Some Research on the early Bakers.

Since I prepared the Narrative family tree that we printed for the family reunion In 2004 organised by Anthony Baker there have been many opportunities to correct and add items, in particular, photographs and my thanks to all those who have contributed from across the world.

Also with the help of the Census records now available on the internet and in our case the good fortune that the Nottinghamshire Family History Society (NFHS) have transcribed the 1841 and 1851 Censuses and also the parish records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the whole of Nottinghamshire which are downloadable from them for a small fee at www.nottsflhs.org.uk there has been a lot of material available.

As ages are recorded in each Census it is fairly easy to trace people from one Census to the next and the parish records have been an enormous help in showing baptisms and marriages and in the case of baptisms the address and in the later records the date of birth and the Occupation of the father are also given.

From these sources one has been able to trace many of John Baker's ancestors and relations in more detail and this has led to a revision of the early family tree which now has some variations to the earlier version taken from the "Steelbakers" record, in particular the elder brother of John I and the father of Mary Ann the first wife of John Baker seems to have been a William Baker as I hope the narrative below shows.

The text below needs to be read in conjunction with the revised narrative family tree that I have prepared. Where the attached narrative tree shows details of marriages, baptisms and burials these are taken from the NFHS transcripts and I only mention them again in the history below where further explanation is required.

Starting with the 1841 Census we find a William Baker aged 34 living at Mount East Street, Nottingham with his wife Mary.. He is listed as a Cordwainer (Shoemaker) so it is likely he carried on his father's business whilst John 1 became a framesmith.

I have named this William as William 2 and as we shall see below he is the elder brother of John I Baker and the mother of Mary Ann who married her cousin John 2 Baker.. The family as listed in the revised narrative tree are George aged 10, John aged 8, Eliza aged 6, William aged 5, Elizabeth aged 2 and James aged 2 months..

In the 1851 Census William 2 is now living at 56, York Street aged 43 (the different age is caused by a change in the census dates be a discrepancy or a change of Census dates) and with the same children but with a new wife Ann aged 42 and the addition of Mary Ann aged 7. George now 20 is listed as a "Railway Clerk" (more of his history later) John now 18 is also a Cordwainer, Eliza now 16 is a Hose Mender, Elizabeth is shown in this Census as "Betsey" (an important confirmation that she is the missionary, more of her history

later) now aged 12 and a Scholar as is Mary Ann. Both William 3 and James are missing presumably deceased.

From the marriage records I have guessed that the new wife is Ann Turton married to a William Baker on 22"[d]. March 1845 at Nottingham St. Paul and therefore all the children are by his first wife but this is subject to further confirmation if it can be found

I decided to look in my list of "Baker" burials from NFHS and there in the transcriptions of the parish registers are two burials at Nottingham St. Mary with the address as Mount East Street. On 10/10/1843 Jane Baker aged 2 and 12 days later William Baker aged 7.

These must be the children above in given the exact match of their address and ages with the 1841 census and Jane must be a transcription error for James. I have kept the name as James because in the census record of 1841 he is shown as a son..

Going back to the 1841 census we find John 1 Baker living at Denton Street with his wife Harriet (nee Wragg) NFHS records their marriage at Radford on 26 Jan. 1833

They had four children Thomas,, Edward (born May 1838 buried June 1838), Lydia, and John.

They are not recorded in the 1851 NFHS transcripts since whilst the 1841 transcripts are for Nottinghamshire the 1851 are for Nottingham only.

We now need to look at Waudby. There is no record in the 1841 census and in the 1851 census they are down as Wanby (in those day when you look at an actual record an "N" was written like a "U")

The 1851 census lists only eight "Waudbys" all the same family and transcribed as "Wanby"

William H. Waudby, a plasterer born in Grantham and his wife Elizabeth born in Radford are living at 78, Chancery Court, Broad Marsh with their six children, William H., John, Harriet, George, Charles, and Henry. In the marriage records for Nottingham St. Matthew we have the marriage of William Henry Waudby and Eliza Baker on 6`". March 1859

II have not found them yet in the 1861 Census since I only have the Internet search available and have not yet got the NFHS transcripts which may show them, but in the 1871 Census Eliza Waudby aged 36 shown as a wife and married and listed as a plasterer's wife lives at 16, York Street with her children William H. aged 11 and Anne E aged 8 both listed as scholars. William H. the husband is obviously away from home.

The fourth member of the household is John W. Baker aged 2, born in Preston and listed as "Nephew" which is clearly John W. Baker and makes Eliza Waudby John Baker's sister.

Then living next door at 18, York Street we have William Baker aged 63, a widower and listed as a Cordwainer born in Nottingham., together with his daughter Elizabeth aged 32 unmarried and a Lacemaker born in Nottingham.

Then in the 1881 Census William H. Waudby now aged 45 is back at home living with his wife Eliza aged 46 at 9, Plantaganent Street with their son William H. now 25 who is a joiner. Also now living with them are William Baker aged 73 listed as "Wife's father" and as a "Bootmaker" (retired)" together with Elizabeth Baker aged 42 listed as "Sister" who is a "Pattern Woman (Lace)" This is the final connection making this William 2 Baker of the 1841 Census the elder brother of John 1 and the father of Mary Ann, John Baker's first wife whose marriage to John Baker is recorded at Nottingham St. Matthew on Boxing Day 1864.

Finally in the 1891 Census William H. still a plasterer and Eliza are living at ? Pym Street together with their daughter Annie E now 28 unmarried and a schoolmistress together with two boarders.

It is worth following up in this note some of the other children who have been mentioned.

If we look at Elizabeth (Betsey) Baker she was living with her father William unmarried in the 1881 Census. He was then 73 and is not found in a later Census. In the "Remembrance" of Elizabeth Baker which has survived with Marilyn Brown in Canada she died in 1920 after 31 years as a missionary in British Guiana. 31 years takes us back to 1889 and I believe that having looked after her father as she was doing in 1871 after he died is when she became a missionary.

Then George Baker the eldest son of William 2 who we see as a Railway Clerk in the 1851 Census his marriage to Elizabeth Wood is recorded on 13 March 1856 at Nottingham St. Mary.

They had 10 children all of whom had survived to the 1871 Census. I have determined his wife to be Elizabeth Wood from the marriage records because one of her children is named Thomas Wood even though that puts he marriage to George after the birth of their first child. George is still a Railway Clerk in the 1871 Census although in the baptism records of the children (all of which we have except Elizabeth) he is down as a bookkeeper. In this Census he is living a 1, Plantaganent Street not far from

However when we come to the 1881 Census he has become a Railway Agent and is living at 4, Plantagenet Street not far from the Waudby's and his sister Eliza. Surely this must be the George Baker - Midland Railway goods agent mentioned in "Steelbakers"

There is George's sister Lydia who married a Stainthorpe.. This is an unusual name and the search of the 1901 Census which has by far the best search engine brings up only one

Lydia Stainthorpe born in Nottingham City aged 60. She is a widow and down as "Head" and her occupation is "Lodging" Her address is 207, Meadow Hall Road, Sheffield and in addition to her grand daughter Lydia Wainwright aged 11 she has living with he two boarders one of whom is named Algernon C. Watson – Age 26 - "Foreman cycle trade" born in Aldridge Staffs which is where Frederick Mackman Watson also happened to be born.

I managed to find her in the 1881 Census aged 40 with her husband Issac as "Head" aged 44 living at 25, Ardmore Street in Attercliffe cum Darnall with their children William and Martha aged 14 and 12. Issac is down as "Furnaceman" and William is a "Forge Boy". A variance from the prosperous farmer in "Steelbakers" but I think it is that Lydia.

After writing this I decided to look in the 1881 Census for Algernon Watson and this is who I found living a t Beech Tree House, Aldridge.

Frederick Watson, Head of family, married aged 45, Boarding and Day School Master, born Works, Wansford
Rebecca Watson wife ,46 born Holbeach Lincs
F. Mackman Watson, son, 13, unmarried Scholar Born Aldridge Staffs.
Kate Hilary Watson dau. 10, Scholar born Aldridge Staffs
Elsie Anne Watson dau, 8 Scholar born Aldridge Staffs.
Algernon Chas. Watson, son, 6, Scholar born Aldridge Staffs
Harold George Watson, son, 2, born Aldridge, Staffs.

Together with a governess, 13 pupils and a cook

Proof I think that this is same Algernon C. Watson as the ages agree and that this Lydia Stainthorpe is John Baker's sister Lydia and that he must have been still in touch with her considering that Mackman Watson married Ellen Baker in 1904

Thomas, John Baker's elder brother is found in Conisborough in the 1881 Census and in Kimberworth in the 1891 Census. His wife is Alice was born in Notts and they have in 1881 nine children, John 20, William 17, Harriet 15, Annie 12, Lydia 9, Sarah 8 Charlotte 5, Martha 4,and Mary 2. Whilst Thomas is listed as General Labourer John is a "Moulder railway wheel maker" so it is likely they were employed by brother John. The first seven children were born in Manchester and the two youngest in Conisborough.

Pauline McNaught-Davis, nee Cook, (Aunt Siss's granddaughter) in South Africa has researched the Wragg's whose daughter Harriet married John 1 on 26`". January 1833 at Radford back a generation to her parents George and Isobel Wragg.

She has also traced Martha Ellen Gouldthorpe's ancestors back to Robert Mirfin born circa 1767 in Yorkshire= a collier His son Matthew Mirfin was born c. 1797 at Moorhouse Yorks, and married Sarah Unknown Born c.. 1777 at Eckington Derbyshire (Yes she was 20 years older than Matthew) Matthew was haft presser. Ann Mirfin their elder child, born

1825 married Henry Gouldthorpe born Sheffield 1826, in Sheffield Parish Church on 8th.October 1849

Henry and Ann had several children the second child Martha Ellen was born at Eccelleshall Bierlow on 16th. March 1855.

I have failed completely to trace the Annie Waudby with whom Henry stayed in Nottingham as a child. The Anne Waudy daughter of Eliza can be traced a schoolmistress until the 1901 Census when she was a head teacher at Greasboro and in any case was not a Baker who could marry a Waudby.

The Anne daughter of George who might be the one also disappears. I must contact David Baker to see whether there are any clues form the tool chest he has.

Similarly I have been unable to trace the original Boot and Shoe maker William, although from the list of marriages and the timing I have guessed his wife' surname. I am awaiting some trade directories that might help and as yet the Nottingham General Cemetery records have to be transcribed by the NHFS. But are due any time.

So there is plenty of work Still to do and I shall be so pleased to hear from anybody else who has been following up our family history.

Quite apart from the history we need to keep up to date. Are there any new arrivals not recorded and does anyone want to change their photograph or can they let me have one if one is not there?

Many thanks.

Roger Baker
Newcastle September 2006.