

# Joseph Taylor & Percy Taylor

1893 - N/K

1896 - N/K

The Taylor brothers were born to parents Charles William Henry and Emily Taylor in Bolton within three years of each other. **Joseph** was born in Smithills in **1893** and **Percy** in **1896**. Father Charles was born in **1868** in Wigan. Mother Emily was born in Manchester in **1873**.

**Joseph** was baptised on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1893 at St Pauls, Halliwell by Vicar Thomas Lancaster.

They were living at 4 New Springs (off Smithills Croft Road). Father Charles is described as a 'Finisher' in bleachworks- who tidies up the surface of the cloth after bleaching.

**Percy** was born in 1896 in what is described in the 1901 census as 'Smithills Lane', Bolton.

In **1901** the family were still living at 4 New Springs, Smithills, Bolton. Father Charles is a 'Finisher in Bleachworks', Emily was looking after four children – Alice aged 9 (born circa. 1892), Joseph aged 9, Percy aged 4 and James aged 1 (born circa. 1900).

In **1911** the family were living at 30 McDonna Street, Halliwell.

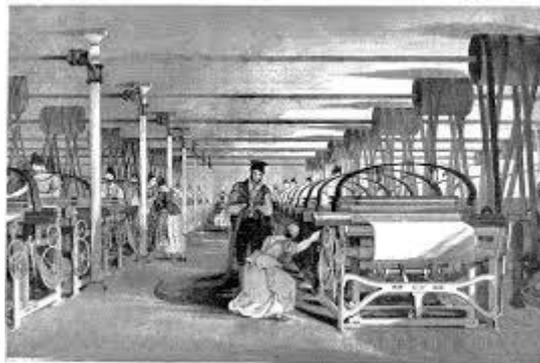
Mother Emily is not on the census and is believed to have died between 1903 and 1911. Also missing from the census is James. The census was filled in error and deleted but showed that Charles was married to Emily for 21 years (married 1890 approx.). It also shows that they had had 5 children and one had died.

Father Charles is 42 years of age and working as a 'Bleach Works Finisher'.

Alice Jane is 19 also working in a 'Bleach Works' as a 'Stitcher' who joins the start of a roll of cloth onto one end of the previous one so progress through bleaching tanks can be continuous.

Joseph is aged 17 and working as a 'Weaver Cotton'. Percy is 14 and working as what the digitisers of the census call a 'Sex Wheeler'. However sources on cotton industry jobs don't mention this type of work! He could have been a *weaver* but the census record is poorly written. There is sister called Elsie who is 8 years of age indicating mother Emily died after 1903.

Living with them as a 'housekeeper' is Charles' mother Margaret Ann Taylor aged 62, a widow who was born in Toxteth, Liverpool.



Cotton Weaving

Army Form B 2065

B 2065

**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(Three years with the Colours).

**ATTESTATION OF** 8. BN. L.N. LAIR

No. 15209 Name *Joseph Taylor* Corps *L.N. Laird*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? *Joseph Taylor*
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? *St. Mary's, Bolton*
3. Are you a British Subject? *Yes*
4. What is your age? *27*
5. What is your Trade or Calling? *Cloth Looker*
6. Have you resided out of your father's house for three years continuously in the same place, or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, if so, state where? *151 Longsight Row, Bolton*

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? if so, where? to whom? for what period? and, when did, or will, the period of your Apprenticeship expire? *Yes to J. C. ...*
8. Are you Married? *No*
9. Have you ever been sentenced to Imprisonment by the Civil Power? *No*
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what unit and Corps? *No*
11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and cause of discharge. *No*
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? *Yes*
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? *No*
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
15. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? *Yes*
16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? *No*
17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?  
For a term of three years, unless the War lasts longer than three years, in which case you will be retained until the War is over. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of Hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.  
If, however, the war is over in less than three years, you will be discharged with all convenient speed.

I, *Joseph Taylor*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

*Joseph Taylor* SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
*Henry ...* Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Joseph Taylor*, swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me

at *St. Mary's* on this *15* day of *Nov* 191 *1*

*St. Mary's* Signature of the Justice.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 8 (6), Army Act.  
The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form B. 2065A.

No service records can be found that can be firmly attributed to Joseph.

If you can help please contact on [www.friendsofsmithillshall.co.uk](http://www.friendsofsmithillshall.co.uk)

A **Joseph Taylor** was discharged as 'no longer fit for war service' on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1917 and was living at 151 Longsight Row, Harwood, Bolton. His trade was described as a 'Cloth looker'. The term describes someone in this occupation as "Putting cloth from a roll onto hooks so that the cloth can be folded concertina-fashion, making a parcel ready for shipping".

An attestation document, undated but thought to be for 1915, is held for **Percy Taylor**.

He is recorded as being recruited by the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. His Army number is 15309. The record shows him living in Halliwell, aged 21 and having been an apprentice for J Crook, Eagley Mill, Bolton.

He is single.

Percy's British Army WW1 Rolls index Cards shows he was in the French 'Theatre of War' and that he qualified for the 1914-15 Star, Victory and British medal as a Private.