

the unmade lanes which ran from the notorious 'Muston bends' on the Grantham to Nottingham road at the north end of the village to the Grantham canal at the south. There were around 60 houses of varying size, some substantial farmhouses, some terraces built for agricultural workers, some mud-walled, thatched cottages. Next to the pretty ironstone church stood the handsome early C19th rectory. In 1914 there was a new rector, the Reverend Frederick Lambert Tufnell Barrett.

Naturally, given the size of the village, there was much less variety in employment than in Bottesford. It was an agricultural community. In addition to the nine farmers, over

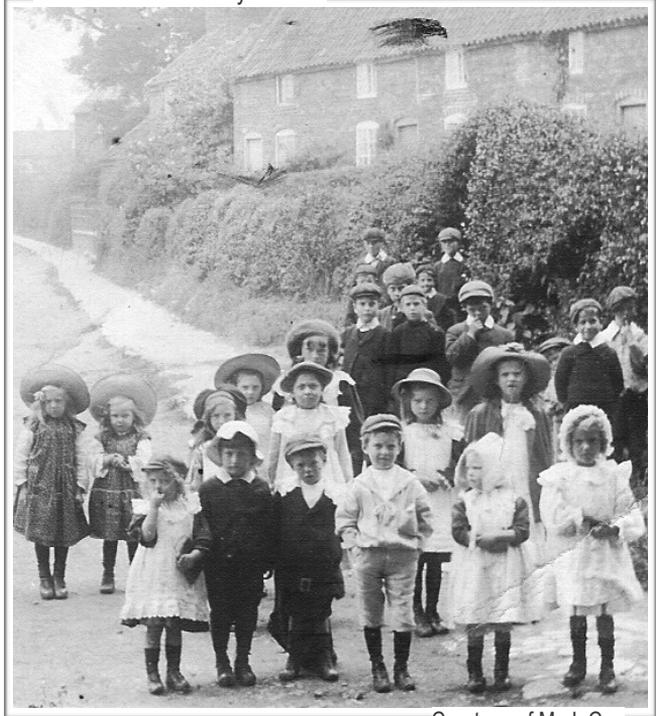
thirty of the men were farm workers; some farmer's sons, some in a range of specialist agricultural work, such as wagoner or cowman, some farm labourers. The next major employer was the ironstone quarry, where around 20 men worked. Eight men worked for the Great Northern Railway, mainly as plate-layers.

There were two grooms, a peddler of haberdashery, a joiner, a shop worker, the publican and a messenger. Of the women about 50 were not listed as in paid employment; most were fully occupied by the hard work of home and family. 10 women were in domestic service, seven were employed in dairy work or cheese making, three were seamstresses, two worked in the shops, one was the teacher at the school, one a nurse (epilepsy), one a laundress, one a caretaker and one was sub-postmistress.

Self Reliance

To cope with the familiar hardships of life in an agricultural community the villages had a wide range of organizations such as the Friendly Societies, the Clothing Club, the Cow Club, the Pig Club, and the Angling Association. The chapels supported members of their congregations in times of need and the churches continued to dispense small sums from the various charities. A few Bottesford villagers admitted to being 'on relief' in the 1911 census, but the extreme poverty of old age had been reduced by the introduction of the old age pension, which in 1911 was claimed by 28 Bottesford residents over 70. Of the older residents in Muston, four described themselves as living

Muston Children early 1900s



Courtesy of Mr. I. Coy

on private means, seven were old age pensioners and two simply said they were 'retired.' No one was listed as being on poor relief, though this is unlikely to mean no one was poor.

In both villages most householders grew vegetables and kept chickens. If they did not keep a cow or goats, then milk could be collected in a jug from one of the farms or from the milkman's horse and cart. The staple diet of most families was bread and milk or dripping, eggs, cheese, bacon and home-grown vegetables in season. Sydney Smith, son of Bottesford's Police Inspector, remembered fighting with other boys at the National School who called him a liar for claiming to eat a hot meal everyday.

Services & Village Organisations

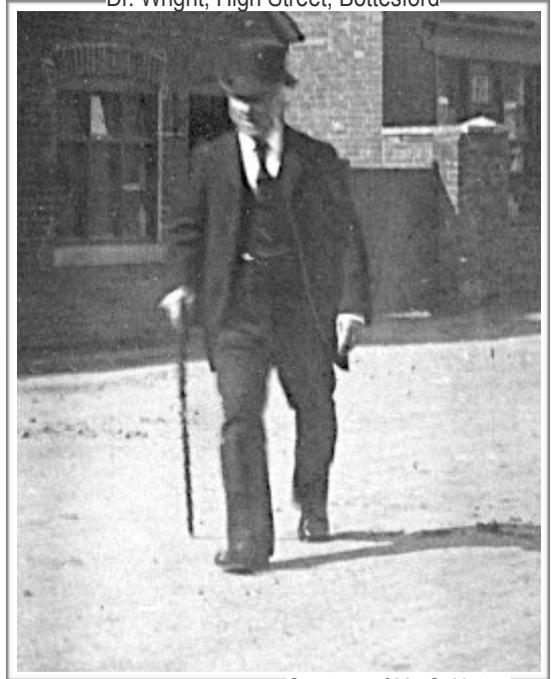
There were two doctors in Bottesford whose fees might be paid by the Friendly Societies, which also contributed to the Belvoir Nursing Association. The school log books report an alarming number of infectious diseases, anxieties about poor sanitation, and water polluted by slurry from the farmyard next door. In February 1914 about 60 households were affected by a serious epidemic of measles and the school was closed when 90 children were found to be infected. In July 1914 the Rural District Council met to discuss, rather indecisively: the provision of 'working class housing' in Bottesford; the outbreak of Scarlet Fever; precautions against the diarrhoea epidemic and fumigation in cases of T.B. The appointment of a 'scavenger' was deemed unnecessary since bye-laws covered ash pits,

earth closets and cesspools. Bottesford had an 'unofficial scavenger', Kate Ann Lane, who did the dirty work no one else wanted to do and was mocked by the local youth for it.

Other aspects of local government were in the hands of the Parish Councils and the '*Court Leet and Court Baron of his Grace the Duke of Rutland, Lord of the Manor of Bottesford.*' The Parish Councils let allotments, nominated constables and appointed the Overseers. In April Bottesford Parish Council appointed Richard Edwards as Town Crier, still a necessary office. In May 1914 The Court Leet met to pay fealties due, appoint pinders to pen stray farm animals and discuss the West End flooding problem. Then they enjoyed a dinner at a cost of £125 and toasted the Duke.

Working hours may have been long, but there was still time for a range of leisure activities. Football, cricket and bowls were the main sports. The cricket club was a major organiser of events,

Dr. Wright, High Street, Bottesford



Courtesy of Mr. C. Hatton

Bottesford Band at the coronation celebrations in 1911



From the collection of Mr. P. Sutton

Photograph by F. Taylor, Bottesford



Courtesy of Bottesford Tower

Seated - Charles Lamb
 Front Row
 Daniel Gilding
 Arthur W. Ward
 John W. Kirton
 Mark Bend

Eight Members of St. Mary's Church Bottesford who rang a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples for the Coronation of King George V June 22. 1911

Back Row,
 Reuben Bend
 Samuel Baker
 Harris Thorlby