

TAPPIN FAMILY GENEALOGY

Henry Tappin and Hannah Giles - An Account

Henry Tappin, the son of John Tappin, was born around 1815; subsequent census records give his birthplace as either Sittingbourne Kent or Whoburn (probably Wooburn) Buckinghamshire. His mother is as yet unknown and very little is known about his father except for those scant details recorded on Henry's marriage certificate which describes John as a papermaker. John Tappin has not yet been located in census records nor have any other children of his been identified however, there is a possibility that John's death record has now been located. In 1857, a John Tappin age 79 (a papermaker) was found dead at Tillys Bridge Wrotham Kent with the cause of death being given as accidental. Regrettably it seems that inquest records have not survived and additionally there seems to be no local newspaper for this period so this line of enquiry has stalled.

The first record located of Henry is the 1841 census of Ripley in Surrey where he is listed as living with Stephen Green (a boot and shoe maker) and his family; the census also records Henry as being a boot and shoe maker and shows him as not being born in the county. There is a possibility that Henry may have been apprenticed to Stephen Green just as some twenty years later Henry's own son William was. If Henry was an apprentice then further research to find an Indenture may provide some clue to his origins and may possibly provide a much needed lead to his parents. In 1841 Henry married Hannah Giles, the daughter of William Giles a labourer, in the Parish Church of Send, Surrey: A copy of the page in the parish register shows that Hannah signed the register with an "X", other certificates have been signed by her with an "X" so it is reasonable to assume that she was illiterate. Eleven children from the marriage have been identified; all were born in Ripley. In the 1878 Post Office Directory of Surrey the village of Ripley is recorded as being situated between Portsmouth and London, 21 miles from London and 5 miles south east of Woking station; the population in 1871 was 952.

Tappin	Born	Christened	Died
Henry	11 Aug 1842	11 Sep 1842	28 Sep 1922
William	1 Oct 1844	27 Oct 1844	21 May 1925
Mary	12 Jun 1846	8 Nov 1846	
David	27 Aug 1847	28 Sep 1847	24 Jan 1923
Maria	8 Apr 1849	26 Aug 1849	
John	20 Sep 1850	27 Oct 1850	5 Mar 1853
Sarah	15 Mar 1852	2 Sep 1855	
James	25 May 1853	4 Nov 1855	
Alfred	23 Jun 1855	4 Nov 1855	23 Nov 1856
Hannah	27 Sep 1857	6 Nov 1859	
Flora Elizabeth	17 Jun 1859	2 Oct 1859	

Note the very traditional Christian names for this period; christening dates for Hannah and Flora need to be rechecked since it appears that Flora was christened out of sequence. With some exceptions the extended family have been traced through the 1851 - 1901 censuses, brief details established about the children are as follows:

Henry	A boot and shoemaker – he married twice and had at least eleven children. (See - Cordwainer to Pauper and Back?). One of his children (William Henry Tappin) was apprenticed to Grimsby trawlers from the Guildford Workhouse. (See - From Workhouse to Trawlers) His youngest son, Harvey John Tappin, was killed in action in France May 1918.
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William	An apprentice cordwainer – he emigrated to New Zealand – married, became a farmer and had twelve children. He died in 1925 age 80. (See- Apprentice Cordwainer and Emigrant to New Zealand)
Mary	Listed in the 1851 and 1861 censuses in Ripley Surrey but not found in 1871. Married George Emonson (a labourer) in 1872 and living in Richmond in the 1881 to 1901 censuses. Mary had at least nine children.
David	Listed in the 1861 census as a scholar and in 1871 as a Grocery Assistant – unmarried. There is no trace of him in the 1881 census but he is next found in 1891 as a lodger in Ripley still unmarried and a General Labourer, again there is no trace of him in the 1901 Census. He died in Guildford in 1923.
Maria	Listed in the 1851 and 1861 censuses in Ripley but not found after this, it is possible that she married and moved away or she may have died.
John	Died as a child in 1853 age 2 of bronchitis.
Sarah	Listed in the 1871 census in Ripley – a schoolteacher and in 1881 as a Domestic Nurse unmarried. In 1886 she married Walter Saker and they have been found in the 1891 and 1901 censuses in Croydon, they had at least five children and possible had others.
James	Listed as lodging with a Police Sergeant in the Ripley 1871 census - occupation shoemaker. He has not been found in the 1881 census however in November 1881 he married Elizabeth Margaret Dorrington in Greenwich whilst he was serving as a Police Constable, obviously influenced by his early days as a lodger. In 1891 he is listed in Erith Kent and in 1892 he received a monetary award following the arrest of violent burglars during which he was injured. In the 1901 Census he has progressed to the rank of Sergeant, a promotion gained as a result of his earlier bravery. They had at least six children.
Alfred	Died age 17 months 23 Nov 1856 of whooping cough.
Hannah	Listed in the 1861 and 1871 censuses in Ripley. In 1877 she married Robert Stephenson (a Railway Servant) and they had at least two children but no trace of the family has been found in the 1881 census. However, in 1883 presumably following the death of Robert, she married John Boon Payne (a Railway Porter) and they had at least 5 children. In the 1891 and 1901 censuses they are recorded in Camberwell.
Flora	1881 census in Ripley – domestic servant – unmarried living with her mother. Flora had at least two illegitimate children, in 1881 and 1883. She married George Pullen (a carpenter) in 1885, found in 1891 Census with her two children and her husband with a further six children. Also with them is Flora's widowed mother, Hannah. The family (without Hannah) has also been traced in Ripley in 1901. In addition to the two before her marriage, she and George had at least seven other children.

Additionally before her marriage to Henry Tappin, Hannah Giles had an illegitimate child Elizabeth who was born 10 Nov 1836, the father's name was not recorded at the christening. Elizabeth is recorded in the 1851 census as living with the family and also shown with the surname of Tappin but there is no way of knowing if

Henry was her real father. Elizabeth married William Jones (a Bootmaker) in 1859 (again her father's name is not recorded on the certificate) in Ripley and the family have been traced through the censuses; in 1861 in Ripley, in 1871 in Reigate, in the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses in Epsom; in 1901 Elizabeth is listed as a widow.

Henry (Snr) died on 11 Mar 1880 age 65 in Ripley of chronic asthma. The 1881 census shows Hannah to have taken up the occupation of laundress; in 1891 she is found as a charwoman living with her daughter Flora, however on 26 Apr 1894 aged 78 she died of "decay of age" in the Union Workhouse Guildford.

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