### Branston History Group's Exhibition of First World War Memorabilia

On behalf of the Branston History Group I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for the support shown for our Exhibition of First World War Memorabilia. We are very grateful for both the loan of the many interesting and varied items, and for the large number of visitors who came to view the material. The response was very pleasing and made for a memorable day for everyone involved.

Peter Scarcliffe (Chairman)

# LIST OF EXHIBITORS AT THE CHURCH HALL - 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

Mike Credland	Peter Stevenson
Edwin Harris	Roy & Heather Elkington
Steve Vinter	Reg Green
Muriel Gale	Paul Hickman
Bob Wallhead	David Brammer
Branston History Group	Angie Applewhite
Barbara Hunt	Alan Flintham

#### A selection of photos taken on the day can be viewed on the next pages



# Selection of Military Uniforms





## Models of World War 1 Aircraft











## **TWO BROTHERS WHO WENT TO WAR**

These two young brothers, John Edward Clay (on the left) and Charles Henry Clay (on the right) both enlisted in the British Army during World War 1.

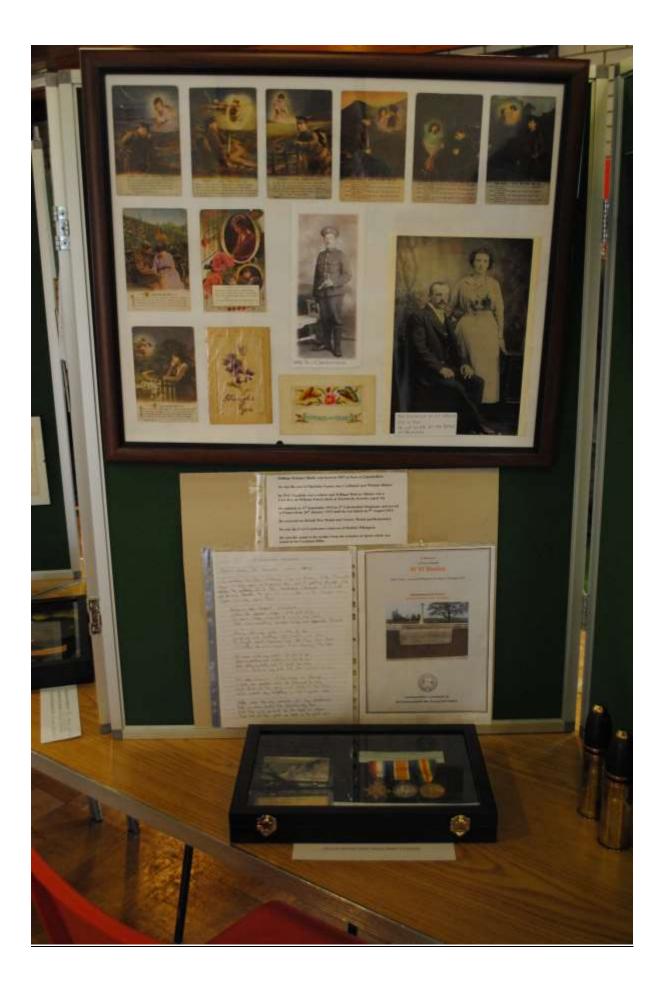
John Edward Clay, who was serving in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1917. He was 20 years of age. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium. He is also named on a memorial plaque in All Saints Church at Rempstone, and on a memorial window etching in St. Giles Church at Costock.

With regard to Charles Henry Clay it is known he survived the war and returned to civilian life and lived a long life. Unfortunately it has not been possible to trace his military records, (it is known that many WW 1 military records were destroyed during air raids on London in the second world war.) and it is not even known which regiment he served in. It may be that the whip he is holding in the photo indicates he was a member of a cavalry regiment and if anyone recognises anything about his cap badge or uniform please let a committee member know, your help would be greatly appreciated.

These two brothers were in fact uncles to the late Bill Blatherwick, a well known long standing Branston resident.

The framed photos were supplied by Angie and Phil Applewhite.





William Webster Blades was born in 1897 at Stow in Lincolnshire

He was the son of Charlotte Emma (nee Credland) and Webster Blades

In 1911 Charlotte was a widow and William Webster Blades was a Cow-Boy on William Streets farm at Sturton-by-Scawby (aged 14)

He enlisted on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1914 in 3<sup>rd</sup> Lincolnshire Regiment and served in France from 26<sup>th</sup> January 1915 until he was killed on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915.

He received the British War Medal and Victory Medal (posthuraously)

He was the First Cousin, once removed of Heather Elkington

He sent this poem to his mother from the trenches at Ypres which was found in the Credland Bible.

