



SAMUEL TAYLOR

Born: 22nd November 1898, Halliwell, Bolton
Died: 1983

He is on the right-hand panel of the 1914-18 Memorial at Smithills Chapel, 5th name from the top.

In the **1901** Census **Samuel Taylor** was living at 7 Somerville Street, Halliwell, Bolton (off Adrian Road, off Halliwell Road). He was aged 3.

His father **Samuel** aged 38, (circa .Oct-Dec 1863) and was born in Halliwell, Bolton. He was working as a 'stone quarryman'.

His mother **Annie** aged 30 (circa 1871) was born in 'Bolton' (which might mean that she was not born in Halliwell like the rest of the

family who are all shown as born in Halliwell).

He had sisters **Mary** aged 7 (circa. Jul-Sept 1893) and **Martha E** aged 5 (circa Oct-Dec 1895).

In the **1911** Census **Samuel** was still living at 7 Somerville Street, Bolton aged 13. He was working as a 'Little Piecer' in 'Cotton Spinning'. The youngest children in the textile factories were usually employed as scavengers and piecers. Piecers had to lean over the spinning-machine to repair the broken threads. One observer wrote: "The work of the children, in many instances, is reaching over to piece the threads that break; they have so many that they have to mind and they have only so much time to piece these threads because they have to reach while the wheel is coming out." This was quite a dangerous occupation leading to many serious injuries.

Father **Samuel**, now aged 48, was working as a 'Head Crofter' in a Bleachworks. A Crofter worked in a croft which is a piece of land where Bleaching or Dyeing is carried out. After processing, the cloth would be stretched and allowed to dry in the open air. When the air became more polluted, these trades had to move indoors.

Mother **Annie** was now 40 and the Census shows that she had had 7 live births but only 4 children were still alive.

Samuel had, on the Census, 2 sisters and a brother. **Mary Elizabeth** aged 17 was single and working as a 'Weaver' in a 'Cotton Mill'. A Weaver runs one or more looms to weave cloth. The more looms, the more money. Weaving is a very noisy operation, leaving many weavers deaf. Whether deaf or not, most weavers will have learned to lip-read since this is the only way to hold a conversation in the weaving shed. **Martha Ellen** was aged 15 and working as a 'Cotton Weaver'. **James** was aged 8 born (circa. 1903) in Halliwell, Bolton.

On **8th September 1916** the 'Army Record of Service' for **Samuel Taylor**, single, of 13 Thurstane Street, Bolton (off Adrian Road, off Halliwell Road) shows him signing up in Bolton with the Royal Field Artillery (whilst recording that he preferred the 'Royal Scots'). He was 18 years and 9 months old. He described his occupation as a 'Stripper and Grinder'. His rank was 'gunner' and he went to No. 3 Depot of the R.F.A at Preston with a regimental number of 160364. The British Army Medal Roll Index shows that his service qualified him for the Victoria medal and British medal. It is believed he served in Mesopotamia and his regiment certainly were involved in that campaign.

In 1923 the Marriage Register for All Saints Church in Devon Street, Farnworth shows that on the 21st July Samuel aged 25, married **May Cunliffe** aged 23. The record shows that he was a 'Cardroom Hand' and May was a 'Weaver', both were living at 3 Ash Street, Farnworth. The record shows that father Samuel was working as a 'Crofter'. May's father **John** was a 'Collier'. Witnesses were **Arthur Simms** and **Elizabeth Cunliffe**.

We are indebted to his grandson, Michael Taylor, for pointing us in the right direction with this research.