

Notes on The Brushfield Family

The Brushfield family was in Baslow in the late 1500s. Thomas Brushfield married Margaret Gregory in 1592. A Robert and Thomas Brushfield took part in the 1614 perambulation.

Several other Brushfield names occur in the Parish Records, but no continuity can be established until the birth of Thomas in 1717. He became a blacksmith, and probably lived in today's Church Cottage. He was followed by Bartholomew 1752 – 1827 and then by Joseph 1777 – 1851, both blacksmiths.

Bartholomew married Anne Marples, whose father and brother were also blacksmiths, possibly living nearby.

Joseph lived in Church Cottage and worked in partnership with his cousin James Marples. It seems that he had no children and the line died out with him. He stayed on after retirement in Church Cottage until his death in 1851

There may have been a forge at Church Cottage for generations. It closed in 1830, when the business moved to new premises in Calver Road under the care of James Marples

Thomas and his wife Mary are buried in Baslow graveyard. I love his memorial inscription

Sacred
To the memory of
Thomas Brushfield
Who departed this life
October 16th 1797 aged 80 years
*My sledge and hammer here reclined
My bellows too have lost their wind
My fire extinct my forge decayed
And in the earth my voice is laid
My coal is spent my iron's gone
My last anvils drawn my work is done*

David Dalrymple-Smith
dds@w3z.co.uk
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