

After lock-down I had several things which kept me occupied for about 5 weeks, so I did no research at all.

As I started to think about my family history, I realised that I had spent the majority of my time finding people, i.e. ancestors, and very little focussing on their lives. So, I decided that I would like to know much more about my grandparents. Although I know much about the action where my paternal grandfather was killed, I know very little about his earlier life. Also, I know very little of the lives of my other grandparents. None of my Aunts or Uncles are still alive so I have no references.

Starting with my maternal grandfather, Charles Arnold, I am using on-line searches to get more information. As soon as I started, I found that the information in my computerised family tree was quite jumbled, with some duplicates and some missing media. So I set about putting his house (life) in order. I then found that the medal record I had on file for him, was for a different Charles Arnold and his own medal record does not appear to exist, unless under a name too different to be found by normal searches. His service record for WW1 is now available which is what led me to query the medal record, as the discharge dates were completely different.

I knew that he had moved to Yorkshire, finding him in the 1901 census. He had joined the Royal Yorkshire Light Infantry in around 1899. He was in Wakefield prison for going AWOL in 1901 and again in 1902 for desertion. He appears to be the only Black Sheep I have found so far.

By 1905 he was back in Hucknall Torkard where he married Margaret Smith, my grandmother. He enlisted in September 1914, in the Sherwood Foresters, and was discharged in January 1915, wounded. When not in the army he was a collier.

Margaret was born in Whaplode Drove. She moved to Hucknall to work in the Hosiery Mill. I found a complete history of the Hucknall Hosiery trade on the Notts County web site.