

## Alfred Lamb (1897 – 1938)



Alfred Lamb (1897 – 1938) was born in Newton, Derbyshire. His parents were William George Lamb (1873 – 1942) and Mary Ann Picken (1878 – 1955). His father was a native of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and his mother came from Stanton Hill in Nottinghamshire. They had married in 1902 in the Mansfield Registration District. Alfred was their second son.

In June 1937 at the age of 25 he married Olive Fox (1920 – 1986) in the Chesterfield Registration District. The newly married couple set up home at 18 West View, Staveley.

At the time of the disaster Olive was pregnant with their first child (Mavis Alfreda Lamb) who was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1938, two days after the death of her father.

At the time of the disaster Alfred and Olive were still living at 18 West View, Staveley and Alfred was employed at Markham Colliery as a road layer.

There was considerable media interest in Alfred and Olive after the disaster, especially since Olive was a widow with a new baby at the age of 19.

### Nottinghamshire Journal

Mr Alfred Lamb, of Staveley, who was killed in the Markham Pit Disaster lived at 18, West View, Staveley, and had been married a year. He was leader of the Staveley Salvation army Band. His wife (also a Salvationist) aged 19, expected to enter a maturity home yesterday.

### **Derbyshire Times 13<sup>th</sup> May 1938**

Alfred Lamb, married, 18, West View, Staveley, was a popular band leader in the Staveley Salvation Army. His wife, aged 19 is also a Salvationist. They had been married 12 months, and Mrs's Lamb distress is heightened by her expectations of hourly entering a maternity home for their first child. She was to have gone on Wednesday, but postponed as long as possible. In that morning, she was one of the pathetic line of people waiting at Markham in readiness to be called upon to identify her husband's body, but had to leave at noon, her brother staying at the pit.

### **Sheffield Independent 14.05.1938**

Baby Girl Born to Pit Victim's Widow

FATHER HAD CHOSEN HER NAME

If Alfred Lamb of West View, one of the victims of the Markham Pit disaster, had been alive to-day, he would have been the happiest man in Staveley.

On a table in his sister's small home there is a christening cake upon which is traced in letter the name Mavis. At the time of the explosion Mr. and Mrs Lamb were happily awaiting the birth of a child, and so confident were they that it would be a daughter that they had already chosen the name.

Mavis was born on Thursday in Chesterfield Maternity Home, and now there is both sorrow and joy in the Staveley home – and tragedy, because of a father who was blasted into eternity never to set eyes on the first child of his marriage.

### **AFTER PITHEAD VIGIL**

Mr. and Mrs. Lamb were married a year ago. On Tuesday, when Mrs was fully expecting to enter the maturity home, there came the terrible news. Undaunted she hurried to the pithead and remained there until late in the day, when her place was taken by another relative.

Before she entered the maturity home she received confirmation of her husband's death. And at 6 a.m. on Thursday Mavis was born. There could be no other name for the baby now.

### **INJURED UNCLE CHEEERED**

At the maternity home yesterday both mother and daughter were doing well. In the hospital adjacent, the new-born baby's uncle, Joseph Kirk, was given the news to cheer him in his suffering. He was one of the most seriously injured in the explosion and was still very ill yesterday.

Mr. Lamb, whose funeral takes place today, was bandmaster of Staveley Salvation Army.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> May Alfred was buried in Staveley Cemetery. The Sheffield Independent on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1938 reported the following;

In the nearby Salvation Army citadel a service was being conducted for Alfred Lamb, former local Corps band leader., and on top of his coffin rested the dead man's Salvation Army cap.

The cap was placed in the grave at the request of the 18-year-old widow who gave birth to a baby girl in Chesterfield maternity home on Thursday morning. "No one else shall wear it," she said to her mother.

On Saturday, Mrs. Lamb received a gift for the baby from General Eva Booth, and from an unknown "mother a 10s. note, as well as numerous letters of sympathy.

In May 1941 Olive placed an 'In Memoriam' notice in the Derbyshire Times

LAMB – In loving memory of my late husband, Alfred Lamb, killed in the Markham Pit Disaster, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1938,

"Gone, but will never be forgotten."


From Olive and Mavis.

### ***Parents:***

#### ***Father: George William Lamb (1873 – 1942)***

George William Lamb was born in Mansfield on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1873. His parents were Joseph Lamb (1851 – 1928) and Emily Draycott (1854 – 1938). On the 1881 Census George William, aged seven, was living with his parents and a younger brother at 17 Commercial Street in Mansfield. His father was employed as a shoe riveter. On the 1891 Census, George William, aged 17, was living with his grandparents (William and Eliza Draycott), his mother and younger brother, at 81 Nottingham Road in Mansfield. George William is employed as a foundry labourer. His father was not at that address. On the 1901 Census, George William was still living with his now widowed grandmother. In the second quarter of 1902 he married Mary Ann Picken (1910 – 1973) in Mansfield. Their first son, Horace Lamb (1910 – 1973) was born in 1910. By the time of the 1911 Census, George William, his wife and son, had moved to Station Road, Newton, Derbyshire. George William was employed as a banksman at a local colliery. This address in Newton is where Alfred would be born in 1912.

In September 1939, George William, aged 66 and retired, his wife and two single sons were living in Mansfield.

 <b>Lamb household</b> (4 people)								
First name(s)	Last name(s)	Birth year	DOB	Sex	Occupation	Marital status	Schedule	Schedule Sub Number
George W	Lamb	1873	25 Jun 1873	Male	Retired	Married	305	1
Mary	Lamb	1879	02 Dec 1879	Female	Home Duties Unpaid	Married	305	2
<b>Horace</b>	<b>Lamb</b>	<b>1910</b>	<b>13 Aug 1910</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Seeking Work</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>3</b>
Wilfred	Lamb	1916	19 Mar 1916	Male	Colliery Hewer Below Heavy Worker	Single	305	4

George William died in 1942 at the age of 69.

### ***Mother: Mary Ann Picken (1879 – 1955)***

Mary Ann Picken was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1879 in Stanton Hill, Nottinghamshire. The first time Mary Ann appears in official records is on the 1901 Census, when she, aged 22, is working as a servant in Mansfield for the King family. The head of the household, William Henry King, is the station master for the Midland Railway's goods yard in Mansfield.

In 1902 Mary Ann married George William, and by 1911 they have had two children, but only Horace is surviving. After 1911, Mary Ann and George William have a further four children, Alfred, Annie, Wilfred and Walter.

Mary Ann died in 1955 at the age of 77.

### ***Wife:***

### ***Olive Fox (1920 – 1986)***



Olive Fox was born on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1920 in the Chesterfield Registration district. Her parents were William Fox (1875 -1928) and Angelina Moodie Whitford (1879 – 1961). Olive was their fifth child. Her father was from the vicinity of St Hilary in Cornwall and her mother was a native of Penrhyndeudraeth, where her father was an agent for a lead mine. On the 1901 Census her recently married parents were living at 60 Poolsbrook and her father was employed as a below ground mine labourer. Their first son, William was just six months old. On the 1911 Census, her parents were living at 42 Poolsbrook and William was employed as a ripper in a local colliery. They have had 3 children, only one was still living.

Olive married Alfred in the second quarter of 1937, when she was seventeen years of age. At the time of the disaster in May 1938, Olive was 9 months pregnant with their first child. Mavis Alfreda Lamb (1938 0 1999) was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1938, two days after the death of her father on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

In September 1939 Olive, the young widow, with a 15 months old daughter, married George Wright and at the end of September 1939 were living in Swallownest. On the 1939 Register, the daughter of Alfred and Olive is shown as Mavis A Wright, not Mavis A Lamb. She may have had her name changed, since she was later married under the Wright name.

George	Wright	1918	21 Dec 1918	Male	Builders Brick Layer	Married	353	6
<b>Olive</b>	<b>Wright</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>24 Jan 1920</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Unpaid Domestic Dutie</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>7</b>

Mavis A	Lewins (Wright)	1938	12 May 1938	Female	Under School Age	Single	353	8
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Olive had a further daughter (Maureen Olive Wright) in 1940 and died in 1986 at the age of 66.

