



Hibbert Family

Framework knitter William Hibbert (surname spelt with variations including Hibbitt, Hibbott, Hibbet, Heabard) was baptised at Shephed on the 18th January 1801. His parents were Joseph and Ann Heabard.

William had probably moved to the few miles to Thringstone by 1821, when he married Elizabeth Hutchinson at Whitwick church on the 25th February (St Andrews, Thringstone was not built until 1862). The marriage took place with parents' consent, so either William and/or Elizabeth was under the age of 21.

William and Elizabeth had five children: Mary 1821, Charlotte 1826, Samuel 1827, Hannah 1828, Sarah 1831. Elizabeth was buried at Whitwick on the 13th March 1834 aged 31 years (if her age is correct, Elizabeth would have been about 18 when she married).

On the 1st November 1835 widower William married spinster Ann Hutchinson at Whitwick. So far it has not been possible to establish whether Elizabeth and Ann Hutchinson were related. William and Ann had four children: Emma 1837, **Josiah 1841**, Joseph 1845, Ann 1850.

Early Life And John Hutchinson Link

Josiah Hibbert was born in Thringstone. The 6th June 1841 census recorded Josiah as three months old. At the 1851 census the Hibbert family was living in Whitwick. Father William, Ann, Hannah and Emma were framework knitters. Two Hutchinson family entries were on the next page: -

- Jane Hutchinson, unmarried, 36, finisher of hose, son **John Hutchinson (died Califat 1863)**, 10, rope maker, daughter Fanny, 4, scholar, daughter Eliza, 2, at home.

- William Hutchinson (father of unmarried Jane Hutchinson and Josiah's mother Ann Hutchinson) 64 Chelsea pensioner (military service would account for Ann Hutchinson being born in Malta), wife Mary 68, stitcher of hose, two grandchildren and lodgers.

The 1861 census shows Josiah living in Swannington (see below). But Josiah's family was still in Thringstone where William Hibbert 60 was a framework knitter living with wife Ann (nee Hutchinson) 46, son Joseph 16 collier, granddaughter Ann 11 seamster, grandson William 1 and **nephew John Hutchinson (died Califat 1863)** 20, who unusually for the time did not have an occupation.

Marriage To Catherine Stacey 1860

Josiah Hibbert married Catherine Stacey during the last quarter of 1860. Catherine had been born at Bilston / Darlaston in 1840 while her Coleorton born parents, William and Rebecca, were in Staffordshire as her father was working in a coal mine.

At the 7th April 1861 census Josiah and Catherine were living with her family on Station Row (the terrace on the left when ascending Station Hill) Swannington. William Stacey, 53, and his sons William, 18, Thomas, 16, Samuel 13 and Charles, 11, were all coal miners. It is likely that they worked in the Califat mine with Josiah, thereby leading to his meeting Catherine. Josiah and Catherine had a three month old daughter, Mary.

Josiah and Catherine had a Swannington born son, Thomas, at the beginning of 1863.

Califat Flooding 1863

The Loughborough Monitor Thursday 22nd October 1863 reported on the flooding and inquest:

Josiah Hibbert deposed: I am a miner, and have worked in No 2 stall, in that pit about three months. About half-past six on the morning of the accident, Bird came and asked me to go with him to No 8 stall. I did so, and he immediately sent me back to fetch Ward and Lagar. We all went to No 8, when we saw a deal of deal of water coming out of the coal and running down the road.

We all commenced ramming stones under the holing to keep the coal up. This we continued for an hour, but in spite of us, the water came in the faster. We became alarmed, left the stall and came to the bottom of the road, when we met Rose, and he desired us to go back to No 8 stall.

I turned back with Rose and we found Bird, Lagar, and the deceased Clements in the stall, packing stones in the hole. The water was then coming in very fast. Rose and I begin to saw some trees through for the purpose of propping the coals, and I assisted Bird to set two of them.

At this time Pickering and Lewis came into the stall, when Lewis told us to fetch some stone from down the road in a tub, and we did so, and Pickering packed it under the holing, whilst we were doing this Mr. Lewis sent two others to fetch more stone and I packed that also under the holing. A third tub was sent for, and we got it up almost to the way head, when the water broke in over the tops of the sprags with a great rush.

At this time I was across the way head, about a yard to the right from where it burst in. Pickering and his son, Parkinson, and Barnes, were, also in the stall at this time. Rose was down the road, about 15 yards from the lip. I and Pickering started off directly, and he fell, and put out the light. I passed him and Rose in the dark, and saw no one else till I got to the bottom, at which place the water took me up to the chin, and in some parts over head. Pickering overtook me against the bottom, and I and Lagar went up to the surface, and Rose followed afterwards. Mr. Lewis had left about a quarter of an hour before the water had burst in.

Later Life

Josiah and Catherine had more Swannington born children: Sarah Ann 1865, Ann 1869, Rebecca 1871, Charlotte 1875, Harriett 1877. At the 1871 census Josiah was a coal miner, probably living in Jeffcoat's Lane, Swannington. At the 1881 census Josiah was still a coal miner but living in Burton's Lane, Swannington.

Their son Josiah was born in Coalville in 1884, likewise daughter Gertrude in 1885. The 1891 census describes Josiah (senior) as a coal miner living at Whitwick Moor. By 1901 Josiah was a coal miner chargeman living in Main Street, Thringstone.

Catherine died in 1906 and by 1911 Josiah was a retired widower living near The Green, Thringstone, after about 50 years as a miner. He died aged 75 in 1916