

Norbury Junction 1851

Continuing the occasional look at census information for evidence of who might have been dependant on the S&N Canals in the past, in this issue it is the turn of Norbury Junction in 1851. This was less than 20 years after the Birmingham & Liverpool Junction Canal, and the Newport Branch, had arrived.

The first entry in Norbury parish is the most important place, the pub! Although not identified as the Junction Inn from the entry it is clear this is where we are:

Name	Relation	Age	Occupation
John Rutter	Head	55	Victualler
Ann Rutter	Wife	66	Staffs, Gnosall
Catherine Rutter	Daughter	28	Staffs, Gnosall
John Turner	Nephew	21	Labourer
Elizabeth James	Niece	23	Servant
William Rutter	Grandson	2	Staffs, Norbury
Charles Coulson	Visitor	12	Kent, Rochester
Charles B.....	Lodger	50	Labourer

With two labourers in the household, one wonders whether they were working on the canal. In the parish there are individuals clearly identified as “agricultural labourer”, but there are also farms on which some individuals are shown purely as „labourer“. There are a few households though, apparently unconnected to farms, where the recorded labourers could well be canal related:

William Parton	Head	56	Labourer	Staffs, Norbury
Eliza Parton	Wife	55		Staffs, Norbury
Henry Ralphs	Head	25	Labourer	Salop, Lilleshall
Eliza Ralphs	Wife	27		Salop, Hodnet
Margaret Jervis	Head	63	Widow	Salop, Wem
John Jervis	Son	32	Labourer	Salop, Chetwynd Aston
George Jervis	Son	22	Labourer	Salop, Chetwynd Aston
Edward Jervis	Son	18	Blacksmith	Salop, Chetwynd Aston

Again, we cannot be certain that Edward was a blacksmith connected with the canal, although the canal company certainly employed blacksmiths. There are also others in Norbury:

Lucy Parker	Head	72	Blacksmith	Staffs, Cheadle
Edward Parker	Son	42	Blacksmith	Staffs, Norbury
Thomas Parker	Son	35	Journeyman	Staffs, Norbury
Eliza Myatt	Granddaughter	16	Scholar	Staffs, High Offley

Was Lucy really a blacksmith? At 72?

Other trades, also likely to be connected with the canal, also appear:

Joseph Eccles	Head	50	Carpenter	Salop, Aston
Mary Eccles	Wife	40		Staffs, Weston
Samuel Eccles	Son	16		Staffs, Sutton
Lucy Eccles	Daughter	12		Staffs, Sutton
Eliza Eccles	Daughter	11		Staffs, Sutton
Ester May Eccles	Daughter	3		Staffs, Norbury
Joseph Trubshaw	Head	25	Stone Mason	Staffs, Forton
Elizabeth Trubshaw	Wife	23		Salop, Wem
Ann Trubshaw	Daughter	2		Salop, Whitchurch
Eliza Trubshaw	Daughter	4m		Salop, Whitchurch
Mary Powell	Servant	14	Servant	Salop, Whitchurch

...and his brother:

Henry Trubshaw	Head	22	Stone Mason	Staffs, Forton
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Then, of course, there are those who are undoubtedly working on the canal:

David Hodson	Head	40	Lock Keeper	Staffs, Eccleshall
Mary Hodson	Wife	39		Staffs, Norbury
Samuel Hodson	Son	10	Scholar	Staffs, Norbury
Emma Hodson	Daughter	7	Scholar	Staffs, Norbury
Mary Ann Hodson		4	At Home	Staffs, Norbury
Thomas Worrall	Head	59	Lock Keeper	Salop, Church Aston
Bridget Worrall	Wife	60		Cork Fermoy Ireland
Emily Worrall	Granddaughter	10	Scholar	Bristol
James Tilgesley	Lodger	71	Labourer	Staffs, Norbury
William Radford	Lodger	32	Blacksmith	Staffs, Brewood
James Silvester	Head	65	Wharfinger	Staffs, Seighford
Mary Ann Silvester	Daughter	40	Housekeeper	Staffs, Acton
James Silvester	Son	31	Labourer	Salop, Stoke upon Tern
Mary Ann Holt	Granddaughter	9	Scholar	Staffs, Penkridge
Thomas Lean	Lodger	50	Carpenter	Salop, Sheriff Hales

26	Norbury	David Hodson	Head	Mar	40	Lock Keeper
		Mary D ^c	Wife		39	
		Samuel D ^c	Son	10	10	Scholar
		Emma D ^c	Daughter	10	7	Scholar
		Mary Ann D ^c		10	4	At Home
25	Norbury	Thomas Worrall	Head	Mar	59	Lock Keeper
		Bridget D ^c	Wife		60	
		Emily D ^c	Granddaughter	10	10	Scholar
		James Tilgesley	Lodger	10	71	Labourer
		William Radford	Son	10	32	Blacksmith
Total of Persons..					108	