

## GEORGE BUNN 1831 - 1907

### **An entry in the Midland Railway Company records:**

*1887 Oct 7 - George Bunn - 56 - at Blackwell - Labourer - Midland Railway Company - Injured his head - Whilst about the track- Fell on rails and injured his head when walking on line.*

Research into the life of George revealed he was born, raised and lived his entire life within the parish of Alvechurch.

The village today is a pleasant residential suburb on the southern outskirts of the Birmingham Urban area. The annual “Mop Fair” is still held there.

Back in 1831 Alvechurch was an isolated rural village. The Mop Fair was an event held at Michaelmas. Amidst the stalls and merriment of a village fair, the Mop was an event where local employers would hire their workers for the coming year.

The 1851 census shows George is a widower at the age of 21. There is no trace of him having any children. He remarried at the age of 50. He passed away in 1907



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**The Square Alvechurch - Epicentre of the Mop Fair**

In November 1818 George's parents William Bunn of Tardebigge & Ann Cashmere of Alvechurch married at St Laurence Church, Alvechurch. The parish record reveals that both were illiterate, they made their mark X on the Banns entry.

Parish records show the baptism of 3 children of William & Ann:  
1826 20 Aug. - Hannah 1828 30 Nov. - Alice 1831 17 April - George.  
They also had another elder daughter Sarah. (born circa 1821)

The 1841 Census finds William (agricultural Labourer) & Ann residing at Barnt Green with children Hannah 14, Alice 12, Martha 8, & George age 10.  
Living close by are William Benton age 25 & Sarah Bunn age 20.

1842 - 27 Nov. Sarah's illegitimate son George was baptised at Alvechurch,

The 1851 census finds widowed Ann, age 60 and son George age 21, still living at Barnt Green. The census record indicates that George is a widower.

The 1861 census finds Ann age 70 and son George age 31 still living at Barnt Green. Also living in the house is Ann's grandson George age 18 (Railway Porter).

The 1871 census finds George age 41 (Labourer) lodging in Northfield.

The 1881 census finds George now 51 lodging in Watery Lane, Lickey.

The 1881 census also finds Sarah's son George age 39 (a railway shunter) Living at 23 Thomas Street, Gorton, Lancashire with his wife Jane age 39 and 6 children.

1882 - July 9 George is married to Mary Truman age 57 at Bishop Ryder Church, Gosta Green, Birmingham. George's occupation is described as a Platelayer.

1887 - Oct 7 - George was injured while working on the railway at Blackwell.

1890 Electoral roll shows George Living in Little Lane, Lickey

1891 Census finds George & Mary residing in Lickey. George is described as a Railway Labourer.

1896 Electoral roll shows George still living in Little Lane, Lickey

1901 Census finds Sarah's son George age 59 his wife Alice age 34 and a daughter Gertrude age 3 months living in Gorton, Lancashire.

1907 - Mar 3rd, George passed away in Alvechurch. He was buried at St Laurence Church on March 7.

