

The Kay Family Of Yorkshire

The earliest record of the Kay family is of the marriage of John Kay to Margaret Hall on the 20th June 1802. The marriage record is included in the International Genealogical Index and took place at St Mary's Church, Over Silton on the edge of the North Yorkshire moors. There are no details of the parents or witnesses and until a copy of the original parish register page can be inspected it may not be possible to find them or to know when and where they were born.

Nearly two years after the marriage their first child was born. They named him George and at the time of his birth they lived in the same parish. In 1808 their first daughter was born. She was christened Mary Kay at St Mary's Church on the 22nd August the same year. Another daughter was born in 1811 but was Mary who became the mother of Michael Kay and it was Michael Kay who moved away from Yorkshire to County Durham.

Michael was, in the terms of the day, a "love child". His father was Thomas Groves, a coal miner about eighteen years older than Mary. Whether Mary subsequently married is not known as no further trace of her has yet been found. If she did marry it was not to Thomas.

Michael Kay married when he was 28. At that time he was a labourer and living at Quarrington Hill, Co.Durham The marriage took place in Kelloe and his bride was 21years old Hannah Plant, also of Quarrington Hill. Their first child, Elizabeth was born the year before their marriage at Crook but after marriage they stayed in Quarrington Hill until after the birth of their son Michael in 1858.

By the time of the 1861 census Michael was a waggonman and the family address was Bondgate, Pollards Land, Auckland, Co.Durham. Two more children were born Thomas in 1864 and Margaret in 1865 and then, in 1866, Michael died.

Hannah became a charwoman and then a laundress in order to feed her family and by 1871 the family lived at West Road, Bishop Auckland Durham and the children had a new sister named Eliza Kay.

The new baby was followed by Mary and Hannah but although all three younger children were given the surname Kay they were not Kays "by blood". By 1891 Hannah was known as the wife of Matthew Lonsdale and it is probable that he was their father.

It was Hannah's third child Thomas Kay who in March 2007 became the second great grandfather of Timothy Joel Kay.

To see the Kay family tree on this website, calculate relationships look at pedigrees and see images and documents relating to the lives and descendants enter the name of John Kay into the SEARCH boxes at the top of the left margin of this page. Once the page for John comes up just click the relevant tabs at the top