

## **ALFRED SAYERS (Wagon Repairer) 1862 - 1909**

Alfred was born in 1862 in Halesowen, Worcestershire, to Samuel Sayers, age 26 and Hannah Sayers, age 22. He was Baptised 19 Mar 1862 in Halesowen.

The 1871 census shows the family at 10 Fazeley Street, Aston, Birmingham. Samuel is age 33, (a Labourer born in Crowle Worcestershire) Hannah age 32, (Born in Pipe Aston, Herefordshire) with children Alfred age 9, and William age 3.

The 1881 census shows the family at Severn Street Birmingham. Samuel, age 42 (now a Railway Porter), Hannah age 41, Alfred age 19 (Stone Mason), William age 13 (Railway Porter), Charles age 7. A Lodger named Richard Hancock is also at the address. Neighbouring properties show numerous Railway employees living in Severn Street which is quite close to New Street Railway Station.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17.5&lat=52.47699&lon=-1.90272&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.476486,-1.903010>

January 1888- Alfred's father Samuel passed away.

On 20 December 1888 Alfred married Alice Mary Budd at St Bartholemew's, Church Hill Wednesbury. (About 1 mile from where Alfred's was home at 168 Lawley Street West Bromwich.

A daughter Bertha Jane was born on 21 February 1889 in Birmingham, Warwickshire.

1890 Kelly's Directory shows Alfred Sayers at 51 Bloomsbury Street, Duddeston, Birmingham.

The 1891 census finds Alfred, age 29 (Railway Waggon Repairer) at 7 St James Street Duddeston, Birmingham with his wife Alice Mary, age 20 and daughter Bertha Jane, age 2.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16.7&lat=52.48605&lon=-1.87697&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.485767,-1.877263>

A son Charles Henry was born, January 1897 in the village of Hendy, Llanedi, Carmarthenshire.

A daughter Clara May was born January 1901 in Llangennech, Carmarthenshire.

The 1901 census finds the family living in Pontarddulais Road, Llangennech, Carmarthenshire. Alfred, age 39 (Railway Wagon Builder), Alice M, age 30, Bertha J, age 12, Charles H, age 4, Clara M, age 2 months and mother Hannah Sayers age 64.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16.9&lat=51.70153&lon=-4.07775&layers=168&b=1&marker=51.701039,-4.076298>

Some time after 1901 the family moved to 32 Vicarage Road Lye, Worcestershire.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=18.0&lat=52.45841&lon=-2.11113&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.458122,-2.110505>

A daughter Elsie Maud Sayers was born in 1906.

On the morning of Tuesday 13th July 1909 Alfred was working on a wagon close to Hayes Lane Bridge when he was knocked down and killed by an engine reversing along the siding.

Alfred Sayers was 47 years old when he died. He was buried at Lye and Wollescote (Now Stourbridge) Cemetery, in Cemetery Road, Stourbridge On 16 July 1909. (Section C Grave 10R)

The accident that took Alfred's life occurred 13th July 1909 close to Hayes Lane bridge on the Cradley Park Sidings.

A witness at the inquest refers to Harper & Moore. They ran the Netherend and Lower Delph brick works which are further along the sidings. The company is recorded in Kelly's Directory at Netherend, from 1896 until the last available edition in 1940. They also worked other sites in the area.

The Inquest reports that Alfred was in the employ of King Brothers Ltd. Kings operated the Cradley Park Colliery (just south of the sidings) from 1869 to 1930.

The locations can be seen using the map link below.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16.6&lat=52.45917&lon=-2.10140&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.461271,-2.102905>

## WHAT BECAME OF THE FAMILY:-

**Hannah**, Alfred's Mother died in Birmingham in 1916, age 76

**Alice**. The 1911 Census finds widow Alice at 10 Manilla Road Selly Oak, Birmingham with 2 children Charles age 14 and Clara age 10 + 3 Lodgers. Alice, re-married in 1927 to Ernest Cox. She passed away in January 1954 age 83.

**Bertha Jane**. The 1922 electoral register finds her (a spinster) at Warwick Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham. The 1939 Register finds her married to John Watson, a Toolmaker, at 93 Crophorne Road, Shirley, Solihull. She passed away in Solihull in April 1980.

**Charles Henry**. He was married in September 1926 to Margaret Ellen Smith at the parish church in Yardley Wood, Birmingham. The 1930 Electoral register finds him at 277 Haunch Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham. He was at the same address when he passed away January 13th 1954.

**Clara May**. She was married in January 1922 at Kings Norton to Bert Lenton. The couple emigrated to Australia in 1922. Clara passed away in Queensland Australia in 1947.

**Elsie Maud**. She died 5 January 1910 (Age 3-4) and was buried in the same plot as Alfred.



**Birmingham Mail - Tuesday 13 July 1909**

**ACCIDENT AT LYE**

**WAGON REPAIRER KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.**

A shocking fatality occurred on the railway at Lye this morning, a wagon repairer named Alfred Savers, aged 47, being killed whilst at work on a line leading to Messrs. Harper and Moore's brick works. The deceased, who was employed by Messrs. King Brothers, was engaged in repairing a wagon near the Hayes Lane railway bridge, and was passing beneath the truck, when he stumbled and fell underneath the wagons of a train which happened to be passing along the opposite metals. The wheels of five wagons went over his back. The accident was seen by a platelayer, but nothing could be done. Deceased was a married man, and leaves a widow and five children. The body was removed to the Spread Eagle Inn by Police-sergeant Brown, where it awaits the inquest.

**Wolverhampton Express and Star - Tuesday 13 July 1909**

**SAD FATALITY.**

**A WAGON REPAIRER KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.**

A sad fatality occurred this (Tuesday) morning at Lye, a man named Alfred Sayers being found dead on the railway line, four or five, waggons having passed over him. The facts as at present known are to the effect that at 7.35 Sayers, who lived at 32, Vicarage-Road, Lye, and was 37 years of age, was engaged in repairing a waggon on a siding near Hayes lane bridge. He was employed by Messrs. King and Company, of Stourbridge. The unfortunate man was seen by one of the platelayers at work at the back of the waggon and shortly afterwards was found lying dead, having somehow met with an accident during the shunting of the trucks.

The body was conveyed to the Spread Eagle Inn, Dudley-road, Lye, to await the coroner's investigation

**Wolverhampton Express and Star - Thursday 15 July 1909**

**LYE RAILWAY FATALITY**

**FULL CIRCUMSTANCES REMAIN A MYSTERY**

The Coroners enquiry into the railway fatality at Lye on Tuesday of which Alfred Sayers of 32 Vicarage Road was the victim was conducted by Mr Hibbert on Wednesday.

It was stated by Richard Deeming, an employee of the firm Messrs. King Brothers, Colliery Proprietors that deceased had been with the firm about six years. On Tuesday he was at work on the loop line of the Hayes lane branch of the Great Western Railway, and had a permit when he went away.

The Coroner queried whether, when the railway company gave the permit, they made the employers sign a statement relieving them from all responsibility.

Witness replied that he did not know. The particular part of the railway line where deceased was at work belonged to the railway company the siding communicating with Messrs. King's works. George Hayes, a brakeman, said that on Tuesday morning he was working a goods train up Hayes Lane branch line and saw sayers preparing a waggon on the siding. A platelayer named Bennett afterwards told him that he had run over the deceased. Hayes went back and saw sayers lying across the rails, face downwards, about 60 yards from the place where he had been repairing the waggon. There was nothing to show why he should be that distance away.

Police-sergeant Brown, who examined the body, said that deceased appeared to have pitched head foremost. There was a footmark underneath the metals on which he was found, which appeared to show that he slipped by catching his foot in the rail.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.