

NEWBERRY, Simeon

Simeon was born on 9 June 1897 in Membury. His parents were John Newbury and Bessie (nee Aplin born 1871) who married in 1895. He was their eldest child, and he had a brother Simeon James (1898-1968), a sister Emma P born in 1900. And another brother Frederick C born in 1904.

In 1891, Bessie Aplin was living with the Edwin and Annie Marley and their 4 children at Frogwell Farm, Wilhay Lane, Axminster, Smallridge.

In 1901 John was a carter on a farm. He and Bessie, together with Robert, Simeon and Emma were living at Prospect Cottage, Membury, together with John's mother, Sarah Ann Newbury, who was a Laundress and Midwife.

In 1911, John was a Limeburner. He and Bessie, with mother Sarah and son Frederick were living at Green Down, Membury. Robert was a cowman living at Ford Farm, Furley, living with the Perham family. Simeon, aged 13, was a Mason's Labourer and was recorded as being a patient in the Axminster Hospital.

Simeon enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. Number: PLY/16804. On 10 August 1914. He was in the Plymouth Battalion at Dunkirk 1914 and was wounded in the arm during operations in the Dardanelles in early 1915.

His father John and brother Robert also enlisted and Robert was killed in action in 1916.

On 17 September 1920 Simeon married a widow Harriet Fish (nee Pipe born 17 Nov 1890) in Membury Church. Harriet was from Bethnal Green, London, moving to Axminster between 1901 and 1911. Here she met and married Alfred W Fish of Axminster in 1915. He was a regular soldier in the 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment. Alfred was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916 and is buried at Wailly Orchard cemetery near Arras, and is remembered on the Axminster war memorial.

Simeon and Harriet's wedding was reported in the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette – the bridesmaid was Harriet's sister Miss J Pipe and Simeon's brother Frederick was the Best Man.

Their children, Robert (named for Simeon's dead brother) 1922-1995, Betty May (1927) who had a son Barry in 1943 and marries US Marine Delbert Bailey on 19 May 1944, from 3 Broadway Cottages, Axminster. In 1945 they had a daughter Shirley A Bailey. The following year Betty May, and the children left from Southampton to go to America to be with her husband at Battle Creek, Michigan.

On 3 December 1948 Simeon and Harriet left Liverpool for New York on the Cunard ship *Britannic*, then onwards to Michigan to live in the USA with their daughter and son-in law. In July 1955 they travelled on the *Queen Elizabeth* back to Southampton for a month's visit to Woking, Surrey where their son Robert and his family were living (103 Forsyth Path)

Harriet must have died as in 1967 Simeon comes back to England and marries Alma R Loud in Honiton. They return to the USA but the following year, Simeon dies in Battle Creek, Michigan where he is buried in Bedford Cemetery.

Note: in the Membury file there is a picture of Simeon, his father, John and his brother Robert (who was killed in action in March 2016) printed in the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette on Friday 2 July 1915