

Henry Costello

Henry Costello is my great great great grandfather. He was born in 1882 in Fox Rock close, Deansgrange in Co. Dublin. Henry had five amazing children and a loving wife. He had four girls and one boy. Mary, Margaret, Catherine, Evelyn and Harry. His wife was also called Mary. Henry was thirty four when he went to war in 1916. Henry fought in World War 1 in the Battle of Somme. The battle lasted until the 1st of July to the 18th of November. Henry was Irish, but he fought for the British but he didn't fight by choice. The Battle of Somme was one of the largest and most well known battles of World War 1.

The Battle of Somme took place on the banks of Somme River in France. It was also one of the bloodiest battles of the war, or of any war before or since. An estimated 1,000,000 men were killed or wounded, including about 485,000 British and French troops. Luckily Henry survived war and returned home. In 1925, 9 years after the battle Henry died of TB. He was forty three when he died.

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Before Henry joined the army he was a grave digger. He didn't join the army until 1914. Henry joined the army when he was thirty two years old. Henry was awarded with two medals. The British War medal and the Victory medal. He was a gunner and his regiment was the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery. Soldiers in World War 1 spent most of their time in trenches. They rarely moved from the trenches except to move from one battle ground to the next. World War 1 trenches were dirty, smelly and full of disease. For soldiers life in trenches meant living in fear. In fear of diseases (like cholera and trench foot) and of course, the constant fear of enemy attack. Frontline trenches were usually about seven feet deep and six feet wide. The front of the trench was known as the parapet. Between 1919 and 1922, at least 200 Irish men were murdered because they had joined the British army. Many Irish men were willing to fight for the British because it was a paying job. It is believed that around 200,000 Irish-born soldiers served in World War 1, with as many as 49,000 paying the ultimate price.

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