

Thomas Grocock Sismey and Sarah Crowson Berridge

Thomas and Sarah were married on the 3rd May 1847; they both 'signed' the wedding register with a cross.

Thomas was born in 1820, the son of Henry Sismey. Sarah was born in 1823 and baptised in St Andrew's, she was the daughter of Charles and Sarah Berridge.

Thomas was a shepherd working for a farmer in the village.



When they were first married we can see from the census of 1851 that they lived with Sarah's mother, also called Sarah, and that is where their first child Henry was born; he was baptised on Christmas day 1849.

Parish or Rectory of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House		Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Lame
						Male	Female		
39		James Joyce	Head	Widower	52	/		Southamptonshire Colchester	
		Sarah Berridge	Wife	Widow	30	/	Shepherd	Colchester	
		Thos Sismey	Son	Widow	27	/	at home	Colchester	
		Henry Sismey	Grandson		1			Colchester	

We know from census returns that Thomas and Sarah went on to have six more children: Henry, Alice, Emma, Harriet, Hannah and Thomas. They did have another child, also called Thomas, who was baptised on the 23 February 1859 but he died and was buried on the 2nd March that same year.

BURIALS in the Parish of _____				
in the County of _____			in the Year 18__	
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Joseph Chapman No. 192	Applebeck	1859 Jan: 28 th	73.	St. Watson Vicar
Thomas Sismey No. 193	Applebeck	March 2	84	St. Watson Vicar

At the time of the 1861 census it seems most likely that they were living in one of the three cottages at Appletree Cottages.

This photograph was taken in 1976 but it gives us an idea of what the cottages were like in the Sismey's time:



Each cottage had one room upstairs and one room downstairs so it must have been quite cramped for two adults and six children. They were still living there twenty years later according to the census of 1881.

In the late 1970s Appletree Cottages were converted into just one beautiful cottage similar to the house we see today.



Thomas and Sarah are both buried in St Andrew's alongside other relatives. Thomas died on the 30th September 1886 aged 66 and Sarah was buried on the 2 April 1898 aged 74.

