

## Colin Gee-Pemberton (1908 – 1938)

Colin Gee-Pemberton (1908 – 1938) was born in Barlborough. His parents were John Thomas Gee-Pemberton (1876 – 1950) and Betsy Philpott (1878 - 1913). Colin was their eighth of nine children, but four of their children had died by the time of the Census in April 1911. On the 1911 Census, Colin was living with his parents and four surviving siblings, at 21 Barbers Row, Barlborough. His father was employed as a coal miner – hewer. Barbers Row was built circa 1863, as it was not mentioned in the 1861 Census. Barbers Row was built by the entrepreneur Frederick Horatio Miles Barber, who was a local farmer, coal mine owner, brickyard owner and building contractor.



In 1913, tragedy struck the family with the death of his mother at the age of 34, when Colin was only five years old.

In 1933 Colin married Eliza Maxfield (1911 – 1997) in Barlborough. Colin and Eliza had three daughters.

Dorothy E M Gee-Pemberton	1933 -
Marjorie Gee-Pemberton	1935 -
Pauline Gee-Pemberton	1938 -

Pauline was born in October 1938, five months after the death of her father.

At the time of the disaster, Colin was working at Markham Colliery as a Belt Hand and was living at 13 Barbers Row with his pregnant wife and two young daughters.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1938, the Sheffield Independent had the following article on the disaster.

At 13 Barbers Row, Renishaw, Mrs. Colin Gee-Pemberton was being consoled by neighbours. Married six years, she has two daughters and is expecting a another event in a few months' time. Several of the neighbours said number 13 had proved once more to be an unlucky one. Her father-in-law told our representative that last week Mrs. Gee-Pemberton told him of an awful dream she had had of seeing her husband brought home on a stretcher. Since then she had dreaded to think of the future and was always pleased when her husband was at home. Mr Gee-Pemberton had been employed at the Markham Colliery for 11 years and would have celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday today. A former footballer, he had served a full period in the Sherwood Foresters Territorials.

The reference to the number 13 being unlucky, probably refers to the number 13 being generally perceived as unlucky, but also to the death of Robert Gee-Pemberton who was killed at Renishaw "Station" Pit in 1907. Robert was a cousin, once removed, of Colin. He was fifteen when he was killed and lived at 13 Barbers Row.

Colin was buried in Barlborough cemetery on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1938 in a mass grave with nine other Barlborough miners killed in the disaster. The Nottingham Journal on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1938 reported the funeral:

#### **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, S. Lodge, Joseph Hibberd, Frank Smith, Bernard Gregory, George Davidson, Charles Bown, Henry Taylor and **Colin Gee-Pemberton**.

A year after the disaster, family members placed In Memoriam notices in the Derbyshire Times on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1939.

**GEE-PEMBERTON** – In loving memory of my dear son, COLIN, who passed away in the Markham Explosion, May 10<sup>th</sup>. 1938

We think of him in silence,  
What would we give to clasp his hand  
And see him smile again.

- From loving Dad

**GEE-PEMBERTON** -In loving memory of our dear brother, COLIN, who died in the Markham Pit Disaster, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938

"Memories are treasures no one can steal;  
Death leaves a heartache no one can heal."  
From his Sisters and Brother,  
Elsie, Evelyn, Becky and Jack

**GEE-PEMBERTON** – In loving memory of a dear husband and daddy, COLIN GEE-PEMBERTON, Barlboro' who lost his life in the Markham Disaster, 10<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

Little did we know when we woke that morning  
The sorrow the day would bring;  
The call was so sudden, the shock severe  
To part with one we loved so dear.

- From loving Wife and Daughters
- Dorothy, Marjorie, Pauline

## **Parents**

### ***Father: John Thomas Gee-Pemberton (1876 – 1950)***

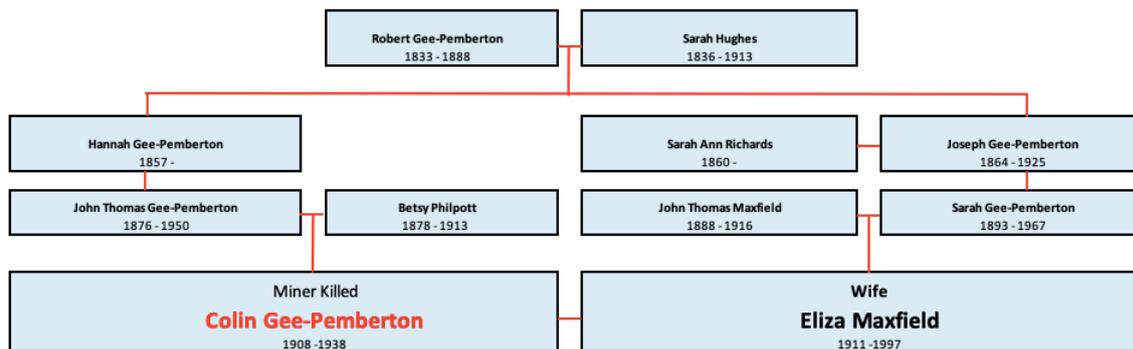
John Thomas Gee-Pemberton was born in Barlborough on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1876. John Thomas was baptised on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1877 in Barlborough. On the 1881 Census, John Thomas aged four, was living with his grand parents at 14 Barbers Row, Barlborough. He was still living at the same address in 1891, and at the age of 14 was already employed as a coal miner. On the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1899 John Thomas married Betsy Philpott in Barlborough. Thomas and Betsy had nine children, of which five survived. On the 1911 Census, John Thomas and Betsy were living at 21 Barbers Row with their five surviving children. John Thomas was employed as a coal miner – hewer. Betsy died in 1913. John Thomas continued to live in Barbers Row, but by 1939 had moved to 44 Barbers Row. He died in 1950 still living at 44 Barbers Row.

### ***Mother: Betsy Philpott (1878 – 1913)***

Betsy Philpott (1878 – 1913) was born in Barlborough in 1878. Her parents were Edward Philpott (1836 – 1886) and Rebecca Walker (1844 – 1910). Her father came from Shropshire and her mother came from Nuthall in Nottinghamshire. On the 1881 Census, Betsey, aged two, was living with her parents and three older siblings at 24 Barbers Row. Betsy was therefore a very close neighbour of her future husband, John Thomas. In 1886 her father died and on the 1891 Census, her mother was shown to be the head of the family, which was still living at 24 Barbers Row. Two older brothers, John and Herbert were the family bread winners. Both were employed as coal miners. In 1899, Betsy married John Thomas in Barlborough. Betsey died in 1913 at the young age of 34.

### ***Wife: Eliza Maxfield (1911 – 1997)***

Eliza Maxfield (1911 – 1997) was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1911 at 15 Barbers Row. Her parents were John Thomas Maxfield (1888 – 1916) and Sarah Gee-Pemberton (1893 – 1967). The mother of Eliza, Sarah Gee-Pemberton shared great grandparents with Colin.



The father of Eliza, John Thomas Maxfield, who had been born in Barlborough was killed on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1916 in the Battle of the Somme, which had started on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. He was serving with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. Eliza married Colin in Barlborough in 1933 at the age of 21. The 1939 Register taken on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1939 shows Eliza and her three daughters were still living at 13 Barbers Row.

 <b>Gee-Pemberton Household</b> (4 People) <span style="float: right;"> <a href="#">Add to tree</a> <a href="#">View original image</a> <a href="#">Print</a> </span>							
13 Barbers Row , Clowne R.D., Derbyshire, England							
FIRST NAME(S)	LAST NAME(S)	DOB	SEX	OCCUPATION	MARITAL STATUS	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE SUB NUMBER
	Eliza	Gee-Pemberton	08 Aug 1911	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Widowed	156 1
	Sorry, this record is officially closed. <a href="#">Check if you can open a closed record.</a>						
	Sorry, this record is officially closed. <a href="#">Check if you can open a closed record.</a>						
	Pauline	Rolfs (Gee-Pemberton)	10 Oct 1938	Female	Under School Age	Single	156 4

Eliza died in Nottingham in 1997 at the age of 86, nearly 60 years after the death of Colin.