

Thomas and Sarah Families

I have taken a closer look at families of Thomas and Sarah or Sally Warburton in the Bury, Bolton, and Haslingden area of Lancashire in the first couple of decades of the 19th century. There are two reasons for this. Firstly the family tree of the Bakers of Bolton begins with a Henry born in 1805. The only recorded baptism of a Henry in 1805 was the son of a Thomas and Sarah. Secondly the one member of the Lancashire group of DNA matches whose tree hasn't been documented is known to be descended from a Peter, son of Thomas and Sarah who emigrated to Massachusetts before 1850.

Before the Marriage Act of 1836 marriages had to be held in an Anglican church. It is reasonable to assume therefore that all Thomas and Sarah marriages appear in a church register somewhere. However one clear family in the list, that at Darcy Lever, has no obvious associated wedding so it is possible that there are unknown marriages where the record was lost in some way. The Thomas and Sarah from Darcy Lever appear in the 1841 Census aged 55 (actually 55-59 because of rounding down), The burial of a Thomas Warburton of Darcy Lever took place on May 25th 1855 at St Nicholas, Little Lever, aged 73, though the death isn't in the registration indices. The 1841 census indicates Thomas and Sarah were both born in Lancashire. However there isn't a Thomas and Sarah marriage in Lancashire between 1800 and 1812 that isn't otherwise accounted for.

On balance it is most likely that the rest of the recorded baptisms belong to the known marriages so I have structured the list of baptisms, and known marriages into a probable framework of families. However there could be more than one interpretation, and there is conflicting evidence. I have therefore made the following assumptions:

- Despite conflicting evidence the Henry born in 1805 is the Henry who appears in the Bakers of Bolton tree. In the 1851 census Henry's age is 46, and place of birth Walmsly. This would put his birth between April 1804 and March 1805. His age at his death 2 years later fits with this date range. Walmsly is almost certainly a misspelling of Walmersley. The Henry baptised at Edenfield wasn't born until June 26th 1805 and was said to be from Edenfield. Ages were not always well known so a small discrepancy doesn't discount the Henrys being the same person. On the other hand Walmersley and Edenfield are almost 4 miles apart so not easily confused. However there is no subsequent evidence of a second Henry either in censuses or burial records and I think this is key. One possibility is that Henry was born in Walmersley but the

family then moved to Edenfield. This implies the 4 children from Walmersley are from the same family as those from Edenfield.

- If the children from Walmersley and Edenfield are the same family then it contains both a Thomas and a Thommy. This would make sense if the first Thomas died. I have found no evidence of his death but it was possibly unrecorded. He doesn't appear in censuses either. A Thomas of Tottington died on February 18th 1840 aged 33, and this would have been Thommy's 33rd birthday.
- The three children from Ramsbottom, including the Peter who emigrated to Massachusetts, fit neatly with the marriage of Sarah Heys at Bury 11 months before the first baptism. Although Sarah is recorded as Sally on the children's baptisms, this looks very much a single family. The supporting factors include:
 - The marriage is recorded on both Ancestry and FamilySearch as occurring at both Bury and Walmersley, linking the couple with the area.
 - Thomas's occupation of dyer is the same on the marriage and Peter's baptism.

Sarah was from Haslingden, and there is an 1851 census entry that shows a Sarah from Haslingden, aged 65, married to a Thomas from Edenfield, aged 62 and living in Hocombe. There is a Sarah Heys baptised at Haslingden on February 27th 1785, and a Thomas Edmund Warburton was baptised at Edenfield on June 12th 1788. Born on June 6th this was the son of John and Agnes.

- The Peter who was born on the 8th March 1815 is the same one who emigrated to Massachusetts and died on December 30th 1898 in Lawrence, Massachusetts aged 83 years, 9 months and 22 days. His age fits exactly to the day. The only problem is that Peter's mother was recorded as Sarah Barnes or Baines on his death record. I have found no evidence that Sarah had another marriage; she was a spinster on her marriage record to Thomas. Illegitimate, or step children sometimes switched between family names. Sarah was not illegitimate if the 1785 baptism is hers, but I don't know if her mother remarried. Barnes and Heys were common names in Haslingden and there are records of intermarriages. On the other hand there is no record of a Thomas marrying a Sarah Barnes or Baines. I assume that either for some reason Sarah Heys did also use the name Barnes (or Baines), or the entry is simply an error.

Based on the above assumptions I have constructed a possible structure of the Thomas and Sarah families.

There are no baptisms or weddings in the period before 1795 in the area, and those further afield have local families so don't appear to have moved. Therefore the sequence begins with the marriage of a Thomas to Sally Isherwood at Bury in 1795. Like the later Sarah Heys marriage, Ancestry and FamilySearch also show this marriage occurring (or being recorded at) Walmersley as well as Bury, linking the couple to the area. Thomas was already a widower which extends the possible range for his age. It should be noted that 40 Thomases were baptised at Haslingden, Bury, or at chapels in between during the period 1750 to 1790 so it is virtually impossible to tie any of the Sarahs' husbands to his parents without additional information such as his age at a specific point. Parish registers did not name parents of the bride and groom at this time.

Two children baptised at Newchurch in Rossendale to Thomas and Sally shortly after the marriage are surely theirs. However there is then a group of 4 children baptised at Holcombe and living in Edenfield. There is no nearby marriage record preceding these baptisms, but there are marriages in Wiltshire, and at Manchester Cathedral with no related children so it is possible that one of these couples subsequently moved into the area. The other possibility is that Thomas and Sally nee Isherwood relocated. Such relocations were not uncommon for mill workers in that area as they moved from job to job. As the timing of the Holcombe baptisms following on neatly from the Newchurch baptisms, I have shown them as one family. However, as the mother's name is now given as Sarah and not Sally. As the only baptism in the Bury area between 1755 and 1780 was a Sally Isherwood from Elton baptised in 1773 it is more likely that this is the family of a Thomas and Sarah who have moved into the area.

In 1804 there are 3 almost concurrent baptisms which must belong to 3 families. Also there were 2 marriages the previous year. One of the three baptisms was the last of the Holcombe baptisms from Walmersley. Another was to a family at Brightmet near Bolton. This is the start of a large family which follows on neatly from the 1803 marriage of Thomas and Sarah Hill. Thomas and Sarah, plus a number of their children appear in the 1851 census, though some of the ages appear a bit variable. Thomas was born in Brightmet in 1783/4. This leaves Alice who was born in Tottington on November 14th 1803 as the probable child of Thomas and Sarah Wolstenholme who were married in June of that year.

There are then 4 baptisms at Edenfield chapel to a family living in Edenfield, the first being Henry in 1805. As explained above I have put the four baptisms at Holcombe and the four at Edenfield in the same family, leaving Alice of Tottington the

only child of Thomas and Sarah Wolstenholme. This idea is supported by the reported occupations. Sarah Wolstenholme's husband was a crofter at the time of their marriage. A crofter in Lancashire is actually a bleacher because bleaching was done by laying out the cloth in fields or crofts to be bleached by the sun (with increasingly efficient chemical assistance). However the father of Henry was a spinner, who became a carder, and then an engineer. Unfortunately the occupation of the father of the children baptised at Holcombe is not recorded.

Finally I have included the Darcy Lever family, other known Thomas and Sarah marriages, and a few burials of Thomases that occurred in the Tottington area, though there is no evidence any of these was married to a Sarah.

Families Part 1

#	Name	Date	DOB	Father	Mother	Church	Abode	Father's occupation	Comment
Wedding	Thomas	6 Aug 1795			Sally Isherwood	St Mary, Bury			Thomas a widower
1	Margaret	6 Aug 1796		Thomas	Sally	St Nicholas, Newchurch in Rossendale	Hall Carr		
2	Mary	21 Jan 1798		Thomas	Sally	St Nicholas, Newchurch in Rossendale	Hall Carr		
3	James	7 Jun 1800	29 Apr 1800	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		no other wedding so maybe same family new abode; but more likely a new family due to mother's name change
4	Jane	12 Sep 1801	30 Jul 1801	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
5	Sarah	13 Nov 1802	13 Sep 1802	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
6	Thomas	14 Feb 1804	28 Dec 1803	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
7	Henry	11 Aug 1805	26 Jun 1805	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	spinner	gives birthplace as Walmsley (Walmersley) on 1851 census

Families Part 2

8	Thommy	17 Mar 1807	18 Feb 1807	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	carder	
Burial	Thomas	18 Feb 1840				St Mary, Bury	Tottington		aged 33, gives birth in 1806/7
9	George	10 Mar 1808	11 Dec 1807	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	carder	
10	Susannah	23 Jul 1809	4 May 1809	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	engineer	
Wedding	Thomas	20 Mar 1803			Sarah Hill	Bolton			probably the Thomas and Sarah at Bolton in 1851 census; Thomas 67 a cotton winder born Brightmet, Sarah 67 born Tottington
1	Mary	15 Apr 1804	20 Mar 1804	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Brightmet		
2	Betty	28 Jul 1805	28 Jun 1805	Thomas	Sally	St Mary, Bury	Brightmet		
3	Margaret	3 Nov 1805	3 Sep 1805	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Brightmet		aged 44 in 1851 a finisher; but Peggy aged 40 in 1861 a stitcher at bleach works
4	James	29 Mar 1807	19 Feb 1807	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Brightmet		
5	Betty	24 Jan 1808	3 Oct 1807	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Ainsworth		assumes first Betty died
6	Rachel	10 Jun 1810	14 Nov 1809	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Elton		included due to presence in 1851 (aged 42; a dress maker) and 1861 (aged 50 a house servant) censuses at Brightmet
7	Robert	30 Oct 1814	27 Feb 1714	Thomas	Sarah	Christ Church, Ainsworth	Ainsworth	crofter	note: crofter is a bleacher; aged 26 in 1851 (36 would be right)
8	John	2 Jun 1816	20 May 1816	Thomas	Sarah	Christ Church, Ainsworth	Brightmet	crofter	
9	Sarah	13 Sep 1818	3 Jun 1818	Thomas	Sarah	Christ Church, Ainsworth	Brightmet	whitster	aged 32 in 1851 miliner; 35 in 1861 dress maker
10	Mary	10 Sep 1820	3 Jan 1820	Thomas	Sarah	Christ Church, Ainsworth	Brightmet	bleacher	aged 28 in 1851

Families Part 3

	Wedding	Thomas	2 Jun 1803			Sarah Woolstenholme	St Mary, Bury		Thomas a crofter;	FamilySearch suggests marriage also recorded at Walmersley; father's occupation changes after marriage
1		Alice	1 Jan 1804	14 Nov 1803	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Tottington		doesn't fit elsewhere
	Wedding	Thomas	22 Oct 1810			Sarah Heys	St Mary, Bury		Thomas a dyer	Sarah from Haslingden; FamilySearch suggests marriage also recorded at Walmersley; in 1851 census at Holcombe Thomas 62 a servant born Edenfield; Sally 65 born Haslingden
1		John	29 Sep 1811	30 Aug 1811	Thomas	Sally	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Ramsbottom		
2		Annis	13 Sep 1812	16 Aug 1812	Thomas	Sally	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Ramsbottom		
3		Peter	19 Mar 1815	8 Mar 1815	Thomas	Sally	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Ramsbottom	dyer	Peter died 30/12/1898 aged 83 yrs 9 mths 22 days; names mother Sarah Barnes or Baines
	Wedding	unknown	abt 1811							
1		John	6 Dec 1812	20 Oct 1812	Thomas	Sarah	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever		
2		Benjamin	13 Nov 1814		Thomas	Sarah	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever	crofter	
3		Thomas	15 Sep 1816		Thomas	Sarah	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever	crofter	
4		Sarah	11 Apr 1819		Thomas	Sarah	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever	crofter	
5		Ann	25 Mar 1821		Thomas	Sarah	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever	crofter	
6		Alice	27 Apr 1823		Thomas	Saray	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever	crofter	
7		Nathaniel	15 May 1825		Thomas	Sarah	St Matthew, Little Lever	Darcy Lever	crofter	

Families Part 4

Wedding	Thomas	18 May 1797			Sarah Handley	Manchester Cathedral			
Wedding	Thomas	17 May 1798			Sarah Penny	Fisherton Anger, Wiltshire			
Wedding	Thomas	11 Jun 1802			Sarah Graham	Stanwix, Cumberland			family in Stanwix
Wedding	Thomas	22 Jan 1805			Sarah Davenport	Bowdon, Cheshire			family in Bowdon
Wedding	Thomas	8 Oct 1815			Sarah Kibble	Stockport, Cheshire			
Wedding	Thomas	20 Oct 1831			Sarah Clegg	St Mary, Bury		Thomas a fuller	children's baptisms follow
Burial	Thomas	2 Mar 1805				Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Edenfield		aged 42; gives birth in 1772
Burial	Thomas	30 Jul 1810				Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Heartsough Mill		aged 55; gives birth in 1754/5
Burial	Thomas	7 Dec 1813				St Mary, Bury	Tottington		aged 67; gives birth in 1746
Burial	Thomas	29 Sep 1831				St Mary, Bury	Summerseat		aged 62 gives birth in 1768/9
Burial	Thomas	22 Jan 1833				St Mary, Bury	Tottington		aged 84; gives birth in 1748
Burial	Thomas	6 Feb 1853				St James, Haslingden	Haslingden		aged 66; gives birth 1786