

NINETEENTH CENTURY CLAXBY BY NORMANBY

What were the four main changes in the lives of people living in Claxby in last century?

1st. The big rise & subsequent decline in the numbers of people living in the parish

In the first 50 years of last century Claxby population almost doubled. After 1871 it declined steadily, so that by 1981 we were almost back to the 1801 figure.

2nd. A major change from a partially literate population to an almost wholly literate one.

3rd. The establishment of Methodism in the village. The first Wesleyan chapel of 1836: next a Primitive Methodist chapel of 1862: and then the new Wesleyan M. chapel of 1904. Methodism contributed to a religious, social, & cultural change in Claxby.

4th. The coming and departing of Ironstone Mining — starting in 1868 and ending before 1890. The influx of 44 miners by 1871 clearly altered the nature of Claxby — but only for c. 20 years.

I'll deal with those 4 changes in sequence. I will welcome questions, discussion & disagreements.

I'll give evidence for what I'll say.

Begin with

The big rise & subsequent decline in population - in the numbers of people living in the parish.

At the first census in 1801... 136 people lived here: fifty years later there were 262... the population had nearly doubled in 50 years. Between 1851 & 1871 it rose dramatically to 357 (the highest ever reached). By 1971 it had fallen to 145 - a great decline of 212 people.

The second fact about the population was that people were always on the move, into and out of Claxby.

The Census of 1851 shows that only 40% of the people then living in Claxby had been born in the parish: the census of 1871 reveals that only 27% had been born here. *

The third fact about the population was that it was a much younger population than in our time - there were many more children & young people: far fewer people over 50.

In 1851... Half the population was under 20 & only 15% over 50 (only 11 people were over 70)

* { In 1851 people in Claxby had been born in no fewer than 71 different living parishes.

Another major difference between the middle of last century & now was in employment.

eg. In 1851 } there were eleven farmers here & 49 agricultural labourers. 21 women were in domestic service here

Other occupations of Claxby residents in 1851 included ~
for men

One Innkeeper & Farmer
1 Blacksmith & Farmer
3 grooms. 1 shepherd. 2 Railway labourers. 1 gardener
1 tailor. 1 wheelwright. 1 Wheelwright & blacksmith and 3
boot & shoe makers (makes ~ not just mender)

There were 4 apprentices, 1 Hecchster. 1 schoolmaster
& 1 Curate (the Rev. Parkinson Young)

Employments for women were far fewer :-

19 House servants.
2 Housekeepers. 1 governess (with the Young family) 1 teacher
& 1 dressmaker.

Because there was a great lack of
paid employment for women, hundreds left Leics. for employment
in London, Hull, & other places.

Movement of Population is strikingly shown if one looks at
all the married couples in Claxby & sees where they had been
born

1851 Census.

Total Number of Married Couples ...	38	100%
Both Partners born in Claxby	NIL
One Partner born in Claxby	17	44.7%
Neither partner born in Claxby	21	55.3%

The second major change was that from a partially literate population to an almost wholly literate population by 1901.

Many adults ~ both men & women could not read & write in 1801 ~ almost all could do so by 1901.

I have not got detailed Claxby statistics of literacy & illiteracy but they would be similar (a little worse) than Nettleton or Cairton. The situation in these parishes was:—

Decade.	No. of Marriages	<u>Cairton</u>			<u>Nettleton</u>	
		Men	Women		M.	W
1820-29	59			23		
		Illiterate			Illiterate	
		25%	37%		39%	61%
1850-59	104	32%	24%	15	33%	33%
1890-99	62	3%	3%	22	0%	9%

Literacy depends on schooling. What do we know about schools in Claxby?

In 1829 both a Day School & a Sunday School were started.

An enquiry of 1835 states:- "One Daily School, in which 10 males & 13 females receive instruction at the expense of their parents. One Sunday School with 12 males & 4 females, who are taught gratuitously; these schools commenced in 1829."

The 1851 Census shows that 43% of children were at school of some sort. 30 children out of 70 under 15 yrs old. At this date the Wesleyan chapel (built in 1836) had 40 Sunday school pupils. There is no mention in 1851 of a Church of England Sunday school. [Importance of Sunday Schools]

Sometime about 1855 Lord Yarborough built the school at

Claxby for the children of both Normantby & Claxby. White's
1856 Directory states:~

"The School for the two parishes ...
 is supported by the lord of the manors, and the farmers, who
 have lately erected a neat house for the master."

(That house is
 where Joan & I live now) It was long occupied by the Canty
 family.

Edward Canty was schoolmaster, aged 30, in 1851.

He was still schoolmaster, in 1881 with his wife Mildred
 as his assistant together with their daughter Alice (then aged 18)
 In 1892 Edward Canty was still master: before 1905 he had
 had been succeeded by his daughter Fanny ... in 1905 we
 learn [Kelly's 1905 Directory] that the Earl of Yarborough subscribes
 £10 yearly towards its support: "the school will hold 100 children;
 average attendance 58..."

We know all too little about this School ~ because I
 do not know where the School Log Books now are.

The problems facing all Lincs. village schools in last century were, mainly

grossly irregular attendance — due partly to a great deal of child labour on the farms & in brickyards &c.
 Inadequate staffing
 Inadequate annual income — largely from school pence.

Not everyone — even as late as the late 1860s — fully approved of education for working class boys & girls. The Vicar of Burgh le Marsh summed up the situation in 1867 accurately:—

"...The general sense of the country is in favour of attending school during the winter months; the labourers are anxious that their children should learn all that they can, and are grateful to those who afford help. The employers of labour do not wish the labourers to be wholly ignorant, but think that a very moderate share of scholarship is sufficient. Their view is that 'more than a little is by much too much'; they are afraid that the labourers will be spoiled for field work."

Let's move on to the third major change in 19th century
Claxby.

This was the establishment of Methodism in the village.
John Wesley died in 1791: forty-five years later, in 1836,
the first Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built in Claxby.

here in 1862

Sometime after 1851 the Primitive Methodists built their chapel
(this building). A second Wesleyan Methodist chapel (replacing
that of 1836) was built in 1904.

The coming of Methodism changed
the nature of the parish. Before this there had been one
village community ~ and NO significant Nonconformity. After
c. 1860 there were 3 communities, three competing communities,
in a village of c. 240 people. The coming of Methodism
deepened division in the parish: but it also brought
conviction and vitality.

In 1851 there was a Religious Census -
a Census of attendances at Church & Chapel on 30th March
1851. What did this Census reveal about Claxby?

At St. Mary's Church, where there was one service each Sunday,
alternately morning and afternoon, the usual attendance was about
60.

At the Wesleyan Chapel, on Census Sunday, 75 adults & 40
Sunday school pupils attended. (Signed George Murray, Chapel
Steward, farmer)

this was built in 1862

There was not yet in 1851 a Primitive Methodist chapel: L

delapidated

The parish church & the rectory house were greatly restored in
1870-71, by the architect James Fowler of Louth. The cost of
the church restoration was c. £1600 "... the Earl of Gainsborough (proprietor
of all the land except the glebe farm) having given all the new stone
and the sand required for the building, in addition to a subscription
of £350" The restored Church was re-opened on 8th June 1871,
with a large assemblage of clergy & gentry. "... At about 10.30 a.m

The Bishop of Lincoln with all the clergy.... perambulated the grounds around the church, being headed by the choir singing hymns..."
 (Stamford Mercury. 23. June 1871)

This Rectory was a really valuable living: in 1856 the joint annual value of the livings of Claxby & Normandy was £844 a year.

In 1871 the Rector was the Rev. Samuel Wright Andrews, aged 47. He lived with his wife Annie & they had 3 servants living in: a housemaid (Miss Catley), a cook, Martha Good aged 17 and a groom, William Clark.

Ten years later the Curate (Edmund Dean) was boarding with the Rector and there were ^{then} 4 servants living in - George Robinson, the Footman, Maria Taylor (the Cook), Mary Verlow (the housemaid) and Betsy Padley (the Kitchenmaid).

The Rector aimed to give leadership to the village - but he was competing with both Wesleyan & Primitive Methodism. It would be good to know what his relations were with these local Nonconformists. Some time before 1870 Mr. Andrews (then the Curate) had attempted to raise funds to restore the badly dilapidated church which had become a reproach to the village. His attempt had been frustrated chiefly through the Rector opposing the scheme

Turn to the fourth major change in 19th century Claxby:

This was, of course, the coming and departing of Ironstone mining.

In the 1860s ironstone was discovered at Scunthorpe, Kirton Lindsey, Nettleton, Hundon (in Caistor parish), Oby in Walsby and in CLAXBY. Mining began in three of these places - Scunthorpe, Kirton Lindsey & in CLAXBY. There were high and misplaced hopes that an industrial revolution would transform CLAXBY as it was to change, radically, Scunthorpe.

In 1868 mining began in Claxby & by 1871 the population had grown from 237 in 1861 to 357 by 1871 - an increase of 120 people. Much of this was due to the influx of miners and their families into Claxby... The 1871 Census shows 44 ironstone workers living in Claxby. We know all their names & their places of birth. Some were local, born in Claxby, Nettleton, Normantby, Middle Rasen, Marcham & Fen and other villages in Lincolnshire. Many came into Claxby from outside Lincolnshire - from Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Bedford, Durham, Staffordshire, Cambridge, Scotland, Norfolk, Leicester, Warwickshire, Cornwall. The impact of these 'foreigners' on this village must have been considerable.

To start with many lived in huts on the hillside - Claxby Burial Registers mention deaths/burials from the HUTS. Later, the Miners' Terraces were built and this report in the county newspaper (the Lincoln, Rutland & Stamford Mercury) dated 4 NOV. 1870 gives a vivid picture of the impact the mines made: -

"Claxby a mining village! What! ultra-rural and lethargic Claxby? Yes, strange as it would have sounded ten years ago, and will yet sound to many... formerly well acquainted with the place... but ignorant of the social revolution in progress thereat - it now has a mining population. Its green lane has been invaded by the builders, and its ancient hedges demolished

to make way for rows of dwelling houses. Ten roomy and substantial cottages are already built and occupied by miners: a detached villa residence is in course of erection for the mining company's manager, and.... the building of another...ten cottages will be immediately proceeded with. They are urgently needed. Both lessor and lessee of the iron mine have reason to be satisfied with their profits: it is rich and inexhaustible in metal of a superior quality, but a continuance of successful working must... depend upon skilful and experienced hands....

In all probability the new population will shortly furnish such an increase of Dissenters and of juveniles, that more chapel and school accommodation will be required. Trade in general will look after its own wants... but great inconvenience to the transaction of business and proper entertainment of strangers already arises from the want of a public house in the village, and for this the lord of the ^{soil} [the Earl of Yarborough] should be petitioned to grant the remedy."

Less than a year later the Pelham Arms had been opened. One of the many inquests into the death of a miner through accident at the mine was held at the Pelham Arms on 10 August 1871.

Accidents — often fatal — were distressingly frequent at the mine. In May 1872 the Curate of Nettleton, the Rev. N.H. Sumner, wrote to the County newspaper calling Claxby mine, rightly, "that gloomy cavern of disaster". His letter deserves to be read:—

Sir, — Another of our parishioners has succumbed to the injuries he received... in that gloomy cavern of disaster, the Claxby iron ore mine. Thomas Baldock, aged 23, died at Lincoln Hospital yesterday. Scarcely a month passes without a serious accident.... What is the cause? Is the mine subject to Government inspection? If not — why? Would that some gentleman of position and influence in the

neighbourhood would act the part of the poor miner's friend, by taking up the matter and initiating some means of preventing if possible a recurrence of these distressing, heartburning accidents.

Yours truly,

M. H. Sumner, Nettleton May 7th 1872

By February 1873 some 250 men were said to be working at the mine — many lived in nearby villages: 34 in Nettleton, for example, 5 in Normanby, 2 in Middle Rasen, some in Osfordby

In February 1882 it was reported that "Ironstone mining operations at Claxby have been almost nil for some time past.... The 1881 Census lists only 19 miners at Claxby. By or before 1891 there were no longer any miners here — Claxby had reverted to an agricultural locality & by this date a depressed farming community. Population continued to fall.

A good complete history of Claxby & Normanby in the 19th century could be researched & written by the combined efforts of Claxby & Normanby residents. It deserves to be written.

Let me finish with a postscript about parish government in Claxby prior to the creation of Parish Councils in 1894.
How was Claxby governed before 1894?

By the Vestry — the rate-payers in Vestry assembled. A civil body, not a Church organisation. Claxby Vestry had wide powers & had officers (elected officers) to exercise these powers. These officers were:~

The Overseers of the Poor

The Surveyors of the Highway

The Constables

The Churchwardens

All were elected/appointed at the Easter Vestry meeting &

all held office for a year (but they could be re-elected). All were unpaid - they gave their services.

In 1837 much of the Vestry's power was taken away when Caistor Poor Law Union was set up - a Union of 76 parishes.

In 1888 County-Councils were formed ~ and these took over the maintenance of roads and bridges from the local Surveyors of the Highways.

Do the Vestry Minutes exist? Do the annual accounts of the Overseers of the Poor (& other officers) exist?
I do not know the answer.

When the Parish Councils came into being in 1894/95 they had far fewer powers than the Vestry had before 1837.