

Page Barrow

Page Barrow was born in Bishop Burton in 1848; he died here in 1927 and is buried in the churchyard of All Saints' Church. His obituary appeared in the Beverley Guardian.



Page never married but was connected to many people in the village. We believe that Page appears in the picture of a group of people waiting to greet the newly-married Gervase and Julia Eyre at the gates of the hall on their return from honeymoon; he appears to the right.



The late Mr Page Barrow.—On Thursday afternoon the remains of the late Mr Page Barrow, one of Bishop Burton's oldest and most respected residents, were laid to rest in the village churchyard. Deceased, who was 79 years of age, died somewhat suddenly on Tuesday morning after only a few days illness. The late Mr Barrow was in his younger days gardener to the Watt family at the Hall. He was a great authority on anything pertaining to the village, and his information was often sought and willingly given on many matters connected with it. He had for practically the whole of his life kept a diary of all village happenings, and therefore could always be relied upon. He was a staunch member of the Baptist Church, a keen politician and a well-read man. For many years he had been a resident of the Hainsby Almshouses, and was a hard worker right up to his death. The funeral service was conducted at the Baptist Church by the Rev. T. W. Hunter, minister at the Lord Roberts Road Baptist Church, Beverley, who also officiated at the graveside. Deceased was a bachelor, and the family mourners were Mr and Mrs C. Hall, Beverley (sister and brother-in-law), Mr and Mrs Vernon (Swinton), Mrs E. Barrow, Mrs J. Barrow, Mr R. Barrow, Mr G. Atkinson, Mrs Drake, Mrs Fidling, Mrs R. Hall and Miss H. Hall (nephews and nieces), Mrs Lonsbrough, Mr and Mrs J. Lonsbrough, Miss Metcalf. Others present included Mrs Burn, Mrs Hayton, Mrs Anthony, Mrs Thompson and Mr J. Hayton (residents in the almshouses), Mr C. Arden, Mr and Mrs Skingle, Mr H. Skingle, Miss E. Skingle, Miss H. Skingle, Mrs Swann, Mrs G. Ellerington, Mrs Huzzard, Mrs M. Curtis, Mrs Botterill, Mrs Williamson, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Johnson, Mrs G. Wilson, Mrs T. Berridge, Mrs T. Wilson, Mrs W. Curtis, Mr and Mrs A. Newlove, Mrs Turner, Mrs S. Duck, Mrs C. Duck, Mrs Batty (Hull). There were many floral tributes. The bearers were Messrs. T. Berridge, J. Curtis, T. Johnson and F. Waslin, and the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr Lance Duck, Bishop Burton.

The notebook

Page was known as the “village historian”. A notebook has survived intact that Page kept between 1908 and 1927; it records many of the deaths and marriages of people that he was related to or knew. It contains 84 pages of entries which refer to over 350 individuals. Among the local people who appear in the notebook are a few notable individuals who Page must have felt merited an entry in his personal record – Empress Eugenie, Florence Nightingale and King George V for example. The notebook does not appear to be the “diary” referred to in Page’s obituary; the diary is missing.

The notebook was initially transcribed by Page’s great-great-great niece Sheila Coy who lives near Grimsby; the original notebook is in the possession of her aunt. Sheila’s grandfather was Albert Fidling who married Bertha Hall; Bertha spent her early years in the village with her parents at the end of the 19th century before moving to Beverley. Bertha’s father was Charles Hall who married Ellen Barrow, Page’s half sister.

The transcription has now been put onto computer and editorial notes have been added by Bryn Jones and Sheila Coy with assistance from Sue Ellerington and John Dunning. It is now published on the Bishop Burton web site where you can search the entries and read the notes.

Who was Page Barrow?

So who was Page Barrow? Well we know that his father, Robert Barrow, was also born and lived the whole of his life in Bishop Burton. The first known contact of the Barrow family with the village was when Page's great-grand-father, Robert Barrow, who was born in Market Weighton in 1740, married Jane Page in 1764; Jane was born in the village and that is where their marriage took place.

Page's father, also called Robert, was born in 1818 and he married Hannah Lonsbrough in Bishop Burton in 1843. They had two children who survived into adulthood: Richard, born in 1844, and Page, born in 1848. Charles was their second son but died at the age of 18 months in 1847. Richard and Page's mother unfortunately died in 1850, two weeks after the birth of their fourth son, Edward; she was aged only 26 leaving Robert to care for three young boys aged 6, 2 and a few weeks.

Robert re-married later in that same year, to Hannah Sanvidge of Beverley. Edward did not survive to his second year but the 1850's saw two additions to the family, Robert Sanvidge Barrow and Ellen Barrow. Both were born in Bishop Burton, in 1856 and 1858 respectively. A further child, Charles William, was born in 1859 but died the following year.

So in the 1861 census, we have three of the four surviving Barrow children living at home in Bishop Burton with both their parents. Robert was now working as a gamekeeper in the village for Richard Watt, owner of the Bishop Burton estate. The eldest son, Richard, now 16, is boarding away from home, a house servant in the household of Rachel Moore in Etton. Rachel did not marry and was the sister of Mary Moore who had been a grocer in Etton.

Robert and Hannah have another son in 1863, William. But then in 1866, Page's father dies at the age of 51; the reason given is "mortification of legs supervening upon dropsy". This probably means that he had infected wounds or ulcers following on from an excess of fluid in the legs. By 1871, Page is living with his widowed step-mother, his half-brothers Robert and William and his half-sister Ellen. Both Page and Robert are working as agricultural labourers, the main occupation of men in the village. Ellen and William are at school in the village.

In 1871, Page's elder brother is married to Sarah Owen, a mariner's daughter from Beverley. He is working as a schoolmaster in Higher Booths, Lancashire and they have two babies.

In the 1881 census returns, Page and his half-brother Robert are living together in the village. Ellen is working as a servant for the Wells family who were farming at the Hull Road Farm, Routh. William is working as a live-in servant for the Hotham family on Glebe Farm in Bainton. Richard and Sarah Barrow have another two

children and Richard is an undergraduate (presumably by correspondence) of Trinity College Dublin while attending the Bolton Mechanics Institute.

By 1891, Page is still living with Robert but is now employed as a gardener on, we believe, the Bishop Burton estate. His mother lives on her own having reached the age of 76, but she dies later that same year. Ellen Barrow marries Charles Hall in the early 1880's; Charles was a shepherd from Market Weighton who in 1881 was working on Ling's Farm.

In 1901, Page is now living with his elderly aunt, Sarah Dinsdale nee Sanvidge; she dies though in 1904. Page's half-brother Robert married Alice Calvert of Beverley in 1898. They are now living in Vicar Lane and have a two year old daughter, Eliza. Page's brother Richard is now a technical law lecturer and a priest in the Church of England having been ordained on retiring from school-teaching.

So in Page's notebook we see a number of references to families to whom he was related. These certainly include the families Barrow, Fidling, Dinsdale, Drake, Hall, Lonsborough, Sanvidge but there may well be others.