

SALWAY, Roland – died on 29 September 1914 in Surrey – aged 20

Roland's parents Samuel and Selina were Devon born in Whitford and Axminster and their eldest daughter Mabel had been born in Uplyme. But the family went up north, and Roland and his brother William were born in Kimberworth, Rotherham, Yorkshire, where Samuel was working as a farm carter.

But by 1911 the family was back in Devon and 17 year old Roland was living and working on a Corrymoor farm in Stockland for William Tatchell and his family, with his brother, William working in Wambrook. By 1916, Selina was living in Waterloo Cottage, Membury.

In August 1914, war fever gripped the nation and young men were enlisting in droves – some out for adventure and with a false idea of the fun and glory of war. Certainly the farming life was hard for young, poor men with little hope of owning their own land. For many the army seemed a better alternative. All Britain's regiments were calling up their reservists and forming new battalions of what were to be called Kitchener's army.

The Devonshire Regiment formed the 8th Battalion on 19 August and sent out recruiting teams across Devon. Men from Membury, like villages all round, walked down into Axminster to enlist. Together with his brother William, Noah Aplin and William Parker and probably several others, Roland joined the army in Axminster. His army number was 10290 and the others mentioned had consecutive numbers and were killed in action).

These early recruits were sent to Rushmoor Camp, in Aldershot. The army was overwhelmed by the numbers coming forward and the camp had expanded rapidly. Most soldiers were living in tents with few facilities, as they started their hard army training.

Roland Salway died on 29 September 1914 of Croupous Pneumonia leading to heart failure in Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot. He is buried at the Aldershot Military Cemetery.