

Appendix 9 - Hagar & Co's Commercial Directory of Leicestershire, 1849

Comparisons with the 1849 Tithe Information Map and the 1851 Census - CAN THIS DIRECTORY GIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESIDENTS OF MUSTON?

The Directory confirms that Frances Dean was a member of the 'Gentry', with the Reverend Gordon MA. It also identifies Mary Smith as a Victualler, "Wheatsheaf", and farmer; in the 1851 census she is described as an 'Innkeeper' only.

The Wesleyan Chapel has circuit preachers and not a named minister.

Robert Tinley is listed as a 'cottager' in Normanton, near Bottesford. Could he be the Muston farmer in the 1851 census?

Under the list of TRADES it describes some Muston residents as 'cottagers', a word not mentioned on the 1851 census. Dictionary definitions of cottager include: small tenant farmer; owner of a small dwelling; someone able to work, or earn a living from a small amount of land. The cottagers are: Elizabeth Bray, Elizabeth Calcraft, John Clifton (also a joiner and builder), William Norman (also baker, flour dealer, and shopkeeper), Robert Simons, and William Staines (also a butcher). There is no record of William Staines in the Tithe Map information (perhaps indicating that the Directory is of a later date), and he is an agricultural labourer in 1851.

The remaining cottagers occupy land between approximately 1-7 acres. In 1849 Elizabeth Bray had 5 small pieces of land amounting to approximately 7 acres; she is described as a widow of an agricultural labourer in 1851 and there is little indication as to whether Elizabeth and her daughter were able to continue managing their 7 acres..

Elizabeth Calcraft became a widow, and her status changed to that of 'Farmer' increasing from 5 to 33 acres of land by 1851.

Robert Simon and John Clifton were small landowners in 1849 and possibly let their land to agricultural labourers, or used their land for their own businesses. In 1851 Robert is a Master Grocer and John is a Master Carpenter. William Norman is not mentioned in the 1851 Census.

GRAZIER is another new word in the Directory. Dictionary definitions include one who pastures animals, or breeds cattle for market. William Hickson, William Leighton, John and Thomas Oliver were the named Graziers. In 1849 they all had between 10-50 acres of grass land. Farmers Robert Spray and Robert Cragg are not identified as Graziers, even though they both had a lot of grass land and employed dairy maids, and Robert Spray also employed a shepherd. It is possible that there was an error in the printing of the third "Oliver" instead of Spray.

The Reverend George Gordon is wrongly identified as the minister of St. Peter's church instead of the Church of St. John the Baptist.

In conclusion, there do appear to be errors and omissions in this Directory, but it does give more information about the status of Muston residents.