

Thomas Hold (1842-1902)

Brief biography

Thomas was one of the 9 children of the artist Abel Hold and his wife Sarah. He was born in Barnsley and was the eldest of the seven children who survived into adulthood. The family moved to Cawthorne village, about 4 miles from Barnsley, around 1852. In November 1871 he married Susannah Midgley, the daughter of a Cawthorne farmer.

Their first child, Abel, was born in Cawthorne but around this time they moved to live on Westgate in Barnsley town centre. Their other children were born in Barnsley. The family moved from the town centre to 2 West Road in the Pogmoor area of Barnsley and Tom died there in early January 1902. He was survived by his wife Susannah.

Tom followed in his father's footsteps as an artist, initially describing himself as an artist, carver and gilder. His uncle Amos Hold had been a skilled wood carver and gilder who displayed his work in the Royal Exhibition of 1851. Later Tom was listed as a still life and landscape painter. He painted mainly in oils and his output was prolific. His subjects were the country landscape and its creatures. Some are shown in their natural habitat and other as the game killed by shooting parties. His work appears regularly in auctions sales. Some of his paintings can be seen in the Cawthorne Victoria Jubilee Museum.

He seems to have influenced his children as two of them, Mary Florence and Eveline Josephine, became art students. His son Hubert Henry followed the original trade of his grandfather, Abel Hold, and became a house painter.

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