

## 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 one of the Lancashire group of DNA matches is 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 family in the list, that at Darcy Lever, has no obvious associated wedding so it is possible that there are other 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.

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.

To simplify matters I will first list the less controversial families.

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1. Firstly the 1803 marriage of Thomas and Sarah nee Hill of Brightmet near Bolton precedes a total of 10 baptisms. 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.

### Thomas and Sarah of Brightmet

#	Name	Date	DOB	Father	Mother	Church	Abode	Father's occupation	Comment
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 1814	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

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2. The three children from Ramsbottom, including a Peter, 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:

### Thomas and Sarah of Ramsbottom

#	Name	Date	DOB	Father	Mother	Church	Abode	Father's occupation	Comment
Wedding	Thomas	22 Oct 1810			Sarah Heys	St Mary, Bury		Thomas a dyer	Sarah from Haslingden; FamilySearch suggests marriage also recoded 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

- 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 Holcombe. There is a Sarah Heys baptised at Haslingden on February 27th 1785, and a Thomas Edmund Warburton, son of John and Agnes, was baptised at Edenfield on June 12th 1788. These fit the census ages well, and link the family to the Edenfield clan.

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Their son Peter, who was born on the 8th March 1815 ties in with the Peter who emigrated to Massachusetts and died on December 30th 1898 in Lawrence, Massachusetts aged 83 years, 9 months and 22 days. This 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.

3. The family in Little Lever have no obviously matching marriage, but otherwise form a a clear unit.

### Thomas and Sarah of Little Lever

#	Name	Date	DOB	Father	Mother	Church	Abode	Father's occupation	Comment
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	

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4. 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 of Thomas and Sarah marriages begins with the marriage of Thomas and Sally Isherwood at Bury in 1795. Two children baptised at Newchurch in Rossendale to Thomas and Sally shortly after the marriage are surely theirs.

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 and he fits neatly with a Thomas of the Edenfield clan who was baptised in January 1763, and was previously married to Millicent Turner. His abode of Hill Carr spans baptisms from both marriages. This Thomas also fits a Thomas of Edenfield buried in February 1805 at Holcombe, aged 42.

### Thomas and Sally Isherwood

#	Name	Date	DOB	Father	Mother	Church	Abode	Father's occupation	Comment
Wedding	Thomas	6 Aug 1795			Sally Isherwood	St Mary, Bury			Thomas a widower, previously married to Millicent Turner (Edenfield clan). Sally possibly the widowed Sally Warburton who married James Jackson 20/12/1818. Thomas probably died 27/1/1805, aged 42 of Edenfield.
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		

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5. This leaves one further marriage and several baptisms, including Henry, the potential ancestor of the Bakers of Bolton. Three baptisms fall before the marriage so must belong to another family, and two fall within 2 months in 1803 and so must belong to different families. The nine baptisms include a sequence of 4 at Holcombe with an abode of Walmersley, another 4 at Edenfield with an abode of Edenfield, and one at Bury with an abode of Tootington.

### Remaining Records

#	Name	Date	DOB	Father	Mother	Church	Abode	Father's occupation	Comment
1	James	7 Jun 1800	29 Apr 1800	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
2	Jane	12 Sep 1801	30 Jul 1801	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
3	Sarah	13 Nov 1802	13 Sep 1802	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
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
4	Alice	1 Jan 1804	14 Nov 1803	Thomas	Sarah	St Mary, Bury	Tootington		doesn't fit elsewhere
5	Thomas	14 Feb 1804	28 Dec 1803	Thomas	Sarah	Emmanuel Chapel, Holcombe	Walmersley		
6	Henry	11 Aug 1805	26 Jun 1805	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	spinner	gives birthplace as Walmsley (Walmersley) on 1851 census
7	Thommy	17 Mar 1807	18 Feb 1807	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	carder	Thommy described as son of Thomas and Sarah but the following death of daughter Phanny who would have been born at that time in Edenfield suggests this is an error
Burial	Phanny	15 Jan 1809	13 Jan 1809	Thomas	Sally	Holcombe, Emmanuel	Edenfield		Aged 2; daughter of Thomas and Sally
8	George	10 Mar 1808	11 Dec 1807	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	carder	
9	Susannah	23 Jul 1809	4 May 1809	Thomas	Sarah	Edenfield Chapel	Edenfield	engineer	

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### The Question of Henry

The first question is whether the Henry baptised in 1805 at Edenfield is the Henry who appears in the Bakers of Bolton tree. The family's own published tree dates his birth as 1805. His close links with the area are also attested by the 1841 census in which he is recorded as living in Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth, and his burial record at Holcombe. His wife was born in Holcombe.

There are some discrepancies in the records. 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, explained by a census enumerator in Bolton being more familiar with the village of Walmsley which is north of Bolton. The Henry baptised at Edenfield wasn't born until June 26th 1805 and was said to be from Edenfield. Walmersley and Edenfield are 2 1/2 miles apart.

Ages were not always well known so a small discrepancy doesn't discount this being the correct Henry, especially as the family's tree records his birth as 1805. Also there is no subsequent evidence of a second Henry either in censuses or burial records and I think this is key. Although it appears the family moved to Edenfield before Henry was born, the 1851 reference may reflect that the family did live there for a while, or that Henry himself later lived there, as indicated by the 1841 census.

On balance I accept that all known records relate to the same Henry, and it was Henry's son Thomas and his wife Ellen who, with finance from Thomas's brother George, began the baking business that became Warburtons Bread. However Henry's parentage may only be fully resolved when it is possible to perform a Y-chromosome DNA test on one of his known descendants, and compare it with a descendant of one of his possible siblings.

### Family Structures

The two most likely permutations of the children in the above table are:

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1. The four Walmersley children and possibly Henry belong to Thomas and Sally Isherwood, and Alice of Tottington and the remaining Edenfield children belong to Thomas and Sarah nee Wolstenholme.
2. Only Alice of Tottington belongs to Thomas and Sarah Wolstenholme. The four Walmersley children plus the four Edenfield children form one family whose marriage is not recorded locally.

In the first option all 9 children in the above table must be divided between Thomas and Sally nee Isherwood, and Thomas and Sarah nee Wolstenholme. The four Walmersley children must belong to Thomas and Sally nee Isherwood as three of them were baptised before the marriage of Thomas and Sarah nee Wolstenholme.

The husband of Sally nee Isherwood is most likely the Thomas whose death and burial are recorded at Edenfield in March 1805, as his age at death of 42 gives a birth in 1763 which exactly matches Sally's husband. This means he could not be the father of the last 3 Edenfield children, and even Henry would have been born after his death. However it shows he did move from New Carr in Newchurch at some point. Also given he was only 42 when he died, Thomas and Sally were young enough to keep having children up until that time.

Henry could belong to either but on balance his later census reference to Walmsly (Walmersley) suggests it is at least possible that he was the son of Sally nee Isherwood born after the death of his father, even though the parish record doesn't describe his father as deceased.

This leaves Alice who was born in Tottington on November 14th 1803, and the last three Edenfield children as the probable children of Thomas and Sarah Wolstenholme who were married in June 1803.

A widowed Sally Warburton remarried on December 20th 1818 at Bury, St Mary to a James Jackson. A Sarah Jackson, aged 60 is living with James, the eldest of the Walmersley children, in the 1841 census. Her death is probably that recorded in the second quarter of 1846 in North Bury, aged 69.

Curiously James married Peggy Jackson, though she was deceased by 1841. However Peggy's mother was Mary so Sarah is probably James's mother, having married James Jackson in 1818. Sally Jackson's age at death fits with the



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baptism of a Sally Isherwood on June 14th 1776, daughter of John, a Yeoman from Bashall. Bashall is about 18 miles from Newchurch-in-Rosendale where Sally's first two daughters were baptised but this could be explained by the pull of the Industrial Revolution.

The problem with these links is that a child named Sarah might be referred to as Sally, but if she was actually named and christened Sally it is unlikely she would be ever called Sarah, except by mistake if someone assumed she was Sarah. Looking at baptisms between 1760 and 1780, when Sally Isherwood was probably born there as many Sallys as Sarahs, with the Sallys being closest geographically. Also there is no occasion where Sally Isherwood is definitely called Sarah. She is Sally on her marriage, and the baptisms of two daughters baptised in Newchurch.

Looking at the second option, what are the clues that the Walmersley and Edenfield children are part of the same family? Henry's link to Walmersley is the most significant link, and the baptisms form a regular sequence.

The occupation of the father of the children born in Walmersley is not recorded, and there is no other record of the occupation of the Thomas who married Sally Isherwood. However when James of Walmersley married his second wife in 1846 his father was named Thomas, a carder.

This is a link to the Edenfield children, two of whom had their father referred to as carder. This also discounts Sarah Wolstenholme's husband as their father as he was a crofter at the time of their marriage. A crofter in Lancashire is actually a bleacher or dyer 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, and the father of the last of the Edenfield children was an Engineer. My impression is that spinner was a skilled and important job as they often employed their own piecers. So if Henry's father's occupation is correct it could mean he is from a different family, but it may just be that his occupation was recorded incorrectly, or he had a go at spinning but didn't follow it through.

If the Walmersley and Edenfield children are one family, and Sarah was a widow in 1818 then her husband died between 1809 and 1818. Two burials are recorded in this period. The first was at Holcombe, St Emmanuel on July

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30th 1810, of Thomas of Elton/Heartsough Mill, aged 55. This burial is recorded at both Bury and Holcombe with the different abodes. Only the Holcombe entry gives his age. I presume this means Heartsough Mill is in Elton. The second burial was at Bury, St Mary on December 7th 1813. This Thomas was aged 67 from Tottington. Both would be considerably older than Sarah, but not unprecedented, particularly if it was Thomas's second marriage. I have not found alternative families for these Thomas's though the death in 1810 aged 55 fits the baptism of a son of Peter and Elizabeth nee Heap of Balladen at Edenfield Chapel.

Given that Sarah's age at death indicated she was born around 1776/7 her marriage must fall between 1795 and 1800. Only 2 have been found, one in Wiltshire in 1797 to Sarah Penny, and one to Sarah Handley at Manchester Cathedral in 1797. Neither of these marriages indicates that Thomas was a widower. It is likely that the marriage record remains to be found.

## Other Weddings, and Thomas Burials

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