

Walter James Frost (1891 – 1938)



Walter James Frost (1891 – 1938) was born in Peterborough, Northamptonshire in January 1891. His parents were Joseph Frost (1856 – 1908) and Mary Ann Hall (1858 -). Walter James was baptised on 29th March 1891 in St Peters Church in Peterborough. On the 1891 Census, Water James, aged three months was living with his parents and three older siblings at 6 Bamber Street in Peterborough. His father was employed as a goods train guard. On the 1901 Census, the family had moved to 23 Mayor's Walk in Peterborough. This road runs over the east coast main line, where his father would have worked. The east coast line had been opened in 1850 by the Great Northern Railway. During WW1, Peterborough was an important point on the railway network for marshalling troops and war material.

In 1908, his father had died, and Walter James aged seventeen joined the Territorial Force. His service number was 4032 in the Royal Field Artillery. His unit was the Northants, 4th Brigade Field Artillery Eastern Division. When the Volunteer Force was subsumed into the new Territorial Force as part of the Haldane reforms of 1908, the bulk of the 1st Volunteer Battalion became the 4th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment, but the two Peterborough companies were converted to form the Northamptonshire Battery of the Royal Field Artillery. The Northamptonshire Battery was based at the Drill Hall, Queen's Street, Peterborough, and became popularly known as the Peterborough Battery or Peterborough Artillery. Between, 1908 and 1911, Walter had training at Shoeburyness, Lydd and Thetford. On the 29th May 1912 he finished his first period of service in the Territorials.

On the 1911 Census, Walter was living with his widowed mother and siblings on Williamson Street in Peterborough. Walter was twenty years of age and was working as a house painter. On Christmas day, 1913, Walter married Dora Sinfield in Swanwick, Derbyshire. They were living at 15 Mayor's Walk, very close to the old family home.

On the 3rd June 1914 Walter rejoined the Territorials for four years. The medical report shows that he was 5 feet 6.5 inches in height and had good eyesight. He left the service after one year.

On the 27th June 1916 in Derby Walter joined the Durham Light Infantry, 39th Labour Corps. His address was given as 233 Model Village, Cresswell. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal for serving in France. His regimental number was 22941. He was discharged on the 2nd January 1919.

Between 1913 and 1929, Walter and Dora had six children

Doris Irene Frost	1914 – 1973
Agnes Dora Frost	1916 -
Amos Ronald Frost	1919 - 1992
Douglas Arthur Frost	1925 – 2017
Joan Frost	1927
Norma Frost	1929

At the time of the disaster on 5th May 1938, Walter and his family were living at 1 The View, Poolsbrook and Walter was working as a Contractor.

He was buried in Staveley Cemetery on the 14th May 1938.

In May 1942 his wife and family put an 'In Memoriam' notice in the Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald

FROST – In loving memory of a dear husband and father. Walter James Frost accidently killed in the Markham Colliery Disaster May 10th, 1938.

“Love’s last gift – remembrance”

- From loving Wife, Sons, Daughters and Grandchildren.

Parents

Father – Joseph Frost (1856 – 1908)

Joseph Frost was born in 1856 in Paston, Northamptonshire. His parents were Joseph Frost (1811 – 1898) and Sarah Parrish (1818 – 1856). His father was employed as an agricultural labourer. On the 1871 Census, Joseph was 15 years old and working with his widower father as an agricultural labourer. The house they were living in was close to Paston Hall. On the 1881 Census, Joseph was lodging at 13 Westwood Row in Peterborough while working at a railway platelayer. On the 6th June 1881 he married Mary Ann Hall in Peterborough. Their first child, John Amos Frost (1882 – 1975) was born the following year. Walter James, born in 1891, was their fourth child. Joseph continued to work as a goods train guard on the Midland Railway. Virtually all the neighbours on Bamber Street worked on the railway as stokers, tool keepers and railway guards.

Joseph was working normally, as a goods train guard on the 7th September 1908 when he fell under the wheels of trucks he was assembling. He suffered head injuries and his left leg was practically cut off above the knee. Joseph was taken to

Stamford Infirmary, but died an hour later. It is surmised that his shunting pole came in contact with the wheel of one of the trucks and drew him underneath.

Joseph was 51 when he died

Mother – Mary Ann Hall (1859 -)

Mary Ann Hall was born in 1859 in Farcet, Huntingdonshire. Her parents were John Thomas Hall (1836 – 1924) and Mary Ann Tinkler (1837 – 1921). Mary Ann was baptised on 25 September 1859 in Farcet, which is two miles south of Peterborough. On the 1871 Census, the family have moved to Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire where her father was employed as a farm bailiff. Mary Ann, aged twelve, was employed as a farm servant. On the 1881 Census Mary Ann was employed as a servant in the household of a solicitor on London Road in Peterborough. The house was called Mayfield. In June 1881 Mary Ann married Joseph Frost. They had six children between 1882 and 1901. Walter James was their fourth child. Her husband died in 1908 and on the 1911 Census, the widowed Mary Ann was living with four of her children at 10 Williamson Avenue in Peterborough. Her second son, William, aged 25 was a policeman.

Wife – Dora Sinfield (1890 – 1981)

Dora Sinfield (1890 – 1981) was born in Swanwick, which is a village in the Amber Valley district. Her parents were George Sinfield (1863 – 1951) and Alice Orton (1865 – 1951). Her father originally came from Tilsforth in Bedfordshire and her mother was from Exmouth in Devonshire. They had married in 1887 in Swanwick. Her father was working as an agricultural labourer on the Shirland Park estate. Dora was their second child. On the 1891 Census, Dora, aged 7 months was living with her parents and older sister on The Green in Swanwick. Her father had become a miner. In 1901 the growing Sinfield family, now included four girls and one boy, were still at the same address in Swanwick. On the 1911 Census, Dora aged twenty was living in the Horse and Jockey public house in Mansfield, where she was a servant. At the age of 23 she married Walter James in her home town of Swanwick. Dora and Walter James would have six children together between 1914 and 1929.

After the disaster in 1938 which claimed the life of her husband, the widowed Dora continued to live with her children in Poolsbrook.

Dora died in 1981 at the age of 90, 43 years after the death of Walter James.