

Tentative identification of Ann Westwood's parents

Establishing a range for her date of birth

1. Ann Westwood married Samuel Page on 26 December 1831 at St Mary's Kingswinford, Staffordshire (the Parish Church). She was not noted to be a widow and was described as 'of this parish'. The marriage was by Banns, but the transcription consulted does not show whether it required consent of parents, so she may or may not have been a minor. However, it's unlikely she was younger than 16, giving an upper limit on her date of birth of December 1815, and more likely that she was over 18, giving an upper limit on her birth of December 1813.
2. In the 1841 census (6 Jun 1841), Ann is living with her husband in Brockmoor, Kingswinford, Staffordshire. Her age was given as 25. Ages in the 1841 census were rounded down to the nearest 5 years, so she could have been anywhere between 25 and 29 years old, giving a date of birth of between June 1811 and June 1815. She is shown as being born in Staffordshire.
3. In the 1851 census, Ann is still living with her husband in Brockmoor, Kingswinford. Her age was given as 40, giving a date of birth between Mar 1810 and Mar 1811. Her place of birth was given as Brockmoor or Kingswinford.
4. At her death (22 April 1852) in Kingswinford her age was recorded as 40, giving a date of birth between April 1811 and April 1812.

In summary, the available evidence suggests that she was born between March 1810 and December 1815.

Establishing a place for her birth

Given her parish of marriage (Kingswinford) and residence/death (Kingswinford) and place of birth given in the 1851 census, it seems probable that she was born in Kingswinford/Brockmoor and less possible that it was in one of the surrounding parishes.

According to www.genuki.org.uk, the parishes in question are:

Shropshire

1. Bobbington,

Worcestershire

2. Cradley, 3. Dudley, 4. Lye (see Old Swinford) 5. Old Swinford, 6. Pedmore, 7. Stourbridge,

Staffordshire

8. Bobbington, 9. Brierley Hill, 10. Enville, 11. Himley, 12. Kingswinford, 13. Kinver, 14. Lower Gornal (parish came into being later), 15. Penn, 16. Sedgley, 17. Tipton, 18. Trysull, 19. Wombourne, 20. Woodford Grange (see Trysull and Wombourne).

What church was she baptised within?

Her marriage took place within a Church of England church, but this was the only option available in 1831.

Her husband Samuel was baptised in Brierley Hill. Those of her children whose baptisms are known were also baptised in Parish Churches. Her place of burial is not known.

There are no 'biblical' names among her children.

It seems highly probable that she was NOT a non-conformist, and I should consider Church of England baptisms initially, only consulting non-conformist baptisms if all other possibilities are exhausted.

Sources searched

The following sources were consulted to provide the coverage required. All searches were done on 11 February 2018, for an Ann Westwood baptised 1810-1815. Any Mary Ann Westwood was discounted, as was any Nancy Westwood (there being no evidence that she had ever been known as Nancy).

1. Ancestry.com. England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Original data: England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013.

2. TheGenealogist.co.uk Worcester Parish Register Transcripts, various covering the parishes and dates of interest
3. Parish register transcriptions for Brierley Hill, Kingswinford and Cradley produced by the BMSGH
4. FamilySearch.org
5. Freereg.org.uk

Full coverage was achieved for all the parishes for the period in question except for Penn. However, Penn is one of the furthest of the parishes identified from Kingswinford and so unlikely.

Candidates

All candidates considered are baptised as Ann[e] Westwood (with no middle name). Candidates called Nancy were discounted as there is no evidence she was ever known as Nancy.

Name	D	M	Year	Buried	Baptism Place	Parents	Abode Occupation
Anne	7	Oct	1810	17 July 1811	Brierley Hill	Anne Barmbrook (illegit)	
Anne	28	Jul	1811		Brierley Hill	Edwd. Hanh	
Ann	13	Dec	1812		Brierley Hill	Thomas Sarah	
Ann	15	Oct	1815		Cradley	James Elizabeth	Hay Seech, Rowley Regis Sword Blade Forger
Ann	13	Nov	1811	10 Oct 1880 Lye	Cradley Non-con	Isaac Sarah	
Ann	17	Jun	1810		Kingswinford	John Comfort	Boatman (from baptism of later sibling)

There are no baptisms of any Ann Westwood in Kingswinford in 1831, such as might be expected for an adult baptism prior to marriage.

Tentative identification

When candidates known to have died in infancy, or to have married elsewhere, are eliminated, there are 4 candidates remaining.

1. Anne Westwood baptised 28 July 1811 in Brierley Hill. Parents are Edward and Hannah. No information is available about their abode or occupation.

This candidate would have been 20 if she married in 1831, which is within the expected range. The birthdate also fits well with all other recorded events.

Ann had no children named Edward or Hannah.

Brockmoor is closer to the chapelry of Brierley Hill than to the main parish church in Kingswinford.

2. Ann Westwood baptised 13 December 1812 in Brierley Hill. Parents are Thomas and Sarah. No information is available about their abode or occupation.

This candidate would have been 19 if she married in 1831, which is within the expected range. The date also fits with the 1841 census but not with the 1851 census or her age at death.

Ann had a daughter named Sarah Ann, but no son named Thomas.

Brockmoor is closer to the chapelry of Brierley Hill than to the main parish church in Kingswinford.

3. Ann Westwood baptised 15 October in 1815 in Cradley. Parents are James and Elizabeth. James is a Sword Blade Forger; their abode is Hay Seech, Rowley Regis.

This candidate would only have been 15 or 16 if she married in 1831, and so is discounted. (Additionally, Cradley does not fit with the place of birth reported in the 1851 census, nor does a birth date of circa 1815 fit with an age of 40 in 1851/1852).

4. Ann Westwood baptised 17 Jun 1810 in Kingswinford. Parents are John and Comfort; from a later sibling baptism, John was a boatman.

This candidate would have been 21 if she married in 1831; however, the age doesn't fit with the later censuses.

Ann had no children named John or Comfort.

St Mary's Kingswinford is further from Brockmoor than the chapelry at Brierley Hill.

Candidate 1 seems the best fit: Ann was baptised 28 July 1811 in Brierley Hill; her parents were Edward and Hannah.

However, for the decade 1811-21¹:

- about 67% of births were baptised in the Church of England
- about 10% of births were baptised in non-conformist churches or baptised later in life. About 5-6% of all baptisms were non-conformist baptisms (excluding Quakers).
- about 22% of births were not baptised

so, there is a 1 in 5 chance that she was not baptised at all and her parents cannot be identified via a baptism record.

Therefore, this identification is the best I can make on the evidence available, but it can only be tentative (until supported by DNA evidence?)

¹ *The Population History of England, 1541-1871* by E. A. Wrigley and R. S. Schofield (2010)