



## Arthur Coleman

Arthur Coleman was born in Gretton in 1892. He was baptised on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1892. His father was John Coleman of Seaton, his mother Louisa Ann Coleman (nee Barwell) of Gretton. John and Louisa married on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1890.

### Family History

In 1901 John and Louisa were living in Gretton with their children Arthur, Elijah, Albert, Sarah Ann and Lucy. John Coleman was employed as an agricultural labourer.

By 1911 only widower John Coleman and children Elijah, Albert, Sarah Ann and Lucy were in Gretton. John, Elijah and Albert were all farm labourers.

Arthur Coleman was working as a groom for John Lawrance and family in Arthingworth. John Lawrance was a publican resident in the Kelmarsch Arms.

### Military History

Arthur Coleman enlisted on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914. He was to serve as a Private (16002) in the 5<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

The 5<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (Pioneers) was formed in Northampton in September 1914. It was attached to the 12<sup>th</sup> Division. From January 1915 it became the Pioneer Battalion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division. The battalion mobilised for war and landed in France on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1914. It was to serve on the Western Front for the duration of the war.

From 15<sup>th</sup> September 1914 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 1915 he was based at the battalion's depot. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 1915 he joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Records show he was on the Western Front with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion from 30<sup>th</sup> May 1915 to 6<sup>th</sup> March 1918. He was promoted to Corporal on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 1918 whilst in Armentieres, France he was kicked by a mule whilst undertaking stable duties. He suffered an injury to his jaw. He was treated in hospital in France then later back in the United Kingdom, in Staffordshire.

Corporal Coleman was transferred back to the depot from 6<sup>th</sup> March 1918.

He was to contract pneumonia after the stable injury, and was discharged from the Army on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1918. Records show he was also suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Arthur Coleman returned home.



Arthur Coleman died on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1918. Although a civilian when he died, his death has been attributed to his war service. He served from September 1914 through to June 1918. He was one of the first Gretton men to volunteer.

Arthur Coleman is buried in St. James Church graveyard in Gretton and commemorated on the Gretton War Memorial.

### Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Gretton Local History Society

***Lest We Forget***

**Arthur Coleman**  
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 12<sup>th</sup> December 1918

### Albert Coleman (brother)

Arthur's brother Albert Coleman served as a Private (16511) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. He was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1915 aged 19 years old.

### Elijah Coleman (brother)

Another brother Elijah Coleman served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment and the Royal Artillery Regiment. He returned home, married in 1927, had a son in 1929 and died in 1948 at the age of 54 years old.

### John Henry Coleman (brother)

Arthur's oldest brother, John Henry Coleman (b. Gretton 1890) also served during the war. He was a Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

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