

# Monsieur Gabriel Tintillier – 19<sup>th</sup> century resident of Church Terrace, Baslow

Ann Hall

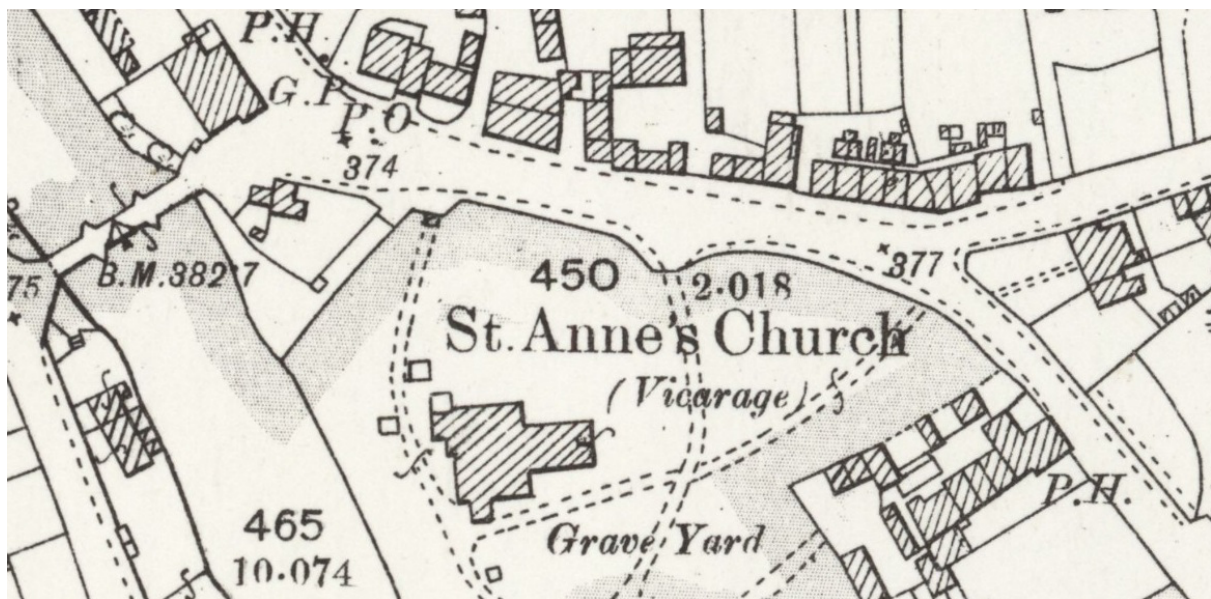
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## Introduction



When I first came to Baslow in 1978, Chris and I lived at 1 Church Terrace, sharing the block in Church Street with Jeremy and Kate Symonds, Ethel Bufton and Jack and Violet Ligo. The terrace extends around the corner into School Lane where there are four more old houses. I have had time during lock down to research the area and came across the name of Gabriel Tintillier who was born in France. In my experience it is unusual to discover a working man who was not British by birth living in a rural village like Baslow in the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I started to investigate.

In the past I have often researched people with common names and this fact has resulted in a great deal of work to ensure that I am following the correct family history trail. In this case I soon found that I was in luck. Tintillier is a very unusual surname, even in France. Most of the people with this name originate from the area around Boulogne Sur Mer and this is still the case today. Nearly every one of the Tintillier records in the English General Register Office births, marriages and deaths (GRO BMD) are related to this Baslow family. Similarly an Ancestry search could find only a few records and this has made my task a little easier.

## Why did Gabriel Tintillier come to Baslow?

Gabriel Tintillier first appears on English census records in 1871 living at Church Terrace, Baslow with his wife Elizabeth and two children, Ann Elizabeth and Joseph Thomas. The record is a mine of information and suggested several lines for further enquiry.

Gabriel Tintillier, head, 59, gardener born France, Samer (1812)

Elizth Tintillier, wife, 48, born Derbyshire, Bubnell (1823)

Ann E, daug, 8, born France, St Etienne (1863)

Joseph Thos, son, 6 born France St Etienne (1865)

First I investigated the connection to Baslow through his wife who was born locally. There are two possible candidates. The first is Elizabeth Sharman. All the censuses from 1871 to 1901 give Elizabeth Tintillier's place of birth as Bubnell in 1822/23. These details are consistent with Elizabeth Sharman who came from an agricultural labourer's family which lived in one of the now demolished cottages at Bubnell Farm. When it was demolished her mother moved to live in Moorland View (Moorside Cottage), Bubnell Lane (the smaller of the two cottages next to the entrance to Bubnell Hall, now one house). I have been unable to locate Elizabeth on the 1841, 1851 or 1861 census and her absence could be explained by the fact that she was working in France where she could have met Gabriel Tintillier.

The second candidate is Elizabeth Hearnshaw who is proposed by the Hearnshaw family historian, Terry Wall (<https://hearnshaw.one-name.net/>). Her place of birth was Baslow in 1820 and she lived in Baslow until at least 1841. Like Elizabeth Sharman she is missing from the 1851 and 1861 census but there is a record of a Baslow burial for an Elizabeth Hearnshaw in 1843 which might explain her absence! The significance of living in Bubnell as opposed to Baslow is not so obvious today but in those times there were clear distinctions between the two villages and someone from Bubnell would not be mistaken for a Baslow resident. Although Elizabeth Sharman is the more likely candidate I do not have conclusive proof for which local family Gabriel's wife came from. (The usual sources of marriage registration and childrens' birth certificates are not available in this case as these events occurred in France.)

Next I researched the children. They both were born in St Etienne which is 7 km from Boulogne sur mer, and 11 km from Samer, France. They were given the nationality of "British by parentage", presumably through Elizabeth, their mother. The mystery is how Elizabeth and Gabriel came together to have these children. One possible explanation is that Elizabeth may have travelled to France where she met Gabriel, an unusual event in those times. Elizabeth may have been quite young (possibly under 20 when she left Baslow) and remained there for up to three decades. To speculate, Elizabeth had the children in her 40s suggesting that she may have been in service while in France. For a period of time Boulogne was a fashionable spa town similar to Eastbourne where the Cavendish family owned property. And it is only a short channel crossing over to Boulogne where they may have set up a residence to take advantage of the delights of Boulogne sur Mer. And maybe they were in need of English speaking staff such as Elizabeth. Another possible Cavendish family connection to Gabriel in France is suggested by the fact that he worked in Chatsworth gardens when he moved to Baslow.

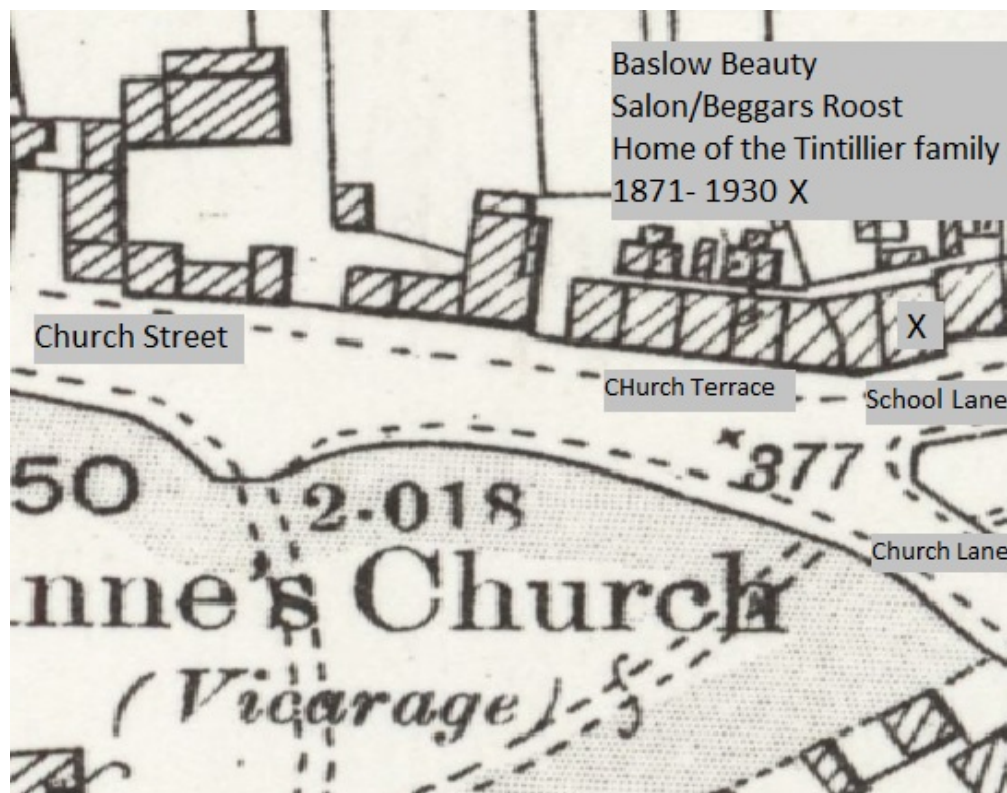
Alternatively Gabriel may have come to Baslow prior to the early 1860s where he met Elizabeth and returned to his home region with her where they had the children. By 1871 the family had come back to Baslow.

According to Chatsworth Servant Database, Gabriel became a gardener at Chatsworth House in 1871 and he retired in 1881 with a pension which also benefitted his widow after his death in 1896, until 1903 when she died.

So far I have found no evidence to clarify why Gabriel came to Baslow. I have contacted both the Devonshire Archivist and Daniel Tintillier, a local historian in Boulogne to ask for further information. The Devonshire archivist was unable to unearth any references to a family connection to Boulogne sur Mer and Daniel was otherwise engaged and unable to carry out the necessary searches before the deadline for this article.

## Where did the Tintillier family live in Baslow?

The next query was to work out where the family lived. There were nine houses in all in Church Terrace in those times, five in Church Street and four in School Lane. Sorting out who lived in which cottage has been complicated by the fact that the census recorders over the years did not write the records in strict house order. David Dalrymple Smith's answer in his very useful "All about Baslow houses" was to list all the names without the exact residence. Also the Terrace has been given other names in the past, such as Church View. This term is also used to describe houses opposite the old bridge! After much thought I am sure that the Tintillier family lived in the property which is now called Baslow Beauty Salon (Beggars Roost) from 1871 to 1930.



Map to show the position of the Tintillier home in Church Terrace, School Lane, Baslow  
<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>





*The junction of School Lane and Church Street. From left to right, 4/5 Church Terrace, Coates Cottage, Baslow Beauty Salon/Beggars Roost (home of the Tintilliers), Wits End Cottage, Kingfisher Cottage.*

The house is quite spacious with 6 rooms over three floors according to the 1911 census. It is likely to have been very much like our house at the other end of the terrace with a larger room at the front and a smaller room at the back on each floor with a space-saving boxed "Derbyshire winder" (staircase). There was an outbuilding to each house on the bank at the back of the terrace with a shared access outside the back doors. Stonework on the ground floor of the Baslow Beauty Salon indicate that the position of front door and the window have been exchanged in the past.



*Beggars Roost/Baslow Beauty Salon - The Tintillier residence 1871 – 1930. The stonework shows the change in the position of the door and window.*

Both Elizabeth Tintillier (1891) and her daughter Ann (1911) kept a boarding house and the censuses show a succession of different lodgers living with the family.

I have consulted the Baslow electoral rolls for 1885 and 1895 and Gabriel Tintillier is named as having a vote indicating that being born in France did not disenfranchise him. Of course his wife although born in England died before she was given the vote but her daughter Ann is on the electoral rolls that I consulted in 1911, 1918, 1921 and 1926.

There is reason to believe that Gabriel was held in high esteem by the Cavendish family as he appeared in various newspaper reports of two prominent family funerals. One was in 1882 after Lord Frederick Cavendish was murdered in Phoenix Park Dublin. A list of wreaths, which starts with Queen Victoria, includes Monsieur Tintillier who sent a cross of forget-me-nots. Poignantly, the cutting records that "Lord Frederick was the only one who had conversed with the old man in French".



names being attached. The wreaths from the Queen and the Countess Strafford were both placed on the coffin, as also, at the special request of Lady Frederick, was that from the Baslow School children, which was made by Mrs. Wrench. A request by Tintillier, who has been for many years a gardener at Chatsworth, that he might be allowed to contribute a floral offering to the memory of Lord Frederick was granted. Lord Frederick was the only one who had conversed with the old man in French, and this was a circumstance remembered by the gardener with affection.

*Sheffield Daily Telegraph 13 May 1882 British Newspaper Archive*

The second was the funeral of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Cavendish in 1891

Ireland), Mr. and Mrs. Barrow (Homewood, Kent), Mr. and Mrs. Wrench, Mrs. C. M. A. Dalton (Hastings), the Rev H. R. Whelpton (vicar, and members of the congregation of St. Saviour's, Eastbourne), Mr. G. Page (Hardwick Hall), Monsieur G. Tintillier (the old French gardener), the Servants at Devonshire House, the Chatsworth and travelling household, the parishioners of Beeley, the Mayor and Corporation of Barrow-in-Furness, and the official staff of the Furness

*Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 28 December 1891 British Newspaper Archive*

Both Gabriel (1895) and Elizabeth Tintillier (1903) are buried in Baslow Churchyard according to the Parish Register. David Dalrymple Smith did not identify their grave in his Churchyard survey.

## The Tintillier legacy in Baslow

Their daughter Ann Elizabeth never married and kept the house for boarders until her death in 1930. She is mentioned in various newspaper reports from 1916 to 1924 because she sent wreaths to the funerals of local Baslow families.

The career of their son, Joseph Thomas Tintillier, can be followed in the censuses, newspaper reports and the Chatsworth servant's database. In 1881 he was an apprentice to George Coates who ran the chemist and grocery business in Corner Cottage, School Lane (the house at the junction of Church Lane and School Lane). While working there he was called to give evidence at the inquest into a fatal coach accident which occurred at the junction. Ellis Cook fell off the roof of the coach as

it turned the corner and Joseph was witness to the slow pace of the horses. ("Accidental death" was recorded which was not to the liking of "One who was there" in a letter to the editor, who wanted blame to be attached to someone. Controversy was not a stranger to local newspapers even in those days.)

In 1889 Joseph Thomas studied at the School of Science and Art in Chesterfield where he passed Botany examinations and in 1891 he was recorded as working as a gardener at Chatsworth. Later that year he moved to Salford, details of which are given when he married a Beeley girl, Rebecca Hawksworth. He became head gardener at the Buile Hill estate in Pendleton and they never returned to live in Baslow. Their son Joseph Francis became an electrical engineer working for the Salford City Council and later at its Agecroft power station. Joseph Thomas's other children did not marry and when Joseph Francis's son died in his late teens, the name of Tintillier from this family was destined to disappear from the British record.

## **Acknowledgements**

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