

Ann's Ancestors

I met Ann in the autumn of 2006 during a holiday in Australia. I had circulated a note to all those listed on the Cheshire Family History Society website who had declared an interest in the name Warburton. It was part of my efforts to publicise the Warburton Surname DNA Project. One of the responses I received was from a lady who was looking after Ann's internet address as she no longer had access where she was living. She suggested Ann might be interested and I should write to her. By pure chance her address happened to be close to where I would shortly be staying on a holiday in Western Australia. Whilst there I gave her a ring and was invited around for morning coffee.

Although she had followed her ancestors back so far she was unable to continue through her lack of an Internet link. Her maiden name is Warburton. Her auburn hair reminded me of my sister, and her families origins in Northern Etchells matched a branch of my own so I decided to hunt for a link. Unfortunately Ann has no known living male Warburton relatives to allow a DNA test to help in the task.

Ann had already accessed information from various censuses and had found her grandfather, great grandfather and various other relations. She did not however, have information from the 1851 or 1841 censuses, which I have access to. I began by tracking her ancestors right through the censuses from 1901 to 1841 with additional information from Births, Marriages and Deaths (BMD) registers where appropriate. Registrations for Northern Etchells were recorded at Wilmslow. The starting point is Ann's father Alfred who was born in 1895. Note spellings are as recorded and not corrected.

Alfred

Ann's father Alfred is in the 1901 census, aged 5 and living at home at home in Hey Head, Northern Etchells with his father John (42), mother Grace (41), and brothers John (17), and Fred (8). John was a general farm labourer born in Northern Etchells. Grace was born in Rusholme, Lancashire.

John – Ann's Grandfather

John first appears in the 1861 census, aged 3. The age is indistinct and could be 5 but that doesn't fit with his age at other censuses, which suggest his birth was in 1858/9. There is no baptism that matches on the International Genealogical Index (IGI) which is accessible at. www.familysearch.org, though there is an entry on Cheshire BMD for 1858 which may be him.

His father is John senior (38), his mother is Elizabeth (34), and his sister is Mary Elizabeth (7). They were living at Hey Head, Northern Etchells.

The family are not present in the 1871 census. There are only 12 pages for Northern Etchells, compared with 19 in the 1861 census, with no mention of Hey Head so possibly some properties were missed, or the pages lost.

In 1881 John (22) was living at Hey Head, Northern Etchells with his wife Grace (21). Cheshire BMD records that John and Grace H Nicholls were married in a civil marriage at Altrincham in 1880. This probably means it was a nonconformist wedding.

In 1891 their address was recorded as Woodhouse Lane, Northern Etchells. Woodhouse Lane, unlike Hey Head is on modern maps, close to names such as Longhey, Newhey, and Haveley Hey, suggesting it is in the area once known as Hey Head. Also John's wife was called Hannah. Hannah was Grace's second name. Their children were Jemima (9), John (7), Polly (6), and Thomas (3). Brother-in-law James Nichols was also present.

In 1901 Thomas (13), Alfred's brother, was a servant with Ethelbert and Emily Read in Ringway. Ethelbert was the son of Thomas's great uncle James's second wife (see below). Mary Alice (Polly) is staying with her Aunt Clara. I haven't found sister Jemima Elizabeth in the 1901 census, though there is no marriage or death recorded in Cheshire BMD.

John – Ann's Great Grandfather

John first appears, aged 20, living at Woodhouse Lane, Northern Etchells with his parents Edward (40), and Mary (40), brother James (6), and sister Sarah (15) in the 1841 census. In the 1841 census ages were only required to the nearest 5 years. Edward was a farm labourer, and is the first new ancestor of Ann I was able to find. An IGI baptism that matches was at Ringway Chapel on June 25th 1820.

In 1851 John was recorded as being 29. His age varies throughout the censuses, being 38 in 1861, 48 in 1871, 62 in 1881 and 71 in 1891. He is not in the 1901 census and a John's death was registered in the first quarter of 1901 aged 81. His wife Elizabeth's age is also variable, being 34 in 1861, 46 in 1871, 53 in 1881, and 66 in 1891. Elizabeth is also not recorded in the 1901 census and was probably dead. A possible death registration was in 1900 at the age of 76, though this is older than her census ages.

John was described as an agricultural labourer throughout the censuses, except in 1891 when he is on parish relief. In 1851 he was still living with his parents Edward (51), and Mary (50) at Hey Head, Northern Etchells. His brother James (16), and sister Sarah Shaw (25) together with her husband George (26) and children Mary Anne (2), and John (7 months) were also there. Edward was a farm labourer who was born in Millington, which is near Rostherne. Mary was born at Styal, Cheshire.

In 1861 John was still at Hey Head, Northern Etchells but now with his wife Elizabeth, daughter Mary Elizabeth (7), and son John. Cheshire BMD has a civil marriage at Altrincham between John and Elizabeth Bailey in 1855. Again this probably means they had the nuptials in a nonconformist church. Elizabeth was born in Styal like her mother-in-law Mary.

In 1871 John was described as living at Hey Head Cottage. A second Hey Head Cottage and a Hey Head Farm are mentioned on the same census page. His wife Elizabeth, daughters Clara (8), Martha (5), and boarder Joseph Bailey (41) were also present. Joseph was probably Elizabeth's brother.

In 1881 John is a neighbour of his son John at Hey Head. His wife Elizabeth, daughters Clara (17), Martha (14), and nephews Edward (21) and James (20) were present. By 1891 when he is on parish relief, and only Clara (26), a charwoman, was still at home.

Of John and Elizabeth's other children Mary Elizabeth Bailey Warburton was baptised on November 4th 1855, but cannot be found after 1861 so her story is unknown. A daughter Sarah was baptised the same day but died aged 1 year.

Clara was baptised on July 1st 1863. In 1901 she was recorded as aged 36, a market hand living with her niece Mary Alice (16) at Hey Head. In 1903 she married George Wood at the Bethel Methodist Church, Stalybridge. Martha was baptised on September 16th 1866 but does not appear after the 1881 census and no reliable marriage or death registration can be found.

Edward – Ann's Great Great Grandfather

Edward is not recorded in the 1861 census. An Edward's death was registered in the first quarter of 1858, aged 60. This does not quite match his age of 51 on the 1851 census. A search on IGI found that an Edward Warburton was baptised at Rostherne on August 25th 1799. His parents were John and Ellen. This matches the 1851 census age. Also Rostherne is close to his recorded birthplace of Millington. In fact a check on the parish registered confirmed that his parents were 'of Millington'.

IGI records a marriage of an Edward Warbuton to Mary Dickin on 20th March 1820 at Stockport. (I've had this misspelling at Stockport before). Also on IGI a Mary Dicken was christened at Wilmslow on February 18th 1798, parents Samuel and Sarah. There is no clear-cut death for Mary in Cheshire BMD, but she is not obviously present in the 1861 census.

Edward's son James

Before tracing back from Edward's parents I investigated Edward's younger son James who offered the possibility of another line that might produce a living male Warburton descendant who could be DNA tested.

In 1861, a James, aged 26, a farm labourer, was living at Hey Head with his wife Sarah (23), and son Edward (2). His birthplace, Northern Etchells, and his age are correct for Edward's son, whilst the naming of his son Edward is further circumstantial evidence.

In 1871 James, aged 36, an agricultural labourer born in Northern Etchells was living in Hale, with Ann Reed who was aged 31 and was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, as a boarder. Also present were Edward Motterhead (12), and Ethelbert Reed (4), both born in Northern Etchells, and described as sons, and daughter Mary (3 months), born in Hale. James was a widower, and the death of Sarah Warburton was registered in 1863, aged 25.

James and Sarah had two sons, Edward who was 2 in 1861, and James who was born in 1861, after the date of the census. Both boys were staying with their grandfather John in 1881. James's location is unknown in 1871, but the strange Edward Motterhead is the right age for Edward, and he doesn't appear again so this may well be James's son mis-named. Edward is missing from the 1891 and 1901 censuses, but neither Cheshire BMD, nor the National Registration index have any likely deaths.

James, however is in the 1891 and 1901 censuses, called Wm Jas. His age and place of birth are correct. The only birth recorded by Cheshire BMD in the Wilmslow district shortly after the 1861 census was William James who was born in the second quarter of 1861. However his marriage was recorded under the name James when he married Ellen Hewitt

in the 4th quarter of 1881 at Northenden St Wilfred. Hence I equate the William James of the 1891 and 1901 censuses with Edward's son James.

In 1891 James (Wm Jas) was a market gardener, aged 28, born in Northen Etchells, and living in Hey Head with his wife Ellen, aged 26 and born in Manchester, and sons Jas (8), Wm (6) and Walter (6 months). Also present was Sarah Hewit (14), a sister-in-law. In 1901 Wm Jas and his family were still living in Hey Head. In addition to his three sons a daughter Annie, aged 14 is mentioned. She must have been away from home in 1891.

Meanwhile in 1881 James senior was living at Davenport Green, Hale with his wife Anne. They are living with their sons Ethelbert Read (14), John W Warburton (7), and Thomas (1), and daughter Mary Read (10).

John and Ann's marriage in 1874 was recorded as a civil wedding. The marriage record would suggest that Ann was Ann Cooper before her first marriage. She had 2 children by her first marriage, Ethelbert, born around 1866 and Mary, also known as Polly born in 1870. Her date of birth is uncertain as her age varies through the censuses from 31 in 1871 to 56 in 1901. Also her place of birth, which was originally Burslem, changes to Sharston in the 1881 census, and later to Delamere.

In 1891 James (age illegible) was at the Old Buttery House, Hale (near Davenport Green), with Ann (45, she ages rather slowly), Ethelbert (24), Polly (22), Thomas (11) and Robert (8). Polly is a nickname for Mary. Their son John W is probably the servant John, born in Hale, living at the Stathams in Baguely, but a John W's death aged 22 is recorded in Cheshire BMD in 1895 .

By 1901 Ann (56) was a widow living at Buttery House Farm Cottage with sons Thomas (21) a teamster on the farm, and Robert. James died in 1897 aged 62.

Thus James had 5 sons of whom 3 are living in 1901, 1 is dead and 1 unaccounted for. He also has 3 grandsons and a granddaughter. I haven't tried much tracing of people in the 20th century, as it seems difficult to go forward without censuses. One trick is to search the Ancestry or Genes Reunited sites for other researchers interested in one's family members, but a search on Edward found nothing.

Edward's other children included Sarah who was baptised in Cheadle on July 23rd 1826, and married George Shaw at Bowdon St.Mary in 1846. They had 2 children Mary Ann (1849-54, and John (1850-5). They spent their lives in Northenden until beyond 1901. Also Mary was baptised on December 31st 1827 and Thomas was baptised on November 29th 1829, both at Ringway Chapel, but neither appears in any census and were probably dead by 1841.

John - Ann's 3 x Great Grandfather

IGI records a marriage on October 17th 1797 at Rostherne between John Warburton and Ellen Dooley. There are no other baptisms for children of John and Ellen suggesting Edward was an only child.

It was at this point in my research that another piece of luck entered the scene. I was developing a conviction that the various Warburton families in Mobberley were descended from an elder brother of my 6 x Great Grandfather Josiah. The rationale for this is documented in the My Genealogy chapter.

I then received an email which included notes of Monumental Inscriptions at Mobberley St Wilfred which included, in grave no. 380 John Warburton of Millington died 1801 aged 61 also Peter and James his sons who died in infancy, Mary his wife died 1827 aged 75, John their son died 1852 aged 77 and Ellen his wife died 1852 aged 73. This not only took me back two more generations but raised a possibility of a link to the Mobberley Warburtons and hence my own ancestors.

My first search found a John baptised on May 20th 1739 that seemed about right. His parents were Josiah and Martha who married in Bowdon 1737. I couldn't find Josiah's parents and he clearly wasn't one of my Mobberley Warburtons. In fact he seems to have moved back to Ashley in Bowdon parish and raised a large family, so it is a coincidence if his eldest son moved back to Mobberley.

I then obtained a fiche of the published Mobberley Monumental Inscriptions and also began piecing together the various families who linked back to my ancestors. I discovered that the date of John's death was in October 1801. He was interred on either the 21st according to the parish record, or the 25th according to his headstone. Also his age was given as 'in his 61st year. This puts his birth in the 12 months before October 21st 1741, and makes the son of Josiah too old.

IGI has no John's baptised anywhere in the requisite 12 months. However a John was baptised at Mobberley St Wilfred on December 20th 1741. Of course he would have been born some time before his baptism, and although 2 months is above average it is not untypical. Furthermore John would appear to be a twin. His brother James was baptised the same day. Their parents were Thomas and Mary.

Thomas - Ann's 4 x Great Grandfather

Thomas was baptised on November 9th 1691, the eldest child of Thomas. He was buried on January 2nd 1780. His age was given as 86 which is a little low. He married Mary Burgess on November 25th 1733. They had six children. Their firstborn Mary must have died as an infant as a second Mary was baptised 5 years after the first. Their sons were Thomas, James John and Josiah.

Thomas - Ann's 5 x Great Grandfather

Thomas was baptised on January 11th 1672 (by the modern calendar; until 1754 New Year was towards the end of March). His parents were John and Mary. He was buried on October 15th 1724. There are entries on IGI that suggest he married in 1689, but his wife's name isn't given. It is possible she was the Mary who was buried at Mobberley in November 1729 and described as a widow of Mobberley. Their first child, Thomas was followed by Mary (died an infant), Mary, Deborah (died an infant), Enoch, Elizabeth, Deborah, George (died an infant), Peter (died an infant), Peter, Aaron and George.

John - Ann's 6 x Great Grandfather

John was born in Hale Barns around 1648 and died sometime after 1730. His parents were John (1608-91) and Margaret Hardy, (d.1696), my 7 x great grandparents. He moved to Mobberley between 1667 and 1671 and had 3 children with his first wife Mary, named Thomas, Deborah, and John. Deborah was tragically killed "under the stone in the bark mill" aged 2. John left a very detailed will that provides a lot of the evidence for this family.

John then married Elizabeth Trefis in 1701. They had three children, William, Josiah and Mary. Elizabeth died a widow in 1747.