

## Bernard Gregory (1903 – 1938)



Bernard Gregory was born in Barlborough on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1903. His parents were Herbert Gregory (1871 – 1953) and Elizabeth Ann Kirkham (1876 – 1918). Both of his parents were native to Barlborough. They had married on Christmas Eve 1891 in Barlborough and Bernard was their fourth of ten children. On the 1901 Census his parents were living on California in Barlborough. The street had been named after the Californian Gold Rush. It is likely that Bernard was born there. Bernard was christened in St James Church, Barlborough on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1903. In 1910 Bernard started his schooling at Barlborough Hall Primary School. On the 1911 Census, Bernard aged seven, is living with his parents and six siblings in Barlborough. The address in Barlborough is not shown on the Census return. His father was employed as a coal miner- hewer, and his oldest brother, George William, aged sixteen was employed as an underground pony driver.

Bernard was killed in the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1938 Markham Colliery disaster. At the time he was living at Barlborough Common, Barlborough and was employed at the colliery as a timber drawer. He was unmarried.

The **Derbyshire Times** reported the following on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1938

Bernard Gregory, Barlbro' Common was a promising footballer until he broke his leg a few years ago. He was a native-born resident of the village and was a bachelor.

Bernard was buried with nine other Barlborough men in a mass grave in Barlborough cemetery on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1938. The **Nottingham Journal** 16.05.1938 reported the following:

### AT BARLBOROUGH

At the neighbouring village of Barlborough ten of the eleven victims were interred in one large grave, which was lined with ivy. They were Rowe Kirk, Leonard Atkin, Stanley Lodge,

Joseph Hibbard, Frank Smith, **Bernard Gregory**, George Davidson, Charles Bown, Harry Taylor and Colin Gee-Pemberton.

The eleventh victim, Edward Salt, a colliery deputy, who resided at Poolsbrook was buried earlier on Saturday in a grave adjoining that of his father (who was killed at the Crown colliery some years ago) in Barlborough churchyard.

The Rev. G.W. Ready, vicar of Duckmanton, conducted the service. Bearers were provided by the Markham Colliery ambulance division, in charge of Sergt. F. Greaves, V.C. Salt's ambulance cap was buried with him.

Fr. Gregson conducted the service for Leonard Atkin, who was a Roman Catholic and Canon E.G. Walmsley officiated at the funeral of the other nine.

A year after the disaster there was a memorial service in Barlborough in remembrance of the 11 Barlborough victims. The Derbyshire Times 19.05.1939 reported the following:

#### **AT BARLBOROUGH**

There was a large attendance of relations and friends at Barlboro' Church on Sunday evening, for a memorial service in remembrance of the 11 Barlboro' victims of the disaster. Mr P.E. Hibbard (safety officer) represented the Staveley Coal and Iron Co. and the Markham Colliery. Canon E.G. Walmsley (Rector) conducted the service, and the hymns "O God our help," "Jesus lives!" and Jesu, lover of my soul" were sung. The organist being Mr. Henry Thompson, who also played "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Prayers were offered for the bereaved families and for all who are still suffering from the effects of the disaster, and the Rector read the names of the Barlboro' men who died, the congregation standing meanwhile. The singing of "Abide with me" brought an impressive service to a close.

In the same year relatives placed an 'In Memoriam' notice in the Derbyshire Times

GREGORY. – In loving memory of BERNARD GREGORY, who lost his life in the Markham Disaster, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938.

"One of the best"

- From Hilda and Peggy

#### ***Parents:***

***Father: Herbert Gregory (1871 – 1953)***

Herbert Gregory (1871 – 1953) was born in Barlborough on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1871. His parents were George Gregory (1831 – 1909) and Mary Ann Godfrey (1831 – 1910). His father was from Killamarsh and his mother was a native of Bolsover. They had married in Clowne in 1881. Herbert was their eighth child. On the 1881 Census, Herbert, aged ten, was living with his parents and seven siblings in Barlborough Village. His father and two older brothers, Charles Henry and Walter, were all working as coal miners. On the 1891 Census, Herbert, aged nineteen was employed as an iron moulder. On Christmas Eve 1893 he married Elizabeth Ann Kirkham in Barlborough. The following year their first child, George William, was born. Between 1894 and 1918 Herbert and Elizabeth Ann would have nine children. Their last child was Stuart Gregory (1918 – 1983) and in the same year Elizabeth Ann died from the influenza pandemic which swept Europe. In 1920 at the age of 49, Herbert married Elizabeth Greaves.

The Derbyshire Times reported on the marriage:

### **BARLBORO'**

The marriage was solemnised at the Barlboro' Parish Church on Monday of Mr. Herbert Gregory, widower, and Mrs. Greaves, widow of Mr. Chas. Greaves. The Rector, the Rev. J.D. Griffiths, officiated. Mr. and Mrs. W. Harwood, Clowne, were the best man and bridesmaid.

In September 1939, Herbert was a widow again and was living at 8 Church View, Barlborough with two of his sons, Herbert and Wilfred. Herbert died in 1951 at the age of 82.

 <b>Gregory household</b> (3 people)							
First name(s)	Last name(s)	DOB	Sex	Occupation	Marital status	Schedule	Schedule Sub Number
<b>Herbert</b>	<b>Gregory</b>	<b>23 Jun 1871</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Coal Hewers</b>	<b>Widowed</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>
Herbert Jun	Gregory	03 Oct 1898	Male	Coal Hewer	Single	32	2
Wilfred	Gregory	12 Feb 1915	Male	Farm Horseman	Single	32	3

### ***Mother: Elizabeth Ann Kirkham (1876 – 1918)***

Elizabeth Ann Kirkham was born in Barlborough in 1876. Her parents were William Kirkman (1843 – 1915) and Mary Ann Ball (1848 – 1894). Her father was a native of Shirebrook while

her mother was from Eaking, Nottinghamshire. They had married in the Southwell registration district in the fourth quarter of 1865. Elizabeth Ann was their fifth of ten children. On the 1881 Census, Elizabeth Ann was living with her parents and six siblings at 16 Cottam Terrace in Barlborough. Her father was employed as a coal miner. On the 1891 Census, Elizabeth Ann was working as a domestic servant for Edward Meredith who runs a grocers' store in Attercliffe cum Darnall, near Sheffield. In 1893 she married Herbert Gregory in her home town of Barlborough. Elizabeth Ann died in 1918 from influenza. The Spanish flu pandemic killed 228,000 in the United Kingdom and 50 million people worldwide. The **Derbyshire Courier** reported her death.

The funeral took place on Sunday of Mrs. Gregory, wife of Mr. Herbert Gregory, Manor Cottages, Barlbro', who died from influenza. Deceased who was 43 years of age, leaves ten children.