

Private John Gamble©
Regimental number: 42572
2/10th Battalion, Manchester Regiment

born: 1885–died: 8 August 1917

John Gamble was born in the spring of 1885;¹ he was baptised on 17 May 1885 at St. Stephen's Church, Sheffield, Yorkshire.² His father, John Bingham Gamble, was born in 1850; the birth was registered in East Retford, Nottinghamshire,³ but census records indicate he was born in nearby Clayworth.⁴ His mother, Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson, was born about 1857 in Beckingham, Nottinghamshire.⁵ Her parents moved to Lancashire sometime before 1871⁶ but Mary Elizabeth remained in Beckingham with two of her brothers.⁷ Nevertheless, when Mary Elizabeth married John Bingham Gamble in 1879, it was presumably from her parents home, as the marriage was registered in Ormskirk, Lancashire.⁸ Together the couple had five children, John being the only son and the middle child. His sisters were Edith Mary, born in 1880;⁹ Elsie, born in 1882;¹⁰ Henrietta, born in 1888;¹¹ and Annie, born in 1889.¹² Unfortunately, John's father, a grocer according to census records,¹³ died in 1893.¹⁴ John's mother married William Favell in 1897.¹⁵

There is likely a rather complicated relationship behind this marriage. John Bingham Gamble's mother, Ann Gamble,¹⁶ married John Favill, a widower with two sons,¹⁷ in 1856.¹⁸ Ann and John Favill had six children: Albert (b. 1857),¹⁹ William (b. 1859),²⁰ Jane Anne (b. 1861),²¹ Betsey (b. 1864),²² Robert Henry (b. 1867),²³ and Henrietta (b. 1870).²⁴ Like their half-brother, John Bingham Gamble, although these births were registered in East Retford, later census records indicate all were born in Clayworth, Nottinghamshire.

In the 1861 Census, John (Bingham) Gamble, age 11, is described as John Favill's son-in-law; presumably he should have been described as a stepson. In 1881, three of John Bingham Gamble's half siblings (Albert, Jane Anne and Robert Henry) were living with him, his wife and young daughter Edith Mary in Sheffield, Yorkshire.²⁵ Ten years later another half-brother, William Favill, happened to be visiting the Gamble family when the 1891 Census was undertaken.²⁶ It seems likely that, although spelled Favell, John Bingham Gamble's widow married his half-brother, William Favill. This conclusion was reached because both the 1901²⁷ and 1911²⁸ censuses indicate that Mary Elizabeth's husband, despite any mistakes in transcription or misspellings, was born in Clayworth, Nottinghamshire, about 1859.

By 1901, John Gamble was working as a grocer's assistant, presumably assisting his stepfather, William Favell, a grocer who owned his own shop.²⁹ John married Amelia Hepworth on 24 February 1910 in the parish church in Darnall,³⁰ part of the larger city of Sheffield.³¹ John and Amelia had one child, a daughter named Kathleen, born on 14 August 1910.³² When John enlisted with an army reserve battalion at Pontefract in December 1915, the family was living at 1 Meadow Street, Sheffield, and John was a grocery manager.

John was mobilized on 6 February 1917 and posted to the British Expeditionary Force with the 2/10 Battalion of the Manchester Regiment on 1 June 1917. He joined the battalion in trenches near Annequin, in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France.³³ Annequin is about 25 kilometres from Arras, 18 kilometres northwest of Lens and 9 kilometres from Béthune, an important railway junction and the command centre for the British Canadian Corps at the time.³⁴ At the end of the month, the battalion moved to billets on the coast east of Dunkirk where it received a large number of reinforcements and began a month of training. On 24 July, the battalion relieved the

2/5 Battalion of the Manchesters as part of the Coastal Defence. Ten days later, on 3 August 1917 the battalion moved to a nearby position to be held in reserve for a planned attack on the German defences on the east side of the Yser River. Working parties sent forward to assist on the line, were reported to have sustained “only a few casualties.” John was likely one of these casualties: he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at 11:00 a.m. on 5 August 1917 and operated on almost immediately for a gunshot wound to his thigh. He died at 3:00 a.m. on 8 August 1917.³⁵ According to his service record, in addition to his wallet, he had with him some letters and photos, as well as a “religious book,” presumably his Bible. He is buried in plot A 13 of the Adinkerke Military Cemetery,³⁶ 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk across the border into what is now Belgium.³⁷

John was awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).³⁸

John's mother and his stepfather both died in 1941, **William** on 18 February³⁹ and **Mary Elizabeth** on 13 November.⁴⁰ Both deaths were registered in East Retford, Nottinghamshire.^{41 42}

Of John's sisters, **Edith Mary** became a schoolmistress;⁴³ she died in 1963 never having married.⁴⁴ Although no marriage record could be found, it appears that **Elsie** married James Fredrick Hopkinson Else and emigrated to South Africa, where she and James had two sons: Cecil James Henry Else, born in 1904, and Cyril John Else, born in 1911. ⁴⁵ After her husband died in 1937,⁴⁶ Elsie visited her mother and stepfather in East Retford in 1939.⁴⁷ Even though she died there in 1959,⁴⁸ Elsie returned to South Africa for some of the intervening years, because her sisters, Edith Mary and Annie, travelled to South Africa in 1946,⁴⁹ presumably to visit her. John's sister **Henrietta** likely died as a child in 1895;⁵⁰ certainly, she does not appear in the 1901 Census, which includes all of her siblings. The last sister, **Annie**, a spinster like Edith Mary with whom she shared a home, died in 1979.⁵¹

John's widow **Amelia** married Charles R. Haley in April 1919.⁵² Their son, Robert, was born in 1923.⁵³ Charles died on 6 August 1966,⁵⁴ Amelia on 8 April 1982.⁵⁵

Kathleen, John's daughter, who adopted her stepfather's surname, married Reginald R. Travis in Sheffield in 1937;⁵⁶ they had a son, Jonathan, in 1940.⁵⁷ Reginald passed away on 1 March 1985;⁵⁸ however, Kathleen lived until early 2018, when she died at the age of 107.⁵⁹

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¹ “British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble. Notes: When John enlisted on what appears to be 9 December 1915, he was 30 years and eight months old; calculated from this information it seems that he was born in April or early May 1885. Unless otherwise specified, all information about his military service comes from this source.

² “England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble, FHL film number: 6343637, Reference ID: yr 1867–1897 p 97

³ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Bingham Gamble, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 15, Page: 521

⁴ “1851 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble, Registration district: East Retford, Sub-registration district: Gringley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Household schedule number: 68, Piece: 2121, Folio: 101, Page: 18

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- ⁵ "1861 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Mary E Wilkinson, Registration district: Gainsborough, Sub-registration district: Misterton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 79, Piece: 2407, Folio: 79, Page: 14
- ⁶ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 28 May 2020), entry for John Wilkinson, Registration district: Omskirk, Sub-registration district: North Meols, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Household schedule number: 69, Piece: 3874, Folio: 62, Page: 13
- ⁷ "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 28 May 2020), entry for Mary Eliz Wilkinson, Registration district: Gainsborough, Sub-registration district: Misterton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Household schedule number: 49, Piece: 3443, Folio: 79, Page: 9
- ⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Bingham Gamble, Registration district: Ormskirk, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 1020
- ⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Edith Mary Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 465
- ¹⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Elsie Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 464
- ¹¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Henrietta Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 421
- ¹² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Annie Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 452
- ¹³ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Sub-registration district: North Sheffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 21, Piece: 4646, Folio: 111, Page: 1
- ¹⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 296
- ¹⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Mary Elizabeth Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 715
- ¹⁶ "1851 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Ann Gamble, Registration district: East Retford, Sub-registration district: Gringley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Household schedule number: 68, Piece: 2121, Folio: 101, Page: 18. Note: That Ann Gamble was John Bingham Gamble's mother is implied by the fact that she was living with her parents, William and Jane Gamble, when John was described as their one-year-old grandson.
- ¹⁷ "1851 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Sub-registration district: Gringley, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Household schedule number: 98, Piece: 2121, Folio: 104, Page: 24
- ¹⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Ann Gamble, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 5
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Albert Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 3
- ²⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for William Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 2

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- ²¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Jane Anne Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 1
- ²² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Betsey Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 2
- ²³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Robert Henry Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 3
- ²⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Henrietta Favill, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 3
- ²⁵ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble
- ²⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for William Favill, Registration district: Sheffield, Sub-registration district: North Sheffield; Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 16, Piece: 3818, Folio: 82
- ²⁷ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Mary E Vasek, Registration district: Wortley, Sub-registration district: Ecclesfield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 21, Piece: 4335, Folio: 100, Page: 10, Household schedule number: 64
- ²⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Mary Elizabeth Favell, Registration district: East Retford, Registration district number: 426, Sub-registration district: Clarborough, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 01, Piece: 20182
- ²⁹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble
- ³⁰ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble
- ³¹ "Darnall," *Wikipedia* (www.wikipedia.org: accessed 1 June 2020)
- ³² "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for John Gamble
- ³³ "2/10 Manchester Regiment War Diaries," *The National Archives* (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/: accessed 3 June 2020), Date: 11 February 1917–31 January 1918, Reference: WO 95/3141/9. Unless otherwise specified, all information about the battalion's movements and actions comes from this source.
- ³⁴ "Béthune," *Wikipedia* (www.wikipedia.org: accessed 3 June 2020)
- ³⁵ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Gamble, J.
- ³⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 June 2020), entry for Gamble, John, Service No: 42572
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*
- ³⁸ "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for John Gamble
- ³⁹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for William Favell
- ⁴⁰ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Mary Elizabeth Favell
- ⁴¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for William Favell, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 18
- ⁴² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Mary E Favell, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 7b, Page: 13

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- ⁴³ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 May 2020), entry for Edith Mary Gamble, Registration district: East Retford, Registration district number: 426, Sub-registration district: Clarbrough, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 01, Piece: 20182
- ⁴⁴ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Edith Mary Gamble
- ⁴⁵ "Hudson Family Tree," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Elsie Gamble
- ⁴⁶ "Hudson Family Tree," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for James Fredrick Hopkinson Else
- ⁴⁷ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Elsie Else, Schedule: 23, Sub-schedule: 4, Enumeration district: ROGT, registration district: 426120
- ⁴⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Elsie Else, Registration district: East Retford, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 3c, Page: 92
- ⁴⁹ "UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 June 2020), entry for Miss A Gamble, Official number: 162489
- ⁵⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Henrietta Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 314
- ⁵¹ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 June 2020), entry for Annie Gamble
- ⁵² "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Amelia Gamble, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1262
- ⁵³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 May 2020), entry for Robert Haley, Registration district: Ecclesall Bierlow, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 841
- ⁵⁴ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 June 2020), entry for Charles Robinson Haley
- ⁵⁵ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 June 2020), entry for Amelia Haley
- ⁵⁶ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Kathleen G Haley, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 887
- ⁵⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 June 2020), entry for Jonathan R Travis, Registration district: Sheffield, Inferred county: South Yorkshire, Volume: 9c, Page: 979
- ⁵⁸ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 June 2020), entry for Reginald Roebuck Travis
- ⁵⁹ "Haley Family Tree," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 June 2020), entry for Kathleen Gamble