

Hard Times for Those Times ...

The story of Rachel and Barney Bullard

Rachel and Barney Bullard's story, pieced together by their grandson Vic Bullard, makes tough reading. They were probably not untypical of a poor rural family in the 1800s but nevertheless it's hard not to feel desperately sorry for them as the facts emerge.



This is a précis of what Vic discovered about his family:

“Barney Bullard my great grandfather was born in Tattingsstone in 1845, one of ten children and like most young men in the area Barney was an agricultural labourer for most of his life. In April 1866 Barney married Rachel Moutell at Tattingsstone, she was seventeen and he was twenty. In total they had sixteen children, ten of whom died before their parents. I can account for thirteen of the children the other three must have died very young as they are not mentioned on any census.

Of those thirteen, in 1885 a baby girl died aged sixteen months and then two years later another baby girl died age eight months and if that wasn't bad enough in 1889 tragedy hit the family in a major way because within the space of a few weeks four of their children died age twelve, eleven, nine and four all from diphtheria. Written on their burial certificate is “Tattingsstone Union House” which of course is the Workhouse. So it's a fair assumption that all the deceased children died there and goodness knows how many children in the Workhouse succumbed to this disease.

By 1891 all the children younger than my grandfather had died and all his older siblings had left home but Barney and Rachel had another baby, a little girl, their sixteenth child – they certainly never gave up easily, did they?

Acknowledgement and thanks to Vic Bullard for the information and the photos.

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The photograph of Barney is obviously when he is older and he looks a bit worn out as you would with what he has had to endure over the past years.

As you can see from her photograph Rachel was a formidable looking woman, she certainly had a very stressful life, she died seventeen years before her husband of heart disease on 24th December 1914 at Tattlingstone – yes, on Christmas Eve.

Barney died of old age on the 14th March 1931 at a place called Tattlingstone House he was aged eighty five. So Barney too died in the Workhouse."

Vic Bullard

Jane Kirk
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BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Tattlingstone</u> in the County of <u>Wilt</u> in the Year 18 <u>88</u> 1889				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
No. 561. <i>Isaac Hart Valler</i>	<i>Tattlingstone</i>	<i>August 15</i>	<i>60 8¹¹</i>	<i>W. H. Lane - Ritch</i>
No. 562. <i>Benjamin Gudertan</i>	<i>Tattlingstone Union House</i>	<i>September 9</i>	<i>64 8¹¹</i>	<i>E. Jones Parish Steeple</i>
No. 563. <i>Frederic Pinner</i>	<i>Tattlingstone</i>	<i>Dec: 23</i>	<i>15 7¹¹</i>	<i>J. W. Sims</i>
No. 564. <i>Edith Tyrell</i>	<i>Tattlingstone</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>	<i>Infant</i>	<i>J. W. Sims</i>
1889 No. 565. <i>Elizabeth Bullard</i>	<i>Tattlingstone</i>	<i>Aug 13 1889</i>	<i>12 7¹¹</i>	<i>J. W. Sims offic Minister</i>
No. 566. <i>Harriet Bullard</i>	<i>Tattlingstone Union House</i>	<i>Aug 22</i>	<i>11 7¹¹</i>	<i>J. W. Sims offic Minister</i>
No. 567. <i>Edith Bullard</i>	<i>Tattlingstone Union House</i>	<i>Aug 30</i>	<i>4 7¹¹</i>	<i>J. W. Sims offic Minister</i>
No. 568. <i>William Bullard</i>	<i>Tattlingstone Union House</i>	<i>Sept 1</i>	<i>9 8¹¹</i>	<i>W. H. Lane</i>

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