

Thomas Firmin 1824 – 1896 Blacksmith at Bulmer Tye



Thomas was born in 1824, and baptised here in Bulmer. His parents were Peter and Sarah.

In 1847, Thomas married Mary Ann Deborah English in Bulmer.

Thomas was a blacksmith in Bulmer Tye and is listed in the 1848 Whites Directory of Essex

In 1852 Thomas and Mary Ann Deborah had their only child, Deborah, who died in Halstead in 1941.

Basil Slaughter noted the following from the Parish Minute Book

1861 Piece of land near the turnpike called The Milestone Piece now held as an allotment be occupied by Mr Burke as a yearly tenant, he giving in exchange for the time being the same number of rods in the field called Two Acres near the Haven Ground and held by Mr Firmin, Blacksmith.

Thomas continued as a blacksmith and by 1881 was employing three men.

In March 5th 1890 he advertised in The Suffolk Free Press:

A quantity of good horse shoes made from old shoes, the best of coals, to be sold in cwt's of 112 lbs at 16s for cash. Apply to Thomas Firmin, blacksmith of Bulmer Tye.

In 1891 Thomas was a Master Blacksmith. His lodger William Kendell and his neighbour, James Carter, were also blacksmiths. Blacksmith Lane, Bulmer Tye is South West of the Bulmer Fox.

Thomas outlived his wife and died in 1896

On their headstone here in the churchyard it states:

***In loving memory of Mary Ann Deborah, the
beloved wife of Thomas Firmin who died July 8th
1889 aged 67 years.***

***A light is from our household gone
a voice we loved is still
a place is vacant at our hearth
which never can be filled
Affection weeps but faith forbids the tears.***

***Also of Thomas Firmin
who died January 25th 1896
Aged 72 years***