

The Gent Family of Durham

The earliest known record of the Gent family is that of the birth of Michael Gent in Darlington, County Durham in 1801. By the time he was 40 he had moved to Aldbrough, Yorkshire and become a farmer. By 1861 he and his wife Jane were farming over 100 acres and employed a man and a boy to work with him. Their son Thomas lived next door and may have been employed by his father as the 1861 census records show him to have been an agricultural labourer.

Thomas had married Elizabeth Graham in 1848 and by 1881 they were innkeepers running The Stanwick Arms in Aldbrough. They had seven children – Jane, born in the year of The Great Exhibition in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park followed by Mary Ann, Michael, Alice, Lydia, John, Thomas and Matilda. Unlike the situation with many families of the period it seems that all the children survived to adulthood.

Jane died unmarried in 1892 and is buried in Stanwick churchyard and Mary Ann, who had married George Middleditch, is also buried there. Michael became a tailor and draper and moved to Middlesbrough where he and his wife Elizabeth reared at least four children. John Thomas became a joiner although he was later described as a general labourer. He married a local girl called Jane Alice Wood in 1888 and together they reared ten children.

Their third child, Thomas Gent became a market gardener in Australia but all the others of the family stayed in England. The whereabouts of most of them are unknown after 1901 but their ninth child Jane Alice (known as Alice) married Thomas Kay in 1926. Because Thomas was a hunt servant the family moved around, firstly back to the county of his birth where their first child was born, then back to Aldbrough and later to Berwick, Scotland. Their final move was down to Sussex where they lived until Jane Alice's death in 1959.

To see the fuller details of the family enter the name Michael Gent into the search boxes in the left hand margin of the home page, select Michael Gent 1801 and when the page comes up click the "descendants" tab.

Keep coming back to this page as it will be amended each time that more information is found.