

THE BENHAM FAMILIES OF BARTON STACEY, HAMPSHIRE c.1830-c.1920

by Linda Moffatt © 2018
for the Barton Stacey History Group

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Two distinct Benham families lived in the parish of Barton Stacey in the 19th century and into the early part of the 20th. The heads of these families were:

HENRY BENHAM (1806-1887), a farm worker who moved into Bransbury in the early 1830s.

FREDERICK BENHAM, a farm worker originally from Up Nately, Hampshire, who moved around 1880 into one of the Chapel Cottages in Barton Stacey.

HENRY BENHAM was baptised 30 November 1806 at Medstead, Hampshire, son of Benjamin and Mary Benham. On 12 November 1831 at Longparish, he married Jane Siney (Synea in their marriage record).

He was a farm labourer who lived in Bransbury in the parish of Barton Stacey, where he died in 1887 aged 80. Jane Benham died in 1871 aged 64.

Children of Henry and Jane (Siney) Benham, born in Bransbury,

- i. William, born about 1834. He was a farm labourer for the Courtneys in Bransbury and was part of their household in 1851. In 1884, at the age of 50, he married Hephzibah, daughter of John and Sophia Tillen, widow of Stephen Burn. William Benham died in 1902 aged 68, his wife on 5 December 1920 at Church Street,
- ii. Henry, baptised 28 March 1839 at Barton Stacey. He appears to have been the Henry Benham whose death at the age of 17 was registered at Andover in 1855.
- iii. Ellen, born about 1843. She married Harvey Hayes, a farm labourer (born 1845 in Chute, Wiltshire, died 1909) in 1873 and lived in Charlton, Andover. She died in 1922 aged 80.
- iv. Mary, born 1844. She married Charles Adams of Bransbury in 1862. They moved in the early 1880s to Ibthorpe, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire. Charles Adams died there in 1911 aged 84, Mary in 1917 aged 73.
- v. Ann, born 1846. She worked for a time as a children's nurse with the family of farmer Robert Butler at Forton Farm, Longparish. In 1873 she married Henry Elkins (born 1848 in Chilcomb, Winchester, son of Joseph and Sarah (Mills) Elkins). They lived in Bransbury, where Henry was a hay trusser. Henry Elkins died in 1917 aged 68. Ann lived to 86 and was buried at Barton Stacey on 11 January 1933.
- vi. Harriet, born 1848. She died before her first birthday.

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**FREDERICK BENHAM** was born about 1848 in Up Nately, Hampshire, son of Charles Benham (1802-1882) and his wife Jane Dolton (1814-1899), who lived near Up Nately Church.

A farm labourer, he married Fanny Tilling in 1878. She was born in Barton Stacey, her birth registered as Fanny Tillen in 1854. She was in service to the household in the High Street, Andover of John Main, Wesleyan Minister of Andover Chapel and Circuit.

It seems likely that the Tillings and the Benhams were Methodists. After their marriage, Frederick and Fanny moved into one of the cottages around the Primitive Methodist Chapel at the southern end of Barton Stacey village.

Fanny Benham died in 1913 aged 59 and Frederick was listed at Chapel Cottages in the electoral roll of 1920. Frederick Benham's death was perhaps that registered in the New Forest in 1935, aged 88.

**Children of Frederick and Fanny (Tilling) Benham, born in Barton Stacey,**

- i. A boy, born 1879 and died an infant.
- ii. Frederick William, born 13 September 1880. Known as William. He became a rural auxiliary postman in Barton Stacey. In 1903 he married Jessie Mary North (born 5 April 1881 in Bullington, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth North). They moved to Barracane Cottages, Crowthorne, Berkshire before 1911, where Mr Benham was a gardener and where they remained until at least 1939. Barton Stacey's World War I Roll of Honour shows that he was with the Army Service Corps in France from 26 July 1915 (service number M2/046271). Jessie Benham died in 1944 aged 63. She was buried on 22 July in grave number 304 in Barton Stacey churchyard. Frederick William Benham died in 1975.
- iii. **HENRY CHARLES**, born 23 February 1883. At the time of the 1901 census he was a farm carter in nearby Wonston. His future wife Elizabeth Webb (born 19 April 1878, daughter of bricklayer Henry Webb) was also living in Wonston at this time with her grandmother. He became a gardener in Crookham, Surrey, where they married at Christ Church on 2 May 1908. Henry Benham served in the war with the Royal Army Medical Corps (service number 74505). His medal index card does not state where he served, which usually indicates that the man went to France in 1916 or later. Three of his wife's first cousins once removed (Sidney, Charles and Walter Webb) appear on the Barton Stacey Roll of Honour. Henry and Elizabeth Benham were living at the time of the 1939 Register in Charlton, Andover. He died in 1966 aged 83.

**A son of Henry Charles and Elizabeth (Webb) Benham,**

- i. Henry Frederick, born 17 February 1909 in Crookham. He married Winifred B. Squires in 1934 and lived in Totton, Hampshire, where he was a lorry driver. He died in 2000.
- iv. Ernest Albert, born 5 December 1884. A farm carter, he was boarding at the time of the 1901 census with the Broad family at 2 New Cottages in Barton Stacey village. In 1908 he married Mabel Beatrice Harding (born 15 August 1885 in Ascot, Berkshire, daughter of Charles Harding, a bricklayer, and his wife Mary A.). Her family had moved from Winkfield, Berkshire to Houghton, Stockbridge, Hampshire in the mid-1890s. Ernest and Mabel Benham were living in 1911 close to his parents in another of the Chapel Cottages. By the time of the 1939 Register they had moved to Wallop House Gardens, Nether Wallop, where Ernest Benham was a gardener. Mabel Benham died in 1949 aged 64, her husband in 1969 aged 85.
- v. Elizabeth Annie, born 21 August 1886. She became a housemaid in the Cunningham household at Bentley House, near Farnham, Surrey. She married Albert Raggett, a

- gardener (born 13 May 1888) in 1914 and had, as known, four children. They lived in Fullers Road, Rowledge, Farnham. She died in 1977.
- vi. Ada Rose, born 1889 (Rose). She became a housemaid at Steeple Court, Botley, Hampshire with the family of Rev. John Jenkyns. She married Henry S. Symonds in 1934. She died on 20 June 1965 in Tichfield, Hampshire.
  - vii. Agnes May, born 1891. She was in service in Windlesham, Surrey at the time of the 1911 census.
  - viii. Laura Louisa, born 1893. She was in service in Weeke, Winchester. In 1921 she married Arthur Robert Viner of Basingstoke and they had two sons. She died in 1969.
  - ix. Eva Lily, born 25 May 1895. Before her marriage she was in service at Rookery Farm, Broughton, Hampshire. In 1919 she married Auldred A. Middleton, a lorry driver and had a son Norman. They lived in Lymington, Hampshire, where she died on 4 October 1973.
  - x. Alice Ellen, born 1898. She married Frederick Gordon Warner in 1927 in London.

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