

**HENRY SHUCKSMITH  
1815-1904**

Father: Joseph Shucksmith  
 Mother: Jane White  
 Baptism: 1815  
 Marriage: May 23, 1838  
 Wife: Susannah Warth  
 Burial: April 30, 1904



Children:

William	1838
Susannah	1839
Henry	1841
John	1843
Caroline	1845
Joseph	1848
William	1850
Samuel	1852
Betsy Ann	1854

Mary Jane	1857
Eliza	1859
Sarah Elizabeth	1861
Thomas Warth	1863
Louisa	1865

Henry was the 3rd child of Joseph and Jane Shucksmith and was baptised at Alvingham on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1815. He married Susannah (Annie) Warth, who was a servant at the Abbey Farm, at Alvingham Parish Church on 23 May 1838 and they had fourteen children. They lived in a two-up, two-down cottage which was known locally as 'the breeding house'. The upstairs rooms were so small that you could not stand up straight in them.

*The cottage in the foreground in which Henry & Susannah brought up 14 children.*



Henry was a cordwainer by trade and had a small workshop down the road from the cottage. In 1851, the census shows him as being a shoemaker and living with him were Susannah and six children. In 1861, he was described as a master cordwainer with seven children. By 1881, Henry had become a shoemaker and farmer of 45 acres. By now, there were only five children at home. Susannah died in 1887 and the 1891 census shows Henry as a widower, shoemaker and farmer and living with him was his son John and daughters Betsy and Sarah.

Henry and Susannah's first son, William, was baptised on November 4<sup>th</sup> 1838 but died when only 3 weeks old and was buried on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1838.

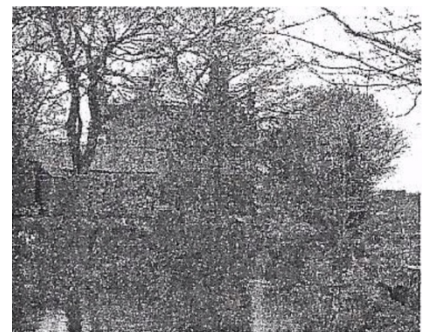
Susannah, their second child, was born on September 30<sup>th</sup> 1839 and married John Grimoldby of Tetney in 1866. Little is known about her early life. She does not appear to live at home after the 1851 census. Her husband, John, was an agricultural foreman in 1881 and they were then living at South Elkington. They later moved to 27 Abbey Walk, Grimsby and John became a foreman at the oil cake mills until his death in 1890 at the age of 53. This was due to Rheumatic Endocarditis syncope. These were my great-grandparents.

The second son was named Henry and was baptised on November 7<sup>th</sup> 1841 at Alvingham. He was apprenticed to his father and is shown in the 1861 census as a journeyman, which meant that he had finished his apprenticeship and was no longer bound to serve a master. In 1871, he was classed as a shoemaker, single and living on his own. The 1881 census shows him married to Mary and with three children, Mary, Edwin and Henry. They then lived at 4 Church Road, Alvingham. In 1891, there are only Henry and his wife, Mary, at home and he was still working as a shoemaker. He later procured a seed drill and would travel to the farms in the district on a contract basis.

John was baptised on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1843 and remained a bachelor. He appears to have worked for a time as a carter but then returned to work on the farm with his father, living with him and his two spinster sisters. He acquired land and property in Alvingham which was left in equal shares to Sarah and Betsy. He died of cancer of the prostate at the age of 58.

Caroline was baptised on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1845 and at the age of 15, she was working in the household of William Dawson in Louth as a maid of all work. She later became a seamstress and costume maker before marrying Joe Bradley, a widower and master carpenter. She had saved enough money before marrying to buy a farm locally. They lived at 30 Lee Street, Louth.

Joseph was baptised on March 12<sup>th</sup> 1848 and worked with John on local farms. He was said to be a demon for work but unfortunately, he suffered a severe shoulder scalded in 1868. He farmed at Poplar Farm, Alvingham, and later Abbey Farm where he died in 1890. One source says he died from a perforated peptic ulcer though another suggests it was pneumonia, caught after diving into the mill stream to rescue one of his children. He married Charlotte Smith sometime after 1881.



*Abbey Farm*

William was born in 1850 and was an agricultural labourer in his early years. It is said that he 'disappeared' into Yorkshire for a period of time whilst a paternity argument settled down. Later, he became a farmer near Nottingham. He was buried at Attenborough.

Samuel was baptised on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1852. In the 1881 census, he is shown as living at home, aged 29 and unmarried. His occupation was given as an engineer (driver). He had been apprenticed to his father and was a shoemaker by trade. He later married Jane Paddison

and they lived at first in the house where he had been born but in 1890, they moved to a relatively new brick and slate house. They had three children, Samuel, Louisa and Nancy. The latter died in 1903 whilst getting ready to go to her Uncle John's funeral. She suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage and wedged shut the lavatory door which then had to be sawn down the middle to get her out.

Sam and Jane were very careful characters and managed to acquire a small holding, cows, pigs and poultry as well as a threshing machine. He died whilst waiting for the Louth bus at White Barn corner.

Thomas Warth was the youngest son of Henry and Susannah and was baptised in Alvingham on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1863. He and his sister, Sarah Elizabeth, held the tenancy of White Barn Farm from April 6<sup>th</sup> 1908.



*Sam & Jane  
Shucksmith*

He attended Samuel Bateman's private school in Keddington Road, Louth but had to leave at the age of 14 to work on the farm. He later became a bargee and then worked at an oil and cake mill in Grimsby where he lodged with his sister Susannah. He was very careful with his money and eventually owned 3 terrace houses in Legsby Avenue which he later sold to pay for his share of the tenant right of the farm.

He married Fanny White, the daughter of the village blacksmith and they had three boys, Thomas White, John William and Henry Samuel. He died in 1950 and is buried in Alvingham.

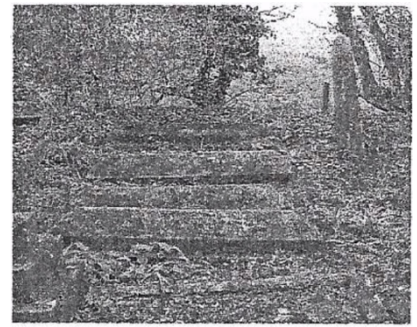
Susannah died in 1887 and was buried in Alvingham on January 25<sup>th</sup>. After Susannah's death, Henry moved to a small thatched house in the village where he was looked after by his spinster daughters, Betsy and Sarah. He began to purchase land in Alvingham and North Cockerington. His will states that he owned a cottage, garden and outbuildings in Alvingham which were at that time occupied by his son Samuel and land known as Dundales in North Cockerington.



Betsy Ann was a spinster who never left home. She was baptised on August 27<sup>th</sup> 1854. As a child, she had fits and for these, her head had been shaven. In the 1881 census, she is described as a stocking knitter which she apparently was to her dying day. She was never without her knitting needles and pince-nez spectacles. After her mother died, she became housekeeper to her father and then her brother, Henry, until 1930. She then stayed with various nephews and nieces especially Thomas Warth and with John and George Atkinson in Yorkshire. She died at Patrington of delayed shock after a German bomber nearly demolished John Atkinson's farmhouse where she was staying.

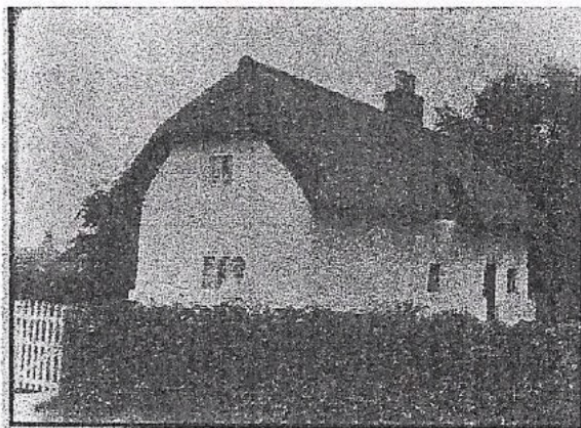
Mary Jane was baptised on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1857 at Alvingham. She married Thomas Bee and went to live in Grimsby. They had three children. Thomas liked to drink and Mary did not have a good life. She was burnt to death in 1888 after Thomas had thrown a paraffin lamp at her when he was drunk. He was later convicted of manslaughter. One of her daughters lived in Grimsby and Henry, who was a bricklayer, went to live in the U.S.A. Mary was buried in Alvingham churchyard.

Eliza was born in 1859. She was a seamstress and costume maker with her sister Caroline. She then married Joe King who was a carpenter. They lived in Eastgate in Louth but they had no children and after his death in 1932, she went to live at White Barn Farm with her brother Thomas and sister Sarah. She remained a recluse until her death in 1943. In her will, she left all her money to be divided between her brother Thomas and the children of Susannah, Henry, Joseph, William, Samuel, Mary Jane and Louisa.



*Mary Jane's grave – furthest from camera. Other members of the family are buried here too.*

Sarah Elizabeth was baptised on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1861. She was a spinster and housekeeper for her father. In 1908, she became a partner with her younger brother, Thomas, taking over the tenancy of White Barn Farm. This had been bought by Henry Atkinson, husband of their younger sister, Louisa. She assisted in the running of the house, helping her sister-in-law. She died in 1941, frightened to death by the German bombers. She financed her adored nephew, Henry, enabling him to become a surgeon.



*Sarah outside the cottage in 1890*



*White Barn Farm*



*Louisa & Henry Atkinson*



*Thomas Warth & Fanny Shucksmith*



*White Barn Farm*



*Harry (surname unknown) with  
Betsy & Jane Shucksmith*



*Betsy and Jane Shucksmith with  
Jane Pridgeon*



*Sarah Elizabeth Shucksmith*



*Jack Shucksmith & John Atkinson*



*Henry Shucksmith 1815-1904  
(Cordwainer)*



*Sam & Jane Shucksmith*



*'The Breeding House'  
Home of Henry & Susannah  
Shucksmith*



*Horse-drawn cart owned by T.W.  
Shucksmith given to Lincoln  
Museum for posterity and can be  
seen there to this day*



Museum of Lincolnshire Life

David Viner continues his occasional look at some of the best examples of traditional wagons and carts in preservation.

## Wagons & Carts in Focus

Made, used, restored and preserved in Lincolnshire

The seven wagon and cart types on display in the main hall of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life offer just a sample of this important regional museum's collection. Some 27 examples are preserved in total, housed where they should be in their county of origin or use. As befits a large agricultural region, Lincolnshire produced some of the most celebrated vehicle designs, with significant local variations.

Nationally-known makers include Cooke & Co and Rainforth & Sons, both based in Lincoln itself. There are also products of more localised firms, including two wagons made by Hildred at Grimoldby in the Louth area of rural East Lindsey. The example on display is highlighted here, its history of particular interest for various reasons.

This wagon fully represents its type, as James Arnold recognised in his wagon studies, and fortunately has also enjoyed a sympathetic restoration in more recent times. As with other wagons from this area, it also is dated (to 1854) which adds considerably to its historical value.

The characteristics of the North Lincolnshire type include a high front, a pronounced sheer along the body and a striking rake of both head and tail boards. Together this creates a 'sit-up-and-beg' impression, loftier and narrower than other designs including those from the south of the county.



David Viner

Seen from the front this wagon looks especially high, the absence of side raves adding to the effect; so too the side boards firmly fixed to the top rail. These create a deep load space for root crops, replaceable with shelvings to widen the body during harvest. Equally striking is the close pattern of side spindles, angled fore and aft either side of the wheel arch and middle cross bearer, which is also the principal focus of the relatively plain metalwork.

Front wheel diameter is 50in and rear wheels 62in, both on single 3in hoops, all adding to the sense of height. The front wheels are set well forward. Colour scheme throughout is a Prussian blue body with orange for wheels and undercarriage, nicknamed locally as 'Farmers Glory'.

The restored front headboard reveals all, another typical Lincolnshire feature. Between the distinctive W-pattern bracing are four painted roundels, in

Threshing scene at Martin Fen, Lincolnshire.

black on a yellow ground with red outlining, reading *Hildred, Maker/Alvingham/Lincolnshire* and the date 1854. Above that on the top rail is T.W. SHUCKSMITH & SONS; this is repeated on a side panel with the *Alvingham* address, set between another distinctive feature, the pair of mid-rails.

This wagon's history is particularly well-preserved. The original owner was Joseph Alcock of Grimsby Road, Louth. In 1909 it came into the hands of Shucksmith & Sons, who donated it to the museum in 1972. Also closely associated with it was Leonard Wright, originally from Waltham, whose renovation panel on the wagon side records his careful restoration in 1966.

Mr. Wright's links went back virtually to the wagon's arrival in Alvingham, where in 1914 he joined his father's long-established wheelwright's shop. This involvement continued for half a century, with this restoration his final job before retirement.

With acknowledgements to research by the late Paddy Burgess.



David Viner

- **Accession number:** 1972/254
- **National Register Number:** 134
- **Where:** on display at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln
- **When:** open daily throughout the year except Sundays, October to March (check for details). Admission free
- **Contacts:** tel 01522 528448 and [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)
- **Illustrations:** James Arnold *Farm Wagons and Carts* (1977, p.96) and *The Farm Wagons of England and Wales* (1969, plate 23). David Viner *Wagons and Carts* (Shire Publications 2008), p.30.