

## **John Thomas Brown (1902 – 1938)**

John Thomas Brown was born in October 1911 in Brimington, Derbyshire. His parents were John James Brown (1887 – 1954) and Annie Elizabeth Mansfield (1886 - ). He was their second child. John Thomas was born too late for the Census of 1911. His father was working as a hewer on the 1911 Census.

His parents had three more sons, Joseph Henry Brown (1917 – 1981), Arthur Brown (1920 – 1938) and Alan Frederick Brown (1928 1980).

John Thomas married Agnes Mary Ann Mason (1913 – 2004) in 1934. Their only son, Kenneth Brown was born in 1935.

John Thomas was living with his wife, Agnes, and their young son, Kenneth

By 1938, John Thomas, his father, and two other brothers were all working at Markham Colliery. Alan was too young, and still at school. On the 10 May 1938, John Thomas was working the night shift with his father and youngest brother, Arthur. John Thomas was killed, along with his brother. His father was seriously injured. There were various newspaper articles, which focussed on the tragedy inflicted on the Brown family.

An article in the Sheffield Independent on 12 May 1938.

*Her other son, John Thomas Brown (36) had been married for three years and lived at Orchard Road, Carr Vale. He was a timber drawer.*

*Mrs. Brown visited her husband in hospital and broke the news of the death of their sons. "it was no good keeping it from him" she said.*

*Mr Brown told his wife that one of the sons had been working with him. When the explosion came Mr. Brown told his son to run. But he stopped to put on his coat*

An article in the Derbyshire Times & Chesterfield Herald on 12 May 1938

### *Overcome by Gas*

*The father and two sons were all employed on the night shift as timber drawers (sic) when the explosion occurred. Another son, Joseph Henry Brown, was on day work and he had reached the pithead in readiness to go down when he learned of the disaster. Realising that his father and two brothers were below he ran back home to inform his mother.*

Two years after the disaster, Agnes, his wife placed an 'In Memoriam' notice in the Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

*Brown - In loving memory of a good husband and father, Jack:  
Also Dick, his brother, who died in Markham Pit Disaster.*

*May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938*

*- From Agnes and Ken*

## ***Parents***

### ***Father – John James Brown (1887 – 1954)***

John James Brown was born in Brimington on 15 March 1887. He was the son of Thomas John Brown (1856 – 1933) and Ann Maria Plummer (1856 – 1932). His father came from Dullingham in Cambridgeshire, and his mother came from Isleham, also in Cambridgeshire. Dullingham had several connections to the Markham disaster of 1938, since the father (William Stephen Smith) of Gladys Smith, who married Thomas George Yates (also killed in 1938) came from the village.

On the 1891 Census John James was four years old and living at Brockhill, Brimington. On the 1901 Census the family had moved to John Street in Brimington. At the age of fourteen, John James is already a coal miner.

John James married Annie Elizabeth Mansfield on 3 October 1908 in Staveley

In 1938 John James was injured in the Markham Colliery disaster of 1938, when two of his sons are killed. He found out about their deaths from his wife, while he was recovering from his injuries in Chesterfield Royal Infirmary.

### ***Mother – Annie Elizabeth Mansfield ( 1886 - )***

Annie Elizabeth Mansfield was born 3 October 1886 in Pinxton, Derbyshire. Her father was Joseph Mansfield (1857 - ) and Emily Davis (1862 - ) Her father was born in West Bromwich in the Black Country. Her mother was born in Chelsea. Her parents probably met while her father was a soldier at Chelsea Barracks and her mother was the daughter of Henry Davis who ran a public house in Chelsea.

On the 1891 Census, Annie Elizabeth was living in Conisborough, Yorkshire with her parents and three siblings. Her father was a miner. On the 1891 Census, Annie was 13 years old and living with her family in Unstone, Derbyshire. Her family and older brother, Joseph are both miners, working underground.

Annie Elizabeth married John James Brown on 3 October 1908 in Brimington.