

The Battersby family of Biddulph Moor, from 1797

Thomas Battersby, a native of Leigh, Lancashire, married a member of one of Biddulph Moor's main families the Lancasters in 1827. To say he settled on the Moor is premature, because he & his adopted family were pot sellers. He is one of the few outsiders to join the notoriously insular community. Hannah's parents were pot seller Thomas Lancaster (1768-1830) & Hannah Shufflebotham (1766-1828), from another of the old pot selling dynasties, who married in 1793. Thomas Battersby can't be found in the 1841 or 1871 censuses (often the case with the semi-itinerant pot sellers); in 1851 he's one of nine BM pot sellers staying in a doss-house in Preston, illustrating how they travelled around in such groups & lodged in the cheapest accommodation; in 1861 and 1881 (his age given as 82) he's at home at Wiltons, a smallholding near Ridgefield, BM. His age is given very consistently in censuses, implying a birth-date of 1798/9, but no baptism has been found to match this; however two TBs were baptised at Leigh in 1797, of whom the son of Robert & Peggy is unlikely in view of the Christian names but the illegitimate son of Sally (bap. June 4, 1797) seems a very likely candidate, both from the priority given to Sarah in the naming of his own children as well from as the lack of roots in his native Leigh that allowed him to join the 'Biddle Moor folk'. Three of their sons were also pot sellers, Thomas jnr intermittently working as a collier; while the youngest son James took up the other traditional BM occupation of stone mason. Their trading clearly focused on Warrington, which was an important pot selling centre.

Thomas Battersby (1797-1882) pot seller; born in Leigh, Lancashire (see above) = 1827 Oct 21 at Horton, Hannah Lancaster of Biddulph Moor (1807/8-1876) dtr of Thomas & Hannah Lancaster (née Shufflebotham) bap. Horton Jan 9, 1808

Sarah b/d. 1829

Joseph b. 1831 f. 1871; pot seller = 1850 at Horton, Mary Bailey b.c. 1830 dtr of Simeon & Jane, pot seller / they move from BM to Warrington 1858/9, but haven't been found after the 71 census, no d/bur found

Jane b. 1852 f. 1861

Charles (1854-1855)

Hannah b. 1856 f. 1871

Charles b/d. 1858

Ellen b. Warrington 1859 = 1878 at Warrington parish church, Thomas Warburton b.c. 1854 butcher

Joseph (1862-1915)

Mary b. 1865/6 f. 1871

Thomas (1834-1878) in 51 aged 16 he's one of a group of pot sellers led by Thomas Shufflebotham of BM, living or lodging at High Leigh, Cheshire (not the same Leigh where the Battersbys originated); coal miner (eg 1859), pot seller = 1855 at Horton, Sarah Bailey (1834/5-1917) dtr of Simeon & Jane, pot seller, sister of Mary (above) / Thomas d. at Warrington either visiting or pot selling, they weren't living there; Sarah (called 'Farmer's Wife') & the 2 boys are on BM in 1871 but Thomas absent, & she's a widow with lodgers in 1881, later that year marrying 2ndly Thomas Shufflebotham, widower b.c. 1818 farmer

Hannah (1856-1915) = 1875 at Congleton St Peter's, Edward Stanway (1851-1930) blacksmith

Charles b.1875 pre-marital child, later known as Charles Stanway Battersby (?a Charles Stanway d.1956) = 1898 Sarah Jane Mellor
 Simeon b.1858 bap.Biddulph 1859, f.1871 (no d/bur found)
 William (1863-1928) coal miner = 1890 Sarah Ann Mayer (1869-1893) d.aged 23 /
 William & the 2 sons are living with his mother Sarah in 1911
 Simeon (1893-1973) = 1914 Mary Jane Plant
 James Thomas (1891-1952) of Robin Hill, BM = 1911 Sarah Jane Wilshaw (1892-1981)
 Jane b/d.1866 bur.BM April 12 "age one day"
 Charles (1837-1859) d.at Warrington, pot seller
 Hannah (1840-1858)
 Sarah (1843-1844)
 Eliza b.1845 (age given as 19 on m) = 1862 at Horton, John Brown b.1836/7 farmer
 Ellen b.1847 f.1882 = 1869 Isaac Brown, presumably John's brother
 James Battersby (1850-1905) stone mason = 1874 Fanny Hackney (1855-1935) dtr of James & Elizabeth Hackney (née Bailey, m.1846), collier & beerseller
 James Charles (1876-1958) usually known as James (Jim); stone mason & bricklayer = 1901 Jessie Marsland (1880-1968)
 James Thomas (1904-1975) usually known as Thomas (Tom) bricklayer = 1930 Harriet Annie Beech (1902-1974) / they lived at Hope House, BM, originally with her father Thomas Beech (1874-1942)
 George Alfred (1905-1973) usually known as Fred
 Ellen b.1908 = 1936 John Lancaster
 Freda b.1911
 Charles E. b.1913
 Elizabeth J. b.1916
 Gwendoline b.1921
 Hannah (1878-1950) = (1) 1900 Joseph Simcock (1878-1941) collier, son of Ralph & Hannah; latterly of Albert St, Biddulph (2) 1948 Eli Lancaster (1874-1952)
 George Simcock (1904-1974) of Biddulph = 1926 Lily Beatrice Beech
 Thomas (1882-1952) latterly of Canal Rd, Congleton; stone mason & bricklayer, called 'Master Bricklayer' 1939 = 1907 Ada Rowley (1883-1973) b.Smallthorne
 James b/d.1908 – he's listed in 1911 census aged 3*
 Annie b.1909 = 1936 Harold Holden
 Florrie b.1911
 Fanny b.1914 f.39
 Hannah b.1916 f.39
 Jack b.1918 f.39
 Elizabeth (1886-1975) = 1909 William Lancaster (1885-1971) of Biddulph Moor, bricklayer (like the Battersby brothers he worked for the BM mason/builder William Lovatt) / they're living with Lizzie's mother in 1911
 Wilson Lancaster (1914-1982) = 1940 Mary L. Okell

* poor James, who died as a baby, is an interesting example of a common error; 1911 was the first census form people were expected to fill in themselves, but it was designed to be understood by bureaucrats not bricklayers; the enumerators were supposed to check & correct them, but one of the most frequent mistakes & one of the most frequent things the checkers missed was caused by the triple question how many children, how many still living,

how many dead, which confused many people into thinking they had to list all their children, living or dead (whereas only the names of people living in the same house were required); there are numerous examples both of dead children & of non-resident (eg grown-up) children listed, & not crossed out by the checkers; presumably the resulting 1911 population totals are greatly inflated as a result!