

FRAMEWORK KNITTING IN THE PARISH OF ALFRETON, 1670-1870: ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

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([REDACTED])

The article on 'Framework Knitting in the parish of Alfreton' (*DAJ* 2017, pp. 153-175) has elicited additional information and new sources to explore for a study of the origins and development of the industry in Derbyshire. Dr Richard Clark pointed me to the *Derbyshire Papist Returns of 1705-6* of which he was editor (Occasional Paper No. 5, Derbyshire Record Society, 1983). Returns from neighbouring parishes in the south-east of the county, Spondon with Stanley, Ilkeston and West Hallam (where there is a long history of recusancy centred on gentry households), give names and useful background history, suggesting a protoindustrial organisation, established before 1705 and attracting recruits. The Returns raise a more general question of links between framework knitting and Roman Catholic recusant communities.

A map accompanies the article to show the early establishment and geographical spread of framework knitting within the county (p.154). Based solely upon the evidence of probate records, this could usefully be modified to incorporate other sources of information, such as the Papists' Returns.

No. 141. Spondon. 16 Nov. 1705:

There is neither Papist nor reputed Papist within our parish of Spondon... but only one, Francis Jackson, a reputed Papist, a poor man and stockinger by trade.

No. 142. Spondon with the chapels of Chaddesden and Stanley. 1706:

This may certify whom it may concern that there is neither Papist nor reputed Papist in the parish of Spondon in the county of Derby saving Francis Jackson, a frameworker, and Robert Needham of the same trade, both persons of mean condition...

No 143. Stanley.1705:

... I do certify that there are Richard Needham, a Papist, who formerly practiced physick and Robert Needham his son, a Papist, a stockinger by trade... No. 146. Stanton by Dale and Ilkeston. 3 Oct. 1706, Ilkeston:

... two diligent stocking weavers poor, one day labourer and an exciseman's wife... the two stocking weavers and the exciseman's wife sojourners lately come into the parish of Ilkeston...

... one reputed Papist, a widow which has about £3 per annum in land, very poor and in debt: her name, Mrs. Mary Brooks, a stocking weaver's widow, herself, if I mistake not, of a good family of the Babingtons...

... The stocking weavers' names William Jackson and one Blouth, alias Hanforth...

No. 167. West Hallam. 4 Oct. 1706:

... John Dakin and two sons near Man's estate that live with him, all framework-knitters. Widow Mosse and one son with her, framework knitters.

Professor Stanley Chapman also introduced me to a recent book on the life of William Carter (1830-1918), born into a knitting family and in early life working as a framework knitter in Alfreton. Entitled *William & Paul. Technologie, Entreprenariat et Religion* and written in French by Hélène Trocmé (Editions Ampelos 2017) this is a family history of the

related families of Carter and Trocmé. William Carter's career as a textile entrepreneur in Massachusetts, subsequent to his emigration at the age of 25, makes use of his *Reminiscences* (1918) and family research to which are added photographs of the man, his birthplace, his family, the mill at Needham Heights and advertisements for the knitted undergarments, including a onepiece Union suit, which brought him wealth. See also www.needhamhistory.org, the site for the Needham History Center and Museum, Massachusetts.