

JOHN W CLIFT

John William Clift was born in Hogsthorpe in 1885. His father George worked as an agricultural labourer.

By 1901 John had moved to Welton-in-the-Marsh where he was working as a farm servant for a John Hornby. By 1911 he was a waggoner, working for the Houlden family at Driby Grange.

He married Elizabeth Martha Knowles in 1916. Their son Cornelius Edward was baptised in St Nicholas Church on 6th September 1916. At the time John was working as a railway platelayer. Presumably because of this skill, when he enlisted in the army at the time of the First World War he joined the Army Service Corps.

The unsung heroes of the British army in the Great War - the ASC, "Ally Sloper's Cavalry" - were the men who operated the transport. Soldiers cannot fight without food, equipment and ammunition. In the Great War, the vast majority of this tonnage, supplying a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from England. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the ASC performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won.

The 1918 Electoral Register for Partney shows John William Clift as an absent voter, normally living in Dalby Road.

Sadly John's first wife Elizabeth died on 7th November 1942. John married her sister, Louisa Jane Knowles, in 1949. Both were Partney girls, their father Edward farming from Scremby Road.

He died on 4th October 1957 aged 72.