

CHILMARK, WILTSHIRE, 1851

Introduction

Chilmark is a village in Wiltshire, situated in the Nadder Valley, 12 miles west of Salisbury. It is famous for its freestone quarries which provided stone for many buildings, including Salisbury Cathedral.¹ Its clay was also used in the production of bricks and pottery.² However, the main occupation in Chilmark was agriculture.³ The main crops were barley, wheat and turnips.⁴

This paper presents a portrait of Chilmark in the mid nineteenth century, through an analysis of the 1851 census.

Heads of Household

In 1851, there were 619 people living in Chilmark. All but 9 of the 131 heads of household were born in Wiltshire, 75 (57%) in Chilmark itself. The most common surnames of heads of household were Macey (17), Goodfellow (9), Yates (7), Penny (5) and Mould (4). A list of all heads of household is given in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Place of Birth of Heads of Household, Chilmark, 1851

Place	Number	%
Chilmark	75	57 %
Elsewhere in Wiltshire	47	36 %
Elsewhere in England	9	7 %
Total	131	100 %

Occupations of Heads of Households

Table 2 shows the occupations of heads of household in Chilmark in 1851. It can be seen that the most common occupation, by far, was agricultural labourer. 49 (37%) heads of household were described as agricultural labourers or farm labourers and 8 as farmers. 8 (6%) were recorded as stone masons or masons. Another 19 (14.5%) were described simply as labourers, which could refer to different kinds of manual labour.

It can also be seen that the village had an inn – the Black Dog - a Post Office, and shops, as well as a baker, beerseller, shoemaker and tailors. Also resident in the village was the Rector of Chilmark, Charles Tower, and a Relieving Officer.

5 heads of household were described simply as paupers. Another 13 heads of household, despite having occupations recorded, were described as paupers as well. These were 7 agricultural labourers, 1 farm labourer, 1 labourer, 1 road maker, 1 stone cutter, 1 ? cutter and 1 thrasher. This suggests that the income from these occupations was very low and that others in these occupations were likely to have been in poverty, even if they were not paupers, ie in receipt of parish relief.

Table 2: Occupations of Heads of Household, Chilmark, 1851

Occupation	Number	%
Ag Lab/ Farm Labourer	49	37 %
Labourer	19	14.5 %
Stone Mason/ Mason	8	6 %
Farmer	8	6 %
Shepherd	4	3 %
Blacksmith	2	1.5 %
Woodman	2	1.5 %
Thrasher	2	1.5 %
Shop Keeper/PO Keeper/ Inn Keeper/ Beer Seller/ Baker	6	4.5 %
Tailor/ Shoemaker	4	3 %
Potter	2 (in addition 1 farmer was also a potter)	2 %
Other occupation*	20	15 %
Pauper	5	4 %
Total	131	99.5 %

* 1 each of laundress, tile maker, dairyman, carrier, brick burner, retired servant, cord winder [should be cordwainer], gardener, carpenter, miller, annuitant, toll gate keeper, stone cutter, road maker, ? cutter, thatcher, 'sawyer's wife', servant, Rector of Chilmark, Relieving Officer.

Women

There were 11 female heads of household. 4 were recorded as paupers. The others were described as a post office keeper, an annuitant, a laundress, a servant, a retired servant, a farm labourer and a sawyer's wife.

3 wives of heads of household were described as paupers. Another 12 wives were recorded with the following occupations: 5 agricultural labourers and 1 each of labourer, farm servant, laundress, school mistress, nurse, shopkeeper, and toll gate keeper. In addition, 2 others were described as "farmer's wife", which was probably intended to indicate their occupation rather than simply the fact that they were married to farmers.

Children

26 children under the age of 15 had an occupation recorded. Only 8 were girls. The youngest were 8 year old Deborah Yates and 9 year old Matilda Lidford who were described as helping in the family. It is probable that there were other girls under the age of 15 who helped in the family but who did not have this recorded in the census as an occupation.

The majority of boys under 15 with occupation recorded were engaged in agricultural work. The most frequent occupation for boys, several as young as 11, was that of ploughboy. Again it is likely that there were other boys who engaged in agricultural work, who did not have this recorded in the census, particularly as it is known that the 1851 census underestimates children's agricultural work.⁵

Table 3 gives the names, ages and occupations of all the children under 15 with occupation recorded.

Table 3: Children aged under 15 with Occupation recorded

Name	Age	Occupation	Name of Head of Household
BAKER Edwin	14	Errand Boy	BAKER John 1808
BURROUGH Mark	10	Labourer	BURROUGH William 1797
BURTON James	10	Labourer	BURTON John 1812
CARPENTER Mary	11	Servant	FLOWER Edmund & William
COOMBS Elias	12	Ag Lab	COOMBS Joseph 1791
COOMBS Jane	14	Domestic	Ditto
DALLY Agness	14	Needle-woman	DALLY John 1794
GOODFELLOW Willm	14	Ploughboy	FLOWER Edmund & William
GATTERALL John	14	Ploughboy	GATTERALL John 1811
HARVEY Anna Maria	14	"Farmer's Daughter"	HARVEY George 1805
HEAD John	12	Ploughboy	HEAD William 1808
LIDFORD James	11	Ploughboy	LIDFORD Henry 1805
LIDFORD Matilda	9	"Helping in Family"	Ditto
MACEY Mary	13	Domestic	MACEY Harry 1811
NEWMAN George	11	Ploughboy	NEWMAN Charles 1817
NEWMAN Job	11?	Ploughboy	NEWMAN Henry 1797
NOAKES William	10	Ag Lab	NOAKES George 1810
PENNY George	11	Ploughboy	PENNY Jasper 1804
RIXON Maurice	12	Errand Boy	RIXON George 1811
SNOOKE? Eli	13	Ag Lab	SNOOKE? Joseph 1789
STEVENS William	12	Ploughboy	STEVENS Mary 1801
STEVENS William	10	Ag Lab	STEVENS George 1811
MOODY Ellen	14	Servant	SWEATMAN Thos 1824
YATES Henry	10?	Ploughboy	YATES George 1779
YATES Deborah	8	"Assist in Family"	YATES James 1810
YATES Emanuel	12	Labr on Farm	YATES Charlotte 1805

Older People

In Chilmark in 1851, 24 people or 3.9% of the population were aged 70 or over. Table 4 shows those aged 70 and above. It can be seen that most continued to work well into old age. It can also be seen that although most in this age group lived with their adult children, more than half continued to be heads of household.

Table 4: People aged 70 and above, Chilmark 1851

Name	Relation to Head	Occupation	Age	Others in Household
ROWDEN John	Head	Beer Seller	82	Wife & Daughter
LEVER Elizabeth	Mother (Wid)	Retired from Business	80	Daughter (Head) & Dau's niece
BURROWS George	Lodger (Wid)	Ag Lab/ Pauper	77?	Head, Head's Wife, Head's 4 Children
HARDING Joseph	Head	Farm Labourer/ Pauper	77	Daughter & Visitor
PENNY Ann	Mother (Wid)	Pauper	77	Son (Head, Wid) & his 2 Children
YATES John	Lodger (Wid)	Labourer	77	Head, Head's Wife, Head's 7 Children
MACEY Joseph	Head (Wid)	Labourer	76	Brother, 2 Sons, & Servant
GOODFELLOW John	Head	Labourer	74	Wife, 3 Children, Dau-in-law & Gson
GOODFELLOW Ann	Wife		74	See above
STEVENS Hannah	Lodger (Wid)	Pauper	74	Head, Head's Wife, Head's Son
MACEY Betty	Wife		73	Husband (Head) and Son
FRICKER Lucy	Head (Un)	Retired Servant	72	Son
PENNY Christian	Head	Sawyer's Wife	72	2 Daughters (1 prob = Grand Dau)
YATES George	Head (Wid)	Ag Lab/ Pauper	72	Grandson
BLAKE William	Lodger (Wid)	Ag Lab/ Pauper	71?	Head
HELMS William	Head	Carpenter	71	2 Children, 2 Grand Children & Servant
KELLOW William	Head (Wid)	Ag Lab	71	Dau & Son-in-Law
MOULD John	Head (Wid)	Ag Lab/ Pauper	71	Lodger
POLLEN James	Head (Wid)	Pauper	71	Son & Lodger
BURROWS Joseph	Head (Wid)	Thrasher/ Pauper	70	Daughter
MACEY William	Head	Labourer	70	Wife & Son
MACEY William	Brother (Wid)	Labourer/ Pauper	70	Head, Head's 2 Sons, Servant
SPARY James	Head	Ag Lab/ Pauper	70	Wife
SPARY Ann	Wife	Pauper	70	Husband (Head)

APPENDIX 1: HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD, CHILMARK, WILTSHIRE, 1851

Name of Head	Year & Place of Birth	Occupation of Head	Working Wife?	Working Child 7-14?
ARNOLD Charles	1825 Dorset	Farmer	“Farmer’s wife”	N/A
BAKER John	1808 Chilmark	Master Blacksmith	No	m age 14 Errand boy
BECKETT Sarah	1785 Teffont Evias	Pauper	N/A	No
BENNETT Willm Frans?	1831 Codford St Mary	Farmer	Labourer	N/A
BECKETT William	1813 Teffont Evias	Ag Lab	No	No
BLAKE John	1821 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	No
BLANDFORD William	1825 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
BOWLES James	1786 Chilmark	Stone Mason	No	N/A
BOWLES Jane	1796 Chilmark	Post Office Keeper	N/A	N/A
BRACHER Deborah	1801 Denton	Laundress	N/A	No
BRIGHT Joseph	1793 Chicklade	Ag Lab	No	N/A
BROTHERS William	1797 Knoyle	Tailor	No	N/A
BURRIDGE Richard	1797 Chilmark	Tailor	No	N/A
BURROUGH Henry	1827 Chilmark	Labourer	No	N/A
BURROUGH William	1797 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	m age 10 Labourer
BURROW William	1812 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
BURROWS Barbara	1797 Tisbury	Pauper	N/A	N/A
BURROWS George	1826 Chilmark	Labourer	No	N/A
BURROWS Joseph	1781 Chilmark	Thrasher/ Pauper	N/A	N/A
BURROWS Thomas	1803 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	No
BURTON John	1812 Tisbury	Labourer	No	m age 10 Labourer
CARPENTER John	1785 Fovant	Ag Lab	Ag Lab	N/A
CARPENTER John	1791 Ridge	Ag Lab	N/A	N/A
CARPENTER Willm Fredk	1816 Bishopston	Ag Lab	A Cripple	N/A
CARPENTER William	1800 Ridge	Ag Lab	No	No
COLLIER Charles	1791 Winterborne	Ag Lab	N/A	N/A
COOMBS Joseph	1791 Tisbury	Ag Lab	Ag Lab	f age 14 Domestic m age 12 Ag Lab
COOMBS William	1829 Swallowcliffe	Tile Maker	No	N/A

DALLY John	1794 Ridge	Stone Mason	No	f age 14 Needle- woman
DEW Henry	1827 Chilmark	Labourer	No	N/A
DEW John	1799 Chilmark	Dairyman Grazier	No	No
DOUTY Richard	1797 Dinton	Shopkeeper	Shopkeep er	No
Joint Heads: FLOWER Edmund FLOWER William	1823 Chilmark 1822 Chilmark	Farmer Farmer	N/A N/A	2 Servants: f age 11 m age 14 Ploughboy
FOYLE Aaron	1823 Tisbury	Carrier	No	N/A
FOYLE William	1820 Teffont	Labourer	No	N/A
FRAY Henry	1816 Heytesbury	Brick Burner	No	No
FRICKER John	1805 Chilmark	Inn Keeper	No	No
FRICKER Lucy	1779 Chilmark	Retired servant	N/A	N/A
FRICKER Thomas	1802 Chilmark	Farmer	No	N/A
GATTERALL John	1811 Fonthill Bishop	Ag Lab	Nurse	m age 14 Ploughboy
GOODFELLA Thomas	1784 Dinton	Ag Lab	No	N/A
GOODFELLOW George	1806 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	No
GOODFELLOW Henry	1819 Chilmark	Mason	No	N/A
GOODFELLOW James	1826 Chilmark	Mason	No	N/A
GOODFELLOW John	1777 Marton	Labourer	No	No
GOODFELLOW Robert	1795 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
GOODFELLOW Samuel	1821 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	No
GOODFELLOW Thomas	1782 Chilmark	Mason	No	No
GOODFELLOW Thos	1809 Chilmark	Thrasher	No	No
GRAY John	1817 Berwick St Leonard	Cord Winder [Cordwainer]	No	No
GROUT Robert	1820 Essex	Gardener	No	No
HARDING Joseph	1774 Tisbury	Farm Labourer/ Pauper	N/A	N/A
HARDING William	1816 Chilmark	Farm Labourer	No	N/A
HARVEY Henry	1822 Chilmark	Potter	No	N/A
HARVEY George	1805 Dorset	Yeoman & Potter	“Farmer’s Wife”	f age 14 “Farmer’s Daughter”

HEAD William	1808 Tisbury	Labourer	No	m age 12 Ploughboy
HELMS William	1780 Chilmark	Carpenter	N/A	No
HISCOCK Joseph	1804 Dorset	Miller	No	N/A
INGMAN John	1825 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
KELLOW William	1780 Chilmark	Ag Lab	N/A	N/A
KING Frederick	1807 Chilmark	Gentleman Farmer	No	No
KING John	1789 Tisbury	Ag Lab	No	No
LANE George	1802 Chilmark	Stone Mason	No	No
LAWRENCE Amelia	1805 Hampshire	Annuitant	N/A	N/A
LEVER Henry	1800 Chisawne	Ag Lab	Ag Lab	No
LIDFORD Henry	1805 Somerset	Toll Gate Keeper	Toll Gate Keeper	m age 11 Ploughboy f age 9 “Helping in Family”
MACEY Edward	1808 Sutton Mandeville	Ag Lab	No	No
MACEY Edwd George	1817 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	No
MACEY George	1815 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
MACEY Harry	1811 Chilmark	Labourer	No	f age 13 Domestic
MACEY Aaron	1786 Chilmark	Woodman	No	N/A
MACEY James	1817 Chilmark	Ag Lab	N/A	No
MACEY James	1796 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
MACEY John	1796 Chilmark	Woodman	N/A	N/A
MACEY John	1806 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	No
MACEY Robert	1812 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
MACEY Samuel	1823 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
MACEY Samuel	1816 Chilmark	Ag Lab/ Pauper	No	No
MACEY William	1817 Chilmark	Ag Lab	Ag Lab	No
MACEY William	1816 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
MACEY William	1781 Hindon	Labourer	No	N/A
MACEY Joseph	1775 Chilmark	Labourer	N/A	N/A
MACEY Isaac	1815 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
MOORE John	1788 Chilmark	Road Maker/ Pauper	Blind & Crippled	N/A
MOORE Robert	1817 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
MOORE William	1787 Chilmark	Stone Cutter/ Pauper	Pauper	N/A
MOULD John	1780 Chilmark	Ag Lab/ Pauper	N/A	N/A
MOULD John	1787 Ridge	? Cutter/ Pauper	N/A	N/A
MOULD John	1818 Tisbury	Farm Labourer	School Mistress	N/A

MOULD Samuel	1787 East Tisbury	Ag Lab/ Pauper	Pauper	N/A
MULLENS James	1796 Teffont Magna	Thatcher	No	N/A
MULLINS Jacob	1809 East Tisbury	Baker	No	No
NEWMAN Charles	1817 Chilmark	Shepherd	No	m age 11 Ploughboy
NEWMAN Henry	1797 Chilmark	Labourer	No	m age 11? Ploughboy
NOAKES George	1810 Sutton Mandeville	Ag Lab	No	m age 10 Ag Lab
PENNER Thomas Jas	1822 Swallowcliffe	Potter	No	No
PENNY Christian	1779 Chilmark	(Sawyer's Wife)	N/A	No
PENNY Edward	1812 Ridge	Ag Lab	No	No
PENNY Elias	1794 Ridge	Ag Lab	Farm Servant	N/A
PENNY Jasper	1804 Chilmark	Shepherd	N/A	m age 11 Ploughboy
PENNY William	1809 Chilmark	Labourer	No	No
POLLEN James	1780 Chilmark	Pauper	N/A	N/A
POWLES William	1791 Chilmark	Mason	No	N/A
RANDALL William	1792 Chilmark	Shepherd	No	N/A
RIXON George	1811 Tisbury	Ag Lab	No	m age 12 Errand boy
RIXON Willm	1805 Chilgrove	Ag Lab	No	N/A
ROGERS James	1810 Somerset	Master Tailor	No	No
ROWDEN Ann	1820 Chilmark	Servant	N/A	N/A
ROWDEN John	1769 Chilmark	Beer Seller	No	N/A
SANDY James	1791 Chilmark	Blacksmith	N/A	N/A
SPARY James	1781 Chilmark	Ag Lab/ Pauper	Pauper	N/A
SPARY Richard	1785 Chilmark	Labourer/ Pauper	N/A	N/A
STEVENS George	1811 Chilmark	Ag Lab	Ag Lab	m age 10 Ag Lab
STEVENS James	1827 Chilmark	Outdoor Servant (Ag Lab)	No	N/A
STEVENS James	1800 Chilmark	Shepherd	Laundres s	N/A
STEVENS Mary	1801 Chilmark	Farm Labourer	N/A	m age 12 Ploughboy
SNOOKE? Joseph	1789 East Tisbury	Ag Lab/ Pauper	do?	m age 13 Ag Lab
SWEATMAN Thos	1824 Dinton	Shopkeeper	No	f age 14 Servant

TOWER Charles	1815 Surrey	Rector of Chilmark	No	N/A
VINEY Isaac	1805 East Tisbury	Shoemaker	N/A	No
WARNE Martha	1807 East Tisbury	Pauper	N/A	No
WARNE Thomas	1818 Chilmark	Farmer	No	N/A
WOOD Frank Roskruge	1797 Dorset	Relieving Officer	No	No
YATES Fredrick	1815 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
YATES George	1779 Chilmark	Ag Lab/ Pauper	N/A	m age 10? Ploughboy
YATES Henry	1830 Chilmark	Ag Lab	No	N/A
YATES James	1810 Chilmark	Ag Lab	Crippled	f age 8 Assist in Family
YATES Samuel	1804 Chilmark	Stone Mason	No	No
YATES Thomas	1807 Ridge	Ag Lab/ Pauper	No	No
YATES Charlotte	1805 Hatch	Pauper	N/A	m age 12 Labourer on Farm

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¹ 'Chilmark-Chingford', *A Topographical Dictionary of England* (1848), p597.

URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?comprid=50874>

² Ibid

³ Sawyer, Rex, *Nadder, Tales of a Wiltshire Valley*, Hobnob Press, 2006, p85

⁴ Kelly's *Directory of Wiltshire*, 1867, p239

⁵ Kirby, Peter, *Child Labour in Britain, 1750-1870*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2003, p12