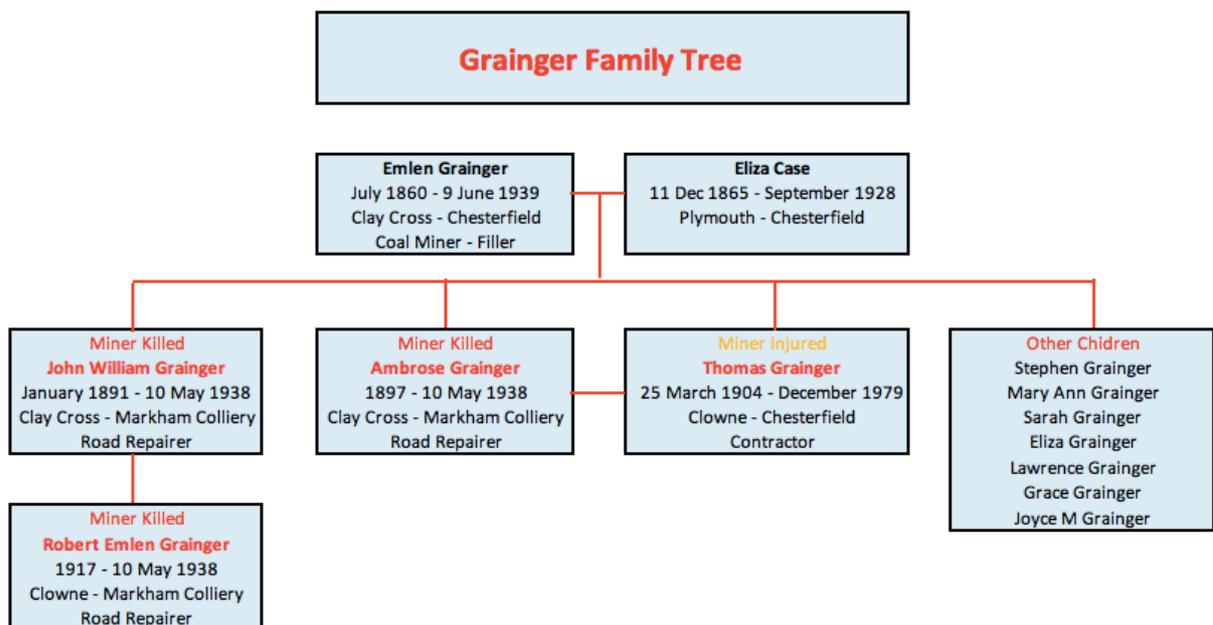


## Grainger Family

The Grainger family, along with the Hargreaves family, were the families that suffered the most in the 1938 disaster. Two brothers, John William Grainger and Ambrose Grainger were killed. A third brother, Thomas Grainger was badly injured. Robert Emlen Grainger, the son of John William Grainger was also killed. The youngest son of John William, John William (1924-1995) was actually in the pit cage ready to descend when the explosion happened.

John William, Ambrose and Robert Emlen were all employed as road repairers, while Thomas was a contractor.



The plight of the Grainger family was widely reported in newspapers. The 'Daily Independent' on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1938 reported the following:

*Mrs Grainger, of Clowne, told a 'Daily Independent' reporter that her whole family was down the mine – her husband, John William, aged 49, her 21-year old son, Robert Henry (sic); and two brothers-in-law, Ambrose and Tom. Tom Grainger, she said, just escaped with his life in the explosion at the pit in 1937. John Grainger, the father, and Robert Grainger, the son, are victims. Ambrose Grainger is missing, and Thomas Grainger is in hospital seriously injured.*

*Father and son worked together in the pit since the time the son left school. Ambrose is believed to have met his death after rescuing his brother. Ambrose was among the first to experience the full force of the explosion. Going back he found his brother with a fractured thigh. He carried him to safety and then returned to do more rescue work. That was the last seen or heard of him. Two younger boys of the same family, one the son of John, and another the son of Ambrose Grainger should have gone to work on the morning shift.*

The 'Nottingham Journal' reported the following on 12 May 1938.

Local Family's Markham Loss  
Three Relatives Dead: One in Hospital

*A Nottingham family, that of Mr Stephen Grainger, of 376, Meadow Lane has been plunged into grief as the result of the Markham Colliery disaster. Mr. Grainger had four brothers and several nephews engaged at the mine. Of these, his brothers, Ambrose and John William Grainger, and the latter's son Robert Emlen Grainger (21) are dead, whilst Thomas, another brother lies seriously injured in Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Another brother, Lawrence, whose home is in Mansfield Road, Clowne, was working on the opposite shift at Markham Colliery.*

*Miss Grainger, a daughter of Mr Stephen Grainger, had a pathetic story to tell a "Journal" reporter yesterday. "We have heard that Uncle John and Cousin Emlen are dead," she said "and Uncle Thomas lies seriously injured in hospital." "Uncle Ambrose, so far as we can learn, is still down the pit"*

*Miss Grainger explained that her father and his brothers were members of a Clowne family who had been engaged in the coal mining industry all their lives. They all lived at Clowne not far from the ill-fated pit. "We also lived at Clowne" she added "until five years ago when father came to Nottingham to commence his coal business here. "Mother was spending a few days holiday with fathers's brothers at Clowne when the disaster occurred. She is staying to try and comfort our relatives in their terrible blow.*

*General sympathy in Clowne and district goes out to Mr Emlen Gainger, the 78-year-old father of the stricken family of miners. He himself worked in the pits for a total of 67 years, and now lives with one of his sons in Clowne.*

**SIX CHILDREN LEFT**

*John William Grainger, who was 49, leaves a widow, one son and five daughters. His son Robert, who was also among the dead, was an old boy of Netherthorpe Grammar School, having gained a scholarship from Clowne Senior Boys' School. He worked with his father at Langwith Colliery, then at Oxcroft No 3 Colliery, before both went to the Markham Pit about four months ago. Ambrose Grainger had worked at the Markham Pit for five months, previously being engaged at Langwith Colliery for 11 or 12 years. He served with the Army Service Corps in Salonika during the Great War. He leaves a widow and two sons*

**FUNERAL AT CLOWNE**

*Thomas Grainger, the youngest of the three brothers (who is in hospital) had been at the Markham Colliery some three months. He served with the Grenadier Guards and completes his service with the Reserve this year. He has a wife and two young children.*

*The funeral of the two brothers who lost their lives and of Robert will take place in Clowne churchyard on Saturday.*

The funeral took place in Clowne Parish church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1938. In total five miners were buried in the cemetery at Clowne. John William and his son Robert Emlen were buried in the same grave. The five miners buried at Clowne were:

John William Grainger  
Robert Emlen Grainger  
Ambrose Grainger  
Henry Alberry  
George Henry Jackson

#### Grainger Family

John William Grainger	(1891 – 10 May 1938)
Ambrose Grainger	(1897 – 10 May 1938)
Robert Emlen Grainger	(1917 - 10 May 1938)