

## James Allen ( 1913 – 1938)



James Allen (1913 – 1938) was born in Doncaster registration district in 1913. His mother was Florence May Allen (1893 – 1957) who was a native of Alfreton.

In March 1937 he married Lillian Elizabeth Topham (1917 – 2005) in Chesterfield. Their only son, James Owen Allen (1937 -2017) was born in the same year.

At the time of the disaster in 1938, James was living with his new wife and son in Arkwright Town. He was employed at Markham Colliery as a contractor.

Several newspapers mentioned James after the disaster and the Derbyshire Times reported the following:

### **Derbyshire Times 13<sup>th</sup> May 1938**

J. Allen of Arkwright Town, was only 26 and leaves a young wife with whom he lived in rooms with Mrs Webb. His parents also live in Arkwright Town and he has been employed at Markham Colliery for a number of years. Allen was among the last victims to be recovered from the pit, and was among those which received the worst shock of the explosion.

In the years following the disaster the relatives of James placed several 'In Memoriam' notices in the Derbyshire Times. In 1941 the following notices were published.

**Allen** – In loving memory of a dear husband and father, James, who passed away in the Markham Pit Disaster. May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938.

Resting where no shadows fall,  
Peacefully sleeping he awaits us all;  
God will mend the broken chain  
As one by one we meet again  
- From loving Wife and Son

Allen – Treasured memories of my dear son James who passed away in the Markham Pit Disaster May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938.

We have lost, heaven has gained,  
One of the best the world contained  
- From Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers.

## Parents

### **Mother: Florence May Allen (1893 – 1957)**

Florence May Allen (1893 – 1957) was born in 1893 in Alfretton, Derbyshire. Her parents were James Allen (1865 – 1933) and Mary Wharton (1866 - ). Her father was a colliery labourer (above ground). James was born in 1913 and in 1922 she married Samuel Swain (1893 – 1956). Florence and Samuel had six children, who were born between 1923 and 1934. At the time of the disaster, Florence and her family were living at 151 Arkwright Town, very close to James her son, and his wife and young son. Florence May died in 1957 at the age of 63.

### **Wife: Lillian Elizabeth Topham (1917 – 2005)**

Lillian Elizabeth Topham was born in 1917 in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Her parents were Edwin Arthur Topham (1892 – 1962) and Sarah Wilkes (1892 – 1951). Her father was a brickyard labourer. Her father came from Northwich in Cheshire and her mother was a native of Chesterfield.

Lillian Elizabeth, aged 22, married James in the March quarter of 1937.

Their only son, James Owen Allen was born the same year. Lillian Elizabeth, James and their new son were renting rooms in Arkwright Town when the disaster happened in May 1938. After the accident Lillian moved in with her mother in law, (Florence May Allen(Swain)) and her family at 151, Arkwright Town. On the 1939 Register, Lillian Elizabeth and her young son, James Owen (blacked out) were still living with Florence May and her family. In 1942, Lillian Elizabeth married Herbert Goodlad, and they had three children, all girls. Lillian Elizabeth died in 2005 at the age of 88.

First name(s)	Last name(s)	DOB	Sex	Occupation	Marital status	Schedule	Schedule Sub Number
Sam	Swain	20 Oct 1893	Male	Haulage Hand Mine	Married	168	1
Florence M	Swain	09 Nov 1893	Female	Unpaid Domestic	Married	168	2
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Dorothy L	Heeley (Swain)	10 Jul 1926	Female	At School	Single	168	4
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Kathleen	Bingley (Swain)	29 Dec 1929	Female	At School	Single	168	6
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The record for this person is officially closed. Can I get around this? >							
Lily C	Goodlad (Allen, Swain)	03 Mar 1917	Female	Unpaid Domestic	Widowed	168	9
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