

Victims of the Minnie Pit Disaster 1918

Unfortunately the following errors in the book have been brought to our attention. Please accept our apologies for the errors.

Page 29: The marriage of John Thomas Brockley is incorrect. He married Williamina H. Grant in 1934 at St John's Church, Alsagers Bank (Thanks to Robert Mayer and family for this correction).

Page 39: John Brockley who married Annie Challinor is the cousin of nos.20 and 21 and not brother as stated. This error relates to that on page 29. (Thanks to Robert Mayer and family for this correction).

Page 45: Elizabeth Ann, the wife of Henry Dale, died in 1961 at Aspull, near Wigan, and not in Leek as stated. She in fact died as Elizabeth Ann Watmough, not Dale, as a result of a marriage in 1918 to Frank Watmough in Wigan, Lancashire. She separated from Henry Dale soon after 1901 and lived with Frank Watmough as housekeeper, during which time she had several illegitimate children by him. Frank died in 1919, just a year after their marriage. They are buried together in Aspull. (Thanks to Diane Leighton-Hall for this information).

Page 53: The photo source should read "Courtesy of Stuart Dean."

Page 141: Payment for Edward Thomas (under documents) should read Edmund Thomas. (Thanks to Stuart Dean for this correction).

Page 142: Thomas Poole in the list of children is the same person as no.113 and should not be in the list. (Thanks to Stuart Dean for this correction).

Page 142: Henry Dean who married Annie Poole is the brother of no.40 and not the son as stated. (Thanks to Stuart Dean for this correction).

Page 167: The body of Ralph Steele was recovered on 28 August 1918 and not 28 January as stated.

Page 187: The inquest into the death of Hugh Doorbar took place on Wednesday 16 January 1918. The report of the inquest in the Staffordshire Sentinel of Thursday 17 January 1918 states that Hugh Doorbar went to the Minnie Pit with the Birchenwood rescue team on Sunday 13 January 1918 and was overcome by fumes as a result of a fault in his breathing apparatus. This date was taken as his date of death in the book as no other information was available at the time. The inquest on 16 January was adjourned until 19 February 1918 but the newspaper report does not give a date of death. However, other information seen since the book was published, gives the date of death as 14 January 1918.

The following note was unfortunately omitted on page 8:

The names of the victims quoted in this volume are taken from all available sources found during research. The information listed about each victim will contain the source of any names which differ from those in birth registrations.

IMPORTANT

We have been notified that George Bailey, victim no.6 in the book, has been incorrectly identified. We are grateful to David Brown for bringing this error to our attention. After further research the correct George Bailey has been identified and the replacement entry for him is attached as a pdf download. The error means that Lydia Holland the sister of victims 63-66 and aunt of 137, has no connection to the correct George Bailey.

Please accept our sincere apologies for this error.

6. BAILEY, GEORGE



(Weekly Sentinel photo)

Born: c1866 Keele

Wife: Elizabeth Astley, b. Myddle, Shropshire c1870

Married: 1 Apr 1894 Stanton upon Hine Heath, Shropshire

Military service: North Staffordshire Regiment in 1885
Lancashire Fusiliers 1885-1902
Served in E. India 1887-1892
Served in South Africa (Boer War) 1900-1902

Children: Annie Bailey b. c1895 Silverdale

George Thomas Bailey b.7 Jan 1897 Silverdale, Military service Dec 1915-Oct 1918, d.1972

Georgina Pretoria Bailey b. Betley (birth registered 1900 Audley),

m. Stanley R. Clayden 1925 Manchester

Frederick Bailey b. Betley (birth registered 1903 Audley)

Frank Bailey b. Betley (birth registered 1904 Audley)

Albert Bailey b. Betley (birth registered 1906 Audley)

Ernest William Bailey b. Betley (birth registered 1910 Audley), d.1910 Betley

Mary Elizabeth Bailey (birth registered 1911 Audley)

Father: William Bailey, b. c1826 Millstone Green (Butterton) or Keele, d.1900 Keele

Mother: Louisa, b. c1834 Marlpool, Heanor, Derbyshire, d.1868 Keele

Parents married: not known

Siblings: Henry Bailey b. c1857 Keele

Ellen Bailey b. c1859 Keele

Emma Bailey b. c1860 Keele

Mary Anne Bailey b. c1862 Keele

John Bailey b. c1864 Keele

Ann Bailey b. c1868 Keele

Occupation in pit: Shifter in Seven Feet seam Lamp no. 100 Body recovered: 10 January 1919

Buried: 19 February 1919 Betley Churchyard [*A body identified as George Bailey was buried in Betley churchyard on 22 Feb 1918. It was later found to be Charles Leighton. See entry for Charles Leighton*]

Weekly Sentinel, Saturday, 26 January, 1918 List of Employees Killed:

Geo. Bailey, age 51 of Betley, Shifter in Seven Feet seam, 3 dependants

Weekly Sentinel, 4 October 1919 - Complete List of Victims:

George Bailey (51), shifter, Brassington Street, Betley

Official Report 31 May 1920 - List of Dead:

No. 69 George Bailey, age 51, married, Shifter, lamp 100

1911 Census – Brassington Street, Betley

60	George	Bailey	H	M	44	Colliery banksman	Keele	STS
60	Elizabeth	Bailey	W	M	41		Myddle	SAL
60	Georgina Petoria	Bailey	D		10		Betley	STS
60	Frederick	Bailey	S		7		Betley	STS
60	Frank	Bailey	S		6		Betley	STS
60	Albert	Bailey	S		4		Betley	STS

Amendments and Corrections - 8th May 2022

The dates quoted in the book for burials in Alsagers Bank Churchyard were taken from the only source available during research, which was a leaflet for a Memorial Service in Audley Churchyard on 31 August 1919. Three of the burial dates from the leaflet show as queries in the book. We now have the correct dates.

Page 29: Bertie Brockley was buried on 17 August 1919.

Page 105: Benjamin Jones was buried on 16 August 1919.

Page 115: Albert Kirkham was buried on 3 September 1918. Therefore, body recovered on 28 August 1918.