

EAST RUSTON, NORFOLK, 1851

Introduction

East Ruston is a village in north-east Norfolk, situated between North Walsham and Stalham. This paper aims to create a portrait of East Ruston in 1851.

In the mid-nineteenth century, most of the working population of East Ruston was engaged in agriculture. There were 2,494 acres of land, most of which was arable, but there was also pasture, showing that animals as well as crops were farmed.¹ In 1810, the East Ruston Inclosure Award² allotted about 300 acres of land to the Trustees of the Poor, and the poor were able to cut fuel and pasture their cattle on it.³

In 1851 there were 183 heads of household⁴ and 845 inhabitants. The most common occupation by far was agricultural labourer, followed by farmer. Some also worked on the water in such occupations as waterman, boatman and fisherman. In 1825-6 the North Walsham and Dilham Canal was constructed, linked to the River Ant, and a staithe was built at East Ruston, behind Chapel Road, which was used for landing coals etc.⁵

There was also a corn mill – East Ruston postmill – which dated from at least the eighteenth century. In the early part of the nineteenth century, it was owned by Rudd Turner, who is best known for killing his wife and baby in 1831.⁶ East Ruston towermill, which is depicted on the East Ruston village sign, was built in 1868.⁷

Heads of Household

The 1851 census shows that all but two of the 183 heads of household were born in Norfolk, 71 of them in East Ruston itself. Many household heads shared the same surnames, suggesting that they were related. The most common surnames were Bates (7), Riches (6), Mason (5), Plummer (5), Barber (4), Bell (4), Dixon (4), Gaze (4), Gotts (4), and Hammond (4). The complete list of heads of household is given in Appendix 1.

Occupations

Table 1 shows the occupations of heads of household. 83 of the 183 heads of household were employed as agricultural labourers and this was by far the most common occupation. There were also a large number of farmers – 35 heads of household were farmers, 5 of whom had another occupation as well. 7 of the farmers had 100 acres or more, 9 had between 20 and 99 acres, and 20 had less than 20 acres. All the farmers with 20 or more acres employed agricultural labourers, whereas none of the farmers with less than 20 acres did so.

Some of the occupations give a better idea of what was produced in the area. Heads of household included 2 corn millers, a malster, and 5 dealers of various kinds – 3 in livestock, 1 in fish and 1 general. Other residents included a drover and a fowl dealer, which probably explains the geese depicted on the East Ruston village sign.

There were also a variety of craftsmen, a butcher, grocers and drapers, a schoolmaster and 3 innkeepers. The inns were the Butchers Arms, which was originally 3 cottages, including a butchers shop, and is still a pub; the Chequers, which is now a private house; and the Fox and Hounds.

Table 1: Occupations of Heads of Household, East Ruston 1851

Occupations	Number	2nd Occ
Agricultural Labourer	83	
Farmer	30	5
Carpenter	9	1
Shoemaker, bootmaker, cordwainer	8	
Proprietor in land & houses	5	1
Dealer (in livestock, fish & general)	5	
Innkeeper	3	
Waterman	3	
Corn Miller	2	
Grocer & Drapers	2	
Wheelwright	2	
Blacksmith	1	
Bricklayer	1	
Butcher	1	
Carter	1	
Clock Cleaner	1	
Malster	1	
Market Carrier	1	
Parish Clerk	1	
Schoolmaster	1	
Tailor	1	
Thatcher	1	
None	20	
	183	

Women

Only 14 of the 183 heads of household were women. Of these, only 4 had an occupation recorded in the 1851 census. These were Mary Bane and Rosa Pull, who were both farmers, Sarah Humphrey, a grocer and landed proprietor, and Elizabeth Platten, a market carrier.

Only 5 wives of heads of household had an occupation recorded. These were Sarah Hewitt, a landed proprietor, Elizabeth Amies, a schoolmistress, Sarah Knights, a grocer, Maryann Burrough, an agricultural labourer, and Mary Neave, a charwoman. Even though most married women had no occupation recorded, some may have engaged in agricultural or other work on a seasonal and/or part-time basis.

Boys aged 15 and under

Agricultural labour was the most common occupation for boys aged 15 and under, but, as can be seen in Table 2, there were other options, including errand boy and apprenticeship.

It is thought that in general the 1851 census returns underestimate the numbers of children engaged in agricultural labour, for a variety of reasons, including reluctance of parents to supply the information, and the timing of the census, which purposely avoided harvest time.⁸ Thus, some of the children not recorded as having an occupation, including those described as scholars, may well have engaged in agricultural or other work on a seasonal and/or part-time basis.

It is particularly implausible to imagine that sons of farmers - especially small farmers employing no agricultural labourers - did not work on the farm, even when they are not recorded as doing so. One 13 year old was recorded as farmer's son in the occupation column, but for many aged 15 and under, the occupation column was left blank.

Table 2: Boys 15 and under recorded as having an Occupation, East Ruston 1851

Age	Name	Occupation	Total in Year Group	Number described as Scholars
15	BATES George FLOWERDAY James WATERS William YAXLEY Thomas	Ag Lab Apprentice Shoemaker Ag Lab Ag Lab	6	0
14	DURRELL George [?]OCKLES Samuel PALMER James PALMER John	Apprentice Shoemaker Ag Lab Ag Lab Boatman	10	2
13	BATES John GOTTS John NICKELS James SEARLAND Walter DURRELL William	Bricklayer's Lab Ag Lab Errand Boy Ag Servant Farmer's Son	8	2
12	DURRELL Samuel GRIMER John PLATTEN Thomas	Ag Lab Ag Lab Ag Lab	11	3
11	PLATTEN William	Ag Lab	4	0
10	BACON James GRIMER Samuel KING Matthew	Carter Ag Lab Errand Boy	10	5
9	LOWE William	Errand Boy	11	6

Girls aged 15 and under

It is thought that in general the 1851 census underestimates the work of girls, because of their concentration in the domestic sphere.⁹ In East Ruston, only 4 girls aged 15 or younger were recorded as having an occupation. These were Anna Durrell, aged 15, a buttermaker, and 3 girls employed as domestic servants - Sarah Roll, aged 14, Phebe Neave, aged 14, and Frances Wilson, aged 13.

In addition, at least one East Ruston born girl aged 15 or under was working as a live-in servant in a nearby parish. This was 15 year old Sarah Grimmer, who was working as a servant for Mary Watts, innkeeper, in Honing.

It should also be noted that girls with no occupation recorded who were living with their families in East Ruston, would have been engaged in domestic tasks in the home.

Scholars

There was a school in East Ruston,¹⁰ and a schoolmaster and mistress living in the village. However, at most ages between 5 and 15, those described as scholars were a minority of their year group. The only ages at which around 50% or more were recorded as scholars were between the ages of 7 and 10 for boys and between the ages of 8 and 11 for girls. Even then, the highest percentage reached was 72% for boys and 60% for girls. The eldest boy described as a scholar was aged 14, and the eldest girl was aged 12.

Live-in Servants

It was common in agricultural areas for young people to work away from home before marriage as live-in servants. Appendix 2 shows East Ruston born young people aged 21 and under who were working as live-in servants in other parishes in 1851. The youngest were aged 15. Females were usually employed as house servants or other types of indoor servants, and males as agricultural or other outdoor servants.

Appendix 3 shows people of all ages who were working as live-in servants in East Ruston in 1851 and their parishes of origin. The youngest were 13 year old Frances Wilson from East Ruston, who was working as a house servant for John Bristoe, corn miller, and 13 year old Walter Searland from Happisburgh, who was working as an agricultural servant for George Wittleton, farmer. The eldest was 73 year old Mary Nickels, who was working as a housekeeper for Jonathan Barber, farmer. Although there was a large age range for live-in servants, the most common age was from mid-teens to mid-twenties.

Older People

Because of the low *average* life expectancy in the nineteenth century, it is sometimes forgotten that this was largely due to high infant and child mortality, and that quite a number lived into old age. Some even lived to very old age. One East Ruston resident lived to be nearly 106.¹¹

In East Ruston in 1851, 75 people or 8.8% of the population were aged 60 or over, 53 (6.2%) were aged 65 or over, and 27 (3.1%) were aged 70 or over.¹² Table 3 shows those aged 70 and above. It can be seen that not only did a good number of people live to an old age, but that many of them continued to work. There were also several who received alms or parish relief. It can also be seen that although some older people lived with their adult children, the majority continued to be heads of household.

Table 3: People aged 70 and above, East Ruston 1851

Name	Relation to Head	Occupation	Age	Where born
KING Margaret	Mother [Widow]	Parish Pauper	86	Palling
WITTLETON Sarah	Wife		85	Ashmanhaugh
PLUMMER John	Head [Wid]	Farmer 6 acres	84	East Ruston
FLOWERDAY Elizabeth	Mother [Widow]		81	Ludham
WALPOLE James	Head	Almspeople	81	Sloley
LINES Susan	Mother in law		80	Worstead
MOYS William	Head	Almspeople	80	Smallburgh
PESTEL Mary	Sister in law		78	Bacton
WITTLETON Thomas	Head	Farmer 75 acres	78	Honing
MOYS Elizabeth	Wife	Almspeople	77	Smallburgh
BARBER Jonathan	Head [Wid]	Farmer 126 acres	76	East Ruston
BEAN John	Head [Wid]	Farmer 34 acres	75	East Ruston
HEWITT Stephen	Head	Carpenter Master	75	Walcott
NEAVE Ann	Wife		75	Whissonsett
NURSE Mary	Mother [Widow]		75	Bodham
NEAVE James	Head	Dealer in Fish	74	Worstead
IVES Sarah	Mother [Widow]	Almswoman	73	Drayton
MASON Esther	Wife		73	Boiton
NICKELS Mary	Housekeeper [Widow]	Housekeeper	73	Starton
YAXLEY Mary	Head [Widow]	Almswoman	73	East Ruston
GAZE Benjamin	Head	Shoemaker	72	Stalham
MASON John	Head	Ag Lab now Pauper	72	Tunstead
FLAXMAN Elizabeth	Head [Widow]		71	East Ruston
SURFLING Matthew	Head	Almspeople formerly Ag Lab	71	Lessingham
CURTIS Christianna	Lodger [Widow]	Parish Pauper	70	Sco Ruston
DIXON Mary	Wife		70	Worstead
HAMMOND Mary	Head [Widow]		70	Hingham

The Workhouse

The workhouse which served East Ruston was the Tunstead and Happing workhouse at Smallburgh. In general, the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 aimed to discourage people from applying for parish relief by sending those who did so to the workhouse, and by making the workhouse an unpleasant place to be. But implementation of the policy varied, and attitudes to the aged poor were ambivalent.¹³ In addition, Tunstead and Happing was formally exempt from most of the provisions of the 1834 Act, because it had been established as an Incorporation to administer relief and run a workhouse in 1785, and retained Incorporation status until 1869, when it was replaced by the Smallburgh Poor Law Union.¹⁴

People in East Ruston seem to have been relatively fortunate in that in the 1851 census, 7 people were recorded as receiving parish relief outside the workhouse, an additional 10 were described as almspeople, and a further 2 as out pensioners of Chelsea Hospital.

There were a few East Ruston born people in Smallburgh Workhouse in 1851. These were 81 year old widow, Ann Ditcham, 38 year old Charlotte Helsdon¹⁵ and her children, and 23 year old unmarried mother, Mary Bacon and her one day old son, Robert. Robert died at the age of 1 year and 11 months and was buried at East Ruston.

Extended Family and Household Structure

There has been much debate about the comparative role of the extended family at different times and places, particularly in the form of co-residence.

It has already been noted with regard to older people in East Ruston, that although some lived with their adult children, the majority continued to be heads of household. Looking at all age groups, 40 people were living in the households of extended family members. Their relationships to head of household were mother/in-law (7), father/in-law (1), sister/in-law (4), brother/in-law (1), cousin (1), daughter-in-law (1), son-in-law (3), granddaughter (13), grandson (7), niece (1), and nephew (1). This suggests that more support in the form of co-residence was being given by the older generation to the younger than vice-versa. For example, 60 year old agricultural labourer John Helsdon¹⁶ was supporting 2 grandchildren, as well as his wife and 3 unmarried daughters, 2 of whom were deaf and dumb, and none of whom were working. However, sometimes grandchildren gave support, as in the case of 25 year old Sarah Wittleton, who was housekeeper to her elderly grandparents, who were aged 78 and 80.

In addition, there were 20 people who were lodging in other people's households and 48 who were live-in servants, the former contributing income to the household, and the latter a range of services, as shown in Appendix 3.

It is also important to remember that even when extended family members were not co-residing, they often lived nearby, as the number of households sharing surnames shows.

Appendix 1: Heads of Household, East Ruston, 1851 Census

Name of Head	Date & Place of Birth	Occupation of Head
ALLEN Daniel	1805 Lessingham	Cordwainer
AMIES George	1826 Edingthorpe	Schoolmaster
ATTHILL Anthony John	1814 Cawston	Farmer 200 acres, empl 9
BACON John	1817 Stalham	Carter
BANE Mary [Wid]	1787 East Ruston	Farmer 122, empl 3 men
BARBER Barbary	1788 Saxlingham	In receipt of parish relief
BARBER Benjamin	1809 East Ruston	Farmer 66 acres, empl 3 lab
BARBER Jonathan	1792 East Ruston	Ag Lab
BARBER Jonathan	1775 East Ruston	Farmer 126 acres, empl 4
BATES Henry	1808 East Ruston	Farmer 5 acres
BATES John	1827 Dilham	Malster
BATES Samuel	1806 East Ruston	Farmer 30 acres, 1 lab
BATES Sarah [Wid]	1799 Brooke	
BATES Tabitha	1827 Ingham	
BATES William	1801 East Ruston	Farmer 10 acres
BATES William	1820 Dilham	Innkeeper & farm 2 acres
BEALS Elizabeth [Wid]	1791 Norwich	Receiving parish relief
BEAN John	1776 East Ruston	Farmer 34 acres, empl 2 lab
BELL Benjamin	1788 Ashmonhaugh	Landed Proprietor
BELL Benjamin	1822 East Ruston	Ag Lab
BELL Thomas	1793 Hempstead	Ag Lab
BELL William	1795 Dilham	Farmer 10 acres
BESFORD James	1804 Hasbro	Ag Lab
BOWEN John	1783 Drayton	Farmer 8 acres
BRAMBLE Bartrim	1821 East Ruston	Ag Lab
BRAMBLE Samuel	1783 Honing	Ag Lab
BREESE John	1811 Ingham	Bricklayer
BRISTOE John	1802 YORKSHIRE	Corn Miller, 4 acres land
BROWN James	1816 Honing	Carpenter
BROWN William	1824 Honing	Carpenter
BULLIMOR Benjamin	1795 East Ruston	Wheelwright
BURROUGH John	1825 East Ruston	Ag Lab
BURTON Charles	1815 Crostwight	Ag Lab
CANHAM Samuel	1823 East Ruston	Ag Lab
CANNAM John	1790 Hoverton	Ag Lab
CHURCH Thomas	1818 East Ruston	Ag Lab
CLAXON John	1819 Honing	Ag Lab
COLE John	1816 Ormesby	Ag Lab
COPER William	1829 Honing	Ag Lab
CROWE William	1820 Ridlington	Boot & Shoemaker Master
CURTIS William	1817 East Ruston	Tailor
DAXTER James	1826 Brumstead	Ag Lab

DELFO John	1793 Neatishead	Pauper, formerly Ag Lab
DIXON John	1811 Trunch	Master Carpenter
DIXON Robert	1783 Trunch	Farmer 17 acres
DIXON William	1809 Trunch	Farmer 7 acres
DIXON William	1810 Bradfield	Ag Lab
DUCKER Samuel	1783 East Ruston	Ag Lab
DUCKER Samuel	1813 East Ruston	Ag Lab now Almsman
DUEN William	1823 East Ruston	Ag Lab
DURRELL Charles	1782 East Ruston	Landed Proprietor
DURRELL John	1809 East Ruston	Farmer 58 acres, empl 2 lab
DURRELL Samuel	1806 East Ruston	Farmer 12 acres
FISHER James	1818 Brumstead	Ag Lab
FLAXMAN Elizabeth [Wid]	1780 East Ruston	
FLOWERDAY John	1793 Stalham	Ag Lab
FRENCH John	1809 East Ruston	Ag Lab
GAZE Martin	1791 Honing	Ag Lab
GAZE Benjamin	1779 Stalham	Shoemaker
GAZE Robert	1785 Un British Subj	Farmer 4 acres
GAZE Robert	1795 East Ruston	Farmer 40 acres, empl 1 lab
GIBBS Charles	1826 Ingham	Master Blacksmith
GOTTS William	1786 East Ruston	Ag Lab
GOTTS George	1822 Brumstead	Ag Lab
GOTTS George	1812 East Ruston	Ag Lab
GOTTS James	1819 East Ruston	Ag Lab
GREEN George	1812 Lessingham	Ag Lab
GREEN James	1808 Hasbro	Ag Lab
GREEN Robert	1804 Hasbro	Ag Lab
GRIMER James	1801 East Ruston	Ag Lab
HAMMOND Joseph	1808 East Ruston	Innkeeper
HAMMOND Mary [Wid]	1781 Hingham	
HAMMOND Richard	1814 East Ruston	Waterman
HAMMOND William	1821 East Ruston	Waterman
HANNANT Richard	1811 Dilham	Ag Lab
HANNANT William	1788 Dilham	Ag Lab
HARMER Hannah [Wid]	1815 Irstead	
HARMER James	1812 Aylmerton	Ag Lab
HARMER William	1820 East Ruston	Farmer 10 acres
HAYLETT Samuel	1801 Hasbro	Ag Lab
HELSDON Henry	1801 East Ruston	Carpenter
HELSDON James	1824 East Ruston	Ag Lab
HELSDON John	1791 East Ruston	Ag Lab
HEWITT Lacey	1813 East Ruston	Carpenter Master
HEWITT Stephen	1776 Walcott	Carpenter Master
HOLLIS John	1797 Thurn	Carpenter & Innkeeper
HUMPHREY Sarah	1790 East Ruston	Grocer & Landed Proprietor

KEMP John	1788 Irstead	Ag Lab
KEMP John	1821 East Ruston	Ag Lab
KING Matthew	1816 East Ruston	Ag Lab
KING Samuel	1790 East Ruston	Shoemaker Master
KNIGHTS James	1796 Tunstead	Clock Cleaner
KNOBS Robert	1817 East Ruston	Ag Lab
LACEY William	1824 North Walsham	Ag Lab
LONDON James	1819 Irstead	Ag Lab
LONDON Timothy	1823 Barton Turf	Ag Lab
LONDON William	1790 Neatishead	Ag Lab
LOWE William	1821 Smallburgh	Ag Lab
LUBBOCK James	1784 Thurgaton	Farmer 10 Acres
LUNNON Thomas	1824 Barton	Ag Lab
MASON John	1812 Boyton	Ag Lab
MASON John	1779 Tunstead	Ag Lab now Pauper
MASON Thomas	1822 Boyton	Ag Lab
MASON William	1827 Brinton	Ag Lab
MASON William	1822 Swanton Abbott	Ag Lab
MOISE William	1809 Dilham	Ag Lab
MOYS Robert	1818 Smallburgh	Waterman
MOYS William	1771 Smallburgh	Almspeople – Ag Lab
MYHILL John	1812 Neatishead	Ag Lab
NEAVE James	1805 Walcott	Ag Lab
NEAVE James	1777 Worstead	Dealer in Fish
NICOLDS Louisa	1825 Ludham	
NICKELS John	1814 East Ruston	Ag Lab
NOBBS Thomas	1815 East Ruston	Ag Lab
NOCKELS Robert	1826 Dilham	Dealer in Live Stock
NOCKLES Thomas	1788 Norfolk UN	Dealer in Live Stock
NOCKLES Henry	1820 Dilham	Dealer in Live Stock
[?]OCKLES Samuel	1800 Dilham	Ag Lab
NORMAN William	1796 Hickling	Out Pensioner Chelsea Hospital
PAINTER Charles	1789 Happisburgh	Ag Lab
PALMER Daniel	1811 Honing	Shoemaker
PLATTEN Elizabeth	1820 East Ruston	Market Carrier
PLUMER Robert	1812 East Ruston	Ag Lab
PLUMMER Charles	1815 East Ruston	Carpenter Master, Farmer 9 acres
PLUMMER John	1767 East Ruston	Farmer 6 acres
PLUMMER John	1787 East Ruston	Ag Lab
PLUMMER John	1793 East Ruston	Wheel Wright
PLUMMER William	1795 East Ruston	Proprietor of Houses & Land
PRATT James	1814 Catfield	Ag Lab
PRATT William	1824 Catfield	Ag Lab
PULL Rosa [Wid]	1802 Cockley Cley	Farmer 212 acres, empl 9 labs
RICHES Ann [Wid]	1788 N Walsham	

RICHES Charles	1813 East Ruston	Carpenter & Farmer 8 acres
RICHES John	1811 East Ruston	Ag Lab
RICHES Robert	1813 East Ruston	Shoemaker
RICHES William	1785 Brumstead	Farmer 9 acres
RICHES William	1808 East Ruston	Blacksmith & Farmer 8 acres
ROBINSON William	1793 Barton Turf	Ag Lab
ROLL Nathaniel	1793 Walcott	Ag Lab
RUDD Ash	1795 East Ruston	Farmer 140 acres, 6 labs
RUMP Hewett	1800 Sloely	Thatcher
SHORT Robert	1812 Hoveton St Peter	Farmer 20 acres, empl 1 lab
SILCOCK Cubitt Oba	1814 Edingthorpe	Farmer 140 acres, empl 7 lab
SIMS James	1819 East Ruston	Ag Lab
SIMS Robert	1796 East Ruston	Carpenter & Farmer 4 acres
SIMS William	1822 East Ruston	Ag Lab
SOUTHGATE William	1820 Ludham	Cordwainer Master, 1 apprent
SPANTON George	1799 Tunstead	Cordwainer
SPARROW Charles	1803 Honing	Ag Lab
SPARROW Robert	1828 Worstead	Ag Lab
STAFF Charles	1816 Stalham	Ag Lab
STAFF Robert	1805 Stalham	Butcher/ 2 acres land
STIMPSON William	1787 Stalham	Farmer 9 acres
STOREY Charles	1807 Hasbro	Bricklayer Journeyman
SURFLING George	1806 East Ruston	Ag Lab
SURFLING Matthew	1780 Lessingham	Almspeople formerly Ag Lab
SURFLING Robert	1825 Smallburgh	Ag Lab
THAIN George	1802 East Ruston	Parish Clerk
THIRST James	1793 East Ruston	Out Pensioner Chelsea Hospital
THIRST Thomas	1806 East Ruston	Ag Lab
THIRTLE James	1800 East Ruston	Ag Lab
TURNER John R	1813 East Ruston	Corn Miller
VILEY Thomas	1822 East Ruston	Ag Lab
WALPOLE James	1770 Sloley	Almspeople
WARTERSON Robert	1808 Hempstead	Ag Lab
WATERS Easther	1830 East Ruston	
WATERSON James	1821 East Ruston	Ag Lab
WATERSON William	1817 Hemstead	Ag Lab
WATTSON Richard	1801 N Walsham	Ag Lab
WEBSTER John	1813 Crostwight	Farmer 4 acres
WELLS George	1785 East Ruston	Ag Lab
WELLS George	1824 East Ruston	Ag Lab
WILKIN Robert	1792 East Ruston	Ag Lab
WILKINS James	1810 Stalham	General Dealer
WISEMAN Jno	1783 Bacton	Ag Lab/ Almsman
WISEMAN John	1801 Bacton	Yeoman Farmer 50 acres, 4 lab
WITTLETON George	1796 Tunstead	Farmer 100 acres, empl 5 lab

WITTLETON Robert	1821 Palling	Farmer 72 acres, empl 4 lab
WITTLETON Thomas	1773 Honing	Farmer 75 acres, empl 4 men
WRIGHT James	1823 Barton	Ag Lab
YAXLEY Joseph	1806 Ashmanhaugh	Ag Lab
YAXLEY Mary [Wid]	1778 East Ruston	Almswoman
YOUNGMAN John	1806 Honing	Grocer & Draper

Appendix 2: Live-in Servants aged 21 and under, born East Ruston, living elsewhere

Head of Household	Name of Servant	Type of Servant	Age	Where living 1851
WALLER Ann, (Annuitant)	ALLEN Elizabeth	House Servant	17	South Lynn
SHARPE William, (Farmer)	BATES Thomas	House Servant	15	N Walsham
SEELY Andrew, (Farmer)	GREEN James	Ag Lab	18	Walcott
WATTS Mary, (Innkeeper)	GRIMMER Sarah	Servant	15	Honing
HARMER Maria, (House & Land Propr)	HARMER Rebecca	Housemaid	18	Norwich Heigham
HARBORD Robert, (Farmer)	HELLESDON Hannah	House Servant	16	Hickling
DURRANT Cubitt, (Farmer)	LACEY Ann	House Servant	17	Brumstead
LONAS William, (Clothier)	SHURTTE Esther	Shop Maid	18	N Walsham
ROWING Archibald (Farmer)	SPANTON Mary Ann	General Servant	21	Wicklewood
WEST John, (Landed Proprietor)	SPANTON Sophia	House Servant	19	Stalham
BARHAM Edward (Grocer & Draper)	SUFFLING Martha	House Servant	17	Catfield
PALMER Nathaniel, (Barristers at Law Recorder)	TIMBERS Mathew	Groom	17	Thorpe St Andrew
BUTCHER Henry, (Farmer)	TOMPSON Robert	Ag Lab	21	N Walsham
DIX Anne, (School Mistress)	WEEDS Mary A	House Servant	20	Norwich St Peter Mancroft
EDGAR Henry, (Surgeon)	YAXLEY Hannah	Servant	21	Norwich St Giles

Appendix 3: Live-in Servants, East Ruston 1851

Head of Household	Name of Servant	Type of Servant	Age	Where born
ATTHILL Anthony (Farmer)	LOW Frances	Domestic Serv	19	Smallburgh
	TOOK Elizabeth	Domestic Serv	23	Thurgaton
	CULLEY Stephen	General Serv	20	Marsham
	TURNER William	2 nd Teamsman	19	Stalham
BANE Mary (Farmer)	CATTE Sarah	Domestic Serv	20	Helsden
	ROLL Sarah	Domestic Serv	14	East Ruston
	WILKINS Thomas	Ag Serv	22	Honing
	HOWLETT John	Ag Serv	16	Honing
BARBER Benjamin (Farmer)	HOLLIS Louisa	Domestic Serv	19	Catfield
	GRIMMER James	Ag Lab	16	East Ruston
BARBER Jonathan (Farmer)	NICKELS Mary	Housekeeper	73	Starton
	WILSON Sarah	House Servant	22	Walcott
	GOTTS Thomas	Ag Serv	36	Brumstead
	ROLL Samuel	Ag Serv	18	East Ruston
BEAN John (Farmer)	ALLEN Harriott	House Serv	50	Sco Ruston
	WILLIS Charles	Ag Serv	23	Worstead
BRISTOE John (Corn Miller)	WILSON Frances	House Servant	13	East Ruston
DURRELL John (Farmer)	WEBSTER Phebe	Domestic Serv	16	Honing
	WITTLETON Benjamin	Ag Lab	19	Honing
GAZE Robert (Farmer)	SMITH Jane	Housekeeper	32	Happisburgh
	DURREL Charles	Ag Servant	18	East Ruston
PLUMMER John (Farmer)	THAIN Elizabeth	Housekeeper	54	East Ruston
PULL Rosa (Farmer)	DRAKE Maria	Domestic Serv	23	Lessingham
	COLMAN George	Farming Baliff	45	Brumstead
	COLMAN Maryann	Baliff's Wife	35	Honing
	MASON George	Ag Lab	25	Swanton Abbott
	SPANTON John	Ag Lab	16	East Ruston
RICHES William (Blacksmith & Farmer)	SALMONS Margaret	House Servant	24	East Ruston

RUDD Ash (Farmer)	HEDGE Harriot	House Servant	20	N Walsham
	FROSDIE Thomas	Ag Serv	27	Sutton
	CARISON George	Ag Serv	19	Hempstead
SILCOCK Cubitt (Farmer)	GIBSON Eleanor	Governess	20	SUFFOLK
	BATES Sarah	Nurse	52	Fritton
	KNIGHTS Sarah	House Servant	28	Sloely
	DRAKE Charlotte	House Servant	26	Ingham
	YAXLEY William	Ag Lab	17	East Ruston
SIMS Robert (Carpenter &Farmer)	SIMS Susan	Housekeeper	27	East Ruston
SOUTHGATE William (Cordwainer Master)	SOUTHGATE Ann Eliz	Nurse	21	Sutton
SURFLING Mary ¹⁷ (Drovers Wife)	WEBLE William	Drovers Serv	14	Norwich Catton
TURNER John R (Corn Miller)	WISEMAN Elizabeth	Servant	43	Worstead
WISEMAN John (Yeoman Farmer)	BILHAM Elizabeth	Housekeeper	48	Reepham
WITTLETON George (Farmer)	BELL Thomas	Ag Lab	22	Weasenham
	SEARLAND Walter	Ag Serv	13	Happisburgh
WITTLETON Robert (Farmer)	MASON Elizabeth	Domestic Serv	16	East Ruston
	BESFORD Martha	Domestic Serv	16	East Ruston
WITTLETON Thomas (Farmer)	WITTLETON Sarah	Housekeeper	25	Palling
	TURNER Elizabeth	Domestic Serv	23	Stalham
	JOHNSON James	Ag Serv	22	Catfield

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¹ *East Ruston Tithes Apportionment 1841*, Norfolk Record Office

² Norfolk Record Office. See also *East Ruston Enclosure Map 1810*, www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk

³ White, William, *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Norfolk 1845*

⁴ There were 183 heads of household + 1 'headless' household. See note 17.

⁵ Woods, J.S.W., *East Ruston Staithe*, unpublished paper, 1983, copy at North Walsham library

⁶ www.norfolkmills.co.uk

⁷ *ibid*

⁸ Kirby, Peter, *Child Labour in Britain, 1750-1870*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2003, p12

⁹ *Ibid*, p11

¹⁰ *Post Office Directory of Norfolk 1846*

¹¹ Mary Helsdon, who died in East Ruston in 1803. Burial record says age 106, White's Directory 1854 says age 105 years and 11 months.

¹² For comparative information, see Thane, Pat, *Old Age in English History*, Oxford University Press, 2000, p 20

¹³ *Ibid*, chapter 9

¹⁴ Higginbotham, Peter, www.workhouses.org.uk

¹⁵ Charlotte Helsdon was not born in East Ruston, but her husband and children were.

¹⁶ Father-in-law of Charlotte Helsdon, who was in workhouse in 1851. Charlotte had a daughter Martha, baptised in East Ruston in 1837. In 1851 there was a 13 year old Martha living with John Helsdon, described as his daughter.

¹⁷ Mary Surfing was described as 'wife', not 'head', but there was no head of household recorded.