

## Arthur Henson (1894 – 1938)

Arthur Henson was born on 6 October 1894 at 129 New Village, Bolsover. His parents were John Henson (1851 – 1900) and Mary Hopkin (1855 - ). Both of his parents came from Nottinghamshire. On the 1901 Census, Arthur was living with mother and eight siblings at 129 New Bolsover, Bolsover. His mother was a widow, since his father had died in 1900, at the age of 49. On the 1911 Census, Arthur was living with his widowed mother and other siblings at 133 New Village, Bolsover. At the age of seventeen he was working as an underground pony driver. In 1916 he married Annie Smith in Doncaster registration district, probably in Carcroft.

The outbreak of WW1, changed many lives, including Arthur. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery (No 4<sup>th</sup> Depot) on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1918 in Pontefract. His regimental number was 216064. No 4<sup>th</sup> Depot was stationed at Great Yarmouth and trained gunners for Coastal Defence. His address at the time of enlisting was given as 26 Owston Road, New Village, Carcroft, Doncaster. Carcroft in 1907, was a small village of only 50 houses, but with the sinking of a new mine, Bullcroft Colliery in 1908, the village expanded rapidly and by 1910, an additional 400 houses had been erected to cope with the influx of miners and their families. Obviously, Arthur was part of this influx.

Arthur and Annie had two children

Kathleen Henson 1916 –  
Maureen Henson 1933 -

At the time of the accident, Arthur was living with his family at 45 Hartington Road, Spital, Derbyshire. He was employed at Markham Colliery as a Ripper.

Arthur was buried in Spital cemetery on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

His wife and family placed several “In Memoriam” notices in the Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

In May 1939 -

**HENSON** – Treasured memories of a dear husband and father, **ARTHUR**, who died in the Markham Colliery Explosion. May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938.

He never failed to do his best,  
His heart was true and tender;  
He toiled so hard for those he loved.  
And left us to remember.  
-From loving Wife and Family.

In May 1942 -

**HENSON** – Treasured memories of a dear husband and father, **Arthur**, who died in the Markham Colliery Explosion May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938.

“A thought for today,  
A memory for ever”  
From loving Wife and Family

## ***Parents***

### ***Father – John Henson (1851 – 1900)***

John Henson was born in Greasley, Nottinghamshire in 1851. His parents were Thomas Henson (1806 – 1872) and Fanny Burrows (1812 – 1882). Both parents were from the Greasley area of Nottinghamshire. John married Fanny Burrows on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 1832 in Greasley. John was their eighth child. On the 1861 Census, John was ten years old and was living with his parents and three older siblings on Quarry Street in Greasley. His father was employed as a coal miner. By 1871, John was still living with his parents on The Alley in Greasley. At the age of nineteen he was employed as a coal miner. In 1874 he married Mary Hopkin (1852 - ) in the Basford registration district. Their first child, John Edward Hopkin Henson was born later that year. John and Mary would have seventeen children, of which seven had died by 1911. On the 1881 Census, John, Mary and four children were living on The Alley in Greasley. He was still employed as a coal miner. Some time between 1883 and 1890, John moved his family to Barnsley in Yorkshire. He was now forty years of age and still employed as a coal miner. His first son, at the age of seventeen was already working as a miner. They were living on Old Mill Lane in Barnsley. John died in April 1900 in the Bolsover area at the age of 48. John may have been employed as a shaft sinker.

### ***Mother – Mary Hopkin ( 1855 - )***

Mary Hopkin (1855 - ) was born in the Kimberley area of Nottinghamshire. Her father was Joseph Hopkin (1830 – 1868) who had been born in Bilborough, which is a suburb of Nottingham. Her mother, Ann Grainger (1832 - 1862) came from Greasley. On the 1861 Census Mary is living with her parents and three siblings in Kimberley Town. Mary married John Henson in 1874 and they had seventeen children together. The 1901 Census shows that Mary at the age of 46, was a widow, with nine children, and was living at 129 New Bolsover. The youngest child, Horace D, was only three months, meaning that Mary was pregnant when her husband died. The 1901 census also clearly shows that the family had moved from mining village to mining village. Three children had been born in Kimberley, two in Barnsley, two in Langley Mill and two in Bolsover.

### ***Wife – Annie Smith (1896 -1959 )***

Annie Smith was born in 1896 in Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. Her parents were William Smith and Ann Abbott. On the 1901 Census, Annie and her parents were living in Kirkby in Ashfield. On the 1911 Census the family had moved to the South Yorkshire. Annie married Arthur in December 1916 in the Doncaster registration district. Annie had two children with Arthur, Kathleen and Maureen. After the disaster, Annie moved from Spital to Hady Crescent in Chesterfield. On the 1939 Register she is living there with her youngest daughter, Maureen. Annie died in 1959 at the age of 62.