

Joseph William Whitfield

Born January 1884
Died 25th September 1915 Age 31
Royal Berks Reg Pte 17267
Loos Memorial

Malcolm Whitfield

Born 14th November 1889
Died 2nd February 1916 Age 26
Royal Field Artillery 'C' Bty 73 Bde
Gunner 59105
Maroc British Cemetery

Joseph and Malcolm were born brought up in the house of their grandfather, Robert Whitfield, in the middle of East Hanney near the Mulberries. Robert Whitfield was an agricultural labourer whose parents had moved to East Hanney from Goosey Wick in the 1820's. Robert's younger spinster sister Sarah also lived with him, together with his daughter Elizabeth Ann Whitfield, mother of the two boys.

In the 1891 census Elizabeth is 30 and a domestic cook. Joseph, seven, is a scholar and Malcolm is one.

Joseph's birth was registered at Wantage in 1884 but he does not appear to have been baptised at Hanney. Malcolm was baptised at Hanney in 1898 when he was eight. No record is made of who their father was.

In 1895 Elizabeth Ann married William Ferris, a groom, living in East Hanney. Joseph and Malcolm remained with their great aunt. Their younger half-brother Alfred Ferris also enlisted and returned (see group photo).

Robert died in 1900 and the 1901 census shows just Sarah and her two great nephews living in a cottage near the chapel. Joseph is 17 and an agricultural labourer and Malcolm is 11.

In 1911 Sarah is receiving 'parish allowance' and Joseph and Malcolm are farm labourers.

No record can be found of their enlistment.