FOWLER, Liberty George

Liberty George Fowler was born in Colyton on 9 October 1983 known as George. His parents were John Fowler (b 1862 in Colyton) and Florence M (nee Pavey b 1862 in Smallridge).

In 1901, father, John was still a contractor of highways and the family was much larger and lived at Parrocks, Hawkchurch. Parents, John and Florence, and children Henry J (13 – working as a labourer on highways), Samuel Robert (8), Liberty George (7), William Tom (5). Florence M (14), Elizabeth B (11), Rose (10) and Alice Freedom (1).

In 1911 the family was at Cleave Hill, Membury. John was a farmer, Florence, some lodgers and Samuel R (18 working on farm), Liberty George (17 – working on farm), William Tom (15 working on farm), Alice Freedom (11) Myrtle L (9).

No military record found for Liberty George. He was in the South staffs and East Lincs Regimen, and when he entered the war he worked with horses. He was badly wounded at Passendale in 1918. As a battalion runner, he took messages from HQ to the front line and he was blown up while doing that job. He spent a great deal of time in various hospitals, both in France and then England, including Exeter Hospital, finally being discharged in 1919. He was disabled for the rest of his life. His brothers Henry and Samuel also served in the war.

In 11 June 1922 at Widworthy Liberty George Fowler married Mabel Rebecca Vincent, of Dalwood, who (aged 14) had worked as a servant in 1911 at Cornhaye Farm, Hawkchurch. They lived at Rectory Cottage, Widworthy where their son Edward was born in 1923.

Liberty George Fowler died in February 1893 (reg in Honiton).

Note: Additional information on George's war record supplied by his son Edward Fowler, who now lives in Musbury and had a paper round in Membury in 1933