

# GEORGE SANDERS

Farm Labourer, Miner, Gardener  
1860 to 1942



# GEORGE SANDERS

## Farm Labourer, Miner, Gardener 1860 to 1942

George was born at Wetmore, Horninglow at the Northern edge of Burton on Trent, on 16th October 1860, almost certainly in what is now the Garage of Wetmore Farmhouse on the bank at the Trent where his father was a Farm Labourer for John Turner over his 104 acres.



George Sanders	Head	38	former Tobacco	Horninglow
Ann Sanders	wife	35	& wife	Irish
Mary Ann	Daughter	7	& Daughter	Horninglow
Martha	Do	6	Schooler	Wetmore
Elizabeth	Do	4	Do	Do
George	Do	2	Daughter	Wetmore
Sarah	Do	2	Daughter	Wetmore
John Turner	Head	58	former of 104 acres	Horninglow
Riduca Keap	Servant	16	Employer 2 servants 1 boy	Do
George Walker	Servant	16	Daughter	Horninglow
Total of Males and Females...			12	12

George was the first son to George and his Irish wife Ann (Nee Hart) who already had four daughters - Mary Ann in 1854, Martha in 1855, Elizabeth in 1857 and Sarah in 1859. I bet he was a spoilt baby, even if these poor Victorian peasants had little time with bearing children almost annually.



CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH  
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953



Registration District Burton upon Trent									
1860 Birth in the Sub-district of Burton on Trent in the Counties of Stafford and Derby									
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
457	Sixteenth October 1860 Wetmore Horninglow	George	Boy	George SANDERS	Ann SANDERS formerly HART	Agricultural Labourer	X The mark of Ann Sanders Mother Wetmore Horninglow	Twentieth November 1860	R.M. Ward  Registrar.

The Parents had met and married at Dalbury Lees 10 miles to the North, on 23rd March 1853 and had Mary Ann at Horninglow, the Sanders' family home, before settling at Wetmore for six years. By 1861 they had moved on, probably back North into Derbyshire, where they had another son, Thomas, at South Wingfield Park, a Manorial Seat, on 2nd August 1867 (and probably at least another 3 children!)

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number PAS 483421/94

1853. Marriage solemnized on 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March in the Church of Dalbury in the County of Derby

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
24	March 25	George Sanders	21	Bachelor	Labourer		George Sanders	Wheelwright
		Ann Hart	21	Spinster	Farmer's Daughter	Dalbury	John Hart	Farmer

Married in the Church of Dalbury according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by me W. R. Cotton by and

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { George Sanders his mark, Ann Hart her mark } in the Presence of us, { Charles Smith Elizabeth Smith } Rector of Dalbury

By 1871 Martha and Elizabeth were in service to different families at Wingfield.

Like his Father, George became a farm labourer, probably hired at hiring fairs as featured in the works of Thomas Hardy. It is said that he would get on his horse and go anywhere for work. (Daughter Violet.)

In 1879 he was working at Heage just North of Belper. The Heage Road to Belper comes in just at the top of Chapel Hollow (now St. John's Road) where his wife was born and brought up. Did he meet her at a Fair or perhaps on a regular Saturday night out in town?



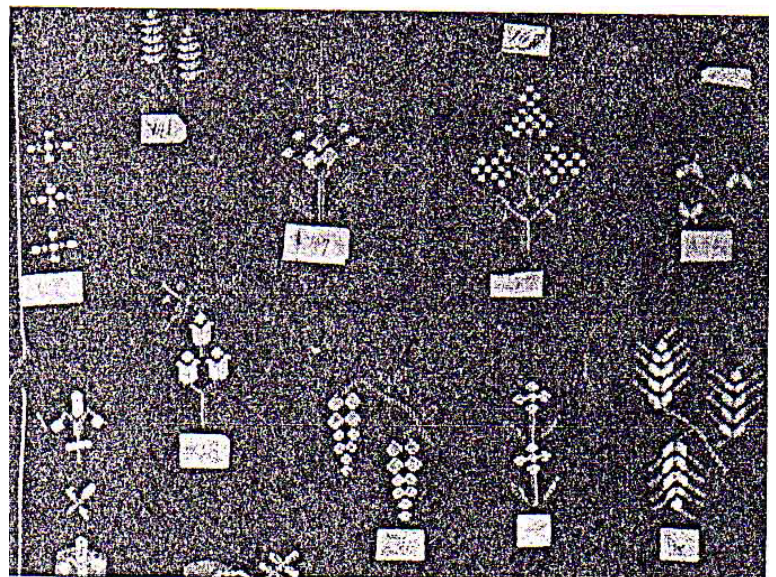


She was Sarah Ann Wass, the illegitimate daughter of Mary Ann Wass and Frederick Tranter. Sarah and Fred were both from typical nailer families of Belper for at least 3 Generations: The children carrying coals and helping the mother work the bellows while the father and sons from 12 years old make the nails. They set up home together immediately after Sarah Ann's birth and had Job -a name given by Sarah to her son in turn. Kate, Frederick Junior and Elizabeth followed in rapid succession before Mary died around 1873

So Fred would administer around 42000 blows **it** took to make 1000 nails, considered a fair day's work! It's no wonder that Belper nailers were also famous for their riotous boozing! The mother and older girls would often take in hosiery on which they would apply embroidery, the favourite pattern being an arrow, or "Chevin" in French, hence the term found on the census of the period "Chevinors".



Belper Nailer Date unknown



SPECIMEN OF COLOURED EMBROIDERY WORKED ON HOSE, 1880





CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH  
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District <b>BELPER</b>									
1862 Birth in the Sub-district of <b>Belper</b>					in the <b>County of Derby</b>				
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of Registrar
159	Twenty-first June 1862 Chapel Hollow Belper	Sarah Ann	Girl	—	Mary Ann WASS	—	Mary Ann Wass Mother Chapel Hollow Belper	Thirtieth June 1862	William Cartrell  Registrar

117	Old Cotton Mill	1	John	do	Son	1	1	Mail maker	Derby Belper
			Frederick	Tranter	Head	Mar	28		do
			Mary Ann	do	Wife	Mar	28		do
			John	do	Son		9		do
			John	do	Son		7		do
			Kate	do	Son		3		do
			Frederick	do	Son		2		do
			Joseph	Mass	Head	Mar	28	Mail Maker	do
118		1	William	Tranter	Head	Mar	28	Sodging House Keeper	do
			John	do	Wife	do	28		do
			Elizabeth	do	Son	Mar	28	Cotton Factory	do

Belper is in the birth place of the industrial Revolution: the Derwent Valley. Indeed mother and daughter were born in a building which was a huge failed horse-powered Cotton Mill; failed because water power was first harnessed to cotton milling only 3 miles down the road. Water Mills spread up and down the Valley and Sarah Ann was almost certainly working in one of these famous mills at Milford where she married George in the Parish Church on 5th October 1879. The witnesses were John Parker and Ann Gaunt. Ann like her friend Sarah Ann was illiterate.



The Old Cotton Mill, Chapel Hollow, Belper, Remaining corner of building which housed Sarah Ann Wass & 100s of others in 1800s



St. John's, Belper. Frederick Tranter & Family lived in the Cottages (Chapel Hollow).

CERTIFIED COPY of an  
Pursuant to the



ENTRY OF MARRIAGE  
Marriage Act 1949

Registration District		Belper						
1879		Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church						
District of		Parish of Milford in the County of Derby						
Columns— No.	When married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence at the time of marriage	Father's name and surname	Rank or prof.
482	October 5th 1879	George Sanders	19	Bachelor	labourer	Heage	George Sanders	Farm Baile
		Sarah Ann Wass	18	Spinster	—	Belper	Frederick Trautner	Naile

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church ☒ after Banns

This marriage was solemnized between us,  
 { George Sanders } in the presence of us, { John Parker }  
 { Sarah Ann Wass X her mark } { Ann Gault X her mark }  
 Thomas Crossland

It is behind this illiteracy that the explanation lies for one of the family mysteries how some of George and Sarah Ann's children were christened Saunders and others Sanders - Sarah Ann registered them and could not read or write - or spell her childrens' names! Legend has it that George's brother, Thomas visited one day from Dove Holes, where he worked on the railway, and told him he was giving all his children the wrong name!

Though she was illiterate it is fair to assume from the surviving statistics that she was not daft! George and she set out to prepare a better life for her children than she had had and, unusually for the period, set about planning her family. How, we shall never know, but over the next nineteen years she had only seven children the last of which died with her in childbirth. Maybe she did have others who did not survive - her husband later claimed "there were twenty one of us around the dinner table!" that leaves three unaccounted for if all children, step-children and both wives are counted! The last five children are evenly spaced over eight years, but the eldest William HERBERT was not conceived until at least 9 months after the marriage and the next surviving child, George, was not born for a further five and a half years on 10th Sept 1887. There was then a 2.5 year gap before John Thomas was born in the year to 10th April 1890.



Milford Parish Church,  
Where George Sanders Married Sarah Ann Wass In 1879.



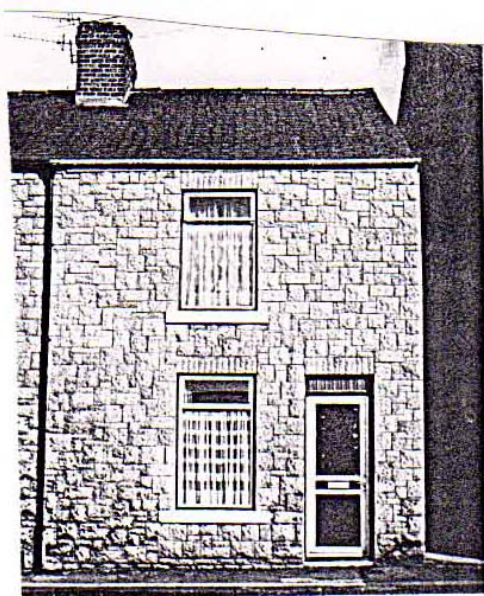
The family were at Shirland for a short time, where Job was born on 5th May 1892 while his father was a Farm Labourer there.

Mary, called "Polly" was next around 1894. At around this time George like millions of others of his generation abandoned the land and went down the pit, possibly at Unstone or Barlow, before settling at 77 Pottery Lane Whittington Moor, Chesterfield, where Margaret was born, and where Thomas probably visited, because Margaret was the first child christened correctly with the Sanders surname!

Sadly, Sarah Ann's plans, if plans they were, backfired, and she died of haemorrhaging after child-birth on 3rd October 1898. Around this time one-in-ten confinements ended in the death of the mother!

Job was six around this time and the only memory he had of his mother was of her laid out with the dead baby on her breast in the Parlour of 76 Pottery Lane (across the road from Margaret's birth-place). Poor Sarah Ann was truly lost to memory -her surviving children and grandchildren did not even know her name!

George, left struggling with his six children, would have needed some help but there is no record of the children going in the Workhouse.



Pottery Lane, Whittington. George's Local in 1890's Sarah Ann Died in house opposite

Registration District <u>CHESTERFIELD</u>								
1898. Death in the Sub-district of <u>Chesterfield</u> in the County of <u>Derby</u>								
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered
469	Third October 1898 76 Pottery Lane Whittington U.D.	Sarah Ann Saunders	Female	36 years	Wife of George Saunders a Coal miner	Labor Post-partum haemorrhage Syncope Certified by A M Palmer M.R.C.S Eng	G. Saunders Widower of deceased In attendance 76 Pottery Lane Whittington	Third October 1898

George remarried around 4 years later, “Molly” Grice whom he always called correctly “Mary”, a widow with four children: Jack, Maud, George and Bill



They probably settled around this time at Poolsbrook Cottages, a square of Architecturally unique houses developed as an trial improvement on “Back-to-back” houses, so that the “boys” could be nearer the work available at the nearby Ireland and Markham Pits.

## Staveley

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company built two estates of houses to attract workers, and they present a startling contrast. The older, Poolsbrook (SK 444735), *was planned in the 1890s. The houses stand in parallel rows and have no gardens around them.*

At Hollingwood Estate (SK 415743) *every house has its garden and the streets were deliberately planned (in the 1920s) to avoid a pattern of uniformity. Many houses in the two estates, however, were supplied with hot water and electricity from the works. Visible.*



**“Sanders” Chapel” Poolsbrook, adopted by George & family after his Conversion.  
They lived opposite**



Was it around the death of his wife that George forsook the "Demon Drink"? It is said that this typical boozier one day walked out on a full pint and never touched another drop. However, it is also said that when he was a Gardener, having had to quit mining because of a heart problem/attack, a huge greenhouse fell down whilst he was inside and he was completely unscathed. He counted it a miracle and in thanking the Lord, was never without his Bible and devoted himself and his family to the service of the Methodist Chapel at Poolsbrook.

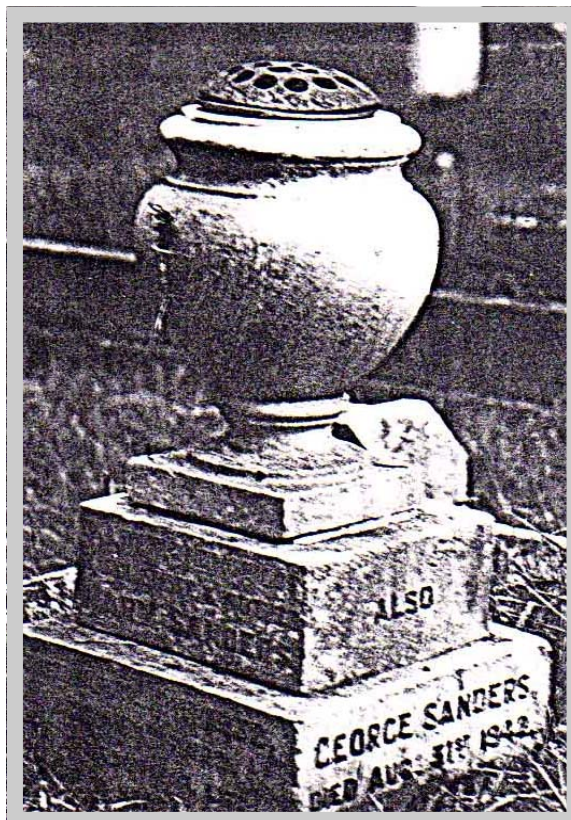
George was a Gardener for, among others, Sir Josiah Courts a Dignitary of Staveley, and possibly on the Duke of Devonshire's Estates in Derbyshire, as well as being a Farm Bailiff for a Doctor Hooper, the only record of whom I can find is of a Doctor Marshall Hooper of Ripley (Nottingham Road) in 1881. Gardening was his (earthly) passion and he was among the many of his generation and since who have tried to develop a black rose. For many years he was chairman of the local Horticultural society.

At Poolsbrook George and Mary had four children: James ARTHUR, (1905), Harman (1907) Frank and Violet (1913).

Mary died in 1932 and Violet kept house for her father then until he died ten years later on 31st August 1942 aged 82. They are buried together with their eldest son Arthur who was killed in the big Markham Main pit Disaster of 1937.

Mr. George Sanders (81), 89 Poolsbrook Cottages, who died on August 31<sup>st</sup> at the home of his daughter, had lived at Poolsbrook about forty years, and had worked at Markham Colliery.

The funeral took place at Staveley Cemetery, following a service at Poolsbrook Bethel Chapel. The mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. H Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. G Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. J Sanders, Mr. J Sanders, Mr. F Sanders, Mrs. E Higgs, Mrs. J. E. Sanders, Mr. C Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. H Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. J Grice, Mr. and Mrs. G Grice, Mr. and Mrs. W Grice, Mr. and Mrs. Chaplin, Mr. H Tulley, Mrs. M. A. Ellis, Mr. W Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. H Hood, Mr. and Mrs. G Bradley, Mrs. M Sanders, Mrs. H Stocks, Mr. O Lee, Cousin Annie, Mr. and Mrs. Bend, Mrs. M Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. T Commons, Mr. and Mrs. H Blackburn, Mrs. L Scott, Mrs. Kirk, Mrs. Hickman, Mr. Bennett, Mr. W Kerry, Mr. S Renshaw, Mr. W Gumb, Mr. W Atkin, Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Lovik. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. Turton. N.A.F.D. Market Street Staveley (Tel. 7135).



1867. Birth in the Sub-district of <u>Ripley</u> in the <u>County of Derby</u>									
Columns:—									
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
354	Second August 1867 South Wingfield Park	Thomas	Boy	George Sanders	Ann Sanders formerly Hart	Farm Labourer	+ The mark of Ann Sanders mother South Wingfield Park	Thirty First August 1867	J Hawkins  Registrar.

George's brother Thomas had married Edith Adeline Repton in a "Shot-Gun" marriage and she was disowned by her more well-to-do family, but he did well on the railway moving via Cheadle Heath to Chinley as a signaller. They had 2 sons and three daughters before Edith died on 22 March 1907.

George's sister Betsy had married Thomas Earnshaw who died and left her with a son and daughter. Thomas and Betsy then set up home together as widowed brother and sister to bring up their 7 children together.

Another sister had married a Herbert Weston of Codnór, while yet another "married well" and moved away!

George is remembered by his grand-children as a gentle religious man with Hands "like shovels", who used to take them to "his" Chapel across from his house, and he always smelt of mints!



**The Sanders Crest & Emblem on Muggington Church,**

The research for this story was given impetus by the story that Betsy's son Thomas Earnshaw (Jnr) had researched his family tree back to Sir Thomas Sanders J.P., MP., buried in a Vault at Muggington church a few miles from Derby in 1695. At the time of writing I have not been able to make the link, though I feel it is possible, but wishful thinking on Cousin Earnshaw's part!

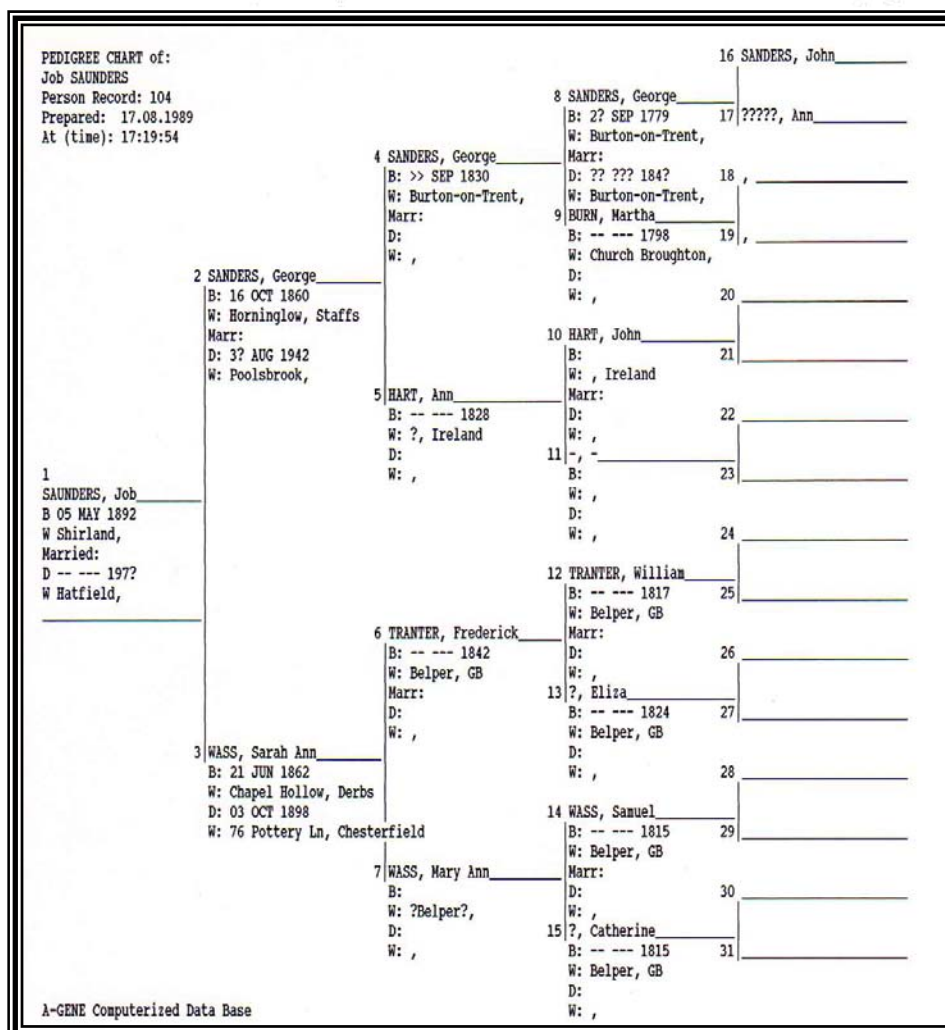


MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Burton-on-Trent  
in the County of Stafford in the Year 1887

George Sanders of this Parish  
and Martha Burn of this Parish  
were married in this Church by Rev. Mr. Williams with Consent of  
this Month Day of  
October in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty Seven  
By me William Williams  
This Marriage was solemnized between us { George Sanders  
Martha Burn }  
In the Presence of { Wm. H. H. H. H.  
Wm. H. H. H. }  
No. 700.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Burton-on-Trent  
in the County of Stafford in the Year 1880

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<u>Sep 12</u> <u>3339</u> <u>No. 951</u>	<u>George</u> <u>of</u>	<u>George</u>	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Stapton</u>	<u>Wm. H. Jones</u>	<u>Wm. H. Jones</u>



George's Grandparents, George Sanders and Martha Burn, married 6th October 1827 at Burton-upon-Trent Parish Church.

George's Father's Baptism record of 12th September 1830, also at Burton Parish Church.

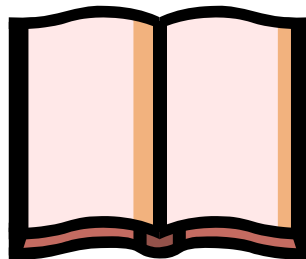
George's Grandparents, George Sanders and Martha Burn, married 6th October 1827 at Burton-upon-Trent Parish Church.

George's Father's Baptism record of 12th September 1830, also at Burton Parish Church.

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I was also motivated to give a name to the lost grandmothers who gave birth to huge dynasties and were promptly forgotten in the teeth of grinding poverty in the Industrial revolution:

Sarah Ann Wass, Mary Ann Wass, Edith Repton, Ann Hart  
May God Rest Their Souls

Kevin Murphy, 1 Lime Grove, Retford, Notts.  
DN 22 7YH (01777 707872)  
25 January 1995