

George Henry COLE

Born St Marychurch, Q4, 1896
Private 34342

Died Italy, 6 November 1918, aged 22
Royal Warwickshire Regt, 2nd Battalion

George Henry Cole was descended from the Cole family of Hennock.

John Cole (1810-1889) married Sarah Loveys (1822-1869) and they were living at Hennock when John Cole, jnr, was born on 28 April 1852. His father worked in lead and tin mines locally, but John jnr became a Police Constable. He married Eliza Ann Gibbs (1851-1936) in Charlton Mackerell, Somerset on 18 May 1871. They had ten children of whom George Herbert Cole was the third, born in 1874 (GRO ref Apr-June, Newton Abbot, vol 5b, p 123) in Hennock.

George Herbert Cole married Ellen Elizabeth Dist in 1895 (GRO ref 1895 Oct-Dec, N.A.. vol 5b, page 261). Ellen Dist was born (GRO ref 1873 Apr-June, .N.A., vol 5b, p 152) in Cockington to Henry and Anna Dist. They lived at Cockington and then moved to St Marychurch, Torquay. In 1891 Ellen E Dist was working as a housemaid.

George and Ellen Cole had five children:

George Henry Cole, son, 1896-1918	born	St Marychurch
Reginald Cole, son, 1898		"
Lucy May Cole, dau, 1900		"
Ellen Mabel dau, 1906-1969		Babbacombe
Herbert Cole son, 1910-1939		Bow, N Devon

Census returns show **George Henry** as being born in St Marychurch which was then within the Newton Abbot registration district and so his birth is registered in Dec 1896, N.A., vol 5b, p 135.

The 1911 census shows the family together at Great Wotton, Bow, where George Herbert Cole was a coachman and his son, **George Henry** was a groom. Ellen's father, Henry Dist, 74, was living with them.

Great Wotton was a farm estate and the chief residence of the Pidsley family for two centuries. John, who died in March, 1734/5, was a benefactor and when the farm was sold in 1919 it was still "subject to £1 a year to the poor of the parish".

George Henry Cole enlisted in Wokingham, Berkshire. He may have taken work as a groom there.

The Warwickshire Regiment moved to Italy 24 November 1917 to strengthen the Italian Resistance and was involved in various actions including the Battle of Vittorio Veneto.

The **Battle of Vittorio Veneto** was fought from 24 October-3 November 1918, near Vittorio Veneto, a part the Italian Front of World War I. The Italian victory marked the end of the war on the Italian Front, secured the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was chiefly instrumental in ending the First World War less than two weeks later. (Wikipedia)

The grave registration document (CWGC) shows that **George Henry Cole** died of influenza, a victim of the epidemic that swept Europe at that time. He was with 1034th Labour Company of the Labour Corps at the time of his death, and is buried in a grave with the inscription:

"ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST, ONE OF THE BEST,
GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST
FROM LOVING PARENTS"

His family appears to have moved to 11 Queen Street, Dawlish.

Dawlish World War One Project

Dawlish War memorial inscription: COLE.G. H. PTE. WARWICKS REGT. (Supplementary panel)

Commonwealth War Graves entry: George Henry Cole, Priv, 6 Nov 1918,,, Warwickshire Regt, 2nd Battn, 34342, buried Province of Genoa, Liguria, Italy. Son of George Herbert and Ellen Elizabeth Cole of 11 Queen Street, Dawlish.. Buried in Staglieno cemetery, Genoa.

Last known address: Residence, Wokingham

Next of kin: George Herbert Cole, father

References:

Free BMD refs

CWGC refs

History of Colebrooke Parish by Neville Enderson

refs via subscription website:

Census data

UK Soldiers died 1914-1919

Forces War Records

Barber family tree- Ancestry