

Samuel Alfred CHAPPLE

Born Q4,1890 in Ilfracombe, N Devon Died, Tidworth, 8 January 1917, aged 26
Private 4550 Devonshire Regiment, 4th (Reserve) Battalion (Territorials)

Samuel came from an Ilfracombe family. His grandfather, Samuel Chapple (1838-1866), married Elizabeth Hancock (1838-) in Q1,1853. Their son, Samuel Edward Chapple, was born in 1854 and married Ellen Blackmore in Q1,1880.

Samuel Edward Chapple had been born on 29th August 1853 in Berrynarbor in North Devon. He signed on for ten years service in the Royal Navy from 29th August 1871 at age 18 and was released on 31st August 1881 in the rating of Able Seaman, no 72334. He was at Funchal, Madeira in 1871 and Pembroke Dock in 1881. On his return he became an Insurance Agent. Samuel and Ellen Chapple were living at 14 Victoria Road, Ilfracombe in 1891 with their children John Henry (1883-), Ellen May (1885-1929), Elizabeth (1886-), Lily (1888-) and **Samuel Alfred** (1890-1917)(born Q4, 1890, Ilfracombe, vol 5b, p419).

There is a record of Samuel Chapple at Holy Trinity Church of England School for Boys in Ilfracombe in 1896 and 1897.

In 1901 they had moved to 28 Oxford Street with another child, Herbert (1893-), William Blackmore, 84, an uncle and retired mason, and Frederick Blackmore, 28, a nephew and printer. In 1911, Samuel and Ellen were at 28 Oxford Grove, Ilfracombe, with their son Herbert, who was shown as a Hairdresser, and a grandson Kingsley, (1905-).

It is not clear when **Samuel** left North Devon after 1901, but his appearance on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour and the Devon Roll of Honour for Dawlish suggests that he may have been sent to a relative in Dawlish, yet to be identified, and attended school there in his early teens. There is then a record at Holy Trinity School, Ilfracombe, of Samuel Chapple attending evening class during 1908, being listed as a hairdresser and taking a class in French. In the 1911 Census there is a record of Alfred Chapple, aged 20, boarding with the Trewin household at 21 Palace Avenue, Paignton. He was shown as a hairdresser's assistant.

A possible confusion arises with another Samuel Chapple/Chaple. In the 1851 census a Samuel Chaple, aged 13, was a farmer's servant at Burland, Marwood, Barnstaple. A marriage occurred between Samuel Chapple and Lucy Lerwill in Q1, 1889 (Barnstaple, Vol 5b, p 766).

In 1891 Lucy Chapple (1852-1935) was shown at 2 Barum Cottages, Ilfracombe in the home of Mary Lerwill, 73, a widow, and nine others including, Samuel Chapple, 4, grand-son, Lucy Chapple, 2, grand-daughter and Frederick John Chapple, 4 months, grand-son. By 1901 Lucy Chapple was a widow, aged 49 and working as a laundress at 14 Highfield Road, Ilfracombe, with Samuel, son,14, Lucy, daughter, 12, and Charles Chapple, 21, nephew and labourer.

Samuel Chapple enlisted with the 4th Devon Regiment, service no 4917, on 19th February 1907 at the age of 18 and 6 months (birth date ca 8, 1888) and was granted a free discharge on 21st December 1909. (this shows his elder brother named Jack, younger brother, Frederick, younger sister, Lucy)

In 1915 **Samuel Alfred Chapple** married Florence Emily Thomas (1888-1968?) in Teignmouth in the January to March quarter (N.A. vol 5b, p263).

Florence Thomas was the daughter of George B W Thomas and Ellen Tidball and they lived at 46 Parson Street, West Teignmouth in 1891. They had moved to 23 Fore Street in 1901 and

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were still there 10 years later. The father, George Buckler Wood Thomas, was born in London and his wife, Ellen Emma, was from Kent. He was a self-employed house decorator and they had two daughters, Ellen Emma Beatrice (1886-) and Florence Emily, born in Q1, 1888 (N.A. vol 5b, p106). Ellen had work as a dressmaker and Florence as a milliner.

After Florence's marriage to **Samuel** they moved to Dawlish. The record of UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919 gives **Samuel's** residence as Dawlish and that would also account for his appearance on the Dawlish War Memorial. After his death his widow appears to have returned to her family home which is the address given for her on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site.

The Devonshire Regiment, 4th (Reserve) Battalion was part of the 43rd (Wessex) Division, an existing Territorial Force division drawn primarily from the south-western counties of England. It had Divisional Headquarters in Exeter. In late July 1914 the Division was on Salisbury Plain at its annual training camp when it received instructions that it was to take precautionary measure should war be declared on Germany.

On 3rd August the infantry brigades were ordered to defend the ports on the south-western coast and were in transit to these posts when orders to mobilise were received following the declaration of war on 4th August. Following the order to mobilise, those men who volunteered for foreign service began to move into camps for training.

On 10th August the Division concentrated on Salisbury Plain with Divisional Headquarters opening at Tidworth on 13th August. Those who volunteered for service abroad were sent to India, while the training facility remained at Tidworth.

It is not known when Samuel enlisted but his death occurred in hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire, which suggests that he may have been conscripted and was in training at the time. The Death Grant of £2. 9s. 1d and the War Gratuity of £3.0s.0d were paid to his widow, Florence Emily Chapple.

He was buried in Teignmouth cemetery.

There is a marriage record of Florence E Chapple to Philip Summers in Barnstaple in 1930 (Q2, Vol 5b, p 1156) and of a death of Florence E Summers in Gloucester City district in 1968, aged 81 (Mar 1968, vol 7b, p 521). Copies of certificates will clarify the connections.

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

CHAPPLE, SAMUEL ALFRED Private 4550 08/01/1917 Age: 26

Devonshire Regiment, 4th (Reserve) Bn.

Grave Ref: EE. 84. [Teignmouth Cemetery](#)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Chapple, of Ilfracombe; husband of Florence Emily Chapple, of 23, Fore St., Teignmouth.

Samuel Alfred Chapple is shown on the Dawlish section of the Devon Roll of Honour. He is also shown on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour, implying that he was a schoolboy in Dawlish between 1901 and 1911.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: CHAPPLE S.A. PTE DEVON REGT

He is named also on the Teignmouth War memorial.

Devon Heritage site information repeats the entry of the CWGC site, above

Next of kin: Mrs Florence Emily Chapple

References:

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Heather Roche – Teign Heritage Centre

refs via subscription sites: Ancestry and Find My Past

Census records

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

Forces War Records

redmore family tree (ancestry.com) and Bellia Family tree