

HERITAGE TRAIL



SAMUEL DIMMOCK

In this house lived Samuel Dimmock with his parents Frank and Elizabeth and at least 7 other siblings. Upstairs was a landing to sleep the older children, his parents' bedroom and a room off that where the small children slept. Downstairs was a large kitchen where the family lived, and a parlour. Outside was the privy, pig sty, coal house, orchard, vegetable garden and a paddock. They kept poultry and a pig. The pig would be slaughtered by George Kilby who lived next door.

Sam was born on the 7th Sep 1919 and schooled in Griffydham. At 14 he went to work at the Colliery. Sam's father died in 1935. By 1939 Sam was living with his widowed mother and older brother George. They were both loading tubs on the coal face, most likely at Lount Colliery.

At the outbreak of WW2 Sam enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment on the 15th Nov 1939. He was posted to India then Malaya before being taken prisoner by the Japanese defending Singapore on 15th Feb 1942. He managed to survive 15 months slaving on the Burma Railway only to be marched to Singapore with over 2000 other men deemed fit enough to be transferred to Japan. Packed on to a cattle ship in a convoy going to Japan, his ship was torpedoed by American submarines. Sam survived on a raft with a rat for company and was eventually picked up by a Japanese fishing boat and sent to the prison camp near Omuta in Japan on 31st Sep 1944. Sam was finally liberated after the Japanese surrendered on 15th Aug 1945.



Sam was a very quiet shy man and rarely spoke of his ordeal. Not only was he severely under nourished but the war had left Sam mentally scarred. He attempted to return to work at New Lount Colliery but could not work underground with its noise, confinement and dark. He eventually got a job as a Shot Firer at Breedon and Cloud Wood Quarries. A year or so after his return Sam received £200 back pay from the Army and used it to purchase the house. He met and married Barbara Green from The Moor in Coleorton on 27th Aug 1947. They had two girls Mary and Susan. Downstairs was a kitchen where the family washed, ate and lived. His mother Elizabeth used the downstairs parlour as a bedroom. The wall at the rear was permanently damp and Barbara suffered with asthma so they sold the house to the Fishers and a bungalow was built in the grounds for their retirement. Samuel Dimmock died on the 18th Jan 2002.



Sis & Walter Sibberts, Alice Stone nee Dimmock, Ben Stone Jnr, Elizabeth Dimmock, Jean Mary Mellor (nee Stone daughter of Alice & Ben), Ben Stone Snr (landlord of The Griffin pub), Sam Dimmock, Barbara Dimmock, Frank Green, Marge Green, Norman Bun Green, Evelyn Green Barbara's mother, Jim Hill, Joan Hills nee Green



Barbara & Son-In-Law Stuart



Sheila Fisher At Rear Of Property

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