

## **FRENCH, John**

John French was born on 25 August 1892 in Stockland (reg Axminster). His mother was Rosa Ellen French from Stockland. There is no named father on his birth certificate.

Rosa French was the daughter of George and Sarah French, originally from Honiton. George was a shopkeeper in Dalwood and then a farmer and Beerhouse Keeper in Stockland whilst Rosa grew up.

In 1861 Rosa, aged 3, lived at Parson, Dalwood Hill, with her parents and six year old brother Geroge.

In 1871 the family is at Cawley's Beer House, Stockland, and has increased with another 4 children, Samuel, Simon, Albert and Mary Jane.

In the 1881 census, aged 23 Rosa was recorded as a 'visitor' of John Turner (aged 50) at Higher Lea Farm House, Dalwood who lived with his children Ellen (20), Elizabeth (17), Edmund (15), Albert (12). Rosa had a baby – Bertha , but appears to have changed her name to Jane later.

Rosa remains single but has 4 children and by the 1891 census, aged 30 she is living at Threshed Hill, Stockland with the widower John Turner and his son Albert, working as their housekeeper, her children Jane (10), George (9), Samuel (3) and James (1) all appear to be fatherless. She then has John French in 1892.

But in 1901, young John French, aged 8, was living in the Axminster Union workhouse – classified as 'pauper'.

In 1911 John French, aged 18, was living and working as a servant, at Lee Hill Farm, Membury with John and Temperance Dunster.

No military record found for John.

In winter of 1925 a John French married Bertha L Sloman (reg in Axminster)  
John died in early 1927, aged 33.

His wife, Bertha was born in 1905 in Axminster and died in 1985 in Wiltshire. John and Bertha had a daughter Gladys French born in Axminster in 1926