

## **The Ralph branch of the Simcock family of Biddulph Moor, from 1723**

*We don't know when the name Simcock, which originated in Cheshire in the 14th century, became established on Biddulph Moor. The Moor is divided between Biddulph & Horton (& a chunk of Rushton) parishes, the original heartland of the Simcocks being at Cowall Moor in Horton; but by the time the surviving Horton parish register begins in the 1650s the family is well established there. Further gaps occur in the Horton registers between 1684 & 1725, so the various lineages of Simcocks that are well documented from the 1720s onwards can't easily be linked back to their ancestors living in the 17th century. Luckily James Simcock of the Horton part of the Moor married Eve Bailey of the Biddulph part at Biddulph church, so their marriage is one of the few Simcock refs to appear in Biddulph parish register before the population of the Moor increased & the name spread more widely during the course of the 18th century. Below is one of several lineages that descend from James & Eve.*

James Simcock or Symcock b.c.1700, ?d.1783 (James burials at Horton other than children are 1735 & 1783; Eve's bur doesn't say if she's wife or wid) = 1723 Dec 10 at Biddulph, Eve Bailey d.1770 / at m he's of the Horton part of BM & she's of the Biddulph part, where Bailey is the dominant surname

Thomas Simcock (1727-1799) bap.Horton March 5, 1727 NS = 1750 Phoebe Gibson d.1804 (widow) ?a Phebe Gibson dtr of John & Sarah bap.Bosley July 9, 1732 would be perfect, tho Gibson is a common name around Biddulph & Biddulph Moor

**James Simcock of Biddulph Moor** (1758-1848) d.Aug 1 bur.Biddulph Aug 4; will made 1844, proved 1849; of Biddulph Moor alias Greenway Moor = (1) 1782 May 23 at Horton, Elizabeth Keene (2) c.1790 Anne d.pre1815 (3) 1815 Aug 7 at Horton, Sarah Bailey (1775/6-1835) / no m record has been found for Anne, nor a burial for Elizabeth, but the last three children are baptised as children of James & Ann(e); we know it's the same James because his will (1844, proved 1849) refers to his sons by both marriages, Charles & Ralph

4 Charles (1783-1848) of Hodgefields (between Cowall Moor & Brown Edge), d.Nov 29 at his dtr's house at Ball Green, bur.Norton Dec 2; will made 1847, proved 1849 = 1810 Dec 5 at Wolstanton, Catharine Ford (1791-1826) d.aged 34

5 Mary (1813-1864) f.1847 = 1836 at Stoke, John Sargeant, of Ball Green  
Catherine (1816-?1866) f.1847, presumably the Kate Boardman of Whitfield  
bur.Norton 1866 = 1837 at Stoke, Robert Boardman

Anne (1818-1848) f.1847-he father's will specially favours her & he 2 dtrs because her husband has died, tho Ann(e) herself died aged 29 4 months before her father = Thomas Sims d.pre47 (m not found)

4 John b.1784 f.1844-left an annuity by his father; ?a John of this age d.1863 aged 79 (bur.Leek), of Wormlowe nr Leek

Thomas (1786-1813)

James b.1788

Mary (1790-1811)

Elizabeth b.1791 ?several later records of Elizabeths of about this age, inc d.1828 aged 38 (bur.Biddulph) & m.1811 at Norton, James Bedson

**Ralph Simcock of Biddulph Moor** (1793-1874) = 1822 Aug 21 at Leek, Hannah Clowes (c.1787-1852) the Leek marriage record gives Ann, presumably an error since there are

no baptisms of children of Ralph & Ann & all other records say Hannah; ?a Hannah dtr of Jasper & Jane Clowes of Macclesfield bap.Macc 1787

5 (Mary b.1821 bap.Biddulph July 22, illegit or pre-marital dtr of Hannah Clowes of Flood, BM; f.1841-living with them listed as Mary Simcock)

Jane (1823-1849) bap.Biddulph Oct 12, 1823, d.of 'Slow consumption'

6 George Thomas (1846-1862) b.Oct 22, 1846, bap.Biddulph April 23, 1848 ('George Stanier Thomas'), listed in censuses & at death as George Thomas Simcock; illegit son by George Stanier

5 Hannah ?b.c.1825 she & Ralph bap together at Horton April 20, 1828 of Greenway Moor (his 2nd splash) = 1849 John Sutton b.c.1826 / Ralph is living with them at BM in 1861, between his 1st & 2nd marriages, together with his sons George & James & Jane's son George Thomas; Ralph & Hannah's ages are given as 32 & 34, which altho 32 isn't correct (he's 33) suggests she's older than him (otherwise the bap might imply she was b.1828)

**Ralph Simcock of Biddulph Moor** (1827-1907) 'The Old Raphe'; farmer, collier, carpenter, labourer, etc; bap.Horton Oct 30, 1827 (of Horton Common) & again with Hannah April 20, 1828 = (1) 1851 Oct 13 at Leek, Olive Brooks of Leek (1827-1861) dtr of Peter & Jane Brooks, stone mason (nee Knight); b.Horton village Nov 15, bap.Leek Methodist Chapel Dec 7; in 1841 she was living as a servant at Stony Edge, at the Rushton end of the Moor; she d.in childbirth, & is bur with a prominent but solitary gravestone in Horton old churchyard (2) 1861 Dec 25 at Horton, Elizabeth Brookes (1836-1870) dtr of Thomas & Mary Brookes or Brooks of Rushton, stone mason (nee Mellor) d.following childbirth (3) 1872 Oct 14 Hannah Gee, widow, nee Barber (1832-1897) b.Sutton Aug 29, 1832, bap.Macclesfield June 18, 1837; widow of Thomas Gee (d.1869) whom she m'd 1858 at Leek, & dtr of Anthony & Ellen Barber (nee Brown) of Sutton nr Macclesfield; she was 40 when they married, had just had an illegit dtr, & went on to have 3 more children as below, being 47 when Anthony was born

6 Hannah b.1852\1 LeekRD f.1861 with aunt Charlotte Turner (Olive's sister) in Horton village

George (1854-1923) no bap found, GRO 1854\1 LeekRD; widower in 81 census; of Wall Bridge nr Leek = (1) 1880 Jan 13 at Leek, Sarah Allman of Wall Bridge (1857-1880) (2) 1882 Nov 13 at Leek, Ellen Smith of Ladderedge, widow (nee Hughes) b.1854

James (1856-1925) bap.Horton Feb 17 = 1876 June 18 at Brown Edge, Mary Ann Dawson b.c.1854 both called of Brown Edge in m reg, witness Jane Simcock

Jane b.1858 f.1876

Thomas b.1859 f.1861 aged 1 with aunt Charlotte Turner (Olive's sister) in Horton village, f.1871 aged 11 with Ralph & family, not found in 1881 census [not the exact contemporary TS who d.1883, son of Thomas of Brown Edge]

Samuel b/d.1861

William Henry (1864-1936) b.Mow Cop bap.St Thomas's Feb 4; William in 81 census; his age at m given as 21; of Chell = 1883 June 24 at BM, Charlotte Mayer b.1860/61 m witness her sister Hannah, who later marries his brother Roland

Olive Lavinia (1865-1949) bap.BM Sept 22 = c.1885 Joseph Bailey b.c.1860; m not found, tho in 1901 they have 5 children, the eldest Ernest b.Norton 1886/7 / Ralph is living with them in 1901 after the death of his 3rd wife

Joshua Edward b.1867 bap.BM with Roland 1868; Edward in 81 census = 1896 Jan 28 at Brown Edge, Elizabeth Hargreaves of Brown Edge b.1871

Herbert Roland (1868-1942) bap.BM April 6, 1868 (known as Roland, Rowland in 81 census, signs Herbert Rowland 1896) = 1895 Hannah Mayer, sister of Charlotte Anne Maria b.1870 b.Jan 3, mother bur.Jan 16; no bap found, GRO 'Annie Maria' (known as Annie); ?d.inf—not in 71 or 81 censuses, no d fd  
 (Alice b.July 7, 1872, 3 months before Ralph & Hannah m'd but over a year after Thos Gee died, bap.as Simcock with Eliza 1875)  
 Eliza b.March 15, 1875 bap.BM May 19, 1875 = (1) 1899 April 3 at BM, James Lovatt b.c.1873 bricklayer, of the Lovatt family of builders  
 Joseph Simcock (1878-1941) bap.BM Feb 27; latterly of Albert Street, Biddulph = 1900 Hannah Battersby (1878-1950) dtr of James & Fanny of BM  
 7 George Simcock (1904-1974) of Biddulph = 1926 Lily Beatrice Beech (1903-1981) dtr of Harry & Elizabeth Ann of BM  
 8 Jack Simcock (1929-2012) of Mow Cop  
 6 Anthony (1880-1935) no bap found, GRO 1880\1 CongletonRD; of Marsh Green; 'Uncle Tant' = 1908 Ethel Brough (1887-1971) dtr of James & Rachel of Fegg Hayes  
 7 Joseph (1912-1990) of Marsh Green

#### *Note*

The Simcock lineage or family tree given in the book *Simcock Mow Cop* (pages 43-44) was, like much genealogy, based on available sources and guesswork, and is only correct as far back as James (1758-1848). In fact only two generations can be supplied before James – his parents Thomas & Phoebe, and his grandparents James & Eve – and then we encounter a gap in Horton parish register from 1684 to 1725, missing at least one and possibly two generations. James, of Horton parish, and Eve, of Biddulph parish (Biddulph Moor sprawls between the two), were married at Biddulph in 1723, but records of James's baptism and parents will be in the missing Horton register and may never be known; a James son of William & Sarah baptised there in 1706 seems too young (17 would be very unusual for a bridegroom at this period). Nor do early registers exist for Horton: while Biddulph's go back to 1559, Horton's only survive from 1653. In the documented generation 1653-84 there are two Simcock couples baptising children, Edward & Margery and John & Parnell, both living (as some Simcocks still were two centuries later) at Cowall Moor, in Crowborough township, at the southern end of Biddulph Moor. How long the family had been established there we do not know. There was a related Simcock family at Leek, the nearest market town, by the late 17th century. The surname Simcock originated in Cheshire in the 14th century.

#### **The family of Hannah Simcock, formerly Gee, née Barber, from 1795**

*Hannah's life demonstrates the close connections between Biddulph Moor & the parishes & villages to the north, along the hilly eastern edges of Cheshire. Born at Sutton (also known as Sutton Lane Ends), near Macclesfield (in Prestbury parish), her mother was the daughter of Daniel Brown of Biddulph Moor, pot merchant, who settled at Sutton on his marriage in 1787, while her paternal grandmother belonged to the Turnock family of Biddulph & Rushton. Marrying Thomas Gee, one of a family of carters from Heaton, near Rushton, they lived variously at Heaton, Rushton, Sutton, Macclesfield, & finally Gillow Heath. A Thomas Gee was witness at her parents' wedding, presumably Thomas's father, indicating the families were already linked. Thomas's early death left her in poverty with 5 dependent children; Thomas jnr,*

*not quite 11, soon had to go down the pit while Hannah resorted to the usual fall-back of taking in washing, until rescued by 'The Old Raphe', whose 2nd wife had died in 1870. Hannah's 10 known children consist of 6 Gees, an inbetweeny produced during her widowhood (possibly by Ralph Simcock, who baptised the child as his own in 1875, & she used the name Simcock), & 3 Simcocks all born in her forties, the youngest when she was 47 – a rare example of such a late birth. It would be difficult to take her Barber ancestry further back as John Barber is a common name. A John son of Thomas & Sarah Barber, of Butley, near Prestbury village, was baptised in 1769; but there is no corroborative evidence that this is our John.*

John Barber of Prestbury parish = 1795 at Rushton, Elizabeth Turnock of Rushton

Anthony Barber of Sutton (1803-1859) = 1830 Ellen Browne or Brown of Sutton (1806-1841) bap.Windle June 23; d.aged 34, f.1828-will; dtr of Daniel Brown of Sutton, originally of Biddulph Moor, pot merchant (1765-1828) & his 2nd wife Mary nee Hallows (m.1805)

**Hannah Barber of Sutton, Gillow Heath, & Biddulph Moor** (1832-1897) b.Sutton Aug 29, 1832, bap.Macclesfield June 18, 1837; called 'Farmer' in 1881 census (husb Ralph 'Lab at Coal Pit') = (1) 1858 Nov 8 at Leek, Thomas Gee of Heaton (1829-1869) they lived latterly at Gillow Heath (2) 1872 Oct 14 at Biddulph Moor, Ralph Simcock of Biddulph Moor (1827-1907) widower, his 3rd wife

Thomas Gee b.1858 Heaton, bap.Rushton 1859, f.1891, d.1914\1 LeekRD

Sampson Gee (1860-1861) b.Sutton, bap.there 1861

Sarah Anne Gee b.1862 Macc = 1887 Frank Cartlidge f.1891 in Congleton

Elizabeth Gee b.1864 = 1885 Arthur James Worrall f.1891 in Congleton

William Gee b.1867 f.1891 (multiple poss ms)

Walter Gee (1869-1914) bap.1870 = 1899 March 30 at Biddulph Moor, Mary Jane Bailey b.1871/2 dtr of stone mason James Bailey

Alice Gee or Simcock b.1872 July 7, bap.1875 with Eliza

Eliza Simcock b.1875

Joseph Simcock (1878-1941)

Anthony Simcock (1880-1935) known as 'Tant'