

John Henry Bradford (1892 – 1938)



John Henry Bradford (1892 – 1938) was born in Somercotes, Derbyshire. His parents were John Bradford (1867 – 1948) and Mary Ann Robson (1868 – 1917). His father was from Alfreton and his mother was from Grantham in Lincolnshire. On the 1901 Census, John Henry was living with his parents on Leabrooks Road, which is a road between Somercotes and Leabrooks. His father was employed as a coal miner – hewer. On Christmas Day 1915, John Henry married Annie Robbins (1892 – 1923) in Blackwell, Derbyshire. Their only child, Joyce Bradford (1916 – 2006) was born the following year. In 1923, at the age of 31, Annie died and was buried in Blackwell Cemetery. In 1924 he married Mary Jane Wright (1905 – 2001). John Henry and Mary Jane had a son, Harry, in 1925.

In 1933, John Henry was a witness at the inquest of Harold Morpus (28), who was severely injured by a roof fall at Markham No 1 Colliery and later died at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

John Henry was killed at Markham Colliery on the 10th May 1938, when 79 men died. He was employed at Markham Colliery as a ripper. The family were living at 16 North Crescent at the time of the accident. His wife, father and son were still living at the same address on the 1939 Register. His daughter, Joyce, had married Robert Grierson in 1938, and they were living at 62 North Crescent, Duckmanton in 1939.

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H. Bradford, 16 North Crescent, Duckmanton who was 46 years of age, was born in Somercotes. He had been employed as a miner at Markham Colliery for 12 years, and he was one of those who helped in the rescue work at the explosion which occurred at this colliery last year. He was keenly interested in sports, and had been a goalkeeper for the Sutton Junction team. He leaves a widow and two children.

Parents

Father: John Bradford (1867 – 1948)

John Bradford (1867 – 1948) was born in Somercotes, Derbyshire in 1867. His parents were John Bradford (1837 -) and Mary Hargreaves (1837 – 1880). Both of his parents came from Castle Donington in Leicestershire. On the 1871 Census, John, aged four, was living with his parents, four siblings and the younger brother (Richard Hargreaves) of his mother, at 53 Seely Terrace in Alfreton. His father was employed as a labourer. His uncle was a coal miner. On the 1881 Census, John was still living with his parents and for siblings at 63 Seely Terrace. Seely Terrace was named after Sir Charles Seely (1833 – 1915), coal-master and benefactor, who built the houses for his workers. His workers worked at the collieries he owned at Birchwood. On the 26th May 1890, John married Mary Ann Robson (1868 -1919). Both were recorded at 22 years old. John, like his father was a miner. On the 1891 Census, John and his new wife are living at Market Place in Somercotes. A younger sister (Martha Ann Bradford) was living with them and acting as help in the household. John Henry was born in 1892, followed by Elsie May Bradford (1895 – 1971). On the 1901 Census, John, his wife and two children were living in Leabrooks, which is on the edge of Somercotes. He was employed as a coal miner. On the 1911 Census, the family had moved to Littlemoor, Newtown, Derbyshire. John and Mary Ann had also adopted a girl called Jessie Smith. His wife died in 1917. On the 1939 Census, John was living at the family home of his son John Henry who have been killed at Markham Colliery in 1938. He his living there with the widow of John Henry and her only child, Harry Bradford. John was described as a banksman, retired. John died, aged 80, in 1948, ten years after the death of his only son.

Mother: Mary Ann Robson (1868 – 1917)

Mary Ann Robson (1868 – 1917) was born in Grantham in 1868. Her parents ere Ebenezer Robson (1840 – 1908) and Jane Perriss (1842 – 1884). On the 1871 Census, Mary Ann was living with her parents at 1 Launder Terrace, Spittlegate, which is part of Grantham. Her father was employed as a joiner. On the 1881 Census, Mary Ann aged 13, was living his her parents and six siblings at 55 Great Northern Terrace in Lincoln. Her father was now employed as a machine maker and her older sister, Jane Perriss was working in a silk mill. In 1884, the mother of Mary Ann, Jane Perriss died in Lincoln. Her father remarried in 1890, when he married Milley Calvert. Mary Ann married John Bradford in 1891 in Alfreton. They had two children, John Henry and Elsie Mary, and adopted a third, Jessie Smith. Mary Ann died in 1917 at the age of 49. The burial took place in Blackwell, Derbyshire on 10th November 1917.

Wives: Annie Robbins (1892 – 1923) and Mary Jane Wright (1905 – 2001)

Annie Robbins (1892 – 1923)

Annie Robbins (1892 – 1923) was the daughter of Charlotte Maria Robbins (1876 – 1916). Her mother later married William John Allsopp. Annie was born in Blackwell, Derbyshire. On the 1901 Census, Annie, aged eight, is living with her mother, stepfather and four half siblings at Newton Green in Newton, Derbyshire. Her stepfather was employed as a coal miner – hewer. At the age of 23 Annie married John Henry on Christmas Day 1915. They had one child, Joyce, born in 1916. Annie died in 1923 at the young age of 31.

Mary Jane Wright (1905 – 2001)

Mary Jane Wright was born on Christmas Day 1905 in Pilsley, Derbyshire. Her parents were Joseph Wright (1870 – 1938) and Polly Helps (1876 – 1946). On the 1911 Census, Mary Jane was living with her parents, two siblings and two half siblings at 60 Queen Street, Pilsley. Her mother had previous been married to Joseph Woodall, who had died in 1900. Her father was a coal miner. In 1924 May Jane married the widower, John Henry. They had a son, Harry in 1925. After the death of her husband, Mary Jane continued to live at 16 North Crescent, Duckmanton, with her son, Harry and her father in law, John Bradford. Mary Jane had worked in the signal box at Markham Colliery and had fallen out of the box and broken her arm. She also had a local barbers shop in her garden at 16 North Crescent, Duckmanton.

Mary Jane was the last person to receive a payment from the Mayors fund for the 1938 Markham Colliery disaster. May Jane was still living at North Crescent when she died in 2001 at the age of 96.