

THE TURNER FAMILY of Cambridgeshire

The earliest record of the Turner family is that of Thomas Turner born in Cambridgeshire about 1739. It is likely that he was an agricultural labourer. He married Abigail Vetriss on the 23rd April 1760 at Great Shelford.

The only child recorded is John Turner, born about 1739 at Great Shelford. He married in Stapleford on the 29 May 1791 and his wife, who was born in the village was named Sarah Keppis. They had six children and it is their third son Thomas who is our direct ancestor. He was born in Stapleford in 1800 and the other children were Mary born in 1791, William born in 1793, John born in 1797, Sarah Keppis born in 1802 and Hepzibah born in 1804. John was an agricultural labourer Sarah died in 1827 and John married again. His second wife was Elizabeth and the couple lived in Stapleford High Street until John died, aged 83 in 1853.

Thomas married Ann Lister in Stapleford in 1829 and their first child, named William, was born soon after. William is our direct ancestor and like his father he was an agricultural labourer. After the early deaths of their parents William and his brothers moved in with their uncle Thomas Morley in Stapleford and they were recorded there in the 1851 census.

William married Hannah Griggis in 1852 and they are recorded in the 1861 census as living at 13 The High Street,

Stapleford with their children James, Walter and Hepzibah. William was then an agricultural labourer.

It has not been possible to find them in the 1871 census but it is known that at some time between 1861 and 1877 they moved to Sawston where William became a stoker at the paper mill there.

He died there aged only 49 on the 11th January 1877. From recollection of an entry in the Turner family Bible he was on his way to church when he collapsed. However memory can be faulty. In any event Hannah was left a widow with her youngest daughter only twelve and William only ten. She was only in her early forties and coped financially by taking in washing. As soon as he was old enough William Edward took a job at the Sawston Ginger Beer factory.

By 1891 he was living in lodgings in Paddington and working as a grocer's assistant and it must have been while he was there that he met Amy Bassett who was working, with her twin sister Ada at a house in Wandsworth.

William Edward and Amy married in Grantham at St Wulfram's Church in 1892 . On the marriage certificate William's occupation is given as dairyman. Back in the London area as a married couple they rented a house in Bettridge Road, Fulham where they took in lodgers and William had a job as an assistant cheesemonger nearby.

To see the descendants of Thomas Turner who was born about 1739 enter his name into the SEARCH box on the left and click the DESCENDANTS tab.

