. Saunders French) held an inquest at the Coroner's Court, Cambridge, on the 9th inst., touching the death of Simon Collins (38), of Crock Street, Donyatt, near Ilminster, a recruit for the Cambs. Regiment, who was found with his throat cut in an outhouse in the rear of No. 18, New Square, Cambridge, on Saturday morning. Private Ernest Charles Cornish, Cambs. Regiment, billeted at 18, New Square, said he travelled with Collins and a number of other recruits from Taunton on Friday last. On Saturday morning Collins got up about seven o'clock. He saw him later waiting for breakfast. He said nothing to the others, but walked out to the back and came in again. Witness went out about 8.15, and saw Collins walking up and down the garden. A little later witness went to call him in to breakfast, and he said he would be in in a minute. About 8.30 witness went out to the back, and saw blood coming from under the lavatory door. He did not open the door, but ran for help, and told a policeman in Fitzroy Street. The policeman came and forced the door open. The man was lying face downwards, with a pocket knife in his right hand covered with blood. His throat was cut. Witness thought he was dead. Collins seemed "quiet, worried, and full of study," overnight. He did not say anything, and did not complain of anything. They tried to cheer him up, but he did not seem to take much notice of it, and "bid quiet all the time."—P.C. Mansfield gave corroborative evidence, and said on the body was found 12s 3d in cash, a birth and marriage certificate, two registration cards, a partly-written letter, and two envelopes addressed to Mrs Collins, Crock Street, Donyatt, near Ilminster. The man was a farm labourer.—The Coroner said the letter was only just commenced. It ran: "Just a few lines hoping —" The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide," and there was no evidence to show the man's state of mind. Captain Ollard said he wished to express on behalf of the regiment and himself deep sorrow and sympathy for the widow. He felt, and he thought all present felt, that if the man had given the Army a trial—if it was that which was worrying him—for a week or a fortnight, there would have been no question that he would not have committed that act. If it was that which was worrying him, it was only ignorance of the Army and the way the men were treated in it.—Deceased was a married man, with one child, and much sympathy is felt for them in their sad bereavement.



ARMY REGISTER OF SOLDIERS EFFECTS

