

**CHARLIE MARSON THE COLEORTON MASTER
NAILMAKER (b.1816 Macclesfield – d.1902
Coleorton) AND HIS FAMILY**



Charlie Marson's old Nail Shop and Forge building in "The Woolroms"

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - 2019

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THERE FOLLOWS A GENEALOGY STUDY OF CHARLIE MARSON AND HIS TWO WIVES JANE HEAMES AND HANNAH BARKBY, TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN

IN THE 1841/51/61 CENSUS, A JAMES MARSON WAS MAKING NAILS IN GELSMOOR, AND IS LISTED AS EMPLOYING TWO MEN AT ONE STAGE. HE IS LIVING WITH HIS SECOND WIFE MARY, HIS FIRST WIFE SARAH BEING BURIED IN GRIFFYDAM CEMETERY. THE 1851 CENSUS SHOWS THAT THEY HAVE A SON, CO-INCIDENTALLY NAMED CHARLES MARSON, LIVING WITH THEM. HE IS ALSO LISTED AS A NAIL MAKER. FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, NO PROVEN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE MARSONS AND THE COLEORTON NAIL MAKER CHARLIE MARSON CAN BE FOUND.

Charles Marson (known as Charlie) was born in 1816 in Macclesfield, Cheshire. He was christened on 14th April 1816 in St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield and his mother Sarah Marson was recorded as being a spinster. He became a Master Nailmaker in Coleorton c.1840.

Nothing more is known about Charlie until his marriage to his first wife Jane Heames (born in Coleorton in 1820) on the 24th of December 1839 at St. John's Church, Whitwick. *It is entered on the marriage certificate that he was a nail maker.* It is interesting to note that although his mother Sarah was recorded as being a spinster when Charles was born, a Henry Marson was given as Charlie's father on the marriage certificate, which suggests he could have been an uncle. He was recorded as being a "Silk Worker", which was a major industry in Macclesfield, so it is likely he came from there. His mother Sarah does not appear on the marriage certificate, so presumably she had died by then.

In the 1841 census, Charlie was listed at the age of 25 as being a "nailer" in "Rotten Row", which at that time was part of Thringstone Parish, but often thought of as being in Coleorton.

The 1851 Coleorton Moor census lists Charlie (34) as living with his first wife Jane (31) and four daughters Sarah (10), Harriet (7), Eliza (5) and Mahler (3)

The 1861 Coleorton Moor census only lists Sarah, Harriet and Mahalar, so presumably Eliza had died.

Charlie's first wife Jane died in Coleorton in June 1865 at the age of 45, and was buried in Coleorton on June 8th.

The 1871 census for Moor Town records Charlie as living with his new wife Hannah Barkby (seamstress) together with two daughters, Clara (4) - presumably born out of wedlock, and Jane (1). Charlie married Hannah Barkby, on 1st March 1869 in Coleorton. She was the daughter of John Barkby and Hannah Smallwood, and was born on 31st July 1844 in Thringstone. She was twenty eight years younger than Charlie! Henry Marson is again recorded as Charlie's father. On various census records, Hannah was listed as being born in Derby for some reason, but that was not true.

In the 1881 census for The Moor, Charlie and Hannah had five daughters living with them - Jane (11), Joanna (9), Alice (7), Ada (2) and Louisa Selina (7 Months). Ada was the author's maternal Grandmother. Also living with them is Sarah Pemberton (widow), who was a daughter from Charlie's first marriage to Jane Heames. In the 1891 census for Moor Town, only Ada and Louisa Selina are living with them. The census records suggest it was sometime between 1881 and 1891, that the family moved to the thatched cottage in Stoney Lane, almost opposite the entrance to the Woolrooms.

Charlie was 64 when he fathered his youngest daughter Louisa Selina and is recorded as fathering ten daughters and one son named Charles, who only lived for one month.

Charlie sadly died on 10th April 1902 at the age of 86. He died of Senility and Spasm of the Glottis and was registered by his wife Hannah as dying in the Woolrooms. We know that he didn't live in the Woolrooms, so it is likely that he had gone off to his old nail shop and passed away there.

Ada Marson (Charlie's daughter), was born 1878 in Coleorton and she married Samuel Stewart on the 6th of Aug 1898 in Coleorton, probably at the old Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel, but we cannot be sure. Samuel was born on the 16th of May 1879 in Newbold and died on the 5th of July 1955 in Coleorton, Ada died on the 3rd May 1960. Sam and Ada had four children, all born in Pottery Row, Coleorton (across the road from The Ferrers in Lount. They were Samuel Marson Stewart who was born on the 1st of January 1899 and died on the 9th of March 1969 and his three sisters Annie, Ada and Clarrie Rose. Sam and Ada are buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel non-conformist graveyard.

Samuel Marson Stewart married Agnes Bird from Peggs Green on the 2nd Aug 1924 at Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel. Agnes was born on the 22nd of June 1901 in Anchor Lane, Peggs Green and died on the 31st of Jan 1983. They had three children, Betty, Greta and Samuel Trevor the author of this book.

Page 179.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of *Parochial Chapel of Macclesfield*
in the County of _____ in the Year 18*16*

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <i>16</i> . April 14	George son of	Silvans Mary	Binworth	Maccles.	Wm. Spier.	Rev. H. H. H. H.
No. 1425.						
14	Charles son of	Sarah	Marson	do	Spinster	do
No. 1426.						
14	Eliza. D. of	Henry Eliza	Wham	do	Coal dealer	do
No. 1427.						
14	Charles son of	Sarah Ann	Hill	do	Baker	do
No. 1428.						
14	John son of	John Allen				

Charles Marson's Christening Record at the Parochial Chapel of Macclesfield

1839. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Whitby in the County of Leicestershire

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
73	December 21	James Ratchiffe	full age	Bachelor	a Farmer	Long Lane	Thomas Ratchiffe	a Farmer
		Jane Rose	full age	Spinster		Long Lane	John Rose	free

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Ratchiffe in the Presence of us, William B. Peckham & Joseph Wright
Jane Rose

1839. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Whitby in the County of Leicestershire

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
74	December 24	Charles Marson	full age	Bachelor	Mail Maker	Thringstone	Henry Marson	Mail Maker
		Jane Heames	Minor	Spinster		Thringstone		

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Marson in the Presence of us, James Hall
Jane Heames

139	December 24 th	James Peters	full age	Bachelor	Spa Manufacturer	Coleorton	James Peters	
		Eve Gough	full age	Spinster		Thringstone	Edward Gough	Butcher

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Peters in the Presence of us, William B. Peckham
Eve Gough

1869. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Coleorton in the County of Leicestershire

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
140	March 1 st	Charles Marson	full age	widower	hatter	Coleorton	Henry Marson	
		Hannah Barkby	full age	Spinster		Coleorton	John Barkby	

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Marson in the Presence of us, William B. Peckham
Hannah Barkby

Charles Marson's Marriage Certificates to Jane Heames and Hannah Barkby

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 744329

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	Ashby-de-la-Zouch
1902 DEATH in the Sub-district of Whitwick	in the County of Leicester

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

109.	Tenth April 1902, Wool Rooms 600 Learton R.D.	Charles Marson	Male	86 years	Nail maker (Master)	Senility Spasm of Glottis Certified by John L. Bunden M.D.	H. Marson Widow of deceased Present at the death Wool Rooms Learton	Tenth April 1902	Jacob Newbury Registrar
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 26th day of May 2005

DYA 690161

See note overleaf

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DTJ

036563 9199 0405 SPSL 010695

Charlie Marson's death certificate – died 10th April in the Woolrooms

Charlie and Hannah Marson, with their daughters Ada and Louisa Selina, moved from elsewhere in Coleorton, to live at the thatched cottage in Stoney Lane, which they named "Marsons Cottage". Prior to this, and following his marriage to Jane Heames in 1839, Charlie lived, and made nails in various places in Coleorton, including Rotten Row, but their exact locations are not known. By 1901, Charlie and Hannah are listed as living on their own at the thatched cottage, which still exists today. The cottage would not have changed a great deal from the following photograph taken in 1950, except that much earlier photographs show it to be in a general state of disrepair, but that would have been typical of all the cottages at that time. ***This is the only thatched cottage which still exists in Coleorton and is now a grade II listed building.***



"Marsons Cottage" / "Ivy Cottage", Stoney Lane, Coleorton as it looked in 1950, prior to major alterations being carried out. It was sold in 1960 for £875.

Charlie Marson and his second wife Hannah (maternal Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother of the author) lived there in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The author's paternal grandfather, Samuel Stewart, who is in the photograph, and his wife Ada (nee. Marson) lived there from the early 1900's till 1960 when Ada passed away. Sam and Ada re-named the cottage "Ivy Cottage" after they moved there.

The cottage is Grade II listed as a 17th century timber frame cottage, however, it has been suggested that it was probably originally constructed in the late 16th century, based on the timber corner posts sitting on shaped sandstone pads, which was common at that time. The pads and corner posts are still in evidence. The ground floor would have been used to house the animals in the winter, and which would have given the benefit also of provided warmth for the family living above, an early form of central heating.

This cottage was not thought to have been owned by the Beaumonts' as it did not form part of the Beaumont sale in 1920, so it had clearly been purchased privately by Charlie Marson.



Hannah Marson, second wife of Charlie Marson and great grandmother of the author, outside “Marson’s Cottage”



An older photograph of the cottage demonstrates the poor standard of thatching compared to the photograph taken in 1950. The writers grandmother Ada Stewart (nee Marson) is on the left. Following an accident at pit Sam repaired bikes in the workshop at the side of the cottage. The cycle in the background is having the inner tube checked for a puncture. He was also local secretary of the Recobites.

Whilst living in "Marson's Cottage", Charlie operated a nail shop and forge in the Woolrooms, where he actually died whilst manufacturing his hand made nails.. These would have been typical of the types made.....Railing, Clout, Singletens, Lath, Round, Gate, Double tens, Brags, Clasp, Pailing and Slate.



Charlie's nail shop and forge in the Woolrooms in 1988. This has now been preserved by the current owner of the property on which it stands

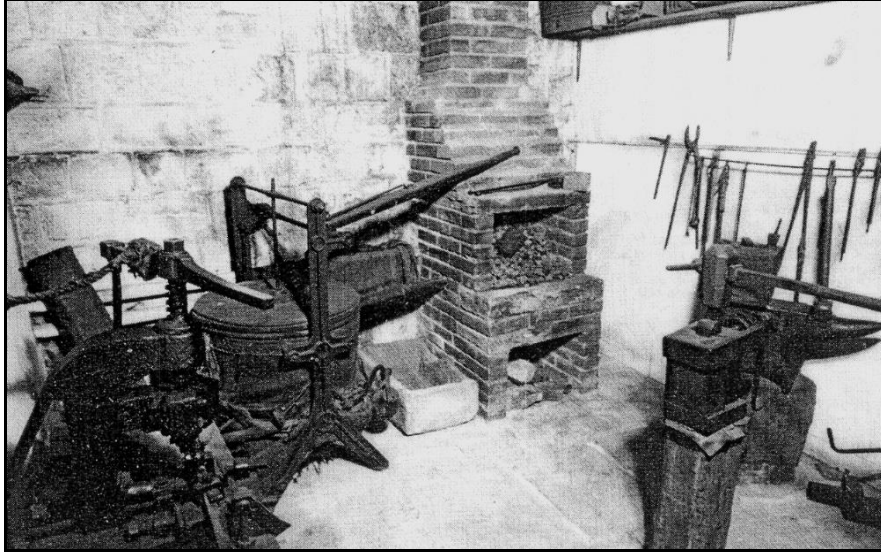
John Crocker, a local historian carried out research c.1988, and identified high levels of iron oxides in and around the nail shop, confirming that this is where Charlie made his nails. This is typical of nail shops at that time, and the former cowshed, was situated on land opposite the cottages where Margaret and Thomas Lord lived c.1900 and described in a separate publication on "The Woolrooms".

At this time, nails would have been produced one at a time, and this is confirmed in an old newspaper article by Mr William Stacey of Gelsmoor, where he stated that Charlie Marson in the Woolrooms, made boot nails and larger nails for farmers and carpenters, and when he could, he persuaded the local youngsters to operate the forge bellows for him.



An example of a rusted handmade nail, of the type that would probably have been made by Charlie Marson

In the beams of what was Benson's old cottage in the Woolrooms (Worthington Parish) there are a number of hand made nails hammered into a beam which are impossible to remove. The beam has almost turned to stone over the years. These were most likely made by Charlie Marson, as he had his nail shop close by.



A photograph of a reconstructed 19th century nail shop at Abbey House Museum, Leeds. This contains a forge, bellows for the forge, a cooling trough, oliver, anvil and tools and was probably quite typical of Charlie's nail shop.

THE NAILMAKING PROCESS

At the time Charlie was making his nails, they would have been produced one at a time and this is confirmed in an old newspaper article by Mr. William Stacey of Gelsmoor, where he stated that Charlie made boot nails and larger nails for farmers and carpenters, and when he could, he persuaded the local youngsters to operate the forge bellows for him. In the larger towns and cities, the nail makers were controlled by nail masters, and the nail maker had to sell his nails to a middle man / agent called a "Fogger". Charlie, being a one man band, appears to have sold his nails directly to the end user, and being a remote country cottage industry, he was probably better placed and protected, than if he had worked in the large towns and cities. Automatic cut nail machines were introduced c.1810 and factories grew up around them which of course the domestic nail maker could not compete with. The hand making of nails lingered on into the 20th century, mainly associated with the making of boots and shoes by hand, for cobblers' preferred handmade nails for the soles. By the 1920's, the centuries-old craft had gone. There were many boot makers in and around Coleorton, and no doubt Charlie was a supplier to these.

The nailer would place three or four iron rods into the fire. When a rod was sufficiently heated, he began forging the sides and end into a point on a small nailer's block. The pointed end was then cut off to the required length (measured by a gauge) by being placed upon a fixed chisel called a hardy. It was then inserted into a bore, point down. The bore was made to fit the thicker part of the nail, and was countersunk to form a mould for the nail head. A few blows with the hammer formed the head and a spring called a "whimsy" was touched with the hammer to release the finished nail. This process continued until the rod was exhausted. The celerity with which this process is effected almost surpassed belief. It is recorded, that one nailer undertook to make seventeen thousand large nails in a week for two consecutive weeks, a task which he successfully completed.

A domestic nailer could make at least four nails a minute or over 250 an hour. In the towns, women were expected to produce as many nails as men, though of smaller sizes. Children were allowed 3 months to learn the trade, and were then expected to make a thousand nails a day. They were often cruelly treated, by their parents rather than by anyone else, and only the coming of compulsory education after 1870 rescued them.

Unfortunately there are no known pictures available of Charlie, however, he was described as being small in stature, and wore a top hat to accentuate his height. His grand daughter, Clarrie Stewart, said that he used to disappear in his pony and trap from time to time with the profits from his nail making business and squander these on ale, only to return when he had run out of money. This is quite a common story about the old hand made nail makers as they were working in continual high temperatures for long hours in their small nail shops, with little ventilation. It was also recorded in an old newspaper article by William Stacey of Gelsmoor, that *Charlie was known to bury his money in a tin box in the garden because he did not trust banks*. Charlie also had a brick workshop with tiled roof on the side of the thatched cottage where he also made nails, this can be seen in the earlier photograph of the cottage at the rear of the wooden workshop.

The cottage is listed as a 17th century timber frame cottage, however, it has been suggested that it was probably originally constructed in the late 16th century, based on the timber corner posts sitting on shaped sandstone pads, which was common at that time. The pads and corner posts are still in evidence. The ground floor would have been used to house the animals in the winter, and which would have given the benefit also of provided warmth for the family living above, an early form of central heating.

CHARLIE MARSON'S LETTERS TO HIS DAUGHTER ADA AND HIS WIFE HANNAH IN 1893

We know that by 1893, Charlie and Hannah's daughter Ada aged 15 and grandmother of the writer of this study, was house maid to the Stewart family at their farm in Lount, opposite Coleorton Pottery. She eventually married Samuel Stewart (the writer's grandfather) and they raised four children in Pottery Row.

The following letters, well written in copper plate style at the age of 77, suggests Charlie was reasonably well educated. The first letter was written to his daughter aged 15 whilst she was in service at the Stewart's Farm in Lount. The reference to "the man on the pale horse" must have scared her to death, particularly if she knew its meaning. It is taken from the book of revelations chapter V1 verse eight, and refers to he that sat on the horse as "death", with "hell" following him!!

Charlie must have been quite a prolific writer, as the letter to his wife is titled number twelve. Before Hannah became a registered mid-wife, she used to practice as the local nurse and midwife, spending a lot of time away from home tending to pregnant women and those who were sick. In the following letter he sent to Hannah, she was clearly staying somewhere in the Coalville district at that time.

Coleorton May 7 1893
Dear Ada it is your birth
day to morrow i hope you
will live to see it and be
in good health 15 years old
your mother tells me i hope
you are living for that home
where you will be happy for
ever remember though you are
young you are not to young to
die the man on the pale horse
He is taking his rounds and
He is taking young and old
and the saviour says what i
say unto one i say unto all
Watch for me know not
the hour when the son of man
cometh Let us have our
Lamps trimmed ready when
the whole room

Come when he may Let us
be ready to enter in to the
Marriage supper of the Lam
I hope you often through
up a silent prayer to God
if it is but a few words if
it is from the heart the
Lord will hear it ask God
For his guidance through
the day to keep you from
sin and to keep your mind
in a heavinly frame and the
Lame at night never go to
bed without asking God to
Watch over you through the
Night be kind and merciful
to your afflicted missis be
purtial in all your actions
Let no mallice enter your
Breast make no friendship
with bad company

Pages 1 & 2 of Charlie's four page letter to his daughter Ada on her fifteenth birthday – May 1893 whilst she was in service at the Stewart's farm in Lount

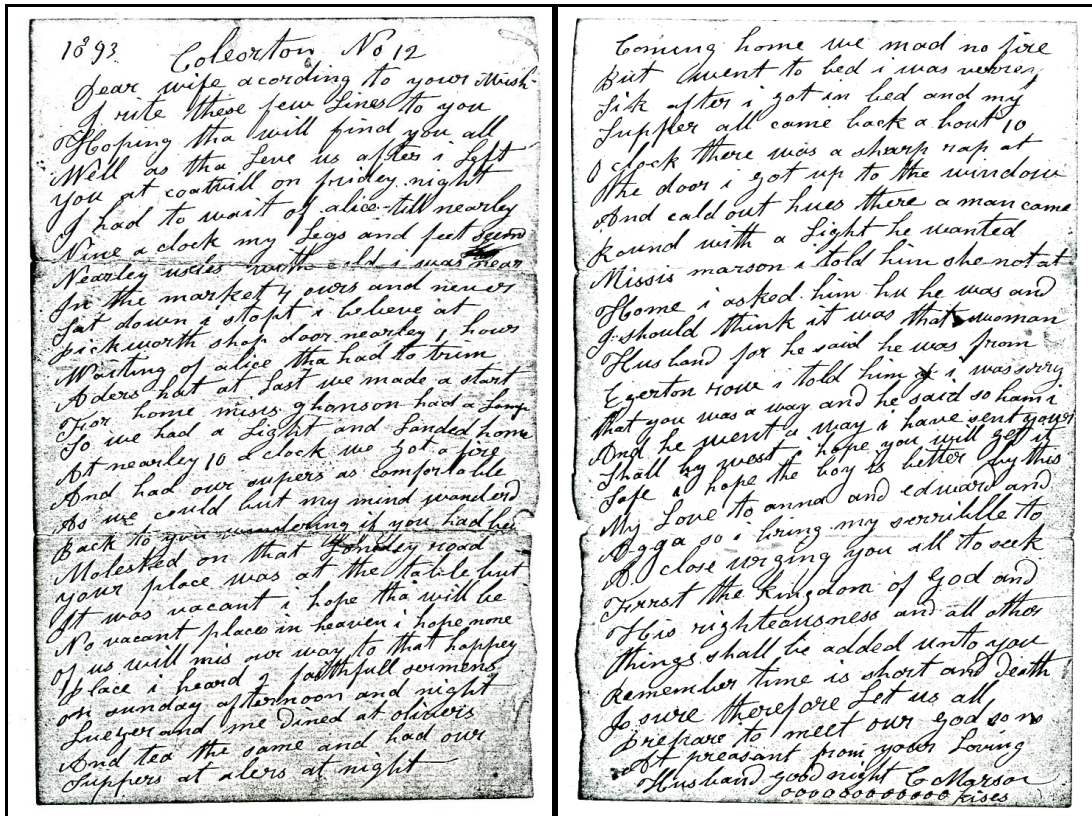
Attend the means of grace
 As often as you can be spared
 Get all the information you
 Can from the word of God
 It will lead you in the
 Way From Heaven it will be
 your compass through this
 World of sin and sorrow
 High to the heavenly canan
 Commit all your ways to the
 Lord and he will direct your
 Steps now dear ader I hope you
 Will take the counsell I have
 Given you asking God to give
 you his holey spirit to enable
 you to Live a holey Life and
 to be a beacon high where
 ever you may be calld that
 you have been with Jesus and
 Learnt of him this is the desire
 of your father heart

Now a Little Domeslick news
 your sister and oliver and
 Mahaler and Lueaser are gone
 to practising for the sermons
 Next Sunday but one in the
 Weslean chapel grifedam
 We are expecting some Grand
 singing if your missis can spare
 you we shall be glad to see you
 at that time your mother is
 verey busey ironing so she has
 Told me nothing to put in
 So I must draw my scribe
 To a close I have verey
 Buisey in my gardin it has
 Been a heavey gole to me this
 year but I ham thanckfull
 To say I have nearly got
 through it so I conclude with
 All our Love to you father
 mother brother and sisters good night

A Direct Translation

Dear Ada it is your birth Day to morrow I hope you Will live to see it and be In good health 15 years old your mother tells me I hope you are Living for that home Where you will be happy for Ever remember though you are young you are not to young to Die the man on the pale horse He is taking his rounds and He is taking young and old And the saiver says what I say unto one I say unto all Watch for we no not the hour when the son of man cometh Let us have our Lamps trimmed ready when the bridegroom Come when hemay let us Be ready to enter in to the Marrage supper of the lam I hope you often through Up a silent prayer to God If it is but a few words If it is from the heart the Lord will heare it ask God for his guidance through the day to keep you from Sin and to keep your mind In an hevenley frame and the same at knight never go to Bed without asking God to Watch over you through the Night be kind and afecsthone To your afflicted missis be puntial in all your actions Let no malice enter your Breast make no frendship with bad company Attend the means of grace As often as you can be spard get all the information you can from the word of God It will lead you in the Way From heaven it will be your compass through this World of sin and sorrow high to the heavenly canan Commit all your ways to the Lord and he will direct your Steps now dear ader I hope you Will take the counsell I have given you asking God to give to you his holey spirit to enable you to live a holey life and to be a beacon high where ever you may be calld that you have been with gesus and Learnt of him this is the desire of your father heart Now a Little Oomeslick news your sister and oliver and Mahaler and Lueaser are gone to practising for the sermons Next Sunday but one in the Weslean chapel grifedam We are expecting some Grand singing if your missis can spare you we shall be glad to see you at that time your mother is verey busey ironing so she has Told me nothing to put in So I must draw my scribe To a close I have verey Buisey in my gardin it has Been a heavey gole to me this year but I ham thanfull To say I have nearly got through it so I conclude with All our love to you father mother brother and sisters good night

The following letter No 12 was sent to his wife Hannah. She was known to act as the local area nurse / midwife and was often away from home, which was the case in this instance when she was in the Coalville locality. It is interesting to note that he signed himself off as C Marson !



Direct Translation

Dear wife according to your wish I write these few lines to you hoping this will find you all Well as tha leve us after I left you at coalvill on Friday night I had to wait of alice till nearly Nine a clock my legs and feet seem Nearly useless with cold I was near In the market 4 ours and never sat down I stopt I believe at pick worth shop door nearly 1 hour Waiting of alice tha had to trim Aders hat at last we made a start For home miss ghonson had a lamp so we had a Light and landed home At nearly 10 a clock we got a fire And had our supers as comfortable As we could but my mind wanderd Back to you wondering if you had been molested on that Loneley road your place was at the table but it was vacant I hope tha will be No vacant places in heaven I hope none of us will mis our way to that happy place I heard of at faithfull sermons on Sunday afternoon and night Luezer and me Dined at olivers And tea the same and had our suppers at aders at night coming home we mad no fire But went to bed I was verrey sick after I got in bed and my Supper all came back a bout 10 o clock there was a sharp rap at the door I got up to the window And cald out hues there a man came Round with a Light he wanted Missis marson I told him she not at Home I asked him hu he was and I should think it was that woman Husband for he said he was from Egerton hous I told him I was sorry that you was away and he said so ham I And he went a way I have sent your shall by west I hope you will get it Safe I hope the boy is better by this My love to anna and Edward and Agga so I bring my scribble to A close urging you all to seek First the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you Remember time is short and Death Is sure therefore let us all prepare to meet our God soon At preasant from your Loving Husband good night C Marson oooooooooooooo kisses.

These letters paint a wonderful picture of what life was like at this time, and were treasured by his granddaughter Clarrie Stewart who kept them till she died.

THE SAD DEATH OF CHARLIE MARSON

Charlie Marson died on 10th April 1902 at the age of 86. He died of Senility and Spasm of the Glottis and was registered by Hannah as dying in the Woolrooms. We know he didn't live in the Woolrooms, so it is likely that he had gone off to his old nail shop and passed away there.

HANNAH MARSON – OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS A MID-WIFE IN 1904

Hannah, Charlie's second wife, became a registered mid-wife in 1904 and below is a copy of the "CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD" certificate awarded to her. She had practiced as a non qualified mid-wife / nurse around the district for many years prior to this.

