

James Stanley Rowland (1903 – 1938)

James Stanley Rowland was born in December 1903 in Bolsover, Derbyshire. His parents were Charles Rowland (1869 -1951) and Mary Ada Vardy (1871 - 1913). On the 1911 Census James Stanley was seven years old and living at 17 Shuttlewood Road in Bolsover with his parents and four siblings. His father was employed as a hewer. His parents had been married for nine years.

James Stanley married Annie Mary Winifred Cuttell (1908 - 1985) in December 1926 when he was 23 years old. Annie was 18 years old.

They had three children, all girls

Betty Rowland	(1930 -
Joyce Rowland	(1932 -
Shirley Rowland	(1938 - 2006)

James Stanley was 34 years at the time of the disaster in 1938 and was living at 16 Robertson Avenue in Duckmanton. A report in the Sheffield Independent on 12 May 1938 reported the following:

'Mrs Rowland, the young widow of James Stanley Rowland, of 16 Robertson Avenue, Duckmanton, told a reporter that it was not until yesterday morning that she knew her husband was among the dead'

He was buried in Bolsover cemetery on 14 May 1938. The Sheffield Independent reported the funeral.

'At Bolsover ten victims in all were conveyed at intervals into the Parish Church, where Canon J. E. Paget, vicar of Pleasley and vicar of Bolsover until three weeks ago, returned to conduct the communal service and offer words of consolation to the heartbroken relatives. After a service many of the grieved widows and relations broke down and had to be comforted and assisted by the men folk. The funerals were those of D. Bann, G C Buckley, M Richards and C Silcock of Bolsover. W Sherwin, G Rowlands, R Simms (Duckmanton) and D Whelpdale and J Hadley (Stanfree). They were buried in separate graves. Canon J. E. Paget, conducted the one committal service'

One year after the disaster, the relatives of James Stanley placed several 'In Memoriam' notices in the 'Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald'

Rowland - In loving remembrance (sic) of JAMES STANLEY, a dear husband and father who passed away in the Markham Pit Disaster May 10th 1938.

*"A light from our household is gone,
A voice we loved is still
A place is vacant on our hearth
Which can never be filled"*

From loving Wife and Family

*Rowland – In loving memory of JAMES STANLEY ROWLAND who died
In the Markham Disaster May 10th 1938*

*"He rests in God's garden
In the sunshine of a perfect day"*

From Bernard and Olive, Dad and Dot.

Parents

Father – Charles Rowland (1869 - 1951)

The father of James Stanley was Charles Rowland, who was born 11 December 1869 in Youlgreave (or Youlgrave). His parents were James Rowland (1837 - 1911) and Charlotte Swyer-Sexey (1839 - 1896). Charles was the fifth child of nine children. On the 1871 Census, Charles was living at 6 Alport, Alport, a hamlet very close to Youlgreave. He father was employed as a carter. On the 1881 Census Charles is living with his family in Morton and was attending a local school. His father was now a gamekeeper. In 1891, Charles is 21 and working as a general labourer. On the 1901 Census, Charles at the age of 31 is still living with his father and new wife, in New Street Morton. Charles was now working as a coke drawer. His mother had died in 1896.

Charles married Ada Mary Vardy in 1902. On the 1911 Census they were living in Bolsover and they had five children, including James Stanley.

Charles died in Mansfield in 1951, at the age of 81.

Mother – Mary Ada Vardy (1871 -1913)

Mary Ada was born in 1871 in Clay Cross, Derbyshire. Her parents were Philip Vardy (1844 - 1918) and Elizabeth Parker (1843 - 1908). Her father came from Stretton, which is very close to Clay Cross. Her mother was from Murton Colliery in County Durham. On the 1861 Census Philip is living with the Parker family in Clay Cross. He married Elizabeth on 8 July 1862 in North Wingfield. Ada is their fourth child.

On the 1881 Census, Mary Ada and her family were still living in Clay Cross on 'Gaffers Row'. Robert Stephenson built 'Gaffers Row' to house Stephenson's foreman. Her father, Philip Vardy was a 'Deputy of Coal Mine', so was entitled to live in the Row. They also had a servant.

In an ironic twist of fate, her father headed one of the search parties, after a terrible underground explosion at the colliery on 7 November 1882, which killed 45 men and boys. The coal seam being mined, Black Shale, was the same seam which was being mined at Markham in 1938.

On the 1891 Census, Mary Ada, aged nineteen, was still living with her parents in Morton. Her father was a manager of Parkhouse Colliery, known as the 'Catty Pit'

Mary Ada married Charles in April 1902 in Nottingham. Mary Ada died in 1913 at the young age of 42.

Wife – Annie Mary Winifred Cuttell (1908 -1985)

Annie was born in Bolsover on 26 February 1908. Her father was Thomas Cuttell (1884 - 1976) and her mother was Mary Winifred Coleman (1886 - 1964). Annie, on the 1911 Census was living with her parents and sibling at 36 Station Road in Bolsover. Her parents had married in 1907. Her father was employed as a hewer.

Annie was eighteen years old when she married James Stanley in December 1926. Annie was pregnant with Shirley when the disaster struck in May 1938. Shirley was born in August 1938.

On the 1939 Register Annie with her three daughters had moved to 12 Rectory Road in Duckmanton.

In 1940 Annie married John Leslie Dudhill. Annie died in November 1985 when she was 77 years of age.