

What's in a Name?

Or

Warburtons Named Josiah

Unusual forenames can sometimes indicate family relationships. I first came across this when I discovered that my great grandfather's youngest brother was Wright Warburton, who was born in 1856. As I followed my line further back I discovered the origin of this name was my three times great grandmother who was born Ann Wright. She named one of her sons, Wright in 1815. The original Wright never married but a several Wright Warburtons appear in censuses and in BMD registers.

Subsequent investigation showed that most, but not all of these, were descendants of Ann Warburton nee Wright. In 1848 Joseph, Ann's youngest son, had a child who was named Wright, but he died the same year. In 1856 two more of her sons, my great great grandfather Thomas, and his brother Josiah both had sons called Wright. The name passed to the next generation when Joseph's son George Goodier Warburton named a son Wright in 1879, and Josiah's son Peter used the name in 1890.

However there are 3 other Wrights, plus a few where Wright is used as a middle name, and none of these are descended from Ann Wright. In 1847 Thomas Warburton of Hyde named a son Wright. His wife was Sarah Moss, and Wright had a brother called Moss. However the origin of Wright's name is unclear. Coincidentally the family shares a common ancestor with Ann's descendants (though not Ann herself) because I have a Y-chromosome DNA match with one of Thomas and Sarah's descendants. This Wright emigrated to the USA and appears on the 1880 census there. A second Wright was born around 1859 in the Hyde area to Charles and Hannah. Charles was originally from Timperley but is not related to Ann Wright. Finally a child was born in Denton in 1897 but died the following year.

Following this experience with Wright I had a similar success with Enoch. Enoch, the youngest brother of my six times great grandfather Josiah, moved to Mobberley where he died in 1692 leaving a daughter, but no sons. However a search of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) revealed three more Enochs baptised in Mobberley or Wilmslow by 1767. This gave a clue that the Warburton families that multiplied in the Mobberley area in the eighteenth century were somehow linked to Enoch. Further research provided strong evidence that most of these families were descended from Enoch's brother John who also moved to Mobberley around 1670. His grandson Enoch was born in 1699. He in turn named one of his sons Enoch in 1735. while another son John produced his grandson Enoch in 1767.

These investigations identified another fairly uncommon but recurring name, Josiah. By studying the IGI, censuses, Family History Online, and various BMD sites, together with knowledge from researching my own family I have identified about 46 different Josiah Warburtons who born up to 1900. The IGI does not include burial records, and the only parish record studied in detail are those of Bowdon and Mobberley. Some information has been gleaned from Family History Online, but further information may yet come to light in other local parishes. Also the marrying of baptism, marriage and death records is done on a best fit basis and cannot always be confirmed, especially there are excess marriages in some instances. It is possible two Josiahs have been conflated, or one Josiah split into two in some instances.

The following discussion covers each Josiah.

1. The earliest Josiah (referred to as old Josiah in the paper), who lived from 1658 to 1730, was my six times great grandfather, and brother of the above

mentioned Enoch and John of Mobberley. He was a significant figure in Hale where he lived most of his life. He was for many years the bailiff for the Hale estates of Lady Lucy Crewe. He was also a leading nonconformist in the area and was one of the co-founders of Hale Chapel which was founded in 1723. This could be a reason for his name being used frequently in the family, but it also meant that, because nonconformist baptisms often went unrecorded in the parish register the origins of some early Josiahs are uncertain. Josiah married twice. He had a son and two daughters by his first wife, Jane Hollinpriest who died in 1685. He possibly then married Margaret of Northenden as husband Josiah is mentioned on her burial and he died in Northenden parish.

2. Josiah son of Rebecca of Hale was buried at Bowdon in 1700. Since his mother's name is given his father may be presumed dead. Rebecca Barlow married John Warburton in 1687 and a John of Hale died in 1695. This John was considered to be the probable son of old Josiah's brother Thomas, who is attested in a lease, but whose baptism is not recorded. However Thomas's son was probably only 15 in 1687.
3. Josiah of Timperley married Elizabeth Jansen in 1715 and died, aged 36, in 1727 leaving a son and 3 daughters. This makes his birth around 1691, too early for him to be a grandson of old Josiah's brother Thomas. There is another brother George who was alive at that time, but of whom nothing is known, except he was the only brother excluded as an executor of their father's will. Also brother Enoch is a possible father as his will mentions children but there is only one known baptism at Mobberley. Between 1688 (when toleration of nonconformism allowed presbyterian use of Ringway chapel) and his death in 1691 he may have had children baptised at Ringway chapel.
4. There is a single reference to a Josiah Warburton of Partington as the father of Mary at her baptism in 1718. This is unlikely to be an erroneous reference to Josiah of Timperley as his son's baptism was only a few months later, but there is no other evidence of this Josiah so he may be spurious.
5. Josiah the Elder of Bowdon married Martha Faulkner in 1711. He is also known through the will of his brother Joshua dated 1720. Another brother, Peter of Crowton, is also mentioned. None of the brothers' baptisms are recorded. Martha died in 1755, and Josiah died in 1763.
6. Josiah the Younger of Bowdon is the son of Josiah the Elder. He married Elizabeth Renshaw in 1737 but died shortly afterwards. He was involved in dealings on a piece of land in Dunham that had earlier been bought by Aaron Warburton, a nephew of old Josiah, on behalf of a William. William's relationship to Aaron is unknown, as is the means by which Josiah acquired the land. Josiah the Elder would seem to be too old to be Thomas's grandson, but could Josiah, Joshua, and Peter all be sons of Enoch.
7. The earliest Josiah baptism on the IGI was in 1704 in Mobberley. This is old Josiah's nephew, son of his brother John, who had moved to Mobberley around 1670, and his second wife Elizabeth Trefis. Josiah married Ann Bracegirdle in 1726 and lived until 1784. Although the age on his grave is only given as 68 his will ties in with his known family.
8. In 1716 Josiah son of John was baptised at Northenden. This may be the same Josiah who married Martha Bradbury at Bowdon in 1737. Josiah and Martha had one child baptised at Mobberley in 1739 but then seem to have moved to Ashley. They buried a child, Martha at Bowdon in 1745 and then had a number of others baptised. They both died in 1764
9. Old Josiah's only son, John buried a child called Josiah in 1719. John had 2 other children and none of their baptisms are recorded.

10. Josiah and Ann of Mobberley produced their own son Josiah in 1734. A Josiah of Mobberley, husbandman, married Ann Burgess of Knutsford in 1759. Several children at Knutsford have a father called Josiah but they fall into two groups, four between 1760 and 1763, and three, including a Josiah (#22), between 1774 and 1776. Only 3, Elizabeth and Ann from the first group, and Josiah from the second, are mentioned in their grandfather's will suggesting the others died. The gap in births also suggests that Josiah's first wife died and he remarried, possibly to Margaret Baguley of Lymm in 1769 as her husband is described as Josiah of Nether Knutsford. A closer inspection of the Knutsford parish register is needed to check the fate of the other children. Also there are 2 further marriages at Knutsford which cannot be matched. These were to Ann Bennet in 1773 and Ann Percival in 1786. These are perhaps subsequent marriages rather than additional Josiahs. Candidate Josiahs are #10 and #13. Also a stray Josiah, a gardener, was buried in Huntingdonshire in 1791. In the later censuses there are virtually no Warburtons in Huntingdonshire so he almost certainly came from outside. He is most likely to be one of the known Josiah's and this is the best fit. Also in 1781 a Josiah of Bexton, late of Knutsford was in Chester jail fro debt.
11. In 1743 the son of Joseph and Elizabeth was buried at Bowdon. Two other children were also buried but there is no record of their baptisms, their parents marriage, or Joseph's own baptism on IGI.
12. Josiah son of Enoch and Sarah was baptised at Mobberley in 1745 but died the same year. Enoch was the grandson of the John who moved to Mobberley around 1670.
13. Enoch's brother Thomas had his son baptised Josiah in 1746. This Josiah was buried at Mobberley in 1821, aged 75. No wife is present in the grave but he possibly married Martha Wright at Mobberley in 1768. The IGI has no children for Josiah and Martha of Mobberley.
14. Josiah of Altrincham was buried in 1818 aged 73 meaning he was born in 1744 or 1745. There is no baptism for this Josiah so he was probably baptised at Hale Chapel where records only began in 1752. A Josiah, husbandman of Hale married Martha Henshaw in 1769 and they had seven children baptised between 1771 and 1781 during which time they were recorded as living in Altrincham. He is possibly the son of Josiah #8.
15. Josiah #10 had a brother Thomas who also had a son called Josiah mentioned in his grandfather's will. The baptism of this Josiah is missing from IGI but a Josiah died in 1815, a cordwainer, aged 55, giving a birth around 1760. His wife obtained a Letter of Administration. In 1783 a cordwainer called Josiah married Ann Toft at Knutsford. Two of their children, John 1784-1816, and Margaret 1794-1821 are present with their parents in a grave at Knutsford, but only Margaret, and a sister born in 1792 are on the IGI. Neither John, nor any other children born before 1792 are recorded.
16. There are two other children of Josiah and Ann baptised at Knutsford, Strethill in 1802, and Elizabeth in 1803 or 4 (the IGI has entries for both). These might imply another, unknown Josiah given the gap from the previous births, and the name Strethill which implies a connection to a Strethill family. However there is no marriage close to these births and these children may belong to an existing Josiah.
17. In 1763 John a great grandson of old Josiah, and eldest son of John, my four times great grandfather, named his eldest son Josiah. Josiah spent his life at Haveley Hey in Northern Etchells. He married Ann Hobson in 1792 at Manchester Cathedral and his death was registered in the fourth quarter of 1839, aged 75 at Wilmslow.

18. In 1769 my three times great grandfather John named the first son of his second marriage Josiah but he died in 1770 aged 10 months.
19. In 1770 the first Josiah from further afield is recorded, the first of nine children of George and Sarah in Goostry-cum-Barnshaw. There is a marriage of George and Sarah Moss at Swettenham in 1769, and George has been identified as the son of Aaron of Mobberley and his second wife Sarah.
20. In 1770 the son of George and Sarah Moss was baptised at Goostry. He is not mentioned in his father's will of 1818 so is presumed to have died by then.
21. In 1773 my three times great grandfather John named another son Josiah. He married Margaret Batty in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in 1797 and his death is registered in the second quarter of 1854, aged 80, in Altrincham. He is present in the 1841 and 1851 censuses.
22. In 1773 a Josiah was born in Knutsford, son of Josiah. The father is probably Josiah #10 who is known to have a son called Josiah. A Josiah whose death was registered at Stockport in the fourth quarter of 1837 aged 60, would have been born in 1777 but there is no matching IGI record. It is possible this is the same Josiah and the age is incorrect.
23. It is known from a will that two brothers born in Stockport in the 1820's had a father called Josiah who doesn't appear in any censuses, implying he was already dead by 1841. It might be his death that is attributed to #22 above. Also #22 is descended from old Josiah's brother John but a descendant of the brothers from the 1820s is not my Y-chromosome match, though this might only mean an unknown 'non-paternal event' has occurred within the family.
24. In 1779 the son of James and Sarah of Handforth was baptised at Adlington. James and Sarah Fellows of Alderley and then Handforth also had children baptised at Mobberley. James is probably a brother of Josiah #13, in that he was the right age (23) and of Mobberley parish when he married. He is probably the 60 year old in the 1841 census in Cheadle with wife Mary and grown up children Charles, Sarah and Mary. It is probably his death that was registered at Stockport in the third quarter of 1858 aged 79. Mary is probably Mary Slack whom he married at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1805.
25. In 1784 the first Josiah was baptised at Manchester Cathedral, parents George and Ellen. They could be from anywhere in the Manchester area but a George and Ellen Blease were married at Bowdon in 1773 and had 2 children baptised there.
26. In 1790 the son of William and Catherine was baptised at Wilmslow. William and Catherine Hooley married in either Wilmslow or Cheadle (the IGI has entries for both) in 1775 and had a number of children. William's parentage has not been investigated. He does not appear in any census.
27. In 1793 the son of Samuel and Hannah was baptised at Manchester Cathedral. He might be the same Josiah whose death was registered at Knutsford in the second quarter of 1870 aged 75, though it is strange he managed to miss all censuses. However all census entries have been assigned to other Josiahs. He is also probably the groom of one of 2 unmatched brides at Manchester Cathedral, Ann Robinson 1824 and Elizabeth either Kempster (1816) or Forrester (1819), the other being the Elizabeth who married #28. The "spare" marriage might be a late marriage for Josiah #25, or belong to #26.
28. In 1795 the son of John and Betty was baptised at Altrincham. He died in 1853 aged 57 and is buried at Bowdon with his wife Elizabeth. This could be either Elizabeth Kempster married at Manchester Cathedral in 1816, or Elizabeth Forster, married at the same place in 1819. His death registration is not on FreeBMD, but his Monumental Inscription has been documented. He is present in the 1851 census

29. In 1800 the son of Josiah #21 and Margaret was baptised at Bowdon. He married Mary Ann Warburton at Stockport in 1836 and died some time after 1861. He is present on the 1841 to 1861 censuses, though his identification with the Josiah on the Isle of Man in 1861 is speculative, based on age.
30. in 1803 a Josiah was born at Burslem in Staffordshire son of son of Peter and Mary. He probably married Catherine Hand at Stafford in 1829. He is the most likely candidate for the Josiah, a carter on the 1841 census in Salford, based on age an elimination of #30 and #32. He subsequently disappears and no death registration has yet been found.
31. In 1805 the son of Josiah #17 and Ann was born, though he is not on the IGI. He died, unmarried in 1869 (registered in the first quarter). He is present on the 1841 to 1861 censuses.
32. in 1813 the son of William and Ann is baptised at Alderley. He is in the 1841, 1861, and 1871 censuses, never married and died in 1874 (registered in the second quarter) aged 61 and is buried at Nether Alderley with his parents a brother, three sisters and a brother-in-law (from Family History On-line).
33. In 1813 the son of William and Sarah is the first Josiah born in Bolton. In the 1851 census he is a widower with 4 sons. His death is registered in the fourth quarter of 1857 aged 44. He is probably one of the Josiahs who married at Manchester cathedral, Eliza Pickles in 1834 being his most likely wife.
34. The son of my three times great grandfather was born in 1813 and baptised at Ringway Chapel in 1814. He is present in all the censuses until his death in 1888 aged 74 (registered in the 3rd quarter).
35. In 1817 the son of James and Elizabeth was baptised at Bromyard, Herefordshire. He is probably the Josiah who married Ann Pheasant at Worcester in 1849. He and Ann are in the 1861 census at Bromyard with children Sarah and Edwin, but his death is not recorded on FreeBMD.
36. In 1818 the son of John and Mary of Hale was baptised at Bowdon. His parents origins are unclear, though it is possible John was a grandson of Josiah #8. He is possibly the 20 year old in Bowdon in 1841 census. He is in the 1851 census in Hulme, and in the 1861 census with wife Mary Ann and daughter Sarah (6). By 1871 they have two younger daughters but Sarah is absent. By 1881 a fourth daughter has appeared. He is probably the Josiah whose death was registered in the second quarter of 1883 aged 67 at Chorlton, especially as he last lived at Didsbury. There is also an unmatched wedding at Manchester Cathedral, to Ann Jackson in 1842. There is no Josiah and Ann in the 1851 census so presumably Ann died so she could have been a first wife of this Josiah, or #38.
37. In 1820 the son of Samuel and Francis Clarke was baptised at Chelford, but he died in 1822.
38. In 1822 the son of Aaron and Mary was baptised at Cheadle. He married Sarah Wharton at Manchester Cathedral in 1849. He is in the 1851 census married to Sarah, with brother Aaron and infant Joseph. In 1861 there is still the one son. In 1871 and 1881 they are alone. In 1891 their grandson Egerton is present. In 1901 Josiah is a widower. His death was registered in the first quarter of 1907 at Sale aged 84.
39. Around 1824 a Josiah was born at Pownall Fee. He appears in all censuses. He is probably the 15 year old at Wilmslow in the 1841 census. He is transcribed as Isiah in 1851 and Isaiah in 1881. His wife is variously Mary, Margaret and Mary Ann, but always from Newbury. In 1861 his children Arthur and John and father William are present. In 1871 he was a servant living away from his family. In 1881 as Isaiah he is with wife Mary Ann of Newbury. In 1891 he and an unmarried daughter are with his daughter and son-in-law Sarah and John Bailey. By 1901 the family have moved to Ramsbotham so

the Josiah whose death is registered in the first quarter of 1899 aged 69 at Bury is this one although the age is a little low.

40. In 1840 the son of William and Elizabeth was born. He appears in the 1841 census in Manchester, but a death is registered at Manchester in the second quarter of 1843, though his age is unknown.
41. In 1846 in Bolton a Josiah was born who appears in the 1871 census with his wife Mary and three daughters. By 1881 there are 7 children. In 1891 six are still at home, and in 1901 three are at home. His death was registered at Halliwell in 1905, aged 58.
42. In 1860 the son of James and Sarah of Cheadle was born. He is in the censuses of 1861, 1871, 1881 (with his brother-in-law), and 1891 (with wife Clara and 2 sons). His death was registered in the first quarter of 1900 at Stockport aged 39.
43. Around 1873 the son of Josiah #41 and Mary of Bolton was born. He is in the 1881 census aged eight, but his death was registered in the third quarter of 1890, aged 17 at Halliwell, Bolton.
44. In 1883 the son of Margaret was born in Manchester. He is in the 1901 census with Margaret, now a widow, in Bolton. His death was registered at Halliwell, Bolton in the first quarter of 1909 aged 26.
45. In the fourth quarter of 1885 the death of an infant Josiah was recorded at Stockport.
46. In 1890 the son of John and Ann of Bolton was born. He is in the 1891, and 1901 censuses.
47. The death of a Josiah aged 1 was registered in the first quarter of 1893 at Denton.
48. In 1900 the son of William and Annie of Didsbury was born and appears in the 1901 census.

Sixteen of the above Josiahs are descended from either old Josiah or his brother John. One (#2) is possibly descended from their brother Thomas suggesting others might belong to that family.

Nine of the Josiahs died as infants. Other infants may have been missed.

The narrow geographical spread of the Josiahs is most striking. Apart from a group in Bolton area in the nineteenth century, and a couple of instances in Staffordshire and Herefordshire, they all congregate in N.E. Cheshire. There are several families of Warburtons in this area and some may have been familiar with the name from other families and introduced it into their own. However some may signify descendant lines of my own clan where details of the exact link is now lost.