

What do you do ?

- a survey of occupations in Farnhill and Kildwick (1720 - 1750)

Amongst the papers of the local historian, the late Michael Baumber, that were generously given to the History Group by his sister, was a single sheet detailing the occupations of the households of Farnhill and Kildwick in the period 1720 to 1750.

Where Michael obtained this information is not known but as he was known to be fastidious about his sources, we can be confident about its validity.

The written information has been converted into a pair of graphs, presented on the following pages. They show the make-up of the two villages in the period prior to the industrial revolution.

Farnhill occupations (1720 - 1750)

33						Grocer
32						Gardener
31	Clock-maker					Schoolmaster
30	Hatter					Innkeeper
29	Excise Officer	Schoolmaster				
28	Blacksmith	Blacksmith				
27	Innkeeper	Innkeeper			Badger (Grocer)	Slater / Tiler
26	Mercer		Lead Miner		Gardener	
25			Excise Officer			Shoemaker
24	(Wool) Comber	Shoemaker	Schoolmaster		Schoolmaster	Woolcomber
23	Weaver		Blacksmith	Gardener	Innkeeper	Weaver
22		Mercer	Innkeeper	Excise Officer		
21	Carpenter	Weaver	Slater / Tiler	Schoolmaster		Mason
20	Mason	Carpenter	Shoemaker	Innkeeper	Shoemaker	
19	Butcher				Mason	Yeoman
18		Mason	Mercer		Yeoman	
17	Yeoman	Butcher	Weaver	Woolcomber		
16				Shoemaker		Tailor
15			Carpenter	Mason		
14		Yeoman	Mason			
13	Tailor / Clothier			Yeoman		
12			Yeoman			
11		Tailor				
10				Tailor		
9						
8			Tailor			
7					Husbandman / Labourer	Husbandman / Labourer
6	Husbandman / Labourer					
5		Husbandman / Labourer				
4			Husbandman / Labourer	Husbandman / Labourer		
3						
2						
1						
	1720-4	1725-9	1730-4	1735-9	1740-4	1744-9

Kildwick occupations (1720 - 1750)

35			Clergyman			
34						
33			Glover		Esquire	
32			Maltster		Clergyman	Clergyman
31			Cooper		Sexton	Sexton
30			Gardener		Glover	Sexton
29	Lawyer / JP		Blacksmith		Gardener	Glover
28	Gentleman		Shoemaker	Esquire	Blacksmith	Chairmaker
27	Esquire			Clergyman		Blacksmith
26	Clergyman	Gentleman	Mercer	Sexton		Innkeeper
25	Maltster	Esquire	Weaver	Glover	Shoemaker	Slater / Tiler
24	Cooper	Clergyman		Blacksmith		Shoemaker
23		Maltster	Carpenter / Joiner		Mercer	
22	Innkeeper	Cooper		Innkeeper		
21	Shoemaker	Blacksmith			Weaver	Weaver
20	Mercer	Innkeeper	Mason	Shoemaker		
19	Weaver	Shoemaker				
18	Carpenter / Joiner		Yeoman		Carpenter / Joiner	Carpenter / Joiner
17		Mercer		Carpenter / Joiner		
16	Mason	(Wool) Comber				
15		Weaver	Tailor		Mason	Mason
14				Mason		
13	Yeoman	Carpenter / Joiner			Yeoman	Yeoman
12				Tailor	Tailor	Tailor
11		Mason				
10						
9		Yeoman				
8						
7			Husbandman / Labourer			
6				Husbandman / Labourer	Husbandman / Labourer	Husbandman / Labourer
5	Husbandman / Labourer					
4		Husbandman / Labourer				
3						
2						
1						
	1720-4	1725-9	1730-4	1735-9	1740-4	1744-9

What does this information tell us ?

The first thing to note is that the sample size is very small, so small differences between one five-year period and another are unlikely to be significant. However, some general conclusions can be drawn:

- The two villages were highly agricultural. Those working on the land, the husbandmen and labourers, and the yeomen managing land that they tenanted, formed a significant minority of the working population.
- There were also significant numbers involved in the creation and maintenance of buildings – presumably homes. In this category we find masons, carpenters / joiners, and slaters / tilers. There was also a blacksmith in one or both villages throughout this period.
- Everyone needed basic clothing and shoes, and there were a number of tailors and shoemakers.
- Textile manufacturing, in the form of woolcombers and weavers was beginning to become established, although at this time it would likely be a domestic activity. Only later would it become an organised and centralised industry.
- Glove-making, another domestic manufacturing occupation, appears to have been carried out in Kildwick.
- Other manufacturing, of prestige goods, was carried out to a very limited extent by a hatter, a clock-maker, and a chair-maker.
- There were inn-keepers in both villages, and the presence of coopers and maltsters in Kildwick suggests that brewing may have been carried out; presumably associated with the White Lion.
- There was a schoolmaster living in Farnhill. It is likely that he had a short walk to work, as the school was almost certainly located in Kildwick.
- It is not surprising to find a clergyman and a sexton in Kildwick. The vicars during this period were: John Topham (1705 – 1733), Christopher Driffield (1734 – 1735), and John Dehane (1734 – 1790).
- The upper ranks of society – a lawyer/JP, gentleman, and servant (esquire) appear in Kildwick only. This is the period in which Haworth Currer and his son, Henry, were the owners of the Kildwick estate and were living at Kildwick Hall. In contrast, the owner of the Farnhill estate, the Lane-Fox family, were absentee landlords – the estate presumably being managed by a yeoman farmer.