

The Cooper Family

The Cooper family were in Baslow from the mid 1700s to the late 1800s. The first record is a marriage in 1747 between John Cooper and Elizabeth Wragg (the Wraggs were an established Baslow family)

The next record is John Cooper b1767 (probably the son of the above John). He had quite a family. The family gravestone is close to church porch and unusually faces west towards the river. It includes the words

*Sixteen sweet children I have bore
Five times I have double births
Of two girls at last by labour sore
God crowned me with happiness*

This may be an under estimate. According to the parish baptism records his first wife Elizabeth had 15 children (4 sets of twins). She died 2 days after her last were baptised. He married again and his second wife Sarah had four children including another set of twins.

John was a carpenter. His eldest pair of twins Charles and Peter were also carpenters. These three spent their lives in the village. At least after 1841 (the first census) they lived in Calver road next to the blacksmith, John and Charles in Jasmine Cottage and Peter in Japonica Cottage (modern names).

All the rest of the family, the twins' siblings and children, left after growing up. By 1891 there were no Coopers left in the village.

David Dalrymple-Smith

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