

Hetton-le-Hole Herald

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Summary

A National census was introduced in 1841. Prior to that there had been various attempts to collect information after 1801 including a trial of the National census in some areas in 1837. The detail in this article looks at some of the salient points in Hetton census.

The 1841 census in Hetton and Easington Lane—a snapshot of certain aspects.

The British Government carried out its first national census in 1801. The first genealogical census, however, was not carried out until 1841. It was on this occasion that names were recorded for the first time. A census has been taken every ten years since that date, except for 1941 during the Second World War when population statistics were severely disrupted by call-up and population movements such as evacuation etc.

The 1841 census was taken on

June 6th and the period of midnight for June 6th and 7th was the critical time for a census return.

The following data was collected in this census.

1. Names of the people living or staying at a particular property(overnight visiting) were included. All inhabited and uninhabited houses or a building were included.
2. The age and sex of a person, in separate columns for males and females.
3. Ages of the people. The ages up to 15 are recorded as reported but ages above this are rounded down to the nearest 5 years, e.g. 15, 20, 25, 30 etc. Thus a person 34 years of age would be recorded as 30, and a person of 69 would be shown as 65.
4. The occupation, trade or profession of those in employment. If adults are not working they are required to register " of independent means"
5. Birthplace, but only if the

person was born in the county where the census was taken and recorded as yes or no. If they are born in another country such as Scotland or Ireland this must also be recorded

The census' which were taken from 1851 onwards recorded much more information and most recently have contained a number of pages of information which needs to be stated. All householders in the United Kingdom are now required by law to complete a census form.

By 1851 the following information was being collected on a census form.

Name of street, place or home

1. House number or name
2. Name of each person at the address
4. Person's marital status
5. Sex—separate tables for males and females
6. Age at last birthday
7. Persons rank, profession or occupation
8. Person's place of birth including abroad
9. Whether blind, deaf or idiot.

The census district of Hetton was split into two areas for convenience. The first area considered included the following streets/locations.

Eppleton Colliery

Great Eppleton
 Railway Engine House (2)
 Little Eppleton hall
 Murton Lane
 Easington Lane
 Hetton Moor House
 Gargle House
 Brickgarth
 Front Street Easington Lane
 Back Street
 Hetton Moor Farm
 Four Lane Ends
 Lyons
 Bleach Green Bank
 Peat Carr House
 Coal Bank Farm
 Lane House
 Croudaces House
 Hetton-le-Hole
 Bog Row

Altogether there was a total of 2,307 people listed as living in the above locations. There were 1,200 males and 1107 females making up this total.

The youngest female, at just one week old was Ruth Pear-

son whose family lived in the Brickgarth, Easington Lane. Ruth was one of 27 infants who were less than a year old who lived within the census area.

Age	The oldest lady was	
	Males	Females
Less than 1	41	27
1 - 9	297	294
10 - 19	275	330
20 - 29	212	167
30 - 39	134	134
40 - 49	113	121
50 - 59	81	63
60 - 69	37	50
70+	10	21

Alice Thompson who was 104 years of age was the oldest and she lived in Front Street, Easington Lane.

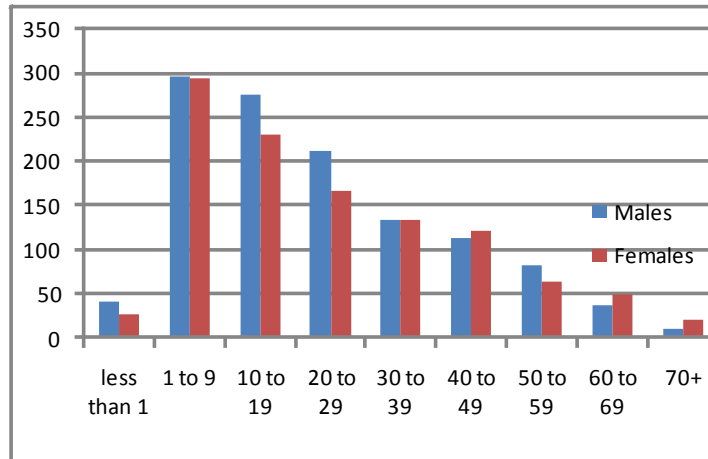
The youngest male was William Blake and his family also resided in the Brickgarth. He was just four weeks old at the census date. William was one of 41 male children less than one year old who lived in the census area. The oldest males

recorded were, James Robson of Lane House, James Kirk living in the Brickgarth, and a retired shoemaker of Easington. They were all registered as being 75 years of age.

Close examination of the figures follow the normal distribution curve with the exception of female numbers in the 20 to 29 age range. Here the ratio of males to females changes significantly. There is a large fall in numbers of females from the previous age range. The reason for this is that many young females left the family group in their late teens and early twenties to take up employment away from the area. The opportunities for employment were very limited in the Hetton area and since large numbers of young women found work in domestic service they would likely have moved away. Additionally many of them being of the right marital age, they may well have left to marry and live elsewhere, and be absorbed into new families.

Household and Family Size.

In this registration district there are 505 households listed. Examination of these households would normally show the level of occupation. The 1841 census is unique in that it does not disclose the number of the property or its name in the majority of cases. Nor does it describe like later census, the number of rooms within each property. Thus, it is not possible to



Age Distribution of various age groups

show the index of overcrowding.

It wasn't unusual for Victorian families to be large. In the main, but not exclusively, it was often the poorest families which were large. There are properties listed where the number of incumbents exceeded eight. On occasions the number within a particular household would from the data show that they were all family members, however this was not always be the case. Members of the extended family having a variety of different names may be included. Additionally visitors to the premises on the census night would be included as well as lodgers. Thus it is not possible with any degree of accuracy to declare that all the names listed within the property were family members.

It was usual in mining villages to have the occasional lodging house where single men or women

congregated and lived under one roof. Generally the properties fell into a number of different types e.g. Houses or cottages provided by the employer, private property which was rented or leased or self-owned houses. In Hetton and Eastington Lane the majority of properties recorded were built and owned by the coal company, in this particular case the Hetton Coal Company, which owned the Lyons Pit as well as later on, Eppleton Pit, or the Baker Baker family who at the time of the census, owned Elemore Colliery. The Brickgarth area of Eastington Lane had a large number of small miners' cottages with similar properties at Eppleton Colliery, Murton lane and the Lyons area.

These houses were typical workers' houses for the period. They comprised two main rooms on the ground floor, a bedroom and a living room. It was possible to use the

loft space as a second bedroom with access via a portable ladder from the main room. A scullery or pantry area formed part of the living room. More often than not the houses were identical and consisted of long streets with unmade access roads. Each cottage had its own toilet and coalhouse separate from the main building and on occasions they could have been located within an adjoining garden.

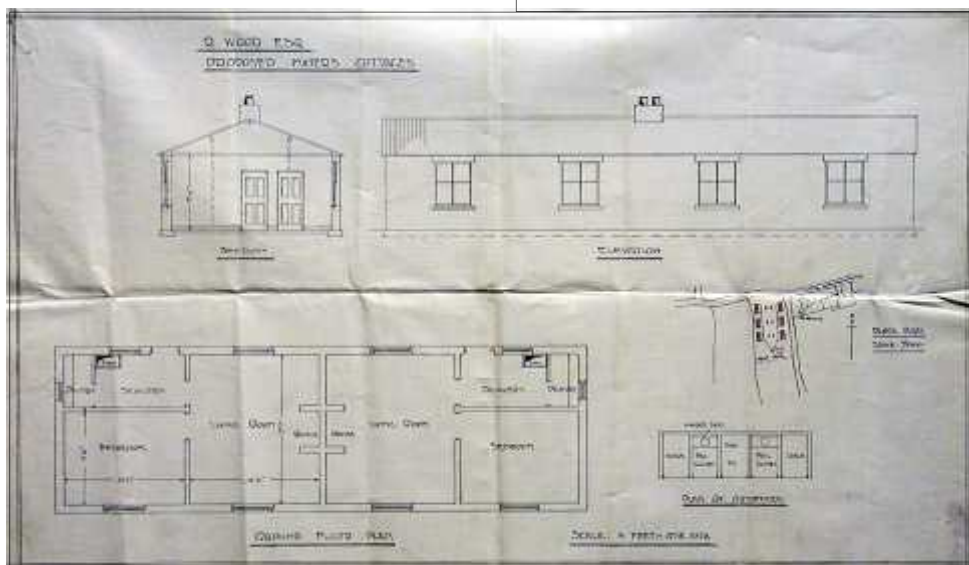
It was known that a number of colliery cottages were built in a short time between 1820 and 1826 and this coincides with the opening of Hetton Colliery in 1822 and Elemore Colliery in 1825. The houses initially were built with local limestone, quarried from the hills at Moorsley or Eppleton. Although not the best material to build houses it was cheap and adequate. Later on clay, brought out from the collieries, enabled brick works to

be built close to the mine shaft and these bricks were widely used in the construction of miners' accommodation as well as other buildings including those at the shaft head.

Thus it can be said with some certainty that particular houses, some of which still remain today, were the mainstay of accommodation for the majority of the families within the area. It is to be noted that these worker's houses did provide, for many people in the area, a fair degree of comfort and affordability. Normally each family had a certainty of tenure, however, when the worker in the house left the employ of the employer the family generally had to leave. This meant a move to a poorer quality of accommodation for the family, which often led to overcrowding.

The following examples are

Plans for a miner's cottage



representative of the larger families from the area. In property No.

No. Of persons per household	No. of households
1	24
2	59
3	97
4	84
5	84
6	65
7	42
8	30
9	11
10	3
11	5
12	1
13	1

100 lived the Smiths of Easington Lane. The family comprised father, mother and 8 children varying in age from 1 month to 20 years. (5 boys and three girls). At property No. 110, there was father, mother and 9 children aged from 1 to 15 years of age. (6 boys and 3 girls).

The Matheson family lived in property No. 172 in the Brickgarth. There were 11 in his family. The father at 40 was a coalminer who

like his wife and three oldest children were born in County Durham. The six younger children aged from 2 months to 11 years were not born in the county.

The Farley family lived in Back Street, Easington Lane which was No. 301 in the census list. There was the father Joseph, his wife and 9 children aged from 2 years to 20. Joseph was a coal-miner, as were the three oldest sons. Thus the family would have, at good times a fair amount of money coming into the household. It was not uncommon for large families in similar circumstances to have one or two servants, usually domestic servants helping out in the household. The three youngest Farley children were born outside of County Durham and two of the children had unusual forenames being called Soloman and Shadreck, obviously reflecting a Biblical connection.

Finally the Mordy family of 11 lived at Coal Bank Farm. Thomas Mordy the father was a farmer. He had a wife and nine children aged from 20 down to 1. Also a male servant, Joseph Young lived with the family.

The most common names for girls were Ann or Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Catherine or Katherine, Margaret, Jane and Isabella. Boys tended to be called William, John, James, Joseph, Edward, George and Thomas.

The following list is a full list of the occupations and professions carried out by women in the census area. The fact that a number of women were involved in some form of gainful employment at this time is in itself unusual. Most of them, it can be assumed would have received some form of monetary remuneration for their labours.

After adjustments there were a total of 657 women of employable age i.e. 15 years to 65 living in the area and only 74 in some

<u>Occupation/</u> <u>profession</u>	<u>No. Involved</u>
Draper	1
Dressmaker	8
Female servants	35
Grocer	3
Housekeeper	1
Huckster (Hawker)	1
Independent Means	51
Jam Maker	1
Milliner	3
Nurse	1

form of occupation. Thus the total female population working was a mere 11.26% of the total female population. Since then, of course, the total of females in work in our population nationally is substantially higher than this figure.

The situation with men and boys was different from that of women and girls. In the census district there were 637 males working and 81 of working age who were not. This represents an employment rate of 89%. This would represent a very high degree of employment when considered against the national statistics. Until the end of the 18th century the bulk of males were in some way connected with agriculture but with the advent of the industrial revolution from 1750 onwards there were more opportunities for men to free themselves from the agricultural yolk and do other things. As to be expected more than 50% of the male working population in the district were in some way connected with coal mining either directly or indirectly.

Everyone in the country was touched in some way by the Industrial Revolution, it affected peasants and nobles, artisans and new captains of industry, parents and children alike who were fired into the inferno of "self sustaining growth". The vision for the future in 1841 was one of optimism and progression and all this would lead to human happiness.

The development of jobs which 25 years previously would not have been thought about gives rise to jobs being available in the future. As a consequence of this coal owners and other entrepreneurs looked to the future in having a trained workforce, and to achieve this established training programmes in the form of apprenticeships. Below is a table showing the number of apprenticeships being carried out by young members of the community in 1841.

The Factory Acts and the protection of Children in Places of

Apprenticeships	Numbers
Apprentice Enginewright	3
Apprentice Grocer	3
Apprentice Blacksmith	3
Apprentice Butcher	1
Apprentice Cordwainers	4
Apprentice Joiners	2
Apprentice Mason	1
Apprentice Tailors	3

Work

One of the most surprising things was that there did not appear to be any exploitation of very young children in the local coal mines. The two youngest boys

working in the pits appear to be the Bousfield boys from the Brickgarth at 14 years.

For some decades prior to 1841 child labour in the workplace played an important role in the success of the Industrial Revolution. Since many of the families during the 18th century were displaced from their homes and labours they took it for granted that it was a necessity of family life that young children had to work to support the family.

In 1840 Lord Shaftesbury set up a Royal Commission to investigate the conditions that children were working in coal mines. His findings were incorporated in new regulations brought out in The Mines Act of 1842. In his report he used pictures for the first time and this had an immediate effect on the employment of children in mines and other work-places.

