

Henry Atkinson 1860-1921

Born in Patrington.

Married Louisa Shucksmith (1865-1916).

Two sons:

George

Henry John

Master Butcher in Hull.

Property and farms in Holderness (for more detail, see memoir entitled 'Philip Shucksmith's Family History').

In 1908, at the sale of a Trust, he bought White Barn Farm – then known as 'The Farm', costing £4,250; 180 acres.

George Atkinson (1900-1948) married Violet (-1947)

Henry John Atkinson (1905-1989) married Sally (-1958)



Henry Atkinson



Louisa and Henry Atkinson

*George and Henry John Atkinson with
wives Violet & Sally*

*Left to right:
Sally, Violet, George, John*



Archery practice:

*Left: John William Shucksmith (Jack)
Right: Henry John Atkinson*



*Henry John Atkinson bequeathed 'The Farm' – White
Barn Farm, Alvingham, to Philip and Basil Shucksmith
upon his death in 1989.*



Henry John
Atkinson:
Nostalgia

FARMER BUILT HIS PRIVATE 'ARMY'

Nostalgic pieces of a shattered dream

DEFECTIVE EYESIGHT shattered the boyhood dream of Henry Atkinson and prevented him from becoming a soldier. Instead, he was destined for a life far removed from fighting—farming the fields of the East Riding. But throughout his working life Mr Atkinson maintained his early interest and fervently followed the fortunes of the armed forces.

Four years ago, he started a major operation when he began to compose a military history of the British Empire in brass and bronze. During these last four years he has amassed close on 900 cap badges and helmet plates dating back to the turn of the century.

Mr Atkinson, who retired to Bridlington in 1946, keeps his magnificent collection at his home, 15, Lamplugh-road, where he lives alone.

ALWAYS INTERESTED

"The Army would have been my life," explained Mr Atkinson, "but now I must content myself with military history. Ever since I was a child of about five, I have been interested in the traditions of the forces. Now this is my life. I think of very little else."

GOES FURTHER

In his quest for regimental treasures, Mr Atkinson has built up a string of contacts all over the country and now has badges sent to him from as far away as the south coast. In addition, he has visited military museums in different parts of the country.

One would think that collecting the badges was a bit of a handful, but Mr Atkinson goes even further.

Each individual badge is mounted either in a case or on a card. To complete the job, Mr Atkinson has written on such information as the name of the regiment, the campaigns it was involved in, its depot, and has even gone to such lengths as to uncover the regimental march.

Most of his information has come from an extensive library of reference books, which he has accumulated over the years.

VALUABLE BOOK

One of the most valuable books in his collection is a copy of Whitaker's Almanack which takes him back to 1890.

Not satisfied with having this information set in print, Mr Atkinson spends many hours writing out a potted history of each regiment. All the facts are hand-written in large ledgers and provide easy reference when an additional badge turns up for his collection.

One item, which Mr Atkinson acquired from a friend, is a 1907 period helmet. The helmet, which is in remarkably good condition, was worn by British infantryman.

PROUDEST POSSESSION

But Mr Atkinson's proudest possession is a helmet badge from the 28th Regiment of Foot.

Soldiers in the 28th Foot, which later became known as the 1st Gloucesters, would wear the badge on that shako.

Mr Atkinson admits that he owes a great deal to other collectors, who have helped him procure particularly rare specimens.

"It is surprising how few people are interested in gathering together these war memories," said Mr Atkinson. "Most of the interest lies with the old-timers who fought in World War I."

MOST SATISFYING

One of the most satisfying sidelines with this absorbing hobby is to build up a complete set.

Mr Atkinson is now hoping to turn up a cap badge from the 2nd Life Guards to complete a set of cavalry crests from World War I.

Another piece Mr Atkinson is anxious to get his hands on is a helmet plate centre from the Royal Irish Regt.

Main drawback to this hobby is the cost involved.

EXPENSIVE HOBBY

"It is expensive," said Mr Atkinson, "but the collection is increasing in value with age."

There is no chance of Mr Atkinson parting with his badge, which he says cannot be priced.

Occasionally, the strains of "Yorkshire Lass" can be heard drifting from 15, Lamplugh-road from the tape recorder of Mr Henry Atkinson, a man who, given the opportunity, would most certainly have made a success of an Army career but has been compelled to follow his interest away from the battlefield in the peace of his own home.



MILITARY HISTORY IN BRASS.—Mr H. J. Atkinson, of Bridlington, with part of his collection of Army cap badges.