

The information contained in the 1861 census included each individual present in a household, listed with their:

Name; Age; Relationship to Head of Household; Sex; Occupation Parish; Medical disabilities; Employment status.

Some of the early census information is subject to some error of various kinds mostly relating to issues in relation to age, spelling and other literacy related factors. Some of the trades listed are also very odd to us in 2024 and some of these trades are described in the sections referring to specific families living in Horsington at the time.

The 1861 census clearly shows that Horsington was, unsurprisingly, dominated by agriculture. In total there were approximately 300 people living there - approximately because some members of specific households may have been absent at the time of the census and others who were present may have been in potentially itinerant trades such as the presence in 1861 census of a cattle drover.

All the census information shown below was discovered using the online subscription system Find My Past. The first table below shows an outline of the household of William Stones a farmer of 160 acres.

William Stones owned 160 acres. Employed 2 labourers and 1 boy.

William Stones.	Head	59	Farmer	Born: Maidenwell
Mary Stones	Wife	52	Farmer's Wife	Born: Tetford
George Freshney	Servant.	29	Carter	Born: Moorby
Mary Pauter	Servant	20	House Servant	Born: Thimbleby
William Pauter	Servant	17	Carter	Born: Thimbleby
John Temple	Servant	61	Groom	
Hannah Temple		49	Groom's wife	

It is interesting to note that most of those present in the household were from local villages and also the range of work they undertook. A farmer's wife or a groom's wife, for example, are very likely to have undertaken household duties of various kinds. There is also an interesting job title of a

carter. The occupation of a carter could be found across the country. They were employed to move goods from place to place usually by using a horse or horses and a cart or wagon. On farms it seems likely this work was year-round and it is notable that William Stones employed two carters.

An example in the village of another farmer was Thomas Clifton.

Thomas Clifton. Farmer of 30 acres.

Thomas Clifton	Head	61	Farmer	Born: Minting
Mary Clifton	Wife	54	Farmers Wife	Born Horsington
William Clifton	Son	21	Farmers son	Born: Horsington
Joseph Clifton	Son	14	Farmers Son	Born: Horsington
Martha	Daughter	11	Scholar	Born: Horsington
Frederick Green	Grandson	5	Scholar	Born: Horsington
Thomas Humberson	Son in Law	25	Agricultural labourer. Born: Edlington	
Betsy Humberson	Daughter	27	Dressmaker	Born: Horsington
Elizabeth Turnhill	Servant	18	Dairy Maid	Born: Metheringham

In the following example we have George Miller who is referred to as a cottager.

George Miller, a cottager farming 12 acres.

George Miller	Head	48	Cottager (with 12 acres)	
Mary Miller	Wife	35	Cottagers Wife	Born: Minting
Ann Miller	Daughter	15		Born: Horncastle
George Miller	Son	11	Scholar	Born: Horncastle
Mary Miller	Daughter	8	Scholar	Born: Horsington

A cottager and his family usually lived in a tied cottage on the landowner's land. In Scotland the term cottager often referred to a peasant farmer or equivalent. The position and home of a cottager could be precarious as

the landowner had the right to remove the cottager particularly if he was dissatisfied with the quality or quantity of work done.

One of the most frequent descriptions of the work undertaken in agricultural areas was 'Ag Lab' or agricultural labourer. There were many agricultural labourers in Horsington. Many remained so until old age and when finally being unable to work, sometimes became paupers. In the 1800s a pauper was a person who had no property or means of livelihood and was dependent on charity. There were examples of paupers in Horsington but, in the cases examined for this short summary, they seem to have remained in their original location and their role taken over by their son or sons who often continued to work in the same or similar employment as their father. An example of this in the census for 1861 in Horsington is Cornelius Bowering. In 1861 Cornelius was aged 68 and worked as an agricultural labourer. By 1881, aged 88 years, he was noted as a widower and as a pauper. He and his son William were still present in the same residence. William worked as an agricultural labourer to support Cornelius and also his own family.

At the time poverty amongst both the urban and rural poor was characterized by overcrowded housing, low wages, insecure employment, sometimes unsanitary conditions and in later life the effects of ill-health and old age. Poverty could also be caused by other factors including the death of the breadwinner or some form of long-term injury or health condition and were very challenging for the often large families.

Another example of an agricultural labourer in Horsington was Joseph Hinds whose details from the census show that he and his wife were both aged 37 years. They had eight children including one set of twin boys. Three were above the age of 7 years and thus recorded as 'scholars', while the remaining five were at home.

In this period education was not universal. Schools belonged mainly to churches and education was restricted by the rigid class system. Universal provision for schooling did not come into effect until 1870.

One of the residents of Horsington in 1861 was a school mistress and would have worked at the local school.

Susan Helson	Head Widow	34	School Mistress	Born: Hitchin, Herts
Clement Helson	Son	3		Born: Southgate, Middx
Harry Gordon	Visitor	0 (under 1 yr)		Born: Strand, Middx
Elizabeth Vickers	Servant	15		Born: Winceby

A very important local resident was John Clark, the Corn Miller.

John Clark	Head	71	Corn Miller	
Mary Clark	Wife	56	Corn Millers Wife	Born: Scotter
Edward Grennan		24	Miller	Born: Bucknell
William Whaley		16	Carter	Born: Bucknell
Joseph Boothby		13	Carter	Born: Thimbleby
Rachael Leggitt		16	House Servant	Born: Thimbleby

The miller was a key figure in local agriculture and corn was sometimes used as partial payment for the many agricultural labourers.

Another tradesman was Edward Hardley, a brickmaker.

Edward Hardley	Head	25	Brickmaker	Born: Ruddington, Notts
Elizabeth Hardley	Brickmakers Wife	26		Born: Coningsby
Eliza	Daughter	5		Born: Horsington
Elizabeth	Daughter	3		Born Horsington
Harriet	Daughter	1		Born: Horsington

Edward employed one brickmaker's labourer who is listed in another household in the village where an interesting lady called Amelia Hinds was

the head of the household. Amelia Hinds is listed as the Head of the household because she was a widow.

Amelia Hinds Head Widow 62 Employed in agriculture. Born: France

John Hinds Son 39 Bricklayers labourer Born: Horsington

Ann Hinds 37 Bricklayers labourers Wife Born: Lincoln

It is unusual to have someone born overseas living in Horsington during this period. In many census records anyone not born in England, Scotland or Wales was referred to as born in 'foreign parts'. Also notable is that the census indicates she was 'employed in agriculture'. This phrase usually meant she undertook routine manual employment on farms, often seasonal in nature, therefore releasing other workers for the more arduous tasks.

Horsington also had a 'retailer of beer'.

Eliza Roberts Head 18 Retailer of beer Born: Bolingbroke

Mary Jane Roberts Sister 16 Born: Bolingbroke

Ann Maria Roberts Sister 14 Scholar Born: Horsington

Banks Roberts Brother 7 Scholar Born: Horsington

Caroline Pillsworth Sister 5 Scholar Born: Horsington

Eliza appears to have gained her knowledge and skill in beer retailing and production from her parents, William and Ann, who are noted in the 1851 census as being the previous retailers of beer in the village. The Horsington History website already holds more information about beer retailing. See in the Businesses section: The Elder Tree Inn.

Information Sources:

All Tables used in this summary were discovered using the online subscription service Find My Past

Other information was discovered using various publications issued by the Office of National Statistics including:

Early Census Taking in England and Wales. Updated online in January 2016. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2021census/howourcensusworks/aboutcensuses/censushistory/earlycensustakinginenglandandwales>

History of the census 1801-2021. Released June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/statistics/history-of-the-census-1801-2021>

Also consulted for general information on education in England and Wales was: Gillard, D. (2018). *Education in the UK: a history*. www.education-uk.org/history

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