Herbert Brough (1875 – 1938)

Herbert Brough was born in April 1875 in Staveley. His parents were Enoch Brough (1846 - 1929) and Selina Alton (1847 – 1892). He was baptised on the 3 September 1875 in Staveley. On the 1881 Census Herbert was a scholar at the local school and he was living with his parents and five other siblings at 4 Railway Terrace in Staveley. His father, Enoch was employed as a coal miner and his oldest brother John, aged 14, was already an underground pony driver.

On the 1891 Census, Herbert, aged 16, and the rest of the growing Brough family had moved to Aston near Rotherham. His father was still employed as a miner. John and Walter, Herbert’s two older brothers (John and Walter) were also employed as miners, while Herbert was employed as a colliery labourer. In 1897 he married Annie Eliza Hill (1877-1960) in Staveley. On the 1901 Census, Herbert was living with his new wife and young son, Charles William (1901 - ) at 22 Barrow Hill, Staveley. He was now employed as a hewer. On the 1911 Census, Herbert, Annie Eliza and their two children, Charles William and May were still living at 22 Barrow Hill, Staveley.

At the time of the 1938 disaster, Herbert and his family were living at 41, South Crescent, Duckmanton. He was employed as a shot-firer at Markham Colliery.

On the 12 May 1938 the Sheffield Independent reported the following:

**FORMER RESCUER’S FATE**

Mr. H Brough, of 41, South Crescent, Duckmanton, was 63 and was due to retire in two years. Mrs. Brough said her husband, who had been fatally gassed, had worked for 51 years in the pit. He had been buried on three occasions, and helped in the rescue work after the previous explosion. He was an ambulance worker and was going to receive his long service medal at the annual camp at Yarmouth this summer.

He was buried in Staveley cemetery on the 14 May 1938.

On the 1939 Register, his widow, Annie Eliza and their daughter had moved from Duckmanton and were living at 282 Hady Hill, Staveley.

**Parents**

**Father – Enoch Brough (1846 – 1929)**

Enoch Brough was born in Staveley in 1846. His parents were Christopher Brough (1807 – 1894) and Hannah Smith (1811 – 1894). On the 1851 Census, Enoch, aged four, was living with his parents and five older siblings at Furniss Hill in Staveley. His father and two oldest brothers were all employed as coal miners. On the 1861 Census, Enoch, aged 14 was already a coal miner. He was living with parents and other siblings at 1 Brick Yard, Handley Wood. In 1865, at the age of 19, Enoch married Selina Alton in Chesterfield. In 1871, Enoch was
working away, while his wife was living with his parents. On the 1881 Census, Enoch and his family are living at 4 Railway Terrace, Staveley. In 1892 his wife died and on the 1901 Census, Enoch is a widower living at 234 Barrow Hill. At the age of 55 he was still employed as a coal miner. By the time of the 1911 Census, Enoch had retired and was still living at 234 Barrow Hill with one of his children and a housekeeper. He had worked as a coal miner for the whole of his working life.

Enoch died in tragic accident in 1929 on Tuesday 20 January.

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph reported the following:

*Enoch Brough (82), Barrow Hill, while wandering about the Devonshire Works yard of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company on Tuesday last, fell from a platform about 5ft high and received injuries from which he died in Chesterfield Royal Hospital on Sunday.*

**Mother – Selina Alton (1847 – 1892)**

Selina Alton was born in Belper, Derbyshire in 1847. Her parents were Emanuel Alton (1822 – 1888) and Mary Ann Hall (1823 – 1903). On the 1851 Census, Selina is living at Cow Hill with her parents and siblings. Her father was a silk glove maker. The biggest employer in Belper was the George Brettle silk factory in Chapel Street.

George Brettle and Co founded the stocking and hosiery factory in Chapel Street in 1786 and, at its height in the late 19th century, the firm was one of the largest employers in the region, with more than 1,000 staff on its books. At one time, Brettles exported its good all over the world from its three-storey factory building and its lines of silk stockings were favoured by the nobility. Queen Victoria wore their stockings at her coronation.

On the 1861 Census, Selina aged 13, was working in a cotton factory. Her father was now a framework knitter. They were living on Canada Street in the centre of Belper. In 1865 she married Enoch. Selina and Enoch had ten children, including Herbert, between 1867 and 1890. Selina died in 1892 at the age of 45.

**Wife – Annie Eliza Hill (1877 – 1960)**

Annie Eliza Hill was born in Chesterfield in 1877. Her parents were William Hill (1852 – 1932) and Commila Reasebeck (1855 – 1924). Both of her parents were from South Yorkshire. They had married in Doncaster in 1875. On the 1881 Census, Annie Eliza was living with her parents and two siblings at 178 Barrow Hill, Staveley. Her father was employed as a colliery stoker. By 1891 the family had moved to The Blocks, Devonshire Terrace in Staveley. In 1897 Annie Eliza married Herbert in Staveley. They had two children, Charles William and May. Annie Eliza died in 1960 at the age of 82, 22 years after the death of Herbert.