

NABURN: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY 1891-1914

(a/Naburn.10)

INTRODUCTION

Naburn is a village of 2,636 acres four miles south of York on the east bank of the Ouse. The population of the parish had increased from 346 in 1811, to 566 in 1891 and 574 in 1901; falling to 541 in 1911. In 1891 it lay in the York Rural Sanitary District, and the Parliamentary Division of Howdenshire.

The parish's agricultural identity is illustrated by occupations recorded in the Census Enumerators' Books, and entries in commercial directories. 74 people were engaged in farming in 1891 including 27 agricultural workers and 25 farm servants. Wheat, oats, barley and potatoes were the main crops on the loamy soil (Pugh 1974; Census 1891; Kelly 1893, 1901, 1905, 1913).

LAND OWNERSHIP

The Palmes estate dominated, its land tenanted by five farms: Robert Tasker at Naburn House, Thomas Atkinson at Naburn Grange, John Potter at Prospect House, Matthias George Wharram at The Yews, and Richard and Thomas Richardson at Whin Cover.

Rev. George Palmes had cottagers from whom he collected rent on Lady Day (25 March) and Michaelmas (29 September). On Lady Day 1891 his agent collected £283 ranging from £1 10s from Hannah and Robert Bell to £11 6s from John Croft, the threshing machine proprietor. Arrears of £10 10s from cottagers were recorded. James Leaf paid £50 for the fishery, and £12 10s for land. Tenant farmers and the miller, Robert Rook, paid rent to Palmes account totalling £722 (Palmes Accounts Book DDPa(2)2).

Rent from farmers and cottagers was the most important element in the income of Rev George Palmes, £1825 out of a total of £3908 in 1905. Also significant was £440 private income, £421 from woods and land sold, and £395 in dividends. Total income -and income from farms and cottages - remained fairly constant up to 1914 (Palmes Summary Account Book 1905-33: DDPa2/2/9).

In the nineteenth century there had usually been a dozen tenanted farms, half of them 150 acres or more. In the 1890s William Baines at Bell Hall rented farms to James Beckett at Wood End, John Jacques at Gravell Pit House and Thomas Lowther at Maudridding. John Hobson rented Naburn Hill Farm from Mrs Lloyd of Lincroft, Thomas Atkinson farmed the Glebe Land for the Vicar, and Lord Wenlock had a tenant, George Beckett, at Park House. Thomas and Richard Richardson farmed for Mrs Belcher at Gillridding. Several landlords farmed themselves: Robert Faulding was farm bailiff for George Whitehead at Deighton Grove, and James Hollingsworth for Mrs Lloyd (Pugh 1976; Baines 1895).