

JOHN HENRY MARSHALL

A double tragedy

John Henry Marshall was a farm labourer who came to Ettington following his marriage to Alice Mumford in 1885. They had three sons, William born 1887, Henry in 1893 and John in 1895. The 1901 census record shows them all at their home, a 3-roomed cottage in The Square.

By 1911 they had moved from there to another small cottage near the White Horse but only John Henry and his youngest son were at home when the census was recorded. A few months earlier, on 15th August 1910, they had suffered a sad bereavement when the middle son Henry, aged 17, was tragically killed on the railway track at the Goldicote lime works.

This is the report in the Learnington Courier on the following Friday:

YOUTH KILLED AT GOLDICOTE PAILWAY CROSSING.
On Wednesday, Mr. G. F. Lodder (Deputy Coroner) held an enquiry at Upper Goldicote into the death of Henry Marshall, a 17-year- old pony driver, employed at Messrs. Greaves, Bull. and Lakin's lime works at Goldicote, midway between Stratford-on-Avon and Etting- tonWalter Haytree (15), said he was engaged on Monday with Marshall in bringing an empty truck from a siding. Two ponies were attached to the truck, each lad being in charge of an animal. They were taking the truck to the works to be loaded, and suddenly Marshall shouted "There's a train coming." Marshall ran to the head of his pony, and witness went to the wagon to apply the brake. Marshall tried to push the pony off the metals, and find- ing this impossible tried to release the spring controlling the chain which connected the animal with the truck. The spring did not act, and the engine seemed to throw the pony on one side and carry it for a few yards. Marshall was struck by the engine, probably on the head, and sustained a fractured skull, and terrible injuries to the bodyPolice-constable Trowmans, of Alderminster, said Marshall was carried about 9) yards by the trainIt was stated that only four or five trucks went along the line in a weekThe jury returned a ver- tict of "Accidental death," and expressed the opinion that the Stratford-on-Avon and Mid- land Junction Railway Company, for the safety of the public, should erect a fence dividing the siding from the main line; and that the Lime Works Company should see that their rules and regulations were properly observed by those in their employ.

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After his death Henry's friends had a simple cross erected, pictured below, to mark the grave in Ettington churchyard, with an attached brass plate inscribed:

"Jesu mercy. In memory of Henry Marshall died August 15th 1910 aged 17 years. Set up by his school friends".



Memorial cross to Henry Marshall

As if this terrible loss was not enough to suffer, John Henry was dealt another tragic blow with the loss of his youngest son John, killed in action in France on 30th April 1916, while serving with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the Battle of St. Julien. He was 20 years old.

The 1911 census indicates that John Henry Marshall was still married. We have found no record of his wife then or later. His eldest son William was not at home either. The 1933 electoral roll for Ettington contains the names John Henry Marshall, William Henry Marshall and Alice Maude Marshall. The Stratford marriage register index shows a marriage in 1922 between William H Marshall and Alice M Bearley. So we think that John Henry and his eldest son remained in the village for many years after the war. The deaths index records the death of John H Marshall in the first quarter of 1933 at the age of 72.

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