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6th Notts Rifle Volunteers (Collingham)

Notts Rifle Volunteer Corps

1860 -1908

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Form! Form! Riflemen Form!

Historical Context to the Rifle Volunteer Corps (RVC)



Left: *Sir Jonathan Peel (1799-1879) Secretary of State for War*

The Crimean War exposed the fact that the British Army didn't have enough forces to despatch to a new area of conflict without impacting on the British Isles' own defences.

On 12 May 1859 the Secretary of State for War, Jonathan Peel, issued a circular letter to lieutenants of counties in England, Wales and Scotland, authorising the formation of rifle volunteer corps (RVC) and of artillery corps in defended coastal towns. Volunteer corps were to be raised under the provisions of the Volunteer Act 1804 which had been used to form local defence forces during the Napoleonic Wars.

Alfred Tennyson, then poet laureate, captured the spirit of the time by publishing a rallying poem *The War* in *The Times* on 9 May 1859.¹

The War

There is a sound of thunder afar,
Storm in the south that darkens the day,
Storm of battle and thunder of war,
Well, if it does not roll our way.
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Be not deaf to the sound that warns!
Be not gull'd by a despot's plea!
Are figs of thistles or grapes of thorns?
How should a despot set men free?
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!

¹ Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volunteer_Force

Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Let your Reforms for a moment go,
Look to your butts and make good aims.
Better a rotten borough or so,
Than a rotten fleet or a city of flames!
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Form, be ready to do or die!
Form in freedom's name and the Queen's!
True, that we have a faithful ally,
But only the devil knows what he means!
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Alfred Lord Tennyson

First published in The Times 9th May 1859

Rifle Volunteer Corps in Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire was quick off the mark. The Lord-Lieutenant of the county at the time was Henry Pelham-Clinton, the 5th Duke of Newcastle. He was approached by J G Simpkins, a stationer on Angel Row in Nottingham, who already had a list of those willing



Above: Image of the Robin Hood's uniform (2nd from left) p 11 *The Robin Hood Rifles* (part of the Victorian Nottingham Series Vol 15) by Iliffe & Baguley 1975 (original drawing in *The London Illustrated News* 1860

to form a rifle club with view to it turning in to a corps. The Duke set up a meeting of magistrates and deputy lieutenants at County Hall in mid-May, 1859. It was here the **Robin Hood Rifles** were formed and by May 30th the Robin Hood Rifles were having their first drill, albeit somewhat impromptu, in the castle grounds. This handful of men – Simpkins (who became captain), Mr Jonathan White (an

ex-Sgt. Major of the Queen's Royals, who was made the first instructor), hosier Mr Anthony Mundella, Mr Johnson, Mr Evans, Mr Perry and Mr G T Hine and Mr TC Hine – were the

first Robin Hood Rifles (No. 1 Castle Company). A plaque marking the event can still be seen in the castle grounds today.

The Newark area wasn't far behind the Robin Hoods and by 1860 had 8 Corps under the umbrella of the 1st Administration Battalion, Nottinghamshire Rifle Volunteer Corps (NRVC), with HQ at East Retford. The 8 corps were:

1st Administration Battalion NRVC

2nd Nottinghamshire Rifle Volunteer Corps (NRVC) East Retford

3rd NRVC (Newark)

4th NRVC (Mansfield)

5th NRVC (Thorney Wood)

6th NRVC (Collingham)

7th NRVC (Worksop)

8th NRVC (Southwell) (disbanded 1893)

For the Newark Corps:

Annual Subs were 10/- (ten shillings)

Uniform: 'Not more than £3'

Accoutrements: £1 (paid in instalments)

Drills would be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Uniform would be: *'A tunic of silver grey cloth with bronze buttons and bound with crimson cord, the Austrian knot to be wrought in crimson upon the sleeves, and the Government Cut being adhered to. Peg top trousers also of silver grey cloth with a crimson stripe. Short gaiters in bad weather, the shako to have a plume of feathers and the forage cap will be of grey cloth with scarlet band and 'oilskin over'.*²

It is likely the Collingham company had a similar uniform.

² G Hemingway Newark Rifles using newspaper archives of The Lincoln and Stamford Mercury, Newark Herald and Newark Advertiser 1859-1860. Notes in Newark Library Local Studies Ref: L35 22

The Raising of the 6th Notts Rifle Volunteer Corps of Collingham



Left: Thomas Smith Woolley Jr, (1819 – 1888) founder of the Notts Rifles. Image from a portrait of Smith Woolley donated to CDLHS Archives by Mr Ian Glenny

Thomas Smith Woolley Jr., of the firm of Smith Woolley (Land Agents & Surveyors) on the Green in South Collingham, raised the Collingham Corps towards the end of 1859. A well-connected man of great social standing in the village and beyond, Smith Woolley Jr. was a natural choice to lead the proceedings. We are fortunate in that Smith Woolley Jr. kept diaries³ from 1842 to 1870 so we have a useful insight as to how he went about forming the corps. December 1859, for example, saw many planning meetings with ‘Oates’

(William Henry Coape Oates 1835 -1895 of Langford Hall) ‘Broadbent’ (John Broadbent, 1824 – 1901, surgeon and brother-in-law⁴) and ‘Oates’ - father-in-law to another founder-member, ‘Domenichetti’ (William Lewis Domenichetti (1795 – 1875), gentry, living on Low Street⁵). As a retired army officer in the Ceylon Rifles with an illustrious career, Domenichetti would have been a useful adviser on military matters.

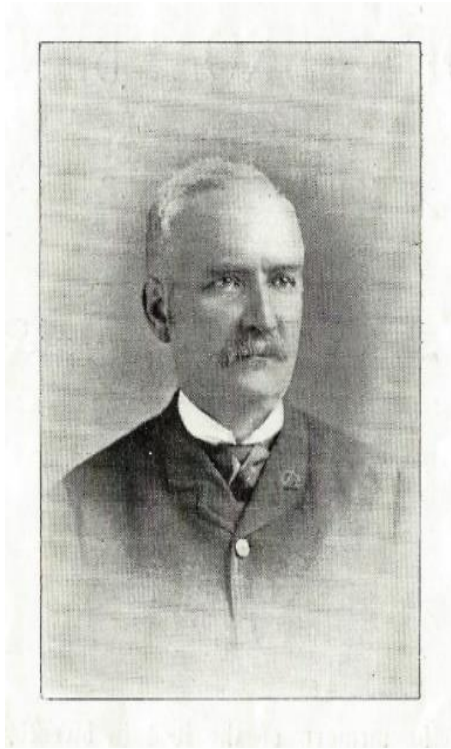
On 1st August 1860 the commanding officers of the Collingham Rifles attended the inauguration of the eight corps at Newark Town Hall where they swore the oath of allegiance.⁶

³ The diaries are held in Nottinghamshire Archives (see Sources)

⁴ Technically by 1859 Broadbent was no longer Woolley’s brother-in-law. Broadbent’s first wife, Alice, TSW’s sister, had died in 1854 from complications arising from childbirth. Broadbent was married to Ann Mary Wright in 1859. She died two years later and he married for a third time, to Catherine Milnes, in 1864. However, the diaries show Woolley and Broadbent remained friends throughout their lives.

⁵ 1861 Census shows Domenichetti on Low St possibly ‘The Willows’. Moved to High St near The White Hart by 1871 Census.

⁶ Hemingway ‘Newark Volunteers’ (Newark Library) See footnote (fn)2



John Broadbent MD (1824 – 1901) sub-lieutenant under Woolley photo image c/o CDLHS Archives Ref: BU/C/12

Below: The Domenichetti graves in All Saints' Churchyard. William's to the fore. Photo by HP 2015



From The Newark Advertiser 17th August 1860:

'On Tuesday 14th nearly 50 of the Newark Rifle Corps visited Collingham for a combined drill. They left Newark by the 4.34 train and reaching Collingham the two companies joined and marched round the village, preceded by the Newark Drum and Fife band. They then repaired to the cricket ground where they were drilled until a few minutes before 8.00 pm. Refreshment was provided on the ground by Lt Woolley after which the Newark gentlemen marched home and got drenched on the way.'⁷

A diary entry for October 29th 1860 indicates there were 34 recruits in the Rifles when they marched to Collingham Station to 'present arms'. Smith Woolley was first a Captain⁸ and then Lieutenant⁹.

⁷ Source: Hemingway (as before fn 2)

⁸ Edward Wake's History of Collingham pub 1867 refers to him as Captain Woolley

⁹ See Sherwood Foresters Regimental Annual 1910 p 178 Newark Library.

Lincoln & Stamford Mercury 7th December 1860

'On Saturday afternoon (1st Dec) the 3rd (Newark) and 6th (Collingham) Rifle Volunteers encamped in the park at Langford by permission T L A Burnaby Esq. After drill and the 'usual salute' the line broke up and the men retired to their respective tents where they partook of the recognised Volunteer fare viz a pint of ale, a meat pie and a biscuit. About 6.30 they marched back to Newark.'

Lincoln & Stamford Mercury Dec 19th

'Sgt. Garratt, Battalion Instructor of Musketry, the Royal Sherwood Foresters, is to be the musketry instructor to the 3rd and 6th Companies.'

Thomas Smith Woolley also instigated the building of a rifle range (see p) on land belonging to The Manor, where his father, Thomas Smith Woolley Snr., had lived. After about 1870 The Manor was occupied by land agent and surveyor John Wigram (1846-1943), who became a partner in the firm. It is not known if Wigram was involved with the Rifles.

A later rifle range was built on Green Lane off Scaffold Lane/ Station Road and used during WW1. Ranges were vital for shooting practice. Without one, the Volunteers would have had to make their way to Newark every time.

In 1874, responsibility for the VRC went from the lord lieutenants of each county to the War Office. Over time, new rules governing militia and the regular army came in to force and there was much reforming and amalgamation of volunteer regiments and battalions.

In 1878, Thomas Smith Woolley Jr. retired from the Rifles and his son, Thomas Cecil Woolley (1854 -1913) took over as captain.

Thomas Cecil Woolley (1854 -1913)



Photograph of Cecil Woolley from a postcard c/o CDLHS Archives

Thomas ‘Cecil’ Woolley was the 8th child of Thomas Smith Woolley Jr and his wife, Maria. A highly religious man, he founded St Stephen’s Church (1886) and school in Brough and served on many committees in the village. He was the chairman of the first parish council for South Collingham when it was set up in 1894 and served as clerk for the Collingham School Board from 1875 and was its chair from 1899-1902.¹⁰

Cecil Woolley was also interested in archaeology and his 1906 transcription for the Thoroton Society on Roman Finds in

Crocolana (Brough) is still available to read today. In addition to all this he commanded the 6th Co from 1878 to 1899, rising in the ranks to Major by 1896, and saw numbers rise to over 90 recruits during his tenure.

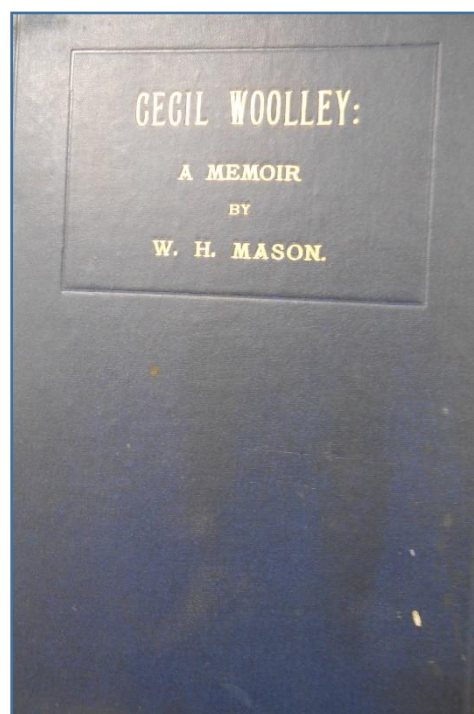
When he died in an accident in February 1913 cycling back from St Stephen’s to his home at The Small House on the corner of Church Lane, there was an outpouring of grief in the village and beyond. Before the year was out, W. H. Mason¹¹ had published a biography of this ‘Great Collingham Citizen’ as one headline in Fleet magazine labelled the

¹⁰ ‘A Great Collingham Citizen’ Fleet Magazine (reproduced in A Collingham Scrapbook’ p 7).

¹¹ It is unknown to this researcher who W H Mason was. If anyone knows, please contact.

deceased¹². The following extract about Cecil Woolley's role in the Rifles is from Mason's memoir:

'In 1873¹³ he (Cecil) joined as Ensign the 1st Administrative Battalion of the Nottinghamshire Rifle Volunteers, being attached to the Collingham Company, which, as we have seen, was then commanded by his father. The 8 detached companies, of which Collingham was known as the 6th, had been 'in 1862,' writes his brother officer, Col E H Nicholson, in his contribution to the 'Regimental Annual of the Sherwood Foresters for 1910'¹⁴: *'...constituted a battalion for administrative purposes under the title of the 1st Administrative Battalion Notts RV. In 1882, when territorial regiments were instituted, it was consolidated, and became the 2nd Notts, and was assigned to the Sherwood Foresters, or Derbyshire Regiment, the Robin Hoods being designated the 1st Notts. In 1887 the number was again changed, much against the wish of the battalion, to the 4th Notts.'* In 1878, when his father resigned, Cecil was promoted to Captain, and, in 1896, to be Major; and he continued to serve until 1899, when he resigned his commission, retaining the honorary rank of Lt-Colonel. His brother Reginald¹⁵ succeeded him in the command of the Collingham Company.' Col E H Nicholson goes on to say: *'F Company is unique in that it has been commanded from the first year of its formation, 1860, till its removal to the more populous centre of Kimberley in 1908, by members of the same family.'*



Cover of Mason's memoir to Cecil Woolley. Copy in CDLHS Archives (Ref: EF/MM/2) Photo HP

¹² Ibid footnote 5

¹³ Cecil Woolley would have been 20 yrs old.

¹⁴ The complete set of Annuals are available in the Local Studies section of Newark Library -see Sources

¹⁵ Reginald Woolley (1858-1929) was the 11th of 14 children born to TSW Jr. Although he was also a land agent with the firm, he lived all his married life in Lincoln (12 Minster Yard) rather than Collingham.

Mason adds (p15): *‘...And it is significant that as soon as the family connection with the corps ceased, the numbers of the company fell off to such an extent that it lost its separate existence and merged in the Newark company; and at the present day it seems doubtful whether a single unit from Collingham finds a place in that company.’*

Table showing the original 1860 Notts Volunteer Rifles Companies:

Company	Centre	Commander
1st	Nottingham (Robin Hood Rifles)	Sgt-Maj Jonathan White
2	Retford	Capt. C S Burnaby
3	Newark	Sir H Bromley Bart.
4	Mansfield (Sherwood Rifles)	Capt. Salmond
5	Thorneywood Chase inc Epperstone, Lowdham, Calverton etc	Capt. Mansfield Parkyns
6	Collingham	Lt. T S Woolley
7	Worksop	Capt. James Mason
8	Southwell	Capt. J H Becher

Uniform

According to Col. E H Nicholson '8th Battalion (Old 4th Notts Sherwood Foresters)' *'Unlike the Robin Hood Rifles, the 1st Administrative Battalion Rifles' uniform was grey with scarlet facings, and shako (hat) with plume. In 1868 it changed into scarlet, with Lincoln Green facings and brown belts; in 1879 it adopted a spiked helmet. Its service kit is khaki.*

Right: Sgt George Hind in his dress uniform. He is shown in the later 1879 spiked helmet.

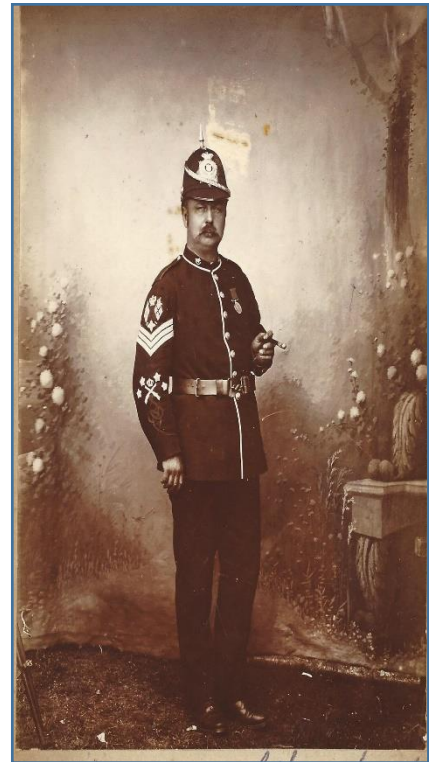


Image left: A recent donation¹⁶ to the Collingham archives has been a pair of buttons from a Notts Rifle Volunteer's tunic. These were found on Cottage Lane and it is easy to imagine the 50 or so volunteers route matching down the lane on a summer evening.

Colours

The King's Colour *'which belonged to the Newark Battalion of Loyal Volunteers presented in 1804 and 1869.'* And *'the old colour of the Southwell Volunteer Infantry of 1803 presented to the 4th Notts in 1870.*

Training

Thomas Smith Woolley Jr's diaries mention 'Rifles Meetings' from time to time but end in 1870 so we can only get a brief idea of what took place in the early years. There is no doubt the job of training up the local men was taken seriously and Woolley would have set his standards high.

Drills were an essential part of training. Bearing in mind the volunteers all worked during the day, these would have taken place either very early in the morning or in the evenings. The Robin Hood Rifles' drills were frequently after 7.30 pm, for example. Until 1888 there

¹⁶ Buttons kindly donated by Malcolm Barnard whose father had an allotment on Cottage Lane

was no public hall in Collingham in which to practice indoors and it is understood one of the vacuous malthouses off Queen Street was used. Drill lasted up to 1 ½ hours on average.

Shooting Practice was another key part of being a rifle volunteer and musketry practice over ranges of various lengths were set to test skills. These became quite competitive, especially when participating in battalion shooting competitions. Targets were divided into 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class and volunteers were required to complete courses to show improvement. The highest scorer in the first-class section was entitled to wear the much prized ‘crossed guns’ badge on his sleeve as marksman of the year (shown right).



‘Under Canvas’

All Volunteers were required to attend annual camps. The camps were an opportunity to train more intensely and compete in shooting competitions with other units. Venues included Towyn, Portsmouth and Falmouth (see below). They were also useful for learning vital skills when in the field such as cooking, first aid & handling more sophisticated equipment such as cannon.

LIST OF ENCAMPMENTS

	Site of Camp.	Brigade or Regimental.	Inspecting Officer.	C.O.	Adjutants.	
1863	Plain Piece, Worksop	Regimental	—	Mansfield Parkyns	H. Urquhart	8th Battalion Notes
1864	" "	"	Lt.-Col. G. B. Harman	"	"	
1865	" "	"	Col. Deshon	H. Eyres	G. L. M. Egerton	
1866	" "	"	Col. Wombwell	"	"	
to						
1869			Col. Roche	"	"	
1870	" "	"	Col. Hon. W. H. Herbert	"	"	
1871	" "	"				
1872	" "	"	Col. Rickman	"	"	
1873	" "	"				
to						
1877			Col. Chippendall, C.B.	"	"	
1878	" "	"	Col. Blewitt	"	"	
to	" "	"				
1880	" "	"	Col. Hon. R. de Montmorency	"	"	
1881	" "	"	Major-Gen. Daniels	"	"	
1882	" "	"	Col. Kingsley, C.B.	"	C. E. Thompson	
1883	" "	"	Gen. Freemantle	"	"	
1884	" "	"	Col. Kingsley, C.B.	"	"	
1885	" "	Brigade	Major-Gen. H. C. Wilkinson, C.B.	"	"	
1886	" "	Regimental				191
1887	" "	"				
1888	" "	"				
1889	" "	"				
1890	" "	"				
1891	Belton Park, Grantham	Brigade				



Picture (above): Volunteers from the Collingham Rifles 'under canvas' c 1880

Information on the rear of photograph¹⁷ reads: *'Notts Rifle Volunteers c 1896 F Company Collingham Formed in 1860 and commanded from 1878 by Major Thomas Cecil Woolley'*

However, a more recent donation¹⁸ of an original copy of this photograph puts the date at 1880

L-R: Sgt George Hind, Pte William Broadberry, Corporal Taylor, Corporal Milnes, Sgt John Willis, Pte Wm Woodcock

Image c/o CDLHS Archives

¹⁷ CDLHS URN FF1/3 Handwritten by Jack Aitken of the Collingham Museum Committee 1975-90s

¹⁸ Donation January 19th 2017 from Mrs Marie Taylor whose grandfather was Sgt John Willis

List of Encampments 1892 - 1909

LIST OF ENCAMPMENTS (<i>continued</i>)					
	Site of Camp.	Brigade or Regimental.	Inspecting Officer.	C.O.	Adjutants.
1892	Plain Piece, Worksop	Regimental	Col. H. H. Hooke	Viscount Newark	G. E. Temple
1893	Yarmouth	Brigade	Major-Gen. H. C. Wilkinson, C.B.	"	"
1894	Plain Piece, Worksop	Regimental	Col. H. H. Hooke	"	"
1895	Yarmouth	Brigade	"	"	"
1896	"	"	"	"	"
1897	Scarborough	"	Col. Sparkes	L. Milward	"
1898	Plain Piece, Worksop	Regimental	"	E. H. Nicholson	A. S. Adkins
1899	Aldershot	Brigade	"	"	"
1900	Yarmouth	"	"	"	"
1901	Aldershot	"	Col. Bruce	"	"
1902	Salisbury Plain	"	Brigadier	H. Mellish	"
1903	Castleton	"	"	"	"
1904	Scarborough	"	"	"	F. H. Weldon
1905	Castleton	"	"	"	"
1906	Conway	"	"	G. S. Foljambe	"
1907	Towyn	"	"	"	C. J. W. Hobbs
1908	Scarborough	Regimental	Col. H. J. Archdale, C.B.	"	"
1909	"	Brigade	Brigadier	"	"

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BRIGADIERS

- 1889-1893. Sir H. Wilmot, V.C., C.B.
 1895-1896. Col. H. H. Hooke (temp.), O.C. 45th Regimental District.
 1897-1907. Col. Lord Manvers, V.D.
 1909. Col. Murray.



Above: Postcard²⁰ reads: 'F Co 4th VBSF (Volunteer Battalion Sherwood Foresters) at Towyn N Wales 1907'

¹⁹ CDLHS URN WCD/FF1/16 Details written by Jack Aitken on rear of image

²⁰ CDLHS URN WCD/FF1/16 Details written by Jack Aitken on rear of image

Rear of postcard reads:

- 'Back row 5th from left: Charles Burgess
- 2nd row: 5th from left Bartholomew²¹
- 3rd row: 4th from left William Bailey (Snr) (Baker & confectioner, 112 High St)
- 3rd row: 8th from left William 'Whiskers' Broadberry (cycle agent/Ercle's Cottage on Low St)

Also (not mentioned on rear of postcard) Officer 5th from left on third row with hand on cane is Charles Constable Curtis (1852-1936) of Langford Hall.

36 volunteers shown. (NB: The corps was absorbed into the 8th Sherwood Foresters soon afterwards and transferred from Collingham to Kimberley near Nottingham)

Alphabetical List of known recruits in the 6th Notts Rifle Corps (& later 4th 'F' Co.)

The following [incomplete] list is compiled from trade directories, names on the back of photographs & various newspaper cuttings in the archives. Dates of birth & death in brackets. The men will have served at different times over the Rifles' 48-year history:

In bold are those known to have been Volunteers at the beginning of the corps' history (1860-1880):

- ⊙ Ayre, Robert drill instructor
- ⊙ Bailey, William (baker)
- ⊙ Bartholomew, James
- ⊙ Broadberry AKA 'Whiskers' (1862 – 1937 cycle agent & joiner) 1884 Silver Medal for 10 yrs service -this would mean he began at 12? Did he attend a Cadets corps (there was one in Worksop) Or is this another Broadberry?
- ⊙ **Broadbent John, Dr (surgeon)²² Broadbent was Hon. Asst Surgeon to the Collingham Corps in 1861**
- ⊙ Burgess, Charles (ref: 1907 postcard)
- ⊙ Cooper D H (Ensign)
- ⊙ Curtis, Charles Constable (Lieut.) (1852 – 1936) Moved to the area c 1880s.
- ⊙ **Domenichetti William Lewis**

²¹ Possibly Joseph Bartholomew son of William, a farmer. Dates unknown.

²² According to Dr John Broadbent's funeral testimonial, Broadbent was, for 'nearly ten years' 'sub-lieutenant of the company.' (URN: BU/C12) rendering '*ready and useful assistance to Mr Woolley until resigning due to increase in his practice.*' Dates of service were probably somewhere between 1860 – 1870.

- ⊙ Griffin, Thomas
- ⊙ Hind, George (Sgt) see p 21
- ⊙ Hodgkinson, George (drill instructor)
- ⊙ Hoe, Henry (served 1872 – 1902) – Sgt. See certificate p 24
- ⊙ Milnes, ?
- ⊙ Nicholson, William Dykes End Cottage, Dykes End born c 1871 ‘served in the 4th Notts Volunteer battalion...’ died 1966. Source: Newark Advertiser Scrapbook 2 1966 page 1 CDLHS
- ⊙ **Oates, William Henry Coape**
- ⊙ Rawlin (Private) awarded Silver Medal for 10 yrs’ service in 1898
- ⊙ Reeve
- ⊙ **Richmond Qm-Sgt 1877 10 yrs’ Silver Cross & 20 yrs in 1882**
- ⊙ Sharp, J (Corporal)
- ⊙ **Smith-Woolley Jr, Thomas (founder)**
- ⊙ **Staley (shopkeeper) 1881 medal for 10 yrs**
- ⊙ Taylor, ? Sgt 20 yrs Silver Cross 1898
- ⊙ **Widnall, G (1846-1927) Sgt - a plumber and gasfitter, awarded Silver Cross in 1887 for 20 yrs service. George Widnall also served on the first Parish Council for N. Collingham in 1894.**
- ⊙ **Willis, John Lce. Sgt (gardener to Curtis) 1853-1937 Silver Cross 1894 for 20 yrs service**
- ⊙ Woodcock, William (his house was the original part of ‘Penquit’ on Woodhill Road²³ – note the WW still in stone above original front door). Awarded 10 yrs Silver medal 1890.
- ⊙ Woolley²⁴, Thomas Cecil (son of TSW Jr)
- ⊙ Woolley, Reginald (son of Thomas Smith-Woolley Jr)

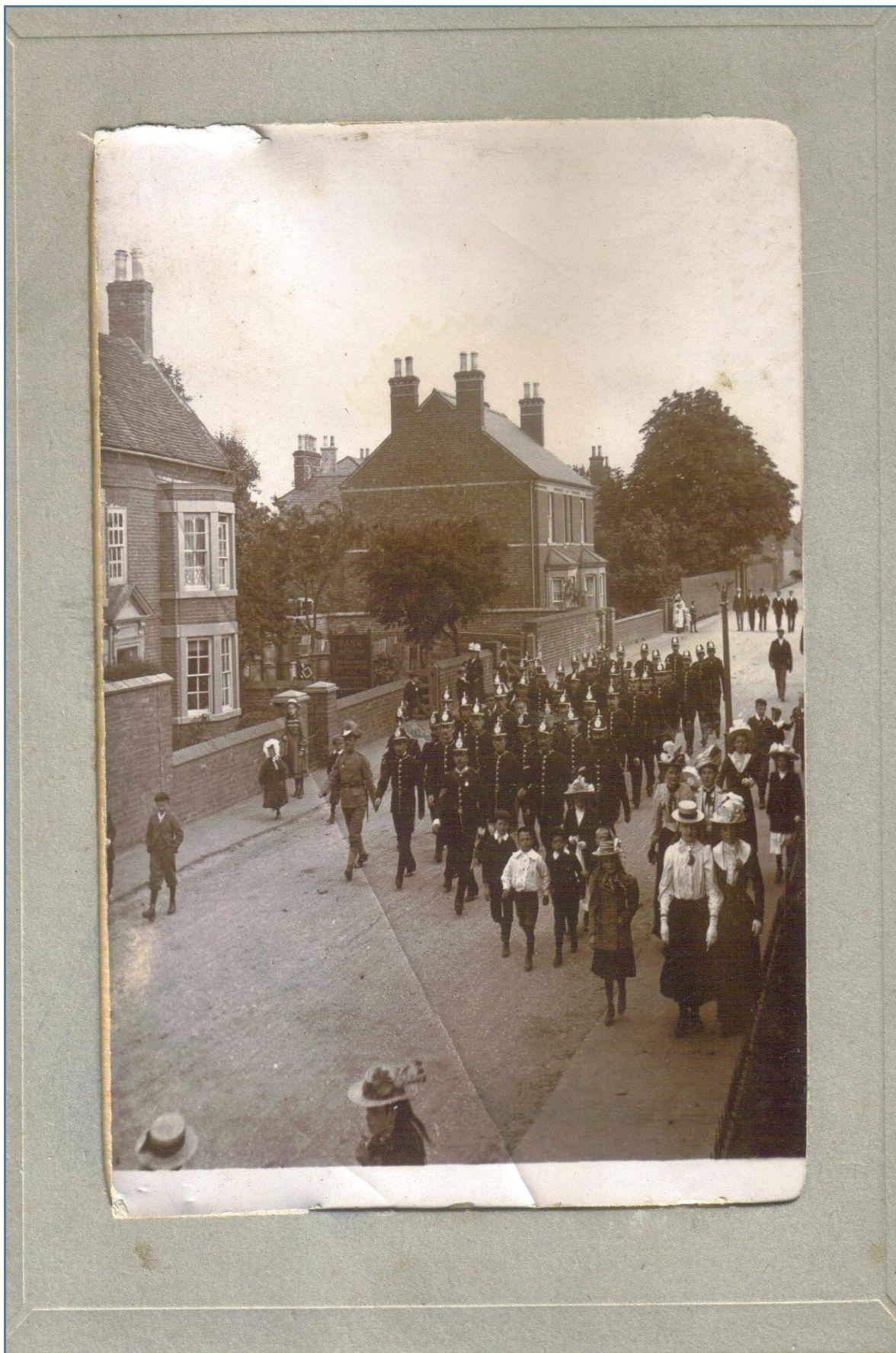
²³ See Dr D Mills notes 1851 Census CDLHS

²⁴ Note Thomas Cecil and his brother Reginald are often referred to as Woolley, not Smith Woolley

Officers of the Notts Rifle Volunteers 'F' Company – Collingham c 1880



Above: *Copy of an original photograph owned by Mrs Robina Ellis. Cecil Woolley is seen in the centre holding the silver bowl. Sgt John Willis is back row left.*



The 4th Notts Rifle Volunteers marching in procession to welcome Edward Bailey back from the Boer War c. 1902. They are marching along the High Street with Bank House on the left. (Possibly William, not Edward, Bailey as stated on rear of photo)
Photograph c/o CDLHS Archives

The Mystery of the Recurring Officer

The same officer seems to appear in at least three photographs. Who is he? This could solve another mystery – that of the date and regiment of the group gathered outside the post office.



Sgt. George Hind (1853 – 1926)

'He was a sergeant in the Volunteers and went to camp with them every year. Portsmouth, Falmouth for two such journeys.'²⁵



George Hind was a well-known figure in Collingham. A tailor, he lived at the top of Woodhill Road where it joins Besthorpe Road, as did his parents, William and Sarah Hind, before him. His nephew, the late George Longland (1922-2016) wrote in 2007: *'He sat on a stool cross-legged and did all the sewing by hand, suits, coats and trousers were his speciality. He was a very witty and mischievous man. One of his pranks was to lay down in North Collingham Churchyard and wait for a man with a bowler hat on and remove it as he went past.'*

So inspirational was the tailor, an admirer wrote him the following poem at the end of WW1:

'In Remembrance of Hind's Shop'

Where did I roam when school was done?
Where was I sure of joy and fun?
Where did I always run?
Hind's shop!

Where was I taught to count and spell?
E'en yet I remember well,
How great my zeal was to excel,

²⁵ Letter from George Longland in his memoirs in CDLHS (EF/AA –LON) See also H for Hind
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Hind's shop!

Where sprang the military zest?
Boys made to stand the bayonet test,
With coloured stripes pinned o'er their breast?
Hind's Shop!

Where mid the uniform delight,
In days of childhood then so bright,
Did many an urchin get a fright?
Hind's Shop!

Where did boys learn, for Lincoln bound,
That 'ere they footed Lincoln ground,
The hag to kiss would them astound.
Hind's Shop!

Where did the weary wanderer find,
A quiet rest, words churning, kind,
Of counsel good, - oft peace of mind?
Hind's Shop!

Where were the village yarns best spun?
Where all the lively jokes begun?
E'en evil-doers sought to shun?
Hind's Shop!

Where did, from toils of later day,
Homebound for rest, though brief the stay,
My footsteps always wend their way?
Hind's Shop!

Thou, once like ruling landmark bold,
Midsummer heat and winter cold,
Must now become a thing of old
Hind's Shop!

Time-honoured spot, could walls but speak,
Their voices would be far too weak,
To laud full well each merry freak
Hind's Shop!

Though now on foreign, hostile strand,
When thoughts revert to native land,
One happy theme gains upper hand
Hind's Shop!

But Britain's shores from foes are free,
Soon may I hope home-land to see,
When that day comes, I'll rush to thee!
Hind's Shop!

'Reverently dedicated by
J Holmes
One of the earliest students at
Hind's Shop

Berlin-Templehof
54a Ringbahn Strasse
October 25th 1919'

The exact dates Hind served in the Rifles are unknown but are likely to have been from the late 1870s until it was absorbed into the territorial forces c 1908. A true patriot, Hind's name appears on a letter written to the Newark Advertiser²⁶ shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, calling for older men to form a Volunteer group in the village. Many of his co-signatories were old 'F' Co Riflemen. He'd have been about 61 by then.

Colour-Sgt G. Hodgkinson, sergeant-instructor 1883-1895

Newspaper clipping reporting the death of 'Colour-Sgt G. Hodgkinson aged 74'. *'He came to Collingham in 1883 as sergeant-instructor to the local company of Volunteers and retired 12 years later (1895).'*²⁷

Day is given as Tuesday April 25th date unknown – probably c 1915-1918 as it mentions 'the Royal Engineers stationed in Newark.'

Names listed as attending the funeral included:

'Sgts W. Bailey, G Widnall, AW Broadberry, G Hind, J W Clark and Corporal J Sharpe 'members of the old Volunteer Company.'

1911 census shows him at Stocks Hill House, S. Collingham with wife Elizabeth. He was born in Derby c1842

DEATH OF COLOUR-SERGT. HODGKINSON.—It is with deep regret we have to report the death of Colour-Sergt. G. Hodgkinson, which took place at his residence, South Collingham, on Tuesday, April 25th. The deceased was in his 74th year. He enlisted on January 23rd, 1858, into the 96th Regiment of Foot, and after serving his country for 37 years, was discharged with an exemplary character and a pension. He came to Collingham in 1883 as sergeant-instructor to the local Company of Volunteers, and retired 12 years later. This gallant soldier fought in the Indian Mutiny, and, strange to relate, did not receive his medal for this historic campaign until his case was put before the War Office in 1913 by Mr. H. Seely Whitby, on receipt of which he was enrolled a member of the Nottingham and Notts, Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association. The interment took place at St. John Baptist Church, South Collingham, on Saturday, the Rev. A. J. Maxwell officiating. By kind permission of the officer commanding the Royal Engineers stationed at Newark, full military honours were accorded, firing, heaver, and bugle parties being provided, under Lieut. Beatty, the firing party being in charge of Sergt. Ross. The followers included the widow, Sergt. Jonathan Hodgkinson (brother), Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Botham (nieces), Jim Coates and Ben Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Gibson, Mr. J. Gibson, Mr. W. Millns, Mr. G. W. Nicholson, Mr. F. W. Hee, Mr. and Mrs. Bunn, Mr. J. T. Staley, Mr. J. Bartholomew, Sergts. W. Bailey, G. Widnall, A. W. Broadberry, G. Hind, J. W. Clark, and Corpl. J. Sharpe (members of the old Volunteer Company). Floral tributes were sent from his widow, uncle's two boys, Gerty and Nellie, Mr. and Mrs. W. Andrew, Mr. and Mrs. W. Clarkson, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, Jack and Margaret and family, Mrs. S. B. Browne, Miss Dorothy Browne, Mr. and Mrs. John Wigram, Miss Wigram, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hutchinson and family, Mrs. Robinson, Lottie Smith, E. Biscock, Mr. G. Gibson, Mr. J. Gibson.

²⁶ See original letter in WCD/FF1

²⁷ CDLHS Archives WCD/FF1/4

Sgt Henry Hoe's Certificate of Service 1902



Above: Sgt Henry Hoe's Certificate of Service 1902 (approx. A4 size) It is signed by Lt Col Henry Mellish (1856-1957) of Hodstock Priory, Commander of the 4th Battalion Sherwood Foresters 1901-1905²⁸

'Sgt Henry Hoe having served with credit in the Corps for 30 years (1872 -1902)'

Henry Hoe (1854 -1922) was a painter & decorator who lived at Camellia Cottage, Low St.

Location of certificate: CDLHS archives (Ref: WCD/ FF1) Map Chest 1

²⁸ Mellish was also a crack shot, according to the S F Annual

[https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/mellish/biographies/biographyofcolonelhenrymellish\(1856-1927\).aspx](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/family/mellish/biographies/biographyofcolonelhenrymellish(1856-1927).aspx)

Written/oral references to the Volunteers:

'As part of the celebrations to mark the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary [1911], a procession marched round the village. I remember a band, and I think, a detachment of the Volunteers in green uniforms...'

- Isabel F Gould writing in Fleet 1970



Above: Post card of the 1911 Coronation showing men in full dress uniform passing W Bailey's shop (112 High Street). The uniform of the soldiers behind the cart differs from the Volunteer in the cart [gig? Phaeton?] and does not correspond to the earlier dress uniform of Collingham Rifles. The Volunteer in the cart's cap badge of a French horn (and possibly crown) indicates the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby) regiment insignia of the time. Source: CDLHS Ref: EV/QQ/1911

'We had another thrill too; every Summer our Volunteers went to camp for a week. We were fascinated by the appearance of them, in their smart navy trousers, with a red stripe at the sides, and gorgeous coats of scarlet. Helmets on their heads, marching along to the strains of a band, to embark at Collingham Station. Oh! we thought they were heroes. Errands and little duties were entirely forgotten. Many of you will know the "Butts" where the volunteers had their shooting range.'

- Miss Clara Clark (born 1890) extracted from a talk she gave in 1961 (CDLHS Urn: EF/AA/CLA1)

THE Rifle Ranges

'The BUTTS'

The original Rifle Range was on land west of The Manor on Low Street. This was owned at the time of the Volunteers' inception by the Smith Woolleys, although it is unclear who lived there between 1857 (death of Thomas Smith Woolley Snr) and 1870 (when John Wigram moved there) as Thomas Smith Woolley Jr lived in South Collingham House from around the 1840s.

The OS Map of 1888 clearly shows two ranges marked, one a shorter one, the other longer for the more able marksmen, indicating it was used during some part of Wigram's²⁹ occupancy at least.

It is likely entrance to the Range was through the door in the Manor Wall opposite the 'scutchell' on Bell Lane. The Volunteers could possibly have used the longer route down Trent Lane and up Violet Lane (marked with a blue dot).



***Insert:** The Rifle Ranges are clearly marked by the dotted lines on the 1885 OS Map (this photocopy from the original map courtesy of Mr Derek Baumber). Two targets or 'butts' are shown with red dots, the longest to the far left of the map and the shorter one before the 'foot bridge' in the middle. Manor House is bottom right.*

²⁹ Wigram is thought to have bought the Manor c 1875 and lived there until his death in 1943 when it was auctioned off.



Above: The Manor 1943³⁰ Although the Rifle Range had long since disappeared, the entrance the Volunteers may have used across from Bell Lane is clearer here (marked with a red dotted line showing approximate location of the longest of the ranges).

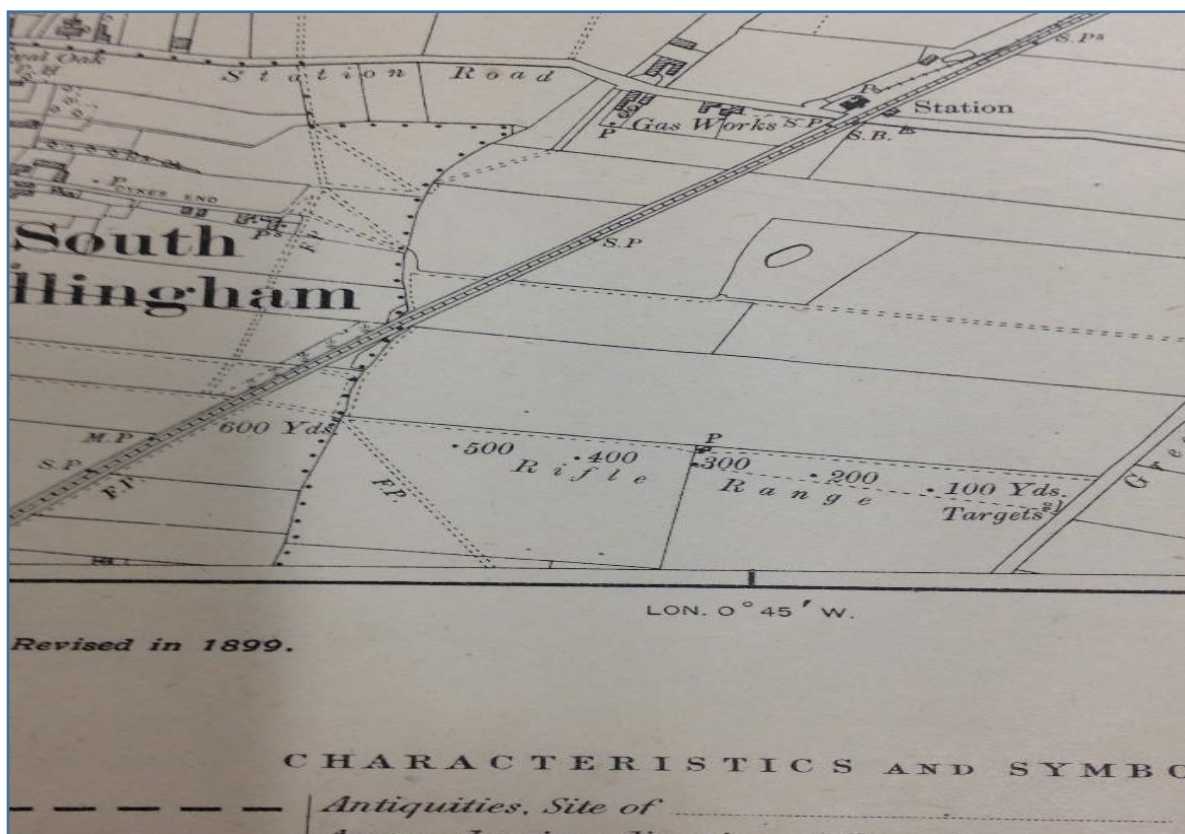


Photos of two entrances on Low Street in close proximity to the Rifle Range within the Manor grounds Photos by HP



³⁰ CDLHS archives has a copy of the original auction catalogue from 1943 containing the above plan.
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Thomas Smith Woolley resigned from the Volunteers in 1878 aged 59 and died in 1888. His son Cecil Woolley took over command in 1878. By the 1880s (possibly earlier) a second Rifle Range was shown on OS maps in Green Lane, off Station Road (see below). It is possible this land was owned by the Smith Woolley Trust or the Curtis's. This second Rifle Range probably replaced the one on Manor land, unless the two were used simultaneously for a while. The newer 'butts' were a sturdier construction with a later addition (1894 – see plan in CDLHS archives) of a brick wall. It was used for target practice throughout the First World War. Older residents in Collingham still refer to the area as 'Butts Lane.'



The Rifle Range off Green Lane. Targets are clearly marked on the 1900 OS Map (surveyed 1883, revised in 1899)

Eye Witness Accounts

'The Butts that the Collingham Volunteers used was in fact about 1/2 way along Butts Lane which runs between Station Rd. and Westbrook Lane. It starts the Station Rd / Potter Hill end opposite the 3 bungalows over the station. I've told many people exactly where they were on the West side of the lane. They were on Lime Tree farm land and my dad worked for Percy Holland [a butcher] when he farmed the land which was up to 1938. Col. Lancelot Curtis I'm sure had them pulled down in 1939, he owned the farm. Many years ago, I remember having a conversation with someone who I've known all my life, Bill

Templeman, his dad worked for the Newark building firm Wrights who built South Collingham Hall for Col. Curtis in 1938/39 and when the house was finished he asked them to demolish the very high brick Butts. It makes sense as it was at that time that the Butts seemed to disappear. To this day if you know where to look lots of brick ends can be seen in the soil in that area. My neighbour D. Baumber has a very old map, I can't remember who he said gave it to him, it is dated around 1885 I think, but on the map is marked a Rifle Range on the land over the Fleet immediately below The Manor. I once had a conversation with John Cotton (of Manor Farm) who farmed all that land until he died 3 or 4 years ago about the Range and he said that explains why he has sometimes noticed old cartridge cases when he has been ploughing.'

— email from Mr Trevor Woodcock of Station Road, Feb 4th 2017

"...Also in Butt Lane used to be a series of Butts for the 4th Notts Volunteer Battalion, from 100 yards to 600 yards, the 600 yards coming close up to the railway at Crocker's field³¹. The Butts was transferred from Wilson's Fields³² to Scaffold Lane and they (the old ones?) was all pulled down and set on fire. Four sheets of iron from the 'kid' butts(sic) was put in shape of a little butt to make a 'tar butt' (?sic) ... When they started shooting at those butts I was at one end of the lane with a flag – I used to be what they called the flag boy (?) Anybody that wanted to come across I used to put the red flag out and him that was operating the targets – Broadberry – Whiskers Broadberry – he used to stop the firing and they used to see that person safely across. And that was the 4th Notts. I have a good photo of it today in one of the drawers. My father was in it. Then there's Sgt Hodgkinson and he's buried in South Collingham Church. There's three Woolleys and the late Lancelot Curtis's father – he's on it as well. I can't think any of them are alive today."

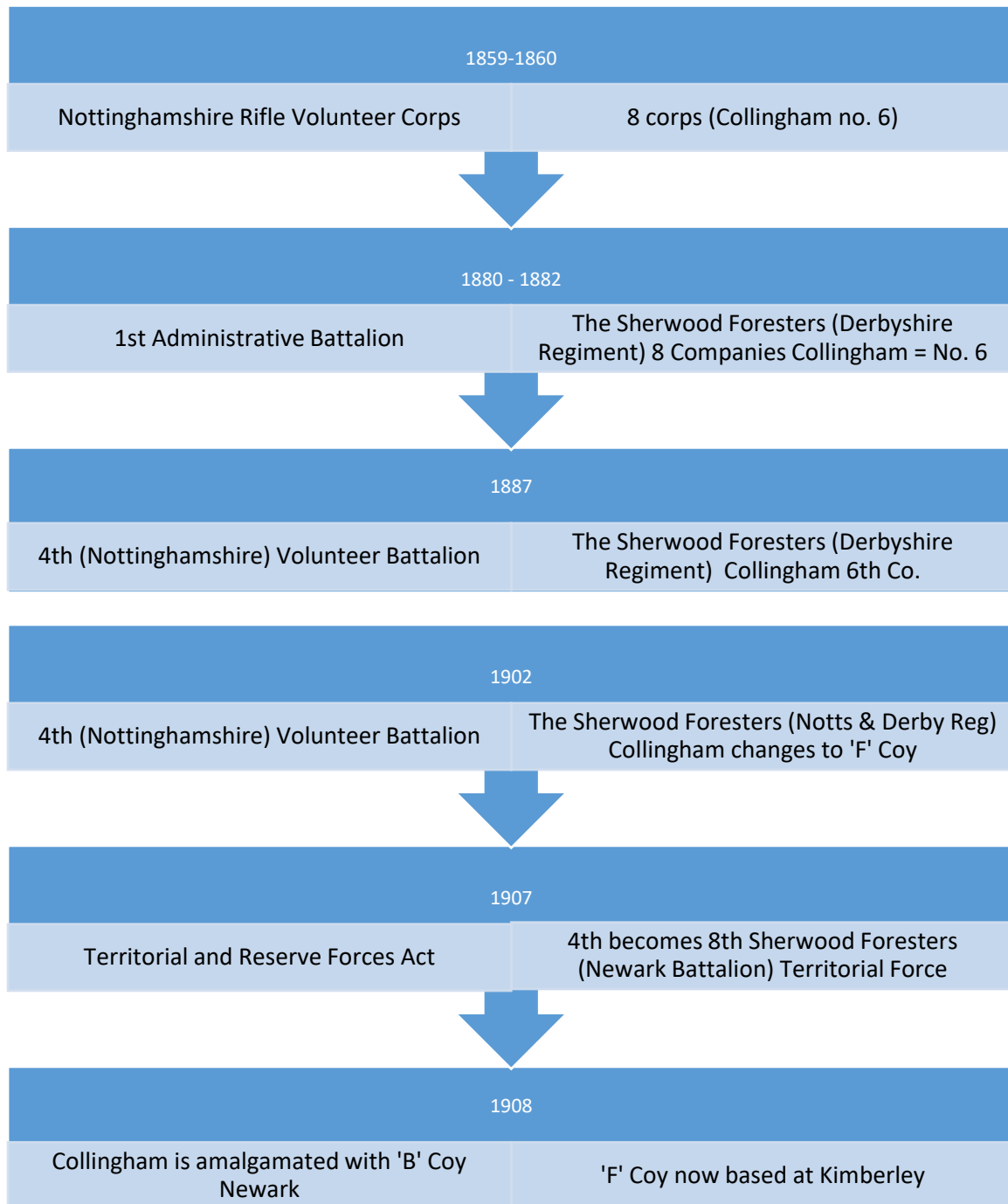
- George Willis (1880-1966), son of John Willis, Sgt in the Rifles, speaking on tape to the late Alan Sunman in 1963. The photograph he refers to is the one of the officers (cover & p 14). He was the Volunteers' flag boy when at school. *'I used to come home from school to do it.'* Earlier in the tape recording George states he left school at 13 so his period as 'flag boy' would be c 1890-1893.

Although after 1908 Collingham no longer had a company in the village, the rifle ranges were still in use by 'B' Company (Newark). During World War 1 they were put to full use.

³¹ Henry Crocker, who built 'Larksfield' Newark Road (currently owned by Mr & Mrs T Sheldon and location of Collingham Show).

³² Wilson's Fields?

A brief summary of changes to the Notts Rifles Volunteer Corps (Collingham)



Brief Time Line of the 6th Notts VRC

- 1859 Formed by Thomas Smith-Woolley Jr
- 1864 67 members (according to trade directories) with a drum and fife band attached to the Corps. Captain Thomas Smith Woolley; Lieutenant W L Domenichetti³³ and Ensign D H Cooper, are the officers.³⁴
- 1878 TS Woolley retires, son Cecil Woolley takes over as captain
- 1879 Uniform change: spiked helmet adopted
- 1880 Name changes to the 2nd NRV (6th Co)
- 1883 70 members. 'There are shooting ranges³⁵ up to 600 yards.'
- 1885 92 men listed in the 6th Notts Thomas Cecil Woolley – captain, Reginald Woolley³⁶) and CC Curtis, lieuts, Sgt Geo Hodgkinson, drill instructor.³⁷
- 1887 Name changes to the 4th NV Battalion (Derbys) with Collingham being 'F' Co
- 1890 4th Battalion HQ in Newark
- 1895: 'Here (North) are the headquarters of the **'F' company of the 4th (Notts) Volunteer Battalion** Derbyshire Regiment, who have shooting ranges up to 600 yards.' Under 'Commercial' for South Collingham is included: 'Derbys Reg Hon Major: TCS Woolley, V.D. Commandant. Thomas Griffin, drill instructor.'
- 1896 Cecil Woolley made Major
- 1899 Cecil Woolley retires, Reginald Woolley is captain
- 1902 Name changes to the 4th Notts Battalion (Sherwood Foresters Notts & Derbys Regiment)
- 1907 37 men from Collingham Co attend Towyn Camp
- 1908 Company ceases & is absorbed into the territorial force
- 1912 'B' Co of 8th Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby) 'has rifle range of up to 600 yds here.'

³³ Domenichetti family landed gentry William Lewis Domenichetti 1796 – 1875. See family tree in CDLHS Archives EF/AA/D

³⁴ White's trade directory 1864 page 417

³⁵ See p

³⁶ Reginald Woolley ((1825 – 1875)'s son, Thomas C Hugh Woolley died in WW1 1917 2/8th Foresters

³⁷ White's 1885 p 107

World War One (1914-1918)

In 1907 Parliament had passed legislation to consolidate the Yeomanry and Volunteers into the Territorial Force (now the Territorial Army). By 1908 the old Robin Hood Rifles had become part of the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters (1st/7th) and the 4th Notts the 2nd / 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby). There were 7 HQs: Newark, Retford, Mansfield, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Kimberley, Worksop and Southwell.

In 1914, a new Drill Hall was opened on Sherwood Avenue, Newark.

The 2/8th Sherwood Foresters



Lt Col. William Coape Oates

It was under the 2/ 8th Sherwood Foresters that many Collingham and district men served, at least initially, led by Lt- Col William Coape Oates, son of the aforementioned William Henry Coape Oates. He would go on to be awarded a DSO in 1918 alongside his son, Captain John Sherbrooke Oates



Hugh Woolley, grandson of T Smith Woolley Jr died at Hargicourt, on the Somme, April 27th 1917 Image c/o The Ypres Salient website with permissions

Tragically, Thomas Smith Woolley's Jr's grandson, Thomas Hugh Corbett Woolley (1888-1917), also serving with the 2/8th Sherwood Foresters, would lose his life in this conflict. He was the son of Reginald and Nora Woolley.

Another of Thomas Smith Woolley Jr's grandsons, Ronald A C Aitchison, his daughter Rose's son, was the first to fall (Dec 14th 1914) aged 19. Ronald's father, Lt Col Gowrie Colquhoun Aitchison (1863-1928), was put in command of the 2/5th Sherwood Foresters. The Woolleys certainly did their bit for King and Country.

The Citizen Army – the Nottinghamshire Volunteer Regiment 1914-1919

Jurisdiction HQ (from 1916) York

Regional HQ: Nottingham

President: Sir Jesse Boot

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Portland

Regimental Commander: Sir Lancelot Rolleston KCB DSO

With the absorption of the territorial forces into the regular army, the need for a replacement Volunteer Force at home was vital. In 1914, the Central Association of Volunteer Training Corps was instituted in London and branches sprang up throughout the UK to train men with the skills to ‘enable them to bear arms in defence of their country.’

The old Rifle Volunteers were immediately on the case. Retired Colour Sergeant George Hind penned a letter to the Newark Advertiser³⁸ (1914 - Dec 9th) calling for a section to be formed ASAP in Collingham. The following week a meeting was held in the Public Hall and it was unanimously decided to go ahead.

The old 4th rose again, with George as secretary, William Bailey as Instructor and a committee ‘consisting of Messrs Bourne, Revill, Weightman and Reeve.’ Dr Frank Broadbent, son of original 6th Rifles’ Volunteer John Broadbent, also involved as Medical Officer until his premature death in 1915.

Drill took place every Monday evening in the Public Hall. The Collingham Volunteers often joined up with the Newark section, as they had in the early days. Other centres included Mansfield, Tuxford, Claypole, Long Bennington and Southwell. In 1915 and Jan 30th 1916 they drilled in the grounds of Langford Hall ‘*kindly put to their disposal*



Above: The Public Hall built by subscription in 1888 was used for drills during WW1 at ‘a nominal rent’ The building ‘proved satisfactory for drill, musketry and physical training.’

³⁸ Original copy in CDLHS Archives Ref: WCD/FF/1

by their old friend Mr Constable Curtis'. The Butts off Station Road was once more used for target practice. However, after the initial enthusiasm, interest waned and it looked as if the Collingham section would fold. Then, in July 1917, the government gave all Volunteers a boost by recognising their efforts and taking responsibility for arming, clothing and equipping them



Langford Hall, home of Charles Constable Curtis (1852-1936) from c 1908-1936

properly. The Newark Company marched out to Collingham on a recruiting mission in August. Reception was 'lukewarm' but bit-by-bit the Collingham numbers grew. Mr Merry, a reporter with the Newark Advertiser living in Collingham at the time, being credited with enthusing the new recruits. The official date given for the establishment of the Collingham Section was August 1917 with Sergt. Weatherall of the Royal Engineers as the main instructor. The Royal Engineers regiment was stationed in Newark and billeted throughout the area and helped train and support the Volunteers. The Collingham men always attended the parades in Newark and were well turned out.

The Notts Volunteers were regulated and had to attend a certain number of meetings and pass proficiency tests. Badges were gained for attending 40 drills and marksmanship. In the summer months drills and bayonet fighting took place in Mr Armand's grass field. Mr William Millns (of 90 High St – now Bank House) lending scaffold poles for bayonet fighting gallows from which dummies were suspended.

Drills (per month) were as follows:

(i)	Field work, including open order drill, protection on the move and the rest, advanced, read and flank guards, outposts.....	3
(ii)	Entrenching.....	2
(iii)	Musketry.....	3
(iv)	Route Marching.....	1
(v)	Bombing.....	1
Total =		10

Each drill was an hour long.

Shooting 2nd Class

- ❶ A recruit had to obtain 25 out of a possible 60 points before being passed as efficient. This included the ability to fire 5 rounds at a distance of 200 yds lying
- ❷ 5 rounds at 200 yards lying, firing over cover, rifle to be unloaded until the order 'Rapid Fire' is given. Time – 30 seconds
- ❸ A recruit had to fire 5 rounds from 300 yards standing, taking cover in trench or behind a screen representing a wall or a parapet, and firing over it.

Volunteer Act Dec. 1916

Following this Act, training intensified. The fact that the War Office had recognised the value of the Voluntary movement indicated its readiness to call upon it if needs be. By this stage of the war it had become obvious hostilities weren't going to end any time soon and casualties on the Western Front were astronomical. Much of the regular army and experienced territorial army had seen numbers seriously depleted leading to conscription being introduced for the first time (in March). Whoever was left at home had better be prepared in case the Germans crossed the Channel.

Drills went from 10 to 14 a month and centres were expected to raise as full strength a corps as possible. This didn't go down well with many, who were already working all the hours they could. Trevor Frecknall, in his book *'Collingham and district in The Great War'*, found plenty of reports from Newark Rural Tribunals to men being almost press-ganged into joining the Volunteers. Those who didn't obey found themselves attending the hearings to give good reasons why not.

On December 18th, 1917 five Collingham men – saddler William Pridmore, farmer's son John Taylor, draper Alfred Millns, farm labourer Herbert Carter and special constable John Henry Clayton plus Danethorpe's Albert Collinson, pleaded pressure of work for not joining. They were told if they didn't join the Volunteers, they'd be sent to War instead. These were men already deemed unfit to enlist and already working excessive hours owing to being short-staffed.

April 1918 and Laughton Harvey, an Agricultural Representative complained to the tribunals that the Sunday drills were awkward for cowmen and horsemen.

On the most part, though, the Collingham Volunteers were well turned out and a credit to the village. They mustered about 30 men by the time the war ended.

The Collingham section officially ceased to exist on September 30th 1919. *‘The only ceremony which remained, all arms and equipment having been handed in, was the presentation of the silver spoons to the Collingham team, which won the inter-platoon miniature rifle competition.’*³⁹

World War Two (1939-1945)

World War Two would see the emergence of a ‘Home Guard’ replacing the ‘Volunteers’ and an Observation Corps (Civil Defence Group). This time, however, there were as many women as men involved. In addition, there was a Women’s Land Army Hostel built on Woodhill Road. The army (Royal Engineers) were billeted in the village, living in the larger, vacated houses such as South Collingham Hall, ‘Brooklands’ on Low Street and the Red House on the High Street.

³⁹ ‘The Newark Volunteers 1914-18 Edited by Dr E Ringrose. Collingham section contributed by Mr Merry copy dated 1941

Rules & Regulations of the Volunteer Rifle Corps

- Corps were only to be formed on the recommendation of the county's lord-lieutenant.
- Officers were to hold their commissions from the lord-lieutenant
- Members of the corps were to swear an oath of allegiance before a justice of the peace, deputy lieutenant or commissioned officer of the corps.
- The force was liable to be called out 'in case of actual invasion, or of appearance of an enemy in force on the coast, or in case of rebellion arising in either of these emergencies.'
- While under arms volunteers were subject to military law and were entitled to be billeted and to receive regular army pay.
- Members were not permitted to quit the force during actual military service, and at other times had to give fourteen days' notice before being permitted to leave the corps.
- Members were to be returned as 'effective' if they had attended eight days' drill and exercise in four months, or 24 days within a year.
- The members of the corps were to provide their own arms and equipment and were to defray all costs except when assembled for actual service.
- Volunteers were also permitted to choose the design of their uniforms, subject to the lord-lieutenant's approval.
- Although volunteers were to pay for their own firearms, they were to be provided under the superintendence of the War Office, so as to ensure uniformity of gauge.
- The number of officers and private men in each county and corps was to be settled by the war office, based on the lord-lieutenant's recommendation.

Sources:

'A Collingham Scrapbook' p 7 (1985) *'A Second Collingham Scrapbook'* ((1991) p 24,25, 29 – both available in Collingham Library

Collingham and district in The Great War by Trevor Frecknall (pub 2015) available in Collingham and Newark Libraries

Collingham and District Local History Society Archives (CDLHS) Ref: WCD/FF1

Collection & Oral Histories CD (George Willis interview 1963)

Cecil Woolley – A Memoir by W H Mason 1913 (copy in CDLHS Archives & Newark Library)

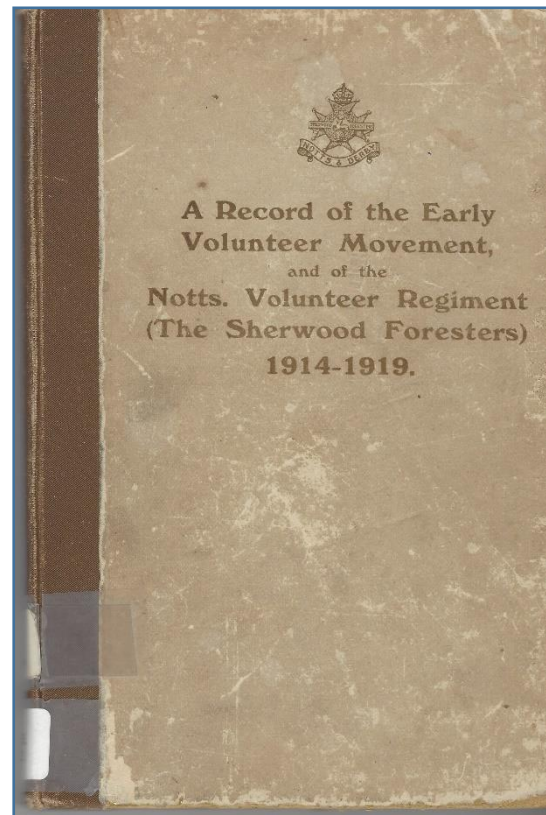
Fleet magazines 1970 (various) – see CDLHS

Books held in Newark Library:

- The Newark Volunteers 1914 – 18 12th Volunteer Battalion by Ringrose and Merry papers Ref: 34 22
- *The Sherwood Foresters Regimental Annual* 1910 Ref: L35.22 Newark Library '8th Battalion Notes' by Col. E Nicholson p 177 – 195
- Kelly's and White's trade directories
- A Record of the Early Volunteer Movement and of the Notts Volunteer Regiment (The Sherwood Foresters) Maj. Charles Gerring published 1920 (right) Available in Newark Library Reference section
- *The County Regiments* by Col. Sir Lancelot Rolleston KCB., DSO., DL., TD. Pub. 1932

Thomas Smith Woolley diaries in Nottinghamshire Archives Accession 6821

The Robin Hood Rifles Vol 15 of the Victorian Nottingham series by Richard Iliffe and Wilfred Baguley pub. 1975



Online:

Wikipedia (on Sir Robert Peel and background to the Volunteer Rifles)

The Victorian Wars Forum British Military Campaigns 1837-1902

<http://www.victorianwars.com/viewtopic.php?f=19&t=6101&start=15>

Poetry Hunter (The War by Tennyson)

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H Pielichaty 29 January 2018 updated April 21st 2018