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SN 2998 - Heads of Households in Bridgeton and Paisley, 1851, 1871, 1891

Study Documentation

AHDS History Note: This document is a transcribed version of the original hard copy documentation. This transcription was done because the original scanned documentation was not very clear in some places. Transcription was done using the OCR feature of MS Office Document Imaging (v. 11.0.1897.0) and although all efforts have been made to produce an accurate surrogate, there was a numeric character for which a correct identification could not be established. This occurred for the commentary on factory returns for females found under the 'History of the Project' sub-header where it was not possible to establish whether the number shown was 13 or 18. This was left as 13 and marked with the character [??] to flag this problem. In addition, the dataset names as initially typed by the depositor in the original documentation have been now replaced with the corresponding study number and titles assigned to them in the UK Data Archive catalogue. Users are asked to keep this in mind while reading the text.

THE SCOTTISH COTTON INDUSTRY: WORKERS.

HOUSEHOLDS AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP.

1851 – 1891.

1. List of contents

The project involved the construction of three datasets, all of which are subdivided into files.

Dataset 1: UKDA, SN 2999. Bridgeton and Paisley Census, 1851, 1871 and 1891 : A

Sample of Households Containing Cotton Workers

This dataset contains three files: CEN51.QSY, CEN71.QST, CEN91.QST. These contain information on household structure, the details of each person in household given on a single record card.

Dataset 2: UKDA, SN 2998. Heads of Households in Bridgeton and Paisley, 1851, 1871, 1891

This dataset contains three files: HEAD51.QST, HEAD71.QST, HEAD91.QST. It was derived from the dataset of census information on Bridgeton and Paisley by extracting records of heads of households from the original dataset and adding a number of fields (1 and 23-30) which condensed household information to one record per household. Fields 1-22 match the original 'head' records in CEN51, CEN71 and CEN91.

Dataset3: UKDA, SN 2997. Valuation Rolls, Paisley, for the Decennial Years, 1871-1911

This dataset is derived from the valuation rolls of Paisley, although some attempt has been made to link these records with Census information on households. It contains two files: VR1.QST, which lists all the residential properties owned by thread manufacturers for the decennial years 1871-1911 and includes limited information on the occupants; VR2.QST contains data extracted from VR1 for the decennial years 1871 and 1891 which is linked to Census information in order to establish a connection between occupation and tenancy of a property.

2. History of the Project

The collection of data of the type listed above was part of a much larger study on the decline of the Scottish cotton industry. The primary aim of the project was to answer questions regarding the causality and chronology of the decline, and since the industry exhibited an economic dualism, to ask why the spinning and weaving trades of Glasgow should fail and the thread trade of the neighbouring Paisley succeed. This

involved a thorough examination of such important issues as the quality of entrepreneurship, the nature of the product and labour markets, the industrial structure, and the relationship between capital and labour. Since economic historians have viewed the decline of the Scottish cotton industry as a consequence of poor labour productivity, it was felt that the last field of enquiry was the most fruitful to explore. This necessitated inquiry into the underlying structure of industrial relations in the industry. Specifically, this meant examining the gender structuration of the cotton mill.

Obviously, the published censuses and the various Factory Returns were the starting point in such a study. However, their limitations were quickly appreciated. The census provided few means of distinguishing the various branches of the cotton industry and the occupations of those working in them. Most workers, until the 1901 census, are grouped together under the generic header of 'cotton manufacture'. Additionally, there were rogue classifications such as 'weaver undefined'. Similarly, until 1895, the Factory Returns on female textile employment aggregates all females, but not males, over the age of 13 [??] in one age cohort. This makes it impossible to provide an accurate profile of the age structure of female cotton workers in Scotland. Therefore, having found existing parliamentary papers and reports, as well as the published statistical data of the various nineteenth century censuses inadequate and misleading, we set about using census enumerator books to provide on a sample basis a sharper profile of the age and sexual composition of the labour force, as well as the relationship of the household to the factory. As it was imperative to construct a manageable dataset in which time constraints were uppermost in our thinking we chose to take a sample at twenty year intervals of cotton working households in streets of Bridgeton and Paisley where cotton workers were known to reside in large numbers.

The project was not intended to provide an occupational profile of these areas, therefore the sample only included households in which there was a proven connection to the cotton industry. From the immense detail contained in the dataset two separate, but complementary, sets of statistics were extracted and tabulated. The first series related to age and economic status, that is, working, unemployed, scholar, and so on, and also whether the person was occupied in textile or some other industry. The second related specifically to textile workers and was broken down into those working in weaving, cotton (excluding weaving), and other textile occupations.

The exercise provided valuable information on important issues regarding the sexual composition of the labour and the age and occupational structure of the female cotton workforce in the various sectors of the industry in Scotland.

This was the primary purpose behind the use of the CEN and HEAD files. The HEAD files also provided some insight into the question of the stability of the mill community. If over time the heads of household exhibited a high correlation between place of birth and place of employment it was assumed that the community experienced a low level of in/out migration. This we assumed made the cotton workers more amenable to employer strategies of control which focused on paternalism. The VR dataset was also used as part of the analysis of the structure of paternalism in the Paisley thread industry. Specifically, we wanted to test whether there was a link between company housing and industrial pacifism among the workers.

3. Methodology

The Census datasets were confined to information collected from the census enumerator books of a random selection of streets in Paisley and Bridgeton where

cotton workers were known to dwell in large numbers. All households in each street which contained at least one cotton worker were included in the dataset. The VR datasets were constructed through the inclusion of every residential property listed under the ownership of thread manufactures in the decennial years listed above.

4. Technical Information

As the aims of the project were to construct a profile of the age, sex and occupational status of cotton workers over time in Bridgeton and Paisley, the statistical work, although time-consuming, was fairly straight forward procedure of counting numbers in a particular category. A user friendly statistical package was provided by QUEST for this work, operated on IBM compatible computers. A coding scheme was constructed which covered 21 variables in the CEN*.QST files, 28 in the HEAD*.QST files, and 16 in the VR*.QST files. The codes have been appended as part of the documentation.

5. Dataset Source Details

Census Enumerator Books for Paisley and Bridgeton were used in the decennial years 1851, 1871 and 1891. These gave household details regarding name, address, age, sex, occupation and place of birth. CEN51.QST was made up of 2422 separate records drawn from 442 households; subtotals were 1204 individual records based on 228 Paisley households, and 1218 records based on 214 households in Bridgeton. CEN71.QST was based on 3273 separate records drawn from 576 households; the respective subtotals being 1950 records and 383 households for Paisley, and 1323 records and 273 households for Bridgeton. CEN91.QST was based on 2999 individual records drawn from 601 households; the respective subtotals being 2206 and 406 for

Paisley and 797 and 195 for Bridgeton. From this dataset a further one (HEAD) was derived.

The VR1 dataset comprised of all properties in Paisley owned by thread manufacturers at decennial years 1871, 1891, 1901 and 1911. The VR2 dataset includes only the decennial years 1871, 1881 and 1891 as these were the only years that could be linked to the census. The need to link the data from the valuation rolls to the census was due to the fact that the tenant of a company house was the head of the household, and usually male. Since most of the workforce were females valuation rolls by themselves shed no light on the connection between housing and thread mill work. It was thus necessary to consider the question of whether the tenancy was provided on the basis that the family supplied female labour for the mill. By linking the name of the head of the household found in the valuation rolls with that contained in the census enumerator books it was hoped to provide a profile of the structure of household employment. The results, however, were inconclusive since the rented housing sector in Paisley was found to be more mobile than was anticipated. Tenant instability meant that only a few families could be traced simultaneously to the both the valuation rolls and the census. The major problem was that of the time gap between the censuses was too long to capture the rate of household formation and destruction. In spite of this, the data in VR2.QST does throw some interesting light on the nature of paternalism in Paisley in the nineteenth century.

The main problems in administering the source are common enough to anyone who has worked with the nineteenth century census and/or enumerator books. The chief one was that of occupational classification. With some occupations it was found impossible to assign them to a specific sector. In the textile industry the occupation which gave most cause of concern was that of winder. Female winders could be found

in all sectors of the cotton industry in Scotland, and even in a single sector like thread making there were a variety of different winding jobs, such as hank, cop and bobbin. Where 'weaver's winder' is listed there is obviously no problem in assigning it an occupational classification, but where 'pirn winder' is given this has to be assigned to the weaving sector. Any other form of winding [often 'cotton winder' in the census] has been assigned to the cotton spinning thread trades. Inevitably figures for this occupation will be prone to a degree of error.

6. The Archival History of the Source

The database was set up during the period January-June 1992. The sources consisted of census enumerator books for Bridgeton and Paisley in the decennial years 1851, 1871 and 1891 and valuation rolls for Paisley in the decennial years covering 1871-1911. They can be found in the Scottish Record Office (SRO), Edinburgh, and are archived by year and area code. There are no special problems of access for researchers.

7. The relationship between Source and Data File

CEN*.QST and VR1.QST were transcribed straight from the source to the machine, with a few additions to the source in regard to the occupational specifications (see appendices). In the HEAD.QST file each household has been correlated as a single record, as opposed to each individual in the household being allocated a single record. Overall details of occupational structure have also been computed. This, and the coding procedures used, are illustrated in the appendices regarding the explanation of the fields.

A random sample of streets known for large numbers of cotton households in Bridgeton and Paisley was the procedure adopted for collecting data. Households containing no employment connection with the cotton industry were excluded from the sample as the intention was not to profile the age, sex and occupational structure of these areas, but to concentrate on the links between cotton households and workplace relationships.

8. Additional Uses for Dataset

Although a substantial amount of effort has gone into the collection, processing and interpretation of data from census enumerator books, the possibilities in the use of the material are far from being exhausted. By considering the ethnicity of 'boarders' in relation to the ethnic origin of the host household it may be possible to discover whether an information network existed both within and without Bridgeton and Paisley for employment. Family networks could also be partially established through linking households in close proximity to each other sharing the same forename and place of birth. The relationship between households –and individuals in them- with the workplace over time is also an area where more analysis and research could be carried out. However, since the majority of workers in the Scottish cotton industry after 1850 were of dependant status the only way of conducting this line of inquiry is through heads of households. Unfortunately, the inter-census intervals in this project at twenty years were too wide apart to permit such an analysis as family composition in this time would have changed quite considerably. However, if sampling of the 1861 and 1881 census was undertaken with regard to heads of households residing at specific addresses, the links between household and workplace should become more apparent, as would the internal economic dynamic of the family. A comparative study

with an English cotton town or district would also be of some interest as it would show very clearly how the economic organisation of the family related to the growth and development of the cotton enterprise and alternatively, it might show how familial relationships were influenced by the workplace.

It is clear that Bridgeton and Paisley cotton households rarely existed within any contemporary model of the nuclear family. The make-up of the household was very varied. Apart from the 'conventional' model of husband, wife and children, with the odd elderly dependant there are instances of; firstly, sisters with no partner, but with children, living with each other; secondly, female heads of households with no partner, but with children; and thirdly, female heads of household with no partner, with children, not themselves working but with boarders who do work in the cotton mills. A comparative study of other cotton households would be interesting in determining family pattern in the nineteenth century cotton areas in Britain. Finally, a comparative approach may shed some light on questions relating to industrial decline and growth as it would clarify the different age and sexual structures of the respective labour forces and how this was influenced and was, in turn, determined by the labour process and the technical capabilities of the cotton industry in different areas of Britain. Such a study would throw some interesting light on the productivity of the labour force.

SN 2998 - Code Book

EXPLANATION OF FIELDS USED FOR HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS DATABASE OF BRIDGETON AND PAISLEY FOR THE YEARS 1851,1871,1891

THIS DATASET HAS BEEN DERIVED FROM THE DATASET OF CENSUS INFORMATION ON PAISLEY AND BRIDGETON FROM 1851, 1871 & 1891. IT WAS FORMED BY EXTRACTING RECORDS OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD FROM THE ORIGINAL DATASET AND ADDING A NUMBER OF FIELDS (1 & 23-30 BELOW) WHICH CONDENSED HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION TO ONE RECORD. FIELDS 2 TO 22 SHOULD MATCH THE ORIGINAL 'HEAD' RECORD.

1. SERIAL SERIAL NUMBER OF RECORD
2. RECNO NUMBER OF RECORD TO WHICH THIS RECORD RELATES
IN CEN51.QST (CEN71.QST, CEN91.QST) DATABASE
3. YEAR YEAR OF CENSUS
4. AREANO NUMBER ASSIGNED TO ENUMERATION DISTRICT RE CENSUS
5. DISTNO NUMBER ASSIGNED TO REGISTRATION DISTRICT RE CENSUS
6. HSEHOLD NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD - THIS SHOULD CORRESPOND TO
THE NUMBER IN THE CEN51(71,91) DATABASE.
7. SNAME SURNAME OF INDIVIDUAL (RV=1NK)
8. FNAME FORENAME OF INDIVIDUAL (RV=2NK)
9. STREET NUMBER AND NAME OF STREET (RV=3NK)
10. TOWN NAME OF TOWN RE STREET
11. SEX M OR F (MALE OR FEMALE)
12. RHEAD RELATION OF INDIVIDUAL TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD
(The following have been used:
ADOPTED, AUNT, BROTHER, B(rother) IN LAW, BOARDER,
COUSIN, DAUR(daughter), FATHER, GDAUR, GSON, GNIECE,
GNEPHEW (ie grand relation); GT GSON (ie great
grand); HALF SISTER, MOTHER, M(other) IN LAW,
HUSBAND, NEPHEW, NIECE, ORPHAN, RELATIVE, SERVANT
S(on) IN LAW, SISTER, SIS(ter) IN LAW, S-SON, S-DAUR
(ie step-relation); SON, UNSTATED, VISITOR, WIFE
13. MARITAL MARITAL STATUS - MAR(ried), SING(le),
JUV(enile) (ie anyone under the age of 16),
WIDOW, WIDOWER, UNKNOWN.
14. AGE AGE LAST BIRTHDAY. A '0' ENTRY INDICATES A
CHILD UNDER 1 YEAR OLD. (RV = 999)
15. OCCUP OCCUPATION GIVEN IN CENSUS. ALSO 'SCHOLAR',
'NOENT' (if space was left blank), 'UND5'
(if child under 5 years of age).
16. OCCAREA AREA OF OCCUPATION IE COTTON, WOOL, COAL etc. (RV=UK)
ALSO, 'HOME' for wife who is either designated as
housewife, or for whom there is no entry; 'SCHOOL'

for scholar; 'UND5' as in OCCUP above; 'CHILD'
for person aged between 5 and 14 for whom there is
no entry under OCCUP above.
'ELDDEP' for elderly dependant for whom there is
no entry at OCCUP; 'NOENT' for non-working adult,
reason unknown.

17. OCCSPEC OCCUPATIONAL SPECIFICATION IE TEXTILES, TRANSPORT etc.
(RV=1UK)
'HOMEWORK' for wife as described in OCCAREA and for
homeworkers such as dressmakers etc.
'SCHOOL' for scholar; 'UND5' as in OCCUP above;
'ELDDEP' as in OCCAREA; 'NOENT' for non-working
adult, reason unknown.
18. EMPSPEC EMPLOYMENT SPECIFICATION:
1=EMPLOYER, 2=EMPLOYEE, 3=NEITHER EMPLOYER NOR
EMPLOYED BUT WORKING ON OWN ACCOUNT, 4=HOUSEWIFE,
5=SCHOLAR, 6=CHILD AGED 5-14 FOR WHOM THERE IS
NO ENTRY UNDER OCCUP, 7=CHILD UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE,
8=ADULT UNABLE TO WORK THROUGH ILLNESS OR INFIRMITY,
9=NON-WORKING ADULT - REASON UNKNOWN,
10=UNEMPLOYED WHERE STATED IN CENSUS,
11=RETIRED WHERE STATED IN CENSUS,
12=ELDERLY DEPENDANT
13=STUDENT - WHERE OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN SOME KIND
OF FURTHER EDUCATION
14=ANNUITANT OR SOMEONE WHO IS DEFINITELY ON A
PENSION AND NOT SIMPLY STATED TO BE RETIRED.
15=PAUPER
19. TOWNB TOWN OF BIRTH (RV=2UK)
20. DISTB DISTRICT OF BIRTH (RV=3UK)
21. CNTRYB COUNTRY OF BIRTH (RV=4UK)
22. GE GAELIC AND ENGLISH SPOKEN. 'YES' OR LEFT BLANK.
THIS PARTICULAR SPECIFICATION APPLIES TO 1891
ONLY. THE CENSUSES OF PREVIOUS YEARS DO NOT
INCLUDE THIS QUESTION, THEREFORE 1871 AND 1851
ARE LEFT BLANK HERE.
23. NOH TOTAL NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD INCLUDING THE HEAD.
24. TOTOCC TOTAL NUMBER OCCUPIED.
25. NOTEX TOTAL WORKING IN TEXTILES.
26. NOCOT TOTAL WORKING IN COTTON. THIS INCLUDES THOSE WHO
ARE NOT, STRICTLY SPEAKING, TEXTILE WORKERS, IE
CLERKS, MECHANICS, FIREMENT ETC. THIS IS TO ENBALE
ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY LINKS WITH THE MILLS EVEN
WHERE OCCUPATION IS NOT LINKED.
27. NOOTH TOTAL NUMBER OF THOSE OCCUPIED IN INDUSTRIES
OTHER THAN TEXTILES. 'MW' NEXT TO NUMBER SIGNIFIES
MILL WORKER WHERE INDUSTRY UNSPECIFIED.
'ILL' SIGNIFIES THAT ORIGINAL ENTRY AGAINST
OCCUPATION IN THE WRITTEN RECORDS WAS ILLEGIBLE TO ME.

28. RELTEX NUMBER WORKING IN TEXTILES RELATED TO EACH OTHER
- INCLUDING HEAD BUT EXCLUDING BOARDERS.
29. TOTBDS TOTAL NUMBER OF BOARDERS IN HOUSEHOLD INCLUDING CHILDREN.
30. TEXBDS TOTAL NUMBER OF BOARDERS WORKING IN TEXTILES.
IF FOLLOWED BY R THEN THEY ARE RELATED TO EACH
OTHER; IF FOLLOWED BY OTHER LETTER THIS
INDICATES TEXTILES IE 'C' - COTTON, 'W'-WOOL.

NOTES ON ABOVE:

RV = ROGUE VALUE.

17. OCCSPEC. This is by no means the definitive solution and should not be quoted or relied upon as such without further verification in many non-textile cases. There was no time to finalise this, given that for our purposes textiles were the major concern.
21. GE. There were no 'gaelic only' speakers recorded in the sample. Gaelic refers to Scottish, not Irish, Gaelic.

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TITLE: PAISLEY & BRIDGETON CENSUS 1851 (1871, 1891) -
SAMPLE OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS CONTAINING COTTON
WORKERS

VERSION: 1

EDIT: 1

PUBLISHER:

COPYRIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREW'S

SERIES/T:

ISBN:

CONTENTS: DETAILS OF HEADS AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS WHICH CONTAIN
AT LEAST ONE COTTON WORKER