NOTES AND QUERIES

Dear Sir,

In LPS2 you were seeking information about pre-1841 census schedules. I enclose details of an 1811 schedule for Thirsk (North Riding) which is at the County Record Office.

Yours faithfully,

R. Fieldhouse,
The University of Leeds

THE 1811 CENSUS FOR THIRSK

What appears to be an original enumerator's book for the 1811 census for Thirsk is deposited at the North Riding County Record Office amongst the parish records. (NRCRO/PR/TH) It shows there were 541 families living in Thirsk at that date in 528 houses. There were also 12 empty houses. The population was made up of 1,002 males and 1,156 females; 2,158 altogether.

120 of the families were recorded as being mainly engaged in agriculture; 282 families in trade etc.; and 139 families in other occupations. All this information would be obtainable from the printed report of the 1811 census: what makes this book so useful is that the enumerator has voluntarily recorded the actual occupation of the heads of households in the general occupation column. Therefore we have a much more detailed list of the occupations than is afforded from the general categories of the census report.

Unfortunately the first few pages of the book are missing, consisting of 72 houses (73 families). This represents 13\(\frac{1}{2}\)% of the households. 279 people (13% of the population) are listed on these missing pages. Therefore this is a survey of 87% of the town of Thirsk. As there is no indication of how the enumerator recorded the information we do not know what section of the community is missing, but it is almost certainly a geographical area.

Of the remaining 468 families, we have the occupation of the head of the household recorded for 371 (80%). With the exception of a couple of innkeepers and three milliners, these heads of households
were all male. The remaining 20% were female, and had no occupation recorded.

The list that follows is therefore not a complete list of occupations in the town of Thirsk. It is based on a non-random 87% sample of male heads of households: it fails to record work done by women and young people. The most obvious omission is domestic service, but there are others. However it does give some idea of the relative importance of the major occupations followed by the main breadwinners.

Agriculture

19 farmers
76 labourers These were all recorded in the 'farmers etc.' column, but it is likely that they include general labourers as well as farm workers.

Tradesmen/Shopkeepers

7 Bakers
3 Barbers
9 Butchers
1 Chandler
8 Drapers
2 Flax Drapers
2 Druggists

10 Grocers
1 Hawker
1 Spirit Dealer
1 Stationer
1 Sweep
1 Tobacconist

Total 47 (12½% of the sample)

Craftsmen/Skilled Workers

8 Blacksmiths
2 Brewers
11 Bricklayers
2 Buckle makers
2 Coopers
1 Factor
1 Glazier
2 Hatters
18 Joiners

Leather Trade
1 Bit maker
8 Bridle Cutters
5 Curriers
9 Saddlers
1 Skinner
27 Shoemakers
5 Tanners

Textiles
2 Dyers
15 Tailors
37 Weavers (Linen)
6 Watchmakers
1 Whip maker
6 Wrights

3 Milliners (female)
2 Painters
1 Potter
2 Printers
4 Ropers
1 Slater

Total 185 (50% of sample)

-59-
Inns & Hotels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 innkeepers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Attorneys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Dance master</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Ministers of Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Schoolmasters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Surgeons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscellaneous

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Clerks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Gardeners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independent Means

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Gentlemen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Esquires</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most significant occupations appear to have been:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of occupation</th>
<th>% of sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labourers (farm and probably general)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather workers (bridle cutters, curriers, saddlers, skinners, shoemakers, tanners)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile workers (dyers, tailors, weavers)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopkeepers</td>
<td>12 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building trade workers, bricklayers, glaziers, joiners, painters, slater</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innkeepers</td>
<td>5 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>