

William Wilkinson Watson (1880 – 1938)

William Wilkinson Watson was born in Nettleton, Lincolnshire in 1880. His parents were John Watson (1844 – 1913) and Ann Clark (1856 – 1883). His father was an ironstone miner working at the Nettleton ironstone mine. The closure of the mine in 1885, forced his father to seek alternative work. The family had moved by 1891, but they are difficult to find on the 1891 Census. On the 1901 Census William Wilkinson is lodging with the Rister family at 169 Poolsbrook. He was employed as hewer. He married Ellen Whelpdale on 4th April 1904 in Staveley. They had two sons:

Ernest Watson (1904 – 19xx)

Walter Wilkinson Watson (1912 – 1982)

On the 1911 Census, William Wilkinson was living with his wife and first son, Ernest at 162 Poolsbrook. He was employed as a hewer.

At the time of the disaster in on the 10th May 1938, William Wilkinson was living at 36 South Crescent, Duckmanton and employed as a **contractor**.

The funeral of William Wilkson took place on the 14th May 1938 along with fifteen other miners at Duckmanton cemetery.

The sons of William Wilkinson both placed an 'In Memoriam' notice in the Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald in 1942.

WATSON – In affectionate remembrance of dear father, who died May 10th 1938; also of our mother who passed away May 28th 1939.

Ever Remembered by Walter, Hilda and Granddaughter Ann.

WATSON – In everlasting memory of our dear dad, William Wilkinson, who fell asleep on May 10th 1938; also our dear mother, Ellen, who was reunited with him on May 28th 1939. "A few years have passed, but their memories still remain"

From their loving son, Ernest, Gladys and Grandson John. Bristol

Parents

Father – John Watson (1844 – 1913)

John Watson was born in Saham Toney, Norfolk in 1844. His parents were John Watson (1817- 1884) and Mary Ann Powley (1819 – 1894). The family were moving between various locations and therefore difficult to trace. In July 1874 John married Ann Clark (1856 – 1883) in the Caistor registration district. John was an ironstone miner. In 1860's workable quantities of ironstone were discovered at Claxby. In 1867 the mine was started and went

into production in 1868, operated by the West Yorkshire Iron and Coal Company, who sent the stone by rail to their ironworks at Ardsley, near Leeds. There were many deaths at the mine and the Rev Sumner of Nettleton wrote to the papers describing the mine as “that gloomy cavern of disaster” and seeking safety improvements. The peak production was in 1873 when almost 70,000 tons of ironstone was produced, but by 1885 the mine was closed. The closure of the mine forced John to look for work, which resulted in the family moving to Staveley and into coal mining.

Mother – Ann Clark (1856 – 1883)

Ann Clark was born in Nettleton, Lincolnshire in January 1856. Her parents were Wilkinson Clark (1833 – 1894) and Jane Jackson (1831 – 1889). Her father was employed as an agricultural labourer for his entire working life. Her father had been born in Brumby, Lincolnshire and her mother came from Susworth, Lincolnshire. Ann was their first child. Ann married John Watson in Nettleton in July 1874. Ann had five children with John, three of which were still living in 1911, confirmed by the Census of that year. Ann died in 1883 in Nettleton and with the closure of the Nettleton ironstone mine in 1885, her widowed husband and children moved to Derbyshire, ending the family connection to the Nettleton area.

Wife – Ellen Whelpdale (1883 – 1939)

Ellen Whelpdale was born in Barlborough in 1883. Her parents were William Walter Whelpdale (1838 – 1911) and Ellen Shore (1844 – 1919). Her parents were both born in Nottinghamshire, in Rufford and Basford, respectively. On the 1891 Census Ellen was living with her parents and siblings at Pit Row in Barlborough. Her father was an engine wright at Barlborough Colliery. In 1886 the family had moved to Poolsbrook. On the 1901 Census the family were living at 187 Poolsbrook and her father was employed as a carpenter. Ellen was 18 years of age. She married William Wilkinson on the 4th April 1904 when she was 21 years of age. In the last few years of her life, Ellen did not have the best of health, but she was able to get about and assist in the charitable efforts of the parish (Duckmanton). It was while attending a Requiem to the memory of those who lost their lives in the Markham disaster on May 10th, in St Peter’s Church, Duckmanton, that she was taken ill and conveyed home. She was bedridden until her death on the 28th May 1939.

The 1938 Markham Colliery disaster not only claimed the life of her husband but also her nephew, Denton Whelpdale (1898 – 1938).