

# James Warburton

A child of 9 weeks called Thomas, the son of James and Mary, was buried in the grave of John Warburton (my 5 x Great Grandfather) at Bowdon St Mary in 1828. He died on March 21st and was buried on March 23rd. A question arises as to the identity of Thomas's father James. My 3 x Great Grandfather William had a brother James, who would be 57 years old in 1828, and a son James, who would be 20. Neither seems a likely candidate. I have therefore searched for another James, possibly a nephew of William's, who might fit the bill.

Firstly I investigated William's son James. He was born on the 19th March 1808. He appears in census records from 1841 to 1871 identified by his place of birth, Hale, and his age which consistently fits with being born shortly before his baptism in March 1808. Also his death is recorded in the first quarter of 1878 aged 69, which is correct for his date of birth. These census entries show he was married to Alice who was born in 1808/9 in Hale.

There is only one International Genealogical Index (IGI) entry that exactly matches James and that is William's son. The next nearest are 1 year younger, baptised in Wilmslow (Dean Row), 2 years younger in Bowdon, and 3 years younger in Bowdon.

James and Alice's eldest child was born in 1832/3. IGI has two possible marriages for James and Alice, both at Manchester Cathedral. That to Alice Birch on 28th Dec 1831 is most likely as an Alice Birch was christened at Ringway Chapel on 10th July 1808 by parents Isaac Birch and Alice. This was probably the Isaac and Alice Royle who married on Nov 5th 1799 at Bowdon, and who had 7 daughters and 2 sons all christened at Ringway.

James married Alice when he was 23 years old. This leaves little time for an earlier marriage to Mary. Possible James and Mary marriages on IGI are:

1. Manchester Cathedral 4th April 1825 to Mary Ann Larby.
2. Manchester Cathedral 31st Aug 1828, to Mary Royle.

The first was when William's son James was only 17, and the second is after the birth and death of Thomas.

William's brother James was baptised on September 4th 1771. He is also mentioned in his father's will of 1791.

An Oath of Administration dated 7th March 1832, was issued for a James Warburton, a farmer of Hale who died on February 22nd 1832. The parish record shows that he was buried on February 26th and he was "of Hale", and 61 years old. Unless James was over 7 months old when baptised, this is a slight exaggeration of his age, but this is very probably William's brother. Another James was baptised at Bowdon in July 1770. His parents were from Altrincham and he is probably the James of Dunham who was buried at Bowdon on November 29th 1831 aged 62.

The Oath of Administration gives the administrators as James's wife Jane, Josiah Warburton and Thomas Warburton, all of Hale. The men are both farmers. The estate is

worth no more than £200. Josiah signs, though Jane makes her mark. Josiah could be James's and William's brother (though he only marked his wedding record and will), or his nephew (William's own son Josiah would be too young). William has a brother, a son and a nephew called Thomas.

There are two James and Jane marriages in Bowdon. The first, on 12th November 1786 to Jane Houghton of Rostherne, is too early for William's brother, but the second, on Jan 27th 1790 to Jane Davenport is possible. Davenport is a common name in Hale.

There were 9 baptisms in Bowdon to James and Jane Warburton between 1788 and 1808. The first two are too early for the later marriage, while the third is just nine months after it.

1. Elizabeth, 7th Sept 1788, of Bollington.
2. James, 21st Feb 1790, of Bollington.
3. Martha 14th Nov 1790 (born 16th Oct), of Baguely .
4. John, 25th Nov 1792, of Baguely.
5. Nancy, 5th 1795, of Chorley, Wilmslow parish.
6. James, 29th April 1798, of Heaton Norris.
7. Jane and Nancy, twins, 5th April 1801 ( born Feb 20th), of Heaton Norris.
8. Thomas, 28th Oct 1804( born 20th Sept), of Stockport.
9. Mary Anne, 20th March 1808 (born Feb 15th), of Hale.

The first 2 baptisms, and the 5th probably belong to James and Jane nee Houghton, whilst the rest follow a pattern of movement from Baguely to Heaton Norris, then Stockport and then finally Hale where James was when he died. Heaton Norris is really part of Stockport so there may not have been a move between 1801 and 1804. Whilst Baguely was in Bowdon parish, Stockport is some 8 miles away and the fact they kept returning to Bowdon for baptisms shows a link to the parish.

The Bowdon Parish Register entry for the burial of baby Thomas states that he is from Stockport. There is no baptism record at Bowdon, or on IGI.

The most likely scenario is that the father of Thomas is William's nephew, son of brother James. Brother James married Jane Davenport in 1790 and they lived in Baguely, then Heaton Norris near Stockport, before returning to Hale. However they returned to Bowdon for the christenings of their children Martha, John, James, Jane, Nancy, Thomas and Mary Anne. James died in 1832 in Hale, and their last child was born in Hale in 1808. This is similar to a pattern followed by his brothers William and Josiah who worked away before returning to Hale. This may well have been related to the terms of their father's will in which part of their inheritance was not available until their youngest sister Jane reached 21 in 1806. Also in 1807 the Crewe estates in Hale were sold. Previous generations of the family were tenants of the Crewes and it is possible that the changes in ownership gave rise to new tenancy opportunities. Judging by the place of baptism of William's children it was in about 1807 when he took the tenancy at Ross Mill farm.

Their son James must have returned to Stockport where the family perhaps retained contacts. He married either Mary Anne Larby at Manchester Cathedral, or another Mary in a church around Stockport not reported on IGI. In the 1841 census James aged 45, and Mary aged 35 were living in Lowe St, Stockport. Lowe St. isn't on modern maps. He was a cotton weaver. They had no children. James cannot be found in the 1851 or later censuses. I cannot find his death registration.