

WILLIAM AUSTIN

In his will, dated 13th December, 1778, William Austin, yeoman of Blakenhall, Wybunbury, Cheshire, names his wife Ann, and the following children:

Jane.

James

Joseph

Thomas

Sarah (baptised Wybunbury, 1742)

William (baptised 1744)

Sarah and William were the only children recorded baptised in the Wybunbury PR. No records of local baptisms have been found of the other children or of William himself.

There is a record in the Wybunbury PR of the baptism, 31 January, 1711, of Mary Austin, the daughter of John Austin of Putney, Surrey. Mary was in the same age group as William, and it is wondered if William was her brother. A William Austin, the son of John and Jane Austin, was baptised 25 December, 1709, Southwark, Surrey. Was this our William – he did name a daughter Jane? A John Austin “at ye Horseshoos, Dutchey Laine, Savoy”, married Jane L” (transcribed as Lowe, but this doesn't seem to be correct), 6 October 1706, London. Were these William's parents? Incidentally, was John a guest or landlord of the Horseshoes?

John must have had some reason to be in Wybunbury, suggesting he might have been born there, but there is no record in the PR of a John Austin of a suitable date.

As only two children of William, Sarah and William, appear in the Wybunbury baptisms, it suggests that William had been elsewhere before those dates. In his will, William names John Bourne, his brother-in-law, as an executor. The Bournes are over the border in Staffordshire, and an Ann Bourne, the daughter of Richard and Jane, was baptised in Burslem, 23 Dec 1711. John Bournes were baptised in Burslem in 1708 and 1710, but to different parents. As William appeared to be married or related to a Bourne he must have been fairly local at the time, but where were the four children baptised, if at all?