

## Frank Smith (1911 – 1938)



Frank Smith (1911 – 1938) was born in Barlborough on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1911. His parents were Thomas Smith (1876 - 1959) and Elizabeth Breeze (1877 - 1943). His father was from Hemingford in Suffolk and his mother was from Oakington in Cambridgeshire.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1933, Frank married Elsie May Grundy (1904 – 1979) at Barlborough. The Derbyshire Times reported on the wedding:

### SMITH – GRUNDY

The wedding took place at Barlborough Parish Church on Saturday of Miss Elsie M. Grundy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Grundy, Barlboro', and Mr. Frank Smith, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith, Barlboro'.

The bride, who was given away by her cousin (Mr. Bernard Gregory), wore a dress of crepe suede georgette with hat, grey shoes and stockings, and carried a bouquet of cream roses and white heather. The bridesmaid (Miss Gertrude Glossop, Clowne) was dressed in elephant crepe. Her bouquet was of bronze chrysanthemums. Mr. John Turner, Bakestone Moor, was best man. The Rector (the Rev. E.G. Walmsley) officiated.

Bernard Gregory the first cousin of Elsie May was also killed in the 1938 Markham Colliery disaster.

The following year their only daughter, Noreen Peggy Smith (1934 - ) was born.

At the time of the disaster Frank and his small family were living at New Bungalows in Barlborough. Frank was employed as belt trimmer at Markham Colliery.

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

Frank Smith (27), of New Bungalows, Barlborough was a reserved, though happy disposition. He leaves a widow and one child. His brother James Smith, Occupation Road, Barlborough who was injured, is a well-known local cricketer, and has figured prominently in the Derbyshire Minor League for the past few seasons. He has the reputation of being one of the biggest hitters in the league.

The funeral of all the miners killed in the 1938 disaster took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May in thirteen different cemeteries. The funeral at Barlborough was reported in the Derbyshire Times:

### **AT BARLBOROUGH**

At the neighbouring village of Barlborough ten of the eleven victims were interred in one large grave, which was lined with ivy. They were: Rowe Kirk, Leonard Atkin, S. Lodge, Joseph Hibberd, Frank Smith, Bernard Gregory, George Davidson, Charles Bown, Henry Taylor and Colin Gee-Pemberton.

The eleventh victim, Edward Salt, a colliery deputy, who resided at Poolsbrook was buried earlier on Saturday in a grave adjoining that of his father (who was killed at the Crown colliery some years ago) in Barlborough churchyard.

In May 1945 the family of Frank placed the following 'In Memoriam' notices in the Derbyshire Times.

**SMITH** – Memories of our dear son, Frank, lost his life in the Markham Disaster, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1938.

“Thoughts drift back to bygone days;  
Life moves on but memories stay.”

- Mam and Dad.

**SMITH** – Dearest memories of a dear husband and daddy, who died in the Markham Disaster, Mat 10<sup>th</sup> 1938.

“Sweetest thought of you.”

- From we two, Wife and Daughter (Barlborough)

## **Parents:**

### **Father: Thomas Smith (1876 – 1959)**

Thomas Smith (1876 – 1959) was born on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1876 in Barlborough. His parents were John Smith (1841 – 1895) and Elizabeth Kimpton (1844 – 1885). His father was from Hemingford Abbots in Huntingdonshire and his mother was from Oakington in Cambridgeshire. They had married in the Chesterton, Cambridgeshire registration district in 1860. Thomas was their seventh child. On the 1881 Census Thomas, aged 4 was living with his parents and siblings in Barlborough. His father was employed as a labourer. On the 1891 Census, Thomas, aged 14, was a farmer labourer working and living on a farm farmed by George Johnson. His father died in 1895 and on the 1901 he was living with an older sister, Fanny, who had married William Gregory in 1897. Thomas was employed as an underground filler in a local colliery. In 1902, at the age of 25 he married Elizabeth Breeze (1877 – 1943) in Eckington, Derbyshire. Between 1903 and 1911 they had five children, Thomas, Mary Frances, James Alfred and Frank. On the 1911 Census, Thomas his family, a younger brother, Bernard Breeze and a brother-in-law, William Smith were living at High Common, Barlborough. He was employed as a miner- hewer. Thomas and Elizabeth were still living at High Common, Barlborough at the time of the Markham Colliery disaster happened in 1938. They were still living there on the 1939 Register. Thomas died in Barlborough in 1959 at the age of 83.

### **Mother: Elizabeth Breeze (1877 -1943)**

Elizabeth Breeze was born in Staveley on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1877 in Staveley Derbyshire. Her parents were William Breeze (1849 – 1910) and Ann Whysall (1850 – 1900). On the 1881 Census, Elizabeth aged 4, was living with her parents and four siblings on Wood Lane, Barlborough. Her father was employed as a coal miner. The family were still living on Wood Lane at the time of the 1891 Census. In 1900 her mother died, and the 1901 Census shows that Elizabeth was living with her widowed father at Low Common, Barlborough. In 1902 she married Thomas. Elizabeth died in 1943 at the age of 66.

### **Wife: Elsie May Grundy (1904 – 1979)**

Elsie May Grundy was born on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1904 in Barlborough. Her parents were Albert Grundy (1877 – 1954) and Hilda Gregory (1883 – 1952). Her father had been born in Barlborough on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1877, while her mother had been born in Barlborough on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1883. They had married in Beighton, Yorkshire on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1904. Elsie May and her mother are “missing” from the 1911 Census, but her father was living on California, Barlborough and working as an underground filler at a local colliery. Elsie May married Frank on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1933 in Barlborough, their daughter, Noreen Peggy was born the

following year. Elsie May died in 1979 at the age of 74, 41 years after the death of her husband.