

SEYMOUR TAYLOR

Seymour Taylor was born in 1889 in Barkingside, Essex. He was the son of Charles and Amy Elizabeth Taylor (née Barton). Charles Taylor, an agricultural labourer was born in 1846 in Hawkedon, Suffolk, which is an ancient little hamlet seven miles south west of Bury St. Edmunds. Charles' parents were also born in Hawkedon, his mother Elizabeth was born in 1812 and his father George Taylor in 1808. George worked the land too as an agricultural labourer.

Seymour's mother Amy Barton was born in 1854 in Bethersden, a village near Ashford, Kent. Amy was also the daughter of an agricultural labourer, called Obadiah Barton, born in Bethersdon in 1817 and Harriott Barton (née Weston) born in Pluckley, Kent, also in 1817.

Charles Taylor and Amy Elizabeth Barton aged 18 were married in the summer of 1872 in Romford, Essex.

In 1874, they were living in Havering, Essex where their eldest son Arthur George was born. In 1876, Charles William was born in Chadwell Heath. Sydney James, the next child, was born at 1 Cooks Terrace, Beehive

Lane, Barkingside, Essex in 1879. Five more children were born; Alma Grace in 1882, Ashton Victor in 1884, Sebert Mark in 1887, Seymour in 1889 and Selwin Edwin in 1891.

In 1891, Charles aged 44 was working as an agricultural labourer and the family were living at Redbridge Cottages, Woodford Bridge Lane, now Roding Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. These cottages were just north of the Red House Public House and the present day Redbridge Station.

In 1882, there were several working farms in the area. Charles Taylor may have been employed on Hill Farm or Fernhall Farm. It was just a short walk from Redbridge Cottages across open fields for the family to get to the Wanstead Congregational Church on Sundays.

Church archives show that at the turn of the century Seymour's elder brother Sydney, a labourer, and his wife Lydia Taylor were attending church. Their three children Alma, Alfred and Elsie were baptized by the pastor, the Revd John Jermyn. This family lived at Wanstead Cottages in the High Street in 1905 and in 1910 at no 1, East Street, New Wanstead.

In 1909, Seymour's mother Amy died aged 55 and the following year, in late 1910, Seymour, now aged 20 married Frances Mary Elizabeth Holliday. Frances was born in Canning Town, Essex in 1891 and she was the daughter of John Holliday, a bricklayer by trade, born in West Ham, Essex in 1868 and his wife Elizabeth née Scott who was born in Bow, London in 1866.

In 1911, the Holliday family were living at 22, Hall Lane, Wanstead. Essex and John Holliday was working as a jobbing gardener.

In 1911, Seymour and Frances were living in 'Lily Cottage', New Road, Beehive Lane, Barkingside, Essex. (New Road was at the Redbridge Lane end of Inglehurst Gardens.) Seymour was recorded on the 1911 census as being employed as a 'waggoner-on-farm, a labourer at home.'

In the next few years Seymour and Frances had three daughters; Frances Ada Lilian born on the 2nd June 1911 (always known as Lil or Lilian), Winifred Amy Elizabeth born on the 6th November 1912 and Ada Elizabeth born on the 20th February 1915.

Victorian farm wagons collecting hay.

Seymour Taylor drove these types of farm wagon.

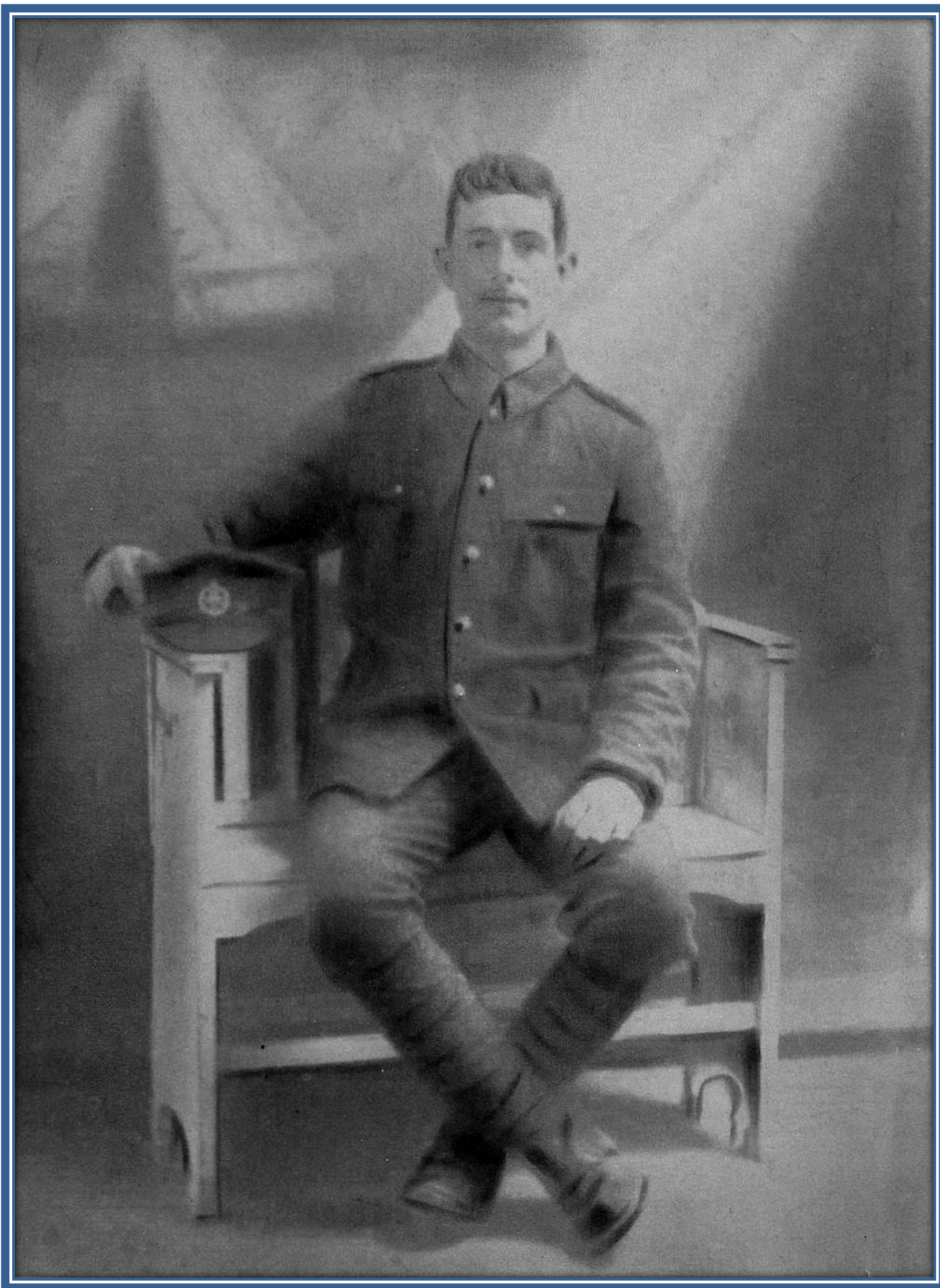


Photograph by Colonel Joseph Gale (1835-1906).

The photograph on the next page is courtesy of Mrs Lilian Monk who is the Granddaughter of Seymour and Frances Taylor. The photograph is of Frances Mary Elizabeth Taylor (nee Holliday) standing outside “Lily Cottage.” Taken in 1911, Frances was pregnant with their eldest daughter, also called Frances, who is Lilian’s mother.



Seymour enlisted early on in the war and became Rifleman S/7525 Seymour Taylor, 3rd Battalion the Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade. After training, he landed in France on May 1st 1915.



Private S/7525 Seymour Taylor 3Rd Battalion Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own)
Photograph courtesy of Mrs Lilian Monk

Seymour's Battalion arrived on the Somme on 23rd July 1916. They were given the task of capturing Guillemont Station which was just outside and to the north of the village. The attack was launched at 2.45pm on the 18th August, and was successful. The Battalion then linked up with the 8th Battalion the Buffs and moved north east, but later in the day the Germans counter-attacked and regained most of the lost ground, but not Guillemont Station. Thirty-nine men of the 3rd Rifles are listed as having died on this day and one of them would have been Seymour.

Seymour's granddaughter Lilian Monk was told by her mother Frances that her father had been a grenade thrower. During the battle Seymour was killed when a grenade detonated in his hand. A grenade thrower led the way in an attack or raiding party; his role was to lob his grenades into an enemy trench or dugout before the riflemen went into bayonet any survivors. It was a dangerous job, as many of the early grenades were very unreliable.

Seymour's body was not recovered and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. He is also commemorated on the Great War Memorial inside Wanstead United

Reformed Church and on the War Memorial in Wanstead High Street.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|------|----------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Campaign :— | | | | 1914-15. | | (A) Where decoration was earned. |
| | | | | | | (B) Present situation. |
| Name | Corps | Rank | Reg. No. | Roll on which included (if any) | | |
| (A) TAYLOR | Rif Brig Pte S | | 7525 | MEDAL | ROLL | PA |
| (B) | S. ... | | | VICTORY | M/102 9/16 | 2225 |
| | | | | BRITISH | | 2225 |
| | | | | 15 STAR | M/113 | 2225 |
| Action taken | 1916 Nov } BWMY Relat (1743 KIR) 7969 Adt. 1/5 Nov, 12.4.11. M. Reissued. 1.1.3/1934 d/16/2/28. (1) France NW/4 | | | | | |
| THEATRE OF WAR. | | | | | | |
| QUALIFYING DATE. | 1-5-15 NW/4/15/36 7969 Adt | | | | | |
| (6 34 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.] | | | | | | |

Appn. for medals from widows of 6.11.27.

Correspondence.

Mrs. Dent.
2 Harris Street
Barnham
Lancs.

Address.

Private Seymour Taylor's Medal Record Card

Seymour earned the War and Victory Medals with the 14/15 Star. Frances applied for these medals in November 1927 and they were sent to her home at 2, Harris Street, Askam, Lancashire in February 1928.



Seymour's 1914/15 Star Medal and Princess Mary tin containing gifts given to troops in Christmas 1914. Photograph courtesy of Mrs Lilian Monk

Frances remarried a few years after Seymour's death to Bertie Patterson Dent. They had 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls in Australia where the family lived from

1919-1925. Frances led a full life and died in Giggleswick, Yorkshire in 1975 aged 84.

Seymour's older brother Ashton Victor Taylor, a married farm labourer, served in France from 24th August 1915. In 1911, Ashton had been living with his brother Sidney at no 1, East Street, Wanstead. He enlisted at Stratford and became Driver 42211, 23rd Division Ammunition Column Royal Field Artillery. He died of wounds on 1st August 1916 aged 32. This was just seventeen days before his brother Seymour was killed. Ashton left his effects to their sister Alma Grace Bradley née Taylor as the sole legatee for a war gratuity.

Ashton is buried in grave I.L.30 in Albert Communal Cemetery Extension. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star and the British War and Victory Medals.

The Family Story

Seymour's granddaughter, Mrs Lilian Monk (born 25th November 1944) kindly provided much of the information about the Taylor family, including the photographs.

In July 2014, she wrote the following,

“My mother Frances (known as Lil) was about four years old when her father went to France and neither she nor her sisters had any memory of their father. Lilian’s mother did ask her Nana Frances about Seymour and was told that he was a kind and gentle man. I think Nana Frances (Frances Holliday Taylor widowed at aged 25) moved north to Orton near Tebay, a village in Cumbria, after Seymour’s death because her parents were living there and presumably, with three small children, she needed some help.

Appleby is the nearest market town to Orton and it was there that she met her second husband Bert Dent, who was an Appleby man.

Bert Dent had emigrated to Australia with his family before WW1. At the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914, he volunteered and came to Europe with the Anzacs. Upon demob any Anzacs who had been born in the UK were given the option of returning to Australia or be repatriated. Bert decided to stay in England and he returned to his home town of Appleby where he met Frances. They were married literally six weeks after bumping into each other on a street corner in the town. Their first child Joan was born on the 4th November 4th 1919.

Against Bert’s better judgement, Frances persuaded him to return with the family to Australia to begin a new life. They

travelled to Australia in 1919 but came back to England in 1925.

In total, Frances and Seymour had three daughters together, ten grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.”

Seymour and Frances Taylor’s three daughters were all under five years old when their father was killed on the Somme. The photograph below was taken in the early 1970’s when the sisters (all widowed) were on holiday together.

From left to right- Winifred, Frances and Ada.



Photograph courtesy of Mrs Lilian Monk

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Margaretha Pollitt Brown for Wanstead United Reformed Church.