

THE TIDY /WALES FAMILY OF SUSSEX

The family history of the Tidy and Wales family is complicated. The earliest known Tidys are Henry Tydy and his wife Sarah. Henry was born in Crawley in 1613 and married Sarah about 1638. They had at least five children –Elizabeth, Sarah, George, John and Ann and Henry died when he was 52.

Descendants of Elizabeth, Sarah and John are not known but George married Eleanor Burt in Cuckfield on the 9th Oct 1666. They had nine children and of those children John, born in 1681 is our immediate ancestor. No details have yet been found for John's birthplace but his marriage to have been recorded as taking place about 1709. Nothing is known of his occupation and like his grandfather he died in his 50s. He left ten children and of those our direct ancestor was John, christened at the church of St Mary Magdalene, Rusper, Sussex on the 29th April 1715. The family seems to have settled in Rusper and several generations of Tidys were born and married there. John (1715) married there in 1737 when his wife Mary Gerson was 22.

John(1715) and Mary had eleven children – all christened at St Mary Magdalene and several of them marrying there too. The third child was also named John and like Sarah Carter, who he married, was born about 1740. John the 4th was also a parishioner of St Mary Magdalene and the first of this Tidy family to have reached an age of 77. He must be buried in the St Mary Magdalene churchyard. It was his son John the 5th who, with his wife Sarah, was a member of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Horsham and it was in this branch of the family that the alternative surname of Wales was first found.

Their son John married Ann Wales in Ifield on 6th January 1787 when he was 20 years old but there were two children born to Ann before their marriage. They were named Sarah and John. Sarah was, christened as Tidy but called herself Sarah Tidy Wales at the time of her marriage. John was christened John Wales but in later life used the surname Tidy.

John's third child was Thomas Tidy born in 1824 and his life has been followed right through his life when at times he used the name of Tidy and others he used the surname Wales.

In 1849 he married Charlotte Barnes in London with the name of Wales. They had both been brought up in Sussex and why they were in London is not clear. He gave his birthplace as Rusper, Sussex and she gave hers as Rotherfield.

The marriage was after the birth of a son to Charlotte and was registered with the name William Wales. In 1851 Thomas was still known as Wales and was an agricultural labourer. Living with them was Charlotte's father Thomas Barnes.

By 1861 the family was named Tidy again. William had become a nurseryman and Thomas was an engine driver. Between 1861 and 1871 William must have left home and he retained the name of Tidy for the rest of his life. Yet the youngest son of the family gave the name of his father as "Thomas Tidy Wales" when he was married in 1916 and gave his own name as Edward Tidy Wales.

To see the family on this website enter the name Henry Tydy into the search boxes, select Henry Tydy born 1601/2 and on the individual page select the descendants tab.