



Early Life

James Waring was born in Witherley, Leicestershire and baptised there on the 26th March 1825, the fourth of the six children born to William and Catherine Waring.

Marriage To Maria Litherland 1846

James was a blacksmith when he married Maria Litherland in Packington on the 21st April 1846. Maria was the daughter of blacksmith Thomas Litherland. We will never know if James worked for Maria's father or whether he was already a blacksmith when he met her.

In 1851 blacksmith James was living in Rotten Row, Thringstone (the enclave of Thringstone in Coleorton) with Maria and children Ann Maria 3 and James Thomas 1, as well as Maria's mother Catherine Litherland.

James may well have been a colliery blacksmith as he moved around the coal mining areas, as many miners did in search of work, as pits were constantly opening, closing and operating on short time.

James and Maria's son Arthur was born in Walsall in the between April and June 1853, yet the family were living in Thringstone on the 21st July 1853 when Arthur was baptised at St George's Church, Swannington.

Death of Maria Waring (nee Litherland) 1855

The family had moved to Coalville by the time 32 years old Maria was buried there on the 2nd December 1855. In 1861 James, 36, was living in Peggs Green, Thringstone (now Coleorton), handy for the Califat mine. His sister Sarah, 34, was housekeeper and would have looked after Ann Maria 13, James Thomas 11 and Arthur 7.

Califat Overwind 1863

Leicester Journal - Friday 05 June 1863 - inquest report:

The first witness called was James Waring, who said I am a blacksmith, employed the Coleorton Colliery. I was in my shop at No. 2 pit on Friday last, about half-past five. My shop is facing the draw pit or shaft.

I heard a louder noise than usual by the cage catching against the guards. I looked and saw the cage with two men in it up the frame high as the wheel where the rope runs, and saw both men had hold of the cross bars; they were deceased and W. Clements. One had hold of one of the cross bars of the cage, and one the other.

I saw the position they were in, and shouted to them to hold fast, the first thing the guard or fencing came contact with was the bottom cross beam, which caused the guard to break and the cage to swing round. The end of the guard that did not catch the beam caught against the under part of the cage.

At the same moment the cross bars of the cage the men were holding by broke, and both men were thrown out. Clements was first thrown out, and caught the slide of the conductor, and deceased was thrown clean over the side down the shaft. He tried to catch the side but missed it. Clements was dashed against the diagonal bar across the pit, by which he held, and sat on the cross piece of the frame or head gear.



I went out on to the bank and saw R. Lakin and W. Walker coming out of the engine shed. Lakin is the overman, and Walker the engine man of the pit. The engine was then stopped. I assisted in getting Clements down. Lakin was in my shop a few minutes before the accident. I have never seen Mr. Lakin handle the engine before.

As the colliery blacksmith James Waring would have repaired horse limmers and harnesses, coal tubs and the cages going up and down the shaft. James would also have put new shoes on the pit ponies.

Later Life

James is next recorded in 1881, aged 56 when he was a blacksmith, shopkeeper and grocer in New Street, Church Gresley. Sarah was still looking after the house and probably did a lot of the shop work. James died in Church Gresley in 1886.