

Joseph Furniss (1908 – 1937)



Joseph Furniss (1908 – 1937) was born in Attercliffe, Sheffield in October 1908. His parents were Joseph Henry Furniss (1889 – 1972) and Clara Elizabeth Powell (1888 – 1979). His father came from Eckington and mother from Attercliffe, Sheffield. Joseph was their first child following their marriage in October 1907. On the 1911 Census Joseph was living with his parents at 1 Netherthorpe Lane, Killamarsh. His father was employed as a coal miner – hewer.

At the time of the disaster Joseph, aged 28, was living with his new wife at 57 Speedwell Terrace, Staveley. He was employed as a stallman at Markham Colliery.

The Derbyshire Times (29.01.1937) reported the funeral of Joseph which took place on the 26th January 1937 at Staveley Cemetery.

Joseph Furniss (28), 57, Speedwell Terrace, Staveley, leaves a widow, but no family. He was a native of Sheffield, and his parents live at Markham Road, Duckmanton. He used to play for Markham Sports F.C. and had turned out for them this season. Previously he played for Speedwell Old Boys F.C. He had been married two years and had worked at Markham Colliery for nine years.

Working on nights for 12 months he only went on day duty a fortnight before the accident.

A service in Zion Methodist Church, Staveley was conducted by the Rev W. A. R. Collins, who later officiated at the graveside in Staveley cemetery.

Parents

Father - Joseph Henry Furniss (1889 – 1972)

Joseph Henry Furniss (1889 – 1972) was born on the 15th January 1889 in Eckington, Derbyshire. His parents were Matthew Henry Furniss (1857 – 1932) and Hannah Marsden (1861 – 1902). His father was from Eckington and his mother came from South Anston, Yorkshire.

On the 1891 Census, Joseph Henry was living with his parents, his grandmother and four older sisters at 58 High Street, Eckington. His father was employed as a coal miner. On the 1901 Census, the Furniss family had moved to 20 Gladstone Street, Handsworth, South

Yorkshire. Joseph Henry was twelve years old and his father was employed as a coal miner – hewer. In 1902 his mother died at the age of 41. His father would marry Susan Page Easter (1865 – 1941) in July 1906. In October 1907, Joseph Henry married Clara Elizabeth Powell (1888 – 1979) in Sheffield. On the 1911 Census, Joseph Henry and Clara Elizabeth had been married for three years and had one son, Joseph. The family were living at 1 Netherthorpe Lane, Killamarsh.

Joseph Henry witnessed the death of his son on the 21st January 1937 and continued to live at 10 Markham Road, Duckmanton. On the 1939 Register he was still living at Markham Road with his wife and four children. Joseph Henry died in March 1972 in the Chesterfield registration district at the age of 83.

Mother – Clara Elizabeth Powell (1888 – 1979)

Clara Elizabeth Powell (1888 – 1979) was born in Attercliffe, Sheffield on the 27th May 1888. Her parents were Richard Powell (1853 – 1921) and Florence Griffiths (1863 -1939). Her father was from West Bromwich in the Black Country and her mother was from Parkgate, Rotherham. Clara Elizabeth was their first child following their marriage in Rotherham in 1884. On the 1891 Census, Clara Elizabeth was living at 3 Pool Green in Kimberworth, South Yorkshire with her parents and two uncles, who were the brothers of her mother. On the 1901 Census, Clara Elizabeth, aged 12 was living with her parents and three younger siblings at Court House 3, Fearnough Street in Attercliffe cum Darnall. Her father was employed as a coal miner. In October 1908, Clara Elizabeth married Joseph Henry in the Sheffield registration district. Joseph their first child was born in 1908. Clara Elizabeth, had a further four children, Leonard, Matthew, Susan and Colin Henry. Clara Elizabeth died in March 1979 at the age of ninety.

Wife – Norah Willetts (1913 – 1957)

Norah Willetts (1913-1957) was born on the 16th May 1913 in Stourbridge, Worcestershire. Her parents were David Willetts (1887 – 1940) and Edith Ellen Garfield (1887 -). Her father was from Lye and her mother came from Kingswinford. Lye and Kingswinford are both 1-2 miles from Stourbridge. Their second child, Leslie D Willetts, was born in 1915 in the Chesterfield registration district, showing that Norah and her parents had moved from the West Midlands to Derbyshire between 1913 and 1915. In 1934 Norah, aged 21, married Joseph in the Chesterfield registration district. They had no child before Joseph was killed in 1937. In 1938 Norah married John Joseph Sherlock (1905 – 1979) and they had one child, Michael Sherlock who was born in 1939. On the 1939 Register, Norah, John and Michael were living at 16 Wateringbury Grove, Staveley. Norah died in 1957 at the age of young age of 44.

