

THOMAS FAMILY HISTORY

The following report outlines the overall findings for the Thomas family history, starting with Florence Thomas (born in Mostyn, Flintshire in 1891), as carried out by Gene Genie Family History Research Service.

The enclosed portfolio includes a plotted Family Tree, showing Florence Thomas and three generations of her ancestors dating back to the late 1700s. The portfolio also contains copies of the relevant certificates and census returns used in the research.

The primary sources that have been used to trace the Thomas Family History are birth and marriage certificates, census returns and entries from the Whitford parish registers. The brief was to research Florence Thomas' family, specifically focusing on the Thomas line. All direct ancestors have been highlighted in bold throughout this report.

The Thomas Family hails from Mostyn in Flintshire, North Wales. The family was mostly employed as Coal Miners or Labourers in the nearby Iron Works, although one of Florence's ancestors was also an Inn Keeper in the town!

The most distant ancestor traced during this research was **Joseph Thomas**, a Collier, born in Flintshire circa 1795. In 1841, according to the census returns, he was living with his wife, **Jane**, born in Flintshire circa 1794, in Rhewl Mostyn.

At this time they were living with their six children (four boys and two girls): John (b. 1816), **William** (b. 1817), Joseph (b. 1823), Mary (b. 1826), Hugh (b. 1828), Margaret (b. 1833).

The Thomas children were all baptised at the Whitford Parish Church, between 1816-1834. The Parish Registers for Whitchurch reveal that **William Thomas** was baptised on 23rd November 1817.

By 1851, the census shows that **William** was no longer living at home with his parents and siblings. He was still living in Mostyn at Glanydon, employed as a Coal Miner, but he was now married with a family of his own. He was living with his wife, **Mary**, who was born in Rhyddlan, Flintshire in 1816, and their two children (one boy and one girl): Alice (b. 1848) and Joseph (b. 1850). The family also had a servant, Sarah Hughes aged 16 living with them at the time, and 10-year-old Anne Laterbury, from Llanasa, Flintshire was staying with them on the night of the census.

William Thomas married **Mary Salisbury** on 9th January 1846 at Whitford Parish Church. The marriage certificate shows that **Mary's** father was **Samuel Salisbury** who was a Miner.

In 1861, things had changed for **William Thomas** and his family. They were now living at "The Feathers", Rheiol Mostyn in Mostyn and **William** was a Beerhouse Keeper as well as a Coal Miner. By this time **William** and **Mary** had seven children (three boys and four girls): Alice (b. 1848), Joseph (b. 1850), Samuel (b. 1852), John (b. 1854), Jane (b. 1856), Mary E. (b. 1858) and Martha (b. 1859). Their niece, Alice Davies aged 21 from Meliden, Flintshire was visiting on census night.

According to the 1871 census returns, the Thomas Family were still living in Rheiol Mostyn. **William** and **Mary** had further added to their family with another son, born in 1862. He is listed as just **W H Thomas** on this census return, but we can see from his birth certificate that his full name is in fact **William Henry Thomas** and he was born on 11th March 1862.

The 1881 census reveals that **Mary Thomas** was now a widow, living at Halendy in Mostyn. Her sons John and **William Henry**, both general labourers, were living with her and her granddaughter, Emily Alice Lloyd aged 7 from London. Eight-year-old Charles Artie, also from London, was boarding with them.

By 1891, everything had changed for **William Henry Thomas**. He was now living in Marsh Row in Mostyn with his wife, **Hannah Maria**, who was also born in 1862 in Mostyn. He was employed as a labourer in the local Iron Works. They had three children at the time (two boys and one girl): Owen (b. 1886), William Mostyn (b. 1889) and **Florence** (b. 1891). Their eldest child, Owen, is listed as having been born in Prescott in Lancashire, suggesting that **William Henry** and **Hannah Maria** must have lived there at some point.

This is confirmed by the marriage certificate for **William Henry Thomas** and **Hannah Maria Jones**. They were married in the Parish Church at Prescott in Lancashire on 14th June 1884. From the certificate, we also discover that **Hannah Maria** is the daughter of **Owen Jones**, an Iron Works labourer.

The birth certificate for **Florence Thomas** reveals that she was born in Marsh Row, Mostyn, Flintshire on 24th August 1890. She was the daughter of **William Henry Thomas**, a general labourer, and his wife, **Hannah Maria Thomas** (formerly Jones).

The most recent census available for research is from 1901. According to the returns the Thomas Family had returned to Lancashire. They were living in part of the Manor House at Church Lane, Lowton, Lancashire. **William Henry** is listed as a Fireman in a Coal Mine. **William Henry** and **Hannah Maria** now had six children (three boys and three girls): Owen (b. 1886), William M. (b. 1889), **Florence** (b. 1891), Sarah E. (b. 1893), Mary A. (b. 1894) and Llewellyn L. (b. 1896). They also had a lodger, James Boshall, aged 55 from Clifton, Lancashire.

From the details provided by you at the start of this research project, **Florence** went on to marry **John Henry Storer**, a Coal Miner originally from Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire, on 4th February 1913 in the Parish Church at Golborne, Lancashire.

They lived in Ashton-in-Makerfield in Lancashire and had three children (one boy and two girls): Llewellyn Lloyd (b. 1914), **Elsie May** (b. 1919) and Hannah (b. 1922).

To continue research into the history of the Thomas Family, I would recommend a more thorough search of the Parish Registers for Whitchurch, which could help to trace the family back over further generations. It would be particularly useful to find the marriage entry in these Registers for Joseph Thomas and his wife, Jane. We currently do not know her maiden name, and so once this can be discovered there will be further scope for tracing this branch of the family tree.

Further research using the census returns would also produce results for other branches of the family, for example, Hannah Maria's parents and siblings. You could find them by starting a search of the census returns under her name before she married William Henry Thomas in 1884 (i.e. 1881 and 1871 Census Returns).

Sources:

1841 Census Mostyn, Flintshire (HO107/1407 book: 26 civil parish: Whitford enumeration district: 3 folio: 39 page: 16)

1851 Census Mostyn, Flintshire (HO107/2500 folio: 207 page: 10)

1861 Census Mostyn, Flintshire (RG9/4267 folio: 71 page: 7)

1871 Census Mostyn, Flintshire (RG10/5639 folio: 26 page: 8)

1881 Census Mostyn, Flintshire (RG11/5504 folio: 24 page: 22)

1891 Census Mostyn, Flintshire (RG12/4604 folio: 54 page: 28)

1901 Census Lowton, Lancashire (RG13/3588 folio: 33 page: 10)

Parish Register of Baptisms for Whitford, Flintshire (1816-1834)

Marriage Certificate, 1846, William Thomas and Mary Salisbury

Birth Certificate, 1862, William Henry Thomas

Marriage Certificate, 1884, William Henry Thomas and Hannah Maria Jones

Birth Certificate, 1891, Florence Thomas

Copies of sources are enclosed in this portfolio.