

# The Badhams of Begelly

by Rachel Boyd

My GGG-Grandfather George Badham was born about 1780 in the area of Begelly, Pembrokeshire. No record of his birth, baptism or parentage has been found to date, which is quite frustrating.

We know of several Badhams who were important personages in the area of St. Issells, Saundersfoot and Begelly in the mid to late 1700s, such as William Badham of *Ridgeway Farm* who was allowed to vote, and Thomas Baddam, yeoman of (East) Williamston who appeared in the Land Tax records from 1786 on, that is, holding *Oats Hays* from Mrs. Barlow for 8 d. in 1786-1811, but did not qualify to vote according to the Poll Book for 1768. Earlier there were Richard, Henry and John who lost their lives in mining accidents in 1766; Henry, a collier buried 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 1800, and old collier John Badam buried 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 1805. But no records found to date tie any of them to George.

The primary information we have of George is his marriage on 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1803 at Begelly Church: George Baddam (bachelor) to Elizabeth Morgan (spinster) both of the parish. Elizabeth was born in Amroth, about 1877 according to the 1851 census.

( The Year 1803 )		Page
No 145	George Baddam	of this Parish
Bachelor	and Elizabeth Morgan of this Parish - Spinster	were
Married in this Church by Banns		
this seventh Day of May in the Year One Thousand eight		
Hundred and Three By me Thos. S. I. Thomas, Rect		
This Marriage was solemnized between Us		
The mark of X George Badham		
The mark of X Elizabeth Morgan		
In the Presence of	John Jones	
	Susan Marshall	

## Transcript of George's marriage at Begelly Church, in 1803

Actually, it was a double wedding, as John Baddam (bachelor of parish) wed Ann Sanders (spinster) the same day, and at the same church. It is assumed therefore (not proved) that George and John were brothers. No gravestones have been found for either of them, but their wives were widows at the first official census of 1841.

John is mentioned in one other place: He is one of the three lives nominated on a lease that Ann's father, David, signs with the Picton Estate in 1806 for land in Thomas Chapel. The lease says that John was 23 years old at the time so he was born approx. 1783. [Source: National Library of Wales. Picton Castle Collection, No. 1016]

George is mentioned in Land Tax records: In 1816 and 1826 house in Wooden, owner proprietor W<sup>m</sup>. Williams, Esq., occupier George Badham, amount of tax 8 d. In 1831 (the last year that LT returns were generally available for Pembrokeshire) house in Wooden, owner proprietor Carew, Esq., occupier Elizabeth Badham, amount of tax 8 d. My source suggests that rent of 8 d. would cover a cottage and 3-4 acres of land at that time.

Further mention of George Badham: received money (usually small sums like £3 or £4) from Tenby and Begelly Coal Co. in 1825-6 (Pembrokeshire County Record Office, ref. HDX/951). These ledgers do not say what task he did, for which he received the money. Our assumption is that he was a contractor as other known colliers, such as Thomas Nash, Thomas Allen and William Waters, who also received similar amounts. George's name does not appear in the later ledgers so this might suggest that he died sometime around the late 1820s.

So George died between 1825 and 1831, and Elizabeth died, I think, the 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. of 1860, in Wooden.

Both George and John had their children baptised. These records also indicate that both men were colliers.

I will only follow George's offspring in this story.

These are the children of George and Elizabeth:

**Mary**, baptised 04 Sep 1803, St. Issells Church, Saundersfoot

**Ann**, baptised 10 Dec 1805, St. Issells Church, Saundersfoot

[no further record of these two, so presumably they died or were married prior to the 1841 census]

**Amelia**, baptised 21 Feb 1808, St. Issells Church – burial 10 Aug 1808

**George**, baptised 07 May 1809, St. Issells Church – d. 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. 1867, *Newton Croft*, East Williamston

**WILLIAM**, baptised 10 Nov 1811, St. Issells Church – burial 08 Jun 1868, Temple Bar

**Henry**, baptised 24 Apr 1814, St. Issells Church – burial 10 May 1829 age 15

**John**, baptised 23 Feb 1817, St. Issells Church – burial 03 April 1866, *Shipping*, Begelly

**Thomas**, baptised 13 Jun 1819, St. Issells Church – died 04 Aug 1875, Wooden, Begelly

**Elizabeth**, baptised 26 Aug 1821, Begelly Church – m. John Hilling 11 Jul 1840 – d. 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 1895 St. Issells (Saundersfoot)

**Richard**, baptised 13 Mar 1828, Begelly Church (however born abt. 1825-6 per census) – d. 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. 1901 age 75, *Oats Hays*, East Williamston

## The Second Generation

William Badham (bapt. 1811) was my GG-Grandfather. He was educated, in a time and place when education was not easy to obtain, and meant he could read and write and do his sums. He learned to write with a pleasing script, and was purportedly the scribe of Begelly church documents for a number of years, and a census taker in 1841.

He earned a living as a collier. Like his father, he worked various mines in the Begelly area, and the family appears to have moved from one location in the district to another, probably to be close to whichever mine was currently being worked.

This is a good time to explain that the names of the locations are different farms, not towns. Even when the place is designated as a village or hamlet, it is no more than a few cottages grouped across the field from another such group. Almost every field had a mine-shaft, many still there today, so although they are not now being worked, the terrain is considered unstable for buildings or roads, and therefore remains quite rural of nature.

Every mile or so there is another church. The churches with the most influence were those that were attended by the local landowners. The Vickermans of Hean Castle, Saundersfoot, attended St. Issells church, and the Childs of Begelly House attended Begelly church. The vicar of Begelly church, The Rev. Richard Buckby, (born in Ireland), acquired his position by marrying Mary Tomasina Allen Philipps, daughter of Charles Allen Philipps, a relative of Lord Milford, who owned most of the county. Although appointed to the living in 1839, Buckby didn't move to Begelly until 1841, or so, when a large rectory had been built specifically for him. He quickly became a J. P. and elected Guardian for Williamston for the Narberth Poor Union and, judging from the Poor Law correspondence, pulled strings to ensure relief for some of the local Begelly poor. But other evidence of his perceived need for status and recognition is from one of W. R. Morgan's books: "when Buckby drove through the village he required the locals to bow their heads as he passed by!"

Other locations such as Wooden, Temple Bar, East Williamston, Vatson Moor, and Beaoning, may have had their own churches, but were still considered to be in either Begelly or St. Issells parishes – or in some censuses they might have been in both at the same time!



### Begelly Church

At the age of 22, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834, William married Esther (Hester)

William Badham and Esther Davis were married in this Church by Banns this Eighteenth Day of March in the Year one thousand eight hundred and Thirty four By me David I Thomas, Rector	of this Parish Bachelor of this Parish Spinster
This Marriage was solemnized between us	William Badham The mark of X Esther Davis
In the Presence of No. 143.	George Thomas John Jones Ann Pitney Thomas

### Transcript of William's marriage, in 1834

Davies age 19, spinster of the parish of Begelly, and two months later their first child was born.

William was buried 8<sup>th</sup> Jun 1868, Temple Bar. Esther died 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1902, in Wooden.

Monument inscription:

\* \* \*

*In memory of William Badham of  
Temple Bar in this hamlet,  
who departed this life June 5<sup>th</sup> 1868  
aged 57 years.  
And as it is appointed unto men  
once to die,  
but after this the judgement*

\* \* \*

The children of William and Esther are:

**Elizabeth**, baptised Begelly 25 May 1834 (father employed at Hutt Masterland mine) – m. William Thomas 07 Nov 1854 – d. before 1871?

**Thomas**, baptised Begelly 15 Mar 1836 (father a collier at Bush mine) – m. Ann James 11 Oct 1856, at St. Johns Church, Pembroke Dock – burial 16 Apr 1866, Begelly

**Catherine**, baptised Begelly 03 Dec 1837 (father a collier at Beaconing) – m. Evan Roblin 04 Nov 1858 Begelly – d. 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 1903 Pembroke Dock

**William**, b. 1840 Temple Bar, baptised Begelly 19 Jul 1841 (father collier Temple Bar) – burial 06 Aug 1844

**Mary**, baptised 25 Dec 1842, Begelly – burial 11 Oct 1843

**GEORGE**, b. 6 Aug 1844 at Wooden, baptised 22 Aug 1844 Begelly church – m. Selina Parcell 08 Mar 1866, Begelly church – d. 04 Mar 1888, at Wooden, East Williamston

**Hester**, b. Aug 1847 at Wooden, baptised 08 Aug 1847, Begelly church – m. John Rees 10 Oct 1867, in Begelly – d. 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. 1875, age 27, Begelly

**John**, baptised 23 Dec 1849, in Begelly church – burial 24 Oct 1860 at Temple Bar, Begelly \*\*

**Mary**, b. abt. 1852 Begelly (no baptism record found)

**William**, baptised 30 Jul 1854, Begelly (father collier Temple Bar) – m. Charlotte

**James**, b. 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 1880, at Pembroke Dock – d. 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. 1900 at Tenby, Pembroke

Note: All but one of the children died under the age of 45.

\*\* See account of mine disaster below.

### The Third Generation

George Badham (b. 1844) was my G-Grandfather.

In 1861, at the age of 16, he was a coal miner, living at Beaconing, less than a mile as the crow flies from Moreton Colliery. In October 1860 he was in that mine, with his 10-year-old brother John, and cousins and friends, when there was an explosion of the gases known as fire damp. John died.

A newspaper account follows:

### Tenby Observer

25<sup>th</sup> October 1860

Moreton Colliery: {Wooden} A shocking explosion of fire-damp occurred here on Saturday morning last, at 7 o'clock which it is supposed, was occasioned by one of the miners using a naked light or a defective lamp, in going to work in one of the pits, about 20 fathoms deep. Nothing certain however is known. Benjamin John was killed on the spot, Thomas Griffiths (over 70 years of age) George Badham, David Morgan, Benjamin Morgan, Stephen Holland, David Holland, David James, Thomas Morgan, John Badham, W Morris, Thomas Morris, William John, John Richards and Thomas Richards were all very badly burnt. T. Griffiths and one of the Badhams have since died. Several of the others are in a very precarious state, and are very poor having not even beds to lie on. G. Chater Esq. has not only gratuitously attended the injured but commenced a subscription for the benefit of the sufferers.

My Grandfather said that his father was unable to go in a mine again, so the 1861

census indicating that he was a collier may have been "on the books." Subsequently my Great Grandfather trained and worked as a blacksmith, his shop and house was in the field near the mine head of Moreton Colliery. He wouldn't let



**George and Selina's Graves**

any of his children work in the mines either.

Ironically he died young anyway of meningitis, in 1888 at the age of 44. Selina died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1908, in Wooden.

George's sister Hester was married to John Rees, his good friend. They lived with George and his wife Selina. John was a collier. After Hester died at age 27, three of John's four children died within 10 years. John Rees was shown as the informant for the death of his brother-in-law George.

George Badham bachelor age 22, married Selina Parcell spinster, age 22, on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 1866.

Their first child was born three months later.

These are George and Selina's children who were all born at the smithy by Moreton Colliery in Wooden:

**Sarah**, baptised 15 July 1867, in Begelly; at age 14 she was house servant for the Fagg family in Tenby, about five miles from Wooden; at 24 she lived and worked at North Cliff Dairy in Tenby St. Mary; in 1891 she married Harry Withers, a young baker from Much Cowarne, Hef. They had a long, happy marriage, residing above the *Pâtisserie* (or bakery) in Tenby with their seven living children.

**Elizabeth** (Bessie) baptised 04 Oct 1868, Begelly; at age 22 she was housemaid

and nanny for Matilda Mason's Lodging House, 6 Belle Vue Ave, Tenby. In 1896 she married Abraham Griffiths, mariner, and they had at least one child, a daughter, Ethel, famous in the family for her hat creations. We have no further information on Elizabeth.

**Hester** baptised 21 Aug 1870, in Begelly. One census notes she was lame. She lived with her widowed mother in Wood-en. After her mother died, a relative found her a position as a live-in companion to an elderly woman in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex. Hester never married, and died in Shoreham and was buried 31 August 1945.

**Mary**, baptised 24 Nov 1872, in Begelly. Her nickname was Polly. I have no further information. She may have died before 1891.

**William**, baptised 05 Nov 1875; in 1891 at age 16, and after his father's death, he was an ironmonger's apprentice. Clearly the idea was that he could take over his father's smithy. This didn't suit him, and the family story was that he ran away to sea, and was never heard from again. However I located him in the 1901 census, living with his first cousin John Thomas, at 16 Llewellyn St., Llangeinor, Mid-Glamorgan, and his occupation was - yes - a coal hewer. No further information.

**Annie**, baptised 27 April 1878, in Begelly;

at age 12 she was a servant at North Cliff Dairy, Tenby. At 22, in 1901, she was a housemaid at Stormers Hill House, Tottington, Lancs. No further information.

**GEORGE** (my grandfather) born 19 Apr 1881 (no baptism record found, but I have a copy of his birth certificate). At age 10 he was hired as a signal boy by the railroad. This meant that he was responsible for climbing up the pole at the railroad crossing across the field from the smithy, and putting the signal up when a train was coming, and down again after it passed. A few years later he was promoted to baggage handler, continuing his education at "night school" (classes which were set up to help wage-earning boys over the age of 14 to better themselves).



**George, William, and one of their sisters, ca. 1890**

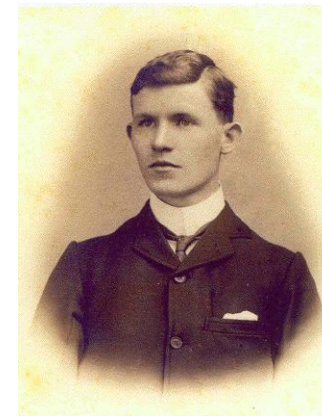
**Selina** "Lena" baptised 02 Sep 1883, in Begelly. She lived with her mother, then with her sister Hester in Shoreham. She

never married, and died in Shoreham. She was buried 15 Mar 1945.

## The Fourth generation

George Badham (b. 1881) was my Grandfather.

By 1901 George had left Wooden, and was working at his Great Western Railway (GWR) job in Milford Haven, going home on Thursday afternoon on his



half-holiday, to give his mother most of his  
**George Badham, c. 1900**



**and Mary Emily Austin Reynolds, c. 1900**

paypacket. His mother was blind by this time, and the two sisters left at home with her were reliant on these wages, as they only had dressmaking and child-care service to support themselves. While in Milford Haven, George joined the choir at the Wesleyan Chapel, where he met a

young lady by the name of Mary Reynolds. She was the daughter of Thomas Powis Reynolds, architect of Haverfordwest. Mary and her five sisters had left home when their father remarried, initially staying with her aunt Louise. For the rest of her life she harboured a resentment towards step-mothers. Mary earned a teacher's certificate, and at an early age supported herself and her youngest sister, in Milford Haven. Despite the fact that she had to work for a living, she never forgot that she was brought up to be a lady. She never left the house without her hat.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1906 George and Mary were married, residing in Penally Road, Tenby. Ten months later their first son was born (no hanky-panky for Grandma).



George remained employed with the GWR until his retirement, about ten years in Tenby, then in Carmarthen during WW1, followed by New Castle Emlyn, where he was station master (abt. 1924).

He was then transferred to Milford Haven, as manager of the Docks Office. A small apartment in Milford Haven came with the job, but Mary and the children were not

happy there. The family soon rented a house in Hakin, which allowed them a small garden, and they often visited George's sisters Sarah and Bessie in Tenby, and Mary's sisters who mostly still lived in Haverfordwest.

When George retired he bought the house that his sisters Hester and Selina had by now inherited in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, living with them and providing them with security for the remainder of their days. After he suffered several strokes in the early 50's, the house was sold, and he and Mary moved back to Wales, to be near to their son Norman. George died on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1955 in Swansea Hospital. Mary then lived with her son until her death on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1969.

## The Fifth Generation

These are George and Mary's children:

George **Norman** Badham, b. 1 Sep 1907 in Tenby; – m. abt. March 1942 to Elizabeth Jarvis, b. 15 Nov 1914 in Neath, Glamorgan – d. in Tenby 04 May, 2002

**Marjorie** Badham, b. 26 Sep 1909 in Tenby; – m. abt. June 1940 at Swindon, Wilts., to Sydney Hindley, b. abt. Dec 1905 Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. – d. 12 Aug 2000, in Nonington, Kent

**Frank** Lionel Badham, b. Sep 1914, Tenby; -d. 1915 as an infant.

**AUDREY** Badham, b. 03 Sep 1918 in

Carmarthen; – m. 1) abt. 1940 to James H. Williams of Pwllheli, N. Wales who died 1942 during WW2 – m. 2) 17 Aug 1958 to Joseph Bush of Ely, England, b. 09 Sep 1922, who d. 19 Aug 2002 – Audrey d. 15 July 2003 in Robertsbridge, East Sussex

**Norman,  
Marjorie,  
and Audrey  
Badham,  
with a cousin  
at Tenby ca. 1922**



**G. Norman Badham** (b.1907) was my uncle. As a boy he attended Greenhill School in Tenby, residing with his aunt Sarah and uncle Harry Withers. As a schoolboy he decided to become a



vegetarian, after witnessing conditions at the local slaughter house. He was the first of the family to go to University, and served in the RAF. Like his father, he was

employed his whole career with Great Western Railways, mostly in the Freight

terminal in Swansea. For several years he and his wife Betty lived in Mumbles, then bought a house in Bishopston, Gower where they lived until his retirement. They had two daughters.

After retiring Norman and Betty moved to Tenby. Norman learned to drive, taught himself to play the piano, and took up golf. The Tenby Golf Course sponsored the Norman Badham annual tournament – for men over 70 years of age. Even when he was no longer able to play himself, he'd go there regularly for the vegetarian dinner the chef prepared to his taste.

After Betty died he continued to live by himself, until shortly before his death at age 94.

**Marjorie Badham** (b. 1909) was my aunt. She attended Cambridge, and made many friends who agreed with her pacifist beliefs. She



and her husband Sydney Hindley joined a gathering of like-minded people who were living a Christian way of life in the Cotswolds at that time. As

they had a number of German members, they were ordered to disband by the authorities (WW2). Rather than do so, they all emigrated to South America, where they were welcomed by some Mennonites who had carved out an existence in the jungles of Paraguay. However the conditions were so severe that many became ill, and many babies died, including Marjorie's first born son, Samuel. After a few years the Hindleys returned to England, where they had four children. However Sydney never recovered fully from a sickness contracted in Paraguay, and he died in 1951, in Shropshire, England. Marjorie and her children remained in the Christian way of life, living either in England or the USA. She died at the age of 91.

**Audrey Badham** (b. 1918) was my mother. She was a very creative, artistic person, initially training in fashion design. Like her sister she came to loath wars, as she experienced the horrors that neighbours endured when she was just a child. After her first husband (my father) was killed during WW2, she returned to live with her parents in Shoreham for a year, doing student-teaching in the elementary school there. She decided to pursue this occupation, taking advantage of a post-war government teacher accreditation program, and did this in Bristol. While enrolled in college there, she did most of the costumes and props for the

plays that were performed, just for fun.



Soon after finishing her student teaching internship in Bristol schools, she joined her sister in Shropshire, and was subsequently transferred to their community remaining in Paraguay, much better conditions prevailing now, where she continued to teach elementary school. She remarried and had three more children. They moved first to the USA in 1961, then back to England in 1994. Although she did not pursue her profession actively after marriage, she often involved herself with her children's school activities, especially encouraging art, theatre, music, reading and writing programs. She died at the age of 84, one year after her beloved Joe.