

Oral testimony suggests local hiring fairs were complemented by an agent who recruited farm servants in East Anglia (Thompson 1999). This source needs corroboration, for example by examining servants' contracts, or seeking references in the East Anglian press of the period. Sheppard has drawn attention to relatively favourable rates of pay in East Yorkshire compared with those in the south of England. Farm service had increasingly been abandoned in the south east where a typical farm worker by the late nineteenth century was male, employed by the week, and for cash wages. (Sheppard 1961: 47; Howkins1999: 50; Brown 1996; Joyce 1990:152).

There was pressure to move from East Anglia where the impact of cheap food imports created pressure on tenant farmers. This was reflected in increased levels of rent arrears - rental income declined by over 36% between 1873 and 1911 - and created a difficult economic environment for the agricultural workforce. Evidence from individual estates supports the view that rents fell more in arable England than in the pastoral north and west. Evans reveals difficult agricultural conditions in Suffolk in the 1870s with a succession of wet seasons and the severe winter of 1881; and the effect of the union movement, including the lock-out in a greater part of Suffolk, persuading men to move from the region. Oral sources in Naburn relay stories of harsh social relationships between farmers and employees who arrived from East Anglia, such as John Swan, born 4 September 1858 in Wimbish, Essex, his father a horsekeeper. (Pedden 1995:17-22; Evans 1956: 104,115; Wilson 1999; Swan 1999).

Naburn's agricultural community in 1851 did not include anyone born in East Anglia. By 1891 over a third of its farm servants recorded East Anglian birthplaces on the Census form. Economic and social conditions provided the incentive to move; and demand for labour from Naburn farmers the "pull". Joyce notes that relocation was stimulated by growth of the railway system and, as noted above, it's probable that migration to Naburn was facilitated by joining the network (Joyce 1990: 139).

Attention has been drawn to under - enumeration of casual and seasonal work, and the work of women. Samuel points out that 143,000 women farm servants and agricultural workers are recorded in the 1851 Census. Yet the 1891 Census in Naburn records none. School log books and oral testimony indicate the importance of children's work up till the First World War. (Higgs 1996: 105-7; Samuel 1975: 3; Naburn School log, 14 July 1893; Thompson 1999).

The occupational structure of Naburn in 1891 reflected the relationship between agriculture, manufacturing and dealing with four blacksmiths, a basketmaker, and a potato dealer. The railway was crucial in transporting livestock and despatching produce. Between 1891 and 1912 goods traffic on the North Eastern Railway increased by over 50% from 9 to 16 million tons. In 1913 seven wagons of livestock arrived at Naburn station; 4218 tons of potatoes left it. (Census 1891; Hoole 1985: 178; Irving 1976: 298).

The press reported trading in agricultural produce in York markets. In late August 1891 there was only a moderate supply of potatoes, "crops generally being light owing to the early frosts. Business was slow". In the corresponding period in 1914