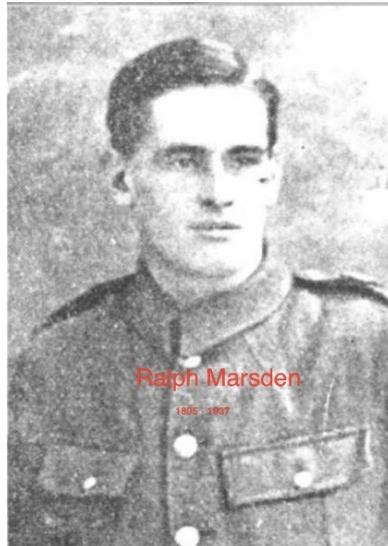


## Ralph Marsden (1895 – 1937)



Ralph Marsden (1895 – 1937) was born in the summer of 1895 in the Chesterfield registration district. His parents were Samson Marsden (1861 – 1940) and Annie Hunt (1870 – 1955). His father had been born in Brampton, Derbyshire and his mother was from Tupton, Derbyshire. Ralph was their second child following their marriage in 1891. On the 1901 Census Ralph was living with his parents, one older sibling, two younger siblings and his mother's sister on Hawthorne Street in Hasland. His father was employed as a coal miner – hewer and his aunt Elizabeth was working in a box factory. The 1911 Census shows that the family had moved from Hasland to 22 Charlesworth Street, Carr Vale, Bolsover. Ralph aged 15 was already employed as a coal miner. His father and older brother, Thomas, were also employed as coalminers.

On the outbreak of WW1, Ralph signed up and became a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). His regiment number was 59509. During the war the RGA expanded from 32 Regular and Territorial Force batteries in 1914 to 117 by the end of the war. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The British War Medal was instituted on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1919 for award to those who had rendered service between the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the day following the British declaration of war against the German Empire, and the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, both dates inclusive. The Victory Medal was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914 – 15 Star, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal. It was not awarded singly.

After the war, Ralph returned to coal mining.

In September 1921 at Scarcliffe church, Ralph married Ada Colley (1896 – 1981)

Ralph and Ada had three children

Peggy D Marsden	(1924 –
Richard Marsden	(1932 – 1932)
June E Marsden	(1936 –

At the time of the accident Ralph and his family were living 36 North Crescent, Duckmanton and he was employed as a stallman at Markham Colliery

Ralph was severely injured by the blast and was taken to Chesterfield Royal Hospital. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1937 the Derbyshire Times reported

Marsden, who is in Chesterfield Royal Hospital lives in North Crescent, Duckmanton. He has been married for 14 years and has two children, Peggie, aged 12 and Jean aged three months. His wife said she expected him home about two, but did not worry when he did not come, because he was often late. Their elder girl saw a woman coming from the pit crying and learned of the explosion. Peggie told her mother who then went out, and stopping people as they came from the pit, asked for news of her husband. Eventually she heard that he had been taken to hospital, but friends would not let her go there. Mrs Marsden was bearing her anxiety bravely "I have got to bear up on account of the baby" she said. Her husband had only been back at work since November, a broken leg having kept off work for seven months. He had worked at the pit for about eight years. He served through the war without a scratch.

Ralph died in hospital on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1937.

The Derbyshire Times (29.01.1937) also reported the funeral on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1937

Mr Ralph Marsden of 36 North Crescent, Duckmanton was 41 years of age. He was a married man with two children, aged 12 and three months. He was born at Derby Road, Chesterfield, from where he went to live at Bolsover. He had lived at Duckmanton about eight years. For ten years he had worked at Markham Colliery and before that he was employed at Bolsover Colliery. He was president of the Markham branch of the Mineworkers Federation of Great Britain and had been reinstated as president the day before the accident. He served during the Great War in the Royal Garrison. He had been married for sixteen years. He was on the committee of the Duckmanton Children's Outing Fund.

The funeral was at Duckmanton on Tuesday, the Rev. G. W. Ready (Rector) officiating.

The wife of Ralph, placed a notice in the Derbyshire Times on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 1937

MARSDEN – Mrs A MARSDEN and family Duckmanton, wish to thank the officials of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, hospital and staff, neighbours and friends, for the sympathy and flowers sent in their sad bereavement.

## ***Parents***

### ***Father – Samson Marsden (1861 – 1940)***

Samson Marsden (1861 – 1940) was born in Brampton, Derbyshire on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1861. His parents were Ralph Marsden (1834 – 1889) and Elizabeth Green (1835 – 1909). His parents were married in 1856 and Samson was the third of seven children. On the 1871 Census, Samson, aged eight, was living with his parents, five siblings and the brother of his mother on New Road in Brampton. His father and his oldest brother, Tom, were both employed as coal miners. His uncle was an engineer. Ten years later the family were still living at the same address on New Road. Sampson aged eighteen was working as a coal miner. His father and two older brothers were also coal miners.

A few days before the Census of 1891, Samson married Annie Hunt( 1870 – 1955) in St Thomas Church in Brampton. When the 1891 Census was taken a few later, Samson and his new bride were living on Old Road in Brampton. Between the 1891 Census and the 1901 Census Samson and Annie had four children, including Ralph. On the 1911 Census, the family had moved to Hawthorne Street in Hasland. In 1902 Samson moved with his family to Bolsover and three daughters, Jessie, Jennie and Nellie are born there.

Samson retired from mining – he was employed as a coal dataller. After the accident which killed Ralph in 1937, Samson continued to live with his youngest children. On the 1939 Register, Samson, is living with his wife and his two youngest children, Jennie and Nellie at 8 Titchfield Avenue, Bolsover.

Samson died in March 1940 at the age of 78.

### ***Mother - Annie Hunt (1870 – 1955)***

Annie Hunt (1870 – 1955) was born in Tupton, Derbyshire on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1870. Her parents were Samuel Hunt (1843 – 1901) and Ann Atkin (1846 – 1892). Her father was from South Normanton and her mother had been born in Sheffield. Her parents had married in Chesterfield in 1864. Annie was their second child. On the 1871 Census, Annie, aged nine months, was living with her parents and older sister, Sarah, at Farm Place in Tupton. Her father was employed as a coal miner. On the 1881 Census, Annie, aged ten, is a scholar at the local school. She is living with her parents and siblings in Whites Cottages in Tupton.

In 1891 Annie at the age of twenty married Samson Marsden. They had seven children, including Ralph, between 1893 and 1912.

Annie died in 1955 at the age of 84.

### ***Wife – Ada Colley (1896 – 1981)***

Ada Colley (1896 – 1981) was born on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1896 in Bolsover. Her parents were James Richard Colley (1866 – 1947) and Sarah J Watkinson (1868 – 1934). Her father was from the Black Country. He had been born in Pensnett, which is very close to Dudley. Her mother was from Pilsley in Derbyshire. They had married in Clay Cross in 1886. Ada was their fourth child. On the 1901 Census Ada, aged 4 is living with her parents and five siblings at 115 New Bolsover. Her father is a stallman and her oldest brother, William is a underground pony driver. In 1911 Ada, aged 14, is living at 1 Charlesworth Street, while her future husband is living at 22 Charlesworth Street. Ada married Ralph Marsden in 1921.

Ada died in 1981 at the age of 85, 45 years after the death of her husband.