

TABLE 1
BIRTHPLACES OF THOSE IN THREE OCCUPATIONS IN NABURN, 1891
Source: Naburn Census Enumerators' Books

born at	indoor domestic servants %	farm servants %	agricultural labourers %
0-5 miles	27	28	63
6-10 miles	2	20	7
11-25 miles	29	16	0
26-50 miles	16	0	4
51-99 miles	5	0	0
over 100 miles	21	36	26
	n=56	n=25	n=27

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

The majority in each occupational group were born in or close to Naburn. However over a quarter of agricultural workers were born 100 miles or more from Naburn; and over a third of farm servants. The latter were often young and single who lived on the farm, whereas agricultural labourers were employed by farmers for wages but not living in his house. Farm servants tended to reside on larger farms; agricultural labourers in cottages.

Tenant farmers had separate live-in quarters for farm servants, witness the layout of Naburn House. Growth in the number of farm servants between 1851 and 1891 - and their proportionate growth in relation to agricultural labourers - suggests servants made up a shortfall in the agricultural labour force; a shortfall likely triggered by the availability of alternative employment opportunities in the nearby West Riding of Yorkshire with its higher wages (Wilson 1999; Golby 1994:7).

The young median age of farm servants suggests that service acted as a phase in the life cycle. Most married after ten or twelve years of the life and changed their status to agricultural workers. This contrasted with parts of Scotland where "most permanent farm workers were farm servants... who were hired over a period of one year, if married, and for six months if single" (Sheppard 1961:49; Howkins 1997:57).

Recruitment of farm servants is illuminated by a report on the Martinmas hiring fair in York in 1891:

Farm foremen and farm servants engaged at from £20 - £22, an advance of £3 on the latter being obtainable in a few cases. Plough boys £16 -£18, younger lads £12 - £14. (York Gazette, November 28 1891, page 3, column 5).