

THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE 1864 CENSUS OF HALBERTON

TAKEN BY THE REV. CANON GIRDLESTONE, VICAR OF THE PARISH FROM 1862 TO 1872.

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1. Introduction

The Revd Canon Edward Girdlestone was Vicar of Halberton Parish for 10 years from 1862 to 1872. During 1864 he conducted a census of the parish. He wrote the results of his census on sixteen pages of a large book, each page 13 inches by 8 1/4 inches. Each dwelling was given a number (The Vicarage is #1) and for 363 dwellings he recorded the following:

- 1 The name(s) of the main adult occupant(s) ("Name")
- 2 The religious faith of the named people. He annotated their names with a code to record this.
We think his codes mean:

RC	Regular communicant
R	Regular churchgoer
D	Dissenter (Follows a religion other than the Anglican faith, for example Methodists, Quakers, Baptist etc)
(Blank)	No faith recorded

- 3 The total number of people living in that dwelling ("Number of Inmates")
- 4 Details of the employment of the principal occupant of the dwelling ("Occupation").
Again this is coded and we think the codes he used mean:

L	Labourer
A	Agricultural worker
F	Farmer
T	Trade
I	Independent

- 5 "Number of children at home"
- 6 "Age of eldest and youngest" child
- 7 "Number of indoor servants, apprentices or other residents"
- 8 "Name of locality, house &c" ("&c" here is an abbreviation of "and so on").

Unsurprisingly, his census is incomplete. For example, he has not recorded the total number of inmates for every dwelling, even where he has listed names. In some cases he has not recorded children's ages.

At times we can sense something of Girdlestone's character in what he writes:

On line 198 he records the name of the occupants and adds: "not his wife".

On line 341 he refers to the male occupant as "her Hind". (A Hind was "a farm servant; married farm servant for whom a cottage is provided" (Oxford English Dictionary))

On line 144 he records the occupants faith as "D but RC !" (i.e. - Dissenter but Regular Communicant... exclamation mark. This type of entry is not unique - there are several like it)

2. IMPORTANT NOTES about the Excel and PDF versions of the transcript

2.1 Excel version.

The Excel workbook contains five worksheets (Tabs are located at the foot of the workbook page):

1. READ ME – a shortened version of these guidance notes
2. Transcript PROTECTED - A transcript of his census, which is write protected and cannot be altered unless you know how to unprotect it
3. Alpha Surnames PROTECTED - A write protected copy of his census sorted into alphabetical surname order. If you are looking for a specific person, start with this one.
4. Transcript UNPROTECTED - An unprotected worksheet for you to play about with if you wish to do so.
5. Extracted statistics – some figures we derived from the transcript, to save you having to do it...

2.2 PDF versions

Due to constraints on page widths the PDF versions of the transcript combine the “name of locality, house &c from the original document into one column that we have named “Combined addresses”. Transcriptions from the original are separated by /. A blank column in the original transcript is denoted by //.

3. The main conventions we have used for transcribing Girdlestone's original document are as follows:

We have split some of the information that he recorded in one column into more than one column.

This is for ease of sorting and identification.

We have highlighted some of the entry numbers in green.

This indicates where he recorded the occupants of a single dwelling on more than one line and he gave the additional line(s) the same line number

We have highlighted some of the line numbers in yellow. We have done this where

a) His original census entries had additional surnames in one line. For clarity we have split these into two lines, or

b) He recorded a D (Dissenter) and a RC (Regular Communicant) on one line. For clarity we have split these into two lines.

Where the Revd Canon used "Ditto"

We have written in full the text it refers to (So if you sort a worksheet you won't be left wondering what "Ditto" on a line means)

Our additions are shown within square brackets []

Square brackets indicate that we have expanded a word to add clarity, for example; Sar.[ah]

We have added some cross references which are shown *[like this]*

Where Girdlestone recorded relatives with different surnames living in the same household (e.g. a mother) we have cross referenced that entry in the 'name 2' column with the surname of the other relative. *[Shown in italics in square brackets]*. That has been done so that when looking at the transcript sorted by surname it is easier to identify the other relative being referred to.

3. Here is an example transcription, using part of an original page from his census

No.	Name	Inmates	Occupation	No. of children at home	Age of eldest child	Age of youngest child	No. of indoor servants, apprentices or other residents	Name of locality, house &c.
218.	Snell Wm & Mary	5	L.	3	13-4	—	—	Towards Brithenbottom
219.	Bidgood R ^d & Sar.	6	L for G. Wm.	4	12-1	—	—	" (Cheers Lane)
220.	Coles M ^r & M ^{rs}	7	Dairy	5	19-8	—	—	" (Brymery)
221.	Widgeru. Isaac &	3	L on Line	1	10	—	—	" (Plymbroes)
222.	Cross Robt. & Jane	3	L	1	—	—	—	" (")
223.	Northam Wm & M ^{rs}	4	L for O. Northam	2	ad ^t	—	—	" (")
224.	Tozer Wm & Jane	5	Thatcher	—	—	—	—	" (Beaw Lane)
	Wm & Sar. Tozer		Thatcher	1	—	—	—	
<u>Brithenbottom</u>								
225.	Lock M ^r & M ^{rs}	5	Dairy	3	14-8	—	—	"
226.	Whitton M ^r & M ^{rs}	6	F	—	—	—	second	" (Clogs)
	M ^r & M ^{rs} Wm. Northam			1	1	—	—	
227.	Whitton J ^r & M ^{rs}	6	Carpenter	4	6-5	—	—	"
228.	Cook Robt. & Char ^s	6	L.	4	12-4	—	—	"
229.	Salter Edw. & Sar.	3	L for Kenlake	1	ad ^t	—	—	"
230.	Elwitting J ^r & Jane	7	Blacksmith	5	9-1	—	—	"
231.	Whitton J ^r & Mary	7	L.	5	6-7 1/2	—	—	"
231 a.	Russell M ^r & M ^{rs}	—	—	—	—	—	—	"

Taking his line number 226 as an example, this is how the transcription has been made;

Original transcript	Transcription
"No."	Is shown twice in column one in the transcription and is highlighted in green
"R"	Nothing is shown in this column of the transcription because the faith of the occupants was not recorded in the original
"Name"	The surnames Whitton and Northam are shown as separate lines in the "Name 1" column of the transcription 'Mr and Mrs' and 'Mr & Mrs Wm.' are shown in the "Name 2" column in the transcription. 'Mr & Mrs Wm.' has been transcribed as 'Mr W[illia]m & Mrs'
"No. of inmates"	Shown in the column 'No. of inmates' in the transcription against the <u>first</u> resident recorded in the original (in this case Mr and Mrs Whitton)
"Occupation &c"	The "F" under occupation (Farmer) has been recorded on the right hand side of the 'Occupation' column in the transcription, under "&c", as in the original. The employer is not stated in the original, hence the blank column in the transcription (see line 223 for how an employer, in this case O.Northam, was recorded in the original).
"No. of children at home"	'No. of children at home' on the transcription
"Age of eldest and youngest child E.Y"	Has been split into two columns in the transcription; 'age of eldest child' and 'age of youngest child'
"No. of indoor servants, apprentices or other residents"	Reproduced in the transcript under the same column title
"Name of locality, house, &c"	The original single column has been split into three in the EXCEL transcript: "Name of locality", 'Name of locality' and 'House and Co.'" Please note - house names, where they were recorded, are shown in the last of these three columns.